

team has visited and it is submitting the report.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
Rs. 272 crores is the demand, and Rs. 35 crores is a very small sum comparatively.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
Interim relief means ways and means advance. So far as ways and means advance is concerned, it all depends upon the financial position of the State and if the financial position of the State is good at a particular time, the Finance Ministry is not generally releasing ways and means advance to the State.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : Here they have already advanced Rs. 15 crores.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
That they have already given. With regard to more finances, I do not know the position. It is with the Finance Ministry.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
It is a really funny. Because of financial difficulties, only, this money has been wanted. Here my point has not been replied to. You are just evading the issue.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : Sir, in my constituency, a part of the area is still under water. The whole economy of Contai Sub-Division is shattered and broken. Will the Minister let us know the approximate date of starting the economic rehabilitation of the people of that area and when the work of rebuilding or repairing of the destroyed houses will be started?

I would also like to know, the relevant items which are being distributed and the quantity of those items and also the money spent on each item?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
Sir so far, what we have given is given in the reply.

10,000 tonnes	Kerosene
100, tonnes	Milk powder
210 tonnes	Polythene Sheets, etc.

So far as the relief measures taken are concerned, the number of relief camps opened, 2692, numbers of persons rescued and given shelter, 11.72 lakhs.

The State Government has released Rs. 27.98 crores to various Departments to take up relief and rehabilitation measures.

These are the relief measures. We have also taken part in these.

(Interruptions)

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : I want to ask two questions.

MR. SPEAKER : One question only.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA : It is a very devastated area. Kindly allow me to ask another question.

MR. SPEAKER : I cannot. This is not permissible under the Rules. My hands are tied.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If you had taken Geetaji's position, you would have got two chances.

Central team on flood situation in Kerala



*85. **PROF. P J. KURIEN :**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central team which visited Kerala to assess the damage caused due to floods, has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the total loss assessed by the team;

(c) the assistance provided to Kerala so far in this regard; and

(d) the steps being taken to meet the demand of Kerala in full?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) On the basis of the report of the Central Team and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief thereon, a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 26.67 crores has been approved for flood relief and repair/restoration works in Kerala.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister is disappointing, because only a paltry sum Rs. 26.07 crores have been allotted to Kerala. This is not enough, even for my constituency or even for repairing the roads in the State. Rs. 87 crores have been assessed to be the loss due to damage of roads. Then again, compensation has to be given to the farmers.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the actual loss due to natural calamities-flood-in the State of Kerala assessed by our team and what is the actual assistance sought for by the State Government? In view of the fact that, the amount you have sanctioned, i.e. Rs. 26.67 crores is only a meagre amount.

Will you consider enhancing the amount by giving an additional assistance to the State of Kerala?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The overall damage assessed by the State Government as was mentioned in the memorandum is like this :

Area affected	10.2 lakh hectares
Population affected	82 lakhs
Crop area	0.52 lakh hectares
Number of human lives lost	65
Number of cattle lost	1915
Number of houses damaged-requiring re-location	72,014
Completely damaged houses requiring re-construction	62,036
Partially damaged requiring repairs	58,588

Now, this is the damage mentioned in the memorandum by the State Government. The Central team has assessed and they have given their assessment report.

Now Sir, it is not always the Central team which assesses the damage, but it is also assessed by the State Government. The damages assessed by the Central team always, in many cases, differs because the State Governments are mentioning about the total damages only, whereas the Central team gives the report of whatever is admissible, to restore the pre-monsoon position. The State Governments in many cases, give the estimates for the repairs, etc. which will prevent floods, etc. Now, these are all normal Plan items; they can come under the normal Plan, and not as relief measures. (Interruptions) They had asked for Rs. 215.50 crores, and Rs. 26.67 crores were sanctioned. (Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : They have sanctioned only 10%. I am not satisfied with the answer he has given. I will be satisfied only if he gives us more funds. (Interruptions)

Unfortunately these natural calamities occur in our country in some parts,

every year. And whenever there is such a calamity, we rush in assistance as an *ad hoc* measure. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether his Department has got any concrete programme for the prevention of the adverse effect of these floods and natural calamities, i.e. a permanent solution for them. For example, in my constituency much of these devastating effects of floods can be avoided if you spend some money on soil conservation. Every year, we spend a lot of money. There is a saying, 'Prevention is better than cure.' I suggest there should be—there was already some proposal also—a permanent agency which should rush in assistance whenever there is natural calamity. At the same time, when there is no natural calamity this permanent agency should work in the flood-prone or calamity-prone areas, so that whenever it occurs, the adverse effect can be eliminated. I would like to know the reaction of the hon. Minister to this.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Floods create problems which concern different Ministers. There are a number of programmes of a permanent nature, which can solve the problem of floods, particularly at bunds etc. Then there is the soil conservation programme. There are a number of such programmes, but all these programmes depend upon the availability of resources with the Government.

