

Central assistance to states for disaster relief

1170. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments are not following the norms necessary for qualifying for Central assistance on account of disaster relief under the Eighth Finance Commission's recommendations;

(b) if so, whether in a recent communication to the States, the Union Government have pointed out the need for reducing expenditure on this account;

(c) whether the total funds allocated for disaster relief to the States have increased substantially; and

(d) if so, the norms the Union Government are considering in this regard and the recommendation of the State Governments ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Government of India accepted the recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission about the pattern of financing Central Assistance for natural calamities. The Government of India also fixed norms of assistance for different items covered by Central Assistance. The State Governments have since been intimated about the norms.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Committee was appointed by the Government of India to review the norms of Central Assistance for various items. The recommendations in the interim report of the Committee are under consideration of the Government.

Import of pulses

1171. SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the quantum of pulses imported in the last three years;

(b) the quantum of pulses to be imported during 1986; and

(c) the steps to be taken to make the country self-reliant in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c). The quantum of pulses imported during the last three years is given as below :

Year	Imports (in MTs)
1982-83	93,427
1983-84	64,565
1984-85	98,078

Figures for import of pulses during 1985-86 are not complete. Various measures initiated by the Government of India to increase the production of pulses and make the country self-reliant in this regard include introduction of pulses crop in irrigated areas with double and multiple cropping, intercropping of arhar in oilseed crops both under irrigated and unirrigated conditions, extensive use of improved seeds, improved post harvest technology and price incentive to farmers.

Foodgrain assistance to Orissa under World Food Programmes

1172. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether foodgrain assistance has been given to Orissa under World Food Programmes;

(b) if so, the extent of assistance given to Orissa under the above programme so far; and

(c) the different areas in Orissa where such programmes has been implemented ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND

COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. World Food Programme (WFP) has committed to supply 41,235 M. T. Wheat, 1,465 M.T. Rice, 5,270 M.T. Pulses and 5,270 M.T. Vegetable Oil over a period of five years under 'Food For Work' Project 2685 Socio-Economic Development through Forestry Activities in Orissa. The Project-2206-Supplementary Nutrition Programme for Pre-school Children, Pregnant Women and Nursing Mothers has provided a total of 45,400 M.T. Soya Fortified Bulgar Wheat (SFBW)/Soya Fortified Soya Grit (SFSG) and 3,988 M.T. Edible Oil to Orissa. This includes 2,000 M.T. of Edible Oil expected to arrive in first week of March, 1986.

(c) The Project-2685-Socio-Economic Development through Forestry Activities in Orissa will cover 13 districts of Orissa, viz. Mayurbhanj, Sundergarh, Sambalpur, Kalahandi, Koraput, Keonijhar, Dhenkanal, Phulbani, Cuttack, Balasore, Ganjam, Bolangir and Puri. Project-2206-Supplementary Nutrition Programme covers the districts of Sambalpur, Bolangir and Phulbani

Setting up of agro-based industries in rural areas

1173. SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the large scale migration of labour from rural areas to urban areas;

(b) whether Government are also aware of the considerable fall in the purchasing power of the rural sector;

(c) whether in order to overcome these tendencies, Government contemplate to start many agro-based industries in rural areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The urban population in the country has increased from approximately 20 per cent in 1971 to approximately 24 per cent in 1981.

(b) to (d). There has been no fall in the purchasing power of the rural sector. The percentage of people below the poverty line in the rural areas has declined from 51.2 in 1977-78 to 40.4 (provisional) in 1983-84. The efforts to promote village industries including agro-based industries will continue in the Seventh Plan.

The Sixth Plan scheme for strengthening of training infrastructure for TRYSEM will be reoriented and replaced by a new scheme to develop Composite Rural Training and Technology Centres (CRTTC) in each district as nodal institutions. Such centres will be developed around existing ITIs, Polytechnics etc.

[Translation]

Leakage of gas from Shriram Foods and Fertilizer Plant, Delhi.

1174. SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI :
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI MOHANBHAI PATEL :
SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH :
SHRI R. M. BOHOYE :
SHRI N. DENNIS :

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Delhi Administration constituted any committee to investigate the leakage of gas in Shriram Foods and Fertilizer Plant in Delhi;

(b) if so, the recommendations made by the Committee and action taken or proposed to be taken thereon;

(c) whether Shriram Foods and Fertilizer Plant is allowed to continue its operations at the same place in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, the steps taken by Government to get it shifted from that place ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) The Delhi Administration appointed an expert Committee headed by Shri Sethuraman to go into the leakage of Oleum Gas which took place on 4th Decem-