

not only with starvation deaths but the likelihood of starvation deaths and so should take steps to avoid that. Is the Minister aware that the situation in Gujarat State in the districts of Panch Mahal, Chota Udaipur and Junagadh is such to lead to starvation deaths on a large scale? If so, what steps are the Government taking to see that adequate quantities of foodgrains are rushed to these areas in time?

Shri Jagjivan Ram: Yes, in certain areas of Gujarat there was failure of rain and drought conditions were prevailing. We released some foodgrains for free distribution in that area. Recently, the Chief Minister of Gujarat met me and requested me whether I will give him some more foodgrains for free distribution in the affected areas. I am going to release 1,000 tons of wheat for free distribution among the adibasis.

Shri Sradhakhar Supakar: Certain deaths on account of starvation were published in statements of some Ministers. Has the Government verified whether the Ministers actually made the statement or not?

Shri Annasahib Shinde: As already mentioned by the hon. Minister, we referred the statements to the various State Governments but no State Government has so far submitted any information which indicates that there have been deaths due to starvation.

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTIONS

Non-Payment of Money Orders

S.N.Q. No. 3. **Shri K. N. Tiwary:**

Shri Kartik Oraon:

Shri F. K. Ghosh:

Will the Minister of Communications be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large number of complaints were received in respect of non-payment of Money Orders throughout the country; and

(b) if so, how many have been paid and how many are still to be paid?

संसद-कार्य तथा संचार मंत्री (श्री राम सुभग सिंह): (क) और (ख) 15 मार्च से 15 मई, 1967 तक मनीआर्डर और तार मनीआर्डरों की प्रदायगी न होने के बारे में मुझे 92 शिकायतें मिली थीं। इनमें से 32 की प्रदायगी पहले ही की जा चुकी है। शेष मनीआर्डरों और तार मनीआर्डरों की प्रदायगी की कार्यवाही की जा रही है। 1966 में 3,85, 071 शिकायतें मिली थीं। इनमें से वर्ष के अन्त में केवल 40,586 शिकायतें भ्रमिणीत रह गई थीं।

श्री क० ना० तिवारी: मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो शिकायतें हैं उन की जांच हो रही है या नहीं, और उन का निर्णय कब तक हो जयगा और पेमेंट कब तक हो हो जायेगा।

श्री राम सुभग सिंह: यह आदेश जारी किये जा रहे हैं कि जल्द के अन्त तक पिछले वर्ष जितने मनी आर्डरों की प्रदायगी नहीं हुई है उन की प्रदायगी जरूर कर दी जाये।

श्री क० ना० तिवारी: जितने मनीआर्डर लोगों ने किये उन की रकम क्या थी और उस में से कितने रुपयों का पेमेंट हुआ है और कितने का नहीं हुआ है?

श्री राम सुभग सिंह: अन्त में वर्ष भर में करीब 9 करोड़ 20 लाख मनीआर्डर भाले जाते हैं जिन के लिये 4,420 मिलियन रुपयों का ऐवरेज है। यह बड़ी रकम है, लेकिन जो शिकायतें मिली हैं उन की ऐवरेज 3,47,500 है जो कि .4 परसेंट होता है।

Shri Kartik Oraon: I would like to know from the Minister the number of money orders and the amount involved in them in respect of Bihar,

Chhota Nagpur, Ranchi and Palamu District separately.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: I will find out the information and let him know.

Shri P. K. Ghosh: In view of the fact that there have been complaints regarding late delivery and sometimes non-delivery of not only money orders but also letters and telegrams, I would like to know what steps the Minister proposes to take in order to ensure quicker and sure delivery.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: It was in pursuance of that that I said that we are going to launch a special drive with a view to having all the money order complaints settled within three months, that is, by the end of July, and nothing will be left over.

Shri F. K. Ghosh: What about letters and telegrams?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is another thing.

Shri S. Kandappan: In spite of the proliferation of the department personnel they were not able to deliver money orders and other things in time. I would like to know whether Government has made any effort to find out the reasons for this undue delay in delivery of money orders and whether they have taken any action to rectify this.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: Yes, Sir; As I have said, we are going to make a drive to prevent this and within three months we will get all the complaints settled. For that I have put the target of July 1967.

