

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Indian Dairy Corporation is not importing commercially any skimmed milk powder and white butter. However, currently IDC is receiving limited quantities of gift supplies of skimmed milk powder, butter oil butter from European Economic Community (EEC) for implementation of Operation Flood II Project.

(b) The private Sector Milk Products Manufacturing Units have not specifically brought to the notice of the Government regarding the difficulties being faced by them in the disposal of Skimmed Milk Powder and White Butter in the market.

(c) In view of the reply at part (a), the question does not arise.

[English]

National Research Centre for Medicinal and Aromatic Plants

2030. SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to set up National Research Centre for medicinal and aromatic plants during the Seventh Plan;

(b) whether Government also propose to convert Indian Council of Agricultural Research and Indian Institute of Horticulture Research, Bangalore into a National Institute to take up research on medicinal and aromatic plants; and

(c) whether any collaboration with France has been entered into in the field of horticulture and also agreement finalised and signed in the fields like wine making, biotechnology genetic engineering, and aromatic plants ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. However the Indian

Institute of Horticultural Research is already working on these crops.

(c) Yes, Sir. An Indo-French Protocol has been signed in June 1984 which provides for scientific research and technical co-operation in areas of common interest relating to agriculture, such as fruits, vegetables, medicinal and aromatic plants, tissue culture, bio-technology, genetic engineering etc. As an off-shoot of this Protocol, Indian Council of Agricultural Research is developing a separate agreement with its counterpart agency in France, called INRA, in the area of agricultural research and education, which is being finalised.

[Translation]

Cotton Price Guarantee and Protection Scheme

2031. SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the names of the States in which cotton price guarantee and protection scheme for farmers is in force and whether Government propose to implement this scheme in all the cotton growing States ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : To protect the interests of the cotton growers, Government fix minimum support prices of different varieties of cotton from year to year. The Government also designate a public sector agency, namely the Cotton Corporation of India to undertake market support operations to sustain these prices in different parts of the country, except Maharashtra where all cotton purchases from the farmers are made by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Cotton Growers Marketing Federation under the monopoly procurement scheme of the State Government. Under the monopoly procurement scheme in Maharashtra, the State Government fix guarantee prices for various varieties of cotton at which the State Marketing Federation makes its purchases. Such guaranteed prices are not fixed by any other State Government of the cotton growing States.