

(d) the number such machines proposed to be provided to Rajasthan and by which time these are to be given to the State;

(e) whether State Government have submitted any memorandum to Union Government in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI UPENDRA NATH VERMA):

(a) Drinking water problem in rural areas in Rajasthan is being solved under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme and the Centrally Sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme.

(b) and (c). Government of India has received a 'Gift' of six rotary drilling rigs from USSR as drought assistance.

(d) Out of these rigs, four rigs have been deployed in Rajasthan.

(e) No, Sir

(f) Does not arise.

[English]

Support Price of Cotton

6803. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to revise the support price of cotton as it is not remunerative;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what is the percentage of purchase by the Cotton Corporation of India of the total

production of cotton in the current season?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) and (b). The Government have fixed the minimum support prices of Kapas of Fair Average Quality (FAQ) basic varieties i.e. F-414/H-777 and H-4 at Rs. 570 per quintal and Rs. 690 per quintal respectively for the 1989-90 cotton season (i.e. September-August).

(c) The official estimates cotton production are not yet due. However, out of estimated market arrivals of 113.36 lakh bales, the Cotton Corporation of India (CCI) has purchased 10.65 lakh bales of cotton (till 9.4.90). Of the total arrivals, 21 lakh bales belong to Maharashtra where the support operations are undertaken by the Maharashtra State Cooperative Marketing Federation under the Monopoly Procurement Scheme.

Purchase of Groundnut Oil

6804. SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether NDDB did not purchase groundnut from farmers particularly small and marginal farmers directly or through cooperative institutions but groundnut oil from traders;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether State Government has requested Union Government to advise NDDB to release groundnut oil in open market of Gujarat; and

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