

Shri Bhagavati: Yes, Sir; coal has been included.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know what financial assistance in the form of foreign exchange is to be given to shipping companies for acquiring tonnage this year?

Shri Bhagavati: Ten ships are going to be acquired. There is difficulty of foreign exchange. So we cannot purchase new ships. We are going to acquire some second-hand ships for Jayanti Shipping Company, Rajkumar Lines, Calcutta Steam Navigation Company and R. Sen and Company.

Shri Subodh Hansda: The Minister stated that coal is one of the cargoes to be carried by coastal shipping. May I know whether the cost of transport of coal by coastal shipping is cheaper than the cost of transport by land?

Shri Bhagavati: I think so.

श्री तुलसीदास यादव : ग्रान ए. प्वाइंट आफ इनफार्मेशन सर । यह जो क्वेश्चन लिस्ट हमको सप्ताई की गई है, यह भिन्न है और इसमें यह सवाल नहीं है ।

Shri S. C. Samanta: Is it not a fact that private parties have come forward to seek assistance from the Central Government to increase the indigenous tonnage and get ships for coastal trade; if so, how many?

Shri Bhagavati: As I have said, it has been decided to acquire ten ships. About private parties, I cannot give that information.

Shri Ranga: May I ask whether Government have taken any steps to broad-base the Natural Calamity Insurance Fund which they said they were organising, and whether any further progress has been in order to ensure.....

Shrimati Renuka Ray: That question has not come.

Mr. Speaker: Probably Shri Ranga has not been keeping pace.

Shri Ranga: I thought it was answered in Hindi.

Mr. Speaker: We are on coastal trade.

Shri Jaswant Singh: May I know how many foreign ships were chartered last year for transport of coal, and foreign exchange involved in it?

Shri Bhagavati: To supplement the owned tonnage, we chartered seven vessels, and they performed on an average five trips per months for the movement of coal. As to the foreign exchange involved, I cannot give the answer.

Mr. Speaker: Next question.

Shri Thirumala Rao: One relevant question.

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry.

Loss of Crops and Cattle due to Floods

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- *161. {
 Shri G. K. Singha:
 Shri Subodh Hansda:
 Shri S. C. Samanta:
 Shri N. R. Laskar:
 Shri Vishram Prasad:
 Dr. P. N. Khan:
 Shri Kol'a Venkaiah:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri P. C. Borooah:
 Shri P. Venkatasubbaiah:

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

(a) whether Government made any assessment of damage to crops and cattle due to last floods in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) amount given so far to the various States by way of relief (State-wise)?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri Shinde): (a) and (b). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the Sabha in due course.

(c) A statement is placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 33].

Shri Subodh Hansda: In view of the fact that these floods are recurring features in our country, may I know what precautionary measures Government have taken so far to give advance warning to the people to save their life and property?

Shri Shinde: The question put by the hon. Member actually comes within the purview of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power.

Mr. Speaker: The Minister is not ready with the answer.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: In the statement it has been shown that Punjab and other States affected by floods have been given some financial assistance. In this connection, may I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that vast tracts in Andhra Pradesh have also been affected by floods resulting in.....

Mr. Speaker: He should put a question.

Shri Venkatasubbaiah: May I know if any assistance has been given from this People's Famine Relief Fund to the Andhra Pradesh Government?

The Deputy Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri A. M. Thomas): The Andhra Pradesh Government was also addressed in the matter, but they have not sent us any proposals for assistance.

Shrimati Akkamma Devi: May I know whether Government gives financial assistance to States when crops are affected by early and late blight diseases?

Shri A. M. Thomas: The pattern of assistance is well-known. Every State Government is enjoined to provide in its own budget provision for relief in connection with natural calamities. They have to exhaust it. After this, of the amount spent in addition, 50 per cent is met by the

Centre. Of course, there would be *ad-hoc* grants by way of loans etc., by the Finance Ministry in suitable places.

