

**Financial Assistance to States to buy Paddy**

\*677. SHRI G. MALLIKARJUN RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are giving any financial assistance to the States to buy paddy lying with the peasants, not purchased by FCI; and

(b) if so, the amounts given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Central Government are not giving any financial assistance to the States to buy paddy from the peasants which are not purchased by Food Corporation of India. It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to arrange for requisite finance for undertaking procurement operations of paddy. Apart from making the budget provisions, the State Governments also avail of cash credit limits extended by the Reserve Bank and the nationalised banks. Requests of State Governments for the cash credit facilities are supported by the Central Government when approached.

(b) As the cash credit arrangements are directly arranged by the State Governments through the Reserve Bank, it is not possible to supply information regarding financial arrangements for purchase of paddy only.

**Pepper and Spices Development Board**

\*678. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to set up a Pepper and Spices Development Board in the country;

(b) the functions of this Board;

(c) the time by which it will be set up; and

(d) financial implications thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) to (d). A proposal for the setting up of a Pepper and Spices Development Board was considered by the Government. It was, however, decided that in order to achieve the objectives of increased production and exports a Task Force consisting of the representatives of Ministries of Agriculture and Irrigation (Department of Agriculture) and Commerce, ICAR and Planning Commission may be constituted. Accordingly a Task Force has been constituted under the Chairmanship of the Secretary (A&RD) in order to review the progress of development programme for Pepper and Spices and for suggesting suitable measures for increasing the production and exports of pepper and spices.

**I.C.A.R. Plan to step up Research in Tribal Areas**

\*679. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether I.C.A.R. has drawn up a plan to step up research in tribal areas, and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) A note has been placed on the Table of the house.

**Note**

The following projects have been sanctioned for research in tribal areas and are implemented.—

1. Operational Research Project for Economic Development of Tribal People in Malhat District Amravati.