

Export of Fruits and Vegetables

577. SHRI SADASHIVRAO DADOBHA MANDLIK:
SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:
SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide special facilities to the producers of fruits and vegetables for increasing the export of fruits, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE) : (a) and (b) Some of the steps taken to enhance production and exports of fruits and vegetables from various states in India including Maharashtra are:

- (i) Providing assistance for raising small and large nurseries for production of good quality planting material, upgradation of technical knowhow of farmers through demonstrations, trainings and publicity, rejuvenation of old orchards, area expansion, supply of minikits for vegetables, improving productivity and training of farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Integrated Development of Tropical, Temperate and Arid Zone fruits;
- (ii) Provision of soft loans for setting up of grading/processing centres, auction platforms, ripening/curing chambers and quality testing equipment;
- (iii) Providing financial assistance to exporters/growers/Cooperative Societies for development of infrastructural facilities such as purchase of specialised transport units, establishment of pre cooling/cold storage facilities, integrated post-harvest handling systems (pack houses);
- (iv) Grant of financial assistance for improved packaging and strengthening of quality control;
- (v) Establishment of vapour heat treatment facilities for improving the acceptability of the product especially the mangoes in overseas markets;
- (vi) Grant of Air Freight Subsidy for export of selected fresh vegetables and fruits;
- (vii) Arranging promotional campaigns such as buyer-seller meets and participation in important international fairs and exhibitions;
- (viii) Setting up of integrated cargo handling and cold storage facilities at various international Airports for handling export of perishable items such as fresh fruits and vegetables.

New Projects of Coal India Limited

578. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of new projects taken up for execution during the Eighth Plan by Coal India Limited and the details of progress achieved, particularly in Maharashtra and Bihar;

(b) the reasons for slow progress on execution of new projects in Bihar;

(c) the details of new projects identified for allotment to private investors and Coal India Limited subsidiaries during the 1998-99/Ninth Plan;

(d) the impact potential of new projects on the economy of coal producing States particularly in respect of Bihar; and

(e) the steps taken by Coal India Limited to have a critical and objective economic impact of new coal projects on the changes in the income level of persons living in tribal and backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI DILIP RAY) : (a) 21 projects were taken up for execution by Coal India Ltd. during the 8th Plan period of which six projects are in Bihar, seven projects are in Maharashtra; seven projects are in Madhya Pradesh and one is in Orissa. Out of six projects taken up in Bihar, two projects have been completed, one project is on-going, one project is on schedule and two projects are delayed. Of the seven projects taken up in Maharashtra, one project has been completed, five projects are on schedule and one project is delayed.

(b) The main reasons for slow progress of implementation of new projects in Bihar are delay in acquisition of forest land and availability of revenue land for compensatory afforestation; and problem faced in the matter of re-settlement/rehabilitation of project affected families.

(c) 57 coal mining blocks (72 including sub-blocks) have been identified by CIL and 11 coal mining blocks have been identified by Singareni Collieries Company Ltd. for captive mining.

(d) 28 coal mining blocks in all have been allocated for captive mining. Out of these four blocks are allocated in the State of Bihar. Coal mining blocks allocated for captive mining in different States, including Bihar, when implemented, would open up employment opportunities directly as also indirectly through creation of increased business activities. Owing to creation of additional infrastructural facilities like road, railway and power supply, the local population would also stand to gain considerably. The State Governments would also earn extra revenue through royalty and cess which in turn is spent for the