

In addition, the Government of France will also provide the following facilities:

- (i) Return excursion air-fare
- (ii) Tuition fees
- (iii) Medical benefits
- (iv) Travelling expenses inside France as and when required by the programme of studies.

Fruits Processing Units

244. DR. PHULRENU GUHA: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate value of fruits being wasted every year in the country; and

(b) the number of fruit processing units in the country alongwith their installed capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a) No authentic report is available to indicate the value of fruits being wasted every year in the country at present. However, a High Powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Swaminathan known as "Perishable Agriculture Commodities Committee" has estimated in May, '81 that a substantial percentage (even upto 40%) of various agricultural produce went as waste.

(b) as on 1.1.89, there were 2291 units licensed under the Fruit Products Order, 1955 engaged in the manufacture of fruit and vegetable products. Their total annual installed capacity was 5.99 lakh tonnes.

Scarcity of Fodder

245. DR. C.P. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been acute scarcity of fodder in the country due to drought and flood; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b). No report of scarcity of fodder necessitating import of fodder from outside the State has been received from any State affected by flood/drought during the period commencing south-west monsoon, 1988.

Reduction of Interest Rates on Loan to Small Scale Trawl Owners

246. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the interest rate for the loans given to small scale trawling owners is likely to be reduced;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the loans to the fishing industry will be considered at par with the agricultural loans; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) to (d). Loans to fisheries are classified under Agricultural Lending and are eligible for various concessions extended to agricultural advances. The interest rates for agriculture advances are concessional. Interest rates on short term advances for agriculture were reduced in March, 1988 and at present they are as under: