

12.04 hrs

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[English]

Reported famine and drought conditions prevailing in various parts of the country due to failure of rains

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Development to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

“Reported : famine and drought conditions prevailing in various parts of the country due to failure of rains causing damage to crops, acute shortage of fodder and drinking water and the action taken by the Government in the matter,”

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUNTA SINGH) : In 25 out of 35 meteorological sub-divisions in the country, the rainfall was excess or normal during South West monsoon (June-September) 1984. The deficiency in the remaining 10 sub-divisions varied from 20% to 40%. The deficient sub-divisions are Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Hills of West Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, West Rajasthan, Marathwada, Vidarbha, Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Rayalseema and South Interior Karnataka. 36% of the total number of districts in the country had deficient or scanty rains. During the North East monsoon (October-December) 1984, which is important for South peninsula, the five sub-divisions i. e. Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalseema, Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry, South Interior Karnataka and Kerala were deficient. The winter rainfall in Northern, Western and Central India was highly deficient or scanty during January-February, 1985. The rainfall during March, 1985 was also scanty or highly deficient in the above parts of India.

Due to scanty and erratic behaviour of monsoon during 1984, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh reported dro-

ught conditions and submitted memoranda seeking Central assistance for drought relief. A total crop area of 320.84 lakh hectares, a population of 991.28 lakh and 308.15 lakh cattle have been reported to be affected by the drought.

On receipt of the memoranda of the State Government, the Central Teams were deputed to the above States for visiting the drought affected areas, detailed discussions with the State Government officials and examinations of the memoranda. On the basis of the reports of the Teams and the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, the total ceiling of Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 200.66 crores was sanctioned. However, during second fortnight of March 1985, Governments of Maharashtra and Karnataka submitted supplementary memoranda for Central assistance during 1985-86 to combat the continuing drought in these States. These memoranda are under examination.

The major components of the Central assistance for drought relief are supply of drinking water, nutrition programme as well as provision for fodder for cattle, employment generation, gratuitous relief, input assistance to small and marginal farmers, etc. About Rs. 54.00 crores for has been sanctioned for drinking water and Rs. 7.42 crores for fodder as parts of Central assistance to drought relief during 1984-85. The Government of India also assist the States under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply and Incentive Schemes. During 1984-85, the Government of India gave assistance of about Rs. 154 crores to these 8 States under these schemes. These States have also their own Minimum Needs Programme for ensuring supply of drinking water in rural areas.

The effect of drought on the crop production is also minimised by adopting contingent cropping. For example, due to drought in few States like, Rajasthan, etc., considerable part of wheat area has been diverted to Rape and Mustard, which require less water compared to wheat. The alternate strategies for crop planning in case of drought have been worked out by Indian Council of Agricultural Research and circulated amongst the States.

Long-term steps for tackling the drought have also been taken by the Government by

formulating a number of schemes, like, Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee programme, Scheme on Dryland Farming, etc. The DPAP covers 511 blocks in the country and during the Sixth Plan, Rs. 166.17 crores had been spent on this Programme. Under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes of DPAP and DDP, minor irrigation, afforestation and development of Pastures and soil and water conservation are the major components. Even under NREP and RLEGP, development of minor irrigation, soil and water conservations etc. are important elements.

The Meteorological Department also have set up nine Agro-metrological Centres in different States. They work in close collaboration with the State Governments and indicate their forecast etc. They also indicate forecast about monsoon in April. For winter rains also, they do forecast in January every year. The State Governments take appropriate action on the basis of these forecasts.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : I have heard the Hon-Minister with rapt attention. I cannot say about the severity of drought conditions in other States. I can talk about the severe conditions of drought in Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER : Plead their cases also.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Of course, I have equal sympathy with other States.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (ASKA) : He has not been briefed about other States.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : I have heard the Minister just now about other States.

So far as Karnataka is concerned, the drought has been extremely severe for the past two years. Particularly in 1984 the State faced one of the worst drought situations with as many as 15333 villages, spread over 133 Taluks in 16 districts, reeling under its spell. The total human population in the affected rural areas is 142.63 lakhs and the affected cattle population is estimated at 82.90 lakhs. The number of families of small and marginal farmers affected is 13.42 lakhs

and the number of agricultural labourers is 19.28 lakhs.

The State Government launched a massive relief programme by extending all possible help to the people in the affected areas. The thrust in these relief works has been to ensure the following :

Employment for all.

Drinking water supply.

Supply of fodder for cattle ; and

Supply of adequate foodgrains.

The State Government has taken all necessary steps. It has done its best. It has not allowed a single cattle to die because of lack of fodder. Though the drought was severe, no human being suffered on account of it because of the steps taken by the State Government. But I am sorry to say that the assistance provided by the Central Government has been very scanty. The drought condition has not been there for the first time. In the previous years also it had been there. In 1984 the South-west monsoons and even the North-east monsoons have failed. The State Government has requested the Central Government for massive assistance. Out of its meagre resources the State Government cannot tackle this problem successfully. So, the Centre must come to its rescue. Just as a mother comes to the rescue of an ailing child, it is the duty of the Central Government to come to the rescue of those States which are in difficulties.

Here I would like to give some of the figures about the assistance asked by the State Government and the assistance given by the Central Government. The State Government has sent four memoranda so far and it has asked for an assistance of nearly Rs. 209.50 crores. And they have got about Rs. 32.73 crores. Even that amount has not been fully paid. They have actually got Rs.25 crores only.

Now, I would like to mention a few major items. For employment generation the State Government has asked for an assistance of Rs. 43 crores in the first memorandum and Rs 40 crores in the first supplementary memorandum. So, in the first two memoranda they have asked for an assistance of Rs.83 crores. Out of this, the ceiling of expenditure approved by the Central Government is Rs.

