

(iv) S.O. 350(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 21st May, 1991 constituting the Central Fertiliser Committee.

(v) S.O. 1439 published in Gazette of India dated the 25th May, 1991 appointing Shri K. G. Krishnamoorthy, Joint Secretary as the controller of Fertilisers vice Shri R. M. Sethi.

(vi) The Fertiliser (Control) (Second Amendment) Order, 1991 published in Notification No. S.O. 444(E) in Gazette of India dated the 2nd July, 1991.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—230/91]

(2) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:—

(i) Review by the Government on the working of the Haryana Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1989-90.

(ii) Annual Report of the Haryana Agro-Industries Corporation Limited, Chandigarh, for the year 1989-90 along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—231/91]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi

and English versions) of the Ministry of Industry for the year 1991-92.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—232/91]

13.05 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Drought situation in the Country

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the rainfall situation in the country during the current south-west monsoon.

2. The forecast for the south-west monsoon made by India Meteorological Department (IMD) on the 27th May, 1991 is that the quantum of rainfall in the country as a whole for the season would be 94 per cent of the long-term average value, within the estimated error of ± 4 per cent.

3. The south-west monsoon set in over Kerala on 2nd June, 1991, around the normal time. During the first two weeks of the south-west monsoon, i.e. 1st June, 1991 to the 15th June, 1991, the rainfall was quite satisfactory throughout the country. The Northern Limit of Monsoon (NLM) continued to advance till the 15th June, slightly ahead of schedule, and passed through Veraval, Ahmedabad, Bhopal, Sagar, Khajuraho, Kanpur, Bareilly, Dehradun and Dalhousie. The monsoon during this phase was active in the Peninsula, central India, east India, east Uttar Pradesh and parts of North India. However, it did not advance further for about 3 weeks upto 10th July, and the amount of precipitation declined from 183% of normal on the 12th June to 89% of normal on the 10th July. However, it reached Delhi and the neighbouring areas on the 16th July and covered the entire country by the 19th July. The rainfall position in the country has shown some

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improvement since the middle of July, 1991. Normally, the south-west monsoon covers the entire country by the 15th of July and so, this year there was a delay of four or five days in covering the entire country.

4 The cumulative rainfall position so far has been poor as compared to the corresponding period in all the past 5 years from 1986 onwards except in 1987. As on the 10th July, 1991, only 17 out of the 35 meteorological sub-divisions and 47 per cent of the districts of the country had received excess or normal rainfall as against 16 sub-divisions and 37 per cent districts in 1987. Subsequently, widespread rains improved the position considerably and as on the 24th July, 21 out of 35 meteorological sub-divisions and 52 per cent of the districts in the country received excess or normal rainfall as against 10 meteorological sub-divisions and 33% of districts in 1987 and 23 sub-divisions and 57% of the districts in 1986.

5. The delay in the advance of monsoon over north-west India was mainly due to the prevalence of unfavourable pressure patterns over the area. From the second week of July onwards, three low pressure areas and one depression developed over the north Bay of Bengal and moved over land increasing the rainfall activity over Orissa and central and west India. This provided much needed rainfall to Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, and Gujarat. All these states have now come to "normal" category. Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Deini, Haryana and West Rajasthan did not benefit much from the passage of these systems although these regions also received rainfall. As a percentage of normal rainfall, the precipitation as on the 24th July, was only in 36 hills of West Uttar Pradesh, varied from 50 to 59 in Bihar Plateau & Plains, East Uttar Pradesh, plains of West Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh, and from 60 to 69 in Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi, East and West Rajasthan.

6. It is, thus, clear that rainfall has been very good over the Peninsula, Northeast India, West Bengal, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, East Rajasthan and entire Gujarat State including Saurashtra and Kutch. Rainfall activity has been subdued over Bihar, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh although rainfall has occurred over most parts of Bihar and some parts of Uttar Pradesh and Haryana during the period from 27th to 29th July.

7. The Central Water Commission monitors the storage position of 56 important reservoirs in the country. The total live storage position in these reservoirs stood at 37.47 T.M.C. (Thousand Million Cubic-meter) on 5th July, 40.15 T.M.C. on 15th July and 56.54 T.M.C. on 26th July, 1991. The position is more than the average of last seven years' live storage position which is 34.94 T.M.C. However, the position of reservoirs located in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is at present not satisfactory.

8. Delay in monsoon has affected sowing and transplantation of kharif crops particularly in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Haryana. In Bihar transplantation of paddy has, by about the end of July, taken place on 33 per cent of the total area as against the normal coverage of over 70%. Sowing of Maize has taken place only in 65% of the normal area and oilseeds in 80% of the normal area. In Uttar Pradesh, only 40% of normal rice area has been transplanted. Coarse grain crops like Jowar and Bajra are also badly affected in Uttar Pradesh. The Maize sowing in Rajasthan is particularly affected and is not likely to improve as the sowing season is already over. The State Government is promoting pulses as an alternate crop. The sowing of oilseeds is progressing well in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu. In Gujarat, even though the sowing of groundnut was lagging behind substantially for some time, the good rains during last fortnight has improved the prospects.

