

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, April 24, 1969/Vaisakha 4,
1891 (Saka)

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The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock
[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starvation Deaths

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- *1291. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :
SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA :
SHRI SHARDA NAND :
SHRI SHRI GOPAL SABOO :
SHRI J. B. SINGH :
SHRI A. SREEDHARAN :
SHRI HARDAYAL DEVGUN :
SHRI RANJIT SINGH :
SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL :
SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHA-
JAN:

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

(a) whether there have been many starvation deaths in several States of the country during the year 1968-69 ;

(b) if so, the number of deaths, State-wise ;

(c) the action taken by Government to meet the situation ;

(d) whether there have been many animal deaths also in Rajasthan during the year 1968-69 as a result of drought conditions ;

(e) if so, their number and nature of help rendered to that State by the Central Government; and

(f) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE,
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND
COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB
SHINDE) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) : Do not arise.

(d) to (f) Some mortality amongst cattle has taken place in Rajasthan during 1968-69 as a result of drought conditions but the exact number of deaths is not known. As a measure of drought relief, the State Government are assisting the cattle owners by providing facilities for migration of cattle, procurement of fodder from within the State and its import from outside the State and its distribution either free or on a subsidy basis. The Central Government has so far released a sum of Rs. 13.16 crores to the Rajasthan Government for drought relief. Further assistance will be given in the light of the recommendations of the Central Team which visited Rajasthan recently.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : It is utter shame and disgrace and also highly deplorable that human kindness and charity have dried up in this country even after seeing the sufferings of countrymen in the country. Always the Minister comes with a statement that there are no starvation deaths. Even according to the medical report, there are ten crores of sick people in this country suffering from malnutrition. They will say that death is due to malnutrition. Certain rights have been granted under the Constitution. Articles 38 of the Constitution enshrines the that State shall strive to promote the welfare of the people by securing and protecting as effectively as it may a social order in which justice, social, economic and political...

MR. SPEAKER : Please ask your question now.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Please listen to me. It also says that the citizens should be provided with adequate means of livelihood. Every citizen of the country has a right to exist in this country. What has the Government done during the last twenty years to avoid drought conditions in the country and also see that there are no starvation deaths not only in Rajasthan but also in other States including Mysore and your State also, Mr. Speaker, Andhra. It is a serious situation which confronts our country. What steps have the Government taken to relive the situation in this country? Have any permanent measures been taken to avoid such situations? I want a categorical answer from the minister.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: This question is confined to Rajasthan.

श्री रवि राय : पहला सवाल दूसरी स्टेट्स के बारे में भी है।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: It is true that Rajasthan is in distress and almost all districts in Rajasthan are affected by drought. Shri Lakkappa is free to be critical but it would be interesting to him to know that the food situation in Rajasthan is quite comfortable. In fact the Rajasthan Government are not in a position to take all the allotments of food that we are making to them because they have enough stocks and even the price levels are within reasonable limits. Moreover as a result of relaxation on movement of coarse grains, there is free movement of coarse grains. So the food position is within control and there is no reason to get alarmed.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: It is a serious situation. He always says that there are no starvation deaths but it was death due to malnutrition only. Government has not taken any steps in this country in spite of the loud talk by our hon. Jagjiwan Ram that the food situation is very good.

He says there is no shortage anywhere. He will realise that he is only building castles in the air. 7,000 deaths have been reported in the press in the Rajasthan and several cases of death in other parts of the country

