

zers to bridge the gap between assessed demand and indigenous production of fertilizers.

(c) Since fertilizer is a critical input for our agriculture, its import is unavoidable

(d) The following quantities of different fertilizers are likely to be imported during the current financial year:

(Quantity in lakh tonnes)

DAP — 22.60

MOP — 19.65

SOP — 0.59

NPK — 1.54

NDDB STC coordination in edible oils

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

(a) whether the NDDB and the STC have decided to coordinate their activities relating to edible oil business in the country including market intervention operation, marketing of oils under the Public Distribution System and its import;

(b) whether Government have allowed the above coordination;

(c) if so, the details thereof together with the terms of the Memorandum of understanding signed by the two Organisations in this regard; and

(d) to what extent it has helped in reducing the prices of edible oils and also increasing the availability of the edible oil?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAYANTILAL VIRCHANDBHAI SHAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the National Dairy Development Board and the State Trading Corporation at their level.

(c) The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is coordinate the working of NDDB and STC in edible oils. The salient provisions of the Memorandum of Understanding are as under —

(1) *Market Intervention Operation (MIO)*: While NDDB cannot share the responsibility of undertaking market intervention operations with STC, it would welcome STC assistance in strengthening these operations. To this extent STC could undertake marketing of oilseeds/oils other than groundnut and mustard oils in a manner that does not adversely affect the market intervention operations of NDDB

(ii) *Public Distribution System (PDS)*: STC can play an increasing role in the PDS by marketing edible oil in consumer packs. The two organisations will complement each other's efforts to this extent.

(iii) *Import of edible oils for MIO*. While STC will import edible oils for MIO, it will do so on NDDB's behalf and will charge NDDB its bare minimum costs.

(d) The objective of the Memorandum of Understanding is to clarify the respective roles of NDDB and STC with regard to operations in the edible oil sector. Increase in the availability of edible oil and reduction in the prices of edible oil is determined by the amount of indigenous oil available in the country and import of edible oil, subject to availability of foreign exchange.

Development of tourist spots in Uttar Pradesh

190 KUMARI ALIA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what are the places of tourist interest both for foreign and Indian tourists which are proposed to be developed during the current year in Uttar Pradesh; and