

Loss to NCCF in import of dry dates

2138. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the NCCF suffered a huge loss to the tune of Rs. 3 crores recently in the purchase of dry dates;

(b) whether any market Survey or demand was assessed before the import of the said stocks;

(c) whether the stocks imported was from the fresh crop;

(d) whether a Bombay based firm was awarded contract at a higher rate of \$ 100 per metric tonne for transportation of stocks from Basrah to Bombay; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and what action Government propose to take against the officers involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): (a) National Cooperative Consumers Federation has reported that its losses in the disposal of imported dry date would be approximately to the tune of Rs. 1.50 crores.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) NCCF has also reported that according to the terms of the agreement entered with the Iraqi Dates Committee, the contract for transportation of dates from Basra to Bombay, was given to a contractor at the rate of U.S. \$ 10 per M.T. and that it has no information as to the rates being higher than the market rate.

(e) The entire matter of the purchase and sales of dry dates by the NCCF has been referred to the C.B.I. for investigation.

NAFED's Business Contracts with Foreign Countries

2139. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Audit Report of NAFED for 1983-84 had pointed out that foreign business contracts were entered one sidedly favouring certain countries;

(b) whether the Audit Report had also pointed out that particular officers were individually responsible for the losses suffered by NAFED during the period 1983-84; and

(c) if so, what action Government have taken against the erring officers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI G. S. DHILLON): (a) The Audit Report of NAFED for 1983-84 does not make any pointed reference to one sided contracts regarding foreign business or favour shown to any particular foreign country. The Auditors have, however, made certain observations regarding export of spices including black pepper during the year. The export of black pepper was undertaken by NAFED on negotiated terms and conditions and with a view to making entry in the importing country markets. NAFED, in its Compliance Report has not found any irregularity in these transactions.

(b) and (c) The Audit Report for 1983-84 does not make any specific charge against any particular officer for the losses incurred. As such, no disciplinary action is called for. The management of NAFED is, however, competent to deal with such issues.

Allotment of plots in Regharpura, New Delhi

2140. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry had issued any orders on 22nd August, 1985 directing the DDA to allot 25 Sq. Yds. of