

(v) To estimate and identify sources for meeting the investment requirements of the marine fisheries sector,

(vi) To assess the need for joint ventures, leasing, etc. with foreign fishing companies,

(vii) To identify the human resource development needs of the marine fisheries sector and formulate programmes for meeting such requirements, and

(viii) To suggest conservation measures taking into account the Code of Conduct for Responsible Fisheries and other global initiatives for sustainable development of marine fisheries.

Long Term Policy to tackle natural calamities

480. SHRI PRAFUL PATEL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State of Gujarat had worst drought very recently and had approached Government for financial assistance;

(b) if so, the quantum of assistance sought and the amount sanctioned disbursed;

(c) whether Government contemplate to form some long-term policy so that these types of natural calamities could be controlled/fought effectively; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) During 1999-2000, in addition to release of entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) amounting to Rs. 121.05 crore, Rs. 54.58 crore (against Rs. 722.16 crore demanded) was released to the State from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR). During 2000-01, three quarterly instalments of Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 131.14 crore have also been released to the State.

(c) and (d) Funds are also released under the schemes like

Drought Prone Areas Programme, Desert Development Programme and Employment Generation Schemes, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Indira Awas Yojana, Flood Control Scheme, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas and Soil Conservation in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone Rivers implemented by the Central Ministries/Departments, which have components of disaster mitigation, towards long-term rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities.

Doubling Country's Food Production

481. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has now emerged as the second largest producer of rice, wheat, groundnut, fruits and vegetables in the world;

(b) if so, what concrete steps Government have taken so far to ensure that India becomes world's number 1 producer and also able to double country's foodgrains production by 2007-2008;

(c) whether Government are providing twenty five per cent subsidy for construction/modernisation/expansion of cold storages also; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SBPBK SATYANARAYANA RAO):

(a) According to FAO's (Food and Agricultural Organisation's) yearbook 1997 on Production, India is the second largest producer of rice, wheat, groundnut and melons. However, her position is sixth in respect of potato.

(b) The level of production of agriculture crops in any country depends on a number of factors such as agro-climatic conditions, farm size, development and adoption of package of improved practices, availability of credit, managerial/entrepreneur skills of farmers, timely and optimal application of inputs etc. increase the production and productivity of rice, wheat and oilseeds such as groundnut the