

finalising action on the recommendations of the National Commission on Labour in this regard.

Enforcement of ban on hunting of Tigers and Leopards

*568. SHRI BRIJ RAJ SINGH—KOTAH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that despite the ban on hunting of tigers and leopards there is still large such poaching going on ;

(b) whether Government know who such poachers are ;

(c) what Government propose to do in enforcing the ban and see that the game is not poisoned by the locals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHER SINGH) : (a) to (c). Informations is being collected from the concerned State Government and will be laid on the table of the Sabha in due course.

Supply of Sub-Standard Hybrid Variety of Seeds by National Seeds Corporation

*569. SHRI K. C. PANDEY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether complaints have been received by the Government for supply of sub-standard hybrid varieties of seeds by National Seeds Corporation to the farmers ;

(b) if so, whether the complaints have been enquired into and if so, with what results ; and

(c) the procedure for certification and purchase of quality hybrid seeds ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) Yes Sir. Complaints have occasionally been received by the Government and also by the National Seeds Corporation.

(b) All the complaints have been enquired into. Generally speaking where enquiry reveals that the quality of seeds supplied is defective, replacement of seed is made free of cost by the Corporation or cost of seed is refunded. Generally investigations have shown that poor performance of the seed supplied is due to improper storage, non-adoption of the prescribed agricultural practices, failure to take prompt plant protection measures and adverse weather conditions.

(c) The National Seeds Corporation has a definite set of procedures for both certification and procurement of seeds. Certification requires conformity of the seed crop to a set of norms relating to varietal purity, freedom from diseases etc. and only those seed crops which are verified on inspection to conform to the prescribed certification standards, are permitted for harvest for seed purposes. Seed from such fields is processed, treated, tagged and sealed before procurement.

Procurement Price of Paddy in Assam

*570. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement price of paddy offered by the Food Corporation of India ;

(b) whether the price is uniform throughout the country ; if not, the reason thereof ;

(c) whether the price offered by the Food Corporation of India is related to the price index of consumer goods or based on production cost ;

(d) the procurement price of paddy per quintal and overhead charges per quintal by the Food Corporation of India in Assam ; and

(e) the margin between procuring price and selling of price of paddy ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE) : (a) The Food Corporation of India is purchasing paddy