

(b) Although the above scheme does not involve use of bagasse and molasses, use of these materials is being made on a large scale as drought feed. 10% of the total production of molasses is now reserved for livestock feeding and Department of Chemicals & Petrochemicals have made special inter-State allocation of molasses for feeding livestock.

(c) FCI is releasing damaged wheat and rice for livestock feeding in drought affected areas.

Drought in Himachal Pradesh

343. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh have submitted a memorandum to Union Government demanding relief assistance to the tune of Rs. 204 crores for the damage caused to the crops by the recent drought;

(b) if so, the action taken by Union Government to meet the demand of the State Government including the recommendations of the central team; and

(c) the time by which the State will be given the full amount of financial assistance ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) The Government of Himachal Pradesh has sought through two memoranda Central assistance of Rs. 274.63 crores for drought relief measures including the assistance sought in the wake of damage to crops.

(b) A central team visited Himachal Pradesh between 11th and 15th September, 1987. Based on the report of the Central team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. Rs. 18.114 crores has been approved for drought relief in Himachal Pradesh. This includes Rs. 1.91 crores for agriculture/horticulture input subsidy. In

addition to this, Rs. 9.00 lakh for increasing vegetable production and Rs. 55.00 lakh for completion of irrigation projects have been approved under drought relief programmes.

(c) Central assistance is released on the basis of expenditure incurred by the State and reported to the Centre. On the State incurring expenditure according to the ceiling approved, full assistance would be available to the State.

Provision of drinking water in drought affected areas

344. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any special stress has been laid on the provision of drinking water in drought affected States during the current financial year;

(b) if so, the exact amount allocated for this purpose to Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, J&K and Delhi during the current financial year;

(c) whether any extra amount would be allocated to these States during the remaining years of Seventh Five Year Plan for completion of various drinking water supply schemes and the augmentation of the existing schemes which have become inadequate in view of increase in population or the reduction in quantity of water/lowering of water level so as to eliminate the effect of drought; and

(d) whether extra funds would also be provided for under-taking under-ground drilling for tubewells in such areas where the water levels has gone down and if so, the nature thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The exact amount released as adhoc assistance as ways and means advance to combat scarcity of drinking water due to current drought and purchase