

to percolate it through. Its imbalance should be erased and this imbalance should be eradicated. Otherwise, you cannot do anything.

I had called the Ministers from all the Eastern States; we had a conference after 1986. I told them that if they cannot march ahead with the time, then I think we have got no right to rule; we have got no right to do whatever is needed to be done. The simple fact remains that new strategies have to be evolved' more extension services have to be raised, more Krishi Vigyan Kendras have to be established, so that we can give proper knowledge, training to the farmers and they can apply the new techniques and everything else. That is why, we have to match our efforts with the needs which are facing us.

[*Translation*]

#### **Drought Prone Areas In Bihar**

45. SHRI RAM TAHAL CH-  
 OUDHARY:  
 SHRI LALL BABU RAI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the drought prone areas in Bihar;

(b) the relief work carried out in this areas during the last three years; and

(c) the funds allocated to Bihar by the Union Government during the said period?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE ( SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMCHANDRAN): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **STATEMENT**

(a) to (c). Fifty four Blocks in the Districts of Palamu (24), Monghyr (7), Rohtas (7), Nawada (9), and Santhal Paraganas (7), have been identified as Drought Prone Areas under the Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).

Government of Bihar had not reported any drought conditions in the State during 1990 and 1991. Due to the erratic and deficient rainfall during the Sought-West monsoon drought conditions have been reported in 29 Districts of Bihar during the current year. The relief measures undertaken by the State Government in this areas include :-

i) implementation of a Contingency Crop Plan,

ii) providing additional employment through earthwork schemes,

iii) reserving adequate diesel and electric supplies for irrigation purposes,

iv) providing drinking water in the affected areas,

v) providing gratuitous relief and opening of "Sasti Roti Ki Dukans",

vi) streamlining the Public Distribution Systems,

vii) measures for prevention of epidemics and for assured supply of essential medicines,

viii) ensuring adequate veterinary care and provision of fodder for the cattle.

An annual allocation Rs. 35 crores has been made under the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) to Bihar to be contributed by the Central and the State Government in the ratio of 3:1. The Central share of CRF for the

years 1990-91 and 1991-92 was released in full to the State Government. During the year 1992-93, in addition to the annual Central share of CRF amounting to Rs. 26.25 crores, an advance release two instalments of Central share amounting to Rs. 13.125 crores from the CRF of 1993-94 has also been made to enable the Government of Bihar to undertake relief measures in the drought affected areas.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the state of Bihar is in the grip of a severe drought and this time 45 lakh tonnes of crops worth about Rs. 220 crores have been damaged. Just now the hon. Minister has referred to the eight point plan making provisions for diesel, power, water etc., but so far as the situation in Bihar is concerned Palamau is faced with a serious situation and hundreds of people have died of starvation. [Interruption]

MR. SPEAKER : Please come to the question quickly.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY : I am coming to it. While the Kharif crops have been damaged, a good Rabi crop is also ruled out. The Government has distributed rupees one lakh each of the sub-divisions, but it is a negligible amount for sub-division where there are about 150 villages. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, the time by which eight point programme making provisions for diesel, water etc. and employ-

ment generation, would commence? As per my information, there is no power supply for eight to ten hours a day in Ranchi and other parts of Bihar. The situation is such that water supply won't be available to the people from the month of January. If the Government is serious about carrying out relief work, then I would like to know the time by which adequate allocation would be made to the State Government and the work would be commenced. No work has been taken up so far.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member is aware that this matter has been discussed several times in the house and has been answered during the question Hour also. As per the parameters laid down by the Ninth Finance Commission, money from the Calamities Relief Fund is allocated to the States in four equal instalments. Accordingly, it is the State Government's responsibility to oversee relief work and provide assistance to the affected people. It is the State Government's responsibility to arrange for power supply and its distribution. Apart from that I would say that we have not shirked our responsibility in any manner, whatsoever. We have given due consideration to the matters brought before us. I have got the figures with me and we have released maximum possible funds from the Calamities Relief Fund. Now I will place the figures before the House.

[English]

(Rs. in crores)

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Calamity Relief Fund (As on 1.10.92)

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Annual allocation	35.00
Unspent balance on 31.3.92	43.77
Amount available upto 1.10.92	26.25

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*Calamity Relief Fund (As on 1.10.92)*

Total amount available in CRF as on 1.10.92	70.02
Advance release of CRF after the visit of the Central team	19.68
Total funds available in Calamity Relief Fund	89.70
Funds available to Bihar State for drought management of various ongoing development programmes:	
Minor STW/TWD Schemes	12.00
Wheat/Maize Programmes	15.00

*[ Translation ]*

Rs. 10 crore for N.W,D.P.R.A. , Rs. 31 crore for Soil Conservation scheme and Rs.90crore for Jawahar Rozgar Yojana have been allotted. These funds are lying with them. It is their duty to utilise these funds properly. If all of us carry out our job, the problem can be solved.

