

ment for house-building purposes; and

(b) whether the entire demand of the Orissa Government was complied with, if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) and (b). Central financial assistance is released to States in the form of 'block loans' and 'block grants' for their Annual Plans as a whole and not for any specific scheme, project or sector of development. No demand has been received from the Government of Orissa for house building purposes specifically.

However, in August, 1978 the State Government of Orissa requested for the allocation of Life Insurance Corporation loan amounting to Rs. 400 lakhs. The State Government was allocated L.I.C. loan amounting to Rs. 140 lakhs in October, 1978. General Insurance Corporation loan amounting to Rs. 100 lakhs has also been allocated to the State Government in November, 1978. Besides this, Housing and Urban Development Corporation—a Government of India Undertaking—also make available loans to the States for housing purposes.

Expenditure on Agriculture in Lakshadweep

3802. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total agricultural land developed in the Union territory of Lakshadweep so far;

(b) whether the Soil there is very fertile for the agricultural crops; if so, whether Government has made any research about it there; if not, whether Government propose to do it; and

(c) how much has been spent up-till now for the development of Agriculture in the Lakshadweep?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) An area of 2780 ha. of agricultural land has so far been developed.

(b) The soil is very fertile for coconut cultivation which occupies the entire cultivable area. The Department of Agriculture of the Union Territory has carried out trials on cultivation of various inter-crops in coconut gardens. Vegetables, tuber crops like sweet potato and tapioca and fruit plants like papaya and banana are coming up. The Central Plantation Crop Research Institute, a Unit of the ICAR, at Minicoy has taken up an integrated research programme to develop a package of practices for intercropping in coconut gardens.

(c) Rs. 51.03 lakhs.

Assistance to Universities for expansion

3803. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Universities have submitted proposals for their expansion and sought a part assistance to be borne by the University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, details thereon; and

(c) total assistance proposed to be provided by the Commission to those Universities?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). The University Grants Commission provides financial assistance to each University for a plan period for their development programmes which include opening of new departments and expansion of existing ones. The quantum of financial assistance is determined on the basis of the resources available with the Commission and the assessment of the