

- (i) Extension of cultivation in the lands having unfavourable soil and climatic conditions;
- (ii) Intensive farming of the vulnerable lands, particularly the sand dunes;
- (iii) Frequent ploughing operations using tractors resulting in elimination of stabilisation of area with vegetal cover and thereby making prone to wind erosion.

(c) and (d). The All India Soil and Land Use Survey has conducted Rapid Reconnaissance Surveys for locating highly eroding watersheds and Detailed Soil Surveys to support soil conservation activities in the catchments of Chambal, Dantiwada, Mahi and Sahibi falling in Rajasthan. Out of the total area of 25.83 lakh ha. surveyed in these catchments so far, an area of 6.02 lakh ha. (23.0%) is critically eroding.

Scraping of Ceiling under Bonus Act

985. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to scrap the ceiling under the payment of Bonus Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) At present no such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Slashing of Allocation of Funds for Poverty Alleviation Programmes

986. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :
SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :
SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the planning Commission has slashed considerably the Seventh Plan outlay for the poverty alleviation programmes compared to the demand made by the

Ministry as well as percentage of allocation in the Seventh Plan for rural development programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how Government propose to divide the allocation for various programmes;

(c) whether the Rural Development Ministry has asked the Planning Commission to re-consider its decision for heavy cuts in anti-poverty scheme; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (d). The Seventh Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised. The Ministry is in touch with the Planning Commission with regard to the outlays for the poverty alleviation programmes.

Floods in Assam and Tripura

987. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details and losses suffered on account of recent floods in some districts of Assam and Tripura; and

(b) steps taken to help the victims of flood ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The information on damages due to recent floods in States of Assam and Tripura, received from the State Governments on the basis of preliminary assessment, is indicated in the statement given below.

(b) The Governments of these 2 States have taken immediate rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas. These steps include opening of relief camps, distribution of food and medical items, gratuitous relief, assistance for house buildings, etc. Pending receipt of Memorandum from the State Government of Assam, Rs. 13.50 crores was sanctioned as Ways and Means Advance including Centre's share of 50% of

Margin Money to the State. In the case of Tripura, a Memorandum has since been received which is under examination. However, Ways and Means Advance including Centre's share of Margin Money, Rs. 1.375 crores has been sanctioned.

Statement

Statement showing the Damages Caused due to Floods in the State of Assam and Tripura

	Assam	Tripura
1. No. of districts affected	10	3
2. Population affected	10.49 lakh	3.00 lakhs
3. Total area affected	1.13 lakh ha.	0.02 lakh ha.
4. Total cropped area affected	0.46 lakh ha.	0.02 lakh ha.
5. Estimated value of crop lost	Rs. 5.25 lakhs	Rs. 243.07 lakh
6. No. of houses/huts damaged	13614	13817
7. Loss of public property	Rs. 35.40 lakh	Rs. 201.64 lakhs
8. Loss of human lives	44	10
9. Loss of cattle heads	16	N.R.

Collaboration with Netherland in Agricultural Projects

988. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Netherland and India have identified several project for collaboration in the field or agriculture;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any delegation of Netherland has also recently visited India in this regard and if so, the details regarding the deal in this matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Certain on-going projects such as the North Bengal Tarai Region Development Project; Operational Research Project on Hydrological studies at Haryana Agricultural University, Hissar; Operational Research Project on Soil Salinity and Reclamation at Central Soil Salinity Research Institute, Karnal; the Project on Micromorphological

Analysis, Characterisation of Benchmark Soils of India, at National Bureau of Soil Survey and Land Use Planning, Nagpur; and a Project on Bio-conversion of Crop Residues in India have been identified and certain other projects in the pipeline such as the Kuttanad Development Project; Second phase of the Project on Micromorphology at Nagpur; Projects on Poultry Breeding, Quality Control and Standardization of Immuno Bio-logicals; Cattle/ Buffalo Development and Mushroom Cultivation have also been proposed for such collaboration. Some new proposals also are under discussion.

(c) A delegation from Netherlands led by the Deputy Director General, Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries of the Government of Netherlands visited India in January, 1985 in connection with the first Meeting of the Joint Agricultural Steering Committee as per the provision of the Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India and the Netherlands Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for cooperation in the field of agriculture. The meeting took place on 28th and 29th January, 1985, and the agreed minutes were signed on 30th January, 1985. The projects mentioned in part (b) above