

**Controlling of fruits and vegetables business
by private companies**

†1274. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether controlling of fruits and vegetables business by private companies doesn't amount to overriding of interests of small farmers and livelihood of small shopkeepers;
- (b) whether such a pompous and monopolistic system would not lead to price hike of fruits and vegetables and other agri-products in future;
- (c) if so, the policy Government proposes to formulate in this regard; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) The Ministry of Agriculture framed a Model Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Act in 2003 and circulated to all States and Union Territories for making necessary amendments in the existing State APMC Acts. The Model Act provides for encouraging investments in development of required marketing infrastructure. It also promotes competitive alternative marketing channels viz. direct marketing, contract farming private markets, etc in the interest of the farmers and trade. The innovative alternative channels of direct procurement of fruits and vegetables from the growers directly and development of post-harvest marketing infrastructure reduces the transaction/marketing cost and the post-harvest losses. This helps in protection of the interests of small farmers by offering competitive market opportunities and remunerative prices to them, and also makes available fresh quality fruits and vegetables to the consumers at reasonable price.

Release of funds to Odisha under National Bamboo Mission

1275. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Odisha Bamboo Development Agency had submitted proposal for release of funds under the National Bamboo Mission;
- (b) if so, the details of funds released from 2006-07 to 2010-11;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that funds released is much less than the outlay proposed and less than the approval accorded by the National Bamboo Mission; and

(d) the action Government is taking to release adequate funds in time to fulfil the National Bamboo Mission

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The details of funds released from 2006-07 to 2010-11 to Odisha Bamboo Development Agency under the National Bamboo Mission is given below:

(Rs. in lakh)

Sl.No.	Year	Fund Released
1.	2006-07	329.97
2.	2007-08	736.72
3.	2008-09	140.94
4.	2009-10	184.68
5.	2010-11	306.00
TOTAL		1698.31

(c) and (d) Amount of funds released depends on overall funds provided to National Bamboo Mission and timely availability of progress report (PR)/audited utilization certificate (AUC) for funds released to the State in the past. Necessary instructions have been issued to concerned State agencies for timely submission of PR/AUC.

Jan Aushadhi stores

1276. SHRI P. RAJEEV: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Jan Aushadhi stores have been launched for making medicines available at affordable prices for the poor;

(b) if so, the names of States where Jan Aushadhi stores have already been launched;