

### Italian Assistance to Increase Paddy Production in Orissa

\*942. SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Italian Government have offered grants for agricultural projects including a programme for increasing paddy production in Orissa ; and

(b) if so, the conditions of the grant and details of farm projects specially in Orissa State ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Italian Government have offered aid for the following two agricultural projects :

(1) Integrated Development of Agriculture in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and Haryana. The total amount of assistance proposed under the project is US \$ 13 million to be used in the projects in all the three States. The grant will be in the form of fertilisers, trucks, tractors, farm machinery, equipment as well as technical assistance. It is envisaged to cover roughly 1 lakh hectares in each State and the project will be carried out for a period of atleast three years from the date of its actual commencement.

(2) Increased production of almonds, olives and other crops in Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. The proposed amount of assistance for the project is 57% of the total cost of the project amounting to US\$ 3.3 millions. The assistance would be for the development of temperate climate fruit crops in the three Northern States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir for planting of fruit tree orchards, training of local personnel and establishment of small agro-industrial units for developing fruit production, processing and marketing in the three States.

### Imported Edible Oils

\*943. SHRI BHIKU RAM JAIN : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to increase the allocation, streamline and make available at cheaper price imported edible oils for public distribution system ; and

(b) whether Government have taken steps to prevent imported edible oils being admixed with other indigenous edible oils and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) and (b). Allocations of imported edible oils to States/Union Territories for public distribution system are made every month on the basis of various factors, such as demand, consumption pattern, availability of indigenous edible oils in the State or region, availability of stocks with the State Trading Corporation, pace of lifting of the allocations made earlier, availability of stock of imported edible oil etc. The allocation to the State Governments has been increased with effect from April, 1983.

The imported edible oils are released at pre-determined prices to the States. The States have been advised to fix the end-retail prices by keeping the distribution over-head to the barest minimum so that these oils are available to the consumers at a reasonable price. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to fix realistic quota for issue to each card holder per month, take regular checking of shops by functionaries of the Civil Supply Department and take all measures to make the system stream-lined and effective so as to ensure that imported oils are equitably distributed among the consumers in the States. The imported oils are distributed directly to the consumers through fair price shops and the Civil Supplies staff of the State Government undertake frequent inspections to ensure that it is not mixed with other oils. Admixture of edible oils is also prohibited under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, 1954 and rules made thereunder.