

exemption/concession to donor in respect of contributions/donations for rural development programmes/activities. The Government has already set up the National Fund for Rural Development with the specific objective of encouraging contributions for rural development. The donors while making donations may recommend their preference for the area or locality and the rural development programme for which the donation may be utilised, as also the implementing agencies through which the programme may be undertaken and implemented. Besides, there are other provisions in Income Tax Act, mainly Section 35 CCA-80 G/80 GGA of the Act, under which income Tax concessions are available for donations towards rural development activities, subject to certain conditions. Gujarat Government have been advised on these lines.

Drought Relief Programme

10350. SHRI MANORANJAB BHAKTA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government pays more emphasis on the permanent construction works under the drought relief programme;

(b) whether Government provide any material components required for the permanent construction works; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). The execution of the relief operations in the wake of natural calamities is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. Central Government only supplements the efforts of the State Government for meeting the situation effectively. Government

of India have issued guidelines to the State Governments from time to time for undertaking such works for providing employment to the affected people during drought situation which not only result in the creation of permanent and productive assets to the extent possible but also to enable the affected people to withstand the drought better in future. Till 31st March, 1990, Central assistance had been extended to the States for employment generation works at 100 per cent of the notified Minimum wages or 25 days per month. The State Government were required to provide material component from their on going Plan and non-Plan schemes.

From 1.4.90, the scheme for financing the relief expenditure has undergone change. A Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for each State with the allocated amount, 75% of which will be contributed by the Central Government as a non-Plan grant and remaining 25% will be contributed by concerned State Government for their own resources. All matters connected with the financing of the relief expenditure shall be decided by the State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State. This Committee will also decide all the variations in the norms of assistance in the wake of natural calamities.

Proposal to charge present Daturms of Various Commodities In Major Ports

10352. PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the present daturms in respect of various commodities in major ports;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the proposed new datum; and

(c) the time by which it is likely to be introduced?