

unproductive expenditure being incurred on a large scale in the name of drought relief, needed a complete overhaul, that schemes of medium and long term significance for the permanent improvement of drought/flood prone areas should be prepared in advance and implemented as part of the Plan and that in a year of natural calamity, the pace of execution of such schemes should be accelerated, with advance release of Central assistance for the Plan, if necessary. They have also allowed annual provisions for relief expenditure in each State totalling to Rs. 50.71 crores as against Rs. 14.47 crores allowed by the previous Finance Commission in order to enable the States to meet localised situation of distress without invoking Central assistance.

(b) The names of States and assistance sought by them for relief measures in the current year are as follows:

	(Rs. Crores)
1. Assam	18.56
2. Bihar	20.00
2. Gujarat	48.75
4. Haryana	15.00
5. Jammu & Kashmir	(No specific amount indicated)
6. Karnataka	3.00
7. Kerala	6.00
8. Madhya Pradesh	30.00
9. Manipur	0.56
10. Orissa	25.33
11. Rajasthan	15.00
12. Uttar Pradesh	45.04
13. West Bengal	15.00

(c) No financial assistance under the above scheme has so far been released in the current year. The assessment of the Centre in regard to the drought situation in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh has been communicated to the respective States and the matter is under consideration in consultation with them. The assessment in respect of the other States, which have asked for assistance, is yet to be completed.

Apart from this, the Centre has advanced short-term loans to the States for their Agricultural Production Programmes and has also taken steps to arrange for agricultural inputs etc. for revival of agricultural operations in the flood affected areas. In the matter of allotment of foodgrains also the requirements of the affected States have been given consideration.

Loss to STC on art silk fabric export

I 858. SHRI SHYAMLAL, GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether S.T.C. have suffered losses amounting to Rs. 4 crores on export of art silk fabric; and

(b) if so, the steps S.T.C. propose to take to make up such huge losses? •

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) No, Sir. The S.T.C. has not incurred any trading loss on export of Art Silk Fabrics.

(b) Does not arise.

Bar on Cotton Corporation of India to enter cotton market

859. SHRI SHYAMLAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to remove bar on Cotton Corporation of India to enable its entry into the cotton market;