

[Translation]

Baragi Dam

3246. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the oustees of Baragi Dam stage a dharna protesting against the proposal for increasing storage capacity of the dam; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the view-point of the 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) No such matter has been reported by the State Government to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Crop Failure

3247. SHRIMATI KAILASHO DEVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have sent any Central team to the States to assess the damage caused to crops;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Union Government have provided any relief/assistance to the farmers following damages to their crops in the States;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of damage due to natural calamities (including damage to crops) by utilising the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). Entire Central share of CRF for the year 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 996.11 crore has already been released to all the State Governments.

In addition to CRF, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) for calamities of rare severity. The National Calamity Relief Committee (NCRC), in its meeting held on 15.3.1999,

considered the requests from the States for assistance from the NFCR for various natural calamities and approved a total assistance of Rs. 497.10 crore.

Procurement Price of Sugarcane

3248. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cane growers have demanded to fix the procurement price of sugarcane at Rs. 100 per quintal in view of rising prices of agriculture inputs; and

(b) if so, the decision of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government of India fixes the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) of sugarcane and not the procurement price of sugarcane. For the sugar season 1998-99, Government of India has already fixed the SMP of sugarcane at Rs. 52.70 per quintal linked to the basic recovery of 8.5% in accordance with the provisions of clause 3 of the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1996.

[English]

Subsidy Bill of Urea

3249. SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether despite the sharp hike in prices of Urea, it is likely to have little impact on the Subsidy Bill of this year;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to remove subsidy without affecting common man?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL) :
(a) and (b) The sale price of urea was increased from Rs. 3660 per Metric tonne to Rs. 4000 per Metric tonne with effect from 29.1.1999, representing an increase of 9.2 % only.

The savings due to the increase in the price of urea is estimated to Rs. 4.83 crores in the current financial year and Rs. 715 crores in a full year.

(c) The impact of the urea price increase on the cost of cultivation is likely to be less than one percent,