

Loans disbursed under the Integrated rural development programme

3254. SHRI H. HAUMANTHAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state..

(a) whether it is a fact that the loans disbursed under the Integrated Rural Development Programme are far below the prescribe limit of Rupees 5000 and has thus failed to create any economic activities for the beneficiaries especially the farmers; and

(b) if so, what steps have, been taken to improve the situation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV): (a) Under the Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) assistance is given to beneficiaries by way of subsidy and credit. There is no limit prescribed for credit. Subsidy provided to beneficiaries is 25 per cent to small farmers, 33 1/3 per cent for marginal farmers agricultural labourers and rural artisans and 50 per cent to tribal beneficiaries. This is subject to the ceiling of Rs. 3000 in norml area, Rs. 4000 in DPAP areas and Rs. 5000 for tribal beneficiaries. For minor irrigation works, there is no monetary ceiling and only percentage are applicable.

It is not correct to state that IRDP has failed to create any economic activity for the beneficiaries, especially the farmers. Evaluation reports of the programme indicate that a majority of the beneficiaries have enjoyed incremental income out of the economic activities taken up under the Programme.

Previously Unstarred Question 2320 transferred from the 27th November, 1986.

(b) In view of the raising of the poverty line from Rs. 3500 to Rs. 6400 for the VIIIth Plan period, it is being emphasised that per family investment must be increased, so that incremental income of the beneficiaries is sufficient to assist them to cross the revised poverty line. A package of assistance to the families has also been suggested.

Production of Jute

@3255. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state

(a) whether there has been a steep fall in jute production during the last three years; if so, what are the figures of production, year-wise during the above period;

(b) what are the reasons for the fall in jute production; and

(c) what steps have been taken to increase the production of jute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) The table below gives all-India production of jute (including mesta) from 1982-83 to 1985-86:

Year	Production (Lakh bales of 180 kgs.) each
1982-83	71.7
1983-84	77.2
1984-85	77.9
1985-86	127.3

It may be seen that there was no fall in jute production during the last three years and in fact the output during 1985-86 was an all time record.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2733 transferred from the 2nd December, 1986.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) For increasing the production of jute/mesta in the country, a Centrally sponsored scheme i.e., Intensive Jute Development Programme has been implemented since 1972-73 in the major growing States. Under the scheme, besides, technical guidance through qualified and trained staff, incentives were provided to the farmers by way of subsidy on Certified seeds, weedicides/pesticides, seed drills and wheel hoes and essential inputs required for laying out of demonstrations, and minikits etc. Assistance was also provided for construction of individual retting tanks in the deficient areas.

Financial Assistance to Fishermen

3256. SHRI GOPALA RAO RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be, pleased to state-

(a) whether there is any scheme to provide subsidies assistance and also loans to fishermen;

(b) if so, what are the details of the scheme and the number of fishermen benefited by it in Andhra Pradesh;

(c) whether Government have given any special instructions to nationalised commercial banks, keeping in view of the recent floods in Andhra Pradesh to give loans and to assist fishermen;

(d) if so, what are the details of the instructions; and

(e) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZER IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ministry of Agriculture operate five schemes providing subsidies assistance to fishermen through concerned State Governments:

(i) Group Accident Insurance Scheme for Active Fishermen.

Under this scheme. 53 per cent of the annual premium of Rs. 9/- per beneficiary is subsidised by the Central Government and the remaining 50 per cent will be borne by the concerned State Government either fully or partially in conjunction with fishermen cooperative society. In the case of Union Territories 100 per cent of the premium will be subsidised by the Central Government. Government of Andhra Pradesh have not opted for this scheme.

(ii) Introduction of Improved Beach Landing Craft.

Under this scheme 202 Beach Landing craft have been sanctioned for introduction in Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Kerala and Gujarat. Out of 202 craft, 62 craft will be introduced in Andhra Pradesh with 50 per cent subsidy by the Central Government, 45 per cent loan by National Cooperative Development Corporation and 5 per cent to be borne by the allottee fishermen cooperative society. About 620 active fishermen in Andhra Pradesh will be benefited by this scheme.

(iii) National Welfare Fund for Fishermen.

This scheme provides housing, drinking water, community hall/workshed, Credit societies etc. to fishermen in 62 villages all over the country. The cost of these facilities will be equally shared between Central Government and concerned State Government. Fishermen of 3 fishing villages in Andhra Pradesh will be benefited by the scheme.

(iv) Mechanisation of Traditional Craft.

This scheme provides motorisation of 5000 traditional craft in the country. In Andhra Pradesh 1200 traditional craft will be motorised with 50 per cent subsidy equally by Central Government and State Government and the remaining amount is tied up with bank loan. About 3000 fisherfolk in Andhra Pradesh will be benefited by this scheme.