

About 580 tonnes of foodgrains as indicated below are reported to have been damaged between June to September 1969 out of the stocks held by the Food Corporation of India and the State Governments :

	Tonnes
Food Corporation of India	525.00
Rajasthan	1.50
West Bengal	30.81
Uttar Pradesh	22.64
TOTAL .	679.95

The loss in all cases was not, however, due to unsatisfactory storage facilities. Most of the damage occurred at the time of heavy rush of foodgrains to the godowns and when, at some places, substandard storage arrangements had to be resorted to deal with the large quantities handled. Storage facilities are being supplemented through construction of new godowns and maintenance of stocks in healthy condition is ensured through the employment of technically qualified staff and regular periodical inspections.

AVAILABILITY OF DALDA

323. SHRI J. S. TILAK : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that Dalda very often goes underground with the result that it becomes unavailable to the needy consumers; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make arrangement for selling it through agencies like fair-price shops and co-operative societies ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE): (a) Reports of inadequate supplies of vanaspati occasionally appear in the press, but generally there is no dearth of supplies.

(b) Although there is no control on distribution of vanaspati, the Industry has undertaken to effect supplies to wholesale consumer cooperatives on a priority basis and this undertaking has been brought to the notice of the State Governments, who have also been advised

to ensure that supplies are made available to the cooperative stores to the maximum extent possible.

CADRES TO MAN VARIOUS COOPERATIVE SOCIETIES

324. DR. SALIG RAM :
SHRI KRISHAN KANT :
SHRI A. G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have recently suggested to the States to set up Cadres to man various cooperative societies; and

(b) whether Government propose to give any assistance to States in this respect ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI D. ERING) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are no special schemes of central assistance to States for this purpose; in the IV Plan, the scheme of setting up common cadres for cooperatives is part of the State sector of the plan for which Central assistance is given under the block loan/grant system.

STUDY OF THE DROUGHT AFFECTED AREAS

325. SHRI M. K. MOHTA :
SARDAR HARCHARAN
SINGH DUGAL :
SARDAR NARINDER SINGH
BRAR :
SARDAR GURCHARAN
SINGH TOHRA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently undertaken a study of the drought affected areas in some States;

(b) if so, the names of the States where such study was undertaken and whether the study has been completed;

(c) the result thereof;

(d) the steps proposed to be taken as a result of the study undertaken; and

(e) if the study is still incomplete, the period likely to be taken for its completion ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c) No specific or integrated study of the drought affected areas in various States has been taken up recently. However, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Chronically Drought affected area' was taken up by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Department of Agriculture). Under the said scheme the State Governments were advised to classify the chronically drought affected areas into 'A', 'B' and 'C' categories on the basis of whether total or almost total failure of crops in the areas had taken place once every three years, six years or ten years. Areas classified as 'A' are to be treated as 'hard core' and are to be taken for treatment first. Owing to paucity of funds it was decided to restrict the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Development of Chronically Drought affected areas' to the hard core i.e. 'A' category, areas in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mysore and Tamil Nadu.

A Central Team of Experts working in the Department of Agriculture visited the hard core areas in Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh. The reports of this Central Team were forwarded to the State Governments for formulation of concrete schemes in the light of the recommendations made therein. The schemes submitted by Andhra Pradesh Government were sanctioned in January, 1969. Schemes submitted by other State Governments could not be sanctioned as they did not conform to the approved pattern.

The scheme of development of chronically drought affected areas was a Centrally Sponsored Scheme up to 31st March, 1969 and has now been transferred to the State Sector with effect from 1st April, 1969. However, 10% of the Central assistance to States will be available in the Fourth Five Year Plan period for special problems, including those connected with their chronically drought affected areas. It is now for the State Governments to take such action as they deem fit on the recommendations of the Team.

कृषि-उत्पादन

326. सरदार गुरचरण सिंह तोहरा :
क्या खाद्य तथा कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हमारे कृषि उत्पादन को बढ़ाने में विभिन्न प्रकार के कीड़े बाधा उत्पन्न करते हैं ;

(ख) क्या यह सच भी है कि इन कीड़ों का नाश करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा किये गये परीक्षण अपर्याप्त तथा अप्रभावी सिद्ध हुए हैं ;

(ग) क्या यह सच है कि कीटनाशक दवाई छिड़कने वाली मशीनों की भारी कमी है और जब वे खराब हो जाती हैं तो उनकी मरम्मत करने के लिए कोई उचित व्यवस्था नहीं है ; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो इस बारे में सरकार द्वारा क्या कार्यवाही की जा रही है ?

†[AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

326. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that various kinds of insects are a hindrance to the augmentation of our agricultural production;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the tests undertaken by Government to destroy these insects have proved inadequate and ineffective;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is great shortage of insecticide spray machines and no proper arrangements exist for repairing the machines when they go out of order; and

(d) if so, what action is being taken by Government in this connection ?]

खाद्य, कृषि, सामुदायिक विकास और सह-कारिता मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अण्णासाहेब शिंदे) : (क) जी हां। फसलों के विभिन्न कीड़े खराब करते हैं।

†[] English translation.