

[English]

**FCI Godowns in Punjab**

8878. SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Food Corporation of India propose to award contract for construction of godowns in Punjab to those who have cleared their outstanding loans taken from banks;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether FCI propose to purchase vacant godowns from those who have paid of their loan taken from Bank; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):  
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). At present, Food Corporation of India has no scheme to purchase godowns constructed by private parties.

**Death Due To Rabies**

8879. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether 25000 people die of rabies in the country every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there are 18 million dogs in the country;

(c) if so, the steps Government have taken to reduce the number of deaths;

(d) whether Government propose to take any steps to control population of dogs;

if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) Although no exact figures of the incidence of rabies are available, it is estimated that nearly 25,000 deaths occur in the country due to rabies every year.

(b) There are 18 million dogs in the country as per the Census of dogs conducted by Ministry of Agriculture in 1982.

(c) The Government have taken the following steps to reduce the number of deaths:—

i) Anti-rabies immunization is available free of cost in Government Hospitals

ii) Country is producing around 35-40 million nervous tissue vaccine annually in 12 production centres.

iii) Tissue culture vaccine (Human diploid cell and purified chick embryo cell) are being imported and are available in the market.

iv) Health education is being imparted to general public through mass media regarding prevention of disease.

(d) and (e). The control of dog population is under the purview of local civic bodies. Ministry of Agriculture has set up 30 Rabies Control Units in the country to supplement the activities of local civic bodies.

**Computerisation in EPF Organisation**

8880. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state: