

## Statement

(a) and (b) : The information is given below :—

Name of the country.	Model of tractors.	Quantity imported during 1968.	Total CIF Price (Rs.)	Approx ceiling selling price (Rs.)
U.S.S.R.	DT-14B	844	46,52,972	58,49,764
	Byelarus MTZ-5MS	445	56,89,325	68,84,150
Czechoslovakia	Zetor-2011	1000	98,84,200	1,30,74,100

Besides, it was also decided to import 15,000 tractors during 1968-69. Information in respect of these tractors is given below :

Name of the country.	Model of tractor	Quantity to be imported	Total Price (Rs.)
U.S.S.R.	DT-14B	6,000*	6,63,00,000 (CIF)
	Bye-larus-MTZ-5MS	500	63,92,500 (CIF)@
Czechoslovakia	Zetor-2011	5,000£	4,61,85,000 (FOB)
Rumania.	Super UTOs	500%	77,50,000(C&F)
GDR.	RS—09	3,000	3,18,00,000 ,,

The selling prices for the above mentioned tractors have not been fixed so far.

\* Of these tractors, 1,017 tractors have been received so far.

@ The price is after taking into account a special total discount of Rs. 3 lakhs,

£ Of these tractors, 1000 Nos. have since been received.

% Of these tractors, 487 Nos. have since arrived in the country.

(c) The programme for the import of tractors during the current financial year, 1969-70, is under consideration of the Government.

श्री देवेन सेन : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि कितने ट्रैक्टर किस कन्ट्री से किस भाव खरीदे गये ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : I have mentioned in my statement the number of tractors and the price at which they are procured.

## SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Deaths in Famine Affected Areas of Rajasthan

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SNQ. 20, SHRI D. N. PATODIA:  
SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH:  
SHRI DEVEN SEN:  
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA:

SHRI KIKAR SINGH

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that more than 7,000 persons are reported to have died in Barmer, the worst famine-affected area in Rajasthan;

(b) whether, in view of the urgency of the situation, the Central Government have considered it desirable to augment the supply of foodgrains to this area of Rajasthan;

(c) whether the quantum of aid that the Centre proposed to give to the Government of Rajasthan for dealing with the famine situation in the State has been supplied in full; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof and what particular steps the Central Government propose to take to avert the deteriorating famine situation in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) The allegation that over 7,000 persons have died in Barmer district of Rajasthan is highly exaggerated, but some deaths due to cholera, gastro-enteritis, diarrhoea, dysentery, measles and fevers have taken place in Barmer district, among other areas. The Rajasthan Government have appointed a senior official of the State Health Department to make a detailed inquiry. The inquiry has not yet been completed.

(b) : No deaths have occurred as a result of shortage of foodgrains. The foodgrains availability in Rajasthan is quite satisfactory. State Government have adequate stocks of foodgrains and have recently raised the per capita issue of foodgrains from 10 kg. to 12 kg. per month in the affected areas. They have not felt the necessity of lifting the quota of wheat allotted to them for April, as also a part of the quota allotted for March.

(c) and (d) : The Central Team which visited Rajasthan last year had recommended a ceiling of Rs. 8.96 crores for expenditure on drought relief during 1968-69. Against this ceiling, a sum of Rs. 13.16 crores was actually released by the Central Government. The Team visited Rajasthan a second time in April, 1969, and have just submitted their report which is under consideration.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Before I put my supplementary question, permit me to point out that the question never referred to deaths on account of shortage of food supply; the question referred to deaths on account of famine conditions which include shortage of food supplies, malnutrition, shortage of drinking water, inadequate medical facilities and all that. The attitude of the Government and the statement made by them in regard to famine conditions in Rajasthan and the deaths caused thereby are very much at variance with many other statements and observations made by many non-officials and institutions. Apart from politicians, an

accredited representative of the *Indian Express* visited Barmer district about which a news item appeared this morning in the *Indian Express*. The representative has made certain categorical observations with regard to the conditions prevailing in Barmer district. He has stated that on account of the outbreak of various diseases pointed out by the hon. Minister and the conditions created thereby, the situation is grim. For the first time in the history of Barmer district, cholera has broken out in about fifty villages, as admitted by the Collector of Barmer. One Congress MLA, according to the report of that correspondent, Biridhi Chand, has stated that as many as 1000 persons have died in Barmer district. There is difficulty about food supply, drinking water and medical facilities. Drinking water arrangements have completely broken down; the arrangement for the supply of trucks is not working satisfactorily. People have to walk for miles together, sometimes as much as twenty miles to get a drop of drinking water. In this respect, this situation could have been anticipated even six months ago. I do not know what type of State Government is there which cannot take even elementary precautions in respect of such a situation in areas like Barmer.

