

Demand and supply of onions to Maharashtra Federation State Marketing

108. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the demand of, and how much quantity of onions allotted to Maharashtra State Marketing Federation for export purposes during the period from January to June, 1981;

(b) the quantity of onions exported by the Maharashtra State Marketing Federation during the above period; and

(c) if Federation has not exported any quantity of onions during the above period, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The export of onion is being canalised through National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India. As per information furnished by NAFED during the period January to June, 1981, NAFED passed on 25 per cent of share of export orders received by the other associate shippers to Maharashtra State Marketing Federation for execution of shipment by them.

(b) Maharashtra State Marketing Federation exported 490 MT of onions during the period of January to June, 1981. NAFED also purchased about 1650 MT of stock from Maharashtra State Marketing Federation for meeting their export commitments.

(c) Question does not arise.

Grievance of Sugarcane Growers

109. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have examined the problem of small sugarcane growers, in the factory areas regarding their special credit needs;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard; and

(c) what steps Government have taken or propose to take to simplify the procedures for grant of loans to the small sugarcane growers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) to (c). Sugarcane is one of the crops for which production finance is provided by the co-operative credit societies on the basis of scales of finance; scales of finance are determined for each crop by the technical group at the district level. The area under sugarcane cultivation forms about 1.8 per cent of the total areas under all crops. According to the latest information available, 13 per cent of production loans provided by the cooperatives relate to sugarcane.

No problem of small sugarcane growers in the factory areas regarding their special credit needs has been brought to the notice of the Government of India.

One of the policy objectives in agricultural credit is to ensure increasing flow of credit to the small farmers and weaker sections. The share of loans from institutional agencies to weaker sections which is at present about 40 per cent, is expected go up to a minimum level of 50 per cent of the total loans by the end of Sixth Five-Year Plan. Various concessions and facilities like lowering share capital contribution and its payment in instalments have been introduced. A number of State Governments are providing financial assistance to members belonging to weaker sections for buying shares, lower rates of interest, etc. Simplification in the procedure for grant of loans like introduction of pass-book indicating therein area of land cultivated by each member, loan eligibility, loans to be sanctioned, etc., has been suggested to the State Governments for adoption by the reorganised primary agricultural credit societies.