

GUJARAT GOVERNMENT ORDINANCES
PROMULGATED BY GOVERNOR

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO) on behalf of Shri R. V. Swaminathan:—

I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Gujarat Government Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 213(2)(a) of the Constitution read with clause (c)(iv) of the Proclamation dated the 17th February, 1980 issued by the President in relation to the State of Gujarat:—

(i) The Bombay Tenancy and Agricultural Lands (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 1979 (No. 7 of 1979) promulgated by the Governor on the 17th December, 1979.

(ii) The Bombay Inams (Kutch Area) Abolition Gujarat Amendment Ordinance, 1979 (No. 8 of 1979) promulgated by the Governor on the 27th December, 1979.

(iii) The Gujarat Panchayats (Amendment) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 1 of 1980) promulgated by the Governor on the 21st January, 1980.

(iv) The Bombay Land Revenue (Gujarat Amendment) Ordinance, 1980 (No. 2 of 1980) promulgated by the Governor on the 19th January, 1980. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-520/80].

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Calling Attention,

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): Now, I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture... (Interruptions). Mr. Speaker, Sir, the other side is not expected to disturb.

(Interruptions).

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): Whatever may be the adjournment motion and the calling attention, are you going to admit the Call Attention motion?

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed it. The Home Minister is going to make a statement.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Are you going to admit it?

MR. SPEAKER: I have disallowed the adjournment motion. Calling Attention is still under discussion. The Home Minister is going to make a statement. I have also admitted this under Rule 377.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Under protest I walk out.

At this stage Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar left the House.

(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa.

12.16 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCEDROUGHT CONDITIONS IN VARIOUS PART
OF THE COUNTRY

SHRI K LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:—

“Drought conditions prevailing in various parts of the country.”

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO): Sir, the Government is deeply concerned about the continuing drought conditions in the country and the misery inflicted by it on the rural community.

During the year 1979, the pre-kharif rains, on which jute and early paddy crops are heavily dependent, had been deficient in West Bengal and the North Eastern States. The South-West monsoon was also erratic and significantly deficient; the on-set of monsoon was delayed by over a fortnight and there had been continuous dry spells stretch-

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ing from 4 to 9 weeks till the end of August, 1979. Although the rainfall was deficient in 16 States; 11 States were particularly hard hit, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Ninetyseven districts in these eleven States have been reported to be most seriously affected. According to the information available from the States, the drought during kharif has affected about 220 million people, 123 million heads of cattle and over 38 million hectares of cropped area. At the request of the State Governments, Central Teams visited all the affected States for on-the-spot assessment of the drought situation. On the basis of the reports of the Central Teams and the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, ceilings of expenditure amounting to a total of Rs. 156.95 crores have been approved by the Government of India for purposes of Central assistance to the States as follows:—

Andhra Pradesh	(Rs. 22.05 crores)
Bihar	(Rs. 11.82 crores)
Haryana	(Rs. 4.50 crores)
Himachal Pradesh	(Rs. 3.70 crores)
Madhya Pradesh	(Rs. 22.80 crores)
Maharashtra	(Rs. 8.54 crores)
Orissa	(Rs. 14.05 crores)
Rajasthan	(Rs. 18.75 crores)
Jammu & Kashmir	(Rs. 2.79 crores)
Uttar Pradesh	(Rs. 34.91 crores) and
West Bengal	(Rs. 13.04 crores)

Funds within the ceilings are released to the State Governments on receipt of relevant reports from the concerned States. In order, however, to ensure that the relief operations by the State Governments do not suffer in any way for dearth of funds, we have made ways and means advances as and when required.

In order to enable farmers in drought affected States to recoup part of the loss sustained during Kharif season by raising a good rabi crop, short-term loans worth Rs. 76.50 crores have been made available to the 11 drought affected States by stepping up the budgetary provision and allowing postponement of recoveries in respect of Kharif loans.

The eleven drought affected states have been allocated 12.51 lakh M.T. foodgrains under the Normal Food for Work Programme. A Special Food for Work Programme has also been introduced specifically for taking up additional works for creation of durable community assets through the gainful employment of the local labour force exclusively for the drought affected regions of the concerned states. Already 11.55 lakh tonnes of foodgrains have been allocated to these States. A further allocation of 1.20 lakh tonnes has been made very recently to some of the major drought affected states to meet their contingent requirements.

