

vides food assistance for member countries for developmental programmes, nutritional and feeding programmes and for meeting emergencies—natural or man-made.

Excise Duty Relief to Fishing Vessels

5996. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major change in the existing policy of excise duty has helped the fishing vessels also ;

(b) if so, whether under the comprehensive proposal prepared by his Ministry, excise relief is likely to be extended to the small mechanised vessels of less than 13.7 metres in length ;

(c) if so, the extent to which these excise relief will be beneficial to the small fishing vessels ; and

(d) the other concessions being given to them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) There has been no major change in the scheme of exemption of excise duty on HSD used by fishing vessels in the last three years.

(b) The existing relief on excise duty on H.S.D. to the fishing vessels of not less than 13.7 metres in length and 150 BHP is being maintained at present.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Financial assistance is provided by some States/Union Territories and banks to

the fishermen to own their own boats and gear.

National Seeds Corporation Programme for Increased Production

5997. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Seeds Corporation (NSC) has launched a massive programme for increased production, processing and distribution of certified seeds of cereals, oilseeds etc. ;

(b) whether at present the Corporation is handling as many as 230 varieties of 70 crops ;

(c) if so, whether several measures have been taken to improve the quality of seeds besides creating facilities for high standard storage and distribution to avoid incidence of pests and diseases ;

(d) if so, the details of the massive programme that is likely to be taken up during 1984 ; and

(e) the extent to which the programme initiated in 1983 has been successful ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 244 varieties of 70 crops are being handled at present by the National Seeds Corporation.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The details are indicated below :

(Production in lakh Qtls.)

Crop	1982-83 (Actual Achievement)	1983-84 (Estimated)	1984-85 (Target)
Cereals	4.90	7.75	10.40
Oilseeds	0.17	0.30	0.57
Others	0.63	1.15	1.59
Total	5.70	9.20	12.56