

Drought Relief Work in Tamil Nadu

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*2. SHRIMATI PARVATHI
KRISHNAN:

SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount programmed and proposed to be spent by Central Government on drought-relief works in Tamil Nadu during 1977;

(b) whether Government have received representations regarding inadequacy of the amount and for increase in the amount for relief; and

(c) if so, the extent to which the amount programmed for relief is proposed to be enhanced on the basis of such representations?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a) There is no programme of Central Government expenditure on drought relief work in Tamil Nadu during 1977.

(b) Government has received no representation from Tamil Nadu Government as yet.

(c) Does not arise.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, question No. 6 can also be taken up together.

MR. SPEAKER: No, please. It is a separate question.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: The drought situation in Tamil Nadu has been quite serious and it has been brought to the notice of the Government even on the floor of this House when President's Address was being discussed. Secondly, all drought relief work came to a stand-still on the 31st of March. In the villages of the majority of the districts even drinking water is not available. What does Government propose to do about the relief work for the people of Tamil Nadu and what is the perspective for them?

The reply that no money has been spent and nothing is being done is shocking.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: I think the hon. member has misunderstood my reply. I said that this Government has received no proposal from Tamil Nadu Government as yet for assistance.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: This Government has been the Government of Tamil Nadu from 23rd of March.

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: There still exists the Tamil Nadu Government and the formal proposal from Tamil Nadu Government has not yet come. For the satisfaction of the hon. Member I would like to say that I have received information from the Tamil Nadu Government that they are going to spend in 1977-78 Rs. 739.24 lakhs on drinking water supply schemes and employment oriented scheme. We have received no request from Tamil Nadu Government to give them any further plan assistance.

SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: The question was not whether the request from Tamil Nadu Government has been received but the question was that Government received representations and representations had been made on the floor of the House when the debate on Tamil Nadu Budget was made in the last Session. The whole issue is being evaded. Here the Government is responsible to the people. Answers have to be given here in this House because Tamil Nadu is under President's Rule. I would like to know the schemes that are being undertaken, apart from drinking water scheme, I would like to know whether the schemes for drought relief are to create lasting asset or not. Has the Government gone into it? If not, why is this delay being caused?

SHRI BIJU PATNAIK: The State Government of Tamil Nadu has approved the following scheme for execu-

tion during 1977-78 in the drought affected area.

Drinking water supply scheme *Amount*

1. Bore Well (2547)	Rs. 241.97 lakhs
2. Pipe water supply	100.00 „
3. Deepening of drinking water wells	24.00 „

Employment oriented scheme :

4. Afforestation	3.64 lakhs
5. Soil conservation	45.54 „
6. Fair weather roads	98.96 „
7. Special minor irrigation programme	76.89 „
8. Accelerated minor irrigation programme	148.24 „
TOTAL	739.24 „

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would like to know from the Minister whether it is not a fact that during this one year of President's Rule before the results of the Lok Sabha elections were announced, the drought relief funds were utilised by the Administration for election purposes. Congress Party volunteers were recruited and used for election purposes.

MR. SPEAKER: Do not use the Question Hour for this.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I have been in Tamil Nadu and I can tell you that youth congress volunteers, congress volunteers were on the pay roll of the Government to work for the Congress party in election and all was budgeted in drought relief. Will the Minister order a probe into the expenditure?

MR. SPEAKER: Next question.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: May I know why have you not allowed this question?

MR. SPEAKER: You may ask a separate question.

Storage of Foodgrains by F.C.I. in Open Place

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SHRI K. A. RAJAN:

*3. **SHRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM:**

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether about 5 million tonnes of the foodgrains stock with the FCI is being stored in open place;

(b) whether this is getting deteriorated and becoming unfit for human consumption; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and what measures are being taken to increase the off-take from F.C.I.?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI BIJU PATNAIK): (a). Yes, Sir, under Cover and Plinth (CAP) Storage.

(b) and (c). A statement is placed on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

CAP storage is only a short term and emergent measure. There is likely to be some damage to the grains due to floods, cyclones etc. However, every precaution is taken to prevent such a damage.

The important measures taken to increase offtake of food-grains, are:

(a) The demands of the State Governments for allotment of wheat and milo from the Central Pool are being met in full. The State Governments have also been authorised to place indents for issue of wheat and milo directly on the Food Corporation of India in anticipation of formal allotment from Food Department. Allotment of rice is also being made to the deficit States liberally.

(b) All the State Governments have been further advised:

(i) That the existing scale of ration be increased for the time being from the present level of 8 Kgs. per month to 12 Kgs. per head per month, the extra