

be of a great assistance to job seekers. The necessary assistance to the State Governments should be made available by the Central Government in this respect.

#### **Assistance to Kerala for Drinking Water**

95. SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has during the period January to May, 1987 submitted schemes for drinking water supply and, if so, the total assistance sought from Union Government;

(b) the amount of assistance released so far; and

(c) whether the Government propose to grant substantial and adequate special assistance especially in view of scarcity of drinking water in many parts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Government of Kerala has not submitted any schemes under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) during the period from January to May, 1987. However, they submitted three Memoranda seeking Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 49.74 crores for drought relief measures for drinking water supply programmes.

(b) and (c). A ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 9.75 crores has been approved by the Central Government for drinking water supply programmes for 1986-87 and 1987-88. This amount has been released as ways and means advance subject to adjustment on the basis of statement of actual expenditure to be sent by the State Government.

#### **Production of Cotton**

96. SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether more than a hundred varieties of Cotton are being grown in the country;

(b) whether this is affecting the production of good quality Cotton in the country; and

(c) if so, the steps contemplated to remedy the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) On the basis of fibre length, Cotton grown in India is classified into 5 categories viz. extra-long, long, superior-medium, medium and short fibre. All the cotton varieties grown in the country, which are about 65 in number, fall into only above 5 categories.

(b) Even if there are large number of varieties grown in some States, in the particular agro-climatic condition their number is limited. Thus, the quality of cotton is not affected much. However, sometime admixture might take place.

(c) Provisions of The Cotton Transport Act, The Cotton Ginning and Pressing Factories Act, and The Cotton Control Act are in vogue for the maintenance of quality of cotton.

#### **Development of Fish Farms**

97. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that pisciculture is more paying than agriculture;

(b) if so, the steps taken to develop fish farms in the country, particularly in Orissa; and

(c) the assistance rendered by Union Government to each State Government to develop fish farming?