

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: Yes; we have taken as many as six States including Bombay, West Bengal, Punjab, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh.

Floods

*199. **Shri Gidwani:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the approximate value of crops destroyed by floods and heavy rains during this year in Punjab, PEPSU, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and other States;

(b) whether there will be any deficit in food production as a result thereof;

(c) the Central aid given to the affected areas and the amount received from foreign countries in this respect;

(d) whether Government have assessed the loss of life and property and the number of cattle heads lost; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) to (e). A statement is laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha. [See Appendix I, annexure No. 50].

Sir, before any supplementaries are asked, I would like to make it clear that in statement (I) the figures given are those which have been supplied to us by the State Governments. We have not tried to interfere with them but it is apparent that they are, in most cases, grossly exaggerated.

Shri Gidwani: What will be the basis of correct assessment on which you can rely if the State Governments do not supply the correct information?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: These are first approximations. We have not received the detailed reports and calculations.

Shri Gidwani: When do Government expect to receive the exact calculations?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: In due course.

Shri Gidwani: The second part of the statement says:

"Though extensive damage has been caused to the crops in different States, from present indications it can be said that the overall production in the current season is not expected to show any significant variation from the previous season's output."

What is the basis for making that statement when the exact figures are not known?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: The basis is observation of crops all over the country.

Shri B. K. Das: May I know whether any information is available as to the estimated area in which any alternative crop is likely to be grown after the floods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I hope this is a general question so far as all the areas are concerned. There is no question of alternative crops in most places where the crops are not utterly destroyed, and some crop is grown. For instance, supposing wheat sowing is not possible, then barley is sown in Punjab and likewise the land in most places is utilised.

Sardar Hukam Singh: May I know whether complaints have come to the notice of Government that the district authorities have refused to associate members of non-Congress organisations in the distribution of relief even when those members offered their co-operation and when they are ready to give every help?

Shrimati Renu Chakravartty: That is usual.

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have not received any such complaint.

Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury: How much Central aid has been given to West Bengal for the floods?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: We have given a grant of Rs. 99.42 lakhs and a loan of Rs. 98.67 lakhs to West Bengal.

Sardar Iqbal Singh: Is Government aware of the fact that 500 to 1000 villages have been totally washed away in the Punjab and do Government propose to give any special grants to these villagers so that they can build new villages in those places?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: So far as we are concerned, there is ample provision in the rules. We have decided upon a policy for relief. The State Governments do it and we contribute our part which we have promised to give.

श्री हेम राज: जो प्राप न स्टेटमेंट समा के पटल पर रखा है उस में यह दिया गया है कि पंजाब में एक करोड़ रुपये की प्रापटी का नुकसान हुआ है, फसलों को पहुंचने वाले नुकसान का अभी तक पता नहीं है लेकिन उस में जो हमदाद दी गई है वह उस में पंजाब के लिये

बर्ल नहीं है, तो क्या मैं जान सकता हूँ कि पंजाब के लिये कोई इमदाद प्राज तक क्यों नहीं दी गई और यदि दी गई है तो कितनी दी गई है ।

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I hope the House will realise that there is no question of immediate aid. The State Governments have their own resources and they can spend out of them under any particular scheme. The actual passing of any financial aid will only arise when the State resources are insufficient. In due course accounts would be made up and whatever relief we promised to give them will be given. Merely because a particular State is not mentioned, that does not mean that we are not giving any assistance to that particular State.

Shri D. C. Sharma: Is the Government aware of the fact that on account of the recent floods large tracts of land have become unfit for cultivation? Have the Government thought out any plans for making them worth cultivating or will some other land be given to those persons who have suffered on account of that?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am sorry that I am not in a position to agree to the first part of the question that my hon. friend has put. To my knowledge no land has been rendered so unfit as not to be cultivable at all. Of course, the crop may vary; it may not be so good as otherwise it might have been. But, so far as my information goes, most of the lands which were flooded even in Punjab are cultivable either by wheat or by barley.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Are Government aware that scores of villages have been eroded in Bihar and the inhabitants of those villages have no other land to settle on? Are Government doing anything for those villagers who have no lands, to acquire land and give them?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I have no information with respect to this. The State Government has not made any reference to this.

श्री हेम राज : क्या यह सही है कि यह जो बाढ़ देश में आई और जिस बाढ़ में बहुत सारी जगहें बह गई हैं और पंजाब में ऐसे लोग जिन के पास कोई जमीन नहीं रही है, उन के लिये सरकार क्या इस किस्म का कोई बंदोबस्त करेगी कि जिन के पास जमीनें थीं और जिन की सारी की सारी जमीनें बाढ़ के कारण बह गई हैं, उन को जमीन देने का बंदोबस्त हो ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : धर्मो तक वह सवाल हमारे सामने पेश नहीं हुआ है लेकिन सूबे की गवर्नमेंट अगर हम से इस के बारे में पूछेगी तो हम देखेंगे कि हम उन के लिये क्या कर सकते हैं ।

Sardar Hukam Singh: Is the information supplied by the Punjab Government that no areas have been rendered uncultivable absolutely?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I based the reply I have given on a talk which I had with the Development Minister of Punjab; and, he told me that about 5 to 10 per cent of the area which was under floods may not be dry enough for being cultivated with wheat but that it would be possible to cultivate it with barley. It was not mentioned that any land was so badly eroded that no crop can be raised. I do not however, deny the possibility.

शेठ बख्त सिंह : क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाने की कृपा करेंगे कि उत्तर प्रदेश के फ्लड कंट्रोल के वास्ते और रिलीफ एंड के वास्ते हम कितनी कितनी इमदाद देते हैं ?

डा० पी० एस० देशमुख : हम जो मदद देना चाहते हैं वह जो हम ने नियम बनाये हैं उस के मुताबिक देते हैं । इस के अलावा प्राइम मिनिस्टर के फंड से और इंडियन पीपल्स फेमिन ट्रस्ट फंड से देते हैं । यू० पी० की प्राइम मिनिस्टर के रिलीफ फंड से ५ लाख, २७ हजार और २०८ रुपये और फेमिन फंड से ३३ हजार रुपये दिये हैं । इस के अलावा जो हम और रिलीफ देते हैं उस का हिसाब मेरे पास नहीं है ।

Shri B. K. Das: May I have a break-up of the value of food crops and other crops that have been destroyed?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I am not sure whether the Government has been supplied with these break-ups. I want notice.

Shri Ramchandra Reddi: May I ask whether the Government have considered the need for building a permanent Flood Relief Fund?

Dr. P. S. Deshmukh: I hope, Sir, that no necessity for creating a Flood Relief Fund would arise—at least of a permanent nature. I do not expect the floods to be permanent.