

### Potato Development Board

\*945. SHRI IQBAL SINGH DHILLON: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a great need for the setting up of Potato Development Board at a national level;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this direction; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a)

to (c) The Government of India have not so far considered any proposal for the establishment of a Potato Development Board as the present infrastructures are considered to be adequate to meet the requirements of production. The Govt. of India, in collaboration with the State Governments, take all steps for helping the farmers to meet their requirements for production of potato. The production and distribution of improved seed is coordinated by the Government of India through an All India Committee on seed production which meets twice a year. Special steps are taken to help the farmers in the disposal of their produce. During the current potato season following measures were adopted:--

(i) Exports of potatoes from India were permitted by the Government by various cooperatives and other agencies on the basis of canalisation through NAFED. (ii) For encouraging exports still further, potatoes exports under OGL basis were allowed by Government w.e.f. 3rd February, 1979. (iii) The Governments of Punjab and Haryana have sought the assistance from NAFED and Cooperative Agencies of their States for the purchase of potato in the State and its movement outside. The Punjab Government has asked MARFED and

NAFED to offer a minimum price of Rs 50 per quintal to farmers and have agreed to meet the losses, if any, that may result from operation under Government Direction. The purchase centres have also been increased. In the State of Haryana, NAFED in collaboration with HAFED have entered into a joint venture for the purchase of potato on a commercial basis.

In the State of UP, a Joint venture has also been agreed to between NAFED and Apex Cooperative Marketing Federation for making commercial purchase of potatoes. They have also increased the number of purchase centres for purchasing potatoes.

(iv) The Ministry of Railways have been impressed upon from time to time to increase the supply of railway wagons to transport potatoes from the centres of production to consuming centres.

(v) Ministry of Agriculture has written to the State Governments at the highest level that in order to alleviate the hardship caused to the potato growers by the fall in prices, they may draw up a crash programme for providing market support to the commodity.

At the National level there is also an Indian Potato Development Council in which representation is given to the growers, State and Central Governments, Members of Parliament, Cold Storage Industry, traders etc. The function of this Council are as under:—

(1) To consider development programmes in the Central and State Sector in respect of Potato, review progress thereof from time to time and recommend measures for increasing the production of potato:

(2) To consider problems relating to the production and marketing of potato and remunerative prices to potato growers and advise Government in these matters;

(3) To consider demands for different varieties of potato in the different varieties of potato in the and advise Government about necessary arrangements for meeting the said demand through suitable development programmes.

(4) To consider the special needs of small and marginal farmers in respect of potato production and suggest suitable measures for meeting the same;

(5) To facilitate coordination between research and development programmes relating to potato and to advise about the needs for improvement in the quality and productivity of potato.

(6) To advise Government on such other connected matters as may be considered necessary from time to time

In addition, the Indian Potato Development Council is also empowered to set up Standing Committee, Technical Committee and Ad-hoc Committee to look into specific issues and to coopt members such as representatives of Agricultural Universities and other special interests as and when necessary for specific purposes.

**Memorandum from All India Postal Employees Union Class III**

\*946. **SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the All India Postal Employees Union Class III has recently submitted any memorandum to his Department about their problems; and

(b) if so, the decision taken thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI NARHARI PRASAD SUKHDEO SAI):** (a) In the absence of

particulars such as reference, date, subject etc., it has not been possible to identify the specific memorandum which the Hon'ble Member has in her mind.

(b) Does not arise.

**Foodgrains to Orissa under Rural Development Work<sub>s</sub>**

\*947 **SIIRI SARAT KAR:** Will the the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests have been made by the Government of Orissa to the Central Government for the supply of foodgrains to that State for the rural development works during the next financial year, and

(b) if so, the reaction of Central Government thereon?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA):** (a) Yes Sir. The Government of Orissa have requested for the supply of a total quantity of 3 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains under 'Food for Work Programme' during the year 1979-80.

(b) Keeping in view the demands of the State Governments and the total quantity of foodgrains likely to be made available for the purpose, it may not be possible to supply this much quantity to Orissa, this year.

**बिस्मगोजे का उत्पादन**

\*948. **श्री गंगा सिंह:** क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में गत तीन वर्षों में, बिस्मगोजे का उत्पादन (बर्षवार) कितना हुआ है;

(ख) क्या सरकार का विचार इसका उत्पादन बढ़ाने का है और यदि हा, तो इसके लिये क्या उपाय किये गये हैं; और

(ग) क्या बिस्मगोजा के बारे में कोई अनुसंधान करने के लिये भारत सरकार ने प्रयास किये हैं, और यदि हा, तो उनका व्यौरा क्या है?