

Prime Minister had said that no forest should be destroyed for any project ; and

(d) if so, the stand of Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b). The statement in Financial Express of 28th June, 1984 refers to three projects of Chhotanagpur Division of Bihar. These are Latratu and Tapkara Reservoir Projects which are medium irrigation schemes taken up by the State and Koel-Karo Hydel Project which is proposed to be executed under the Central Sector.

Both the medium irrigation projects were accepted by the Planning Commission in 1981 and they are under construction. The Tapkara Project is expected to be completed during 1984-85 while Latratu Project will spill-over into the Seventh Plan. Reference to 600 hectares of forest land is presumably in connection with the Koel-Karo Hydel Project. This project was approved by the Planning Commission in 1976 and has been further cleared by the Government of India in 1981 for taking up as a Central Project. The Department of Environment has also cleared it from environmental angle in 1982. Permission under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for acquiring the forest land required for the project is yet to be obtained.

(c) and (d). Prime Minister has been emphasising on minimising environmental damage due to construction of projects and also on providing for compensatory afforestation wherever forest lands are to be essentially encroached upon.

Relief for Victims of Drought in Himachal Pradesh

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

(a) whether Government of Himachal Pradesh approached the Union Government for financial assistance to provide relief to the victims of drought in the summer of 1984 ;

(b) if so, the extent of damage reported by the State Government and the financial assistance sanctioned by Government to the State ;

(c) whether any Central team also visited the State to make an assessment of the damage ; and

(d) if so, the composition of this team, its findings and recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d). The Government of Himachal Pradesh submitted a memorandum (received on 6.5.84) on damages/losses caused by Natural calamities (Drought/Snow-avalanches/Storms etc.) to Rabi crops in 1984 seeking an assistance to the tune of Rs. 76.18 crores, which was reduced to Rs. 73.60 crores in a supplementary memorandum handed over to the Central Team. The extent of damages reported by the State Government vide their memorandum are as under :—

(i) No. of districts affected :	10
(ii) No. of villages affected :	14,740
(iii) Total cropped area affected :	5.22 lakh ha.
(iv) No. of lives lost :	28
(v) No. of cattle heads perished :	309
(vi) No. of houses damaged :	237
(vii) No. of cow-sheds damaged :	38
(viii) Loss to Public Property :	Rs. 6.961 crores.

A Central Team comprising Officers of Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Shipping and Transport and Planning Commission visited Himachal Pradesh between 19.6.84 to 23.6.84 and their report is awaited,