

Boosting Mushroom cultivation

†620. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States in which the Central level schemes have been started to boost the cultivation of mushroom;

(b) whether the central scheme which includes pasturised compost unit and local production unit and training to farmers, has been implemented in Uttaranchal also; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Central Sector Scheme on Mushroom Cultivation was implemented in all States including Uttar Pradesh till October, 2000. The scheme has now been subsumed in the "Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture" — Supplementation/Complementation of States efforts through work plans. Under the Scheme the States have greater flexibility in prioritizing their needs. The allocation for Uttaranchal under Macro Management scheme for the year 2000-2001 was Rs. 920.00 lakhs and for the current financial year the allocation is Rs. 1400.00 lakhs. The Government of Uttaranchal may pursue programmes relating to mushroom cultivation, pasteurised compost units and trainings to farmers under the scheme.

Production of Foodgrains

621. SHRI S. AGNIRAJ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total quantity of foodgrains produced in the country during this year so far;

(b) what is the increase/decrease in production, as compared to last year; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) what steps are being taken to export the excess production of foodgrains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The total production of foodgrains during kharif 2001-02 is likely to be 105.59 million tonnes as per the Advance Estimates released on 28.09.2001.

(b) The estimated kharif production of foodgrains during current year is 2.48 million tonnes more than the production of 103.11 million tonnes during kharif 2000-01.

(c) The question of enhancing the exports was discussed and examined by a Standing Committee of Union Ministers and Chief Ministers. The Standing Committee has suggested, *inter-alia*, removal of quantitative restrictions and other restrictions on the export of some of the agricultural commodities such as rice, wheat & wheat products, coarse grains, pulses and butter.

Ecologically sustainable farming systems in Southern States

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

(a) whether Government have formulated any action plan to promote ecologically sustainable farming systems in Andhra Pradesh and other Southern States, to substantially increase food production there; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) No, Sir, no specific plan schemes for promoting ecologically sustainable farming is being implemented by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation. However, the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation initiated the Macro Management Scheme by subsuming 27 Centrally Sponsored Schemes in November, 2000. Macro Management Scheme aims at all round sustainable development in agriculture through Work Plans prepared by States.