

Agricultural Science Centre

1225. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Planning Commission has received proposal from the Ministry of Agriculture regarding closing of some Agricultural Science Centres in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) the decision taken by the Government in this regard;

(d) The reasons advanced by Ministry of Agriculture for closing these Centres; and

(e) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the situation so that these Centres continue to function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Public Sector Projects

1226. SHRI RAVI SITARAM NAIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a comprehensive status report on public sector projects has been prepared by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to implement the report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Production of Mushroom

1227. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the Centrally sponsored scheme undertaken for promotion of mushroom production in the country;

(b) whether the target to boost mushroom production in the country has been fixed for the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The Government of India have initiated various measures to increase the production of mushroom in the country. The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation provides financial assistance under central sector scheme of mushroom production to the State Governments for the following components:

- (1) Establishment of Spawn Production Units (Rs. 11.50 lakhs unit).
- (2) Establishment of Pasteurised Compost Units (Rs. 28.50 lakhs unit)
- (3) Training of farmers (Rs. 500/- per farmer)

National Horticulture Board under Department of Agriculture & Cooperation (DAC) also provides Soft Loan assistance to the extent of Rs. one crore to private/public and cooperatives for post harvest management of fruits and vegetables including mushroom. National Centre for Mushroom Research and Training (NCMRT) is a premier research institute of ICAR engaged in research for evolving different strains of mushroom and strains of Mushroom and perfecting production techniques for commercial purposes. The Ministry of Food Processing Industries also provide financial assistance for setting up of integrated projects of mushroom under its plan scheme of development of infrastructural facilities. APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce is engaged in creating necessary infrastructure for export of perishable horticulture produce including mushroom, in collaboration with Airports Authority of India and other Government agencies.

(b) and (c) No target has been fixed for mushroom production for the IX Plan period. However, the Central sector scheme of mushroom production has been continued as per VIII Plan guidelines, for the first two years of IX Plan. According to NCMRT estimates, the production of mushroom is likely to cross one lakh tonnes by the end of IX Plan.