

(b) The Minimum support/procurement prices are fixed at present for major food-grains during each marketing season, taking into account various factors such as, shifts in the cost of production, price relations with competing crops, changes in weather conditions, etc. It is the view of the Govt. of India that it is desirable to examine these prices each season.

**Loans to Ryots of Tamilnadu
Cultivating IR-8**

*404. SHRI SAMINATHAN :
SHRI N. R. LASKAR :
SHRI DHANDAPANI :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Centre has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 1.4 crores only to the Tamil Nadu Government for disbursement to ryots cultivating IR-8 in the Navarai and Swaranavari seasons in the State;

(b) if so, whether the State Government had asked for Rs. 4.4 crores on this account;

(c) if so, the reasons for giving only Rs. 1.4 crores; and

(d) whether the State Government has requested for original demand of Rs. 4.4 crores and, if so, the reaction of the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE)(a) to (d). The State Government had requested in November 1969 for additional short-term loan of Rs. 4.4 crores, both for fertilisers and seeds, for their special programme, by relaxation of the normal conditions. Short-term loan aggregating to Rs. 1033.68 lakhs for various inputs had already been sanctioned to the State on the basis of their normal entitlement. In view of special circumstances, it has been decided to sanction additional short-term loans by relaxation of the normal limits on the basis of actual expenditure incurred by State Government. So far, an additional amount of Rs. 50 lakhs for ferti-

liser taccavi and Rs. 124.75 lakhs for seeds has already been sanctioned.

Trunk Call Frauds

*405. SHRI BABURAO PATEL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether "trunk call" frauds, as recently detected in Calcutta Telephone District, have been detected elsewhere, if so, where and how many;

(b) the steps taken to prevent trunk-call frauds; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : (a) No such frauds have been reported at other places.

(b) and (c) The existing procedure will be examined in the light of the fraud detected and will be streamlined, to guard against such frauds.

Loans to Farmers by Central Bank of India for Boosting Food Production.

*406. SHRI MAYAVAN :
SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Central Bank of India has decided to finance at least three lakh farmers directly by the end of 1973-74 to boost Food production;

(b) if so, the States from which these farmers will be chosen for help,

(c) how these finances will be utilised by these farmers; and

(d) whether this bank has already helped certain farmers and if so, in what way the farmers have been benefited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir,