

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to improve and provide marketing facilities to mango growers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) State wise production of Alphonso Mango are not available. However, this variety is mostly grown in Maharashtra. Production of this variety during 1991-92 in Maharashtra was 1.93 lakh metric tonnes.

(b) and (c). There is no specific central Sector Scheme for setting up of Alphonso mango orchards to boost the export. However, Government of India is providing grant-in-aid to Konkan Vidyapith for multiplication of Alphonso grafts. The major Alphonso growing states i.e. Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are providing assistance to establish new plantations and laying demonstrations to boost the production of major mango varieties including Alphonso.

(d) A Central assistance of Rs. 9128.82 lakh for development of 3665 agriculture produce markets of fruits and vegetables to different state/UTs up to 31.3.92 has been provided. The National Horticulture Board is implementing a scheme since 1988-89 for developing infrastructure in an integrated manner for fruits and vegetables. An outlay of Rs. 4700 lakhs have been proposed under this scheme for 8th Plan. Besides, State Governments are also implementing various schemes to strengthen post harvest infrastructure and marketing of different mango varieties including Alphonso.

[English]

Commercialisation of Railway Land

*527 SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have prepared a plan to commercialise the railway land in prime areas during 1992-93;

(b) if so, whether the unutilised railway

land in marshalling yard in Bandra (Bombay) and some land in kurla has been included in this plan:

(c) if so, the present position of the commercialisation of the above lands; and

(d) the efforts made by Government to execute this plan successfully?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. However, there is a proposal for commercial exploitation of airspace over railway land which is in conceptual stage.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

Damage to Crops

*528. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH:
DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of damage to crops in southern parts of the country, especially in Andhra Pradesh, due to natural calamities during 1992-93;

(b) whether the State Government have sought any assistance to compensate the damage;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) to (d). The Southern parts of the country i.e., States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry had been affected due to cyclonic storms and floods during the year 1992-93. The extent of damage to crops as reported by these States and Union Territory is as under:-

<i>Name of the State</i>	<i>Cropped area affected (Lakh hect.)</i>
Andhra Pradesh	2.12
Karnataka	3.13
Kerala	1.58
Tamil Nadu	2.53
Pondicherry	0.005

2. The State Governments of Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry had submitted memoranda seeking additional Central assistance of Rs.332.54 crores, Rs.939.57 crores, Rs.530.04 crores and Rs.4.33 crores respectively for relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of cyclone/floods. The request of the state Governments had been considered in the light of the existing scheme for financing relief expenditure. Apart from the central share of Clarity Relief Fund (CRF), for 1992-93, Government of India has released in advance 2 instalments of Central share of CRF for the year 1993-94 amounting to Rs.10.125 crores, Rs.11.625 crores and Rs.14.625 crores to the State of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu respectively. The Government of Tamil Nadu and Kerala had been released Ways and Means advances of Rs.50.00 crores each and Government of Karnataka Rs.30.00 crores. In addition, 2 more instalments of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs.11.625 crores to Kerala and Rs.14.625 crores to Tamil Nadu have been released in advance on 1st April, 1993.
3. No Memorandum has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh seeking Central assistance for relief measures in the areas

affected by natural calamities during 1992-93. The entire Central share of CRF amounting to Rs.49.21 crores has been released during 1992-93.

4. An amount of Rs.75.00 lakhs has been released by Government of India to Government of Pondicherry for relief and rehabilitation in the areas affected by cyclone/floods.

Siberian Cranes

*529. SHRI G. DEVARAYA NAIK:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA
PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Crane import proves and exercise in vain" appearing in the "Indian Express" dated March 10, 1993;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether the Siberian cranes are facing extinction due to negligence on the part of his Ministry; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) The Government has seen the report.

(b) An experiment was carried out to release reared Siberian Crane Chicks in the fast dwindling population of the western flock of Siberian Cranes which winters in Bharatpur. The experiment has been carried out in collaboration with International Crane Foundation of USA and Ornithologists of Russia and Japan, in Keoladeo Ghana National Park, Bharatpur, during this year. The objectives of the experiment inter alia were to establish the migration route of these birds from India to Siberia, the exact