

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) to (d). With the objective of better beautification/maintenance and increasing revenue from commercial advertisements, Zonal Railways have entered into contract for maintenance/beautification at 10 stations. The increase in earnings from the commercial advertisements is approximately Rs. 26.23 lakhs per annum. Besides a saving of approximately Rs. 12.22 lakhs is expected in expenditure on maintenance. More stations are being identified for beautification/maintenance by the Zonal Railways. The station working continues to be with the railway administration and the contractor is given only the sole rights for displaying commercial advertisements as per the terms and conditions laid down by the Railway Administration. The Railways retain powers to terminate the contract if contractor violates the terms and conditions of the agreement.

[English]

Horticultural/Agricultural Products

*415. SHRI SOBHANADREES-
WARA RAO VADDE:
SHRI MANJAY LAL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to promote export of agricultural/horticultural products;

(b) whether the Government propose to provide any special facility for the export of perishable agricultural/horticultural products such as fruits, flowers and vegetables etc;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether subsidy being provided for four hectares of land per farmer has been limited to one hectare of land per farmer;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(f) whether the Government will review the matter and revive the earlier limit?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (c). Government attaches special importance to the growth of exports of agricultural/horticultural products. Steps like introduction of the unified exchange rate, liberalisation made in EXIM Policy 1992-97, lowering of import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural, sector, extension of the benefits available to units under the scheme of Export Oriented Units (EOUs)/ Export Processing Zones (EPZs), allowing the exporters of agricultural commodities to sell upto 50% of their produce in the domestic tariff area, introduction of a subsidy on air-freight on agricultural products on experimental basis during 1993-94 etc. are intended to improve and enlarge exports of agricultural/horticultural products.

(d) and (e). Under the Scheme "Subsidy on drip irrigation", the upper area limit has been reduced from four hectares to one hectare per beneficiary with effect from the year 1993-94 with a view to maximise the number of beneficiaries.

(f) The matter is under review.