In order to cover about 67 lakh persons belonging to the vulnerable sections of the population like pre-school children, expectant and nursing mothers, old and infirm persons and the physically handicapped individuals, a Food for Nutrition Programme has been launched by the Ministry of Social Welfare with an allocation of 1 lakh MT foodgrains. The State Governments are expected to provide the counter-part funds for non-food components and arrange free feeding of the beneficiaries. Available reports indicate that Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal have already taken up the Programme. The other State Governments have also geared up their machinery and showed interest in the programme.

The other concessions to the drought hit farmers include subsidy for agricultural inputs including nitrogenous fertilisers to small and marginal farmers in all drought hit areas where the

damage to crops has been more than 50 per cent, waiver of interest liability on kharif loans in these areas for small and marginal farmers, ban on export of cattle feed and stoppage of export of expeller cakes of oil seeds and de-oiled rice bran as well as of compound-ed cattle and poultry feed.

Ever since the present Government took over, our main emphasis has been to ensure that there is no let up of the relief operations by the State Governments and the relief reaches those for whom it is meant. The State Governments have been directed to push through relief measures with determination to alleviate the sufferings of the people and avoid lop sided priorities in the distribution of essential commodities like kerosene and diesel in the drought affected areas. Since diesel is an essential input for farmers during the rabi season, the Ministry of Petroleum has, against heavy odds, made additional allocations over and above the earlier quotas and a substantial part of the additional allocation has gone to the drought affected States. I have advised the State Governments that at least 50 per cent of the diesel should be earmarked and actually made available to the farmers for providing one or two critical irrigations during the rabi season. Recently, after touring the drought affected areas, I have also suggested to the Ministry of Petroleum some changes in the mode of distribution at the retail level, such as supply of diesel through barrels instead of bulk vending through tankers, increasing the number of distribution outlets in the rural areas, and preferential allocation to cooperatives.

We have also advised the State Governments that at least 50 per cent to 60 per cent of the electric power should be made available to rural areas, if necessary, by curtailing consumption of power intensive consumers like are furnaces, rolling mills, etc. The Department of Coal and the Ministry of Railways are taking steps to increase coal supplies to the thermal power stations, particularly in the northern region.

In order to ensure that the public distribution system functions smoothly and foodgrains are continuously available in the F.C.I., and State depots and sub-depots a task force has been set up in the Department of Food to monitor the movement of foodgrains, especially in the drought affected states. Another inter-departmental task force is functioning in the Ministry of Agriculture to monitor, coordinate and streamline the different aspects of drought relief operations, such as, availability of diesel and kerosene, availability of drinking water, implementation of employment generation schemes, arrangements for supply of fodder and cattle feed etc.

I have already requested the State Governments to take over the successful exploratory tubewells of the Central Ground Water Board and to make fullest use of all available rigs through planned utilisation, proper maintenance and multi-shift operation. Thirty three rigs have been mobilised by the Government of India from the Central Ground Water Board, UNICEF and surplus rigs available with the unaffected States and allocated to the drought-hit States. Action is also being taken to procure additional rigs through DGS&D for which indents have been placed by the State Governments and 60 of these are expected to be in position by May, 1980.

We are also fully aware of the need to protect our cattle wealth. State Governments have been encouraged to fortify cattle feed with molasses and urea and the F.C.I. has been directed to deliver damaged foodgrains to the State Governments for use as cattle feed at reasonable prices. The State Governments have also been advised to extend all possible assistance and concessions to rural areas for making water available for the cattle.