have been reported in the press. Has he got any idea of this, and what steps are the Government going to take to prevent such things? If he has got any sympathy, please show it now, and if he has got any fears, please accept it and resign. I want to know what steps are the Government going to take, and whether they have taken any steps in this direction. Will the Government institute an enquiry by appointing an enquiry committee? I also want a categorical assurance from this Government that they will investigate into the conditions where the people have been affected seriously and that they will take permanent measures forthwith.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We not only refer the reports given by the hon. Members to the proper quarters because we attach great importance to the views of the hon. members, but we refer even casual reports, appearing in the newspapers, to the State Governments for verification. As far as Rajasthan is concerned, a team was deputed by the Health Ministry to look into the problem. Even the Rajasthan Government was good enough to appoint a committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Secretary to go into this problem, and they have reported that there have been some deaths due to cholera and gastro-enteritis. As far as deaths due to starvation are concerned, the State Government have positively said that there were no deaths due to starvation as such.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: What permanent measures have been taken on an all-India level? Even the Famine Code has not been amended by several States to provide food, shelter and clothing to the needy people in several parts of this country. What permanent measures have the Government taken on an all-India level in this matter?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Ultimately, permanent measures are very important from the point of view of protecting these drought-affected areas. From that point of view, the building up of irrigation potential is the most important thing. So, the completion of irrigation projects should be taken up and allowing more funds for minor irrigation works is also the approach of the Government of India. We have been giving liberal

assistance to the State Governments for taking up irrigation works everywhere.

As far as Rajasthan is concerned, during the last few months they have completed about 41 tubewells and 12 are under construction. We have given the green signal to the Rajasthan Government that if they want to complete a few more tubewells during the next two or three months, funds will not be a limiting factor and we shall make funds available.

श्री श्रीगोपाल साहू : कई समाचार पत्रों ने समाचार प्रकाशित किये हैं कि अकले राजस्थान में बहुत से आदमी मर गये हैं, यहाँ तक कि एक हजार आदमियों के मरने की बात हो रही है और तीन लाख पशुओं के मरने की बात हो रही है। तो मैं सरकार से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इमरजेन्सी आघार पर अभाव वाले क्षेत्रों में खाद्यान्न भेजने के उपाय किये जायेंगे ? दूसरा प्रश्न यह कि नहर योजना को केन्द्रीय सरकार अपने हाथ में लेगी ताकि शीघ्र उस को पूरा किया जाये जिस से सिंचाई की सुविधा उपलब्ध हो सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : That is one of the steps which we have taken : to expedite the work of the Rajasthan Canal, because, if and when the Rajasthan Canal is completed, that would provide protection to large areas of Rajasthan, especially the western districts which are most hard hit. That is why this year, the Rajasthan Government has taken care to see that large funds are provided in the budget of the Rajasthan Government for taking up much more programmes than in the last few years.

SHRI NATH PAI : We are all interested in the first part of the question : whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the statement made in the Rajasthan Assembly by the leader of the Jan Sangh, Mr. Bhairon Singh, to the effect that more than 7,000 people died of starvation. I want to know whether and how far the Government are aware of this report ; if any deaths have taken place and, if so, how many.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : We have taken note of that report. We have

specifically referred it, for a detailed investigation, to the Rajasthan Government, and I am quite sure that the Rajasthan Government would look into every individual case that is referred to them.

SHRI A. SREEDHARAN : Unfortunately, this is one of those countries where little importance is attached to human lives. It has been reported that 7,000 people have died, and appalling reports have come out, but the Government of India are still ruminating, just as Nero was fiddling when Rome was burning. We are told by medical experts and scientists that starvation is one of the causes of gastro-enteritis and cholera.

I would like Government to tell us what according to them is the physical process that takes place in a human body when somebody dies of starvation.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : After all, I am not a medical expert. But we have to rely on the reports of the State Governments in this regard. Now and then hon. Members make references to it on the basis of information they get. Even with regard to reports from non-Congress State Governments, no non-Congress State Government has corroborated death reports due to starvation from any area.

