

(a) whether huge quantities of foodgrains have been damaged in transit because of inadequate storage facilities at the receiving terminals in various parts of the country;

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard so as to bring Indian at par with other developed countries of the world?

(b) if so, the estimated quantity of foodgrains damaged during 1992—93 till date and the value thereof; and

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALARAM JAKHAR) : (a) and (b) : No, Sir. Production is a function of productivity and area which varies from country to country. However, the productivity of foodgrains in the country is lower than most of the developed and some of the developing countries because major area is rained, large number of holdings are small and fragmented, low levels of inputs use and inadequate infrastructure.

(c) the remedial steps taken/ proposed by the Government to check such waste and to create more storage facilities in the country ?

(c) To supplement the efforts of the State Governments in increasing the productivity and production of foodgrains, the Government of India is implementing a number of crop production oriented programmes in identified State of country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance for Drought in Karnataka

(c) Since there is no damage to foodgrains transit on account of inadequate storage facilities at the receiving end, no remedial steps are required to be taken in this regard. FCI move its stocks only when the receiving region has adequate storage capacity to accommodate the coming stock.

*36. SHRI K. G. SHIVAPPA : Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

As on 1.6.1993 FCI had a storage capacity 21.33 million tonnes as against their total stocks of 17.14 million tonnes.

translation]

Foodgrain Production

*35. SHRI RAM PUJAN PATEL :
DR. LAL BHADUR RAWAL :

(a) whether the Government have received any report in regard to the severe drought conditions prevailing in several districts of Karnataka;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government of Karnataka has requested for Central assistance;

Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon;

(a) whether India is lagging behind in the level of foodgrain production in comparison to the developed and developing countries of the world;

(e) whether the Union Government propose to send any Central team to study the drought situation;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the reasons for low agricultural productivity in India;

(f) if so, the details thereof; and

(g) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) (a) and (b) : Karnataka Government has reported that inadequate rainfall has created scarcity of drinking water and employment for agricultural labourers in 83 talks of 16 districts.

(c) and (d) : The State Government has requested for release of Rs. 20. 250 crores from the Central share of calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for the year 1993—94. The Central Government had already released Rs. 10. 125 crores as installment of central share for first and second quarters of 1993—94 in advance during 1992—93. It has been decided to release the remaining Central share to totaling Rs. 10. 125 crores also.

(e) to (g) : The State Government have not requested for reputation of a Central Team to study the drought situation.

[*Translation*]

Damage to Crops and Human Life by Wild Animals

*37. SHRIDILEEPBHAI SANGHANI :
SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received complaints regarding damage to the crops and loss of human life being caused by the protected wild animals like neelgais, elephants and deer in Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal and other States;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard; and

(d) the details of the financial assistance provided therefor; State—wise ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH) : (a) Yes, Sir. Some reports regarding damage to the crops and loss of human life from wild animals like Neelgai and Elephants have been received from State Governments.

(a) to (d) Because of degradation of Elephants' habitat, destruction of its migration corridors and encroachment of habitations into forests, there are occurrences of man—elephant conflict leading to destruction of crops or damage to huts and houses or sometimes killing of human beings. The Chief Wildlife Wardens of the States take appropriate action to contain the situations wherever they arise and also to give compensation to the victims of elephant depredation. There is no centralised mechanism for collecting information on the incidents of such depredations or on payment of compensation made by State Governments within their discretion. However, under the Project Elephant, State Governments are extended financial support in payment of compensation to the victims of Elephant depredation.

Reports from some State Governments have also been received regarding the damage caused to the crops by wild animals like neelgai, wild boars etc. However, the details in terms of quantity of damage to crops have not been specified in these reports. The concerned State Governments have been advised to deal with the situation as and when it arises using the provision of Section 11 (l) (b) of the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972.

Other steps taken by the Governments in this regard include :

- I. The Chief Wildlife Wardens are implementing programmes for improvement of the habitats of the wild animals in the protected areas. Assistance is also given by the Central Government for such work in the