

**Remunerative Prices for Marginal Dry
Land Farmers**

3134. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Will the minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether he is aware that marginal dry land farmers are not getting remunerative prices for their produce ;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to constitute a commission/society to help these farmers to get good return ; and

(c) if so, details of the constitution of the commission/society and steps taken so far to help the dry land farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The agricultural price policy of the Government is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to all categories of farmers including marginal dry land farmers. For this purpose, the Government announce each season, taking into account, inter-alia, the recommendations of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, procurement/support prices for major agricultural commodities and organise purchase operations through Public and Cooperative agencies including State agencies.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Setting up of a Mushroom Development
Centre with UNDP Assistance**

3135. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Mushroom Development has been established in the country with the assistance from UNDP ;

(b) if so, the location of the Centre ;

(c) the states which have been selected for development of Mushroom and how

much financial assistance will be provided to those States ;

(d) whether Andhra Pradesh has also been selected for production and development of mushroom in the hilly areas of the States ; and

(e) if so, details thereof and how much financial assistance will be provided to Andhra Pradesh ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) and (b) A Central Mother Unit has been established at Solan in Himachal Pradesh with UNDP assistance for training supply of compost and spawn, and post-harvest packing of mushroom.

(c) to (e) the project for development of mushroom in Himachal Pradesh with UNDP assistance was implemented from November 1977 to October 1982. Another Project for development of mushroom in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh and Karnataka with Netherland's assistance is contemplated for an amount of Rs. 1.25 crores for all the four states.

Production of Cocoa

3136. SHRI V. TULSIRAM : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) total area in the country under production of cocoa as on 30 June, 1985 ;

(b) the total production of cocoa in the country annually during each of the last three years ;

(c) the estimated area under cocoa cultivation in Andhra Pradesh ;

(d) whether there is any proposal under consideration to increase this area ; if so, details thereof ; and

(e) number of farmers given training on cocoa growing in each of such States particularly in Andhra Pradesh ?