

[*Translation*]

Losses Incurred by Central Agricultural Farms

6676. SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Agricultural Farms in Suratgarh, Sardargarh and Jaitsar are incurring continuous losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there are complaints of irregularities in these farms; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps taken in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The complaints are enquired into the necessary action taken.

[*English*]

Indian Fishermen in Jails in Sri Lanka

6677. SHRI R.N. RAKESH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indian fishermen are languishing in jails in Sri Lanka.

(b) if so, the details thereof.

(c) since when they are in jails there: and

(d) the steps taken by Government to secure their release?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

Long Term Road Policy

6678. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to formulate a long-term road policy; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof?

MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) and (b). A paper on Transport Policy including development of Roads covering the new orientation to be given is being formulated.

[*Translation*]

Crop Insurance Scheme for Vegetables and Fruits

6679. SH HARISH RAWAT: SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether fruit and vegetable crops are not covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the alternative measures proposed to be taken by Government to protect the fruit and vegetable cultivators from natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Presently, only wheat, paddy millets, oilseeds and pulses are covered under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme (CCIS). Since the Central and State Government are incurring losses in running the scheme even in respect of the crops presently covered under the scheme it is not proposed to cover fruit and vegetable crops under the CCIS for time being. Besides, the idea of the Government is to gain some more experience in respect of the crops presently covered under the Scheme

(c) It is for the State Governments to take necessary preventive measures to minimise the impact of natural calamities on the cultivators for all types of crops including fruits and vegetables. Prior to 31 March, 1990, Central assistance was extended in the form of 'agricultural inputs subsidy' for all types of crops including fruits and vegetables at Rs.200/- per ha. for small and marginal farmers whose crops were damaged more than 50%. However, from 1-4-1990 onwards, such assistance is to be provided directly by the State Governments through Calamity Relief Funds required to be set up with an allocated amount.

[English]

Crops Included Under Technology Mission

6680. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of crops for which Technology Mission has been set up;

(b) whether there is any proposal to extend it to coconut; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). The Technology Mission on Oilseeds (TMO) was set up by the Govt. of India in 1986 to accelerate self-reliance in edible oils. The immediate objective was to produce 16.5 million tonnes of oilseeds by the end of 1989-90 so as to cut down edible oils import by half.

The Mission seeks to increase the production of annual oilseed crops viz groundnut, rapeseed/mustard, castor, sesamum, linseed, niger, safflower, sunflower and soybean and also plantation crops such as coconut and oil palm. Exploitation of tissue culture techniques in coconut and oil palm has been included in the activities of Minis Mission-I which addresses itself to the improvement of crop production technology and large scale propagation of high yielding plant materials.

Organisations for Fishermen's Welfare

6681. SHRI M.M. PALLAM RAJU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated number of fishermen families in the country and their average annual family income;

(b) the names of national organisations that have been formed to study the fishermen's problem and contribute to their welfare; and

(c) the specific responsibility of each such organisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) The information is being collected and