श्री का० ना० तिवारी : क्या मन्त्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि फलड के कारण रफली कितनी शुगर केन की फसल पर असर पड़ा है ?

Shri A. M. Thomas: With regard to sugarcane, we have not got specific figures from Bihar and U.P. We had asked for information from Bihar. We have been informed that the crops affected were mostly *bhadai*, *aghani* and sugarcane. The total area affected was 1,681,000 acres, and the loss in terms of money value is a little over Rs. 9 crores. I have not got the specific break-up of sugarcane

Shri D. C. Sharma: In the statement I find that a loan of Rs. 2 crores has been given to the Punjab Government. May I know the rate of interest to be charged on this loan and period in which it is to be repaid?

Shri A. M. Thomas: Interest would be 4 per cent per annum, and it is repayable in ten annual instalments.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether any of the affected State Governments have instituted any enquiry committee to go into the root causes of the floods there?

Shri A. M. Thomas: It is a general question. Flood control measures are actively under the consideration of both the Centre and the State Governments. In fact, there are also flood-control boards set up in various States, and it is within the purview of these boards.

Shri P. C. Borooah: I find from the statement that Assam has been given assistance of only Rs. 20,000. Since Assam is the worst affected area so far as floods are concerned, is there any request from the Assam Government for financial assistance outstanding, and is the Centre going to give them some more money?

Shri Shinde: The Finance Commission has gone into the details about the pattern of financial assistance to be rendered to the different States. The assistance is being rendered according to the recommendations of the Commission which have been accepted by the Government of India.

Shri Kunhan: Which are the States which have fully utilised the allotted amount during the Second Plan? Have the Kerala Government asked for any financial assistance from the Centre?

Shri A. M. Thomas: We have addressed all States with regard to the extent of damage. We have not received any reply from Kerala yet.

श्री यशपाल सिंह : मैं यह जानना चाहना हूँ कि क्या कृषि मन्त्रालय को यह पता है कि यह रुपया स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के थ्रू ग्रांट या नौ महिने में पहुंचता है ? इस लिये क्या नैचुरल कैलेमिटीज फण्ड कायम करके यह रुपया सीधा डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट के जरिये नहीं दिया जा सकता है ?

Shri Shinde: The contention of the hon. Member is not true.

श्री तुलशीदास जाधव : स्टेटमेंट में महाराष्ट्र के लिये कोई अमाउण्ट नहीं है। तो क्या महाराष्ट्र स्टेट ने कुछ नहीं मांगा है ?

Shri Shinde: It is not a question of State-wise allocation, because there is a particular pattern which has been accepted by the Central Government, and if a State puts in a demand to the Government of India according to that scheme, it is generally granted. There is no question of discrimination.

Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad: In regard to parts (a) and (b) of the question, how is it that the answer could not be given in spite of the fact that floods took place long ago? Have the State Governments made any assessment or not?

Shri A. M. Thomas: In fact, we have been receiving *ad hoc* reports from them. After the receipt of this question, we addressed the various State Governments with regard to the points contained in it, and we have received replies from the States of Bihar, Madras, Orissa, Punjab and West Bengal. The other States have not answered. U.P. has been affected considerably by floods. We are still awaiting information from them. All States have been addressed in the matter.

Teaching of Agriculture in Rural Institutes

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*162. { Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that a high level Committee appointed by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture has disagreed with the views expressed by the Second Joint Indo-American Team on teaching of agriculture in rural institutes in India; and

(b) if so, the main recommendations of the Committee?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement giving the required information is placed on the Table of the Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No 34].

श्री विभूति मिश्र : स्टेटमेंट को देखने से पता चलता है कि जो ऐग्रीकल्चरल सेंटर्स हैं उनको आप ऐग्रीकल्चर कालेजों में कंबर्ट करने जा रहे हैं। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह से देश में कितने कालेज खुलेंगे ?