18.75 crores. In the latest supplementary memorandum the State Government has asked for an assistance of Rs. 27 crores under the same heading. The major relief work that the State Government has undertaken in giving employment to all persons, because the crops have completely failed and there is no alternative. That is why guarantee of employment is given to all the able bodied persons. Even today four lakh persons are provided jobs and they are paid Rs. 6.50 per day, both men and women. The state is faced with the task of continuing the relief operations upto the end of June, 1985 till the onset of next monsoons. That is why, the State Government has asked for an assistance of Rs. 27 crores.

Because of the successive failure of monsoons the drinking water scarcity has become very very severe. The State Government has sanctioned digging of 15000 borewells. Even that work is going on a war footing.

The State Government has asked for funds for bore-wells in the rural areas. In the first memorandum they have asked for Rs.38 crores, in the second one they have asked for Rs. 6 crores and in the latest one they have asked for Rs.23 crores for the digging up of bore-wells. This also is a very important programme.

Another point is that out of the total demand of nearly Rs. 255 crores raised by the State Government, the Central Government has been able to give only Rs. 32.73 crores so far. Here, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the severity of drought in Karnataka. I will tell you how the crops have completely failed in the State. Out of 48% of the sown area in the State which has been affected by drought, rabi crop was affected to the extent of 65 per cent. As you know, rabi is a staple food in most parts of Karnataka and 65 per cent of this crop has been spoiled because of the failure of both the South-West and the North-East monsoons. Similarly, jowar crop has been affected to the extent of 43 per cent and groundnut crop to the extent of 60 per cent on account of widespread scarcity conditions. Even in the case of fodder, which is a very important commodity, and which has been affected badly, the State Government has taken all necessary steps like banning the export outside the State. For fodder, the

assistance given by the Central Government is only in respect of transport, they have not given permission for purchase of fodder. So, it is necessary that the State Government should be given permission for purchase of fodder. The Central Government have given only Rs. 25 crores to the State Government so far but the State Government has spent nearly Rs. 105 crores to tackle the situation. The State Government has been taking important steps in this regard. They have banned the export of fodder outside the State and have further authorised the Deputy Commissioners to purchase fodder to make it available to be supplied free of cost to the small and marginal farmers.

Another important step which the State Government has taken is that they have supplied agricultural inputs to small and marginal farmers under the mini-kit programme because first of all the State Government thought that though the *Kharif* crop had failed, *rabi* crop might be good. But since the State got less rains during September-October, mini-Kits were given to the agriculturists. It was thought that these may be useful for them to re-sow the *rabi* crop but unfortunately since there have been no rains, they could not grow any crop at all. Therefore, the Government have given remission of land revenue in the villages affected by drought.

So, the State Government has taken all the necessary steps to tackle the drought situation in the State. Now, the most important thing that the Central Government should do is that they should come to the rescue of the State Government. Not only in rural areas, even in urban areas there is the problem of drinking water. Out of 200 towns, nearly 130 towns are suffering for want of drinking water. The State Government, in their memoranda, have asked for assistance for digging bore-wells in urban areas also. So, I would urge upon the Government to realise that the drought situation in Karnataka is really very very serious. Of course, we have got a very efficient administration now and they have been tackling the situation very successfully but unless the Central Government comes to the rescue of the State Government, it would be impossible for them to proceed further because we have to give employment opportunities up to June end, to all those who are sufferers. Only in June we can expect South-West monsoon again.

For tackling the situation, the State Government have spent more than their resources. So, what has ultimately happened is they have been forced to take overdraft. When overdrafts are taken, the Central Government takes the State Government to task, but they do not have any other alternative. They cannot allow people to die. I would like to know from the Government, on what basis this assistance has been fixed. Of course, the Central Government has sent a study team to the drought-affected areas and they have recommended the quantum of assistance. But the fact is that you have given only Rs.25 crores to the State Government whereas the State Government has already spent about Rs. 150 crores. This amount should be made up, otherwise the State Government will suffer badly.

I am very happy that the Hon. Minister has mentioned about the long-term programme for the drought-prone areas. This is a very welcome step. As you are aware, Sir, the Karnataka Government has already taken up the dry land farming scheme. It has taken that up on a massive scale. Even then sufficient aid from the Government of India is necessary. Therefore, I strongly appeal to the Central Government to give all necessary financial assistance not only to the State of Karnataka but to all the States which are having famine conditions.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : There is drought in my constituency also.

[*English*]

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Sir, we will send a Central team.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, as expected, the Hon. Member has very successfully depicted the picture of severe droughts in certain parts of Karnataka. We have been tackling these problems in cooperation with the State-Government. General impression is sought to be given as if the Central Government is withdrawing its foot and the State Governments are championing the cause of the people affected by the drought. But that is not the case. There is an equal sense of responsibility and the Central Government never attached any importance to a particular government in a given State;

We always take the people's problems first irrespective of the fact whether they belong to a State ruled by one party or the other.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER: That is what we want.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : That is very true. When I reveal the picture you will realise.

The main problem is the overall constraint of the resources. As you have explained the difficulties of the State Governments, there are certain norms fixed by the Government of India under which the whole system of assistance for drought or floods or famine or for any natural calamity conditions is implemented.

It is a fact that the State Government has been putting up their case to the Central Government and the Central Government, as per the norms laid down by the Seventh Finance Commission, have been sending their team. The team made on-the-spot study, met the people affected, met the State Government officials and also the voluntary organisations working in the field. Then they examined the actual position in the areas and arrived at a particular figure for providing assistance.

This is not the only measure through which the Government of India is trying to tackle the problem. There are many other programmes through which direct assistance is provided to many States. For example, if we take Karnataka, from the year 1980 to 1985 large sums were spent there on drinking water through various other schemes like minimum needs programme, ARWEP etc. In 1980-84, Rs. 19 crores under one scheme, Rs. 31.64 crores under another and Rs. 3.27 crores under yet another scheme known as incentive bonus scheme were provided and these scheme cover in the affected areas.

