

assistance to provide relief to the farmers who have been victims of the last year's cyclone and floods there;

(b) whether Central Government has made any study about their requirements; and

(c) whether any additional assistance is being provided to Orissa for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) to (c). The Government of Orissa had requested for loan assistance totalling Rs. 10 crores for purchase of agricultural inputs and for providing taccavi loans to agriculturists in the current financial year in the cyclone affected area of the State. The State Government have already been sanctioned Rs. 3 crores for agricultural inputs. Further assistance will be considered on the basis of the progress of the utilisation, to be submitted by the State Government, of the loan assistance already sanctioned.

Opening of foreign cultural centres

738f. **SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI:**
SHRI SHRIKISHAN MODI:

Will the Minister of **EXTERNAL AFFAIRS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have given permission to open Soviet Cultural Centre at Trivandrum;

(b) whether Government are also considering to reopen the five U. S. I. S. centres and a French Cultural Centre which were ordered for closure early; and

(c) by when the cultural Centre of U. S. S. R. is likely to start functioning?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have given permission. The responsibility for running the Centre has been entrusted to the Indian Council for Cultural Relations.

(b) Government have not been approached for the reopening of the five USIS Centres or French Cultural Centre which were ordered for closure earlier.

(c) The Soviet Cultural Centre at Trivandrum was inaugurated on 18 April 1972.

Self-Employment Scheme

7385. **SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK:**
Will the Minister of **LABOUR AND REHABILITATION** be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by Government to promote self-employment;

(b) the number of persons provided with employment under this scheme ever since it was introduced in the country; and

(c) the avocations in which employment has been provided so far?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI R. K. KHADILKAR): (a) to (c). To promote self-employment as well as to bring about growth with social justice, the Public Sector Banks after nationalisation have been operating schemes to provide funds liberally to the weaker section of society, especially the educated unemployed. Self-employment schemes cover a wide range of vocations in which the persons may be engaged. These include agricultural graduates who are interested in starting custom service units, retail shops consultancy service, etc.; qualified professionals who are competent to carry their professions on business lines like Doctors, Engineers, Practitioners, Designers; persons engaged in personal service or utility such as electricians, hair-dressers, launderers etc.; persons who are individual owners of transportation like taxi-drivers, auto-rikshaw drivers etc., persons engaged in service industries or small scale industries etc. The number of accounts against which advances were made by public sector Banks to professional and self-employed persons up to the end of December, 1971 in various States Union Territories tallied to 51,067.

2. The Thakkar Committee set up by the Reserve Bank of India in July, 1970, reviewed the working of Special Credit Schemes and made suggestions for rationalisation of the schemes in operation. As a follow-up of the Thakkar Committee Report, the Reserve Bank has issued detailed guidelines to the Public Sector Banks directing the chief executives of the Banks to initiate suitable efforts for extending further loans to the self-employed sector and to prepare special schemes which could generate employment. Besides, a Credit Guarantee Scheme has been instituted under which 75% of the loans up to specified limits are now reimbursed to the Banks by the Credit Guar-