

**STATEMENT RE: DROUGHT SITUATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY AND STEPS TAKEN BY GOVERNMENT**

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): This year the monsoon set in over Travandrum on May 30th i.e., two days earlier than its normal date. Its further advance to South Konkan and Central Peninsula was also nearly normal. But, the advent of the monsoon over Bombay region was delayed by a week and it reached there on June, 17th. On that day, the northern limit of the monsoon extended through Nagpur, Ambikapur, Dehri and Raxaul. Thus, the arrival of the monsoon over Central and Eastern India was also delayed by 7-8 days. There was no further progress of the monsoon after the 17th June until the 5th July when the monsoon advanced as a feeble current into South Gujarat upto-Surat. This current covered North-West Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Delhi by the 14th July, Haryana by the 15th July and Himachal Pradesh on the 16th July. Onset of monsoon is likely to cover the rest of the country by the end of the next week.

2. During the period from the 1st June to the 30th June, the I.M.D. indicated that while 16 out of 35 Sub-Divisions were having normal or excess rainfall, 19 Sub-Divisions were having deficient or scanty rainfall. The position deteriorated subsequently. Upto the 14th July, 25 Sub-Divisions had deficient or scanty rainfall while only 9 Sub-Divisions had normal rainfall. The deficiencies in rainfall in different parts of the country ranged from 41% to 82%. The State-wise number of districts having deficient or scanty rainfall is as under:—

State	Nos. of Districts with deficient/scanty rain
1. Gujarat	12 out of 20
2. Rajasthan	24 out of 26
3. Punjab	11 out of 12
4. Haryana	8 out of 12

5. West Bengal	13 out of 16
6. Uttar Pradesh	42 out of 54
7. Madhya Pradesh	39 out of 45
8. Maharashtra	18 out of 27
9. Bihar	19 out of 31

3. According to the forecast of the India Meteorological Department, the synoptic features indicate encouraging signs for the next few days. A deep depression lay at mid-day of the 19th July about 75 km. southeast of Puri. It has crossed the Orissa Coast between Gopalpur and Puri at midnight yesterday and is likely to move in a west-north-westerly direction. Under its influence, good rainfall activity with isolated heavy to very heavy falls is expected over Orissa, North Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, South Uttar Pradesh, South Bihar and parts of Peninsular India.

4. The Department of Agriculture started since early May, a contingency plan on drought. The State Governments and the various Departments of Government of India were given detailed guidelines and requested to take appropriate steps to keep the situation continuously under watch and to see that timely action is taken for helping the farmers in combating any situation of adverse weather conditions and to provide the rural population with employment, food, drinking water and fodder wherever the need arises. Specific action points in agricultural programme were identified and communicated for being taken care of at the State, District and Block levels. The Prime Minister's Twelve Point Programme for drought management which was the basis of combating the drought of 1980, has also been brought to the notice of the State Governments for meeting the drought situation this year. The Banking Sector has also been requested to assist the farmers in the drought affected areas. Similarly, Ministry of Irrigation also issued instructions to the State Governments in the North-Western region, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh requesting them to make the most optimum use of the available irrigation water in the reservoirs for crop production purposes.

[Rao Birendra Singh]

5. An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee on Disaster Management in the Ministry of Agriculture reviewed on the 9th June, 1982 the monsoon situation and the contingency plans for the kharif season. Area officers have been designated to visit the State and review Contingency Plans for drought management. Weekly meetings are being taken by the Cabinet Secretary to assess the developing situation and take timely action. A number of issues concerning various Ministries relating to provision of seeds of short duration varieties, provision of loans, fertilisers, optimum use of water in the irrigation systems, priority for supplying power and diesel for agricultural operations, provision of drinking water etc. are constantly under review.

6. The States have got margin money to meet any emergent expenditure on account of natural calamities like drought. Besides, the Govt. of India have released short-term loans of Rs. 103.50 crores to the States for purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs to farmers. Besides, under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Government have released a sum of Rs. 60.42 crores for the first two quarters of the current year. States have got as on 1st April, 1982 unspent balance of Rs. 165.62 crores from previous years under the National Rural Employment Programme.

In addition, further allocation of Rs. 90.34 crores has been made to the States during the current financial year. They have been advised to concentrate on the execution of NREP works, without deviating from the programme guidelines in the areas which are affected by drought conditions.

7. My Ministry is sending joint teams of officers drawn from Ministries of Agriculture, Irrigation and Energy (Rural Electrification Corporation) to visit the States where rainfall has been deficient to make an assessment of the situation and to impress on the State Governments to ensure supply of electricity, diesel and other agricultural inputs so that production does not suffer.

8. Members will be glad to know that information has just been received that the monsoon activity has advanced from the westerly direction covering Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab and moderate to very good rainfall has taken place during the past 24 hours in these three States. In Rajasthan, Mount Abu and Udaipur have received 3 cm. each, Jalore 2 cm. and Ajmer, Sikar and Alwar 1 cm. each. In Punjab and Haryana, Amritsar and Halwara, have received 3 cm. each, Pathankot 2 cm. Chandigarh, Amritsar and Karnal 1 cm. each and Rohtak 6 cm. In Uttar Pradesh, Dehradun has received 9 cm. HarDOI 5 cm., Kanpur 4 cm. Madhya Pradesh has also received extensive rainfall ranging from 2 to 6 cm. under the influence of the depression that formed off Orissa Coast. Orissa too has received extensive rainfall during the past 24 hours. In West Bengal, Burdwan has received 5 cm. and Cooch Bihar 3 cm.

9. It is unfortunate that having achieved a record level of foodgrains production and record level of foodgrains procurement inspite of adverse weather conditions during 1981-82, this year we are faced with delayed and weak monsoon. Though it is too early to assess the behaviour of the monsoon during the remaining months of Kharif, yet the House will agree that both the Central and the State Governments have been taking timely action right from May this year. I can assure the House that the Government will take all necessary measures to ensure that the farmers are assisted to the maximum possible extent through the provisions of loans, seeds, fertilizers, irrigation water, electricity and diesel. I am sure, our farmers will meet the challenge as they have been doing with much courage and perseverance in the past also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to reassemble at 11-00 a.m. tomorrow.

18-13 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, July 21, 1982/Asadha 30, 1904 (Saka).*