

Government regarding the damage of crops in Orissa due to drought in 1966-67 crop year;

(b) if so, the extent of damage;

(c) whether the State Government has sought any relief assistance to meet the drought situation in the State; and

(d) if so, the nature of the assistance sought and rendered so far?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) Yes.

(b) The State Government have not given the details of the losses in respect of all the crops of 1966-67, but only of a limited category of medium and late varieties of paddy and here too they have not indicated the baseline figure compared to which there has been shortfall. It is, therefore, not possible to give an estimate of the loss of the 1966-67 crops beyond the fact that the total production of food-grains in 1966-67 in Orissa has, according to information available in Government of India, been 14.1 per cent below the production in the "peak" year 1964-65.

(c) Yes.

(d) The State Government have been sanctioned in financial year 1966-67 Central assistance of Rs. 1059.62 lakhs of which 259.62 lakhs was as grant towards relief expenditure both in 1965-66 and 1966-67 consequent on the 1965-66 drought in Orissa. A loan of Rs. 45 lakhs was also sanctioned in 1965-66. As for a recent request for a loan of Rs. 2.22 crores for relief measure proposed to be taken by them during the current year, the State Government have been asked by the Ministry of Finance to furnish full facts about the drought situation and the detailed justification for the relief measures proposed. Dur-

ing a discussion between officials of Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and Orissa Government, the position regarding assistance to Orissa Government for relief purposes was also explained.

Kovalam as Tourist Centre in Kerala

830. Shri P. Viswambharan:
Shri Umanath:
Shri K. Anirudhan:
Shrimati Susseela Gopalau:
Shri K. M. Abraham:
Shri Viswanatha Menon:
Shri P. P. Esthose:

Will the Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation be pleased to state:

(a) whether development of Kovalam in Kerala State as a Tourist Centre has been taken up as a central scheme;

(b) if so, the nature of development proposed and the total estimated cost thereof;

(c) the percentage of the cost to be met by Government; and

(d) when this scheme is likely to be completed?

The Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation (Dr. Karan Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Kovalam will be developed as a sea-side resort for attracting tourist traffic particularly such as is brought by special charters. The scheme includes acquisition and remodeling of palace property, construction of a block of 14 rooms and a 50-room three star hotel, remodeling of old and new bath houses, putting up of pavillion paths and landscaping the whole complex, provision of boats and other aquatic recreational facilities. The outlay proposed is Rs. 103.50 lakhs out of which the Central Government share would be Rs. 85 lakhs. The scheme in its entirety is expected to be completed by the end of the Fourth Plan.