

ing any import of sugar during current year.

Edible Oil: Edible oil is being imported to bridge the gap between demand and supply. Considering the sensitive nature of edible oil market, it is not desirable in the public interest to disclose how much quantity and from where the purchases/imports would be made.

Production of Coconut Oil

757. SHRI RAJAMOHAN REDDY: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the total production and consumption of coconut oil in the country at present; and

(b) the steps taken to boost the production thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDER SINGH): (a) The total production and consumption of coconut oil in the country at present is estimated at 2.50 lakh M. T.

(b) some of the steps taken by the Government to boost production of coconut are:

- (i) Coconut has been declared to be an oilseed.
- (ii) In order to improve productivity, processing and marketing of coconut oil and coconut products, NCDC has taken up a project in Kerala with EEC assistance.
- (iii) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds including coconut.

[*Translation*]

Introduction of Marathi Language In Kendriya Vidyalayas of Maharashtra

758. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of students enrolled in Kendriya Vidyalayas in the State of Maharashtra;

(b) the number of students in the Kendriya Vidyalayas of Maharashtra from within the State;

(c) whether the facility of opting 'Marathi' as one of the subjects is available in the Kendriya Vidyalayas in Maharashtra; and

(d) if not, whether Government propose to introduce Marathi language as one of the subjects in the Kendriya Vidyalayas in Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAJMANGAL PANDE): (a) There were 39943 students on roll, as on 30.4.1990 in various Kendriya vidyalayas in the State of Maharashtra.

(b) No such details are maintained.

(c) and (d). The rules provide for the teaching of Marathi as a regional language in Kendriya Vidyalayas where 20 or more students opt for the same.

Educationally Backward Districts in Maharashtra

759. SHRI HARIBHAU SHANKAR MAHALE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: