

to the nominees of the State Agro-Industries Corporations and Director General Resettlement and Employment, Ministry of Defence.

(b) Since the private firm is only to render certain services and delivery of tractors is to be made only to the nominees of the State Agro-Industries Corporations and the Ministry of Defence, no black-marketing is anticipated. However, to guard against any such contingency, STC have entered into an agreement with M/s ESCORTS to ensure that tractors will be sold at controlled prices to customers nominated by the Agro-Industries Corporations Ministry of Defence.

**Distribution of Cultivable Waste Land to Poor Handloom Weavers**

4153. SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to give cultivable waste land to the handloom weavers ; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) and (b). There is no specific proposal to distribute Government cultivable waste lands to handloom weavers. They can, however, be eligible to allotment of land if they fulfil other conditions laid down in the rules for allotment of Government waste lands.

**Setting up a Zoo at Nagpur**

4154. SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a Zoo at Nagpur on the pattern of the one in New Delhi ;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND

COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Maharaj Bag Zoo, Nagpur is under the administrative control of Nagpur Municipal Corporation. The State Government is said to be having no suitable land at Nagpur for starting a Zoo on the pattern of Delhi Zoological Park. Nor any proposal has so far been received from the Municipal Corporation of Nagpur in this regard by them.

**Wastage of Fruits and Vegetables**

4155. SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a big percentage of total production of fruits and vegetables in the country goes waste in various ways ;

(b) if so, the percentage of wastage and the ways through which this wastage occurs ; and

(c) the steps being taken to check this wastage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) to (c). The post-harvest losses in the production of fruits and vegetables occur due to several factors such as improper methods of harvesting, handling and packing ; bad transportation and inadequate storage. Delays in marketing after arrivals in the terminal markets, and shortage of cold storage or godown space also causes these losses.

No studies have been carried out to determine the extent of these losses in respect of various fruits and vegetables, but from the information collected by the Directorate of Marketing and Inspection during the course of their marketing surveys, it is estimated that on an average this wastage effects 20 to 25% of the production of fruits and vegetables in the country.

The measures already taken or proposed to be taken to minimise these losses are given below :

The Central Food Technological Research Institute has been carrying out research to determine the proper state of