Like that there are many schemes. Similarly, there are schemes from the Rural Development Ministry's side like the Integrated Rural Development scheme, NREP. Then there is landless employment guarantee scheme. All these schemes go directly to help the people affected by various calamities like drought.

The hon. Member wanted to know the yearwise break-up of the Government of India's assistance given to the State of Karnataka. In 1984-85, the total amount released to the Government of Karnataka was Rs. 32.73 crores and not Rs. 25 crores, as the hon. Member has mentioned.

The assistance released every year the drought is like this: In 1980-81 it was Rs. 6.65 crores; in 1981-82, it was Rs. 13.81 crores; in 1983-83 it was Rs. 8.81 crores and in 1983-84 it was Rs. 14 crores.

Also, as I mentioned in the main reply to the hon. Member's notice, Memoranda are being examined by the Government of India and a team is likely to visit Karnataka based on the information provided by the State Government. After the team has visited, we will examine the whole case based on the norms and guidelines laid down by the Finance Commission and under those given criteria the high-level committee will make its recommendation. Then we will issue further sanction on the basis of recommendation of the high level committee.

Sir, I agree with the hon. Member, it has to be an all-out effort both of the State Government and the Central Government to come to the rescue of the people who are suffering under these conditions.

Sir, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation in consultation with ICAR has already brought a regular manual for fighting the drought conditions in the country. In that, there are long-term and short-term measures given out for the benefit of the States and the officials who are engaged in relieving the people of these difficult conditions. In this, equal attention is paid both to the human beings and the cattle requirements for their fodder, for drinking water both for the human beings and the cattle; for raising certain crops the seeds are given by the ICAR which are resistant to the climatic conditions prevailing under drought conditions. So, a lot of work is being done to see that even during the drought days the farmers, the peasants, the landless labourers, are given sufficient jobs to sustain themselves under the conditions in the drought areas. So, various efforts are being made and I am sure with the cooperation of the State Government the drought conditions are being

tackled successfully both from short term and long term points, it is unfortunate that when the honourable Chief Minister was here we discussed these things, but now the tone of the Hon. Member is a little different. During the discussion, the Chief Minister conveyed that the State Government was quite cooperative, now the Hon. Member is trying to allege as if the Central Government is doing nothing and only the State Government is doing everything.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER : I did not say that.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : It has to be done with the full cooperation of the State Government, it has to be fought as a national problem. (*Interruptions*). I am not misleading the House. I am just trying to say as to how the Hon. Member is trying to twist the whole thing as if we are the ones who do not care for the drought, for the people, and only the State Government cares for them. I have already said that appreciation must be given to those who have helped the drought affected people, but at the same time the Central Government is doing its level best.

12.27 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Even we are going to revise the norms after Finance Ministry issues sanctions on the Eighth Finance Commission's Report. Even the guideline for the Central assistance is going to be revised in the matter taking into account the difficult conditions under which the people in the rural areas are living, specially where there are hardly any means of communication. Their miseries and their difficulties are to be lessened. To that extent the Government of India will take every step under the rules.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : I am very sorry the Hon. Minister is mistaken because I only said the State Government has sought an assistance of Rs. 201 crores—for the rest of Rs. 54 crores he said there is another scheme, I am very happy. The only thing is, it has already spent Rs. 105 crores, whereas the Central assistance is only to the extent of Rs. 32.73 crores. For the balance amount the resources of the State Government are very much limited. So, what is to

be done? I cannot blame him because he has to look to the whole India whereas I have to look to the needs of my State. I know that. But it is a natural calamity. Natural calamity is the responsibility of everybody, it is not the responsibility of only the State Government. I am sorry he has misunderstood me. I did not mean any insinuation. I know it, the Chief Minister told me everything. But my request is this. You have got certain norms, but the question is how to do it. A sum of Rs. 105 crores is already spent, but we are given only about Rs. 34 crores. This has been going on for the past two or three years. The drought conditions are successive for the past two or three years. That is why I am urging him to see that maximum assistance is given. That is all that I have said. I have never said that the Government of India has not done anything. We are grateful to the Government of India for whatever is done, but we want them to do more. That is all.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : It is a suggestion, but we cannot straightway take the figures given by the State Government because as a matter of fact, there is a tendency on the part of States, at the time of these difficulties they want to include certain schemes which are not directly connected with the hard conditions of drought. They want to tell, 'In that area we would like you to build all this infrastructure which will go a long way'. And then within the given resources whatever is thought reasonable after the on-the-spot study made by the central team and recommendation by the high level committee, that is being given and the Hon. Member must know that in Karnataka, in addition to what I have said, the ways and means advance of Rs. 20 crores was also given to meet the situation, pending the sanction of the Central assistance. There is also margin money with every State and in Karnataka, the margin money is Rs. 2 crores.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY (Hindupur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir Andhra Pradesh consists of 23 districts. Out of 23 districts, 19 districts have been facing very severe drought problem during the last year. In 1982 also, 20 districts suffered. In 1983 also, some parts of Andhra suffered for want of adequate rainfall. So, in 1982, 1983 and 1984, for three consecutive years, due

to the inadequate rainfall, famine has been ravaging some part or other of Andhra Pradesh. The rainfall is very scanty, deficient, uneven and undependable. Because of all these things, all the dry crops have completely withered away. Out of 8.5 lakhs of wells in the State, most of the wells have gone dry. In very few wells, there is some water. But the water is highly insufficient and the yield in those wells is very very meagre and is not up to the mark and far below standard. Due to this uneven rainfall, people are experiencing undue distress. Crores of agricultural labourers, amounting to 3 crores, were affected by this drought. They are without any work. They do not get anything. They cannot meet both ends. They do not get even one square meal a day. Some crores of agricultural labourers are without work and their miseries are beyond endurance. Unemployment problem has assumed a gigantic proportion. The purchasing power of agricultural labourer has registered a steep decline. Conventional sources of drinking water like open-well, water ponds and *nallas* have completely gone dry. People have to go a few miles even to get a few pots of water. In all these areas, the chronic deficiency of rainfall is persisting year after year.

