

[English]

Links with Touts

1190. SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the increasing incidents of nexus and linkages of touts with passport officials in the country particularly in Metropolitan cities;

(b) if so, the steps taken to identify such touts and their possible link with the passport officials; and

(c) the action initiated against such officials during last one year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):

(a) The Government is aware of the activities of touts and unauthorised agents. Government has taken several measures in the recent past to counter their illegal activities in the grant of passport services to the public. These include derecognition of travel agents as a channel for servicing passport applications, issue of passport application forms free of charge, augmentation in the number of passport offices and collection centres in the country, despatch of passports directly to the applicants by post, etc.

(b) and (c) From time to time, police action against the touts has been taken as per provisions of the law. Vigilance has been stepped up at the Passport Offices. No specific case of nexus between the touts and the passport officials has come to the notice of the Government.

Agri-Cards

1191. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to issue Agri-cards to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the farmers have shown keen interest in purchasing the Agri-cards; and

(d) the extent to which the scheme has been successful and beneficial to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) and (b) Yes Sir, a Kisan Credit Card Scheme aimed at providing adequate and timely support from the banking system to the farmers for their cultivation needs including purchase of inputs in a flexible and cost effective manner, has been launched. Major features of the Scheme are shown in the attached Statement.

(c) and (d) As the scheme has been launched recently, it will take some more time to assess the response of farmers in purchasing Credit-cards, 7 State Cooperative banks, 46 District Central Cooperative Banks and 53 Regional Rural Banks have introduced the scheme so far in their area of operation besides 29 Scheduled Commercial Banks.

Statement

Major Features of KCC Scheme

- Eligible Farmers to be provided with a Kisan Card and a Pass Book or Card-cum-Pass Book
- Provision of Revolving Cash Credit Facility Involving any number of Drawals and Repayments within the limit.
- Entire production credit needs for full year plus ancillary activities related to crop production to be considered while fixing limit. In due course allied activities and non-farm Credit needs may also be covered.
- Limit to be fixed on the basis of operational land holding, cropping pattern and scale of finance.

- Sub-limits may fixed at Discretion of Banks
- Card valid for 3 years subject to Annual Review
- Each Drawal to be Repaid within 12 months
- Conversion/Reschedulment of Loans also permissible in case of damage to crops due to natural calamities
- As incentive for good performance, credit limits could be enhanced to take care of increase in costs, change in cropping pattern etc.
- Security margin, rate of interest as per RBI norms
- Operations may be through issuing branch or at the discretion of Bank, though other designated branches.
- Withdrawals through slips/cheques accompanies by card and passbook.

Irrigation Bore Wells

1192. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Kerala has sought any financial assistance from the Union Government to undertake irrigation bore wells programme in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Irrigation Projects

1193. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Tripura has submitted any proposal to the Union Government for initiating new irrigation projects and flood control projects in the State; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Two project proposals namely, "Irrigation Schemes" and "Flood Management Works" at an estimated cost of Rs. 284.15 crores and Rs. 191.50 crores respectively are received from the Government of Tripura recently.

Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund Scheme

1194. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have received any request from the State Government for allocation of funds from the Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details of the grants and loans released to States during the last three years and current year also, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Under the Agricultural Credit Stabilization Fund Scheme, no State-wise allocation of funds is made. However, requests from the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Manipur, Meghalaya, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura and Uttar Pradesh etc. have been received.

Statewise details of the grants and loans released to various States under the scheme during the last three years and current year are given in the attached Statement.