Although precise estimates of the loss in production due to drought are not yet available, it is estimated that there may be a shortfall of about 12 million tonnes from the last year's level. The recent showers and the relatively

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long cold spell have, however, somewhat brightened the prospects of rabi crops. Concerted efforts are being made to obtain a good rabi crop through judicious utilisation of diesel and power, prudent water management practices and efficient pest control operations. We have a sizeable buffer stock of foodgrains located in strategic areas; we have the will and determination to rise to the occasion and above all the most valuable asset is the ingenuity and fortitude of the Indian farmer. With the cooperation of the State Governments, who are the implementing agencies in relief operations, we are confident of tiding over the situation.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the backbone of Indian economy is agriculture, which to a very large extent depends on monsoon—it is a gamble of monsoon. Because you have a long record of experience as a farmer, I hope you would appreciate and provide me an ample opportunity to point out many things on this issue. It is a very serious matter, for the last 32 years, we have the prevailing situation where the magnitude of the problems created by natural calamities like famine, drought and floods is quite big. Ours is a very vast country and as I said earlier, agriculture is the backbone of our economy. It is most unfortunate that we find ourselves in such a situation. I sympathise with the hon. Minister for having read out the same stereo-type statement taking more time. I would like to point out that in para 13, page 6 of his statement, the hon. Minister has said: "although the precise estimates of loss in production due to drought are not yet available." It is quite disheartening to note that in January also the Minister has made a similar statement. Talking about the magnitude of the problem, he had said, 220 millions of people, 123 millions of heads of cattle and 38 millions acres of crop are affected. I would like to know the facts, many states are chronically

affected by drought and there are drought-prone areas even in the Southern States. For instance, the Royalseema belt is affected, eight to nine districts of Karnataka and various parts of the Southern States are affected. My point is, there should be a comprehensive programme to combat the situation. Nothing of that sort has been categorically stated anywhere in the statement of the hon. Minister. I would like to mention what the hon. Minister has stated about the problem in certain areas in Madhya Pradesh and other places, which are affected and where the relief measures are going on. How the relief measures are being organised will be revealed, from an article which has appeared in today's *Times of India* which I will quote now:

"Foodgrains supplied by the Food Corporation of India are said to be the worst type, let alone being grossly inadequate. In a village near Akaltara in Bilaspur district, a labourer was reported to have died soon after consuming the rice supplied by FCI, while many others suffered illness."

This has been reported by many of the local leaders. There has been a rice racket in Chhattisgarh. To face such a situation, the relief measures should be quite adequate and well organised. But no such strategy has been envisaged for the last 32 years, except that whenever any area is affected, by drought and the people represent, the Planning Commission and the Central Government send a stereo-type team from the Centre and they will collect the information from the bureaucratic agencies in that area and they never see the real situation of the chronically drought affected areas. This has been my experience for so many years.

MR. SPEAKER: You are making a speech, rather than putting a question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: This is a call attention and so give me some more

time. This is the situation that is prevailing. The Minister has got a lot of background about the conditions of the farmers and agriculturists. Only yesterday, I visited his constituency and I saw there that even fodder is being sold at an exorbitant price.

SHRI HARINATHA MISRA (Darbhanga): I rise on a point of order, Sir. In course of a supplementary question, only one issue is referred to and stressed. That has been the practice. What I have been listening is almost a regular speech. Would you allow it?

Mr. SPEAKER: Mr. Lakkappa, what is your question now?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: My hon. friend has raised an objection. It is a Call Attention it is a serious matter. Even in 1973, there was the Meena Committee Report on this issue. I would like to say....

MR. SPEAKER: What do you want to ask, not say. You put a direction question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I would like to know whether on the basis of certain reports available and the various agencies created in the country—a national water grid has also been created—is there any integrated programme to meet and combat the situation permanently? We have got a long experience: we have got enough resources available. The rivers are there; the rivers are running. There is no integrated scheme....

MR. SPEAKER: I would not allow this. Please put a question.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: It is a very serious matter. Please bear with me.

MR. SPEAKER: You are over-serious. You reply whether there is any permanent solution or not.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I am asking whether an integrated programme has been adopted in order to see that a permanent solution is found.

MR. SPEAKER: Again, you are repeating the same thing. Please take your seat. You have asked the question.

SHRI K. LAKAPPA: Why are coming in the way?

MR. SPEAKER: No repetition. That is why the House has put me here. How many times you would like to know?

