

(i) The Central Council of Ministers for Local Government and Development, in its 20th Meeting, has urged the State Governments to fulfil the Plan targets in respect of the 20-Point Economic Programme.

(ii) Specific funds have been earmarked out of the LIC and GIC allocations to States for EWS and rural housing.

(iii) 15% funds of Housing and Urban Development Corporation are earmarked for rural housing, and

(iv) Ceiling cost of rural housing units of HUDCO has been increased to Rs. 6,000 per unit.

Import of Edible Oil

*476. DR. A.U. AZMI : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) the measures that have been envisaged in the Sixth Five-Year Plan to reduce the import of edible oils; and

(b) how much success has been achieved therein so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD) : (a) and (b) Concerted efforts are being made to attain self-sufficiency in vegetable oils in the country. Towards this end, the following measures have been taken :—

(1) Intensive programme for development of oilseeds in oilseed producing States. The scheme aims at demonstration on farmers' fields, strengthening of seed production and distribution arrangement, expansion of plant protection measures, extension of irrigated area etc.

(2) Launching of special projects on production of groundnut in Saurashtra

region of Gujarat and soyabean in Madhya Pradesh

(3) Better incentive to producers through fixation of minimum support prices.

(4) Allocation for development of oilseeds during the Sixth Plan has been kept at a much higher figure of Rs. 65 crores as compared to the allocation during the Fifth Plan.

(5) Intensification of research efforts for increasing the productivity of oilseeds.

(6) Increase in area under non-traditional oilseed crops like soyabean and sunflower and exploitation of oilseeds of tree and forest origin, rice bran etc.

(7) Setting up of necessary processing and infrastructural facilities to keep pace with the production programme oilseeds.

As a result of these measures, the production of oilseeds has increased from 87.39 lakh tonnes in 1979-80 to 120.72 lakh tonnes in 1981-82. The target of production for 1984-85 has been fixed at 130 lakh tonnes.

Extension Services by Agricultural Universities

*478. SHRI AMAL DATTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that most of the Agricultural Universities do not have any integrated approach to educational research and extension services;

(b) if so, whether Government have any concrete scheme to encourage the Agricultural Universities to associate themselves in extension services and particularly in the application of products of research in any institute in the country; and