

term production loans to farmers into medium term loan. The NABARD has agreed to consider lowering the share of State and Central cooperative banks to be contributed in the conversion.

(b) For the above purpose, the National Bank has agreed to provide loans to State Governments to contribute to the share capital of Cooperative credit institutions for strengthening their financial resources.

(c) As a very special case, NABARD has agreed to re-finance the loans provided to small and marginal farmers whose defaults were not more than 10 per cent of the demand.

(d) The NABARD has sanctioned supplementary credit limit for Rabi Programme to the extent of Rs. 745 lakhs for the Central cooperative banks.

(e) In the cyclone affected districts of Orissa, a banking plan for relief and development purposes, involving bank loans aggregating Rs 5.75 crores and NABARD re-finance of Rs. 5.43 crores was sanctioned.

(f) Re-finance from NABARD will be available to the banks in the affected areas for the scheme of reclamation of land.

(g) In respect of term loans, the banks have been permitted to postpone the demand in the affected areas in various States. The amount approved for such postponement was Rs 917 lakhs in Andhra Pradesh, and Rs. 37.66 lakhs in West Bengal for 1979-80. During 1981-82 the amount postponed was Rs 622 lakhs in Maharashtra and Rs. 204.24 lakhs in Karnataka. The proposals of Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Orissa are under consideration of NABARD.

(h) In case of weavers societies in the affected areas, the National Bank has agreed to extend facilities for re-scheduling of their existing short term

borrowing. The Bank has also agreed to sanction term loans for financing purchase of loom and construction of dwelling-cum-shed for the affected weavers.

Requirements of Vanaspati for the country

*420. SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR GIRI: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) the total quantity of vanaspati needed to meet the consumers' demand in the country;

(b) the total quantity of vanaspati produced by the private sector, public sector and joint sector, separately;

(c) the total quantity of imported oil supplied to each of these three sectors in 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83;

(d) whether the private sector has applied for expansion of their production capacity in 1983-84 and if so, the number of the applications received; and

(e) Government's reaction to such applications?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) An Inter-Ministerial Study Group constituted in 1977 to evolve a long-term plan in respect of edible oils had projected the demand for vanaspati for 1982-83 at 8.03 lakh tonnes. However, the actual production of vanaspati at present is around 9.03 lakh tonnes, which has met the current demand.

(b) There is no vanaspati plant in the joint sector. During the oil year 1981-82 (November-October), the pro-

duction by public sector units was about 0.97 lakh tonnes and the private sector units about 8.06 lakh tonnes.

(c) The total quantities of imported oil allocated to the above referred sectors was as under:—

	OIL YEAR		
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83 (Oct.-Jan.)
	(In lakhs tonnes)		
Public Sector	0.56	0.59	0.11
Private Sector	5.85	5.14	1.06

(d) There are 23 applications for expansion of the capacity in the private sector.

(e) The future policy of licensing of additional capacity for vanaspati is engaging attention of the Government.

Portable Gobar Gas Plant

*421. SHRI ASHFAQ HUSSAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news report (*Indian Express*—28 February, 83) concerning Portable Gobar Gas Plant developed in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether Government will adopt this new method and technology in the various centrally sponsored outdated methods due to which biogas has not become popular;

(c) how many centres/institutes have been working on biogas and with what practical results;

(d) the contribution in developments/improvements, if any in biogas technology by IARI, where it was first developed several decades ago; and

(e) whether Government will look into the failure of R&D at IARI and other ICAR Institutes and Agricultural Universities in biogas and other sectors which is working as a drag on Indian economy despite heavy investments and massive infrastructure?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of adoption of portable biogas plant technology would arise only if its field worthiness and feasibility have been established. It is not correct to say that the biogas plants advocated are outdated.

(c) Under Indian Council of Agricultural Research 7 Centres have been working since 1977 and 4 more were added during VI Plan starting from March, 1983. These Centres are;

Existing Centres:

1. Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi.

2. Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana.

3. Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar.

4. G. B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pantnagar.

5. Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore

6. University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwar

7. S. P. College for Women, Courtallam.