

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have reported suicidal deaths by farmers numbering 269 and 82, respectively, mainly on account of damage to crops due to adverse weather conditions resulting to past attack and indebtedness of the farmers.

(b) and (c) Considering the large scale crop loss in certain districts of Andhra Pradesh, the RBI/NABARD decided to provide a package of several measures of relief for the affected farmers, which include:

- (i) Rescheduling of bank loans.
- (ii) No recovery of either principal or interest of an agricultural loan for a period of two years and amounts not collected during these two years will be rescheduled for a period of 7 years.
- (iii) Immediate disbursal of credit by banks for fresh crops on the enhanced scales of finance recently revised by the District Level Committee.
- (iv) Reduction of rate of interest to 4% for small and marginal farmers who are eligible under DRI scheme.
- (v) No compounding of interest in respect of rescheduled loans; no levy of penal interest and waiver of penal interest, if charged.

In addition, the following measures have been or are proposed to be taken:

- (a) Revamping of the co-operative credit structure to ensure timely and adequate availability of credit.
- (b) Modifying the Crop Insurance Scheme by increasing the coverage of farmers and crops to make it more useful as an instrument of risk management.

Entry of Multinational Companies in the field of Fishing

2478. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up a plan to allow some multi-national companies to come unhindered into the fishing grounds in the Bay of Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the interest of fishermen and small entrepreneurs based in Andhra Pradesh have been adequately safeguarded before coming to this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise.

Setting up of Aquarium at Lucknow

2479. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: DR. RANBIR SINGH: SHRI RAJNATH SINGH "SURYA":

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for setting up a modern large aquarium at Lucknow has been considered;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A proposal for establishment of a Training-cum-Awareness centre at Lucknow, consisting of a museum, lecture hall, auditorium and aquarium at a total cost of Rs. 2.07 crores was received from the Government of Uttar Pradesh during November, 1997. The proposal was examined and a sum of Rs. 50,000/- was released to the State Government for preparation of feasibility report during March, 1998. Based on the feasibility