

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA
KUMAR:
SHRI GOVIND RAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the desirability of setting up another States Reorganisation Commission in view of the recent demands for creation of smaller States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) The Central Government is not considering setting up another States Reorganisation Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

Betel leaf

604. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for establishment of Research Centres for betel leaf in Orissa and West Bengal, and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already set up research centres for betel leaf research in Orissa in 1981 and in West Bengal in 1983 under All India Co-ordinated Research project.

Drought In Bihar

605. DR. R. MALLU:
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:
SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:
SHRI MONORANJAN SUR:
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV:
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Bihar which were affected by the drought during the current year;

(b) the details of damage caused thereby;

(c) the financial assistance sought by the state Government and the amount actually released;

(d) whether any Central Team had visited the State to assess the drought situation and recommended the relief measure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (e). According to the reports from the Government of Bihar, the 29 districts of Patna, Nalanda, Buxar, Rohtas, Bhabhua, Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Saran, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Sahebganj, Monghyr, Jamui, Katihar, Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj, Samastipur, Begusarai, Palamu, Darabhanga, Madhuvani, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh, Garhwal and Supaul are

affected by drought conditions during the current year.

2. The State Government has reported the following damage due to drought conditions:

- (i) Population affected 53.8 lakh
- (ii) Crop area affected 37.32 lakh hect.

3. In its memorandum the Government of Bihar have sought additional assistance of Rs. 1200.12 crores for relief measures in the wake of drought conditions. A Central Team visited the drought affected areas to assess the situation. On the basis of the recommendation of the Central Team the last instalment of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 6.5625 crores for the year 1992-93 and 2 instalments of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 13.1250 crores for the year 1993-94 have been released in advance to the Government of Bihar to enable it to augment its resources for relief measures.

Power Plant At Pipavav

606. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA:
 DR. AMIT LAL KALIDAS:
 DR. K.D. JESWANI:
 SHRI DILEEPBHAI SANG-
 HANI:
 SHRIMATI BHAVNA
 CHIKHILIA:
 SHRI GABHAJI MANGAJI
 THAKORE:
 SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL:
 SHRI HARIN PATHAK :
 SHRI HARI SINGH CHAVDA:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any commitment for allocating gas for a power plant at Pipavav in Saurashtra;

(b) whether there is also any move to take Tapti gas to Hazira to meet commitments of supply from HBJ pipeline;

(c) if so, when and how the commitment to supply gas for the power plant is likely to be met;

(d) whether the commitments from HBJ pipeline have a priority higher than the commitment to supply Tapti gas to Pipavav; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (e). The development plans to produce gas from the Tapti Gas fields are yet to be finalised.

Farm Policies

607. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been invited to the news-item captioned "Misguided farm Policies flayed" appearing in the 'The Hindustan Times' dated October 24, 1992;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government there to ; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to bring about better agricultural growth in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). Government is aware of the problems of Indian agriculture. Through the