

of the area, a unified scheme of Special Rice Production Programme and Special Foodgrain Production Programme—Rice is being implemented as integrated programme for rice development in Eastern States.

STATEMENT

*Per Hectare Yield of Rice (in kgs)
During 1990-91 (Prov.) State-wise*

Andhra Pradesh	2502
Assam	1293
Bihar	1254
Gujarat	1490
Haryana	2778
Himachal Pradesh	1247
Jammu & Kashmir	2431
Karnataka	1836
Kerala	1837
Madhya Pradesh	1176
Maharashtra	1413
Orissa	1207
Punjab	3229
Rajasthan	1183
Tamil Nadu	3075
Uttar Pradesh	1826
West Bengal	1768
All India	1751

Financial Assistance to Apple Growers of Himachal Pradesh

1235. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any memorandum has been received by the Union Government from the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh for providing financial assistance to them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The main demands enumerated in the memorandum relate to support price for fruits, arrangement of cartons for packaging apples and cold storage facilities and markets. The Government have introduced the market intervention scheme for procurement of apple in Himachal Pradesh during 1990. The price for Grade 'A' apple was kept at Rs. 4 per kg. and for culled grade apple at Rs. 1.30 per kg. A quantity of 4587 metric tonnes of culled apple fruits were procured @ Rs. 1.30 per kg. For 1991 season, the procurement price for 'A' Grade apple is kept at Rs. 5 per kg and for processable culled fruits at Rs. 2.75 per kg. About 20% of the total procurement of 40,000 metric tonnes would be processable culled fruits. Regarding supply of corrugated cartons, the Central Government has provided financial assistance for setting up a Corrugated Fibre Board (CFB) Carton factory in Himachal Pradesh which was commissioned during 1990-91. The Government have also waived excise duty on kraft paper used for manufacture of these cartons.

This Department also provides technical guidance for the scientific use of cold storage facilities of which there are 14 with a capacity of 9.412 tonnes.

Flood Assistance to Bihar

1236. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated annual loss of crop, life and property caused to Bihar on account of floods; and

(b) the programme/strategy contemplated by the Government to solve the problem including the nature and the quantum of the Central assistance proposed to be given therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) The estimated annual average damage to life and property due to flood in Bihar is as under:—

<i>Sl. No.</i>	<i>Item</i>	<i>Extent of damage</i>
1.	Area affected (million hec.)	1.445
2.	Population affected (million)	6.468
3.	Cropped area affected (million hec.)	0.657
4.	Houses damaged (No.)	1,49,790
5.	Cattle lost (No.) . . .	981
6.	Human lives lost (No.) . . .	84
7.	Damage to Public Utilities (Rs. in crores) . . .	30.49
8.	Estimated total damage to crop, houses and Public Utilities (Rs. in crores) . . .	97.44

(b) Execution of the relief operations in the wake of natural calamities is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. On the recommendations of the 9th Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been created for each State with an allocated amount, 75% of which is contributed by the Central Government as a non-plan grant in four equal quarterly instalments. The balance amount is arranged by the State Government from its own resources. Annual allocation to Bihar under State Calamity Relief Fund is Rs. 35.00 crores of which Rs. 26.25 crores is contributed by the Central Government as a non-plan grant in four equal quarterly instalments. The balance amount is arranged by the State Government from its own resources. Annual allocation to Bihar under State Calamity Relief Fund is Rs. 35.00 crores of which Rs. 26.25 crores is contributed by the Central Government for meeting the expenditure on management of natural calamities including floods.

[*Translation*]

Telephone Connections in Gujarat

1257. SHRI KASHIRAM RANA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting lists for new telephone connections in Surat, Rajkot, Ahmedabad and Baroda as on June 30, 1991;

(b) the time by which the said lists are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the number of telephone connections likely to be released to the above four cities upto December, 1991?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P. V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The no. of persons on the waiting list for new telephone connections as on 30-6-91 are as follows:—

Surat	43434
Rajkot	6712
Ahmedabad	32109
Baroda	27227

(b) The 8th Plan has been formulated with an objective to provide (by the end of eighth five year plan) telephones practically on demand in telephone exchanges of capacities below 5000 lines and to contain the waiting period, on an average, to one year in exchanges of capacities of 5000 lines and above subject to availability of equipment. With this objective expansion plans are drawn for clearing the waiting list progressively during the 8th Plan period.

(c) The no. of telephone connections likely to be released upto December, 1991 are as follows:

Surat	3000
Rajkot	500
Ahmedabad	3000
Baroda	Nil