

[3rd August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, 'the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) There is no report of shortage of vegetables in any part of Maharashtra. However, for modernisation of vegetable production Government of India is implementing Centrally Sponsored scheme on Integrated development of vegetables including root and tuber crops. The Scheme envisages production of quality planting material of vegetables including onion and potato, seed village concept, transfer, of advance technology through laying out frontline demonstration plots at farmers fields and training to the farmers, on-farm post harvest handling etc., under which assistance may be availed by Government of Maharashtra.

Illegal prawn fishing

1248. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal prawn fishing in Orissa's coastal Kendrapara district threatens existing mangrove forests; and

(b) if so, the action taken or proposed to demolish such "gherries" to protect ecological balance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A special campaign has been launched by the State Revenue and Forests Departments for demolition of prawn "gherries" which were unauthorisedly constructed for prawn fishing. The State Government has reported that so far, 728 acres of gherries have been demolished.

National Policy for Drought Proofing

1249. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to formulate comprehensive action plan for eradication/mitigation of drought in the areas of rainfall of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of evaluation of programme designed for drought proofing in all these years; and