

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :
SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of serious drought situation prevailing in various States in the country due to the failure of rains during the period April to June 1985;

(b) the estimated loss of crops which have been destroyed/damaged as a result thereof;

(c) whether any central team has visited the affected States, if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) whether any relief has since been provided by Central Government to the drought affected States and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh have reported drought conditions during April to June, 1985 and sought Central assistance.

(b) According to the reports received from these States, crop over an area of 105.48 lakh ha. have been adversely affected due to drought during this period.

(c) and (d). The Central Teams have visited the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, J and K, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra und Uttar Pradesh. The request of Government of Rajasthan has been received recently and is under process. A ceiling of Central assistance of Rs. 181.71 crores has been sanctioned to these States as details given below :

Name of State	Amount (in crores)
1	2
Andhra Pradesh	30.80
Haryana	9.21
Jammu and Kashmir	4.12

1	2
Karnataka	22.16
Madhya Pradesh	26.04
Maharashtra	29.46
Punjab	8.14
Uttar Pradesh	51.78
Total	181.71

The report of the Central Team on drought in Himachal Pradesh is under process. However, in the meanwhile, ways and means advance of Rs. 15.00 crores has been released. The Government of Madhya Pradesh have requested for additional Central assistance which is under consideration.

[English]

Soil Erosion in Rajasthan

984. SHRI JUJHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the impact of Soil erosion due to rains in Rajasthan is the highest in Kota Division, if so, details thereof;

(b) whether the rate of soil-erosion has increased as a result of defective Land-use policy and allotment of marginal land for agricultural use in the past two decades;

(c) whether Rajasthan or the Government of India conducted any survey of increasing soil-erosion in Rajasthan; and

(d) if so, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) No specific surveys have been conducted in Rajasthan to establish that the impact of soil erosion in Kota Division is the highest. However, Kota Division is predominantly affected by the special problem of revines.

(b) As per available information, the problem of wind erosion in the arid zone of Rajasthan has increased during the past two decades due to the following factors :

- (i) Extension of cultivation in the lands having unfavourable soil and climatic conditions;
- (ii) Intensive farming of the vulnerable lands, particularly the sand dunes;
- (iii) Frequent ploughing operations using tractors resulting in elimination of stabilisation of area with vegetal cover and thereby making prone to wind erosion.

(c) and (d). The All India Soil and Land Use Survey has conducted Rapid Reconnaissance Surveys for locating highly eroding watersheds and Detailed Soil Surveys to support soil conservation activities in the catchments of Chambal, Dantiwada, Mahi and Sahibi falling in Rajasthan. Out of the total area of 25.83 lakh ha. surveyed in these catchments so far, an area of 6.02 lakh ha. (23.0%) is critically eroding.

Scraping of Ceiling under Bonus Act

985. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have a proposal under their consideration to scrap the ceiling under the payment of Bonus Act; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI T. ANJIAH) : (a) At present no such proposal is under consideration of the Central Government.

(b) Does not arise.

Slashing of Allocation of Funds for Poverty Alleviation Programmes

986. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA :
SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :
SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the planning Commission has slashed considerably the Seventh Plan outlay for the poverty alleviation programmes compared to the demand made by the

Ministry as well as percentage of allocation in the Seventh Plan for rural development programmes;

(b) if so, the details thereof and how Government propose to divide the allocation for various programmes;

(c) whether the Rural Development Ministry has asked the Planning Commission to re-consider its decision for heavy cuts in anti-poverty scheme; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) to (d). The Seventh Five Year Plan has not yet been finalised. The Ministry is in touch with the Planning Commission with regard to the outlays for the poverty alleviation programmes.

Floods in Assam and Tripura

987. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the details and losses suffered on account of recent floods in some districts of Assam and Tripura; and

(b) steps taken to help the victims of flood ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) The information on damages due to recent floods in States of Assam and Tripura, received from the State Governments on the basis of preliminary assessment, is indicated in the statement given below.

(b) The Governments of these 2 States have taken immediate rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the affected areas. These steps include opening of relief camps, distribution of food and medical items, gratuitous relief, assistance for house buildings, etc. Pending receipt of Memorandum from the State Government of Assam, Rs. 13.50 crores was sanctioned as Ways and Means Advance including Centre's share of 50% of