

country in a big way for speeding up the growth of agriculture; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the projects undertaken by the non-resident Indians in the field of agriculture ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Indian Investment Centre has not received any specific/approved project from non resident Indians for taking up rural projects in selected areas of the country in a big way.

(b) Does not arise.

Commodities for Export

4626. **DR. A. K. PATEL :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether during December last, at Udaipur, (Rajasthan) he had stated that export of high valued non-conventional agricultural commodities was important; and

(b) if so, the names of these commodities, their export potential and Government's plan in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Minister of Agriculture, while addressing the 46th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Agricultural Economics in December, 1986 observed, inter-alia, that it was also important to examine export possibility of some high-valued and non-conventional commodities.

(b) There are a number of commodities which offer potential for expanding exports. Such commodities would include fresh fruits, vegetables, vegetable and fruit products, flower seeds, cut flowers, ornamental plants, meat products, guar gum (pulverised and treated) etc.

The export potentials of such commodities are kept in view while considering

production. In the Formulation/adoption of the export policy, from time to time, the export possibilities are taken into account. Appropriate export promotion facilities are made available for exports.

Demand for Increase in Rate of EPF Contributions

4627. **SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ :** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been a demand by the trade unions for an increase in the rate of contribution to the Employees Provident Fund ;

(b) whether Government have any proposal for amendment of the Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 to increase the rate of contribution from 8 to 10 per cent, and

(c) if so, when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P.A. SANGMA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) For making the change, amendment to the Legislation will be required to be approved by Parliament. Only thereafter can Government notify the revised rate of contribution.

Development of Animal Husbandry

4628. **SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken to develop animal husbandry, including poultry farming in the country;

(b) whether it a fact that there is a big scope to boost the export market in meat and poultry products; and

(c) the facilities given to farmers in rural areas for their development ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL AND