My question, therefore, is whether this situation was anticipated by the Central and the State Governments and if so what precautionary measures were taken by them ? Why was not necessary action taken to prevent such conditions as prevail today ? Secondly, in view of the conditions prevailing there now and in view of variations in statements made by different persons about the situation there, are they prepared to sponsor a delegation of Members of Parliament belonging to all parties to make an on the spot study and report to the Central Government ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : There is no need to sponsor such a delegation. The hon. Members are free to go to Rajasthan ; it is just close by and they can go and assess the situation. As far as the State Government is concerned the hon. Member has cast some aspersions on the Rajasthan State Government which is handling the situation with considerable ability. The State Government is doing everything to provide drinking water... (Interruptions.)

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** How many persons have died during the last six months due to famine conditions? What have they done to provide drinking water? Why should people die if they were provided with bare necessities such as water and food?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Detailed arrangements have been made by the Rajasthan Government to provide drinking water. With our concurrence they had recently issued an Ordinance; if a Collector feels so, any truck could be requisitioned and utilised for transporting water. The Railways are also prepared to run tankers, wherever possible. But the difficulty that is faced by the railways should be appreciated. There is no water in the station.....(Interruptions). The general assessment is that the Rajasthan Government is doing fairly well in regard to these matters.

There is outbreak of cholera and some other diseases but we have sent two teams from here. The whole area has been divided into 15 blocks by the State Government and each block is entrusted to a medical officer with necessary facilities such as vehicles, etc. We have also supplied a large quantity of medicines as requested by the Rajasthan Government and also necessary vaccines and other medicines are in the hands of the medical authorities.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Large quantity of medicines, many trucks, several wagons—how many trucks, or wagons and what is the quantity of medicines? Generalised, sweeping remarks are made. I do not know what can be done. The hon. Minister stated that two teams had visited. I want to know whether any of these teams had specifically mentioned the bad management of the State Government relating to food supply, drinking water and medical facilities? Has any action been taken by the Centre either requesting or insisting upon the State Government to rectify these arrangements.

The next point is about funds. Have any remarks been made about the extent of misuse of the famine fund by resorting to wrong muster rolls...(Interruptions.) He says Mr. D. P. Mishra; I do not know—and

by squeezing money from this fund for personal appropriations?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** Nobody has reported to us anything adverse like this.

**SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Has nobody mentioned the inadequate water supply, inadequate medical facilities? Is he prepared to lay their report on the Table of the House?

**श्री देवेन सेन :** क्या मन्त्री महोदय बतायेंगे कि कितना रुपया माँगा गया था और अभी तक कितना रुपया दिया गया है? क्या यह भी सच है कि अनुसूचित जातियों, राजपूत और पिछड़ी जातियों के लिए सरकार की तरफ से जो पानी दिया जाता है वह उनको नहीं मिल पाता है गैर राहत के काम के लिए मजदूर लगाये जाते हैं, उनसे एक महीने काम कराया जाता है और पैसा उन्हें दस दिन का दिया जाता है?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** No distinction is made on the basis of caste or creed. As far as the provision of water-supply is concerned. About the allegation of the hon. Member that wage are not paid in time, it is not correct.

**श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा :** इस कांग्रेसी सरकार के लिए यह बड़े शर्म की बात है कि इन बीस सालों में वह जनता को रोटी, कपड़ा और पानी भी नहीं दे सकी है। मैं मन्त्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि अभी जो मुख्य मन्त्रियों का सम्मेलन हुआ था तो राजस्थान के मुख्य मन्त्री ने केन्द्रीय सरकार से क्या मांग की थी।

दूसरी बात यह है कि वहाँ पर जो पानी दिया जाता है वह वहाँ 35 पैसे फी जोड़ी बैल के हिसाब से पानी पिलाते हैं और 20 पैसे में एक आदमी का पानी का घड़ा भरा जाता है। इस तरह से पानी बेचना बड़े शर्म की बात है तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार निःशुल्क पानी की व्यवस्था करेगी, निःशुल्क चारे की व्यवस्था करेगी और निःशुल्क अनाज की व्यवस्था करेगी?

दूसरा मेरा प्रश्न यह है कि क्या सरकार इस अकाल के अभिशाप को मिटाने के लिए जो राजस्थान नहर परियोजना आज से 13 साल पहले हाथ में ली थी जिसका एक चरण भी नहीं बनने पाया, क्या उसके बनाने के काम को अपने हाथ में लेकर इस अकाल को मिटाने के लिए जल्द से जल्द प्रयत्न करेगी ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I have covered many of the points asked by the hon. Member even on the previous occasion. Our approach to the problem about the Rajasthan Canal has been explained both by me and the hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power. The team which has recently gone there, and to which I have made a reference, has recommended a further sum of Rs. 9.02 crores as a means of extending financial assistance to the Rajasthan Government up to June.

