

as compared to ₹ 4.05 crore imposed during calendar year January to December 2016.

- 16 catering contracts have been terminated for catering or other contractual deficiencies during the period of January to July, 2017.
- 16 contractors have been blacklisted for breach of contract term in January to December, 2016.
- Disciplinary action has been taken against 21 railway officials in the period January to December, 2016.

#### **Losses to poultry farmers**

\*273. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the poultry farmers bear huge losses every year due to sizzling temperature and water shortage in summer season across the country resulting in stunted growth, death of birds and reduced production of eggs and broilers;

(b) if so, the details of estimated loss incurred by the poultry farmers during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to launch a 'save poultry' campaign by educating farmers to follow certain tips to insulate birds from heat?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): (a) and (b) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has not received any specific information or study/report from States/UTs regarding stunted growth, death of birds and reduced production of eggs and broilers due to high temperature and water shortage in summer season.

(c) Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries has prepared and released a Disaster Management plan for protecting animals and preventing and mitigating loss of livestock resources during disasters in consultation with National Disaster Management Authority and various State Governments. Some States like Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have also come out with specific action plan during heat wave to prevent losses to livestock and poultry. Generally farmers are educated by various State Governments and Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) poultry institutes to manage their heat stressed birds through improved management, rearing system, dietary manipulation and providing frequently cool water through advisories, training, awareness creation during mass contact programs, veterinary camps etc.