

office of the Textile Commissioner. In 1981 and 1982 (up till now) licences have been issued in Maharashtra for expansion beyond 50,000 spindles in respect of M/s. Jawahar Sahakari Kapas Utpadak Soot Girni Maryadit, Latur.

(c) The issue of industrial licences to spinning mills in the remaining period of the Sixth Plan will depend on the applications for establishment/expansion of spinning mills beyond 50,000 spindles capacity.

CWC Godowns/Staff Quarters in Calcutta Region

2384. SHRI ARABINDA GHOSH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the CWC is most reluctant to construct godowns and staff quarters in the Calcutta region, compared to other regions; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MISS KAMLA KUMARI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Orange Research Centre at Nagpur

2385. DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have received any proposal from the Maharashtra Government for setting up an Orange Research Centre at Nagpur;

(b) whether Government have any proposal under its consideration for setting up of a research centre for the development of Orange fruit at Nagpur or at any other place in Maharashtra State;

(c) whether Government are aware of the extensive damage to orange crop in the last two years due to 'KOLSHI' disease; and

(d) what steps Government have taken for eradication of this disease?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A proposal for the establishment of a Citrus Experiment Station in Maharashtra is under consideration of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research but no site for the proposed station has been selected till now.

(c) and (d) The term "KOLSHI" used for the Citrus disease appears to be a highly restricted local name with which the Scientists of the Council are not familiar. The Director of Research and Vice-Chancellor of the Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapeeth, Akola have been requested to enlighten us on the nature of this disease or indicate any other name by which it is widely known. The information pertaining to part (c) and (d) will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as clarification sought becomes available.

Prices of Pulses

2386. SHRIMATI PREMILABAI DAJISAHEB CHAVAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of pulses have risen steeply during the last decade and most of them are out of reach of those who are below the poverty line;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to introduce high yielding varieties of pulses for augmenting the produce; and

(c) whether Government have any proposal under their consideration for importing the pulses from African countries in order to bring down the prices in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. Y. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The purchasing power of the population below the poverty line vis-a-vis rise in prices of commodities is a general question and not confined to pulses only. Compared to the base year (1970-71 = HJ0), the index of wholesale prices of pulses during the second week of October, 1982 (week ended 3-10-1982) was 309.1 as against the index for all foodgrains at 250.9 and that for all commodities at 288.4. Over the last one year or so, there has been downward trend in the prices of pulses. The latest index number of wholesale prices of pulses is 15.6 per cent lower than that a year ago.

(b) Significant technological breakthrough has not yet taken place in the case of pulses. However even with the known technology, efforts are underway to increase the production of pulses through adoption of appropriate package of practices as well as extension of area under the pulse crops. The various measures taken by Government include introduction of short-duration varieties as a catch-crop, inter-cropping, distribution of seed-minikits, use of phosphatic fertilizers, pest control and extension of cultivation in irrigated areas.

(c) Import of pulses is allowed on Open General Licence. However, the scope for any sizeable import of pulses is limited.

Fishing harbours in Orissa

2387. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the construction of some fishing harbours in Orissa;

(b) if so, the names of the places where those fishing harbours are proposed to be constructed; and

(c) the progress made so far in the construction of those fishing harbours?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Names of the places are: Paradeep for a major Fishing Harbour and Astarang & Rushikulya for minor Fishing Harbours.

(c) Construction has not started yet as the projects have not yet been sanctioned.

Intensive Prawn Culture Programme

2388. SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the brackish water available in Coastal Orissa is suitable for Prawn culture;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to launch an intensive prawn welfare programme; and

(c) what are the schemes proposed to be prepared for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) To accelerate the programme of intensive prawn/fish culture in all maritime States, including Orissa, a new scheme of Development of Brackish Water Fish Farming, based on the area development concept, has been introduced