The story of Rayalaseema is the story of famine which is ravaging that part of the State every year. Since 1902, famine has ravaged this area and has caused untold misery to the people of this area. It has affected 45 times since 1902. Since 1967 to the present day, famine has affected it 15 times at least. Anantapur is the most backward district in the Rayalaseema area. Its rainfall is 544 m.m. only. There is no permanent source of irrigation and this district has experienced a lot of famine. As the word Anantapur goes—*Ananta* means endless and *pur* means poverty—the district itself is a district with endless poverty. The district has got the second lowest rainfall in the whole of the country. This is highly insufficient for dry crops. Since 1902, this district has been ravaged by famine for 50 years due to successive famine and it is engulfing it this year also.

The underground water table has registered a steep decline and this creates an acute shortage of water for human beings as well as cattle. All the irrigation sources have dried up. There are about 800 tanks in the

district which had not received supply of water for the past four years and have dried up. Crops could not be raised. There are 60,000 wells in the district and most of them have gone dry. The water yield in the remaining wells is insufficient and the situation is so pitiable that some trees to a height of 3 feet to 4 feet are grown in the wells. In most of the wells, grass has grown. Fodder is very very scarce and cattle are being taken to slaughter-house and sold at a throw-away price. That is the plight and misery of the people in Andhra Pradesh.

The purchasing power of agricultural labourer has reached the lowest ebb and has almost reached the zero level. They do not have any work to do. Many of them are living on leaves and wild roots. This is the fate of those people for years and years together. Most of them are migrating to towns and far-off places in search of work. The agriculturists are casting an anxious look towards the sky in anticipation of rain. Seeing their crops wither away, they are lamenting over their fate. There are no tears in their eyes to shed at their hapless position which nature has jettisoned them into. In the circumstances; I would request the Hon. Minister to allot sufficient funds to save these poor people from their distress and from the cruel jaws of acute famine.

The State Government has prepared a detailed memorandum and requested the Central Government for a grant of Rs. 369 crores so that they can feed these 3 crores of people and save them from their plight and misery. As against this amount, the Central Government has given a very meagre amount. The Central Team went there and visited all the places. They say the plight of the people there and their crops withering away. They made some recommendations. But the amount which the Central Government has sanctioned to the State Government is very meagre. It does not even touch a fringe of the problem. It is not sufficient even to maintain the people for a few weeks. The people are left to their fate.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is correct to say that the State Government had demanded as early as in July or August last year Rs 369 crores in order to save the people from the ravage of this acute famine. I want to know when

the Central Team visited the State and when the report was given. What is the amount the recommended and what is the amount the Central Government has actually sanctioned ?

The State Government wanted Rs. 5.4 crores for the supply of fodder; Rs. 4.5 crores for minor irrigation; Rs. 54 crores for road works because that will generate a lot of labour; Rs. 31 crores for rural works, like check dams, percolation tanks, drinking water ponds, etc.; Rs. 15 crores for lift irrigation; Rs 2 lakhs for afforestation, etc. I would like to know what amount the Central Government has sanctioned for such like things.

I would also like to request the Hon. Minister to allot sufficient funds for improving the underground water table. Due to the failure of rains in successive years, the underground water table is declining and receding. So, most of the wells have gone dry. There are about 800 tanks and these 800 tanks have got to be desilted and deepened at least to a depth of 3 ft. below the sluice level so that the dead storage of water will help percolation. There are a number of tanks constructed during Vijayanagar Kings which have been breached. Those tanks have to be repaired on a war footing and converted into percolation tanks. Every 3 or 4 years, whenever famine invades those parts Government spends some amount in those areas and forgets about it. Some percolation tanks and check dams have to be constructed to see that water does not go away from those areas and the water percolates so that the water can be replenished in order to improve the underground water table.

I would request the Central Government to allot sufficient funds for drinking water also. The people are experiencing a great difficulty. Their distress and misery is beyond human endurance. I would request that from the Tungabhadra water may be diverted to this area for drinking purposes. May be, some lift also would be necessary. At least drinking water should be provided for the hapless people in the area who are thirsting for even water.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : From the Telugu Ganga it could be lifted up.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : As Prof. Ranga says, it could be lifted up from the Telugu Ganga. So, something has to be done about providing drinking water. There is no perennial source of water. In the circumstances, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the amount they have allotted for the purpose of providing drinking water.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what is the amount allotted and now to be allotted, in order to save the hapless people from misery, hunger and thirst.

I request the Hon. Minister to take a compassionate view, to understand this human problem, the gigantic problem of labour and come forward with sufficient funds.

Not only this. There are rains in Andhra Pradesh in July. By the end of July, sowing operation commences. Until then, labour will not have any work. Labour has to be maintained and they should be provided with some, employment till the end of July. For that purpose also, funds are needed. I request the Hon. Minister to take a compassionate view, understand this problem and allot sufficient money to save these people from hunger and starvation deaths.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Most of the points raised by the Hon. Member are suggestions to be considered for providing relief to the drought-affected areas in the State of Andhra Pradesh. No doubt, Andhra Pradesh witnessed prolonged drought. The State witnessed a prolonged dry spell from 3rd August for 40 days in most parts of the State. The dry spell, occurred at a time when the already sown crops over large areas were still tender. The State Government has reported that while the very early sown crops could survive though subject to the moisture, the crops sown later were particularly affected. 19 out of 23 districts have been affected by drought on account of late onset of monsoon and prolonged dry spell during the rainy season. The most acutely affected region of the State was Rayalascema as mentioned by the Hon. Member. This area has been unfortunately a chronic drought-affected area, in the past three or four years. We have realised it.

