

(c) Steps taken to protect the interests of the farmers include fixation of minimum support prices of major agricultural commodities and procurement thereof through public and cooperative agencies, implementation of the Market Intervention Scheme (MIS) covering horticultural and minor items of produce at the request of the State Governments and using instruments of trade to discourage imports and encourage exports.

AAF In Punjab

3826. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:
SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Punjab Government has requested the Centre to provide Rs. 550/- crore to help in setting up an Agricultural Adjustment Fund (AAF); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation has not received any proposal from the Government of Punjab for Rs. 550 crore for setting up an Agricultural Adjustment Fund (AAF).

Financial assistance for Integrated Development of Mushroom

3827. SHRI J. CHITHARANJAN:
SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of assistance given to various States under the Central Sector Scheme on integrated development of Mushroom during 1998-99, 1999-2000, 2000-2001; and

(b) the total yearly production of Mushrooms during each of those years?