

Farm gate to home gate scheme

1690. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Agriculture Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) had projects to extend its activities to more States as an attempt to extend its Farm Gate to Home Gate Programme;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the present status of above programme, as on date, State-wise and category-wise;

(c) whether the Competent Authority of Kerala had suggested a few modifications regarding the guidelines issued to procure copra under Minimum Support Price Scheme; and

(d) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. NAFED has reported that with a view to bring down the rising prices, NAFED has launched a "Farm Gate to Home Gate scheme" in Delhi on 12.02.2010 and Chennai on 15.02.2010 in order to take the agriculture produce from farmers field to the consumers avoiding middle man. The objective of the initiative is to procure farm produce directly from farmers and sell it to the consumers at fair and affordable prices. Under this scheme NAFED has identified 17 kitchen basics including pulses, sugar, spices and edible oils. NAFED intends to extend this scheme to other parts of the country.

(c) and (d) The Government of Kerala has requested for relaxation in FAQ norms for copra for rainy season from existing 6% moisture content in copra to 8%. The Government of Kerala has been requested to furnish additional information in this regard.

Horticulture in Jammu and Kashmir

1691. PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN-SOZ: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has provided enough finances for Horticulture Mission;

(b) whether Government is aware that Jammu and Kashmir State, particularly Kashmir offers great opportunity for horticulture development; and

(c) if so, the measures which would be taken to promote horticulture in J and K State within the Horticulture Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) Yes, Sir. Government of India has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme on