

(b) if so, what is the value of the stocks so damaged?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) A quantity of about 24,614 tonnes of wheat was affected in 'CAP' (cover and Plinth) storage by the recent rains and floods in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan stored by the Food Corporation of India. Out of this quantity, a quantity of 1224 tonnes has been segregated till October, 1977, as damaged and unfit for human consumption. The Haryana Government has reported damage to the extent of 199 tonnes costing Rs. 2.5 lakhs. Punjab and Rajasthan Governments have reported that there was no damage to stocks held by them.

(b) The cost of the stocks damaged is Rs. 19 lakhs. As a considerable portion of the stocks unfit for human consumption will be disposed of as cattle and poultry feed, the losses to that extent will be reduced.

Final selection of sportsmen for international events.

♦79. SHRI VENIGALLA SATYANARAYANA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to take upon themselves the work of making a final selection of sportsmen for international events; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of sports organisations in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

Education Minister's Visit to U.S.S.R.

•80. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH: SHRI DHARAMCHAND JAIN:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he visited U.S.S.R. in September, 1977; and

(b) if so, what is the outcome of the talks held by him in that country?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During my stay in USSR from 13th to 16th September, 1977, I met H.E. Mr. A. Kosygin, Prime Minister of U.S.S.R. and discussed with him matters pertaining to cooperation between India and U.S.S.R. with particular reference to fields of education and culture. I also had fruitful discussions with H.E. Mr. P. Demichev, Minister of Culture and H.E. Prof. V. P. Yelutin, Minister of Higher and Secondary Specialised Education, U.S.S.R. on subjects of mutual interest. With Mr. Demichev I discussed the development of the arts and crafts, specially theatre. With H.E. Prof. Yelutin, the important question of joint text books on scientific and technological subjects was discussed.

I also inaugurated the Festival of Indian Art and Culture in Moscow on 15th September, 1977.

Allotment of Houses in Rehabilitation Colonies

81. SHRI SYED AHMAD HASHMI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allotment of certain houses in rehabilitation colonies in Delhi for displaced persons from the erstwhile West Pakistan are yet to be regularised;

(b) if so, what are the details there of;

(c) whether some houses in these colonies are under the occupation of unauthorised persons; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take to evict such persons and to dispose of such properties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAM KINKAR): (a) and (b) Regularisation of unauthorised occupation in respect of allotable properties was discontinued since March, 1963.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) There are 42 such properties. Out of these, it has been decided to make offers of sale by negotiation under Rule 87 of the Displaced Person (Compensation and Rehabilitation) Rules 1955 to the occupants in 18 cases. Proposals for the remain ing properties are under consideration.

Arid Lands

*82. SHRI GOVINDRAO RAM-CHANDRA MHAISEKAR. Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Arid Zones in the country particularly in Rajasthan are on the increase; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) So far aridity or arid areas increase/expansion is concerned there is no scientific evidence to support this belief.

(b) The following are some of the major steps taken to reclaim areas affected by aridity: —

(i) The Central Arid Zone Research Institute, Jodhpur, is undertaking intensive research to work out the scientific technology for increasing agricultural production in the arid areas of the country.

(ii) During the Fifth Five Year Plan Government of India is implementing a Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP), for economic betterment of these areas. The Fifth Plan allocation for this Programme is Rs. 181.50 crores.

A Desert Development Programme has also been started from the current year. This year's outlay for this Programme is Rs. 6.10 crores.

(iii) Rajasthan Canal is under way which will irrigate 1.14 million Ha. by gravity irrigation and 51,001 Ha. by lift canal in the districts of Ganganagar, Bikaner and Jaisalmer.

(iv) Report of the National Core-mission on Agriculture "Desert Development" is under consideration of the Central and State Governments for implementation in the next Five. Year Plan.

Settlement of Cauvery Water Dispute

♦83. SHRI M. KADERSHAH; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 69 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 15th June, 1977, and state:

(a) whether the two Committees set up by Government with regard to the Cauvery water dispute have submitted their reports; and

(b) if so, what are the details there of and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Ban on History Books

*84. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA: SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a suggestion has been