THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) Per capita availability of milk in Orissa is far below from the average National per capita availability.

(b) No, Sir. The milk production in Orissa has increased at compounded rate of 4.66% per annum during 1992-93 to 1996-97.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) Government of India has sanctioned Rs. 75.675 lakh under Centrally Sponsored Scheme for feed and fodder development during 1995-96. State Government is taking all necessary steps for raising seasonal crops in different areas of the state through different schemes under fodder development programme. The District Rural Development Agency (DRDA) in all the districts are also providing the assistance for the fodder development.

Handling cost of Horticulture Produce

1525. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that post harvest handling accounts for 37 per cent at different levels of handling of horticulture produce; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to reduce these losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) Although no scientific study has been carried out to assess the post harvest handling losses of horticulture produce, it is estimated that losses vary between 8 to 37 per cent in various crops in different stages after harvest, as per the Report of the Sub-Working Group on Post Harvest Management, Marketing and Exports for the Ninth Plan.

(b) The National Horticulture Board (NHB) under the Ministry of Agriculture has been implementing a Scheme of Integrated Project on Management of Post Harvest Infrastructure of Horticultural Crops under which financial assistance in the form of soft loan is provided for creation of post harvest infrastructure facilities including pre-cooling units/cool store and cold storages. The National Cooperative Development Corporation under the Ministry of Agriculture also

provides financial assistance for establishing cold storages in the cooperative sector. Besides, there is a Scheme for Development of Infrastructural Facilities, which is being implemented by the Department of Food Processing Industries (DFPI). One of the components of this Scheme is to provide financial assistance for establishment of cold chain facilities and cold storages for horticultural produce and other items. Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) is also giving grant-in-aid for setting up modified/controlled atmosphere cold storages for export purposes. In order to give a major thrust to the development of cold storages and storages, Government have recently approved a Scheme of Capital Investment Subsidy for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulutre Produce for implementation during the Ninth Five Year Plan (1999-2002) to be implemented by the National Horticulture Board.

Guideline for Appointment of Warden of IASRI

1526. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agriculture Statistical Research Institute (IASRI) under Indian Council of Agriculture Research (ICAR) had framed any guideline for the appointment of warden in IASRI student hostel;

(b) if so, whether the competent authority of IASRI, followed the set guidelines and rules for the appointment of warden in IASRI student hostel during the period 1994-95;

(c) if not, whether the competent authority of IASRI is planning to frame guidelines for the appointment of warden in IASRI student hostel; and

(d) whether the license fee from the warden appointed in the IASRI student hostel is being collected for the period 1994-99?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No such approved guidelines/criteria exist in IASRI. Warden is appointed by the competent authority for the smooth functioning of the hostels, guest houses etc;