12.19 hrs.

FINANCIAL COMMITTEES, 1980-81 A REVIEW

SECRETARY: I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the Hindi and English versions of the Financial Committees, 1980-81 A review.

ASSENT TO BILL

SECRETARY: Sir, I lay on the Table the Finance Bill, 1981, passed by the Houses of Parliament during the last session and assented to. Since a report was last made to the House on the 8th May, 1981.

12.21 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

FAMINE AND DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN SOME PATRS OF THE COUNTRY

MR. SPEAKER. Now, Calling Attention. Shri Daga.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister. (*Interuptions*).

[*At this stage some Hon. Members left the House*]

12.22 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*] (*Interruptions*)**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't record. Shri Daga. Calling Attention

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon:—

"The reported serious famine and drought conditions in Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and other parts of the country and the steps taken by Government to meet the Situation."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): Although the monsoon in the year 1980 was more or less-satisfactory, drought conditions prevailed during the post monsoon season in the year 1980 was more or less satis— Pradesh, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu. During the post monsoon period, the total area affected was 213.12 lakh hectares involving a human population of 793.60 lakhs and cattle population of 665.91 lakhs. Central Teams visited all these States and as a result of decisions taken on their reports, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 70.45 crores was approved for purposes of central assistance during the year 1980-81. In addition, foodgrains were allotted under the National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) and short-term loans were also sanctioned for the purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs.

The drought conditions continued during the pre-monsoon period this year also in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Haryana, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. In these five States, 75 districts involving a cropped area of 160.96 lakh hectares, a human population of 746.87 lakhs and cattle population of 673.99 lakhs continued to be affected. At the request of the State Governments, Central Teams visited these States during April—May, 1981 and on the basis of their reports, a total ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 121.13 meats, Central Teams visited these Central assistance. The Central assistance included provision for employment generation schemes, drinking water supply, subsidy for agricultural inputs, fodder supply arrangements etc. In addition, short-

**Not recorded.