

(a) whether it is a fact that this year various districts in several States including West Bengal were hit by drought, affecting the main harvest seriously;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a Central team visited West Bengal to ascertain the ground situation there;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the total quantum of relief demanded by the West Bengal Government to provide assistance to the affected people and the amount released by the Central Government so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) Due to deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon, 2010, the Governments of Bihar, Jharkhand, Orissa and West Bengal declared drought as under:

Bihar	-	All 38 districts
Jharkhand	-	All 24 districts
Orissa	-	17 out of 30 districts
West Bengal	-	11 out of 19 districts

(c) to (e) In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of West Bengal seeking Central assistance of Rs. 1100 crores for drought relief, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) visited the State from 8th to 11th September, 2010 for assessment of the drought situation and requirement of Central assistance. Further action is being taken in accordance with the procedure in vogue.

#### **Functions of Board of Governors of NIPERs**

3433. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman of Board of Governors (BoG) of National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER), SAS Nagar, Mohali, Punjab, is a scientist of repute;

(b) whether Secretary of Department of Pharmaceuticals is heading the steering committee of new NIPERs;

(c) whether the steering committee of new NIPERs is performing the functions of BoG;

(d) if so, the legality for actions of issue of degrees given in NIPER, Kolkata and Ahmedabad and starting of Ph.D. courses; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to correct the anomaly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SRIKANT JENA): (a) In terms of section 4(3)(a) of the NIPER Act, 1998 as amended from time to time, the Chairperson shall be an eminent academician, scientist or technologist or professional.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) to (e) The Government has established six new NIPERs at Kolkata, Hajipur, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Rae Bareilly and Guwahati. Courses are being conducted with the help of Mentor Institutes like the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology (IICB), Kolkata, Indian Institute of Chemical Technology (IICT), Hyderabad, Central Drug Research Institute (CDRI), Lucknow, Rajendra Memorial Research Institute of Medical Sciences (RMRIMS), Patna, B.V. Patel Pharmaceutical Education & Research Development Centre, (PERD) Ahmedabad, and Guwahati Medical College and Hospital, Guwahati, which are Institutes of repute. The Cabinet has approved that pending the constitution of Board of Governors of New NIPERs, an Apex Steering Committee under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Department of Pharmaceuticals would oversee the functioning of the new NIPERs. New NIPERs have not commenced admission to Ph.D courses.

#### **Revival plan for IDPL and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited**

3434. SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI:

SHRI R.C. SINGH:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is actively considering to implement the revival plan for IDPL and Hindustan Antibiotics Limited;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and