

(b) if so, the action taken to accord early clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The US government had requested opening Foreign Commercial Service Offices in some Indian cities including Hyderabad. Decisions in respect of opening such offices in Bangalore, Pune and Ahmedabad have already been conveyed.

[*Translation*]

Agricultural Commission for Costs and Prices

3085. SHRI DAROGA PRASAD SAROJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the role of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices in determining the prices of the foodgrains;

(b) whether the recommendations of the Commission are being strictly followed by the Government;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) steps being taken by the Government to ensure payment of remunerative prices to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The role of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) is to advise the Government on the price policy of agricultural commodities with a view to evolving a balanced and integrated price structure in the perspective of the overall needs of the economy and with due regard to the interests of the producer and consumer.

(b) and (c) The Government, by and large, accepts the recommendations of the CACP. However, the Government at times improves upon the recommendation made by the CACP keeping in view the development subsequent to submission of the report.

(d) The main objective of the Government's price policy for agricultural produce is aimed at ensuring remunerative prices to the growers for their produce with a view to encourage higher investment and production, and to safeguard the interests of consumers by making available supplies at reasonable prices. Government announces each season the minimum support price for major agricultural commodities and organises purchase operation through public and cooperative agencies such

as Food Corporation of India, Jute Corporation of India, Cotton Corporation of India, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NFED) and Tobacco Board, besides other agencies designated by the State Governments.

Mango Research Centre

[*English*]

3086. SHRI P. UPENDRA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set-up a full fledged Mango Research Centre at Nuzvid in Krishna District of Andhra Pradesh and a Mango Board for marketing and export of mangoes; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir, Mango Research in Andhra Pradesh is being supported by ICAR under its All India Coordinated Research Project at Fruit Research Station, Sangareddy of the Acharya N.G. Ranga Agricultural University, Hyderabad since 1971. This station also covers mango research of Nuzvid area.

(b) Does not arise.

Weed Parthenium

3087. SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ever increasing problem of the weed parthenium hysterophoms (also known as Chatak in Hindi and Gajar Ganat in Marathi) is causing a threat to residents of various localities and is also hampering the agricultural growth;

(b) if so, whether the agro-scientists propose to look into the threatening menace to help the local authorities to deal with the problem effectively; and

(c) the details of the steps likely to be taken in this regard?

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

(b) and (c) The Government have taken following steps in consultation with the Scientists of Indian Council for Agricultural Research (ICAR) and State Agricultural