



3. The House may wish to note that similar assistance is being extended to livestock breeders, small fishermen and hydroponic projects as follows.

- (i) Pig and other livestock breeders - Rs40,000 per borrower
  - (ii) Small fishermen - Rs40,000 per borrower
  - (iii) Hydroponic projects - Rs75,000 per borrower
- repayable in 4 years including 6 months moratorium.

4. As at 11 April 2007, 3,800 applications for a total amount of Rs169M have been received. The number of loans processed and approved stands at 2,203 for a total amount of Rs 96.4M. In addition, accounts of planters, which are in arrears, are being rescheduled on a case to case basis and substantial repayment period is being granted to them.

5. Furthermore, my Ministry has undertaken free seed distribution. The affected planters were invited to apply for these seeds if they were interested. As at date, an amount of 2610.6 kg of seeds has been distributed to 2046 planters.

6. Additionally, the Small Planters Welfare Fund (SPWF) has recently implemented a Crop Insurance Scheme (CIS) for vegetables. Prior to cyclone Gamede, 577 had adhered to the scheme. Following the loss assessment exercise, 503 insured planters were found to be eligible for an indemnity. The amount of indemnity payable ranges from Rs4,500 to Rs27,000 per arpent. Payment has started since 04 April 2007 and is expected to be completed by next week. After cyclone Gamede, a further 58 planters have adhered to the CIS and the objective of the SPWF is to reach at least 1000 insured planters by 30 June 2007.

7. As regards sugar cane, any indemnity payable will be effected by the SIFB in December after the harvest when information on yield will be available.

8. The rehabilitation measures implemented coupled with technical advice from AREU, FSC and MSIRI have allowed a quick recovery. A 78% recovery for all vegetable crops as regards new plantations have been observed. Crops like cabbage, carrots, chillies and courgette have achieved complete recovery as far as new plantations are concerned.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY**

1. Details of the Gamede Rehabilitation Loan Scheme is at annex.
2. Emergency assistance was sought from the FAO and the EU. In a letter dated 02 April 2007, FAO has informed that it is unable to retain our request, as repetitive assistance to address recurrent types of emergencies under the TCP should be avoided.
3. It is expected that carrot production will return to normal by end of May-early June this year whereas cabbage production will return to normal by mid-June.
4. A total amount of 3,720 kg of seeds from Barkly Experiment Station is available for free distribution.