

(e) Thirteen organizations have been notified as State Trading Enterprises (STEs) which can export directly or issue No Objection Certificates (NOC) to their Associates Shippers for export of onion from the country. This includes six cooperative federations. Any onion-growing farmers' organisation can export onion with NOC from any of these thirteen STEs.

Cooperative farming

†471. SHRI BALAVANT ALIASBAL APTE:
SHRI ANIL MADHAV DAVE:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present situation of cooperative farming in the country;
- (b) whether Government has evaluated the profits gained as a result of cooperative farming in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has initiated any scheme in order to promote cooperative farming in the country;
- (e) if so, the details thereof;
- (f) whether various State Governments have been consulted in this regard; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of State Governments thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARISH RAWAT):
(a) to (g) 'Cooperation' being a State subject, the States are expected to take necessary steps to promote cooperative farming. However, in view of importance of cooperatives, the National Policy for Farmers, which was formulated after consultation with the States, provides for encouraging and supporting small farmers' cooperatives to take up activities such as processing, value addition and marketing of agri products, formation of Farmers Groups, Joint Liability Groups, etc., which has helped in strengthening the cooperative sector thus benefitting farmers. Many schemes of the Government of India, such as Centrally Sponsored Scheme on National Horticulture Mission, Central Sector Scheme for Development/Strengthening of Agricultural Marketing Infrastructure, Grading and Standardisation, Rural Godown Scheme, Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms, etc. *inter-alia* support the cooperative institutions for promotion of agriculture.

MSP for food crops

472. SHRI D. RAJA:
SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.