The hon. Member wants things to his satisfaction; it is not possible immediately to do anything. (*Interruptions*) A coordinated programme is there. Every programme is there, but it all depends upon the availability of resources.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : First of all, you must have programmes ..

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The programmes are there.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : And specifically, a permanent agency to deal with this, and not in an *ad hoc* way.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : At present, we do not think there is any need for a permanent agency. (*Interruptions*) because there is a provision of margin money, in case of immediate requirements by the State Governments. (*Interruptions*) Therefore, it is not necessary to have a permanent agency at present.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : This *ad hoc-ism* should stop.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : The natural calamities like floods, landslides and sea erosion are a perennial problem, so far as the coastal State of Kerala is concerned. The worst effect of monsoon every year in Kerala is sea erosion along the coastal belt. Kerala has 576 Kms. of coastal belt, and much of this coastal line remains unprotected from the sea waters. In this connection, may I know from the hon. Minister whether special allocations or special funds will be made available to the State of Kerala for the completion of the sea wall which remain uncompleted, before the next monsoon?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This does not arise from this question. It is a question of the normal Plan; and in a normal Plan, the State Government can suggest this; the Planning Commission will take care of it—and the Finance Ministry also.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : The suggestion has been made,

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I am happy that the Minister has not taken a position that the States are inflating the damages. That was the earlier position; or should I take it that it is confined only to the Opposition Party Government? If the damage is assessed to the extent of restoration of pre-flood level, how are you going to protect works? Unless they are brought to the safe stage, how do you think that it is going to be a permanent solution?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

I have just informed the previous member that this can be done in a normal plan because this scarcity relief is given for restoring the pre-monsoon position. I know that it does not solve the problem, as the hon. member has said, but that can be raised in the normal plan. Planning Commission and the Finance Minister can examine it and a scheme can be evolved which can help in preventing floods.

KUMRI MAMATA BANERJEE :

Recently, there was a big flood in Bengal specially in my constituency which was totally affected. We are grateful to the Prime Minister because he has already visited West Bengal and given Rs. 15 crores to the West Bengal people also who are affected by this flood. Is the Minister aware that even public representatives were not allowed to enter the relief camps. Only CPM people were getting the relief money and they were utilizing it for their party plans and not as relief fund. Instead of giving this relief fund to the people who were affected by this flood, they were utilizing the money for election campaign. No relief organisation was allowed to enter the relief camps. Now the State Government is demanding Rs. 335 crores, but the Prime Minister has already given Rs. 15 crores. Has the Central Government received any account of this fund from the State Government or not; if not, what steps has been taken by the government in this regard? Until and unless government receive any account of this fund, government should not allot any money, because this money will go to their party plans and the affected people will not get any money.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

I have noted down whatever she has suggested.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :

Have you received any account of this fund or not?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

They submit it. (*Inter. upiions*)

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDAC-

KAL : My State Kerala has been unlucky and unfortunate for the last 3—4 years. It has been affected by monsoon and drought. Unlike north India, our crops are long term crops like rubber, cocount, etc. If such crops are destroyed then the loss is for life time. Now there are Western Ghats development and many other funds. They can divert it for permanent development of our States because hills and ups and downs lands are there. To prevent soil erosion and protect soil—government can divert more funds. The government has allotted only 10 per cent of what the State Government has requested for the total damage. So, I request the hon. Minister to allot more funds or divert more fund for the permanent solution to save the poor farmers and poor people of Kerala.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :

Again and again I have to repeat that this comes in the normal plan and the government can consider it. So far as the previous lady member is concerned, she is very unhappy because I have not said anything with regard to her question. But I cannot act as a police man and go to States and do it. I have told her and replied through you that the State Government is submitting their account whenever money is given to the State Government.

Studies on Operation Flood

*87. **DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the indepth studies conducted by a University at Rotterdam, Social Science Institute the Hague and the India Committee of Netherlands on the Operation Flood projects; and

(b) if so, the salient features of these studies and their findings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and