

**Allegation against Managing Director
Punjab State Agro-Industries Corporation**

1233. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received complaints against the Managing Director, Punjab State Agro-Industries Corporation;

(b) if so, the nature of complaints received ;

(c) whether Government have since inquired into these complaints ; and

(d) if so, the action taken or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI
ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE)**: (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The complaints relate to administrative and general matters concerning the Punjab Agro-Industries Corporation.

(c) and (d). The complaints are being forwarded to the State Government.

Damage to crops due to Insects, diseases, dust storm and rain.

1234. **SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK** :

SHRI SUBODH HANSDA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any assessment has been made by the Government regarding crops damaged during the current year by insects, plant diseases and dust-storm and rains in the country, State-wise ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken for the protection of crops?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ANNA SAHEB P. SHINDE)** :

(a) It is extremely difficult to accurately

assess the loss in crop yield which is due only to damage by insects, pests, plant diseases, etc. The crop may be attacked by one or more insects, diseases, etc., and depending on control measures taken, its yield may be affected in varying degrees. It is, however, estimated that losses to foodgrain crops in the field on account of damage by insects, pests, diseases, weeds, etc. and in storage range between 15 to 20%.

There were reports of hail storms, thunder storms, dust storms of high intensity and rain from Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Haryana in April and May, 1971. The Damage was mostly to the harvested wheat lying on the threshing floor to the extent of 20 to 25% in Bihar, 10 to 15% in Punjab and Haryana and 20 to 25% in Uttar Pradesh. This assessment of damage is a general one. No report of any serious damage has been received from Rajasthan. There has also been damage to other crops like mangoes, melons, vegetables, etc.

(b) For the protection of crops against pests and diseases, the State Governments have their own plant protection organisations fully equipped with necessary plant protection equipment and material. In addition, there are nine Central Plant Protection Stations for taking control measures against crop pests and diseases. It is reported that the State Governments have taken control measures over an area of 3.95 Lakh hectares affected by epidemics in 1970-71. The Government of India gives grant to the extent of 50% and Loan to the extent of 25% on the cost of pesticides used in the control of crop epidemics occurring in the States.

For eradication of pests and diseases on crops in endemic areas, a centrally sponsored scheme was started during 1970-71 with a total outlay of Rs. 4.30 crores for the 4th plan. Under this scheme, an area of 12.95 Lakh acres was covered by the agro-chemical operations in 1970-71.