

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

[English]

#### **Misuse of Funds**

4140. SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Senior IAS official suspended in Orissa' appearing in the Times of India dated 2.5.98;

(b) the facts of the matter reported therein; and

(c) the action taken by the Government against erring officials responsible for committing irregularities and misappropriation of funds?

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

(b) and (c) As per facts provided by the State Government, no case of misappropriation has been established.

#### **Cyclonic Storm Warnings**

4141. SHRI JANG BAHADUR SINGH PATEL:  
SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the salt workers were not shifted even after having been warned against impending cyclone in the sea;

(b) the number of workers actually working in the salt factories and salt pans on the cyclone day, found missing and the number of workers killed;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal to probe the matter through the appointment of a Commission of Inquiry to be headed by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court;

(d) whether there is any proposal to compensate families of victims the losses of property and lives of the salt workers; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to provide relief to the people affected by natural calamities from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), to which the Centre and the State contribute in the ratio of 3:1. The Centre's share is released in 4 equal quarterly instalments. An allocation of Rs. 154.83 crore has been made to Gujarat for 1998-99. Immediately after the occurrence of the Calamity the second instalment of Centre's share of CRF for 1998-99 amounting to Rs. 29.03 crore was released to the State, in advance, to speed up the relief work.

In addition to the payment made from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund in death cases, the State Government reportedly made ex-gratia payment to the next of kin of the deceased at the rate of Rs. 50,000/- per adult and Rs. 30,000/- per minor people who were rendered destitute due to the calamity were paid cash-doles and assistance was also paid for household belongings.

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team has already visited the affected areas in Gujarat to assess the extent of damage and has submitted its report. Necessary action on the report is being taken as per the established procedure for release of assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR).

[Translation]

#### **Loss of Crops due to Insects**

4142. SHRI RAJO SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state

(a) whether in various parts of the country particularly in the 'tal and diyara' areas of Bihar, crops are largely damaged by the insects;

(b) whether the Government accepts it as a natural calamity and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government are aware of the heavy losses being suffered by the farmers due to it;