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Is there any permanent strategy to combat this situation in the country? Do you have any integrated scheme to meet this situation? I would like to know whether you are taming the rivers from south to north, including the Ganga-Cauveri link and also from west to east, to see that there is proper distribution of water and to see that all the affected areas are converted into a green belt in this country. What is the long-term strategy to combat this menace of drought? What is the integrated rural development plan that has been mooted? I would like to know what are the resources at his command to meet the situation on a permanent basis and what are the immediate short-term measures that he is going to take to meet the situation throughout the country including the southern States. I would like the hon. Minister to give a categorical reply on all these points.

MR. SPEAKER: Only one question and one point.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: We are Members of Parliament...

MR. SPEAKER: I know that.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: The Minister has to answer all the points. All the questions are relevant.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I have already stated earlier in the morning that we are going to increase the irrigated area in the country by considerable extent during the

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next year. The hon. Member might be knowing that India is at the top in irrigation in the whole world. The irrigated area in India is about 50 per cent as compared to 50 per cent in the rest of the world. In the next 10 years, we are going to increase our irrigated area from 55 million hectares to 113 million hectares which will be about 70 to 75 per cent of our total cultivated land.

The Member need not have any worries on account of the Government's programmes and intentions about increasing the irrigation.

He has mentioned about the exact extent of damage in terms of money not being known. As you know, it is very difficult to assess the damage from natural calamities in monetary terms. The State Governments sometimes give inflated estimates of the damage. The Central Team that has been visiting the States has made its own assessment and that is why I would not like to enter into any controversy by quoting any exact figures in this regard.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): The Central Team's figures at least must be available?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: My friend Mr. Lakkappa has mentioned about a report in the Times of India that there was a starvation death in a village...

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I said the death was due to the rice supplied.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Yes, that is right. The facts are that the person who died, one Panchandas, was aged 45 years. The death occurred on 3rd March 1980 and the rice that is reported to be responsible for the death was not distributed in the area before 5th or 6th March. The death occurred on account of vomiting and loose motions, and it cannot be stated that it was on account of the bad quality of the rice supplied for relief work.

Another fact I would like Mr. Lakkappa to know is that the person was not employed in any relief work in the Food for Work programme.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: It seems some people had to live on grass.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: That is also not true.

Par-boiled rice is being supplied in certain areas, but we are confident that the rice is being used is absolutely safe. It is being tested in our laboratories from time to time. We have about for lakh tons of par-boiled rice in stock in Madhya Pradesh and I would even go to the extent of saying that the people should be encouraged to use more of par-boiled rice for relief work because it takes less time in cooking and saves fuel...

PROF. N. G. RANGA: And it is more healthy.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: May be it is more healthy also, as he says.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: It is more nutritious and healthy and that is why the Keralites are so very strong!

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: There is nothing else to be replied to, out of the question put.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: I had put a question regarding the taming of rivers as a long-term strategy..

MR. SPEAKER: He has replied about the irrigation potential. (*Interruptions.*) Shri Chintamani Panigrahi. (*Interruptions.*) Mr. Lakkappa, please take your seat now. (*Interruptions.*)

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar): I would like to mention to the Hon. Minister that out of nearly 3500 gram panchayats in Orissa, more than 2319 gram panchayats have been seriously affected by drought. But the final crop cutting survey has not yet reached the State Government. When the final crop survey reaches the

Government it may be that nearly 3000 gram panchayats would be found to be seriously affected by drought in Orissa. There is scarcity of drinking water in almost all the drought affected areas. Therefore, will the Minister immediately sanction 20000 tube wells, since scarcity of drinking water has become the main problem in Orissa today? Will the hon. Minister sanction these 20,000 tubewells between March and April, so that the people get the minimum need of drinking water?

Rigs are not available in Orissa. Will the Government of India allot immediately rigs to Orissa, so that the tubewells can be sunk immediately in those drought affected areas?

The foodgrains that were allotted to Orissa in January and February have not so far reached them: today is the 18th March, 1980, and the foodgrains have not yet been despatched to Orissa. Where is the bottleneck? Why have the foodgrains not reached Orissa?

The loans are being recovered in these drought affected areas. I would ask the Central Minister to direct the State Government to postpone recovery of loans till the next harvest. If possible, those people should be fully exempted from paying back the loans.

