

[*English*]

Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices

1762. SHRI C.P. RADHAKRISHNAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to review the working of Commission for agriculture costs and prices; and
(b) if so, the details of steps to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

- (b) Does not arise.

[*Translation*]

Annual Plan Outlay for Maharashtra

1763. SHRI ASHOK NAMDEORAO MOHOL:

SHRI VITHAL TUPE:

SHRI D.S. AHIRE:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the annual plan outlay for Maharashtra has been finalised by the Union Government;
(b) if so, the details thereof and the percentage of its increase for the current year as compared to last two years;
(c) whether State Government has demanded to raise the allocation; and
(d) if so, the decision of the Union Government thereon alongwith details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) and (b) An outlay of Rs. 11600.73 crore for the Annual Plan 1998-99 for Maharashtra has already been approved by the Planning Commission which exceeds the revised outlays of Annual Plans 1996-97 and 1997-98 by 51.64% and 38.22% respectively.

- (c) No, Sir.
(d) Does not arise.

Vegetable Seeds

1764. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA:

PROF. PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY:

DR. CHINTA MOHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government propose to provide high

quality of vegetable seeds to farmers on concessional rates to increase the rate of production of vegetables like potatoes, onions, cabbage and peas etc;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Government of India is implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely (i) Production & Supply of Vegetable Seeds; and (ii) Development of Root & Tuber Crops under which highly subsidised minikits of various vegetable seeds and potato tuberlets are distributed to the farmers in all the States/Union Territories of the country.

[*English*]

Teaching of Indian Languages

1765. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Government that the South African Government have stopped teaching of Indian Languages in South Africa and the people of Indian origin have protested against this move;
(b) if so, Indian Government have taken up the matter with the South African Government; and
(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) There are proposals from the University of Durban-Westville and the Provincial Department of Education to reorganise teaching of Indian languages. No firm decision has yet been taken on the subject.

- (c) The Government of India is closely watching the developments in this regard.

Construction of Post Office Building

1766. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether several post offices do not have their own buildings in Maharashtra;
(b) if so, the details thereof, district-wise; and
(c) the total rent paid by the Government on this account during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

- (b) The Number of rented buildings district-wise is given in the attached statement.

- (c) The total rent paid by the Govt. on this account during the last three years is Rs. 7,56,27,242/-.