

rations/cooperative undertakings for setting up new integrated fruit and vegetable processing units as also assistance for modernisation, diversification and expansion etc. of the existing units, schemes of marketing assistance to cottage and small scale units in fruit and vegetable processing, scheme for development of infrastructure schemes for research and development and technology upgradation, schemes for modernisation in grain milling sector etc. These schemes are expected to provide the necessary growth to the food processing industries.

Apart from the developmental plan schemes, the Government provide certain incentives for the growth and development of the food processing industry, through fiscal measures from time to time.

Assistance for Bhangi Kasht Mukti and removal of Untouchability Schemes

*196. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any assistance is provided by Government for schemes for Bhangi Kasht Mukti and Removal of Untouchability being implemented by Harijan Sewak Sangh;

(b) whether any decision has been taken to stop the assistance for these schemes and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether there is any demand for reconsideration of the decision taken by Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):

(a) to (d). Grants of Voluntary Organisations for the Schemes of Bhangi Kasht Mukti Work and Removal of Untouchability have been stopped from the year 1990-91. The reasons for this decision is that the Government of India is implementing the centrally Sponsored Schemes on a Large Scale for Liberation of Scavengers as well as the implemen-

tation of the Protection of Civil Rights Act, 1955.

It was felt that the above two schemes for which grants have been stopped were of an educative nature in a very general way and had not made any concrete and clear impact and on the prevention of the problems.

The Harijan Sevak Sangh, Delhi alongwith other voluntary organisations has been in receipt of grants for both the above schemes upto the year 1989-90.

Suggestions were received for reconsideration of the above decision, but after reconsideration, no change in the decision has been found necessary.

Completion of Irrigation Projects in States

*197. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MEWAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government are facing some difficulties with concerned State Governments in regard to timely execution of certain irrigation projects viz. Pipalda Lift Irrigation (Kota) Major Project, Parwati Canal Modernisation (Kota) Major Project, Jaisamand Modernisation (Udaipur) Major Project, Gambhiri Modernisation (Chittorgarh) Medium Project, Rajsamand (Udaipur) Medium Project, Chambal-issues involving Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Mahi issues involving Rajasthan and Gujarat Governments;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). After completion of techno-economic appraisal Gambhiri Modernisation Project has been recommended to the Planning Commission

in June, 1990. While State Government is to sort out technical issues on Jaisamand Modernisation Project, they have to submit modified reports on Pipalda Lift Irrigation, Pawati Canal Modernisation and Rajsamand Projects.

On inter-State issues of Chambal and Mahi Central Government has taken up the matter with the concerned States.

(c) Completion of a Project will depend upon the priority given by the State Government to a project in the 8th Plan and/or thereafter.

Inter-State Movement of Foodgrains

*198. SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT:
SHRI DALPAT SINGH PAR-
ASTE:

Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to make the whole country as one trading zone so as to allow free inter-state movement of foodgrains and other essential commodities with a view to bring down prices;

(b) if so, the details thereof, if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering to deliver stocks of foodgrains and other essential commodities from the warehouses of Food Corporation of India and other Government storage agencies into the open market with a view to bring down prices;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). The entire country is treated as one zone for the movement of wheat, levy-free rice and coarsegrains since 13th April, 1977, 30th September, 1977 and 7th March, 1974 respectively. No inter-state movement

restrictions on paddy have been imposed by the Central Government. In view of the need to maximise procurement of rice, the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Uttar Pradesh (in certain divisions) and the Union Territory of Chandigarh have imposed inter-state movement restrictions on paddy. Rajasthan and Pondicherry have imposed 25% and 30% export levy on paddy respectively. No restrictions on inter-state movement of pulses, edible oils -seeds have been imposed by the Central Government.

(c) to (e). The stocks lying with Food Corporation of India in the Central Pool are essentially meant for Public Distribution System. However, small quantities of wheat which may either be not suitable for distribution to PDS or spareable from the central pool, are sometimes sold by the FCI to the Roller Flour Mills. FCI has recently been allowed to sell some such wheat stocks through auction but actual auction sale is yet to take place.

Paddy Procurement in Orissa

*199. SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Food Corporation of India is procuring paddy at support prices in all the districts of Orissa;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government propose to make arrangements for procurement of paddy in all the districts of the state; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI NATHU RAM MIRDHA): (a) and (b). During 1989-90 kharif marketing season, the Food Corporation of India have operated 23 purchase centres decided by the Orissa Government in addition to the 20 FCI's depots delcared as pruchase centres in the six districts of Balasore, Ganjam,