

- (b) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States in the planning and implementation of the mega projects like 'the inter-linking of rivers, that would normally take 15-20 years for completion and hinge vitally on the support of the States.
- (c) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States in promoting effective devolution of powers and autonomy to Panchayati Raj Institutions and Local Bodies including the Autonomous Bodies under the 6 Schedule of the Constitution within a specified period of time.
- (d) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States in promoting the concept and practice of independent planning and budgeting at the District level.
- (e) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre *vis-a-vis* States in linking Central assistance of various kinds with the performance of the States.
- (f) The role, responsibility and jurisdiction of the Centre in adopting approaches and policies based on positive discrimination in favour of backward States.
- (g) The impact of the recommendations made by the 8th to 12th Finance Commissions on the fiscal relations between the Centre and the States, especially the greater dependence of the States on devolution of funds from the Centre.
- (h) The need and relevance of separate taxes on the production and on the sales of goods and services subsequent to the introduction of Value Added Tax regime.
- (i) The need for freeing inter-State trade in order to establish a unified and integrated domestic market as also in the context of the reluctance of State Governments to adopt the relevant Sarkaria Commission's recommendation in chapter XVIII of its report.
- (j) The need for setting up a Central Law Enforcement Agency empowered to take up *suo moto* investigation of crimes having inter-State and/or international ramifications with serious implications on national security.
- (k) The feasibility of a supporting legislation under Article 355 for the purpose of *suo moto* deployment of Central forces in the States if and when the situation so demands.

Violation of Lotteries Regulation Act

2367. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that a number of lotteries are conducted in the country in violation of section 4 of the Lotteries Regulation Act;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard;

- (c) whether Government of Kerala has given any representation in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) to (d) Some States have made allegations regarding other State Governments violating Section 4 of the Lotteries Regulation Act. The Government of Meghalaya has filed a SLP in the Supreme Court and the matter is *sub-judice*. The Government of Kerala had requested the Union Government to take urgent steps against the illegal paper lotteries run by certain States in Kerala alleging that these lotteries were being organized in violation of provision of Section 4 of the Lotteries (Regulation Act), 1998. The matter was taken up with the concerned States and they have strongly denied the allegations.

Expenditure for relief and rehabilitation from NDMF

2368. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the expenditure so far incurred from the National Disaster Management Fund for the relief and rehabilitation of flood victims in various parts of the country this year, State-wise;
- (b) the specific purposes for which the expenditure is incurred from the fund;
- (c) whether the concerned State Governments are also required to contribute to the fund in such exigencies; and
- (d) if so, to what extent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI V. RADHIKA SELVI): (a) to (d) Relief assistance in the wake of natural disasters including flood is provided through the Scheme of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF), which is contributed by the Government of India and the concerned State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. Additional assistance is also provided to the States in the wake of a calamity of severe nature, from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), which is fully funded by the Government of India.

Relief assistance is provided to the States under these two schemes for providing immediate relief to the people affected by notified natural calamities in accordance with items and norms as approved by the Government of India. These norms *inter-alia* provide for assistance to the affected persons in the form of *ex-gratia* payment to families of deceased persons, relief to old, infirm and destitute children, supplementary nutrition programme, gratuitous relief for families in dire need of immediate sustenance after a calamity (who have no food reserve, or whose food reserves have been wiped out in a calamity and who have no other immediate means of support), agricultural inputs subsidy for damage caused to crops, assistance for repair of houses, assistance for generation of relief employment, assistance for loss of animals and assistance for feed and fodder, etc.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.