

come to India from East Bengal. With a view to strengthening the ways and means position of the Govt. of West Bengal, the Central Government have so far sanctioned an amount of Rs. 1057 lakhs to that Government as an 'on account' advance payment.

(b) It is the firm intention of the Govt. of India that these refugees from East Bengal should return to their homes as soon as favourable conditions are created there. The question of their rehabilitation does not, therefore, arise.

#### DIAMOND MINING WORK AT VAJRAKARUR ANANTAPUR ANDHRA PRADESH

\*573. SHRI SANDA NARAYAN-APPA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that diamond mining work has been undertaken by the National Mineral Development Corporation at Vajrakarur in Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) when it started the work, and the duration for which the work continued;

(c) whether it is a fact that the National Mineral Development Corporation has stopped this mining work; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES/ इस्पात और खान मंत्री (SHRI S. MOHAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The investigation work for diamonds in Vajrakarur in Anantapur District of Andhra Pradesh was taken up by the National Mineral Development Corporation in April, 1969 and was continued upto May, 1970.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) It has been decided that further investigation at Vajrakarur would be done by Geological Survey of India.

#### DAMAGE TO FOODGRAINS

\*574. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the unseasonal rains in May have damaged the foodgrains;

(b) if so, to what extent damage has been caused to foodgrains in each State as a result of these rains;

(c) whether it is a fact that foodgrains were lying in the markets due to shortage of wagons; and

(d) if so, the reasons for which adequate supply of wagons for lifting foodgrains was not made?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE/ कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### STATEMENT

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Reports have been received that damage has been caused to grain and wheat crop due to unseasonal rain in May, 1971 in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana when the crops had been harvested and were lying on the threshing floor. Reports indicate that of the grain lying on the threshing floor, the damage may be of the order of 10 to 15% in the case of Punjab and Haryana, and about 20—25% in the case of Uttar Pradesh. No report of any serious damage has been received from Rajasthan. The earliest report of rain damage to wheat was from the State of Bihar in the month of April, 1971. It was reported that some standing crops were damaged but the damage was mostly to the harvested wheat lying on the threshing floor to the extent of 20—25%.

(c) and (d) Since arrivals of foodgrains were very much heavier than anticipated, in the initial stages, there was some accumulation in the Mandis due to arrangements made for clearance not being adequate to clear all the procured grain. Steps were taken to augment storage and to improve clearance both by rail and road and the congestion in the Mandis was eased.

#### देश में बैल

\*575. श्री नेकी राम : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि इस समय देश में बैलों की कुल संख्या कितनी है और इनके सम्बन्ध में राज्यवार व्यौरा क्या है ?