

**Cocoa Production**

702. SHRI P. J. KURIAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of Cocoa production in India during the last three years, year-wise;

(b) whether Government are aware that production of Cocoa has been increasing due to the fact that more and more agriculturists in Kerala and Karnataka are taking to Cocoa cultivation;

(c) whether Government are aware that prices of Cocoa have been falling causing alarm among its cultivators;

(d) if so, whether there is a proposal to export Cocoa in order to stabilise its prices and also earn foreign exchange; and

(e) the other step, if any, proposed to see that the Cocoa cultivators get remunerative prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Official estimate of Cocoa production are not being compiled.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Prices of Cocoa have of late, been showing down-ward trend. However, as Cocoa is mainly grown as an intercrop in, Coconut and Arecanut gardens as a supplementary source of income, the fall in prices is not to such a level as to cause alarm among the cultivators.

(d) At present, India is importing Cocoa. Cocoa being a decontrolled item, exports can take place when surplus exists.

(e) The Government is taking steps to improve on farm processing, so that quality of beans produced by farmers is better to enable them to obtain remunerative prices.

**Setting up of a Petro-Chemical Company in Madhya Pradesh**

703. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering seriously for setting up of 'Petro-Chemicals Complex' in Madhya Pradesh in the near future;

(b) if so, the details thereof, together with its location;

(c) whether the said complex is going to be set up in Khandwa District in Madhya Pradesh; and

(d) if so, when and if not, reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d). Based on the recommendations of the Reconstituted Working Group on Petro-chemicals, action is being taken to set up certain petro-chemical plants in the country. The locations of these plants will be suggested by Site-Selection Committees, which are being appointed.

**Fishing Harbour at Paradip Port, Orissa**

704. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a fishing harbour at the Paradip Port in Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The fishing harbour is designed to facilitate operation of 250 mechanised boats of 12 metres size and 20 vessels of size ranging from 16 metres

to 23 metres to land about 27,500 tonnes of fish and shrimps per annum. It envisages dredging to 5 metres, construction of jetties measuring 420 metres, provision of slipway and shore facilities such as, auction hall, water supply, roads, drainage, buildings, etc. The project is estimated to cost Rs. 311.18 lakhs.

### **Reservation quota for Scheduled Castes/Tribes for allotment of Agencies**

705. SHRI R. R. BHOLE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has a reserved quota in regard to grant of petrol pump/diesel pump/cooking gas, etc. agencies to persons belonging to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, since when;

(c) the names of persons/parties/societies to whom the agencies were granted from the beginning State-wise and year-wise;

(d) the criteria for the grant of such Agencies;

(e) the procedure for sanctioning such Agencies; and

(f) whether there are any complaints about sanctioning, and if so, the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) With effect from 23-9-1977 the policy to reserve 25 per cent of all types of agencies/dealerships for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes communities was enforced in all public sector oil companies. Prior to this the reservation was applicable to only Indian Oil Corporation Limited from 1-1-1974 for all their agencies/dealerships except in respect of 'B' site retail outlets, i.e., dealer owned-dealer operated outlets.

(c) The list of persons/parties awarded petrol/diesel pumps/gas agencies is not being maintained by Government. Collection/compilation of these factual and statistical information is an expensive and time-consuming process. Records are maintained by respective oil companies.

(d) and (e). According to the guidelines issued by Government, 25 per cent of all types of agencies of the public sector oil companies are reserved for persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes, 2 per cent are reserved for physically handicapped persons and the remaining 73 per cent are awarded on commercial consideration, preference being given to genuine and efficient Consumer Co-operative Societies and Agro-Industries Corporations. No person would be awarded a new dealership/agency if he or his other close relative like his spouse, father, brother or son already holds a dealership/agency with any oil company. All appointments are to be made after inviting applications by giving advertisements in newspapers in circulation in the area concerned. Selection of candidates has to be made by duly constituted Selection Committees set up for the purpose by respective oil companies.

(f) Complaints are received and they are immediately inquired into for remedial action.

### **Splitting of Fertiliser Corporation of India**

706. SHRI CHANDRA PAL SHAILANI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that splitting of the Fertilizer Corporation of India into five independent companies on plea of better management of profits has resulted in all-round deterioration and heavy losses threatening closure of fertilizer