

[17 August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Agriculture Policy which seeks to actualize the vast untapped growth potential of Indian agriculture, strengthen rural infrastructure to support faster agriculture development, promote value addition, accelerate the growth of agro-business and thus create employment opportunities in rural areas.

**Loss of life and property in Maharashtra**

2663. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of life and property due to floods, heavy rains in Maharashtra recently;

(b) what assistance or relief have been provided by Government in each district of such calamity; and

(c) what steps Government have taken, propose to take to minimise such losses in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARYANA RAO):

(a) to (c) The responsibility for distribution of relief assistance and undertaking relief measures at the ground level, in the wake of natural calamities, is that of the State Government. No report regarding loss of life and damage to property in Maharashtra in the wake of heavy rains and floods has been received from the State Government.

**Horticultural Technology Mission for North-East States**

2664. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for opening a Horticultural Technology Mission for North-East States;

(b) if so, when it will start to function; and

(c) state the main objectives and functions of the Mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO):