

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

[English]

Monday, November 9, 1987]
Kartika 18, 1909 (SAKA)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

[English]

[MR. SPEAKER *in the chair*].

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : Sir, we are starting with the drought situation; but there is no drought in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : No drought in the House, but it is there in the States. Now Question 21—Mr. Rawat.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

Drought situation

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*21. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD
RAWAT :
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
WARI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the country is in grip of worst drought of the century;

(b) the extent of losses suffered, State-wise;

(c) the Central assistance sought and made available, State-wise;

(d) whether States have urged to enhance the quantum of Central assistance; and

(e) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) This year's drought has been fourth in severity in this Century.

(b) Statement-I showing cropped area damaged by drought is given below.

(c) State-wise information on Central assistance sought by the affected States and approved by Government of India is given in Statement-II below.

(d) So far the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi Administration have urged for the enhancement of the quantum of Central assistance.

(e) The ceilings of expenditure for relief measures in the wake of the natural calamities are decided following a well established procedure involving an assessment of the requirements of central assistance in respect of the States by the Central Teams and the High Level Committee on Relief. Government of India do not as a matter of policy, consider requests for reopening of ceilings of expenditure already approved.

Statement

Cropped Area Damaged During 1987

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Cropped Area Affected (in lakha.)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	34.00
2.	Gujarat	71.00
3.	Haryana	13.97
4.	Himachal Pradesh	4.21
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	3.70

1	2	3	1	2	3
6.	Kerala	9.82	15.	Uttar Pradesh	102.28
7.	Karnataka	37.80	16.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.16
8.	Maharashtra	17.28	17.	Chandigarh	0.02
9.	Madhya Pradesh	17.80	18.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	0.22
10.	Nagaland	0.68	19.	Delhi	0.86
11.	Orissa	23.77	20.	Daman & Diu	0.02
12.	Rajasthan	108.53	21.	Pondicherry	0.11
13.	Punjab	4.96*		Total	454.20
14.	Tamil Nadu	3.01			

*Area unsowned.

Statement-II

Details of Central assistance sought & amount approved for drought relief during post monsoon period of 1987-88

(Rs. in Crores)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ U.T.	Assistance Sought	Amount 1987-88	Approved for 1988-89
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	546.50	68.890	.049
2.	Gujarat	187.47	79.840	.060
3.	Haryana	489.37	37.275	.045
4.	Himachal Pradesh	274.64	18.705	.045
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	169.06	18.981	.041
6.	Karnataka	256.68	46.638	.068
7.	Kerala	604.45	32.082	.052
8.	Madhya Pradesh	579.34	63.384	34.124
9.	Maharashtra	294.39	37.679	11.879
10.	Nagaland	22.20	3.876	0.26
11.	Orissa	162.63	50.780	.030
12.	Punjab	505.05	29.391	.041
13.	Rajasthan	434.27	147.988	.098
14.	Tamil Nadu	52.71	28.202	.052

1	2	3	4	5
15.	Uttar Pradesh	1314.11	155.736	.206
16.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	0.66	@	
17.	Chandigarh	0.17	@	
18.	Delhi	10.98	@	
19.	Pondicherry	2.73	0.59	
20.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	—		
21.	Daman & Diu	—		
Total		5907.41	820.046	46.816

@ Requests are being processed as per established norms.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister that according to the statement II, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sought an assistance of Rs. 1314.11 crores but the sanctioned amount is very meagre. Uttar Pradesh is still in the grip of a severe drought and miserable conditions are prevailing everywhere in the State. Will the hon. Minister kindly give his approval for the allocation of more funds ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, in accordance with the orders of the Central Government, a study team visits the affected State and funds are released by the Centre according to the assessment made by that team.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT :
Mr. Speaker, Sir, my second supplementary relates to the hon. Minister's statement in which it was stated that Government is not prepared to reconsider the ceiling of expenditure which has already been sanctioned. In these circumstances from where will the State Governments mobilise resources ?