SHRI SHRI CHAND GOYAL : I have myself toured the area for about 8 to 10 days and I have gone into the interior villages where actually people have died. 80 children died in village Ramdeva and 8 children died in Harvesha. Government say they are not starvation deaths. But when there is no wholesome food to eat, when they have to eat things like grass roots and when they have to drink contaminated water, some sort of diseases develop. Even in the case of those who resort to hunger strike, some fatal diseases are likely to develop. To take the position that these deaths are not the result of starvation will be wholly wrong. In the absence of the Government's capacity to provide food and drinking water, deaths have resulted. What is the definition of starvation deaths which Government have in view ? Is Government prepared to institute some sort of an independent agency consisting of MPs or some other independent agency to find out facts ? The State Governments are likely to hide

facts in order to hide their own weaknesses.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : Recently some doctors of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases went into the problem and they were not directly Government employees. They also came to the conclusion that due to cholera and gastro-enteritis some deaths have occurred. Obviously, in Rajasthan, there is shortage of water. Drinking water is a very serious problem. But all steps are being taken. The Rajasthan Government has taken care to see that these areas are divided into 15 zones and each zone has a medical officer with a jeep and necessary staff. Necessary steps are being taken by the Rajasthan Government to see that necessary health protection is given to these people.

श्री श्रीकारलाल बोहरा : आजकल जब भी कहीं कोई संकट आता है तो हमारे बहुत से विरोधी पार्टियों के लोग उसको राजनीतिक रंग देने की चेष्टा करते हैं। मैं जानता हूँ कि पिछले दिनों राजस्थान सरकार ने भारत सरकार के सहयोग से इस बात की पूरी कोशिश की थी कि लोगों को पूरा खाना और पशुओं को पर्याप्त धारा आदि मिल जाये और उस पर खया भी खर्च किया लेकिन बावजूद इस के विरोधी दलों के लोग जैसा कि उन का तरीका है जब भी इस तरह का कोई संकट आता है वह उसे राजनीतिक रंग देने की चेष्टा करते हैं। मैं अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप के द्वारा मंत्री महोदय से यह प्रश्न करना चाहता हूँ कि वहाँ पर निश्चित रूप से स्थिति बड़ी गम्भीर है और राजस्थान सरकार की वित्तीय स्थिति अच्छी न होने की वजह से क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार आने वाले गरमी के मौसम में पीने के पानी और चारे की व्यवस्था करने के लिए अधिक से अधिक धन देने के बारे में गम्भीरता से विचार कर रही है ?

SHRI NATH PAI : Will you please tell us, Sir, the number of sanyasins in Parliament ? Periodically we are told that we are taking political advantage of these things.

We are all political workers. We are not sanyasins, except you, Sir, who are a sanyasin.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : At least our approach is not political in these matters. We take any statement made by members seriously. About financial assistance, I have already said that more than Rs. 13 crores have been released to Rajasthan Government. Now the team has visited Rajasthan for the second time. The report is expected within three or four days. On the basis of that report more funds would be made available to the Government of Rajasthan.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : For over hundred and fifty years the people have laughed at the statement of Mary Antoinette when she said, if there is no bread let them eat cakes. People will laugh again for hundred years at this Ministry because when 24 districts out of 26 in Rajasthan have been declared famine areas and when over a lakh of people have been put up on famine relief works Shri Shinde says that the food situation there is very easy. I cannot understand this. On the question of starvation I would like to know how starvation deaths occur. It is not something where you do not eat for a day or two and you drop down. It is a state where due to malnutrition, when people are not eating properly because they do not get enough food they become under-fed and under-nourished with the result that they become susceptible to cholera and gastro-enteritis and all that. The health Minister of Rajasthan has himself admitted about 67 deaths. So many other people, political and non-political, have said that there have been deaths there. May I ask of the Minister two questions ? How would he define starvation deaths ? At what point does it become, because of under-nourishment and under-feeding, death by starvation ? Secondly, will he agree to an independent inquiry committee to go there and make an assessment of the situation as it stands ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM): Sir we have to realise that we live in India. We Should also realise that even in normal times in a State where there no drought

conditions the entire population does not get nutritious food. Let us not run away from the reality. We are a poor country and a large number of our population even in the States which are not affected by drought are deficient in nutrition (*Interruption*). When the area is affected one cannot say there is no malnutrition. When my colleague says that the food situation is easy in Rajasthan it does not mean that all the food has been produced there. Food situation means that the price position even in Rajasthan in spite of drought condition in extensive areas is comparable with surplus States. The whole thing is, if a man is poor and if he has no money even if food sells at cheaper prices he may not purchase. What is to be done is to create purchasing power in the people in the affected areas. That can be done by providing work, whether it is hard manual work or light manual work, or by providing gratuitous relief to the people who are not in a position to undertake either hard manual work or light manual work. That is the basis on which we have proceeded and that is the basis on which we are proceeding.

