

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have assessed the benefits/adverse impacts of Contract farming in regard to the food self sufficiency and future of agriculture sector;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also given sufficient thought to the whole issue of Contract farming for export; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b). The Ministry of Food Processing Industries is operating a scheme for strengthening of backward linkages for the fruit and vegetable processing industry for encouraging farmers and industry to come under the Umbrella of contract farming to ensure the off-take of raw materials by the processors at pre-determined price. The scheme envisages financial assistance upto 5% of the purchase price, subject to ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs per unit/organisation for a period of three years. In the case of new units, in the first two years of commercial production, the assistance in the form of re-imbusement would be upto 50% of cost of extension, upto a ceiling of Rs. 5 lakhs.

(c) and (d). Contract farming is an arrangement between the farmer and the industry by which the industry assures market to the farmers' produce and if required, provides inputs to the farmers so that the farmer can grow the processable variety of raw material required by the industry. The scheme would help in the development of Horticulture sector, promote diversification of agriculture and help in the overall growth of the agriculture sector. The scheme would not affect food self-sufficiency.

(e) and (f). The scheme would help the processing units handling exports of horticultural/floricultural products have an assured supply of raw material and this would help in promoting exports of these products.

#### Subsidy on Foodgrains

5100. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMMAIAH :  
SHRI D. VENKATESWARA RAO :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government has urged the Union Government to enhance subsidy on rice at par with wheat;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have considered the request of the State; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI AJIT SINGH) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The difference between economic cost of foodgrains and their issue prices is paid to the Food Corporation of India as consumer subsidy. The economic cost comprises procurement cost and distribution cost. The Central issue prices of foodgrains normally cover the procurement cost leaving the distribution cost which is paid to the FCI in the form of subsidy. Thus the quantum of subsidy on wheat and rice depends on the quantum of distribution cost. Since the distribution cost in the case of rice is lower than wheat, subsidy on rice cannot be enhanced to the same level as for wheat.

[Translation]

#### Railway Time Table

5101. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :  
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :  
SHRI MAHESH KANODIA :  
SHRI BALRAJ PASSI :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have issued any instructions to publish Railway Time Table in English and Hindi, simultaneously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have also taken any action to ensure the compliance of these instructions; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) to (d). yes, Sir. Instructions have been issued to the Zonal Railways to plan for and ensure simultaneous printing of English and Hindi versions of time-tables so that both are available in the market in time.

[English]

#### Fish Farmers Development Agencies

5102. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Freshwater and Brackishwater Fish Farmers Development Agencies established and proposed to be established, State-wise;

(b) the objectives thereof;

(c) the amount of Central assistance provided to these agencies during 1992-93, 1993-94 and 1994-95, State-wise; and

(d) the terms and conditions of this assistance?