

recommendations on various facets of agriculture and its allied sectors. The tenure of the Commission is upto 13th October, 2006 by which it is to submit its Final report to the Government.

(d) and (e) Since the Commission has its Terms of Reference, the question of review of the utility of the Commission does not arise.

**Life Saving Support Insurance Scheme for small and medium farmers**

1832. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any recommendation by any Commission to initiate a Life Saving Support Insurance Scheme to save the small by medium farmers from the pitfalls of market;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to implement these recommendations?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) National Commission on Farmers (NCF) in its first report on 'serving farmers and saving farming' has recommended integrated life 'Saving Support Programme which *inter alia* includes improvement in the existing crop insurance system and introduction of an integrated insurance package covering accident/death/medical cover, loss to dwelling unit and other property.

(c) A Joint Group was constituted by the Government of India to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance scheme. The Group has submitted its report and has suggested number of improvements. The Government, at present, is consulting different stakeholders for the improvements in the existing crop insurance scheme.

**Assistance to Andhra Pradesh under new Agriculture Policy**

1833. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the present trend of agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the extent to which assistance can be given to the farmers of the State under the new Agriculture Policy; and