

and increasing demand from poultry and other competing sectors viz; Starch Industry, Human consumption etc.

(e): The following steps have been taken:-

- (i) State Government have been requested to intervene to prevent hoarding of maize by traders.
- (ii) NAFED has been asked to procure maize locally and explore the possibility of its import to make it available to the poultry sector at reasonable price.
- (iii) Steps are being taken for increasing the production of maize in the country.
- (iv) Financial assistance has been provided to State Level Poultry Corporations/Federations and similar other organisations for streamlining the marketing of eggs and poultry and supply of balanced poultry feed at reasonable prices.

Mushroom units

6796. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVISINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to set up mushroom units in the country with external assistance; and

(b) if so, the States where these are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Soil Erosion

6797. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the problems posed by soil erosion in Orissa;

(b) if so, the total hectares of land in Orissa affected by soil erosion; and

(c) the Central scheme proposed to be launched to check the soil erosion in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to available information an area of 78.03 lakhs ha. is affected by various soil erosion and land degradation problems in Orissa.

(c) Substantial problem areas affected by soil erosion and land degradation are being tackled under State Sector Soil and water conservation programmes. The efforts of State Government to check soil erosion are supplemented by the following Central/Centrally Sponsored Schemes:-

- (i) Soil Conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects.
- (ii) National Watershed Development in Rainfed Areas.
- (iii) Drought Prone Area Programme.

Fishery Co-operative

6798. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an urgent need to strengthen the Fishery Co-operatives in order to promote fishing in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by National Co-operative Development Corporation and Central Board for Fisheries to promote Co-operative fishery?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC) started promoting fishery cooperatives since 1974. NCDC has developed Specific patterns of assistance for promoting various activities of fisheries cooperatives (the quantum of which ranges from 75% to 100% for different activities.) It also provides funds to State Governments at concessional rates (12% in cooperatively underdeveloped and least developed States/ Union Territories and 12.5% in the cooperatively developed states), helps formulation of proposals for individual societies as well as integrated fisheries development projects covering various districts and arrange funds from international agencies like EEC, World Bank etc. for promoting fisheries cooperatives in the country. NCDC provides assistance to fisheries cooperatives, amongst others, for the following purposes:

1. Purchase of operational inputs such as fishing boats, nets and engines.
2. Creation of infrastructural facilities for marketing (transport vehicles, cold storages, retail outlets etc.)
3. Establishment of processing units, including ice plants, cold storages etc.
4. Development of Inland Fisheries, seed farms, hatcheries etc.

5. Preparation of feasibility reports.
6. Appointment of Experts under Technical & Promotional Cell Scheme.
7. Integrated Fisheries Projects (Marine, Inlands & Brackishwater). Up to 31.3.92, NCDC has sanctioned an assistance of Rs. 174.790 crores and released Rs. 70.643 crores for development of fisheries cooperatives in various states and Union Territories.

LPG Cylinder Plans

6799. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have a proposal to set up some LPG cylinder manufacturing plants during the Eighth Five Plan period;

(b) if so, the locations where these plants are proposed to be set up; and

(c) the target set for manufacturing LPG cylinders during the Eighth Plan?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLIEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No targets have been set.

[Translation]

Entry of Multi-national Companies in Dairy Industries

6800. SHRI YASHWANTRAO PATIL: