

tion arrangements against illicit felling of trees.

- (iii) Administrative vigilance in vulnerable areas has been intensified and mobile patrols have been introduced.
- (iv) Most of the States and Union Territories have eliminated the agency of contractors in the working of forests.
- (v) The Central Government has issued guidelines to the States and Union Territories for the preparation of management plans of forests.
- (d) Upto 1979-80, about 3.56 million hectares of area in the country have been covered under various afforestation schemes. The Sixth Plan (1980-85) aims at covering an additional area of 2.15 million hectares.

High Powered Central Team to assess the wide spread damage by floods

3295. SHRI M. RAMGOPAL REDDY :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Government propose to set up a high powered Central team to assess the widespread damage brought by the devastating floods affecting more than 50 lakh people and the misuse of flood relief money in West Bengal ; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). As per existing procedure Central Teams are sent to States, affected by natural calamities on receipt of a memorandum which inter-alia gives details of extent of damages caused and the assistance required to mitigate the effect of the calamity.

In respect of West Bengal floods, no memorandum seeking central assistance has been received so far from the State. There-

fore, there is no proposal to depute a central team at present. No Central assistance has been sanctioned to the State so far. The State is meeting the situation from within the margin money of Rs. 1360 lakhs available with them, for rescue and relief, in the affected areas.

Assistance to States Affected by Natural Calamities

3296. SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :
Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the States which were affected by floods, drought and other natural calamities during the years 1981-82, 1982-83 and 1983-84 and the assistance given on this account to each such State ;

(b) the assistance given to State of Gujarat on this account during the same period and the amount asked for ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to introduce insurance scheme in the country and particularly in rural areas against losses occurred in the natural calamities ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Two statements giving information about names of States affected by drought and floods/cyclone during the years 1981-82 to 1983-84 and ceiling of Central assistance sanctioned are given as statement-I and statement-II respectively.

(b) The information in respect of assistance sought and ceiling of central assistance sanctioned to Gujarat for natural calamities for the years 1981-82 to 1983-84 is given as statement-III.

(c) and (d). A pilot scheme of Crop Insurance is in operation in the country since 1979. The salient features of the scheme is given as statement-IV.