

Society as a mark of protest against certain policy decisions in respect of newspaper industry;

(b) if so, the specific issues that evoked the protest; and

(c) Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) : (a) Reports to this effect appearing in the Press have come to the notice of the Government.

(b) According to the Press reports, the closure had been called for as a mark of protest against the alleged arbitrary policy of the Government in the matter of allowing higher quantum of Interim Relief to the Newspaper Employees, increase in news-print prices, low rates for Government advertisements, etc.

(c) The Government is fully committed to the growth of a free Press in the country and has been taking all possible steps in a rational manner for its overall development within the constraints posed by limited availability of country's resources.

[*Translation*]

**Assistance to States for drought relief**

364. SHRI DILEEP SINGH  
BHURIA :

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY :

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD  
RAWAT :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of districts affected by severe drought in the country till June, 1986 State-wise;

(b) whether any Central team made any on-the-spot study of the areas affected and if so, the dates on which such studies were conducted;

(c) the amount of assistance recommended by Central team, State-wise; and

(d) the amount of Central assistance given, State-wise as also the amount of money spent by each of these States on that account by mobilising their own resources ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) State-wise information in respect of number of districts affected by drought during 1986-87 (till June, 1986), dates of the visits of the Central Teams and ceilings of expenditure approved so far, are given in the Statement given below. As regards, the details of the amount spent by the States by mobilising their own resources, information is being collected from concerned States and will be placed on the Table of the House, on receipt.

## Statement

S. No.	State	Number of Districts affected	Dates of visits of Central Teams	Ceiling of expenditure approved for utilization in 1986-87 (Rs. in Crores)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	19	3-7th May, 1986	**
2.	Gujarat	16	19-21 May, 1986	35.00 50.65*
3.	Karnataka	18	—	30.05* 7.50 12.45@
4.	Maharashtra	15	11-14 May, 1986	** 21.68*
5.	Rajasthan	26	2-7 June, 1986	** 44.98* 15.00
6.	Tripura	3	Request considered by Inter-Ministerial Group on 27.5.86	0.29
7.	Madhya Pradesh	9	16-19 April, 1986	10.70

\* Sanction in 1985-86 for utilization in 1986-87 (June/July 86).

\*\* Sanction of further assistance under consideration.

@ Sanction is to be issued.