

(b) Government of Maharashtra had, in October, 2002, requested for Central assistance of Rs. 90 crore per annum, to meet cooking cost at the rate of fifty paise per child per school day under the Mid-Day Meal Programme.

(c) In December, 2003, Planning Commission has asked State Governments to earmark minimum 15% of additional Central assistance under Pradhan Mantri Gramodaya Yojana, as from 2004-05, for meeting cooking cost under Mid-Day Meal Scheme.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Agri-Export Zone at Vijayawada

1159. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Agri Export Zone at Vijayawada had been approved by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when exports would commence from Vijayawada Agri Export Zone;

(c) if the answer to part (a) is negative, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Memorandum of Understanding between Union Government and Government of Andhra Pradesh had been signed;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI EV.K.S. ELANGOVAR): (a) to (f) An Agri Export Zone (AEZ) for mangoes in Krishna District, which includes the commercial city of Vijayawada, was approved and notified on 13th September, 2002, A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Central Government and the Government of Andhra Pradesh was signed on 27th September, 2002. An investment of around Rs. 17.90 crores is envisaged in this AEZ, of which Rs. 3.77 crores is expected from the Central Government agencies, Rs. 4.23 crores from State Government agencies and around Rs. 9.89 crores from the private sector. Export of mangoes from this AEZ has already started.