SHRIRAMTAHAL CHOUDHARY : Just now it has been stated in the reply that Bihar Government has received Rs.26 crore where as the loss is of about Rs.200 crore. The Government of Bihar has asked for Rs.1200 crore for relief works. I would like to know what amount is being released to carry on the relief works properly. Would you like to constitute committees at district and block levels to check the misutilisation of relief funds? In Ranchi, the farmers are not getting diesel. With the result, irrigation is not being done.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The Agriculture Ministry has provided whatever relief it could provide. One team visited there. It has submitted its report to the Government. As regards diesel, electricity, proper utilisation of funds and other questions, we don't have any means to check them. It is the responsi-

bility of the State Governments. They should do this job.

SHRILAL BABU RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am not satisfied with the reply given by the hon. Minister. He has submitted the report relating to only 29 drought affected districts of Bihar whereas in Bihar 43 districts are severely affected by drought. I would like to know from the Government the time by what time it will provide funds asked by the Government of Bihar to meet the drought situation in the State?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Demand has always been on the high side but we provide to the possible extent. Whatever was possible we have released. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : It was not the question of 49 districts but there were 55 blocks. All are drought prone areas. It is not the question of only today's drought situation.....

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : What Mr. Nitish Kumar is saying is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Nitish Kumar, it is not going on record.

(Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : See, I have already said that we would discuss; it later on, you should sit down now.

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister that at present entire Bihar is experiencing famine and one lakh people have migrated from Palamu district and 40 people have died due to starvation. All these things have appeared in newspapers but our hon. Minister of Agriculture is reiterating time and again that he will provide whatever he can. I would like to know whether he is speaking on behalf of Cabinet or the Central Government. Many people have died due to starvation in Palamu district and this has started in many more districts of Bihar. Lakhs of people are migrating from Bihar to other states for earning their livelihood. I would like to know whether Central Government is contemplating to take any action to save them from starvation?

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is already replied.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will provide whatever is available with me. I do want to help them. If there is any delay on our part you can mention it. I have made advance release and I am still ready to make advance release from whatever is available with me. I am not bothered about the things being said here because I want to help but I can do it within the limited resources available with me. I can do it only

when the funds are available with me. Presently, it has occurred in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Pondicherry and Orissa. I am ready to release the funds whatever are allotted by the Government.

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whenever there is drought or flood in Bihar or natural calamities in any part of India, my observation is that in India and especially in Bihar the problem is due to water management. To get rid of drought and flood in Bihar, the Government of India has entered into an agreement with Nepal. Under the agreement, there is a programme of constructing dams and barrages over all the rivers. If these are constructed, all the problems relating to agriculture, irrigation, flood and drought in Bihar can be solved. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government intends to implement the agreement to protect Bihar from drought permanently or not?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Sir, its reply can only be given by the Department of Irrigation. Better you ask them.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question raised by my hon. colleague relates to only 29 districts of Bihar which are under drought prone areas but the entire Bihar is reeling under drought. What action the Government has taken to meet the situation? Secondly, you have said that money is given from the Drought Relief Fund. It means that the money given to the Government of Bihar will be deducted from that fund. I would like to ask the Government whether it is allocating funds from the Plan Allocation Budget or providing extra funds to the State Government?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : The ratio of money provided for natural calamities by the Central and State Government is in the ratio of 2:1. But Rozgar Yojana is different thing. It is to provide work. There can be any

\*Not recorded.

method for doing the work so that it may be done in time. The work which is to be performed later on can be done earlier. Mr. Paswan, you know, the State Governments had stressed and got the policy passed that the Central Government has no right in this regard. It should come under the purview of State Governments. The State Governments will incur expenditure at their own will. It was decided accordingly. You know, when there was a famine in 1987-88 the Central Government had incurred the expenditure of Rs. 600 crore in a State. Now I have no spare funds. You should understand my compulsions. Either the State Governments of the Central Government should change the policy. Only then it can be resolved. I have not delayed even for a single minute in granting funds whatever were available with me.

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the Central Government that when there is severe drought situation in Bihar and 40-50 people have died due to starvation, then is it not the responsibility of the Government of India to protect the people of Bihar from starvation? What action has been taken in this regard by the Central Government?

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR :** As I have already told that we have done our level best and 30,000 tonnes additional quantity of wheat has been released for this purpose. The remaining states have also their own problems. I have to deal with them at per. I am unable to do anything more than this.

**SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have not received the reply of my question. I have asked whether the Government of India is accountable or not for starvation death of 40-50 people in Bihar ..... (*Interruptions*) .....

**SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR :** We have provided assistance to the maximum pos-

sible extent. We have done whatever was possible. Rest will be done by the State Governments.

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### WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*Translation*]

#### Old age Homes

\*46. **SHRI VISHWANATH SHASTRI:**  
**SHRI JEEWAN SHARMA:**

Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of old age homes constructed in Delhi so far;

(b) the number of old persons kept in these homes and the facilities being provided to them;

(c) whether the Government propose to construct more old age homes in Delhi; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

**THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI) :** (a) One.

(b) At present there are 30 inmates in this Home. They are provided free lodging/boarding, clothing etc. In addition, counselling, medical care and recreational services are also provided.

(c) and (d). Another Old age Home is under construction in Netaji Nagar, New Delhi.