

Coherent policy for fisheries sector

501. SHRI EKANATH K. THAKUR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that despite having a 7000 km. coastline for the country, spread across nine coastal States and several lakh fishermen depending on the fisheries sector for their livelihood, there is no coherent policy for the fisheries sector with any one particular agency designated for its implementation; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to formulate the policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Setting up of SFAC in Maharashtra

502. SHRI BALAWANT ALIAS BAL APTE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are implementing the Central Sector Scheme, namely, the setting up of Small Farmers Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Maharashtra has formed the State level SFAC; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium (SFAC) is a public private initiative taken by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation for bringing about and facilitating investments in the agri-business forms by way of venture capital fund. It was registered as a society on 18th January, 1994 under Societies Registration Act 1860. The promoter members of SFAC are Government of India, Réserve Bank of India, National Bank for Agriculture & Rural Development, Industrial Development Bank of India, State Bank of India, Oriental Bank of Commerce and Export-Import Bank

of India. The primary members are Canara Bank, United Phosphorous Limited and National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India. Agriculture being a State subject, State level SFACs are to be set up by the State Governments. However, national level SFAC facilities establishment of State level SFACs and makes contribution in their corpus fund. National SFAC, so far, has contributed corpus fund for creation of 17 States level SFACs as independent entities.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The establishment of State level SFAC in Maharashtra is under active consideration of the State Government. National SFAC has already pledged support by way of contribution towards corpus fund.

Projects under NHB

503. SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects sanctioned and financial assistance provided during the years 2000-01 to March, 2004 by Government under National Horticulture Board (NHB) Scheme, State-wise; and

(b) the subsidy provided for Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for construction/expansion/modernization of cold storages and storages for horticulture produce, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) The Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is implementing the following schemes through National Horticulture Board:

- i) Development of Commercial Horticulture through Production and Post Harvest Management;
- ii) Capital Investment Subsidy Scheme for Construction/Expansion/Modernisation of Cold Storages and Storages for Horticulture Produce; and
- iii) Technology Development and Transfer for Production of Horticulture.

The details of the projects sanctioned and financial assistance provided under the above schemes during the years 2000-01 to March, 2004, State-wise, are given in Statement-I, II and III respectively.