

[*Translation*]

Reconstitution of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices

1268. SHRI PANDURANG PUNDLIK FUNDKAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reconstitute the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices (CA-CP);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The present composition of the Commission for agriculture Costs and Prices reconstituted in 1989 is quite exhaustive—consisting of both professionals and non-officials representing the interests of the farming community.

[*English*]

Problems Faced by Small Fishermen

1269. SHRI RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the problems faced by small fishermen owning mechanised fishing boats in the country; and

(b) the steps taken to solve these problems?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The main problems faced by small fishermen owning mechanised boats are:

(i) increasing cost of operation of boats, and

(ii) inadequate infrastructure facilities such as fishery harbours and fish landing centres, etc.

(b) Since the cost of High Speed Diesel Oil accounts for more than 60 percent of the operational cost of small mechanised boats, the Government have launched a scheme to reimburse the Central Excise Duty on High Speed Diesel Oil used by mechanised boats during 1990-91 in an effort to give relief to owners of mechanised boats. The Government have also been constructing fishery harbours at minor ports and fish landing centres besides fishery harbours at major ports for providing landing and berthing facilities to mechanised fishing boats. So far four major fishery harbours, 23 minor fishery harbours, and 96 fish landing centres have been commissioned.

Decline in Oilseed Prices

1270. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a sharp decline in oilseed prices specially mustard;

(b) if so, the impact of price decline on farmers;

(c) whether the National Dairy Development Board has not procured surplus stock of oilseeds so as to arrest the declining prices of oilseeds; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) In view of the above, the question does not arise.

(c) The associate cooperative agencies operating on behalf of NDDB have procured groundnut and mustard seed from major producing centres in the country and have helped to maintain prices at remunerative levels.

(d) In view of the above, the question does not arise.