So far as the definition of starvation is concerned, I do not feel that I am competent to define that. It is for the medical experts and they have given their decision. Let us not forget, however, that there is a competent, democratically constituted Government in Rajasthan (*Interruption*). Whenever we get any report of any starvation death what we will do is to refer it to the State Government to verify, whether the State Government is a Congress Government or a non-Congress Government, and we have to go by the report that they supply to us. In the last two or three years I have dealt with States where there were Congress Governments and States where there were non-Congress Governments.

Every instance that comes to our notice, whether raised in the House or newspaper reports, we pass on to the State Government for verification. Invariably the report of the State Government has been, I will again emphasize whether it is a Congress Government or non-Congress Government, that these instances have not been found true. We have to proceed on that basis. I

remember once these things were raised in the press that a large number of starvation deaths have taken place. I know it for a fact that the Chief Minister of Rajasthan wrote to the person concerned to supply him the details so that he can have this verified. But the details were not supplied. So, one has to remember that when one newspaper says that thousands of deaths have taken place it cannot be verified unless specific instances are given that it has taken place in such and such a place. That is what we are doing. So far as Rajasthan is concerned, the situation is difficult and the efforts of the State Government, Central Government, public charitable institutions and Members of Parliament should be harnessed to deal with the situation.

SHRI S. K. TAPURIAH : What about an independent inquiry ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : What for ? There is a government there.

SHRI NATH PAI : We are ready to go with the Minister. But is he prepared to go ?

SHRI RANGA : This government has made a reference to some enquiry committee appointed there, presided over by the Chief Secretary and said that so far as this matter is concerned we must function only through that government. But will the government be good enough to ask the State Government to appoint an impartial non-political committee to inquire into these repeated allegations, made not by one political party, but all the political parties except Congress I suppose, that there were not one or two but many starvation deaths ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I will ask anybody who makes this allegation to give every detail about the starvation deaths so that the State Government can verify whether there is substance in it or not.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : It is a sad commentary on our planning that even after three plans—according to them successful, according to us not successful—there are starvation deaths. It may be denied by this Government, or by the State Government, but it is a fact that there are many

areas, in the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and much worse in Rajasthan, which have been declared as famine-stricken areas. In this context, I must mention the name of the great man who raised the question of amending the Famine Code, namely, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, who is no more with us. He said that the Famine Code should be amended because it was prepared by the Britishers who wanted to play down rather than highlight famine and starvation deaths taking place in various parts of the country. We thought that their successors, the Kala Sahebs, will do something about it but we were disappointed. Now may I request the Minister to give an assurance that this famine code will be amended so that we can define what is really famine and take measures to alleviate the sufferings of the people.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I am sure, Shri Banerjee is a very enlightened member of this House. But, perhaps, he does not know that the famine code is not in operation now. First of all, it is a State subject and there was never an All-India Famine Code ; there were only State codes. Almost all the State Government have modified them and the old, so-called obsolete famine code, to which references are frequently made, is no longer in operation. In Rajasthan also it is not in operation.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : My question consisted of two parts. Is it not a shameful thing that after being in power in the Centre continuously for a period of twenty years they have to report starvation deaths ? Of course, they may say it is due to malnutrition. I am yet to see a Minister who has ever conceded that any death has taken place due to starvation. It is always due to gastro-enteritis or malnutrition. May I know whether planning will be done in such a way as to see that people do not starve ?

