

Minister what are the chief recommendations. He has said in his reply that the recommendations are under consideration. ●

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Until they are considered by Government, they will not be published. I understand it. If it is possible for me to understand it, why cannot the hon. Members understand it. So long as a report that is submitted to Government is not considered by Government, and until it is considered by Government, it is not usual to publish the report or the recommendations.

Shri K. K. Basu: Then he could have said so.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Next question.

Shri K. G. Deshmukh: Question No. 1303, Sir.

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): May I suggest that question No. 1307 also may be taken along with this? It refers to the same subject.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: Yes. Question No. 1307 also may be answered together with this.

FAILURE OF CROPS IN BERAR

*1303. **Shri K. G. Deshmukh:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Minister for Agriculture, Government of India found, in his recent visit to Berar division of Madhya Pradesh, that the food and commercial crops have totally failed in some districts in that area?

(b) What assurance the Minister has given to the famine-stricken people who had approached him during his visit in the area mentioned in part (a) above?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) The Minister for Agriculture recently toured the Achalpur Tahsil in the Amravti District and the Tahsils of Jalgaon Khamgaon and Malkapur in Buldhana. Jowar and cotton crops have been considerably damaged for want of last rain.

I would like to add that the State Agriculture Minister accompanied me in my tour of Amravti District and the State Revenue Minister toured Buldhana District a day after me.

(b) None. I believe in rendering assistance without giving assurances.

FOOD SCARCITY IN MADHYA PRADESH

*1307. **Shri Bhatkar:** (a) Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state whether he has visit-

ed the scarcity areas in Amravati and Buldhana districts in Berar in Madhya Pradesh?

(b) What steps have the State Government taken to relieve distress?

(c) Is it a fact that the inhabitants of certain villages had to leave their villages owing to scarcity of drinking water?

(d) What steps have the Central Government taken to relieve the distress there?

The Minister of Agriculture (Dr. P. S. Deshmukh): (a) Yes.

(b) A statement showing the steps taken by the State Government to relieve distress in the affected areas is placed on the Table of the House.

(c) Some cases of this nature were reported to the Minister during his tour.

(d) It is for the State Government to both suggest and implement measures and any possibility of the Central Government giving assistance to the State Government would be examined if a reference to that effect is received. The State Government is aware of the situation and has already taken some steps in this direction.

STATEMENT

The State Government have taken following measures to relieve distress in the affected areas:—

- (i) Suspension or remission of land revenue.
- (ii) Suspension of lease money under the Berar Regulation of Agricultural Leases Act.
- (iii) Postponement of the recovery of instalments of *taccavi*.
- (iv) Liberal advance of *taccavi*.
- (v) Postponement of the execution of civil court decrees.
- (vi) Grant of forest concessions regarding free removal of forest produce etc.
- (vii) Arrangement for supply of fodder.
- (viii) Opening of relief works in the affected areas to provide employment.