

(a) whether the Prime Minister had announced an amount of Rupees Fifty thousands in addition to the amount to be provided as relief by the Government of Gujarat;

(b) whether the funds so announced have since been paid to the dependents of each of those who died in cyclone, rains and heavy floods in the various districts of Gujarat such as Kutch and Jam Nagar recently;

(c) the number of persons who died in these districts and their dependents have not received the above relief so far;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the steps taken by the Prime Minister's Office in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (e) Questions relating to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund are not admissible under relevant provisions of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Lok Sabha since the corpus of the Fund is constituted entirely from voluntary contributions and not from any allocation out of the Consolidated Fund of India and sanction of grants from the Fund is entirely at the discretion of the Prime Minister.

It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government concerned to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), to which the Central and State Government contribute in the ratio of 3:1. As per reports available from the State Government, 189 and 954 persons reportedly died in Jamnagar and Kutch districts in the cyclone of June, 1998.

Production of Vegetables and Pulses

511. RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total production of onions, potatoes, tomatoes and pulses in Haryana and other States in northern parts of the country during the past six months, month-wise and State-wise;

(b) whether the Union Government have provided any help directly to farmers to boost the production of those items;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps contemplated by the Government to boost the production of the above items?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Month-wise details on the production of onion, potato and tomato are not estimated. However, production details of pulses during Kharif season in Haryana and other States in northern part of the country are furnished below:

State	Production of Kharif Pulses As advanced estimates (1998-99) in 000' tonnes
Haryana	60
Himachal Pradesh	21
Jammu & Kashmir	30
Punjab	67
Uttar Pradesh	850

(b) to (d) Government of India is implementing two Central Sector Schemes namely, (i) Production and Supply of Vegetable Seeds and (ii) Development of Root and tuber Crops. These schemes provide the incentives to the farmers through supply of quality seeds of improved varieties of vegetable through minikits which includes onion, potato, tomato and other vegetable in Haryana and other States of the country. In case of pulses, incentives to the farmers are being provided through State Governments on the use of certified seeds, rhizobium culture, micro nutrients, sprinkler sets, improved farm implements, plant protection equipment, etc. under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on "National Pulses Development Project" to motivate the farmers to adopt the improved production technology to increase the pulses production in the country including Haryana.

[Translation]

Pending Irrigation Projects of Bihar

512. SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several irrigation projects of Bihar are pending for the consent of Nepal Government;

(b) if so, the details of such projects and since when these are lying pending; and

(c) the initiatives being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A few water resources development projects to be developed jointly by India and Nepal in Nepal territory, benefitting both Bihar and Nepal have been identified and are under negotiation with Government of Nepal.

(b) and (c) Sapta Kosi High Dam, Kamla and Bagmati Projects were under consideration of both the Governments for a number of years. Sapta Kosi High Dam Project has been under active discussion in Joint Committee of Experts constituted for the purpose in 1992. Kamla and Bagmati Projects are also under discussion in the Joint Committee of Experts reconstituted as Joint Team of Experts in 1996. All the three projects are under preliminary stages of discussion.