

for the country as a whole on wastage of grain from threshing floor to market and storing it in godowns. Reliable data on the qualitative and quantitative losses at the post harvest phase are, however, yet to be collected in different States of the country and for individual commodities.

(b) The following steps are taken to avoid losses to foodgrains in storage:

1. The godowns constructed are rat proof, white ant and damp proof.
2. Pre-monsoon inspection of the godowns is carried out and repairs undertaken to prevent leakage of rain water.
3. Modern scientific pest control measures are undertaken to check the insect, rodent and bird trouble.
4. Qualified and technically trained staff are deployed for periodical inspection and proper upkeep of the foodgrains.

For want of adequate covered storage accommodation, the food Corporation of India had to resort to CAP Storage at some centres and while undertaking this type of storage, additional precautions are taken for curtailing storage losses as detailed below:—

- (i) Bags of foodgrains are stored on wooden crates and covered with specially fabricated polythene covers;
- (ii) Nylon ropes are provided for proper lashing of polythene covers to avoid damage due to storms etc. Nets and cover tops are also provided as additional precautions to save the foodgrains from the vagaries of nature.
- (iii) During clear weather, covers are lifted and free aeration allowed to maintain the health of the foodgrains;
- (iv) Special care is taken to inspect the stocks, treat them with approved chemical insecticides and proper fumigants;

(v) A country-wise Save Grain Campaign programme is under implementation for education, motivation and persuasion of farmers to adopt scientific storage practices thereby minimising farm level storage losses.

(c) The Food Corporation of India ensures preservation of foodgrains using modern scientific techniques for minimising losses.

The losses have been minimal during 1976-77 (0.7 per cent), 1977-78 (0.9 per cent) and 1978-79 (1.0 per cent). The losses are on the basis of quantity of foodgrains sold.

(a) All round efforts are being made to prevent storage losses. The saving on this account would mean higher quantities of foodgrains being available, to that extent supplementing the quantity obtained through procurement.

Water supply in Lodhi Road, New Delhi

1088. SHRI ANWAR AHMAD: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of water supply in Lodhi Road, Government quarters, New Delhi throughout the year; if so, since when and the causes thereof;
- (b) whether water supply was adequate there some years back; if so, reasons for deterioration instead of improvement;
- (c) whether water supply from Lodhi Road water line was extended to Pragati Vihar without augmenting its capacity and resulting in loss to Lodhi Road;
- (d) whether construction of overhead water tank in Lodhi Road can solve the problem, if so, whether it is under consideration of the Government; and

(e) if so, action to be taken to improve water supply in Lodhi Road by increased pressure and by what time?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) No, Sir. However, some shortage of water is experienced during summer months in some parts of Lodhi Road.

(b) The N.D.M.C. and the MCD have informed that there has been no deterioration in the water supply.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). There is no proposal to construct overhead water tank in Lodhi Road. However, the New Delhi Municipal Committee is constructing an underground tank of 7.5 lac gallons capacity with boosting arrangements. With its commissioning, water supply position will further improve in Lodhi Colony area which is one of the major colonies to be served through this tank.

Banks River Scheme of Ajmer

1089. ACHARYA BHAGWAN DEV: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would make efforts for implementing Banas river scheme of Ajmer expeditions keeping in view of the increasing scarcity of drinking water there on account of the fact that population of the city has doubled during the recent years;

(b) the work completed so far under this scheme and the work which still remains to be completed; and

(c) the time by which the remaining work is likely to be completed and the scarcity of drinking water of Ajmer would be over?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c). Provision of drinking water is the responsibility of State Governments who are to take the required steps for implementing various schemes expeditiously. Ac-

ording to information received from the Government of Rajasthan, the IInd Reorganisation Water Supply Scheme for Ajmer costing Rs. 492 lakhs is under execution and is expected to start functioning by March, 1982. This scheme envisages the construction of infiltration galleries in the bed of the river Banas and is expected to augment the present water supply by a quantity of 32 lakh gallons per day.

In the meanwhile, an Emergency Water Supply Scheme was also sanctioned in December, 1980 at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.65 lakhs. The scheme proposes augmentation of the water supply by constructing new tubewells at Sandla and Chatri and also in the city. In addition, the existing arrangements of drinking water supply from the Annasagar lake are also proposed to be augmented.

Cultivation of Sugarcane

1090. SHRI RAJESH PILOT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the yield of sugarcane per hectare in India is far less than the yield per hectare of sugarcane in Cuba if so, the figures and reasons;

(b) whether yield of sugar per Quintal of sugarcane in India is far less than in Cuba, if so, the figures, and reasons; and

(c) what steps have the Government taken up to increase the above yields during the last five years and with what results?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) No, Sir. The latest available International Statistics indicate that the average cane yield of India is 53.6 metric tonnes per hectare as against 43.8 metric tonnes per hectare in Cuba. Thus the average yield of Sugarcane per hectare is more than Cuba.

(b) Yes Sir. The average yield of sugar per quintal of cane (recovery