

National Policy for Disaster Management

†2751. SHRI DEVI PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering a national policy for disaster management;

(b) what has been the stand of Government in respect of the explanation sought by Delhi High Court on a public interest petition filed in this regard;

(c) whether Government are considering *de novo* on the policy for disaster management, after the report of HUDCO and MTPC to the effect that 190 districts in the country are prone to flood, earthquake and cyclone; and

(d) if so, the details regarding the stage of formation of Disaster Management Policy?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (d) Institutional arrangements exist for natural disaster management at the National, State and District levels. The mechanism for financing the relief is also laid down in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. Disaster mitigation measures are reviewed from time to time keeping in view the experience of managing the disasters. In the wake of the earthquake in Gujarat, a National Committee on Disaster Management has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister having representation of the National and State Level Political parties, *inter-alia* to suggest necessary institutional and legislative measures need for an effective and long-term strategy to deal with major natural calamities in future.

(b) The matter is *sub-judice*.

(c) No, Sir.

Status of Special Category State for natural calamities affected Orissa

2752. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the Super Cyclone 1999, serious drought situation in 2000 and the recent floods in Orissa have destroyed the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.