I would also like to know, out of Rs. 14 crores which the hon. Minister has mentioned, what is the real allotment so far sent to Orissa. I would also request the hon. Minister, in view of the increasing drought conditions and difficulties in Orissa, to increase this amount of Rs. 14 crores to at least Rs. 25 crores, so that the people in the drought-affected areas get the benefit of drought relief and gratuitous relief . . . (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, I invite you to visit Orissa after the Session and see the condition there. (Interruptions) About gratuitous relief will the hon. Minister kindly direct the State Government to issue at least three million gratuitous relief cards to the old, infirm and incapacitated people who cannot work?

There is also mass migration of people from the drought-affected areas because there is no employment for them there. Will the hon. Minister take this into consideration and open all kinds of relief works in different areas, so that people do not migrate from there? Also what is the remedy which the hon. Minister thinks of providing to the middle-class, for giving work to the middle class people in the drought-affected areas?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I have already given the figures of Central assistance, the money sanctioned, in the case of each State affected by drought. Orissa had its share of Rs. 14.05 crores as sanctioned by the Central Government.

The hon. Member has mentioned about enough rigs not being available in Orissa for boring tubewells. 48 rigs are already working in Orissa; that is, probably, a larger number than in any other drought-affected State. I have also mentioned in my main statement that we are obtaining about 60 more rigs through the DGSD, and we will see that Orissa also gets its due share. Tubewell is the responsibility of the State Government. We only provide assistance, and for mitigating this misery on a long-term basis, we are executing the DPAP, Drought-Prone Areas Programme, through the State Government. That is also being taken up in Orissa.

We are monitoring the progress of all the schemes that are intended to provide relief in the present situation, and are also trying to see that, in future, such a calamity does not appear in a serious form. Some of the Ministers have also been touring the States. Even the Prime Minister has been touring the drought-affected States. She returned from Rajasthan the other day. She had earlier visited Uttar Pradesh. She is going to visit Madhya Pradesh also very soon. Maybe she would also find time for other States. Orissa is also being looked after by my colleague, Shri J. B. Patnaik. Even

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this morning he had been discussing the problems about Orissa. We are trying to improve the movement of foodgrains for all these States and Orissa also is being paid special attention. There should be no worry on that account. We will see that foodgrains are available in the future months and there is sufficient stock built up before the monsoon starts.

श्री मूल चंब डागा (पाली) : क्या राजस्थान के 33305 गांवों में से 31056 गांव अकाल से प्रभावित हैं? क्या यह सही है कि 2 करोड़ 40 लाख जनता वहां अकाल से प्रभावित है? क्या यह सही है कि राजस्थान में 4 करोड़ 10 लाख जानवर भूखे हैं? क्या यह सही है कि चूरू के अंदर 1 रुपया किलो घास मिलती है? क्या यह सही है कि पानी के एक बड़े मटके के लिए डेढ़ रुपया वहां देना पड़ता है? क्या यह सही है कि राजस्थान के लिए फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने जो बजट रखा है उसमें केवल 7 करोड़ रुपये का ही प्रावधान किया है जबकि कल वहां के राज्यपाल ने प्रधान मंत्री के वहां जाने पर यह कहा कि सी करोड़ रुपये की जरूरत है? क्या यह सही है कि 1968-69 के अंदर राजस्थान में 17 लाख आदमी काम पर थे और आज जब राजस्थान में 2 करोड़ 40 लाख आदमी प्रभावित हैं तो इस समय केवल 6 लाख लोग ही काम पर लिए जाएंगे? क्या यह सही है कि आज वहां कम से कम 30 लाख आदमियों को रोजगार की जरूरत है और उसके लिए एक रोज का 1 करोड़ 40 लाख रुपया चाहिए। फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने जो प्रोजेक्ट दिया है उसको वह पढ़ें और बाकी वह बजट पर मैं कहूंगा। क्या यह सही है कि राजस्थान में 3 किलो अनाज फूड फार वर्क के अंतर्गत दिया जाता है और वह उस हालत में दिया जाता है जबकि आदमी 10/10, इतनी जमीन खोदेगा। अगर वह उतनी जमीन खोदने में असमर्थ होता है तो उसको एक किलो भी अनाज नहीं मिलता है। अगर राजस्थान की यह हालत रही तो दो लाख आदमी वहां और भंये हो जाएंगे, इस का पाप किस को लगेगा? क्या यह बात सही है कि राजस्थान में आज बिजली नहीं है। 100 प्रतिशत उसमें कटौती कर दी है। न वहां डीजल मिल रहा है। कल बताया है राज्यपाल महोदय ने कि हमारे मंत्री श्री पी० सी० सेठी ने जो दस परसेंट ज्यादा डीजल और केरोसिन दिया था उसमें कट कर दी गई है। क्या यह बात सही है? कल श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी ने एक वहां अध्ययन दल भेजा है। मैं एक बात आपसे कहना चाहता हूँ--

