

(d) whether a large number of engineers working in C-DOT have expressed their resentment over their removal; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir. The matter is under consideration of the Government.

(b) and (c) In respect of Shri G.B Meemamsi, Executive Director it was decided not to continue with his services, since he had crossed the age of 60 years

In case of Shri D R. Mahajan, Director, his tenure of appointment had expired and extension was not granted

(d) and (e) Some representations have been received. The position has been explained to them

Disease Affecting Banana Cultivation

6746. SHRI KADAMBUR M R JANARDHANAN Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) the diseases that mostly affect the banana cultivation;

(b) whether a variety of banana called as Robesto, is affected by pest attack even at the seedling stage; and

(c) if so, the steps taken by Government to help banana cultivators from these difficulties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) The diseases that mostly affect the Banana cultivation are - Panama wilt, leaf spot, anthracnose, cigar end rot and bunchy top.

(b) and (c). Yes, Sir. The control strategy developed and recommended for adoption by the farmers to check pest disease attack includes planting of healthy and disease free and suckers, adoption of proper orchard management practices, judicious application of pesticides, roguing and destruction of diseased plants and observing domestic plant quarantine measures.

Potato Growing States

6747. SHRI SRIKANTHA DATTA NARASIMHA RAJA WADIYAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the main potato growing States;

(b) whether the Potato growers in Karnataka are facing hardship as there are no adequate marketing facilities;

(c) whether they are also not getting remunerative prices for their produce; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by Government to create adequate marketing facilities and also to purchase potatoes from the farmers of Karnataka at reasonable prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR):

(a) The main potato growing states are Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Punjab, Madhya Pradesh Assam and Gujarat.

(b) and (c). No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.