The State Government has submitted a supplementary memorandum also about the drought-conditions in the other three

districts like Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Visakhapatnam. All these reports and memoranda of the State Government are examined.

As I mentioned in reply to the question of the Hon. Member from Karnataka, it is very difficult to keep pace with the claims of the State Governments. If you kindly just have a look, in Andhra Pradesh the amount sought by the Government was Rs, 369.28 crores. As I was attempting to inform the Hon. House it is not only this package which the Central team or the High level Committee recommended for sanction after making an on-the-spot visit of the drought-affected areas in a given State. There are already schemes from the 20-point programme launched by the Government of India which directly are helping the drought-affected areas such as the employment-oriented schemes of NREP, RLEGP, and rural drinking water schemes of ARWSP, MNEP and IBS.

Under these schemes, in 1984-85 in Andhra Pradesh alone, the amount has been :

	Rs. (Crores)
NREP	22 70
RLEGP	49.50
ARWSP	7.43
MNEP	25.00
IBS	3.00

If you sum up all this, it comes to roughly Rs. 108 crores. In addition to that, Rs. 54.42 crores were released to the State on the recommendation of the High Level Committee. If you add up all this, it is a sizable assistance from the Central Government to the State Government.

Some long-term measures are being attempted in some States as suggested by Hon. Members to raise the water level and to introduce certain drought resistant seeds in these districts which have become chronically drought-prone and where the farmers could grow certain crops even during difficult conditions.

About Andhra Pradesh, I must say that the State Government must make full use of the facilities available through the Indian Council of Agricultural Research. There is

already an Institute in Hyderabad. ICRISAT is also primarily meant for arid zone/specially to areas which are prone to drought. ICRISAT can give a lot of help. There is a Central Institute in Hyderabad itself which helps the farmers in developing crops which can stand the vagaries of nature, specially under drought conditions—the Dry Land Farm Institute at Hyderabad. The State Government must make the best use of the research being made and they must also utilise the services of the scientists and the extension services which are available to the State.

I will definitely go into the various points raised by the hon. Member for meeting the situation in those districts which he has mentioned.

SHRI K. RAMCHANDRA REDDY : The hon. Minister is trying to club the Rs.100 crores given in the usual course with the Rs.50 crores that are allotted in times of distress. That amount of Rs.100 crores should not be clubbed with this; that is a normal grant, and those Rs.100 crores which are spent on NREP, RLEGP and other programmes do not reduce the intensity of the drought. And in times of drought, talking of amounts spent in the past is of no use to the people who are suffering from hunger and are thirsting for water. The amount of Rs.50 crores does not touch even the fringe of the problem; this is highly insufficient. At least take those worst-hit districts and come forward to save those people who have been ravaged by successive famines. No Government has taken a compassionate view or taken pity on them. Why not come forward with sufficient funds for permanent famine eradication? Take those districts which are the worst-hit, allot sufficient funds, and save those people. Spending a few crores of rupees at the time of famine and then forgetting those districts for ever will not be of any use. Please take up a comprehensive programme, allot sufficient funds by stages and see that those districts which are famine-stricken, which have been invaded by famine every year are helped. Something should be done to those people. You cannot expect them to suffer for decades together. You must understand their plight, you must take a compassionate view; have pity on them and do something.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I was only trying to highlight that these are the supplementary

activities. I was not saying that these were specially for the drought-affected areas. But how can you do without these? If you look at the activities which are attempted through these schemes, you will find that they are directly connected with drought-affected areas such as, agriculture, soil and water conservation, etc. I am sure that these will go a long way in helping the farmers affected by drought-irrigation, forestry, pasture, animal husbandry, sericulture, fisheries, horticulture, cooperation, rural electrification. Then employment is provided to those landless labourers who are also affected along with the farmers in the drought-prone areas. We provide them, through RLEGP, sufficient employment to enable them to sustain their families during the difficult conditions. These are supplementary projects under the 20 point Programme. As I mentioned, the State Government must make the best use of the facilities available with them. Unfortunately, here, in this case I should not have said, but I must say—the State Government has not availed of the opportunities provided by the ICAR and the other Central Government agencies, extension services, etc. There is already a big Institute in Hyderabad to help the people in the devising ways and means, in finding diversification in the mode of living on agriculture, to enable them to fight out conditions under drought. Therefore, the State Government should make the best use of the services available. No doubt, the hon. Member has made very valuable suggestions, and we will go into them. As I mentioned, the Government is already contemplating to review the guidelines under the Eighth Finance Commission's Report and definitely we will take into account all that the hon. Member has suggested.

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : It is no use saying 'Central Government' or 'State Government'. People are suffering for want of water and food. Some Government, either State or Centre, must take up their cause and help them. I am giving a couplet here in Telugu :

*Endina Yullagodu Irigimpadavadu
Pandina Yullavaku Prabhulante*

It means the Ministry is telling that we have got so much of paddy, so much of foodgrains and talks of places where people are rich and affluent, but they forget about

places where people are dying for want of water and food. This is not going to satisfy anybody. A friend of mine has written :

Ankalandunde Abhivridhi Sangapaduku

The developmental activities are only just in figures. They are of the length of the arm-pit from the tip of the hand to the arm-pit. It has not touched the fringe of the problem. Let a Commission be appointed to see whether there is any improvement in their living conditions, how they are feeling, how they are eking out their livelihood, how they are starving and how semi-starved and half-naked they are in those places. The Central Government should come forward and help these half-clothed and half-starved people. It is no use blaming the Central government or the State Government. Even if the State Government does not help us, is the Central Government willing to come forward and help these people form the recurrence of famine conditions ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I am not blaming I am only appealing to the State Government to please make the best use of the facilities available with the Central Government.