श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा : यह फ्री अनाज, फ्री चारा और फ्री पानी के लिए मंत्री महोदय का क्या जवाब है ? उच्च बेचारों के पास पैसा ही नहीं है यह सब खरीदने के लिए और जानवर वगैरह पानी व चारे के मर रहे हैं ।

स्वास्थ्य तथा कृषि मंत्री (श्री जगजीवन राम) : माननीय सदस्य को पता होगा और यह चीज इस सदन में बार बार दुहराई गई है कि जहां पर इस तरह का सूखा पड़ा करेगा, अकाल की स्थिति का निर्माण होगा, वहाँ तीन, चार काम करने होंगे । पहला काम तो लोगों को रोजगार दिलाना होगा ताकि उनमें क्रयशक्ति पैदा हो सके । कुछ लोग ऐसे हो सकते हैं जोकि काम करने के लायक न हो, उनको मुफ्त में अनाज देना या पैसे की सहायता देना शामिल है जिससे वह अपना गुजर बसर कर सकें । जहाँ तक चारे का सवाल है उस में भी यही है कि कुछ जानवरों के लिए तो बिलकुल मुफ्त में चारा दिया जाता है, कुछ के लिए सबसिडाइज्ड रेटपर दिया जाता है । इस तरह से यह तीनों काम चल रहे हैं । अनाज के लिए भी यही बात है कि कुछ लोगों को अनाज मुफ्त दिया जाता है, कुछ

को सबसिडाइज्ड रेट पर दिया जाता है तो कुछ को वाजिब दामों पर दिया जाता है ।

श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा : राजस्थान का दुर्भाग्य है कि बम पड़े तो राजस्थान पर, अकाल पड़े तो वह भी राजस्थान पर...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आर्डर, आर्डर ।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : About the earlier part of his question, we are aware of the statement made by the State Chief Minister. About the other part, we have already assured the Rajasthan Government that we shall be extending to them necessary financial assistance for sinking tubewells. About seeds and fertilizers, we are prepared to look into their requirements. We are taking care of it.

SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : The Chief Minister is persistently saying that there are no deaths, whereas other people are saying that thousands of people have died. We want to know the truth. If you repeat parrot-like what the Chief Minister has said, what is the fun in our putting question here ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE ; I have already referred to it in my main reply.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : In reply to part, (a), he said the figure of 7000 is highly exaggerated. He said some people have died of cholera, gastro-enteritis, measles, etc. I want to know whether any assessment has been made about the number of persons who have died because of starvation. Out of 26 districts, 24 have been declared as famine-stricken areas and people must have died. May I know whether any enquiry has been held as to how many people have died and whether it is a fact that the Rajasthan Government headed by Mr Sukhadia concealed this fact for many months until it was brought to the notice of this House by Rajasthan members and others ? I want to know what instructions have been issued to the Chief Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : This has been answered already.

**श्री भोला नाथ मास्टर :** अभी 30 अप्रैल के हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स अखबार में चीफ़ मिनिस्टर श्री सुखाड़िया का यह स्टेटमेंट छपा है कि अपोजीशन का यह चार्ज कि करीब 10,000 लोग राजस्थान के स्केयरसिटी-हिट डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में हाल के महीनों में मर गये सही नहीं है और उन्होंने इसे डिनाई किया है तो क्या मंत्री महोदय के नोटिस में वह आया है ?

क्या दूसरी बात जो श्री सुखाड़िया ने कही है वह भी उन के नोटिस में आई है कि कुछ मौतें कौलरा और गैस्ट्रोइन्ट्रिटिस के कारण हुई हैं और उन बीमारियों को रोकने के लिए एफ़ैक्टिव एरियाज़ में डाक्टरों, कम्पाउंडरों और आक्जिलरी हेल्थ वर्कर्स की मोबाइल टीम्स भेजी जा रही हैं ?

एक अन्य बात उन्होंने यह कही है कि हमें फ़ूडग्रेंस नहीं चाहिए बल्कि अब जो बारिश होने वाली है उस के लिए हम उन्हें अच्छे बीज और फर्टिलाइज़र्स दें ताकि आयन्दा के लिए फेमिन को रोका जा सके। इस के साथ ही और ट्यूबवैल्स को बोर किया जाय। 62 नये ट्यूबवैल्स वहां पर बोर किये गये और मई के आखिर तक उनके पूरा हो जाने की उम्मीद है तो इस पर भी क्या मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान गया है ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** I would like to reiterate that as soon as the monsoon sets, we will be prepared and we will see that seeds and fertilizers are made available. We are taking care of it.

