

Scientific utilisation of warehouses and warehousing space

815. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps Government have taken for the scientific utilisation of warehouses and warehousing space for the agricultural production;

(b) whether it is a fact that this space is not being utilised fully and scientifically at present;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the available warehousing space has not been fully harnessed; and

(d) whether any effort has been made by the Government to educate the farmers about the importance of warehousing and to get the maximum price of their products by following the specifications and guidelines meant for this purpose and if so, with what results and whether any feedback information service is working for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Warehousing of agricultural produce in the public sector is mainly being done by the Central Warehousing Corporation and State Warehousing Corporations which have built scientific warehousing facilities. Besides, the warehouses of the Food Corporation are also used for scientific storage of procured foodgrains. For providing warehousing facilities to the farmers, a scheme has been recently started which envisages construction of small size warehouses for a cluster of villages.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. The capacity with the Central Warehousing Corporation is being gainfully and scientifically utilised.

(d) Central and State warehouses functioning near the rural areas act as demonstration centres for the farmers in educating them about the benefits of scientific warehouses. Central Warehousing Corporation allows a rebate in the storage charges to the far-

mers for their produce stored in the central warehouses. Farmers' Extension Service has been introduced recently by CWC at one selected warehouses in each region to educate farmers of the advantages of scientific storage. Under the Save Grain Campaign Scheme, farmers are being educated about the simple scientific techniques of preservation of foodgrains. The reaction to which is encouraging.

Transfer of appropriate technology to rural areas

816. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken to transfer appropriate technology to rural areas and progress so far made;

(b) what is the impact of this transfer of technology on the economic conditions of the rural poor;

(c) what are the reasons for not implementing the various schemes and proposals already formulated in this regard and for which the budget provisions have been made; and

(d) whether there has been any decisions of Government for fixing accountability of these lapses and whether they have been reinforced and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (d). Information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Cutting of telephone connections without serving registered notices

817. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE: Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telephone connections are cut for non-payment of dues without serving proper notices to the subscriber;