

[English]

News-Item Captioned "Kharif Crop. Oilseeds Worst Hit" in Maharashtra

1196. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Kharif crop. oilseeds worst hit" appearing in the "Hindustan Times" dated 11 October, 1985;

(b) if so, whether Government have provided any help to the Maharashtra Government; and

(c) if so, details thereof and further assistance Government propose to provide to Maharashtra State Government ?

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

(b) and (c). A Central Team has visited the State from 19th to 23rd November, 1985. Quantum of Central assistance will be sanctioned after receipt of report of Central Team. However, a sum of Rs. 28.62 crores has been released as Ways and Means advance and Central share of margin money for carrying out the relief measures in the affected areas.

Increase in Price of Onions and Potatoes

1197. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the price of onions and potatoes in the capital and adjoining States are going up day by day;

(b) if so, the reasons behind this price rise;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to provide onions and potatoes through Government agencies and cooperatives at a reasonable price; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) and (b). The wholesale prices of onion in the capital and adjoining States continue to display a rising trend mainly because the crop in the Nasik District of Maharashtra has been delayed this year. However, the wholesale prices of potato have already started to decline in some of the important markets in the States adjoining the capital, as a result of the arrival of the new crop.

(c) and (d). In Delhi, the Supar Bazar has started selling fruits and vegetables, including potatoes and onions, through mobile vans. The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has already opened a number of retail outlets for fruits and vegetables. These have been opened under its project, designed ultimately to open 200 such retail outlets, for marketing 1.2 lakh tonnes of fruits and vegetables annually. The potatoes and onions sold by the Supar Bazar and through the retail outlets of NDDB are available to consumers at reasonable prices. Apart from this, the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) makes available to the Delhi Civil Supplies Corporation potatoes and onions at the wholesale rates which are significantly lower than the market prices. The NAFED has agreed to extend this facility to the State Governments also, who have already been informed about this by the Department of Civil Supplies.