

units procure raw nuts from farmers directly allowing remunerative prices. Therefore, the question of cashew farmers facing any difficulty in marketing of their produce does not arise.

(c) and (d) Assistance is provided under National Horticulture Mission and Horticulture Mission for North East and Himalayan States for development of infrastructure for post harvest management such as cold storages, terminal markets, wholesale markets, rural primary market, apni mandies etc. to ensure adequate supply of horticulture produce including cashew to the consumers at reasonable prices and also to provide remunerative returns to the farmers.

#### **Foreign investors facing problems in retail sector**

1732. SHRI D.P. TRIPATHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that foreign investors are facing problems in retail sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government has banned them from selling several products; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (DR. S. JAGATHRAKSHAKAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

#### **Economic relief to small shopkeepers**

†1733. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after permitting the entry of big corporate houses and multi-national companies into the retail sector of the country, the small shopkeepers working in this sector needed economic relief in order to compete with them;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.