

by the country and acclaimed success of Operation Flood ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). As per the information supplied by the Office of the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports, import statistics have been compiled for the period upto 1982-83 only and the information for the subsequent period is not available. The figures relating to Import of Skimmed Milk Powder on commercial basis are not maintained separately.

Control on rise in prices of agricultural produce

8788. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to control prices of agricultural produce in the country to the extent that it does not put the peasants to loss or they are too high to affect the cost of industrial production; and

(b) the details of steps taken to ensure that a major portion of agricultural produce is utilised to domestic industries rather than being exported to produce high priced finished goods ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The objectives of agricultural price policy include, inter-alia, ensuring remunerative prices to the cultivators for their produce, safeguarding the interest of the consumers and to minimise fluctuations in price. A close and constant watch is kept on the behaviour of prices and corrective steps, such as, arranging imports, augmenting public distribution, encouraging the production of crops in short supply, etc. are taken from time to time.

(b) Exports of agricultural commodities are allowed after assessing domestic requirements, as also after taking into consideration all the relevant factors. Efforts are being made to encourage exports of agricultural items in value added forms so that a large portion of agricultural produce is

utilised in domestic industry. Encouragement to value added exports is also one of the primary aims of newly established Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority.

Third phase of National Seeds Projects

8789. SHRI K. PRADHANI :
DR. B. L. SHAILESH :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government plan to undertake the third phase of National Seeds Projects (NSP) to expand and strengthen facilities for production and processing of seeds;

(b) if so, the broad features of the plan and the anticipated capital outlay of the project planned; and

(c) the source of finance and the schedule for implementation of this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The matter is still under consideration of the Government.

Indo-Italian project on fisheries

8790. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Italy is likely to provide technical assistance on a grant basis to India in the field of fisheries;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance envisaged; and

(c) whether any fisheries project in Orissa will be assisted from the grant to be made available by Italy ?

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