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Now this drought condition is a continuing phenomenon in this country. 20% of the area in India is periodically subjected to the onslaught of droughts leading to huge losses of agricultural production and livestock wealth in addition to creating scarcity of drinking water and power generation. The total effect is untold misery to the people inhabiting these areas. Huge amounts have been spent by the Government to provide relief after the occurrence of droughts. But apart from providing the much needed relief at the appropriate time, such expenditure has not helped in solving the basic problem of increasing the productivity of these areas reducing thereby the impact of scarcity of droughts on human and cattle population. Ecological deterioration because of deforestation and excessive grazing has led to serious soil erosion and decrease in productivity of the land. Because of increasing population, both human and cattle, even the marginal lands unsuitable for cultivation have been brought under the plough. The fate of the farmers living in these areas has been most uncertain and very few of them have been able to live above the subsistence level.

After analysing the rainfall data for 100 years preceding 1974, it was found that while the normal rainfall during the monsoon months in North-East India is about 129 cms with 13% co-efficient variability, the same for North-West India is 54 cms and 22% respectively. Thus in North-East India the yearly fluctuation in rainfall may not affect much the agriculture and hydroelectric power generation, the same will affect North-West India adversely. The position will be aggravated in abnormal years of lesser rainfall.

Again by analysing the rainfall departure from the normal during the monsoon months over the North-West and peninsular India during the last 100 years preceding 1974...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be brief. Don't go into the whole thing. Please take up the recent situation.

DR. V. VENKATESH : ... It has been found that there were 30 occasions (years) in North-West India and 20 occasions (Years) in peninsular India when rainfall was below normal by more than 10%. This would mean that on the average near drought condition may occur in North-West India every 3 years and in the peninsular India every 5 years. The contemporary figure for rainfall of below normal by more than 20% which is a condition of a severe drought, is found to occur every 6 years over North-West India and every 10 years in peninsular India.

Past records also show that during 1965-66, 1972, 1975, 1979 and 1982 the country experienced severe drought. It is against this background that a need was felt and the Drought Prone Area Programme was formulated. The development of these areas is a most urgent and challenging task.

Although this programme has been in operation since the Fourth Plan period, it has taken shape as an Integrated Area Development Programme only during the fifth and sixth five year plan.

The DPAP Which covers 557 blocks spread over 74 districts in the country is now the Integrated Area Development Programme in the agricultural sector and aims at optimum utilisation of land, water and livestock resources, reducing the severity of the impact of drought, restoration of the eco-

logical balance and stabilising the income of the people particularly the weaker sections of the society.

The basic object of the programme has been restoration of economical balance through scientific development of land, water cattle and other resources. The arid zone of Rajasthan, the dry lands of Andhra Pradesh and some parts of Maharashtra, Haryana, Bihar, Orissa and Tamil Nadu are usually most affected by the cyclical phenomenon of drought. This year Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka have had distinctive problems.

In the case of Karnataka, there are drought conditions for the third successive year with 8,500 villages in 100 taluks of 16 districts out of 19 reeling under the intensity of the dry spell. In Andhra Pradesh 19 out of 23 districts have been hit by drought.

It is a quirk of nature that Karnataka which has 5 out of 14 very heavy rainfall areas in the country is forced to seek drought relief from the centre in some years. Though the State has some regions of heavy rainfall 80 per cent of the taluks of the State fall under the category of semi-arid regions. This year drought in Karnataka is most upsetting in the sense that there was enough rainfall through July. The consumption of fertilisers rose by 23 per cent over last years figures and sowing of high-yielding varieties of seeds increased by 14 per cent but dry weather prevailed for 40 days after sowing. It left the fields perched and agricultural officials bewildered since the drought was more serious than the one that occurred in 1974-75. According to the reports the wayward monsoon has badly affected nearly 60 per cent of the sown areas of the State. The causes leading to periodic drought conditions are many. For instance only 25 per cent of the cultivable area in the State is being provided with assured irrigation. Most of the other dry land depends on monsoons; for agriculture operation.

The drought-fighting programme should naturally include short-term and long-term approaches. Since all the States where there is recurrence of dry spells have been able to chalk out short-term schemes, there is need for greater emphasis on long-term programmes to give substance to short-term schemes. The long-term remedial steps should naturally include central programme for ex-

panding irrigation potential—particularly minor irrigation—and extensive use of ground water, mass bunding, etc. should also include short duration crops, contingent crops, production plans, and massive infra-structure development in the traditionally drought hit areas. There should be creation of fodder bank for cattle and foodgrains bufferstock in rural areas.

Apart from all these measures, the development of dry agricultural technology, post harvest technology and dairying is also necessary. It is required that traditionally drought prone States should adopt both short-term and long-term drought-fighting programmes such as connecting South Indian rivers and North Indian rivers. Thereby we solve both our national food and employment problem. Therefore, I once again stress upon connecting the South Indian rivers and North Indian rivers, namely, Ganga-Cauvery project.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The Hon. Member has given a very good lecture on the long-term and short-term measures to be taken by the Government to meet the situation especially in the drought areas.

13.00 hrs

For the information of the Hon. Member let me read out the Special Services made available to Agricultural Interests. These are the following :

1. Long-range forecast

- (a) Onset of monsoon issued by first week of April for Kerala coast.
- (b) Total quantum of rainfall for Monsoon (June-September) issued around first week of June for North West India and Peninsula.
- (c) This forecast is reviewed by 10th of August each year.
- (d) Winter total precipitation forecast for North-West India during January for the months of January to March.
- (e) Monthly rainfall forecast for Meteorological sub-discussions every month.

2. Medium-range forecast

Weekly forecasts are issued every Thurs-

day to all forecasting centres as guidance to their working and for planning purposes to Government agencies.

