

(SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Japan has pledged OECF assistance of Yen 2970 million to the Government of India for the Project. OECF loan assistance is given at an interest rate of 2.5% with a repayment period of 30 years, including a 10 year grace period.

(c) This line of credit is proposed to be utilised for providing funds for housing to medium income group families. The maximum size of the housing unit for which funding will be provided will be 40 sq. m. It is expected that about 6,400 families can be assisted under this Project.

Export of Fish and Dry Fish

3906. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of foreign exchange earned by the export of fish and dry fish during 1988-89 and 1989-90;

(b) whether Government propose to make any arrangements to directly purchase the fish caught by the small fishermen and export the catch themselves to give maximum benefit to the fishermen; and

(c) if so, the steps taken or proposed in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI ARANGIL SHREEDHARAN): (a) The amount of foreign exchange earned by exporting fresh/frozen fish and dried fish during the last two years were as follows:—

1988-89—Rs. 3241.21 lakhs

1989-90—Rs. 4820.28 lakhs

(b) Government have no proposal to directly purchase fish caught by the small fishermen and export the catch.

(c) Does not arise.

Subsidised Financial assistance for Poultry Farming and Rabbitry

3907. SHRI P. R. KUMARAMAN-GALAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether poultry farming and rabbitry have been accepted as rural industry;

(b) whether the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) makes available subsidised financial assistance for the purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the number of such units which have been given financial assistance in Salem District, Tamil Nadu during the last three years, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE): (a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) has reported that in terms of Section 2 of the NABARD Act, 1981, among other things, animal husbandry, dairy and poultry farming have been construed as activities allied to 'Agriculture' whether or not undertaken jointly with agriculture. NABARD provides assistance to Banks for financing animal husbandry scheme including those for poultry and rabbit farming under diversified purposes.

(b) NABARD has further reported that it has been providing refinance assistance for financing various animal husbandry schemes including scheme for poultry and rabbit farming under diversified purpose. However, no subsidised financial assistance is envisaged under the scheme for poultry farming and rabbit rearing from NABARD.

(c) In view of (b) above the question does not arise.