

and Rabi in line with previous year's production. It has also been stated in the report that the rains should have withdrawn from the peninsula by the first week of October. However, the first fortnight of the month witnessed some unusually heavy rains in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. Parts of Rajasthan, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh also witnessed rains. Harvesting of rice, bajra, cotton, groundnut, and sunflower crops are adversely affected in parts of the country. The overall damage from these rains, however, do not affect CMIE's projections of a 1.2 per cent increase in agricultural production during 1998-99.

(c) Due to the floods and untimely rains in certain parts of the country, the Kharif foodgrains production for 1998-99 has been marginally affected. However, with the chances of better Rabi crops on account of favourable weather conditions, better reservoir situation, good pace of sowing, and adequate availability of inputs, the prospects for overall foodgrain production during 1998-99 are brighter.

Financial Assistance by NFDC

2861 SHRI A.C. JOS Will the MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the total financial assistance provided by the National Film Development Corporation for making regional language films during each of the last three years, 1995-96, 1996-97 and 1997-98;

(b) the criteria fixed by the corporation for providing such financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI MUKHTAR NAQVI) (a) NFDC has provided financial assistance for making regional language films to the tune of Rs. 276.68 lakhs in 1995-96, Rs. 176.72 lakhs in 1996-97 and Rs. 394.47 lakhs in 1997-98.

(b) One of the main objectives of NFDC is to promote good cinema by producing/financing low cost, high quality films in different languages. All proposals for financing of films by the NFDC are first considered by a Script Committee consisting of distinguished persons from the field of cinema.

Based on the recommendations of the Script Committee, as well as other technical/financial details, a decision is taken by the Board of NFDC of merits.

Slaughter Houses

2862. SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are giving subsidies for setting up/improvement of slaughter houses both in public and private sector;

(b) whether the World Bank in its report, popularly known as Grey report of May 23, 1996, has specifically mentioned in para 6.12 that there is no justification for subsidizing privately operated slaughter houses; and

(c) if so, the amounts of subsidies paid to each party/State during the last three years and capacity of each slaughter house for which subsidies have been paid?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Government is giving grants for setting up/improvement of slaughter houses mostly to local bodies such as Municipalities and Corporations in the public sector. Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is implementing a scheme to provide finance to privately owned slaughter house processing plants to the extent of 25% of the cost, subject to a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs per beneficiary for each plant, and a minimum export obligation.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. No subsidy was paid to any private party for establishing slaughter house during the last three years. However, grants were provided to the following two joint venture projects.

(i) A joint venture project of Punjab Meats Ltd. with Punjab Agro Industries Corporation Ltd. was provided with a grant of Rs. 19.52 lakhs, and the capacity is 10000 MT per year. It is located at Derabassi, in the State of Punjab.

(ii) A joint venture project of Hind Agro Industries Ltd. with Government of Uttar Pradesh Undertaking (The Pradeshiya Industrial and Investment Corporation of UP Ltd. and Uttar Pradesh Pashudhan Udyog Nigam Ltd.) was provided a grant of Rs. 447.17 lakhs and the capacity is 33510 MT per year. It is located near Aligarh in the State of Uttar Pradesh. The scheme under which these grants were provided has been discontinued in the Ninth Five Year Plan.