

[*English*]

Milk Quota for Disabled

1068. SHRI JANARDAN PRASAD MISRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Delhi Milk Scheme allocates any quota for milk to the disabled persons;

(b) if so, the number of disabled who have applied for and the number out of them allotted this quota;

(c) the reasons for not allotting quota to the remaining applicants; and

(d) the time by which they are likely to be allotted quota?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Delhi Milk Scheme does not allocate any quota for milk to the disabled persons. However, there is scheme under which home delivery agents are authorised to draw 20 litres of milk per head for supply at the customers' doorstep. Though the delivery of milk at home is continuing, new agents are not being engaged for the last two years. Any disabled person can also apply to become a home delivery agent.

(b) to (d) 62 disabled persons have applied for issue of home delivery card during the last two years but none has been issued as the issue of new card under home delivery scheme has been under suspension for the last two years. No decision has been taken regarding the opening of scheme for the issue of home delivery card.

Talks with Nepal

1069. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government took up the issue of managing the open border with the King of Nepal during his recent visit; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The visit of the King of Nepal was essentially a ceremonial event as he was invited as Chief Guest for the Republic Day celebrations. Nevertheless, the visit did provide occasion for an overview of bilateral relations and exchange of views on matters of mutual interest, including issues of concern to both sides relating to the management of the open Indo-Nepal border. Shared concern on this matter

was also evident from the determination expressed by both sides to take urgent necessary steps to control misuse of the open border between the two countries.

[*Translation*]

Watershed Development Scheme

1070. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (JAHANABAD): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the work has been started under National Watershed Development Scheme in the rainfed area of Bihar during the Eighth Five Year Plan particularly in Jahanabad;

(b) whether the desired target has not been achieved under the said project; and

(c) if so, the details of target set and achieved during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Yes, Sir, but no watershed in Jahanabad district could be taken up for development as none of the blocks qualified for taking up the works as per approved guidelines.

(b) and (c) An area of 23189 ha. has been developed against the target of 101485 ha. during the VIII Plan.

[*English*]

Fruits and Vegetables

1071. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to constitute a Corporation/Board which can provide loans to the fruits and vegetables producer in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the Corporation/Board is likely to be constituted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) to (d) There is no such proposal under consideration of the Government for constituting a separate corporation for providing loan to the fruit and vegetable producers in the country. The Co-operative Banks, Commercial Banks and Regional Rural Banks provide short term production loan for raising such crops in the country. In addition to these rural financial institutions, State Land Development Banks/Primary Land Development Banks also provide medium and long term loans for raising fruits and vegetables particularly for development of orchards and Horticultural units in various parts of the country. Besides, National Horticulture Board is also providing soft loan for creating marketing infrastructure support and production on improved technologies.

C.I.F.T.

1072. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of studies/new projects undertaken by Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training, Calicut and Kochin, in Kerala during 1997 and 1998;

(b) whether the Government have any proposal for the expansion/development/modernisation of CIFT at Calicut and Cochin; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the allocation made herefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) Central Institute of Fisheries Nautical and Engineering Training (CIFNET) is a subordinate office of Fisheries Division of the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying, having Headquarters at Cochin and units at Madras and Vishakhapatnam. It is the only National Institute in India for training manpower for ocean going fishing vessels. This Institute has not undertaken any studies/new projects in Kerala during 1997 or 1998. However, details of studies/new projects undertaken by Central Institute of Fisheries Technology (CIFT), a premier research institute for Fisheries under the Indian Council of Agricultural Research having Headquarters at Cochin and a research centre at Calicut, are given below:

- Development of resource specific trawl gear system and assessment of commercial trawling practices.

- Processing and product development from finfish and shell fish species.
- Development of viable technologies for the utilisation of crustacean wastes, fishery by products and sea weeds.
- Quality assurance and management in seafoods.
- Appropriate packaging for fish and fishery products.
- Production and Evaluation of biopolymers and biochemicals from aquatic organisms.
- Biochemical, nutritional and functional properties of fish constituents.
- Harvest and Post-harvest Technology Transfer and evaluation in fisheries.
- Nutrients, toxicants, pollutants and growth promoters in aquaculture systems and processed marine products.

(b) Yes, Sir. it is proposed to expand and modernise the CIFT Hqrs. at Cochin and its Calicut Research Centre during the IX Plan.

(c) During the IX Plan a tentative allocation of Rs. 21 crores has been made to CIFT in comparison to the VIII Plan allocation of Rs. 6.50 crores. During the current plan period, it is proposed to import a modern research vessel for vessel based fisheries programmes at an estimated cost of Rs. 10 crores. In addition to the plan allocation, a one time catch up grant to the extent of Rs. 5 crores has also been proposed for CIFT for renovation of the existing infrastructure and modernization of the laboratories for its all research centres, including Calicut. The Calicut Centre of the CIFT is being strengthened as an extension unit to undertake technology transfer programmes through demonstration, training and extension education activities.

Plan Sanctioned for J&K

1073. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount sanctioned for J&K for the year 1998-99 and the funds released during the current financial year;