

(a) whether some European countries have offered to gift their surplus cows to India ;

(b) if so, the names of such countries ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to import these cows ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). A proposal to import one thousand gift cows from Federal Republic of Germany (FRG) to be financed under the Indo-FRG Bilateral Assistance Programme was accepted by the Govt. of India. Recently a team of Experts from FRG evaluated the pilot project proposal prepared by the National Dairy Development Board. A final decision regarding gift of cows is yet to be received from FRG.

Printing Machines in Government of India Press, Calcutta

3557. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether two off-set printing machines installed in the Government of India Press at Calcutta are lying idle ;

(b) if so, since when and the reasons thereof ; and

(c) the total value of the machines including installation charges ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 30.4.83. The requisite posts could not be created to operate the machines on account of ban on creation of post.

(c) Rs. 12,93,760.00.

Popularisation of Fisheries

3558. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken by Government to popularise fisheries in the country, particularly in rural areas ;

(b) whether there is a big scope to develop fisheries in rural areas ;

(c) if so, the details of funds allocated for the purpose for the year 1986-87 for each State, particularly for Orissa ;

(d) whether it is a fact that production of fish is reducing year after year and the demand is increasing ; and

(e) if so, the Government's policy with regard to increasing the production of fish ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) 184 Fish Farmers Development Agencies (FFDAs) have been sanctioned throughout the country under Centrally Sponsored Sector to popularise fish farming in tanks and ponds in rural areas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The allocation of funds is based on specific demands from States from time to time based on realistic proposals and physical progress achieved.

(d) No, Sir. The Fish production has increased from 24.44 lakh tonnes in 1981-82 to 28.59 lakh tonnes in 1984-85.

(e) Following are some of the important aspects of Government's policy with regard to increasing production in the country :

i) judicious utilisation of aquatic resources with appropriate technology for fish production ;

- ii) extension of fishery operations in the offshore area of the EEZ for increased marine production ;
- iii) mechanisation of traditional craft ;
- iv) establishment of requisite infrastructure to support inland fisheries development as well as on-shore facilities to support marine fishery development.

Delay in Payment of Claims under Crop Insurance Scheme

3559. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether payment of claims in a large number of cases under the comprehensive crop insurance scheme has been delayed due to inadequate provision in the budget ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). The claims in respect of 9 of the 11 States under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme for kharif, 1985 were immediately settled. However, in the case of Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh delay in payment of claims has been due to late submission of yield data by the State Governments, scrutiny of claims in some areas and inadequate budget provision. Action has been initiated for timely submission of yield data by the State Governments to the General Insurance Corporation of India so as to ensure prompt payment of claims. Steps are also being taken to have sufficient funds for the scheme in future.

Changes in Ginning Practices

3560. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Study Group on Ginning

has suggested several changes in the ginning practices in the country ;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the changes proposed ; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve ginning operations in the light thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir. More than one group have considered the problems associated with cotton ginning and made suggestions for desirable improvements. However, final reports have not been submitted.

(b) Broad outlines of the suggested changes include the following :

- i) Provision of adequate storage space at ginneries.
- ii) Incorporation of a pre-cleaner before ginning the 'Kapas' to reduce trash content in ginned lint. While it is available on the saw-gins, which are usually of very large capacity, the low capacity roller gins used in our ginning factories do not have any mechanical precleaning attachment. Thus, suggestions made to install saw-gins or rotary-saw gins recently introduced in USA.
- iii) Incorporation of automatic mechanical pneumatic conveying system.
- iv) Use of better quality hassian and hoops to get well packed cotton bale.
- v) Moisture control methods.
- vi) Adoption of proper baling presses.
- vii) Trained fitters and supervisors.

(c) Report of National Cooperatives Development Corporation are awaited. In the mean time, steps have been taken to