

Relief Measures to Drought affected Areas

69. SHRI JAI NARAYAN ROAT: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state the relief measures provided to the drought affected areas this year by the Central Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): The following measures have been taken by the Central Government for assisting the State Governments to meet the drought situation:

(1) Right from May, 1982, the State Governments were advised about the need for preparing contingency plans on drought. Suitable guidelines on drought management was communicated to the State Governments for appropriate action. States were requested to activate the Crop Weather Watch Group and Internal Departmental Coordination Committees at the block, district and state levels and to keep liaison with the Meteorological Department, Irrigation, Electricity, Agricultural Universities and other agencies;

(2) The States were urged to give continuous power supply to farmers for atleast 8—10 hours per day during the kharif season;

(3) The State Governments were advised to make optimum use about the available irrigation water in the reservoirs for crop production purposes;

(4) For conservation of cattle population the States have been advised to draw contingency plans on the basis of the detailed guidelines formulated by the Ministry of Agriculture;

(5) A total of Rs. 113.5 crores have been released as short-term loan for purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs to the farmers;

(6) At the request of the Government of West Bengal a Central team

visited between the 8—10th August, 1982. On the basis of its report and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, the Government of India have sanctioned a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 24.77 crores for relief and rehabilitation of the people affected;

(7) The Central teams have visited the drought affected areas in Bihar, Orissa and U.P. Central assistance will be sanctioned soon after considering the reports of the Teams;

(8) The Government of India is assisting the State Governments in general with 100 per cent assistance to implement the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme (ARWP). During the current year a provision of Rs. 120 crores under ARWP has been allotted. Of this the first instalment of Rs. 60.24 crores have been released to the various State Governments;

(9) Under the N.R.E.P., allocation of Rs. 82.80 crores have been released to the State Governments who have been advised that the programme may be concentrated in the areas affected by drought conditions.

Investment in IX Asian Games

70. SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of countries participating in the IX Asian Games at Delhi from November 19 to December 6, 1982;

(b) how much total amount would be invested in IX Asiad, 1982; and

(c) what is the ratio of investment of this amount in the works of permanent nature which would develop social, educational, cultural and economic aspects of the nation in general and Metropolitan city of Delhi in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SUPPLY AND OF THE DEPARTMENT OF SPORTS (SHRI BUTA SINGH): (a) 31 countries have confirmed their participation in the IX Asian Games, 1982.

(b) and (c). The overall estimate of expenditure to be borne by Government, as approved by it in November, 1980 for the Asian Games 1982, was placed at Rs. 54.83 crores (Rs. 36.83 crores for construction of new stadia and renovation of existing stadia, and Rs. 18 crores for other arrangements). However, according to indications available at present, the overall expenditure to be incurred by Government on Asian Games is likely to be of the tune of Rs. 62.04 crores (Rs. 44.85 crores on construction works, and Rs. 17.19 crores on other items).

Request from West Bengal for bearing cost of Anti-Erosion measures to contain Bhagirathi Ganga and Padma River in West Bengal

71. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government have urged the Central Government to ensure the substantial cost of the anti-erosion measures necessary to contain the Bhagirathi, the Ganga and the Padma in two districts, Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal;

(b) if so, details thereof;

(c) steps taken by Government thereon; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) and (b). In the Ganga Flood Control Board Meetings, during discussions with Union Minister for Irrigation, and also through forwarding a unanimous resolution adopted in West Bengal Legislative Assembly on 8-9-1980,

the West Bengal Government has been requesting the Central Government to bear the entire financial liability for taking up anti-erosion measures to protect area from erosion by river Ganga both upstream and downstream of Farakka Barrage. The assessed cost of such works is reported to be Rs. 239 crores. The nature of works comprise providing spurs, strengthening and maintenance of existing spurs revetments etc.

(c) and (d). Since flood control being a State subject, the responsibility for planning and execution of flood control works rests with the State Government and outlays required for this sector are provided for by the State Government in their respective annual plan budgets. The Central Government provides only block loans and grants for the State Plan as a whole. The Central Government, is, however, undertaking the bank protection works where Farakka Barrage Complex is affected or likely to be affected by the bank erosion along the Ganga.

Progress of Work on Indrabati Project in Orissa

72. SHRI RASA BIHARI BEHRA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of work of the Upper Indrabati Project of Kalahandi, Orissa;

(b) whether Central Government have asked the State Government to complete the work during the stipulated period; and

(c) the amount spent so far in the progress of work?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) Pre-construction works like approach roads, buildings, bridges etc., are in advanced stage of completion. Besides, work on excavation of foundation for dams, power house and con-