

through state agencies, 237460 tonnes of Soyabean in Madhya Pradesh till 15th December, 1999.

(b) and (c) The NAFED is committed to procure entire quantity of soyabean of FAQ specification, offered by farmers, at the minimum support price. Purchase of soyabean at the minimum support price, by NAFED is continuing.

Prime Minister's appeal for relief measures

2307. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state Whether Prime Minister has not -yet made any appeal to the Nation and the International Community and Financial Agencies for giving assistance to the Super Cyclone affected people of Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): The Prime Minister had made an appeal to the Nation on October 30, 1999 to come forward and provide relief to the cyclone hit people of Orissa and generously help in their early rehabilitation. As a matter of policy, no such request for international assistance is made by the Government.

Waiving of Agricultural loan

2308. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to waive the agricultural loan and interest of all farmers of Orissa's cyclone affected areas; and

(b) whether there is any proposal for 100 per cent crop insurance in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) No, Sir. However, Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has advised the banks not to recover either principal or interest from the affected farmers for a period of two years and reschedule the amounts not

collected during the two years for a period upto 7 years, as a special case.

(b) Yes, Sir. Orissa Government has given its consent for the implementation of National Agriculture Insurance Scheme which has been introduced from Rabi 1999-2000 and covers all farmers (both Ioanee and non-loanee), more crops and risks.

Pucca houses along coast of Orissa

2309. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Lack of coordination hits Orissa relief work' appearing in the Asian Age of 16th November, 1999;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the action plan to quicken the relief measures and building pucca houses along coast?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO): (a) to (c) According to information received from the Government of Orissa, relief and rescue measures in the wake of the Super cyclone of 29th October, 1999 were conducted in close coordination with Government of India and the non Governmental Organisations. After the initial stage of relief and rescue, the State Government is formulating the medium and long-term rehabilitation programmes for the affected areas, including repair/reconstruction of damaged houses.

Central Assistance for Diammonium Phosphate

2310. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a proposal to increase the rate of Central Assistance on Diammonium Phosphate was sent by Uttar Pradesh Government on 12th February, 1998 and 26th May, 1998 and