

Government of India receives from State Government periodical reports about quality control and black-marketing of fertilisers. During 1991-92, when the dual pricing was introduced only Government of Uttar Pradesh have reported 16 cases of blackmarketing of fertilizers.

(c): The price of fertiliser is regulated under the Fertiliser (Control) Order, 1985 issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 and the State Governments are empowered to take legal action in cases of sale of fertilisers at prices higher than the maximum fixed statutorily. Surprise raids/checks are conducted by State Governments from time to time. Seizure of stocks, suspension/cancellation of dealership, launching of criminal proceeding etc., are some of the measures taken against the offenders.

Oil Palm Plantation

*418. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO:
PROF. UMMAREDDY
VENKATESWARLU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government are providing financial assistance to States for raising oil palm trees;

(b) if so, the financial assistance provided to each of the oil palm growing States during 1991-92;

(c) the area under oil palm plantation in Andhra Pradesh at present and the area proposed to be brought under such plantation during the current year;

(d) whether there is any proposal to set up a factory for the extraction of palm oil in Andhra Pradesh; and

(e) If so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b): The financial assistance so far provided by Government of India to the oil palm growing States during 1991-92 is as under:-

	<i>(Rs. in lakhs)</i>
Andhra Pradesh	311.55
Karnataka	350.51
Maharashtra	114.61
Gujarat	31.02

(c): So far an area of around 1600 ha. has been brought under oil palm cultivation in Andhra Pradesh. It has been proposed to bring another 2000 ha. under oil palm plantation during the current year.

(d) and (e): Yes, Sir. One oil palm extraction plant of one MT FFB per hour capacity is under construction at Pedavegi in West Godavari district in Andhra Pradesh. Another oil palm processing plant of suitable capacity will be established in joint sector under oil palm demonstration project.

Production and Storage Technologies

*419. SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA
WASNIK:
SHRI MORESHEAR SAVE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have formulated any action plan to further improve the technologies of production and storage and also to provide adequate marketing facilities to the farmer; and

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

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The R & D mechanism in the agricultural sector is reviewed regularly for diversification and introduction of modern technology to maximize production and minimize costs.

[*Translation*]

Agro-Based Industries

*420. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN
YADAV:
DR. SUDHIR RAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to encourage the agro-based industries in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of agro-based industries at present, State-wise; and

(d) the number of such industries proposed to be set up in each State during 1992-93 with locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a), (b) and (d) Yes, Sir. It is the policy of the Government to promote Agro-based industries in the country. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries has formulated several developmental Plan Schemes to provide assistance to State Government Organisations/Cooperatives/Voluntary Agencies etc. for setting up such industries. That Ministry, however, does not set up such industries directly in any State. Besides, National Cooperative Development Corporation is paying special attention to promoting agro-based industries in the Co-operative Sector.

(c): The information in regard to number of food processing industries and the detailed item of their Production/Processing are not maintained Centrally in this Ministry. Information with regard to number of rice mills, roller flour mills, fruits and vegetable processing units and sweetened aerated water manufacturing units that are registered under FPO and fish processing units, State-wise are given in the Statements I, II and III.

STATEMENT-I

Total Number of Roller Flour Mills as on 1-1-1992

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Name of State/UT</i>	<i>Total No. of Floor Mills</i>
1.	Andhra Pradesh	56
2.	Assam	41
3.	Bihar	44
4.	Chandigarh	2
5.	Delhi	17
6.	Gujarat	27