

(c) whether the import of oil-seeds would benefit the country by saving foreign exchange; and

(d) if so, the reasons for not encouraging import of oil-seeds in place of edible oils?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Government is generally not in favour of import of oilseeds keeping in view various considerations like the plant quarantine requirements, uncertain and varying economics of import of oilseeds, logistic and administrative problems in obtaining and distribution of resultant oils. In addition, effect of large scale imports of oilseeds on domestic prices has also to be kept in view.

[*English*]

#### **Committee for Studying Problem of Agriculture Marketing**

3130. PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up a high level committee to study the problems of agricultural marketing in the country to boost rural economy; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Import of Milk Products**

3131. SHRIP. R.S. VENKATESAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are importing skimmed milk powder and butterfat, if so, the details thereof;

(b) what are imports of milk products at (a) above as per cent of milk production;

(c) what is the estimated value of milk production in the country and estimated value of imports;

(d) whether imports in the past have been large during drought conditions and if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether in view of Operation Flood projects and surplus in some States, whether Government propose to stop imports of gifts or commercial milk products; and

(f) the foreign exchange earmarked for 1986-87 and 1987-88 for commercial imports of milk products and the actuals so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) received a total quantity of approx. 38,004 MT of skimmed milk powder, 18,336 MT of butter oil and 6,058 MT of butter on gift and commercial basis during 1987-88.

(b) Imports as a percentage to total milk production of the country has generally been less than one per cent in recent years.

(c) The estimated value of indigenous milk and milk products during 1984-85 was Rs.10,53,760 lakh as per the National Accounts Statistics, 1987 published by the Central Statistical Organisation. The information regarding estimated value of imports is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(d) During 1987-88 the effect of drought on milk production was very severe. Consequently, the procurement of fresh milk by the

organised sector was greatly affected. In view of limited supplies of EEC gift commodities for Operation Flood Programme, the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) had to import some quantity of skimmed milk powder and butter oil on commercial basis.

(e) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government.

(f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

### Crop Insurance Scheme

3132. SHRIMATI VYJAYANTHIMALA BALI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the crop insurance scheme introduced in 1985 has been availed of by the large number of farmers in the country in the last three years;

(b) if so, the number of peasants/ farmers who availed of the facility, State-wise; and

(c) whether any small insurance agency has been created at the panchayat level for this purpose so that they can come into contact directly with the farmers and peasants?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement indicating the state-wise number of farmers covered under the comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme during the year 1987-88 is given below.

(c) No, Sir.

### STATEMENT

<i>S.No.</i>	<i>Name of State</i>	<i>No of farmers covered 1987-88</i>
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	896186
2.	Assam	126722
3.	Bihar	1037533
4.	Goa	1940
5.	Gujarat	548840
6.	Himachal Pradesh	5624
7.	Jammu & Kashmir	47281
8.	Karnataka	248803
9.	Kerala	45292
10.	Manipur	6840
11.	Madhya Pradesh	583006