

(b) The revised target for the production of oilseeds has been fixed at 180.00 lakh tonnes during the terminal year of the Seventh Five Year Plan (1989-90).

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Some of the main constraints in oilseeds production are non-availability of quality seed, inadequate use of fertilizer, limited irrigation, pests and diseases, lack of improved farm implements, inadequate market support. In order to overcome these constraints, the Govt. of India has sanctioned a Centrally Sponsored National Oilseeds Development Project from 1984-85. Under this Project, various incentives are provided for critical inputs to induce the farmers for better cultivation of oilseeds. The Government has been announcing support prices for oilseeds from time to time. National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) has been designated as the nodal agency for undertaking price support operations in respect of oilseeds for a period of five years beginning from the 1985-86 season.

Increase in use of Bio-Fertilizers

1223. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government plans to increase the use of bio-fertilizers during the current rabi season; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The use of bio-fertilizers is being promoted by organising field demonstrations and training courses through State Governments and Agricultural Universities. The subsidised Rhizobium cultures are being distributed for groundnut including rabi groundnut and pulses under various Central Sector Schemes on bio-fertilizers, oilseeds and pulses development, programmes.

Besides, about 1 lakh minikits of improved varieties of seeds alongwith the Rhizobium culture will be distributed to the farmers under the Central Sector Scheme on Minikit Demonstration Programme.

Parallel Food Corporation

1224. DR. G. S. RAJHANS :
SHRI PRAKASH V.
PATIL :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Federation of the All India Foodgrain Dealers Association has suggested to Government to create a parallel food corporation in the private sector for tackling the problem of surplus stocks;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) : (a) to (c). The Federation of All India Foodgrain Dealers Associations has represented that a part of the work presently being handled by the Food Corporation of India may be entrusted to foodgrain traders as Government agents, on the pattern of the Food Corporation of India, to start with and, if the arrangement is found workable and satisfactory, the amount of work given to them may be increased, gradually. As the Food Corporation of India is an instrument for execution of Government Policies, there cannot be any party with the private trade. The Government do not, therefore, propose to entrust the work being handled by the Food Corporation of India to private traders.

Loans to Public Sector Housing Agencies

1225. DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :