

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Tuesday, November 17, 1959/Kartika
26, 1881 (Saka).*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the
Clock.*

[Mr. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Damage to Crops by Floods and Drought

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*35. { Shri Ram Shankar Lal:
Shri Shree Narayan Das:
Shri Sadhan Gupta:
Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
Shri M L Dwivedi:
Shri S M Banerjee:
Shri Tangamani:
Shri Panigrahi:
Shri C. K. Bhattacharya:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Anirudh Sinha:
Shri Dhanagar:
Shri N E Muniswamy:
Shrimati I'a Palchoudhuri:
Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
Shri Sarju Pandey:
Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
Sardar Iqbal Singh:
Shri A K. Gopalan:
Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan:
Shri Subiman Ghose:

Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to lay a statement on the Table showing

(a) the over-all position with regard to the various crops in view of the recent drought followed by excessive rains and floods in the country and how far it has affected the food situation;

(b) whether any assessment has been made as to the damage suffered

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in crops and cattle-heads as a result of drought and floods in the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof (State-wise), and

(d) the details of Central assistance, asked for and given in this regard (State-wise)?

The Deputy Minister of Agriculture (Shri M. V. Krishnappa): (a) Information regarding the over-all position of various crops as a result of the recent drought or floods will become available only in March-April, 1960, on the issue of the All-India final estimates for major Kharif crops

(b) and (c) Most of the State Governments and Union Territories have not so far been able to make any assessment of the damage suffered in crops and cattle-heads as a result of drought and floods during the current year. Necessary information in this connection will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it becomes available

(d) No Central assistance in connection with the recent damage by drought or floods has been asked for.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: May I know to what extent the Damodar Valley Corporation proved useful in preventing these floods?

Shri M. V. Krishnappa: That is not for me to say. It is for the Irrigation Ministry to say, but we had very severe floods in West Bengal this year and the price was affected by the floods

Shrimati Neelu Chakravarty: May I know whether it is a fact that the West Bengal Government has asked the Centre for supply of seeds so that the new Baro crop can be produced in the State of West Bengal?

The Minister of Food and Agriculture (Shri S. K. Patil): So far as the needs of West Bengal in the matter of

seeds are concerned, we had issued instructions some weeks ago, from wherever we could get them they could be supplied and I think a considerable portion has been supplied.

श्री ए० ए० हिबेरी मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने विभिन्न राज्यों को क्या सहायता दी है ?

श्री ए० ए० पाटिल उसहायता अब मागी जाती है तब पहुँचाने की बात आती है। हमारे रिप्लाई में कहा गया है कि उनके पास से कोई माग नहीं आई है।

Shrimati Ha Falchoudhuri: As cattle has been badly affected, may I know whether the Central Government will do something about saving the cattle and sending cattle fodder to West Bengal, because that has also, I understand, been asked for?

Shri S. K. Patil: The House must understand that primarily and mainly it is the responsibility of the State Governments. The Central Government comes in only when they ask for it and when they are not, on their own, able to get it. Now, so far as the particular question of cattle is concerned, any demand that might have come from the West Bengal Government was attended to and would be attended to.

श्री एच देव माननीय मंत्री यहोवच ने अभी प्रश्न के उत्तर में यह कहा कि सभी स्टेट्स की तरफ से इस सम्बन्ध में कोई सूचना नहीं मिली है। तो हिमाचल प्रदेश तो बहुत जल्दी हिम से ढक जायेगा। यदि वहाँ की फसल नष्ट हो गई है और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से कोई इतला नहीं आई है तो केन्द्रीय सरकार वहाँ के लोगों के खाने पीने का क्या प्रबन्ध कर रही है, क्योंकि हिमाचल तो केन्द्रीय सरकार की जिम्मेदारी है ?

श्री ए० ए० पाटिल . यह तो हिमाचल प्रदेश की जिम्मेदारी है। उस के पास खाने पीने के लिये होगा, नहीं तो वह हम को लिखती। हम से जिस सहायता की अपेक्षा होती है वह देने के लिये हम हमेशा तयार रहते हैं।

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: May I know whether any demand for seeds has come from Bihar State that they were not supplied in time and have not been supplied so far?

