

(b) if so, the details of the assistance provided for this purpose during the last two years and during the Eighth Five Year Plan period ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ARVIND NETAM)

(a) and (b) : Short term loans are provided to the State Governments, including Gujarat, for Kharif and Rabi seasons separately every year. Loan sanctioned to Gujarat during the last two years and during the Eighth Five Year Plan period are given below :—

Year	Plan Period	Loan sanctioned to Gujarat (Rs. in crores)
1991-92	Annual Plan	14.65
1992-93	1st year of the VIIIth Plan	12.70
1993-94	2nd year of the VIIIth Plan	6.85

These loans are provided to help State Government to purchase agricultural inputs namely, fertilisers, seeds and pesticides and make it available to farmers in time.

Artificial Rains

675. SHRI JANARDAN MISRA :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY :
SHRI ARVIND TRIVEDI :

Will the MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to take special measures for making artificial rains;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to set up a separate department in the Agriculture Ministry to implement this scheme immediately; and

(c) if so, the time by which the said department is likely to start functioning and the benefits of this department likely to be accrued to farmers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI ARVIND NETAM)

(a) to (c) : Govt. have not taken any decision about making artificial rains in the Country or setting up of any separate organisation for this purpose.

Railway Zones

676. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the MINISTER OF RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of new Railway Zones created during the last three years and the basis thereof;

(b) the present annual turn over of the existing zones, year-wise;