क्या माननीय कृषि मंत्री और माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय जिम्मा राजस्थान से थोड़ा लयाव हो सकता है एक बफा राजस्थान की हालत देखने की कृपा करेंगे? 40 लाख फेमिलीज तो वहां से घर छोड़कर चली गई हैं। उनकी हालत देखने वाला कोई है? ये मेरे स्पेसिफिक क्वेश्चन हैं। मैं पूछ रहा हूँ, राजस्थान में 60 करोड़ रुपया पानी के लिए वे रहे हैं लेकिन राजस्थान को 2 करोड़ रुपया भी उसमें नहीं मिला है। राजस्थान की हालत इस तरह इन्होंने बिगाड़ी है। फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर ने 7 करोड़ रुपये की मांग स्वीकार की है जबकि राज्यपाल कह रहे हैं सी करोड़ रुपया चाहिए। यह श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी जी का कल का बयान है, राज्यपाल महोदय यह बोल रहे हैं। तो यह क्या कांटेडिक्शन है? हमारे साथ यह खिलवाड़ हो रहा है। क्या मिनिमम चाजेंज वह कम कर देंगे? लैड रेवेन्यू.....

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप प्रश्न पूछिए।

श्री मूल चंब डागा : मैं यही कह रहा हूँ कि क्या मिनिमम चाजेंज बिजली के जो हैं उनको वह कम करेंगे और कितना रुपया वहां के लिए उपलब्ध करेंगे? 6 लाख लोग काम में लगे हुए हैं, वहां 30 लाख लोगो को काम पर लगाने की क्या व्यवस्था करेंगे? यही बता दें। मैं बहुत एहसान मारूंगा?

श्री वीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : स्पीकर साहब, अ.न.रेबल मेंबर ने अपने अन्दाजे के मुताबक जो नुकसान हुआ है वह बताया है।

श्री मूल चंब डागा : हमारा अन्दाजा नहीं है, आपकी फीगर्स हैं।

I have got documentary proof to prove. Please don't tell me like that. This is from your own statement. If you have got the official figure, why should I put the question. Why do you want me to confirm them?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Sir, the population affected in Rajasthan is 2.40 crores according to our own assessment. A lot of relief has been provided to them. Even for drinking water, arrangements have been made to supply drinking water in the interior-most areas by tankers. I myself visited Rajasthan and discussed some of the arrangements that the State Government is making.

Accountants should not be the arbiters of the fate of the people in distress. More sensitive people are needed.

The Prime Minister, as I said, has also returned from there recently. We

have created a monitoring cell in the Agriculture Department to get information about the progress of works in hand. The hon. Member wanted to know how much have been given under the food for work programme. Rajasthan has already been given about 3 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains under the programme. About 6.56 lakhs people are employed everyday in Rajasthan. Rajasthan is the only State where central assistance has exceeded 5 per cent of the Annual Plan.

All that can be done is being done. But, Sir, you know it is not at all humanly possible to compensate fully for the loss suffered by the farmers after such a serious drought.

Government will continue to make all efforts to see that, to any extent possible, the relief is given and the farmers are rehabilitated by better production of rabi crops and are helped to sow the next crops also so that all their losses are made up.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: Sir, his answer is completely contradictory.

