

(c) The surplus stock of wheat seed can easily be used for sowing during next season as there would not be any problem if stored properly.

(d) Action has already been initiated to keep wheat seed in buffer stock and for disposal through export.

Distress Sale of Potatoes in Uttar-Pradesh

3906. SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the news-item appearing in the "Times of India" (Published from Delhi), dated 4 April, 1985 wherein it has been stated that NAFED and PCF fail to purchase the entire potato crop; and

(b) if so, the veracity thereof and the difficulties being faced by Government in the purchase of potatoes ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. However, it is not correct to say that NAFED and PCF were expected to purchase the entire potato crop in Uttar Pradesh under the market intervention scheme. The scheme envisages that potatoes of fair average quality (FAQ) would be purchased at Rs. 50/- per quintal by the PCF and NAFED designated as the State and Central agencies respectively and the losses suffered on the operations would be shared equally between the State Government and the Central Government. The scheme has been in operation since 19th January, 1985. The number of districts covered under the scheme has since increased to 19 and the purchase centres to 65. Instructions have also been issued by the State Government that wherever the price of potato falls below the indicative price, purchase centres should be opened promptly for starting the market intervention operations. Upto 11.4.85, 1.79 lakh quintals of potato have been purchased under the scheme. The operations are continuing. PCF and NAFED would continue to be in the market so long the ruling market price of FAQ potato is below Rs. 50/- per quintal.

Funds Released by LIC and HUDCO to Housing Cooperatives in Orissa

3907. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state :

(a) the details in regard to housing schemes being implemented in rural areas in Orissa;

(b) whether many housing schemes are not being implemented fully due to constraint on their resources; and

(c) whether Government, L.I.C. and HUDCO will release adequate funds to the housing cooperatives, particularly in backward State like Orissa where there is greater concentration of S.C. and S.T. population ?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) :

(a) The Scheme of allotment of rural house sites and construction assistance is under implementation in Orissa.

(b) and (c). Housing, being a State subject, all Social housing Schemes are being implemented by the State Govts. The Union provides financial assistance in the shape of block loans and block grants without being tied up to any particular scheme. The State Governments are also free to formulate and implement scheme of different categories including SC/ST.

LIC loans are given to the States on the recommendations of the Planning Commission each year. HUDCO's loan assistance is available to the registered Primary Housing Cooperative Society as well as to the State Level Apex Housing Finance Society in accordance with its guidelines.

Publications of Objectionable Reports in Newspapers

3908. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Press Council has received any complaints regarding the publication of objectionable/incorrect reports in news-