

(d) Central Teams have visited the States of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa.

(e) On the basis of the Report of the Central Team and the recommendations of the high-level Committee the Government of India have approved a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 24.77 crores for West Bengal.

Reports of Central Teams that visited Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are awaited.

#### Export of fine variety of rice

12. SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALLURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Andhra Pradesh have made any representation to the Central Government regarding export of fine varieties of rice from Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what action Central Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Government of Andhra Pradesh requested for permission to export at least one lakh tonnes of fine/superfine rice. The request was, however, not agreed to as it was not in accordance with the existing export policy in respect of rice. According to the existing policy, export of non-basmati rice is to be made exclusively through the Food Corporation of India on Government to Government basis.

#### Launching of NREP in areas affected by drought/floods

13. SHRI UMA KANT MISHRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide some per cent assistance to the

States for launching National Rural Employment Programme in the districts affected by drought, floods and hailstorms in the country;

(b) whether money and foodgrains have been provided for giving all types of help in the said affected districts; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). (i) Rs. 15 crores and Rs. 10 crores have been released in favour of Orissa and Uttar Pradesh respectively by Central Government as a ways and means advance.

(ii) 10,000 MT of additional quantity of foodgrains each were released in favour of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa.

#### Allocation to West Bengal for drought relief

14. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of West Bengal have represented to the Central Government for allocation of Rs. 74 crores for drought relief measures in the current financial year;

(b) if so, the amount allocated for the purpose to West Bengal; and

(c) when the Central Government propose to allocate the remaining amount?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) The Government of West Bengal had requested for a Central assistance of Rs. 72.83 crores for drought relief measures in the current financial year.