**श्री व० न० भार्गव :** लगातार कई वर्षों से राजस्थान के कुछ भागों में अकाल की स्थिति बनी हुई है। इस बार अकाल की इतनी भयंकरता है कि सम्भवतः मानव स्मृति में इतना भयंकर अकाल नहीं पड़ा होगा जिस से वहां के कृषकों और राज्य सरकार की आर्थिक स्थिति पर भयंकर और विपरीत प्रभाव पड़ा है। क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार वहां के कृषकों को लगातार रोज़गार देने के लिये कोई व्यवस्था कर रही है जिससे आने वाली कठिनाई के समय उनका निर्वाह हो सके। इसके अतिरिक्त महीनों में

आने वाली कठिनाई के समय उनका निर्वाह हो सके। इसके अतिरिक्त आगे के लिये भी कुछ ऐसी आर्थिक व्यवस्था कायम करने का प्रयास करेगी जिससे कि काश्तकार वर्षा का मौसम आये तो वह बीज आदि की व्यवस्था कर सकें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार राजस्थान सरकार को इन सब कार्यों की व्यवस्था के लिये साधन उपलब्ध करेगी ?

**SHRI N. K. SOMANI :** I would not enter into the controversy about the number of deaths due to any particular reason, because neither the Centre nor the State Government is going to accept it easily. Nevertheless, we get periodical and regular reports about increasing number of deaths in famine-affected areas, partly as a result of consumption of red jowar and milo, complete lack of drinking water and the consequential diseases like-gastro-enteritis, cholera, etc. Apart from that, certain peculiar symptoms have developed. I gather on the basis of reports from relief camps with which I am associated that a person develops very quickly a vomiting sensation, vomits 4 or 5 times and within 3 to 6 hours collapses and dies. The State Government doctors have not been able to diagnose it properly. May I request the Government of India to send some specialists from Delhi to help the local doctors to diagnose the real cause of this and find a remedy. Secondly, the supply of drinking water is very late and irregular. Water is now being sold at 25 paise to Re 1 per kilo in several villages which I can name. The supply is made once or twice a week. You can understand their predicament. Therefore, in view of the Planning Commission's report submitted for the balance of the period upto the end of July, when the next monsoon, we hope, will relieve the situation, when would the Government send the balance of additional funds demanded by the Rajasthan Government ?

**SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE :** As far as medical needs are concerned, there should be no difficulty in complying with the suggestion of the hon. Member. One or two teams have visited the area. Only last week the Additional Director of Medical Health Services has been asked by the Government

of Rajasthan to make a detailed enquiry with regard to the various causes of deaths, diseases etc. As far as release of funds is concerned there should not be any difficulty because there is a set procedure. As soon as the Government of Rajasthan submit accounts of expenditure, up to the ceiling funds are released to that Government (*Interruption*).

#### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

##### Increase in Postal Revenues after Enhancement of Telegram Rates etc.

\*1443. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department's income has gone up substantially as a result of increase in the rates of postal articles and telegrams ; and

(b) if so, the increase over last year's sale proceeds of similar articles ?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA) : (a) and (b). The relevant information is being collected which will be placed on the table of the Lok Sabha.

##### Drought in Gujarat

\*1445. SHRI NARENDRA SINGH MAHIDA : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether drought conditions are prevailing in certain parts of Gujarat ; and

(b) to what extent the drought would hit the production of cotton crop this year ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As a result of drought, cotton production in Gujarat is likely to be less by about 1,50,000 bales this year as compared to the production last year.

##### Loss of Foodgrains Due to Pests

\*1446. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have developed new measure to destroy pests to avoid huge loss of foodgrains;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the acreage of land over which the measures were applied during the year 1968; and

(d) the results achieved ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement furnishing the requisite information is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

(c) Over 90 million acres (gross) of various crops were treated with plant protection measures in 1967-68 and the anticipated achievement in 1968-69 is 135 million acres.

(d) the plant protection treatments applied to crops have resulted in enhanced yields—estimated variously at 15 to 50 per cent in individual fields.

##### Statement

The details of plant protection measures taken by the Government are briefly stated as under :—

1. *Seed Treatment* : Seed treatment is an insurance against seed—and soil-borne diseases and pests. In India, the percentage of pre-treated seeds was about 1.3% at the end of the Second Plan and 3% at the end of the Third Plan. The present level is about 6%. It is expected that by the end of the Fourth Plan, 40 million hectares would come under seed treatment. All the nucleus and foundation seed that is being produced in the country is immediately treated after harvest. Similarly, seeds of