

- (9) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1987 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 805(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1987. [Placed in Library See No. LT-4956/87]

12.07 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

Forty-second Report

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I beg to present the Forty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

STATEMENT RE. CURRENT DROUGHT AND FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND THE RELIEF MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the current drought and flood situation and the steps taken by the Government for rendering relief to the affected population. I am aware that the Hon' ble members are quite concerned about the hardship caused by drought and floods in most parts of the country.

As at the end of September, when the monsoon season ends, 18 of the 35 meteorological sub-divisions received deficient rainfall and 3 scanty rainfall and only 14 sub-divisions had received normal or excess rainfall. In terms of area, only about 3 per cent of the country received normal or excess rainfall.

The rainfall since 1st October has been quite satisfactory in most parts of the country except the North Western parts of the country. While this may not help the standing Kharif crops, this will ease fodder and drinking water position. The crop prospects in Rabi season, particularly in the peninsula would substantially improve.

As a result of deficient rainfall in large parts of the country, Kharif agricultural production has been adversely affected. We hope to make up some of the shortfall in Kharif, by higher production in the rabi season. The rabi production target for the country has now been fixed at 76 million tonnes. A detailed strategy for increasing rabi production has been worked out in consultation with the States, with emphasis on :

- (a) increasing area coverage under rabi crops ;
- (b) better water management ;
- (c) increasing the coverage of less water intensive crops.

The States were also advised to prepare water budgets keeping in view the priority requirements of drinking water. Further, with a view to utilise the irrigation potential under wells and tubewells fully, the State Electricity Boards have been advised to give power supply to these sources and assure a minimum 8 hours of uninterrupted supply. All the States have responded positively and the results have been quite encouraging. In order to meet the full requirements of diesel for agricultural pumpsets, the movement and storage of diesel oil in all critical areas has been planned and monitored regularly. Consequently, there has been no shortage of diesel for agricultural purposes. Special attention has been given to timely supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers and credit. With a view to meet the shortage of vegetables, a scheme for production of vegetables and vegetable seeds has also been launched for this Rabi and the ensuing summer season.

The Government of India has been taken a large number of initiatives evolving a well knit Action Plan for the implementation of drought relief measures even a