

Irrigation Schemes are concerned, such schemes do not require clearance from the Union Government and they are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments. The details of such minor irrigation schemes are, therefore, not maintained by the Central Government.

[English]

Holidays for Employees

4057. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government provide maximum number of holidays to its employees;

(b) whether the Government are aware that the country suffers a loss of thousands of crores of rupees and industries have to lose four hundred crore rupees in a day on this account;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to announce a new policy with regard to holidays in the light of the above facts; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) to (d) Government appreciate the implications of a holiday and for this reason, the number of holidays have been reduced over the years for administrative offices from 23 effective holidays in early 50s to the existing level of 17 which includes festivals falling on Sundays/Saturdays etc., thereby reducing the effective number of holidays. Industrial establishment observe upto 16 holidays, inclusive of three national holidays. After a recent review, it was decided that no holiday will be declared in future on the death of any VIP other than the incumbent President or the Prime Minister of India.

Inland Fisheries

4058. SHRI BIKRAM KESHAR! DEO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Central Institute for Fresh Water and Aquaculture (CIFA) Bhubaneswar worked out any programme to develop Inland Fisheries in the Big Reservoirs in the KBK District of Orissa; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to breed and propagate the Mahaseer Fish in these Reservoirs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) No, Sir. The development of Inland Fisheries in big reservoirs is not a mandate of CIFA, Bhubaneswar.

(b) The question does not arise.

Natural Calamities

4059. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL :

SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:

SHRI ARVIND KAMBLE :

SHRI BHIM DAHAL :

SHRI S. AJAYA KUMAR :

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VARMA :

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the amount requested by each flood affected states and the funds sanctioned and actually released by the Union Government during the last three years;

(b) whether despite the visit of Central teams to various flood affected States to assess the aftermath of natural calamities, the funds sanctioned have not yet released;

(c) if so, the reasons for delay and the time by which the funds are likely to be released;

(d) the reasons for low allocation and disparity amongst the States; and

(e) the names of the districts declared 'Scarcity hit districts' this year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Details indicating State-wise assistance sought and assistance provided from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) during 1995-96 to 1997-98 in the wake of Cyclone, rains/floods are given in the enclosed Statement-I.

(b) to (d) Assistance from the NFCR is provided for calamities of rare severity only. In accordance with the scheme for constitution and administration of the NFCR, the National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC) considers and decides whether a calamity is to be treated as a calamity of rare severity for assistance from the NFCR. The quantum of assistance from the NFCR as decided by the NCRC, is released to the concerned State Government. The request for assistance from the NFCR received during 1997-98 from Madhya Pradesh and Manipur in the wake of heavy rains and floods is at various stages of process.

(e) Details indicating the districts affected by drought during South West Monsoon period, 1998 (June to September), as intimated by the India Meteorological Department (IMD), are given in the enclosed Statement-II.