

(d) the number such machines proposed to be provided to Rajasthan and by which time these are to be given to the State;

(e) whether State Government have submitted any memorandum to Union Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) Drinking water problem in rural areas in Rajasthan is being solved under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme and the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

(b) and (c). Government of India has received a 'Gift' of six rotary drilling rigs from USSR as drought assistance.

(d) Out of these rigs, four rigs have been deployed in Rajasthan.

(e) No, Sir

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Support Price of Cotton

6803. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the support price of cotton as it is not remunerative;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the percentage of purchase by the Cotton Corporation of India of the total

production of cotton in the current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). The Government have fixed the minimum support prices of Kapas of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) basic varieties i.e. F-414/H-777 and H-4 at Rs. 570 per quintal and Rs. 690 per quintal respectively for the 1989-90 cotton season (i.e. September-August).

(c) The official estimates cotton production are not yet due. However, out of estimated market arrivals of 113.36 lakh bales, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has purchased 10.65 lakh bales of cotton (till 9.4.90). Of the total arrivals, 21 lakh bales belong to Maharashtra where the support operations are undertaken by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federation under the Monopoly Procurement Scheme.

Purchase of Groundnut Oil

6804. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDDB did not purchase groundnut from farmers particularly small and marginal farmers directly or through cooperative institutions but groundnut oil from traders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether State Government has requested Union Government to advise NDDB to release groundnut oil in open market of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the reasons of Government thereto?

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

(a) and (b). The NDDB under the market intervention operations financed the oilseeds growers cooperatives for purchase of groundnut. Membership of these cooperatives consists largely of small and marginal farmers. NDDB purchases groundnut oil from the open market apart from the growers' cooperatives so as to achieve the objectives of the market intervention operations.

(c) and (d). The Government of Gujarat has requested the Central Government to advise NDDB to release groundnut oil in the open market in Gujarat in order to control prices of groundnut oil. The current groundnut oil prices are within the prescribed limits and NDDB would release its stock in such a way as to maintain the wholesale prices of edible oils broadly within the prescribed limits. However, NDDB continues to market groundnut oil in consumer packs under brand name "Dhara".

SAARC Summit

6805. **SHRI A.R. ANTULAY:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the SAARC summit of 1990 is scheduled to be held in Maldives;

(b) whether the Sri Lankan Government have recently insisted that the SAARC Summit earlier scheduled to be held in 1989 in Colombo (Sri Lanka) be held there itself in 1990; and

(c) if so, the stand of Government of India in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Consultations are taking place among the Governments of SAARC member countries and, in particular, between the Governments of Sri Lanka and the Maldives to resolve this issue. Pakistan's Foreign Minister, in his capacity as the representative of the current Chairperson of SAARC, is playing an active role in these consultations. Government of India would go along with any decision that may be arrived at following the conclusion of these consultations.

Indo-US Discussions on Security Issues

6806. **SHRI SHANTILAL PURUSHOTAM DAS PATEL:** Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India had discussions with US on regional and global security issues;

(b) if so, the specific issues on which US had dialogue with India in this regard;

(c) whether US has agreed to provide military assistance to India; and

(d) if so, to what extent and whether the Government have agreed for the same?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The dialogue has covered a wide range of issues, such as: the situation in Afghanistan and Indo-China, developments in the South Asian Region, US-Soviet relations, the changes taking place in East Europe, etc.

(c) No, Sir. It was never sought.

(d) Does not arise.