

market for assured quality and health standards and also effecting necessary technological improvement of processing units. Under the Scheme, financial assistance in the form of soft loan and grant is provided to both egg and poultry processing industries. The Government is also monitoring the quality aspect of egg products meant for export under the Export (Quality Control & Inspection) Act, 1963 through Export Inspection council of india, for developing the confidence of the foreign buyers in respect of quality of Indian egg products.

Number of Persons Sent for Training Abroad

4902. SHRI VEN DHAMMA VIRIYO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government nominate Officers for training to Foreign Institutions for improving their academic, managerial and technical skills in various fields at the cost of the public exchequer;

(b) if so, furnish the number of persons abroad for both the short term and long term training courses abroad from the Ministry of Agriculture during the last five years, year-wise;

(c) the number of persons belonging to the SC/ST category among such persons and their percentage to total such persons; and

(d) if the above demand not concede satisfactorily the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of persons sent for training courses abroad during the last five years from the Ministry of Agriculture, year-wise is as under:—

Year	No. of persons sent abroad for training courses
1995-96	27
1996-97	39
1997-98	25
1998-99	58
1999-2000	50
	199

(c) The number of persons belonging to SC/ST category is 18. Their percentage to total number of such persons is 9%.

[11 May, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(d) the suitable available candidates are nominated for training courses abroad.

Funds on Account of Natural Calamities

4903. **SHRI RAM DEO BHANDARY**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is no funds available with the Collector, Sambalpur (Orissa) on account of natural calamities as reported in "Samaj" dated the 7th April, 2000;

(b) whether any monitoring is being conducted in respect of above fund from time to time; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake necessary relief measures in the wake of natural calamities. The Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Government by providing resources in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. No report in this regard has been received from the Government of Orissa.

Production of Pearls in the country

4904. **PROF. M. SANKA RALINGAM**: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of production of pearls from our coastal centres;

(b) whether any study has been conducted to identify pearl-prone areas in the country;

(c) if so, what are the areas identified;

(d) whether Government have studied any proposal in developing Tuticorin as a pearl fetching center; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Approximately 3 kgs. of pearls are produced every year through culture activities at Mandapam and Tuticorin.