AN HON. MEMBER: Sir, Mr. Daga's name has been mentioned again.

MR. SPEAKER: That has been corrected. (Interruptions). Mr. Daga, will you please take your seat?

Shri Arjun Sethi.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA: No answer is given.

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sethi.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): Sir, the main problem in the drought-affected areas is the problem of providing drinking water to the affected people. All the hon. Members who have participated in this debate have pointed out that the problem is to provide drinking water to the affected people.

The hon. Minister also in his reply stated that in Orissa 40 rigs are under operation. But, Sir, the hon. Minister referred to the hon. Minis-

ter, Shri Patnaik who is looking after the problem. I am thankful to him. But I would like to draw his attention to the statement made by the hon. Minister, Shri J. B. Patnaik. He says that Shri J. B. Patnaik has expressed his concern over the acute shortage of drinking water in the drought affected areas of Western Orissa where the inadequacy of sophisticated rigs is a major constraint.

The statement was made on the 9th of this month. So, I would like to know from him how many rigs have been issued in between to Orissa so that the problem of providing drinking water there is improved. Moreover the hon. Minister referred in his statement that the F.C.I. is looking after in meeting enough food supplies to different affected regions of the country. I would like to know from him whether he is aware of the fact that the F.C.I. people in Orissa are most callous; they never take care to open more depots so that foodgrains are available to the affected people.

I would like to have a categorical answer from the hon. Minister on this point.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I have already stated what steps are being taken to supply more rigs to the States where they are needed. Drinking water supply is one of the programmes to which top most attention is being given. We have already promised that within the next 10 years every village where there is no drinking water source will be supplied with drinking water and within the next 5 years we shall see that all these places, where water is absolutely undrinkable and water has to be brought from long distances, sufficient water supply arrangements are made. (An hon. Member: What about rigs?) 48 rigs are already working. 60 rigs more we erect soon. Out of that some allocation will be made to Orissa. But we have to look after the entire country and cannot make available all the rigs to one State.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI: I am not saying that you should give all the rigs to Orissa. What is the fact, I am asking. Why are you saying like this?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Largest number of rigs is now working in Orissa, and Bihar. It is only because their need is the greatest. Rajasthan is also very badly affected. Certain interior areas need to be looked after and we shall see that all possible steps are taken to supply drinking water. We are also planning to create more storage capacities in the States in interior areas so that the FCI can look after the distribution work better. More centres are also being decided upon in consultation with the States and we shall see that food stocks are not stored in large towns at command stations only but also in some of the interior areas so that in times of emergency there is no difficulty for movement of foodgrains to needy places.

12. 52 hrs.

PETITION RE: CHANGES REQUIRED IN RAPE LAW

MR. SPEAKER: Smt. Geeta Mukherjee—Presentation of Petition.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I beg to present a petition signed by Shrimati Lata Mani and others regarding changes required in rape law.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Why are all the three ladies standing?

MR. SPEAKER: Now, the Home Minister has to make a statement.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Before the statement is made, you have the discretionary power. We have to raise the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Prof. Dandavate, I have seen. There is no precedent. I cannot do it according to the rules. It

has never been done. There is no precedent.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have allowed me to raise the issue. He is making a statement on the same subject. I am referring to that.

MR. SPEAKER: You will get chance under Rule 377 after that. It does not matter. For what you say there is no precedent. I cannot do it, it cannot be taken up just now.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: You can make your statement after the Minister makes his statement, in the light of that.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Please allow me to make one submission. All that I am saying is this. The Home Minister is wanting to make a statement on a subject in which you have allowed me to make a special mention under Rule 377. Sir my point is this: After the Home Minister makes a statement, my raising the issue is meaningless.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: In the light of that statement you may make your remarks. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed him to make a statement. Let him make a statement. Why are you interrupting?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I am not saying anything about instructions in Speaker's Directions which are there but ultimately there is something like the common sense which can always be accommodated under Speaker's direction.

MR. SPEAKER: No, common sense will also mean that he can take cognizance of the same facts which you might be putting there. Then again you can have an option to reply.

(*Interruptions*)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: But it is topsy-turvy, Sir.