

**Short Term Loans**

2318. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether special short term loans would be provided to cyclone affected people of Orissa for purchase of cattle, agricultural implements etc. for the purpose of raising crops;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme; and

(c) how quickly the loans would be disbursed particularly in worst affected districts of Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak, Baleswar and Cuttack?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) to (c) With a view to providing loans to cyclone affected farmers of Orissa, following steps have been taken by the financial institutions:—

—Additional allocation of Rs. 10 crore has been made to Orissa State Cooperative Bank (OSCB) for on lending to farmers for purchase of farm mechanization equipments such as Tractors and Power Tillers, etc.

—An aggregate additional credit limit of Rs. 115 crore (including Rs. 69 crore for affected districts) has been provided to OSCB for lending in the Rabi Season.

—Refinance to Commercial Banks for term credit will also be made available.

—Short term loans of Kharif 1999 will be converted into Medium term loans.

The State Level Bankers' Committee (SLBC) meeting held on 18.11.1999 decided to take various measures to expedite the sanction/disbursement of loans to the farmers in the worst affected districts of Orissa. These include rephasing of current dues; early finalization of scales of finance for various crops; collection of loan applications jointly with the Government officials etc.