

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) & (b) On the basis of reports received from the State Governments, the extent of damage to crops, houses and loss of lives due to recent cyclones, heavy rains and floods are given below:—

S. No.	Name of the State	Number of districts affected	Cropped area affected ('000 Ha.)	Houses/ huts damaged	Number of human lives lost
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Andhra Pradesh	8	338.0	79172	144
2.	Karnataka	10	0.4	2431	34
3.	Tamil Nadu	21	2.0	46733	69
4.	Pondicherry	3	0.3	1000	NIL

(c) The number of families evacuated and provided shelter in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry were about 57,000, 12,000 and 300 respectively.

(d) Government of India released in advance the fourth instalment of Central Share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 12.30 and Rs. 7.31 crores to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu respectively to enable the State Government to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures.

(e) & (f) No Central Team visited the affected States.

Coconut Growers

*88. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coconut growers are being given all the benefits/privileges which are available to other oilseeds producers.

(b) if not, the details of benefits being denied to the coconut growers alongwith reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government have received any requests from State Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the response of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) A project for development of perennial oil seed coconut in Kerala was received from the Government of Kerala, which was examined by a Core Group to sort out various issues and formulate a comprehensive proposal. The Core Group recommended the following components:—

1. Irrigation through pumpsets and drip/sprinklers.
2. Fertiliser subsidy for small and marginal farmers.
3. Training to farmers.

The proposals submitted by the Core Group were accepted in principle and have been accommodated in the Eighth Five Year Plan of the Coconut Development Board.

Punctuality of Trains

*89. SHRI TARA SINGH:
SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the performance of Railways in respect of punctuality and safety throughout the country has been deteriorating day by day;

(b) if so, the details of trains starting from the Capital which could not observe punctuality during the past six months and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Railways propose to chalk out any strategy to improve its performance in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAY (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF): (a) No, Sir. The Punctuality of Mail Express trains which used to be about 73% in the early 80s has now improved to about 87%. The number of train accidents have also come down from 812 in 1984-85 to 520 in 1993-94.

(b) Details of Mail/Express Trains originating from Delhi New Delhi Hazrat Nizamuddin which started late during the last six months.

1	2	Train	No. of days run late.
1.		1450 Nizamuddin—Jabalpur Mahakoshal Express	17
2.		2202 New Delhi—Bhopal Shatabdi Express	3
3.		2204 New Delhi—Lucknow Shatabdi Express	2
4.		2205 New Delhi—Kalka Shatabdi Express	10
5.		2011 New Delhi—Chandigarh Shatabdi Express	6
6.		2013 New Delhi—Amritsar Shatabdi Express	1
7.		2304/2382 New Delhi—Howrah Poorva Express	7