Shri Krishna Kumar Chatterjee: May I know whether it is a fact that thousands of illiterate persons in different States of the country who have to send money orders have to depend on a class of professional money-order writers who make entries in the most haphazard manner and, if so, what steps the hon. Minister proposes to take to improve the situation.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is also correct. In Calcutta and other places the illiterate people engage other persons to write letters and money orders and sometimes wrong entries might be made by those writers. I would, therefore, try to evolve a new code that if there is any illiterate person, particularly an illiterate woman, the post office people might give help.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: I would like to know whether it has been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister that the payment of money orders is abnormally delayed especially in the rural areas, not entirely by the Department employees but by the extra-department workers, and, if so, what steps have been taken to see that proper post offices are set up in the rural areas so that money orders are delivered in time.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: That is a suggestion for action. Regarding the first part of the question, I want to inform the House that we are going to issue instructions that it will be the responsibility of the post office concerned and that if the payment is not made within a month, then, on receipt of a complaint, that particular post office will send a reply in ten days and if the reply to that is not received in ten days, the duplicate money order will be paid.

श्री बाबूरान त्रिहरवार : जो मनीऑर्डर इजरा किए जाने हैं वह एअमट्टा कबर में बन्द करके रजिस्टर्ड पत्रों के साथ भेजे जाते हैं । जब वह एअमट्टा कबर में भेज जाते हैं तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उन के खो जाने क्या कारण है ।

श्री० राम सुबहग सिंह : भ्रमन में कहीं कहीं मिसएप्रोप्रियेशन भी होता है । इसी लिये यह ड्राइव चालू किया जा रहा है । वास्तव में कमी नहीं होनी चाहिये लेकिन अगर कमी होती है तो उस की तलाश का प्रयास किया जायेगा और उस को बन्द किया जायेगा ।

Shri G. Viswanathan: In the case of non-payment of money order, may I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government would first make the payment to the person concerned and then prosecute the person held responsible and recover the money from him?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: As I said, we are issuing the instructions that if the payment is not made within a month, then, after receipt of the complaint, the post office should send a registered letter within ten days and if the reply is not received within 10 days, the duplicate money order may be paid.

श्री सिख नारायण: मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि कुल कितनी रकम बाकी है और जिन ब्रफसरों और कर्मचारियों ने गलती की है उन के खिलाफ कोई एक्शन लिया गया है या नहीं। जो कम्प्लेन्ट्स आई हैं उन के सम्बन्ध में किसी ब्रफसर को सम्बन्ध या डिस्मिस किया गया है या नहीं?

डा० राम सुभग सिंह: कई केसेज में डिस्मिशनरी एक्शन के प्रावेल दे दिव गये हैं। जहाँ सम्बन्ध ब्रफसर तक पेमेन्ट नहीं हुआ है उन में अनुवासनात्मक कार्रवाई की जा रही है, जैसा सिने मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में बताया 40586 केसेज पेन्डिंग हैं। सामीय सत्य को मैं यह धारणा देना चाहता हूँ कि अगर किसी को गलती साबित होगी तो कहीं पर डिस्मिशनरी एक्शन देने में कोई दिक्कत नहीं होगी।

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Migrations from drought-hit Areas

*153. **Shri D. N. Faldia:**
Shri Madhu Limaye:
Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia:
Shri George Fernandes:
Shri S. M. Ramasjee:
Shri Bihari Mishra:

Shri K. N. Tiwary:

Shri R. Barua:

Shri G. S. Mishra:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of people have migrated from drought-hit areas of the country to neighbouring regions in search of food and living during the last one year;

(b) if so, the total number of people estimated to have migrated during the above period and the names of places from where the migration has taken place; and

(c) whether Government have taken any steps to dissuade people from migration by providing them adequate food and other means in those areas?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food, Agriculture, Community Development and Cooperation (Shri Annasahib Shinde): (a) and (b). The Government of India have not received any reports of large-scale migration of people as a result of drought of last year. All the State Governments affected by drought of 1965-66 and 1966-67 were addressed to find out the facts. The States of Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Orissa, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra have reported no large-scale migration due to drought. Information from the States of Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan is awaited and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

(c) Migration normally takes place due to lack of money and food. In drought affected areas the State Governments have opened up sufficient number of relief works to provide purchasing power to the affected population. Foodgrains, to the maximum extent possible considering the total availability and the need of other States have been allotted to the various drought affected States. A sufficient number of fair price shops are functioning in the drought affected areas.