

Development of Leather Industry

1699. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any comprehensive plan for the development of Leather Industry has been worked out; and

(b) if so, the steps to be taken in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). It has been decided to set up a public sector Corporation by the Central Government with Headquarters at Agra, for overall development of the leather industry. The State Trading Corporation in consultation with the State Governments and the Department of Industrial Development, propose to set up five Common Facility Centres, one each in States of Andhra Pradesh, U.P., Bihar, W. Bengal and Tamil Nadu, for leather finishing to help small tanners who are not in a position to set up their own finishing units.

The Government of Bihar has set up a Leather Industries Development Corporation for looking after three production units and seven small scale footwear units in various parts of Bihar. Letters of intent have been issued to the Corporation for setting up three leather finishing units in the State. The Government of U.P., has set up a Leather Development and Marketing Corporation for assisting small scale and cottage footwear units by supply of essential raw materials and for marketing their products. The Corporation has also drawn up plans for development of leather industry in the State in a phased manner.

Purchase of Potato

1700. SHRI RAJDEO SINGH:
SHRI HARI SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Agricultural Marketing Federation hopes and intends to purchase potatoes worth Rs. 1 crore from Punjab growers by 1st March, 1976;

(b) if so, the purchase position of the N.A.M.F. as regards other potato growing States;

(c) whether there is any particular variety of potatoes earmarked for purchase; and

(d) specialities of that variety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Ltd had fixed a target of purchasing 10,000 M. Tonnes of Potatoes from Punjab. This target has already been exceeded. The Federation has, upto 10th March, 1976, purchased about 14,500 tonnes of potatoes valued at about Rs. 80 lakhs.

(b) The Federation has so far purchased 4500 tonnes of potatoes from Haryana and 4000 tonnes from Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The Federation is presently purchasing Chandramukhi and its allied varieties, which have longer shelf-life and better consumer acceptance in the European market.

Violation of Foreign Exchange (Regulations) Act by I.B.M.

1701. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the International Business Machine, a U.S.A. multinational