

OPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) A total assistance of Rs. 26.36 crores has been provided by the National Cooperative Development Corporation through the State Government in various States for establishment of cooperative sugar factories, rice mills and other agro-based processing units during the last three years ended with 1976-77

(b) Out of 175 units assisted, 86 have been installed, 16 in the year 1974-75, 25 in 1975-76, 37 in 1976-77 and 8 so far in 1977-78. Financial results are available only in respect of 18 units out of which 5 have been in profits and 13 in losses.

Prices of dry fruits

850. SHRI EBRAHIM SULAIMAN SAIT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of dry fruits have not been brought down in spite of the liberalised import policy of Government;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to ensure that the dry fruits are sold in the market at reasonable prices; and

(c) whether Government propose to allow import of dry fruits from Pakistan and if so, in what manner?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR GOYAL): (a) and (b). The prices of almonds have gone down since the imports of dry fruits were liberalised. As regards other items, the dry fruits season has recently begun and it is expected that their prices will also fall as more and more imports come in.

(c) The import of dry fruits from Pakistan is already allowed, under the free licensing policy.

Inclusion of Sewagram in tourism map

851. SHRI SANTOSHRAO GODE: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Sewagram in Maharashtra has been included in the map of Indian Tourism;

(b) if so, what are the facilities provided for the tourists; and

(c) whether foreign tourists visit Sewagram and if so, the number of tourists?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK): (a) and (b). The importance of Sewagram to visitors both Indian and foreign is recognised, and accommodation for tourists at Sewagram as well as Wardha is provided both by the Ashram Authorities and the Maharashtra Government. In addition, the Central Department of Tourism is undertaking the construction of a Tourist Bungalow (Yatri Niwas) at Sewagram, at an estimated cost of Rs. 14.77 lakhs with a capacity of 82 beds.

(c) No precise number of foreign tourists visiting Sewagram is available with the Department of Tourism as tourist statistics are maintained on an all-India basis and not on State-wise or place-wise basis.

Affairs of National Council of applied Economic Research

852. SHRI DILIP CILAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the bulk of the funds available to the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER), New Delhi come in form of grants and project fees from public sources including Central Government, State Governments, Public Sector Undertakings and International agencies, with routing through the Government;