3. Short-range forecasts

- (a) Farmers Weather Bulletins at present issued by 17 forecasting centres of IMD at all the State capitals. This forecast is area specific and districtwise.

This forecast is for 36 hours with outlook for next 2 days. These are broadcast regularly by AIR Stations of the region in their farmers' programme.

- (b) General forecasts and warnings for 24 hours and 48 hours are issued by all the 17 Meteorological Centres and broadcast by all concerned AIR stations.
- (c) Agromet Advisory Service : Agromet Advisory Centres have been established.

These advisory services contain weather forecast and advice to farmers' agricultural utility for 2 to 4 days. These are prepared by meteorologists in consultation with the State agricultural experts once or twice a week. These are broadcast by the AIR stations of the region,

The I.M.D. has established 9 stations at New Delhi, Pune, Madras, Bhopal, Calcutta, Patna, Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh and Srinagar. Another 8 are being established in the current year (1985-86) at Trivandrum, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Ahmedabad, Jaipur, Lucknow, Gangtok and Gauhati.

These are the various steps which Government are taking so that the whole country is covered by meteorological information on long-term, medium and short-term basis.

So far as the linkage of rivers is concerned, I take the proposition from the Hon. Member. I am sure the Hon. Member will be able to submit his proposal. We will have it examined. If there is already something, we will pick it up and proceed further. It is a good idea.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : It is only for examination ! They have been examining it for three decades !

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If there is any new proposal from the Member, he will take it up. He is asking him to submit a proposal. He is ready to take it up. He wants to consider it.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : We are encouraged by such optimism.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, Shri Dharam Pal Singh Malik.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is facing a big challenge in the form of famine and drought today. A large part of the country is drought-affected and scarcity of water in the fields is badly telling upon the economic condition of the country. The Hon. Minister has said that there has been drought in the country for the last three or four years, but the situation in the country this year is still worse. There has been a shortage of power as well. I would say that in some states even fodder and drinking water is not available. I agree that our Government have made efforts to solve this problem, but the people have to face the fury of floods and drought every year due to non-completion of some of the on-going projects on time. The Government should take some effective steps to solve this problem and endeavour to complete the schemes which are lying incomplete as soon as possible.

You know that Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and some other states have been severely hit by drought. Haryana too is entirely in the grip of drought. The level of water in the wells in Haryana has gone down considerably. All the village ponds have gone dry. The people are facing a great difficulty of drinking water. They are not getting drinking water in cities like Sonepat and Gohana due to shortage of electricity. I took a round of my constituency after the elections. The people of that area have been making a very strong demand that arrangements for water and electricity should be made urgently. These being examination days, the students are not able to study due to shortage of electricity. Sonepat, Rohtak, Bhiwani, Jind and Hissar in Haryana have been severely affected by drought. The labourers are not getting work as these are no crops. All the

labourers are leaving their villages in search of work elsewhere. But, I am sorry to point out that the Hon. Minister has made no mention of Haryana in his statement. 30 to 50 per cent of the gram and wheat crops have been damaged. Whatever be the report of the State Government, if you go there personally, you can see the condition of the farmers there. I would go to the extent of saying that there is no water in the fields of the farmers, but their eyes are full of water.

I would also like to say that the famine Code on the basis of which the Government sends the report to the effect that such and such areas are drought affected, has become obsolete now. It was prepared during the British time and I want that changes should be made in it in consonance with present day conditions.

The question of drought is linked with floods. The drains should be deepened and widened in time. But, the funds for this work are sanctioned by the Government only when the floods have actually occurred and at that time, those funds are misused. I can say about my state that no arrangements of any kind have been made there to check the floods. Neither the drains are cleaned nor they are widened or deepened, but in May-June when floods are about to occur, the funds are sanctioned and the funds so sanctioned are misused because the area gets flooded and no one knows whether the drains have been dug and cleaned or not.

60 per cent of rain waters flows into the Bay of Bengal, but they are not utilised, although they can be utilised by constructing reservoirs alongside the rivalets at a distance of every 4 to 6 or 10 miles and thus crops can be protected from drought and floods. Dr. Dastur had submitted a report long back suggesting a scheme under which all the rivers right from Kashmir to the Bay of Bengal were to be widened, but this scheme has not been implemented. I suggest that this scheme should be implemented by taking loan from the World Bank or the International Monetary Fund.

Haryana was to get water from the S.Y.L. Canal, about which the Hon. Minister is well aware. There has been a dispute on this issue with the Punjab. The portion of the canal supposed to be constructed by Haryana in its territory was completed two

years back, but the digging work in the Punjab area has not been taken up as yet, although a sum of Rs. 41 crores was deposited by the Haryana Government for this purpose and, instead, the money spent by the Government of Haryana on digging work in its own area is proving useless. Therefore, the S. Y. L. Canal should be completed as early as possible.

At the same time, I would also like to say that sea water is very precious. I would request the Hon. Minister to pay some attention to it. A variety of minerals can be extracted from it after it is purified. Japan has extracted even uranium from sea water. Sea water is purified through the desalination process or through the reverse osmosis method. The system functions in the same way as the kidney functions inside the body. By this process all types of undesirable elements can be separated from sea water and the pure water thus obtained can be used for irrigation in the fields. Government should make efforts to purify this water. Apart from this, research can also be carried out for having artificial rain.

I would like to say one thing about electricity. Government are taking enough interest in the use of solar energy. I want that still greater interest should be taken in this field, because we are not able to generate sufficient electricity due to shortage of water. There is only one solution to it and that is that we should generate electricity through solar energy system, so that the shortage of electricity could be removed.