MR. SPEAKER : That is an entirely different question.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Whenever people die of starvation deaths, this Government has generally been in the habit of saying people have died of malnutrition.

In Assam, you know, there are starvation deaths but because you want to rule Assam as a colony of new Delhi that you have been.....

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : And you want to make it your colony.

SHRI HEM BARUA : Whenever people die, you don't bother about them. I know that some five persons died because of cyclone that lashed East Pakistan. And there is nothing in Parliament in spite of the fact we have been wanting to raise it on several occasions and, therefore, I am having an impression that have been neglecting Assam. Whenever people die of starvation, you say, this is death due to malnutrition. This Government is expert in coining words. Malnutrition is the last mile-post of starvation which is death. This Government is in the habit of saying that it is the responsibility of the state Government. The state Government wants to cover up their weaknesses by saying there is no starvation death.

SHRI NATH PAI : The State Government says, it is the responsibility of God.

SHRI HEM BARUA : That is what happens. The State Government says, it is the responsibility of God, not of the State Government or the Central Government.

MR. SPEAKER : What is the question now ?

SHRI HEM BARUA : May I know whether the Government have applied their mind in a very serious manner to root out the causes that lead to starvation deaths and not simply to white-wash it by saying this is death due to malnutrition. It is a very happy word coined by this Government.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : As I have said, whenever any area is affected, firstly, care has to be taken that adequate quantity of food is available in that area and, secondly, so that people may purchase, it may become available to people, to create conditions in which they will have some purchasing power. This is the basis on which I have been proceeding. I will say that we have fairly met the situation. So far as malnutrition is concerned...

SHRI HEM BARUA : About the basic thing, we are in agreement with you. But about the efforts, we have serious doubts.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : Let him continue with that mental attitude. I can't help that. We are making efforts and the country has reasonably succeeded.

श्री सीताराम केसरी : किसी भी देश में दुर्भिक्ष की अवस्था मेरे ह्याल से इमर्जेंसी की अवस्था है। आज हमारे बहुत से दोस्तों ने एन्क्वायरी की डिमान्ड की है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि एन्क्वायरी की ओर ध्यान देने की बजाय क्या मंत्री महोदय राजस्थान में जो बड़े-बड़े सेठ-साहूकार और राजे महाराजे हैं उन के पास जो बस्तुएँ हैं उन को कान्फिस्केट करेंगे ताकि इस अवस्था का मुकाबला हो सके ?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : I still feel that the source of charity has not completely dried and the rich people of Rajasthan for which Rajasthan is famous will be very liberal in contributing to relief given in alleviating the human suffering.

श्री शिव चरण लाल : राजस्थान में सूखा चल रहा है, किन्तु उत्तर प्रदेश के बहुत बड़े हिस्से में, जैसे प्रतापगढ़, इलाहाबाद में, मिर्जापुर और रायबरेली में, जहाँ पर प्रधान मंत्री के जन्मस्थान और निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र भी हैं, बहुत भारी सूखाग्रस्त इलाका है, और वहाँ बहुत से व्यक्ति भी मरे हैं। पानी का नितान्त अभाव है। हम नलकूपों की मांग करते हैं ताकि अन्न ज्यादा पैदा हो। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि देश गरीब है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश गरीब नहीं है, यहाँ की जनता गरीब है। जिस तरह से गरीब भुख-मरी से मर रहे हैं उस तरह से बड़े-बड़े आदमियों के लड़के क्यों नहीं मरते हैं, खाली किसान मजदूरों के बच्चे ही क्यों मरते हैं, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आगरा में और उत्तर प्रदेश के बहुत बड़े हिस्से में जहाँ सूखा पड़ रहा है नलकूप अथवा ट्यूबवेल लगाये जायें, ताकि अन्न ज्यादा पैदा

हो, सूखा न पड़े और आदमियों को मृत्यु से बचाया जा सके।

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : The U. P. Government is doing everything to see that in some of the areas which are affected by drought, the sinking of tubewells and the minor irrigation programmes are taken up.

