

†[THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH):

(a) and (b) Although no precise or reliable estimates are available for the country as a whole on post-harvest losses of foodgrains and other agro-products, experts who discussed different aspects of post-harvest food conservation at a workshop convened by the Indian National Science Academy in December, 1979, have estimated that losses could be of the order mentioned by Hon. Members. Reliable data on the quantitative and qualitative losses at the post-harvest phase are however yet to be collected in the different States of the country. However, the following steps are being taken to minimise losses of foodgrains at various stages:—

1. Warehouses owned by major public sector organisations like Food Corporation of India and Central Warehousing Corporation are constructed on scientific lines and are rat, damp and leak proof. Scientific techniques for preservation of foodgrains are adopted to eliminate losses during storage. Pre-monsoon inspection of the godowns is carried out and repairs undertaken to prevent leakage of rain water.

2. A Save Grain Campaign Organisation has been established to educate, persuade and motivate the farmers, traders and other agencies engaged in handling of foodgrains for adoption of modern techniques of storage so as to minimise the losses at all the stages. Besides publicity, demonstration and training, main emphasis is laid on improvement of storage structures by making available the small sized improved storage structures and easy credit to the farmers.

3. Proper planning in regard to movement of stocks is ensured so as to reduce infructuous movement,

unnecessary transshipment and losses in transit. At the loading and unloading points, sufficient care is exercised in handling foodgrain bags. Covered wagons are being used for transporting foodgrains to the extent possible. Necessary precautions are taken when open wagons are utilised for transportation of foodgrains.]

**Coverage of small plots measuring from 80 to 100 SQ yards**

\*208. SHRI NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri Jagmohan the then Vice-Chairman of the D.D.A. had taken a decision three years ago to the effect that 75 per cent coverage would be allowed on small plots measuring from 80 to 100 sq. yds.;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether the said decision has been implemented; if so, since when; and

(d) if the answer to part (c) above be in the negative, what are the reasons therefor and whether Government propose to implement it now?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI P. C. SETHI): (a) and (b) The decision was taken by the Delhi Development Authority in 1970, before Shri Jagmohan became Vice-Chairman Delhi Development Authority, to permit 75 per cent coverage on plots measuring upto 100 sq. yards.

(c) The decision has been implemented between 1970—76.

(d) Does not arise.