

Sale of Fertilizers and seeds

9191. DR. VENKATESH KABDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government propose to set up Centres for sale of fertilizers and seeds to avoid inconvenience to farmers, especially at the beginning of rainy season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). One Centrally Sponsored Scheme and two Central Sector Schemes were implemented during 1988-89 and 1989-90 for opening of retail outlets for selling fertilizers in remote and inaccessible areas in the country. During 1990-91, a budget provision of Rupees Seventh lakhs has been made for taking up of a Central Sector Scheme, which includes opening of retail outlets as one of the components.

In respect of Assam and J & K, special schemes are being implemented to set up unput supply system by sharing the cost between Govt. of India and the State Govts.

Hiring of American Lobbying Firm by Kashmir Expatriates in U.S

9192. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:
SHRI DILIP SINGH JU DEO:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an organisation of expatriates and kashmir American Council is reported to have hired a high-powered lobbying firm to create support for the idea of self-

determination for the people of Jammu and Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or contemplated to counteract the activities of this body?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) The Government has seen reports to this effect.

(b) The Government has made known its views to the US Government and influential members of the US Congress.

Procurement of Grapes

9193. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to procure grapes from Haryana and Punjab under the Market Intervention Scheme;

(b) whether this scheme is being extended to grapes for the first time;

(c) the reasons for such Market Intervention, particularly when the grapes produced in these two States are unsuitable because of low content of soluble solids; and

(d) to which use these grapes will be put to by Government or its agencies like the National Agricultural Co-operative and Marketing Federation of India Ltd. (NAFED)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Market Intervention Scheme to pur-