श्री जगेद्वर यादव : पिछले साल उत्तर प्रदेश के आठ जिले सूखाग्रस्त घोषित हुए हैं। उन में बांदा जिला भी है। बांदा जिले में बरगढ़ और मारकुण्डी क्षेत्र में पानी की बहुत कमी है।

जमीन में पानी की सतह इतनी नीची घंस गई है कि कुएं सूख गए हैं। वहाँ पर जल की सप्लाई के लिए बत्तीस लाख रुपया मंजूर हुआ है लेकिन प्रशासन अभी तक कोई कंसर्सेसफुल कार्य नहीं कर पा रहा है जिस तरह से नालियाँ बिछाई जा रही हैं उस रफ्तार से अगर चला गया तो जुलाई आ जाएगा और पच्चीस लाख रुपया खर्च हुआ दिखा दिया जाएगा। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या मंत्री महोदय कोई ऐसा स्थायी कार्य कर देंगे ताकि हमेशा के लिए पानी की वहाँ सुविधा हो जाए ?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE : I will bring it to the notice of the State Government.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA : It has been stated by the hon. Minister that Rs.30,000 have been sanctioned for Rajasthan and some more sanction is likely to be given. Have they taken care to see that this much of money that has been paid is being properly utilised by the Rajasthan Government ? I would point out three positive factors. The first is: are they aware that at many of the places, even today, there are no fair price shops for foodgrains and people are not getting foodgrains at fair prices ? secondly, are they aware that, although many tubewells were constructed before the famine conditions last year, some of them are still remaining uncommissioned on account of negligence on the part of the State Government ? Thirdly, people are dying on account of mal-nutrition. There are hundreds of centres where

proper medical facilities are not available and for want of medical facilities, people are dying. I would like to know whether the Government is aware of these matters and if so, what action they propose to take while sanctioning more funds for them.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As far as fair price shops are concerned, if the hon. Member brings to my notice any specific area where fair price shops are required, we shall take necessary steps and I would request the State Government to open fair price shops in those needy areas.

About tubewells, to which the hon. Member made a reference, that is a very old story; that information is outdated. Out of 139 tubewells which were sunk, last year 129 have been commissioned now.

About medical facilities, I have already explained that the entire affected area is divided into 15 zones and 15 centres have been opened.

SHRI D. N. PATODIA: In a State like Rajasthan, how does he justify only 15 centres? There should have been 1500 centres. How can he say that only 15 centres are enough? This is most unjustified.

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छोटे समाचारपत्रों को सरकारी विज्ञापन

*1292. श्री सूरज मान :

श्री रामगोपाल शालवाले :

श्री ब्रज भूषण लाल :

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी :

क्या सूचना और प्रसारण तथा संचार मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) ऐसे समाचारपत्रों की संख्या कितनी है, जिनकी वास्तविक बिक्री 2.000 से कम है, और जिन्हें सरकारी विज्ञापन दिये गये हैं; और

(ख) इस बारे में सरकार की नीति का ब्यौरा क्या है ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) : Five hundred and thirty five newspapers and periodicals

(b) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

The considerations kept in view while releasing advertisements are to secure the widest possible coverage within the limited funds available by a judicious process of selection of newspapers and periodicals so as to reach the class of readership required to be catered for and the masses in different walks of life, especially in regard to display advertisements which carry a message to the people.

While selecting newspapers and periodicals for the release of Government advertisements the following factors are taken into account :—

- (i) effective circulation (normally, papers having a paid circulation of below 1000 are not used) ;
- (ii) regularity in publication (a period of six months of uninterrupted publication is essential) ;
- (iii) class of readership ;
- (iv) adherence to accepted standards of journalistic ethics ;
- (v) other factors such as production standards, the languages and areas intended to be covered within the available funds ; and
- (vi) advertisement rates which are considered suitable and acceptable for Government publicity requirements.