All our schemes and projects of electricity should be completed on time. The delay in their completion involves more funds on the one hand and on the other hand they do not serve the purpose for which they are interested. I had a talk with the Power and Irrigation Minister of Haryana and had also written to him a letter stating that electricity was not being made available to the farmers for irrigating their fields even during the hours fixed for this purpose. The farmer waits right from the morning and even when electricity is supplied, it is supplied for a very short period. Government should pay attention to it. In view of the conditions explained by me, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister which are the districts of the State which have been declared as drought

affected ? He has said nothing about Haryana. I have myself seen that there are districts in Haryana which have not had a single shower.

I would also like to pay that Tehsil should be treated as a unit for the purpose of declaring an area as a drought-affected area, because it is not necessary that the entire district should be drought-affected. Even a Tahsil or even a village in a district can be affected by drought. Sometimes, it so happens that it rains in one part of a village and the other part of the same village goes without rain.

You have taken up 511 Blocks of 74 districts of the country under the Drought Prone Area Programme. I would like to know whether Government propose to bring all the districts of the country under this Programme.

I would also like to know whether Government propose to implement the Drought Prove Area Programme in the disiricts where canal water is not available but which are not covered under this programme at present.

At the same time, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether the Government propose to implement the scheme suggested by Dr.Dastur? Do the Government have any scheme to store the potable rain water in reservoirs 60 per cent of which otherwise flows into the Bay of Bengal ? This entire water flows into the sea and is rendered useless after it mines with saline water. If you construct reservoirs at a distance of every two to four miles and store this potable water there for irrigating the fields, it can be of great benefit.

I would also like to know whether Government have under consideration any scheme to create a buffer stock of water to face any emergency in the country.

What progress has been made by the Underground Water Utilisation Board ? Government should consider paying bonus to the farmers of Haryana at the rate of at least Rs. 5 per quintal for wheat and gram. I would like to know whether Government want to pay it or not, because orders were issued about 4 or 5 days back for the payment of bonus in Punjab at the rate of Rs. 5 per quintal for wheat. The Bharat Kisan Union had organised an agitation in

Delhi in which maximum number of the farmers from Haryana had participated, but the bonus was announced only for the Punjab farmers. I would therefore, like to know whether there is any scheme of government for giving bonus to the farmers of Haryana ? Besides, I would also like to know whether government propose to make efforts to induce artificial rains ? In certain countries, if there are clouds, artificial rains are induced. I would like to know whether any research is being conducted for including artificial rains so that clouds be raised from the sea and rains induced. I had also asked whether government had any scheme from purifying sea water ? I would like to know from Hon. Minister what the government propose to do about all these things.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : The hon. Member has again put all the questions. If he wants, I shall read the entire statement once again. He has asked about the state-wise number of districts in which there have been deficient rains, scanty rains or no rains. The required details are as follows : Districts having deficient rains in Andhra Pradesh are 16, in Assam 4, in Bihar 4, in Gujarat 2, in Haryana 2, in Himachal Pradesh 5, in Jammu and Kashmir 1, in Karnataka 6, in Kerala 3, in Madhya Pradesh 12, in Maharastra 18, in Orissa 2, in Rajasthan 15, in Tamilnadu 3, in U.P. 24 and in West Bengal 3. In all, there are 120 districts in which there has been deficient rains. The number of districts where there has been scanty rains is one in Gujarat, 2 in Himachal Pradesh, one in Jammu and Kashmir, one in Kerala and one in U.P. thus, there are 6 such districts. According to the motions fixed by the Central Government there are 120 plus 6, i.e. 126 districts out of 368 districts which could be termed as drought-affected.

[English]

Sir, It will be wrong on the part of the Hon. Member to say that I have not mentioned Haryana at all in the statement. I have already said that during the week ending 2nd January 1985, first week of the 1985 winter season, the rainfall was excess or normal over most parts of North-West India, Central India and Peninsula except the Plains of West Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, East Rajasthan, Marathwada, Coastal Karnataka and

Lakshadweep where the rainfall was deficient or scanty and West Rajasthan, Gujarat State and Konkan where the weather was dry.

So far as the question of releasing assistance to Haryana is concerned, I am sorry to state that there has not been any memorandum for drought relief from the State of Haryana during the year 1984-85. The hon. Member himself has given suggestions for various things.

[*Tanslation*]

As regards purifying the sea water, completing the S.Y.L. Canal, harnessing solar energy and augmenting the power supply—

[*English*]

—these are various programmes which, no doubt, are very ambitious and go a long way to give relief to people suffering in the drought-affected areas. And, certainly, these are the things which are being taken up by the Government of India in various Departments and Ministries. If we are able to harness whatever rainfall is there in the country, if we are able to make best use of the water that is received in country through rainfall either through small bandhs, anicuts or making bandhs on various seasonal rivers and streams, that will go a long way in helping the people suffering in the drought affected areas. The hon. member has given very useful suggestions. I will give this information to the concerned departments; and we will see to it that sufficient attention is paid to the various suggestions made by the Hon. Members.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Which are the two drought-stricken districts in Orissa.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : These things can be laid on the Table. You can then refer to them.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I can give the names.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK: Haryana is not mentioned in the statement given to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has said that he received nothing from the Haryana Government.

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : The Hon. Minister said that Haryana has been mentioned in the statement. But in the copy supplied to me, Haryana is not mentioned.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : About the drought-affected areas, has the Minister got the information ?

SHRI BUTA SINGH : I am satisfied that Government has not asked for any assistance. How do I know ? Only two districts are mentioned in the statistics where there is no rainfall; and he has mentioned the name of these two districts.

In Orissa, all the 13 districts were affected, viz. Balasore, Dhenkanal, Keonjhar, Pulbhani, Surendragarh, Bolangir, Ganjum, Koraput, Puri, Cuttack, Kalahandi, Mayurbhanj and Sambalpur.

13.22. Hrs.

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT

[*English*]

Recommendation to Rajya Sabha to appoint Members

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now the Minister, Mr H.R. Bharadwaj.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R.BHARAWAJ) : I beg to move :

“That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote :

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be—