

Keeping in mind the poor and vulnerable sections of the society and in view of the devastating rains in the State, I urge upon the Government of India to immediately approve additional allotment of 19,100 KL of kerosene at PDS rates to Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

**Demand for revamping National Crop Insurance Scheme to benefit
all farmers equally**

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, India has a National Crop Insurance Programme (NCIP) which offers crop insurance to the farmers in case of contingencies. While articulating, this Programme seems to be very promising and efficient but when the ground reality of its implementation and actual effectiveness is recorded, serious shortcomings and loopholes can be found. This Programme further has three Schemes: Modified National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (MNAIS), Weather Based Crop Insurance Scheme (WBCIS) and Coconut Palm Insurance Scheme (CPIS). It might seem that these Schemes encompass all the farmers of our country and benefit them equitably, but it is not so.

In MNAIS, the insured amount is ascertained as per the block/village level which might not benefit all the affected farmers. MNAIS is implemented at a block/village level.

Under this Scheme no matter if a few farmers lose all their crops but if a majority of farmers have lost only 50 per cent in that particular block/village, then the insurance paid is only for the 50 per cent of the crop lost to every farmer. In WBCIS, the whole area around the weather forecasting station is divided into three areas and the result of assessment of harm occurred is generalized to every field in respective areas, irrespective of the actual loss that individual farmer might have suffered. Since some fields might have irrigation facility to counter the drought in the same area, as for a field whose crop is fully ruined, the field that has irrigation facility is still given the full insurance money because it is assumed that the entire area has suffered uniformly from drought.

Hence, to make NCIP successful, these assessments have to be further zoomed in to the individual level. And, lastly, on the same lines of CPIS, jute and cotton Insurance Schemes should also be started. Moreover, these Insurance Schemes should be made mandatory for all the farmers irrespective of the fact whether farmers are loanee or non-loanee, as is the case now. There is a great need to revamp this Agricultural Insurance Scheme so that it could equitably benefit the whole agricultural demography.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The time is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... The time is over. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is time for Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is time for Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... Time for Question Hour. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is Question Hour time; nothing else. ...*(Interruptions)*...

12.00 NOON

ORAL ANSWER TO QUESTION

(MR. CHAIRMAN *in the Chair*)

Action plan for tourism infrastructure in Maharashtra

*256. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has prepared an action plan for strengthening tourism infrastructure in Maharashtra and rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government proposes to implement the action plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Currently the Ministry of Tourism (MOT) is implementing the following Plan Schemes for development of tourism infrastructure in the country. The action plan of Ministry is based on implementation of these schemes:

- (1) **Swadesh Darshan** for Integrated Development of Tourist Circuits around Specific Themes.

Thirteen theme based circuits *i.e.* North-East India Circuit, Buddhist Circuit, Himalayan Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Krishna Circuit, Desert Circuit, Tribal Circuit, Eco Circuit, Wildlife Circuit, Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Heritage Circuit and Ramayana Circuit have been identified for development under “Swadesh Darshan”.

- (2) **National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD)** to beautify and improve the amenities and infrastructure at pilgrimage centres of all faiths.

Under PRASAD, thirteen cities have been identified namely Ajmer, Amritsar, Amaravati, Dwarka, Gaya, Kamakhya, Kanchipuram, Kedarnath, Mathura, Patna, Puri, Varanasi and Velankanni.