

Foodgrains Production

1183. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the Kharif foodgrains production this year and the estimated foodgrains production during the current Rabi season; and

(b) the details of achievement in respect of the Special Food Production Programme implemented this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) The final estimates of production of foodgrains for the year 1988-89 are yet to be received from the States. However, according to the present assessment, the foodgrains production this year is expected to be in the range of 95 to 96 million tonnes for Kharif season and 71.5 to 74.0 million tonnes for Rabi season.

(b) The Special Foodgrains Production Programme has enabled the Government to provide more assistance to the farmers for seed treatment, seed subsidy, soil amelioration, plant protection, seed control etc. Consequently, the production of foodgrains during the year 1988-89 is expected to cross the targetted level of 166.57 million tonnes.

Involvement of private sector in development of Major Ports

1184. SHRI S. M. GURADDI:
SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL:
SHRI T. V. CHANDRA-
SHEKHARAPPA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to involve private sector in the development and modernisation of major ports:

(b) whether there has been any response from the private sector;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) In limited areas of Port Development, Government are prepared to encourage the induction of private capital. Development of Container Terminals in Ports, where already one such Terminal exists, has been identified as one such area.

(b) to (d) A tender was floated by Calcutta Port Trust in Sept./Oct., 1987 to ascertain whether private parties are prepared to invest in the setting up of a Container Terminal at Haldia. Two parties have indicated their interest in the matter and are having negotiations with the Calcutta Port Trust in this regard.

Relief measures to earth-quake victims

1185. DR. G. S. RAJHANS: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether recent earth-quakes in several States have caused house collapse and damage to houses on a considerable scale and have upset Government's housing schemes;

(b) if so, the estimated financial loss incurred as a result thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to provide relief to those who have lost shelters in the earth-quake and also to accelerate other housing schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): (a) and (b) The States of Bihar, Sikkim and West Bengal reported damage