

**Horticultural Products**

\*196. SHRI GEORGE  
FERNANDES:

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDIN  
OWAIS:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any scheme to enhance the export potential of horticulture products;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the measures taken by the Government for improving the infrastructural facilities and encouraging the private entrepreneurs to set up floriculture, mushroom and aquaculture units?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b). While various horticulture development schemes focussing on area expansion, supply of high quality planting material, extension of improved technology and better management practices have the potential of contributing to the exportability of horticultural products, a specific programme of export enhancement for horticultural produce with components of infrastructure facilities, export oriented production and export promotion and market development is currently in the process of formulation.

(c) Under the on-going schemes of National Horticulture Board (NHB) and Agricultural and Processed Food Export Development Authority (APEDA), there are components for assisting units, both

public and private, engaged in horticultural production, including floriculture and mushroom for creating/improving infrastructural facilities such as specialised transport units, cold chain system, grading and packaging, etc.

In the field of aquaculture, seed production facilities have been set up in public sector and subsidy is made available to private sector for setting up such units. Assistance is also provided to State for setting up infrastructure facilities for inland fish marketing.

407 Fish Farmer Development Agencies and 37 Brackishwater Fish Farmer Development Agencies have been sanctioned for providing technical assistance and subsidy for freshwater and brackishwater aquaculture respectively.

**U.G.C. Grants**

\*197. SHRI RAMESH CHENNI-THALA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether any review has been made of the method of deciding the quantum of grants of the University Grants Commission to various Universities and Colleges;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c). All recognised Universities and Colleges in the country are eligible to receive Plan grants under UGC schemes. The UGC gives assistance under the schemes on the