

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):
(a) and (b) Financing of relief expenditure in the wake of natural calamities in the country is carried out in accordance with the recommendations of Finance Commission, from time to time. There are two schemes for providing assistance towards immediate relief in the wake of natural calamities viz. Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). Damage to crops due to frost / cold wave is not one of the natural calamities admissible for assistance from CRF/NCCF.

Potential of tuna fish in Lakshadweep

786. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is a lot of potential of tuna fish in and around Lakshadweep;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the Ministry has decided to purchase ships and equipments specialized in catching tuna fish in the area; and
- (c) if so, how far training and other facilities have been given to the residents of Lakshadweep to increase their catch of tuna fish?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a)
Yes, Sir. The estimated tuna potential in Lakshadweep is about 50,000 metric tonnes.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Lakshadweep Administration has proposed to acquire a mother vessel and introduce gillnetter cum longliners, mechanized tuna pole and line fishing boats, fish aggregating devices etc. in order to exploit the rich tuna fish resources in the island waters.

(c) Necessary training to the fishermen of Lakshadweep islands to exploit tuna fish resources is provided through Fishery Survey of India (FSI) and other fishery related institutions.

Loss of crops due to spurious pesticides

787. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the spurious pesticides being manufactured and sold in the market, destroying crops worth Rs. 6000 crore a year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to detect the source of such spurious pesticides and punish them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):
(a) and (b) The Government has received representations from the pesticide industry regarding manufacture and sale of spurious pesticides in the market. A news item published in the newspaper Business Standard dated 22.9.2008 has mentioned annual crop loss worth Rs.6,000 crore due to spurious pesticides.

(c) To regulate *inter-alia* the manufacture, import and sale of pesticides in the country, Government of India has enacted the Insecticides Act, 1968 and has made Rules thereunder. Under the Act, manufacturers of insecticides must obtain a manufacturing license from the State Government and the product registration from the Central Government. The enforcement of provisions of the Act relating to manufacture and sale of insecticides primarily rests with the State Governments. The State Governments have set up 54 State Pesticides Testing Laboratories. Samples of pesticides are taken regularly for testing in the laboratories. The Central Government has set up a Central Insecticides Laboratory under section 16 of the Act to perform the statutory role of referral analysis. There are provisions in the Act to provide punishment to the offenders.

The Central Government has also conducted awareness campaign by way of advertisements in national as well as local newspapers against spurious pesticides.

Joint venture by NAFED

†788. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the name of the company with which investment was made in the joint venture by NAFED from the year 2003 till date together with the amount invested and when;
- (b) the level at which the decision for joint venture was taken;
- (c) whether NAFED had any expertise in the matter of business done by it;
- (d) the source from where the fund was arranged for this business by 'NAFED'; and
- (e) the amount of profit earned or loss incurred by NAFED in this joint venture?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA):
 (a) to (c) NAFED has reported that it has not made any investment under joint venture with any company from the year 2003 till date. However, NAFED has reported that it has diversified its business activities and undertaken new business initiatives in Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode (Tie-up business) on the pattern followed by other PSUs like STC, MMTC and PEC etc. Under this arrangement, NAFED has invested an amount of Rs.3962.24 crore with 62 parties. A statement giving details of 62 parties as on 31.8.2008, with whom NAFED has undertaken PPP business, is given in the statement [See Appendix 214 Annexure No.7] The decision to enter into Tie-up business in PPP mode was taken with the approval of NAFED's Board of Directors on commercial considerations.

(d) NAFED has borrowed funds from commercial banks for undertaking business under PPP arrangement.

(e) As reported by NAFED, it had earned profit of Rs.88.38 crore from PPP (Tie-up) business from 2003-04 to 2005-06. However, during 2007-08, NAFED has suffered a net loss of Rs.56.69 crore due to huge interest liability of the PPP (Tie-up) business on account on non-payment by Tie-up business associates for an outstanding amount of Rs. 1429.87 crore comprising principal amount of Rs. 1076.18 crore and Rs.353.69 crore towards interest and service charges.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.