

(b) and (c) The film "RAM TERI GANGA MAILI" has been granted 'U' certificate subject to cuts, as the Board considered the film suitable for unrestricted public exhibition. The film 'MASTERJI' has been granted 'UA' certificate subject to cuts, as the Board considered it necessary to caution the parents or guardian as to whether children below the age of twelve may be allowed to see the film or not.

Drought in Maharashtra and Karnataka

92. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL :
 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :
 SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISSHANAN :
 SHRI R.M. BHOYE :
 SHRI PRAKASH V. PATIL :
 PROF. RAMKRISHNA MORE :
 SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the most severe drought conditions prevailing in many Districts of Maharashtra and Karnataka;

(b) Whether the State Governments have approached Union Government for financial assistance and if so, particulars thereof;

(c) what short-term and long-term steps/measures Government propose to take to tackle this serious problem particularly faced by farmers;

(d) Whether a Central team visited the States to assess the losses of crop and cattle; and

(e) If so, the details of the report of the term ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the latest Memorandum submitted by the Governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka 14 districts in Maharashtra and 17 in Karnataka have been affected by drought.

(b) The State Governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka have submitted Memorandum for Central assistance in the wake of drought twice during the financial year 1985-86.

(c) A number of long term measures have been taken by the Government of India for reducing incidence and intensity of drought conditions. These measures include increasing the areas under irrigation, Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Soil and Water Conservation Programme, dryland farming, crop insurance, afforestation, development of improved and drought resistant variety of seeds, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, Drinking Water Programme and Small and Marginal Farmers Assistance Programme.

(d) and (e) A Central team visited drought affected areas of Maharashtra in response to first Memorandum received from State Government for central assistance. On the basis of the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon a sum of Rs. 34.50 crores has been sanctioned to Maharashtra as central assistance. In response to second Memorandum a Central team is likely to visit the State shortly

Two Central teams have visited Karnataka during this year. On the basis of the reports of Central teams and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon a sum of Rs. 53.31 crores has been sanctioned to Karnataka for drought relief measures.

Purchase of Seeds from Private Parties by West Bengal Government

93. SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have received any information that the State Government of West Bengal is buying seeds from private parties for distribution to the