

is expected that full load sustained generation shall be achieved shortly.

Cotton Production

2479. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the production of long and short staple cotton during the last year separately and whether it was enough to meet the domestic requirement; and

(b) the steps taken by the Government for increasing the production of short staple cotton during the current year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) The estimated production of cotton during 1990-91 and 1989-90 was 97.6 and 114.2 lakh bales of 170 kgs. each, respectively. The staple-wise break-up figures of production of cotton during 1990-91 are yet to be received from some of the States. However, on an average, about 91.0% of production of long and medium and 9.0% of short staple cotton is produced in the country. There was no import of cotton by the Government. The current production along with the carry-over stock was enough to meet the domestic requirements.

(b) The Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored Schemes of Intensive Cotton Development Programme (ICDP) in important cotton growing States so as to increase the production of all types of cotton including short staple.

[*Translation*]

Procurement and Sale of Edible Oil by NDDB

2480. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Mustard and Groundnut oil procured by the NDDB during the last three years, year-wise?

(b) the rates at which the edible oils are being procured from growers by NDDB at present;

(c) whether NDDB has increased the prices of Dhara edible oil recently;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the profit earned by NDDB by sale of edible oils during the last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) During the two years 1989-90 and 1990-91, about 2.61 lakh tonnes of edible oils were procured by NDDB. Since edible oil is known to be a speculative commodity and NDDB has a responsibility as the Market Intervention Agency to maintain the wholesale prices at a reasonable level in the lean season, it is not considered expedient in the public interest to indicate the quantity of oilseeds and oils purchased by NDDB during the current fiscal year 1991-92.

(b) NDDB does not procure edible oil from growers.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) With effect from 30th September, 1991, the price of refined groundnut oil 1 litre tetrabrik has been increased to Rs. 50, refined mustard oil one litre tetrabrik to Rs. 34, refined mustard oil 200 ML tetrabrik to Rs. 6.50 and double filtered mustard oil 500 ML tetrahedron to Rs. 15.

(e) Any surpluses accruing from market intervention operation are credited by NDDB into the Market Intervention Fund. Hence, there is no question of NDDB earning profit by sale of edible oil.