

(b) No Sir,

(c) and (d). Question do not arise

[English]

Multinational Companies in Agricultural Sector

*293. SHRI MOHAN SINGH (DEORIA): Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage multinational companies to enter the agriculture sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the likely impact on farming community?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Since 1986, MRTP/FERA companies have been permitted to enter in the area of certified high yielding seeds. In the New Industrial Policy, 1991 seed was considered a high priority industry for automatic approval of venture with 51% foreign equity.

(b) and (c). The New Policy on Seed Development of 1988 aims to provide farmers with the best planting material available anywhere in the World to boost productivity and income of the farming community.

[Translation]

Sale Through P.D.S

*294. SHRI SURENDRA PAL PATHAK: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the sale of foodgrains through the Public Distribution System has

declined continuously for the last two years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to boost the sale through P.D.S?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) to (c). The off take of foodgrains (wheat plus rice) by the State Governments/UT Administrations, both in 1991 and 1992 has been substantially higher than that in the years prior to them. The sale of foodgrains from the Public Distribution System (PDS) is chiefly dependent on the differences between price levels of the foodgrains in the open market and those on the PDS.

Environmental Projects of Rajasthan

* 295. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGWA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects launched in Rajasthan for improvement of environment during the last three years;

(b) the success achieved so far; and

(c) the projects proposed to be launched in near future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The details of the projects initiated by the Ministry of Environment and Forests during the last three years in Rajasthan for improvement of environment are as under:

1. A project for demonstration of technology for fodder production in degraded lands/sand dunes was initiated in 1990-91 to be imple-