

**MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI A.K. PANJA):** (a)

Yes, Sir.

(b) The major demand of the Uttar Pradesh Cinema exhibitors relating to reduction in the rates of entertainment tax concerns Government of Uttar Pradesh and is to be considered by the State Government. However, following press reports about strike by cinema exhibitors, the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting have been in touch with the State Government. The State government was advised to expedite examination of the recommendations of the Report of the committee of Secretaries (Godbole Committee) appointed by the Government of Maharashtra which inter alia suggested relief in entertainment tax. Earlier a copy of this report was circulated to all State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and they were requested to consider the applicability of the recommendations in their context. According to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, as there has been no increase in the present rate of entertainment tax and licence fee since 1981, there was no cause for strike.

(c) As production, distribution and exhibition of films in India is almost wholly in the private sector, the Central Government is not aware of the loss accrued to the film industry on account of the bandh.

**Representation from Cashew Growers of Kerala**

3552. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any memorandum/representation from the cashew growers of Kerala/Karnataka requesting fixation of floor price for cashew; and

(b) the stand taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Assessment of Shortage of Foodgrains**

3553. SHRI A. CHARLES: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assessment has been made by Government in regard to the shortage of foodgrains production the country will suffer as a result of drought as also the likely unfavourable weather next year;

(b) if so, the estimated shortage expected;

(c) how Government propose to meet the situation;

(d) whether Government propose to take steps to cut down exports of foodgrains and also import some quantity gradually every month; and

(e) the reaction of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b) Due to widespread drought conditions prevailing in many States as well as floods in some States, production of foodgrains during this year is expected to decline. Firm estimates of production of kharif crops are not yet due from the States and sowings of rabi crops are in progress. It