

12. Referring to the request of Chief Minister, Manipur for adequate allocation of rice, Prime Minister informed him that Union Food Minister had been requested to take a meeting with Chief Ministers of North Eastern region, Ministry of Food has been asked not to reduce the allocation of rice/wheat. The allocation for below poverty level would be as per the figures given by the Ministry of Food, the balance quantity of foodgrains would be given to State for people about the poverty level at normal price.

13. Prime Minister declared that 130 kms. stretch of road connecting the NH namely DAMRA-SIJUTHU-BAGHMARA would be declared as National Highway and Ministry of Surface Transport should take action.

14. The Vice-Chancellor, NEHU informed that in 1996-97 the grant of NEHU by UGC was reduced due to general budget cut. Prime Minister desired that Ministry of Human Resource Development should issue instructions to UGC on this so that the general cut should not apply to North East region.

15. The need for establishment of an Institute of Mass Communication under NEHU similar to Jamia Millia to be considered.

#### **Murari Committee Report**

33. SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the Murari Committee report recommending the cancellation of licenses issued to foreign fishing vessels to fish in Indian waters;

(b) whether Government are aware of the need for cancelling such licenses; and

(c) the details of the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In respect of the recommendation regarding cancellation of all permits issued for fishing by Joint Venture, Charter, lease and Test Fishing vessels, subject to legal process as may be required, it has been decided that these permits can be cancelled only for violation of the provisions of the MZI Act, 1981 or any rule or order made thereunder and/or the conditions stipulated in the approvals granted. Such action for cancellation or otherwise of approvals has to be decided in individual cases in consultation with the Ministry of Law.

#### **Crop Failure in Karnataka**

34. SHRI C.P.M. GIRIYAPPA :  
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :  
SHRI VIJAY SANKESHWAR :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several districts of Karnataka State are facing a serious situation due to crop failure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government of Karnataka has submitted a memorandum for immediate assistance of Rs. 400/- crores from the Union Government to combat the crop failure; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. As per the report submitted by the Government of Karnataka, Tumkur, Kolar, Chitradurga, Davanagere, Bijapur, Bagalkote, Raichur, Koppal, Bellary, Gulbarga, Bidar, Gadag, Mandya and Dharwad districts were adversely affected by damage to crops caused by untimely rains and pest attacks during 1997-98. The main crops affected were paddy, tur, cotton, sunflower, groundnut and safflower.

The State Government had submitted a Memorandum seeking additional financial assistance of Rs. 397 crore for providing relief to the affected farmers. A Central Team visited the affected areas in the State to assess the extent of damage and had submitted its report. Provision of additional financial assistance, if any, will be considered by the National Calamity Relief Committee in due course.

#### **Tibetan Issue**

35. SHRI ASHOK ARGAL :  
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have decided to take any initiative in connection with fast into death being undertaken by the members of Tibetan Youth Congress Since 10th March at Jantar-Mantar, Delhi;

(b) whether the Jawans of Rapid Action Force had arrested the hunger-strikers on 49th day their fast into death;

(c) whether the Government propose to take the initiative to present this matter in the UNO; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDAHRA RAJE): (a) to (d) Six Tibetans were on a hunger-strike at Jantar Mantar since March 10, 1998. In view of their deteriorating health, a team of doctors examined the six hunger-strikers, and based on their findings, three hunger-strikers were removed to the RML Hospital on April 25, 1998, and the remaining three were similarly removed on April 27, 1998. A second batch of Tibetans resumed the hunger strike thereafter. They called off the hunger strike on May 19, 1998.