

ty University having adequate facilities for teaching and research in a number of subjects;

(v) the University has powers to provide instruction through correspondence courses and to declare a college, department, centre or campus as an autonomous, college, department, centre, or campus, respectively;

(vi) every teaching department, centre, discipline in the University has a provision for a minimum staff of one Professor, two Readers and an adequate number of Lecturers along with the necessary supporting staff;

(vii) adequate machinery for the health, residence and welfare for the students has either been provided in, or resources are being made available for the purpose to the University;

(viii) the University has been provided with adequate facilities in respect of hostel and staff quarters, excluding buildings, equipments, books, library, colleges & institutions affiliated or admitted to, privileges, whose aggregate value is not less than Rs. 2 crores along with the developed land or the State Government is prepared to give an assurance to the Commission that a minimum amount of Rs. 2 crores shall be made available to the University during the initial period of five years for the provision of the above-mentioned facilities in addition to the developed land.

I. D. N. SAHI, Secy.

White button mushroom

330. SHRI J. S. ANAND: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that white button mushrooms (*Agaricus bisporus*) has a great potential as a foreign exchange earner;

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the last five years to promote

mushroom growing in the country by offering special incentives to the growers and helping them to shift over to modern techniques of cultivation and to find and/or develop foreign markets for this product to get aid of any international agency for assistance for this industry; and

(c) what kind of assistance has been sought from abroad and in what manner it has been utilised so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRABHUDAS PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The following measures have been taken for promoting the cultivation of mushroom in the country:

(i) Cultivation of mushrooms has been taken up under the M.F.A.L. project at Solan in Himachal Pradesh under which marginal farmers are being assisted with a subsidy of 33-1/3 per cent from Project funds on trays, sprayers and chemical ingredients for the first crop.

(ii) I.C.A.R. has set up a strong Research Centre on mushrooms at Solan. A number of training programmes for farmers and research workers has so far been carried out and guidance in the cultivation of mushrooms is provided to the interested growers from this centre.

(iii) Services of foreign experts on mushroom have been obtained through F.A.O. for research on mushroom growing including the training of research workers and farmers.

(iv) A project for the development of mushroom cultivation in Himachal Pradesh has been formulated for financial assistance from the U.N.D.P. This project is under examination of the Government of India.

Minister's appeal for dehoarding of food-grains

331. SHRI L. MAHAPATRO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he in his