

[3 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

Programmes in Rice/Wheat/Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems areas, Accelerated Maize Development Programme and the Pulses Development Project. Under these programmes/schemes incentives are provided to farmers for use of high yielding varieties of seeds, application of integrated pest management, propagation of scientific water management including micro irrigation, improved farm implements. Besides, field demonstration on farmers' holding including training of farmers and farm labourers are organised for effective transfer of technology. Government is also providing price and market support to the farmers by announcing the minimum support prices for major foodgrains crops and making arrangements for the procurement through the nodal agencies. The subsidised supply of fertilisers encourages its consumption for maintaining growth of foodgrains production. Further, as per the National Agenda for governance, the Government has given fresh thrust to double the food production in next ten years adopting regionally differentiated growth strategies, creation of farming infrastructure and more efficient use of resources.

#### **Pakistan's View on Lahore Declaration**

\*80. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported statement of Pakistani Foreign Minister made by him in the National Assembly in Islamabad that the Lahore Declaration was as good as dead;

(b) whether Government continues extolling this declaration and swears by it to revive the Lahore spirit in Indo-Pak relations; if so, the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether the Pakistani new regime has also made a similar statement regarding Lahore Declaration and other bilateral agreements?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (c) No statement of Mr. Sartaj Aziz in the National Assembly to the effect that the Lahore Declaration is dead has come to Government's notice. Following the military coup, Mr. Abdul Sattar, while addressing a press conference, said that the Lahore Declaration was one among many agreements that existed between India and Pakistan. At the same press conference, Mr. Abdul Sattar also said that Pakistan did not disown any agreements signed by it.

(d) Government's policy towards Pakistan is principled and consistent. We wish to build a relationship of peace, friendship and co-operation with Pakistan. It is for this purpose that the composite dialogue process was put in place last year. Through this dialogue India wished to build trust and confidence, establish a stable structure of co operation and address all outstanding issues. Prime Minister reinforced this process through his historic visit to Lahore during which he conveyed the good will of the

people of India to the people of Pakistan. These initiatives were widely welcomed by the peoples of both countries. Our commitment to the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration is firm and abiding. They incorporate the guiding principle for our bilateral relations with Pakistan.

Pakistan's aggression and armed intrusion in the Kargil sector of the State of Jammu & Kashmir revealed Pakistan's hostility and betrayed trust. Pakistan needs to restore trust and demonstrate its commitment to the Simla Agreement and the Lahore Declaration by ceasing its sponsorship of crossborder terrorism against India in Jammu & Kashmir and elsewhere and abandoning its hostile anti-India propaganda.

#### **Grant to Cyclone Affected Areas of Orissa**

292. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the amount of grants sought by the State Government of Orissa to provide relief to the cyclone affected people in that State;
- (b) the amount sanctioned by the Centre for the purpose;
- (c) whether all people affected by cyclone have been rehabilitated; and
- (d) if not, what is the progress as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) The Government of Orissa has sought an adhoc assistance of Rs. 2500 crore to undertake relief and restoration measures in the areas affected by the Super cyclone.

(b) Advance Plan assistance Rs. 250 crore was sanctioned to Orissa for the cyclone of 17-18th October, 1999. In connection with the Super cyclone, Government of India has released ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 200 crore from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) and advance plan assistance of Rs. 200 crore. Further ad-hoc assistance of Rs. 300 crore has been announced.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) The relief and restoration measures have been undertaken on a national scale. The State Government have authorised the district Collectors to continue operation of free kitchen in areas where distress conditions are found to be prevailing on the basis of need assessment. Rice, kerosene oil and petroleum products have been supplied to the cyclone affected districts. Clothing and temporary shelter materials have also been supplied to the affected pockets. Adequate availability of essential commodities in the affected areas has been ensured.