

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The main reasons for the gap in yield levels are as under:

(i) Lack of assured irrigation facilities and more dependance on rainfed farming in the country.

(ii) Lesser use of agricultural inputs due to smaller holdings of the majority of farmers and lower resource capability.

(iii) Low level adoption of improved crop production technology by resource poor farmers of the country.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(i) Efforts are being made to increase the irrigation potential of the country through various irrigation schemes.

(ii) For judicious use of irrigation water incentive is being provided to the farmers of selected states for purchase of sprinkler sets under Intensive Cotton Development Programme.

(iii) Incentives are being provided to the resource poor farmers for use of seeds of high yielding varieties. Micro-nutrients, herbicides, pesticides, plant protection equipments and improved farm implements, etc. Through various crop production oriented programmes.

(iv) For quick transfer of latest crop production technology incentives are also being provided for organisation of field demonstrations and farmers trainings.

#### **Low Cost Pump-Sets**

601. SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAOVADDE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Small industries Testing and Research centre has developed a low cost pump-set which consumes less power;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to popularise the use of these pump-sets?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to (c). The pump-set is at design stage. The question of taking steps to popularise the same does not arise.

#### **Commission On Kerosene**

[*Translation*]

602. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any request from Bihar for increasing the rates of commission of the distribution of kerosene oil under the public distribution system;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. This is under consideration of the Govt.

[*English*]

#### **States Reorganisation Commission**

603. SHRI BIR SINGH MAHATO: SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY: SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA  
KUMAR:  
SHRI GOVIND RAO NIKAM:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have considered the desirability of setting up another States Reorganisation Commission in view of the recent demands for creation of smaller States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): (a) The Central Government is not considering setting up another States Reorganisation Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Betel leaf**

604. DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand for establishment of Research Centres for betel leaf in Orissa and West Bengal, and

(b) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (K.C. LENKA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has already set up research centres for betel leaf research in Orissa in 1981 and in West Bengal in 1983 under All India Co-ordinated Research project.

#### **Drought In Bihar**

605. DR. R. MALLU:  
SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:  
SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL:  
SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA:  
SHRI MONORANJAN SUR:  
SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH:  
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:  
SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV:  
SHRIMATI GIRIJA DEVI:  
SHRI LALIT ORAON:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the districts in Bihar which were affected by the drought during the current year;

(b) the details of damage caused thereby;

(c) the financial assistance sought by the state Government and the amount actually released;

(d) whether any Central Team had visited the State to assess the drought situation and recommended the relief measure; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (e). According to the reports from the Government of Bihar, the 29 districts of Patna, Nalanda, Buxar, Rohtas, Bhabhua, Gaya, Nawada, Jehanabad, Aurangabad, Saran, East Champaran, Muzaffarpur, Sitamarhi, Sahebganj, Monghyr, Jamui, Katihar, Araria, Purnea, Kishanganj, Samastipur, Begusarai, Palamu, Darabhanga, Madhuvani, Dhanbad, Hazaribagh, Garhwal and Supaul are