Shri S. K. Patil: I have no information about the Bihar State Government as to whether any demand was made. But I could generally state the position. So far as seed is concerned, we have not got excess of seed for emergencies like that. For the first time we realised that emergencies might arise and seed has got to be kept. We had a little quantity, but we collected for the needs of West Bengal from other places. Wherever seed was available we have kept in view that for purposes like this, because emergencies recur time and again, and we can supply it. But so far as Bihar is concerned, I have no information just now.

Shri C K Bhattacharya: Has the attention of the hon Minister been drawn to a statement made by Shri T K Ghosh, Minister of Agriculture and Production in the West Bengal Cabinet as regards the damage to food-crops by the recent floods? He has made a statement about the total damage to food crops, so far as West Bengal is concerned, by the recent floods. Has the hon Minister studied it and, if so, what is his reaction to it?

Shri S. K. Patil: The better course for studying it is when the Minister writes to the Central Government. We do not pick up news from the newspapers and give our reaction. That is a bad way of doing things.

Shri Thirumala Rao: May I know if the Government have received any report from the Andhra Government

about the probable loss of foodgrains on account of heavy floods in the river Godavari and also the heavy rains in the West Godavari and Krishna districts and, if so, whether the hon. Minister will be able to state the extent of the loss?

Shri S. K. Patil: I do not know whether the Andhra Government has written anything. But the floods necessarily do not mean that all crops are destroyed. Sometimes floods are good and as a result of them even the crops come in. But so far as the particular need of Andhra is concerned, I do not think there is any grave need in Andhra and that such a contingency will arise.

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): May I intervene, Sir. I went to Andhra the other day and I was told that there has been undoubtedly loss in certain areas, but it is more than made up by the very good crops elsewhere.

Shri Tangamani: In view of the loss sustained in West Bengal, may I know whether the Government have made fresh allocations for agricultural loans and whether there was any such demand from the West Bengal Government?

Shri S. K. Patil: Surely any demand that is coming from West Bengal on this particular score is being attended to. There is no difficulty on that score.

Mr. Speaker: Hon. Members are putting questions as if this is the first Assembly to which directly these matters ought to be addressed. Hon. Members will get into touch with their counterparts in the State legislatures and find out what has been done in regard to these matters. Every hon. Member assumes that some demand has been made and the hon. Minister here says that had any demand been received he would have taken it up. Next question.

Some Hon. Members rose—

Mr. Speaker: I am sorry. Hon. Members must get into touch with the

Governments of their own States. These are State Governments also. I cannot allow any more questions.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Our fear is that the prices may go up because of the damage to crops.

Mr. Speaker: Order, order. Next question.

Buffer Stock of Foodgrains

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Shri Panigrahi:
 Pandit D. N. Tiwary:
 Shri M. L. Dwivedi:
 Shri Keshava:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Ram Krishan Gupta:
 Sardar Iqbal Singh:
 Shri Ajit Singh Sarhadi:
 Shri A. M. Tariq:
 Shri Surendra Mahanty:
 Shrimati Mafta Ahmed:
 Shri Kodiyan:
 Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
 Shri Dhanagar:
 Shri D. C. Sharma:
 Shri Sarju Pandey:
 Shri Hem Barua:
 Shri Narayanankutty Memon:
 Shri Punnoose:
 Shri A. K. Gopalan:
 Shri Ramakrishna Reddy:
 Shri N. R. Muniswamy:
 Shri Rameshwar Tanti:
 Shri Anirudh Sinha:
 Shri Aurobindo Ghosal:
 Pandit J. P. Jyotishi:
 Shrimati Ha Palchoudhuri:

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

(a) whether there is any proposal to build a buffer stock of foodgrains in the country,

(b) if so, the details thereof,

(c) whether there is a proposal to request the United States Government to store 5 million tons of their surplus foodgrains in India as a sort of Bank from which this country could draw during an emergency,

(d) whether any formal request in this regard has been made to the United States Government; and