

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a continuous process and the Government of India and its agencies are in continuous contact with international agencies to update themselves and to acquire infrastructure for forewarning about floods, cyclones, earthquakes and droughts, and this will continue to be so.

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the hon. Minister in his reply has said that this Government is giving internet facilities to local STD booths, and it is *daiva-durvipatti*. I think, this statement is not correct.

Whether the Minister is aware of the fact that Orissa is a flood and cyclone prone State? Is he also aware of the fact that about 4000 persons died in the last heat wave in Orissa? However, as per the Government official report the number of persons died were around 1200 while, in fact, the number of persons died were about 4000. Whether the Prime Minister or the Minister has visited Orissa after the heat wave? Whether any compensation has been paid to the families of these 4000 deceased persons by the Govt. of India as it is paid in the case of cyclone, flood accident and fire accident? Whether the Government is also trying to find out the cause of heat wave in Orissa where about 4000 poor workers died in the last heat wave?

SHRI SOMPAL: Sir, in such matters the Central Government has to depend on the reports by the State Governments. Central teams are sent only when they are asked for by the State Governments. We did not receive any such memorandum from the Government of Orissa for dispatching a Central team there. In the absence of such a memorandum no team was dispatched there. This is the arrangement so far as...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Sir, about 4000 persons have died there and the Minister wants a report from the State Government...*(Interruptions)*...I am sure the State Govt has sent its report.

Sir, it is a very dangerous thing...*(Interruptions)*...It means if the State Government will not do so, they will not...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I want an answer from the hon. Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*... In my State about 4000 persons have died and the Minister wants a report from the State Government. I request that the hon. Prime Minister must give an answer to this question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: We want a half-an-hour discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*... We want a half-an-hour discussion on this...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down...*(Interruptions)*... You can give a notice for a half-an-hour discussion...*(Interruptions)*... The Question Hour is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Minimum support price for Paddy

*321. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to increase the minimum support price for paddy by atleast Rs. 75/- per quintal as was given in case of wheat;

(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) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) There is no proposal to increase the Minimum Support Price (MSP) of paddy already announced as it is a quite remunerative.