

(b) exempted the fertiliser dealers holding up to 10 tonnes of fertiliser material from the requirement of registration under the fertiliser control Act;

(c) Sales of fertilisers to farmers in small bags;

(d) free soil testing service to farmers;

(e) release of short-term loans to State Governments for advance purchase of fertilisers;

(f) a scheme on balanced use of fertilisers is being implemented which is expected to help in generating demand and promoting balanced use of fertilisers;

(g) a scheme on bio-fertiliser production and promotion is being implemented. This is expected to help in supply and use of organic forms of plant nutrients; and

(h) in order to bring down the price of decontrolled fertilizers and increase their consumption, the Central Government took several steps like decanalisation of diamonium phosphate, reduction in railway freight by approximately 38 percent, abolition of customs duty on certain raw materials, etc.

Production of Coconut

*99. SHRI T. A. MOHAMMED
SAQHY:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) when Government declared coconut as Oil seed;

(b) whether Government have taken any steps to boost the production of coconut;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) what steps are being taken to control the coconut disease throughout the country; and

(e) what steps have been taken to increase irrigation facilities in areas of coconut cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR):

(a) In October, 1990.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following projects are taken up for increasing production of coconut in the country through Coconut Development Board :—

1. Production and distribution of quality planting material.

2. Expansion of area under coconut.

3. Integrated farming in coconut small holdings in Kerala for productivity improvement.

4. Integrated control of leaf-eating caterpillar.

5. Assistance for providing irrigation facilities to coconut growers.

(d) Assistance is provided for the followings—

1. Cut and removal of diseased coconut palms and replanting.

2. Plant protection chemicals.

(e) Assistance is being provided by the Board for creation of irrigation facilities such as irrigation sources, installation of pump-sets and laying out drip irrigation unit in coconut holdings.

Recognition of Andhra Pradesh University of Health Sciences

*100. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to recognise Andhra Pradesh University of Health Sciences under section 12(b) of the U.G.C. Act for providing assistance;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) to (c) The Universities set up by Acts of the State Legislatures have to be declared fit by the UGC, in terms of the Rules framed under Section 12-B of the UGC Act, to receive grants from the Central Government, the UGC or any other organisation receiving funds from the Central Government. According to the information furnished by UGC, a request was received by the Commission from the Government of Andhra Pradesh in December, 1986, for providing financial assistance to the University of Health Sciences, Vijayawada. However, funds have not been provided as the Rules framed by UGC for declaring medical universities fit for necessary Central assistance have not been finalised by the Commission.

Production and Export of Cashew Nuts

@527. SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total production of cashew nuts in India during the last three years;

(b) what is the domestic demand per annum during the same period; and

(c) what is the quantity of cashew nuts allowed to be exported during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE

@Previously Unstarred Question 34, transferred from 26th April, 1993.

(SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) As per rough estimates available the total production of cashew nuts in India during the last three years is given below :—

	Lakh tonnes
1989-90	2.86
1990-91	2.95
1991-92	3.05

(b) The total demand of raw cashew nuts in India is roughly 6 lakh tonnes per annum.

(c) The quantity of cashew kernels exported during the last three years is given below :—

	Quantity (tonnes)
1989-90	45,807
1990-91	49,812
1991-92	64,692

Horticultural Economy of Himachal Pradesh

528. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the horticultural economy of Himachal Pradesh has been excluded from the purview of the Agricultural Policy Resolution approved at Chief Minister's Conference held in Delhi recently;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to reconsider the policy resolution and incorporate the horticulture economy of Himachal Pradesh in it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) to (c):