

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Annual Maintenance work of Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute is being done through private contracts since September, 1986. The Institute has been getting better maintenance done by the new arrangement at much economical rates.

(b) The work of landscaping & beautification of IASRI Campus was not done through open quotation. The work was awarded on the basis of the competitive rates approved by IARI, a sister Institute located near by IASRI.

(c) Expenditure on landscaping and beautification of IASRI Campus was incurred from Institute's Annual Budget. Details given below:

1997-98	Rs. 3,00,5774
99	Rs. 1,24,928/

(d) The work for landscaping and beautification at IASRI was awarded to the same firm whose competitive rates were approved by IARI, a sister Institute located nearby, after meeting all codal formalities, including inviting open tenders from the same.

Aid to Madhya Pradesh for Seed Production Programme

†1531. SHRI JHUMUK LAL BHENDIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the aid proposed to be given to Madhya Pradesh by Central Government for seed production programme at Government's agricultural land; and

(b) by when this aid will be provided?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) and (b) During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 2100.51 lakhs has been proposed imder various schemes of Government of India for seed production in Madhya Pradesh. The funds will be provided to the State Government by the end of-March, 2000 on receipt of the Action Plan.

Involvement of NAFED offncials in Onion Crisis

1532. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

[16 December, 1999]

RAJYA SABHA

(a) whether it is a fact that an internal inquiry into the 1998 onion Crisis has revealed involvement of certain NAFED officials in the scam;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) The National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited (NAFED) has informed that their Vigilance Cell has conducted a preliminary enquiry in the onion purchases made during the year 1998 and the enquiry report is under examination. If charges are found proved against any official of NAFED, disciplinary action will be initiated under the Conduct, Disciplinary and Appeal Rules of the Federation.

Cyclone Affected People of Srikakulam District

1533. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rs. 40 crores Central aid was sought by the Andhra Pradesh State Government for providing relief and rehabilitation measures to the cyclone affected people in Srikakulam district;

(b) if so, the assistance given so far; and

(c) if not, by when the assistance, will be given?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):-(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The memorandum is under consideration in accordance with the established procedure.

Potato Seed Farm

1534. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the Regional Potato Farm, Mao, Manipur is supplying Potato seeds to the neighbouring States of North East Region;