Cotton sowing in Northern States is already over in the irrigated areas and is in progress in the rainfed areas of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Gujarat. In Haryana, the sowing operations in Rohtak and Rewari Districts have been affected. In the rest of the country the sowing and transplantation of kharif crops are on expected trends particularly as a result of good rains after 17th July, 1991.

9. The concerned State Governments have already geared up their machinery to meet the present adverse situation effectively due to delayed monsoon. Shortage of drinking water was experienced in some pockets of Gurgaon, Narnaul, Rewari and Rohtak districts of Haryana, and the State Government has initiated prompt remedial measures. The Government of Bihar has drawn up a contingency agricultural plan and initiated steps for creating an awareness among farmers for taking up alternate crops. Steps have been taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of power for operating tube-wells and to provide employment under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in needy areas. The Govt. of Uttar Pradesh has geared up the District machinery to ensure supply of inputs, irrigation water and power. Instructions have also been issued for undertaking works to provide employment and remove drinking water difficulties in affected areas of Uttar Pradesh. Steady availability of diesel to meet the enhanced demand has been kept up and as a result the consumption of diesel in July, 1991 was 23% higher in Bihar, about 30% in U.P., 18.8% in Haryana and about 38% in Punjab over that during July, 1990.

10. The Central Government has been alive to the possible adverse impact of an aberrant monsoon and interacting with State Governments continuously. As early as in April, 1991, the Ministry of Agriculture had written to the State Agriculture Production Commissioners suggesting model Contingency Crop Plans to meet the

adverse situation. The issue was also discussed in the Conference of State Relief Commissioners in May. In the light of the erratic trend of monsoon, the Ministry of Agriculture again advised the Northern and Western States on 12th July, 1991 to draw up emergency plans to meet the shortage of drinking water, fodder and power supply etc. They were also requested to draw up shelves of projects for providing employment to the people likely to be affected. The states have been alerted on the need to ensure priority supply of power and the easy availability of diesel for facilitating agricultural operations. The Crop Weather Watch Group in the Ministry of Agriculture is maintaining a close watch on the progress of monsoon and kharif operations. The States were also advised to convene similar meetings of weather watch group at the state level. The situation is also being monitored by a Committee of Secretaries.

11. The primary responsibility of managing natural calamities is that of the State Governments. Emphasizing this principle, the IX Finance Commission recommended ready access to resources and autonomy in relief operations for the States. On the recommendations of the IX Finance Commission, from 1st April, 1990, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for financing relief expenditure has been constituted for each State, 75 per cent of which is contributed by the Central Government and the balance by the State Government concerned. An annual contribution of Rs. 804 crores for the State CRFs has been envisaged for, and of this amount Rs. 603 crores are contributed by the Central Government. Fifty per cent of the Central share of the CRF for the year 1991-92 has already been released to States. The State Level Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary of the State, is empowered to decide on all matters connected with the financing of the relief expenditure, including norms of assistance. The State Governments are required to meet all expenditure on relief operations from the CRF.

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12. To sum up, the progress of south-west monsoon has not been satisfactory in the northern India. However, in view of the improvement in the rainfall during the past two weeks, the situation has eased in certain parts. The coming weeks in August and September will be crucial to the kharif prospects this year. We will continue to maintain our vigilance and the Hon'ble Members may rest assured that no effort would be spared in initiating appropriate interventions at the relevant time. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

Let me explain. I told you before that this is a state subject. They used to inform the centre and a central team was sent there. It was decided by the Ninth Finance Commission that it is a subject which comes under their jurisdiction and the centre need not bother about it. All the money will be released to them in advance in four instalments.

[*English*]

We have got that part and we give them that amount.

[*Translation*]

We have already given two instalments. We shall give the third one also when the time comes. The rest is the responsibility of the State Government. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: All of you, please sit down. I must say that a good statement has been made and Members are interested in discussing what has been stated in this statement. I think we would discuss it under Rule 193 in detail. We will fix a time for this.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Sir, I have already given a notice under Rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: I have said that. Under Rule 193, we will discuss it. Now, we will take up Matters Under Rule 377.

13.12 Hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[*English*]

(i) Need to set up large Public Sector Industrial Units in Gadchiroli District, Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): Sir, it has been the policy of the Government to bring about controlled, balanced and uniform development throughout the country and to bring backward and undeveloped areas in the mainstream. With this purpose, 'No Industry District' Scheme was formulated for which Government announced many facilities, concessions, subsidies and relaxations also, but in the absence of proper control and guidelines neither the backward areas have been developed nor the people have been benefited.

In Maharashtra also, Gadchiroli District, which is tribal dominated, was declared 'No Industry District', but even after five years no efforts have been made either to create an industrial atmosphere or to set up any major industry there. As against it, more industries have been set up with an investment of Rs. 4000 crores in those districts of the State which are already developed.

For setting up industries in this District, the Central Government issued many 'letters of intent' and also provided credit facilities, but industries were set up in other areas. An amount up to Rs. 2 crores was made available for creating an industrial atmosphere, but the State Government could not utilise it. The important institution "SICOM" which promotes the industries, is getting very large and costly posters and advertising material printed regarding various facilities to provide the industrial atmosphere but Gadchiroli has not been mentioned in them at all.