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
We never re-open the ceiling they sanction to the State Governments. It is not the practice, and we do not want to do it.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :
The Central teams have visited various States, and I think they have submitted a report in respect of the utilization of the funds which have been earmarked towards the relief fund. What is their opinion ? In view of the fact that in many States they have not utilized the funds properly—i.e. those which have been earmarked for that purpose, will Government seriously think of constituting a Parliamentary Committee so that they can visit the various States and report to government every now and then about the utilization of funds ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
Government has not decided to appoint any Parliamentary Committee in this respect. But we have a practice of monitoring. Our officers go to the States, and they monitor. The State Governments also are monitoring the relief organized by them.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI :
My first question has not been answered.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : We want to have a discussion later on on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER : We cannot have it under this question.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :
I have replied that the Government has no intention to appoint a Parliamentary Committee in this respect.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI : That is the second part of my question. The first part of the question was : What is your opinion regarding the utilization of the funds, or about the Central teams' report towards utilization of funds ? What is your opinion ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I say that there is a system of monitoring, and we monitor the relief which is given to the State Governments. The State Governments themselves are also monitoring.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : The gap between the demands made by the various States, and the actual assistance sanctioned is too big. I would like to know whether Government of India feels that there is a sort of an exaggeration made by States in assessing their requirements; or whether there is any other feeling behind this. What is the rationable behind fixing this ceiling ? I would also like to know whether the amount of assistance shown here—is it the ceiling fixed by Central Government ? Because whatever ceiling is fixed, 25% has to be borne by the States. I would like to know whether this is the ceiling, or the actual assistance given by the Central Government to the States.

Recently it has come in the press that the World Bank President has said that he would sanction about Rs. 450 crores towards drought relief. In what way is this amount going to be utilized ? Is it going to be utilized project-wise or is it going to be utilized as other assistance ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I would like to agree with the hon. member in so far as first part of the proposition is concerned which he has made that there is a tendency on the part of the State Governments to exaggerate their claim for assistance.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I did not say that. What I meant was that you feel that way.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I did not say that but it is a fact that the State Governments are exaggerating their claims for assistance.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : It has gone on record.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : That is what the hon. member had said. I am just repeating what the hon. member had said.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : You think like that.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The second part of the question is confirmed. It is advance plan assistance given to the State Government and it is a ceiling on expenditure to the State Government for a particular year; and that is to be adjusted within a period of five years by the State Government in the State Plan. So far as World Bank assistance is concerned, it is to be utilized for various purposes as relief measures for drought and other things also.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAI RAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as soon as Madhya Pradesh Government came to know that drought conditions may affect the State, it prepared a plan of action for combating the situation and presented it to the Centre for consideration and it was also the Government of Madhya Pradesh which was the first to initiate measures in this regard. Has the Centre adjusted the amounts spent by the State Government from its own exchequer and if not, by when will this money be refunded ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is the responsibility of the State Governments to meet situations like famine and other natural calamities from their own funds. However, the Centre also provides assistance for they have shortage of resources. Because of the difficult situation, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments but it does not meet the entire expenditure incurred by the State Government.

SHRI MADAN PANDEY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the answer given by the hon. Minister...

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Just wait. Jaipal Reddy ji you may ask.

[English]

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I

thought he had defected. You would have taken action.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : There is a feeling that non-Congress (I) State Governments are discriminated against in respect of allotment of funds for drought relief measures.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : No.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : It is for the Minister to clear this impression. (Interruptions) I am making a specific point in respect of crop insurance scheme. It has been found in the context of drought that the scheme is not at all put to use. While money is collected by way of instalments from the farmers, no relief is provided in the drought affected areas to the farmers. There are a lot of loopholes in the crop insurance scheme. Will the Minister look into this in the context of drought ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : There is a separate question on crop insurance itself. But I assure the hon. member that whatever suggestion he has made, I will look into it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Apart from financial assistance given to the State to meet the drought situation, are they giving any other assistance to provide essential inputs that are required to mitigate the suffering from the drought, that is, whether they are supplying seed, fertilizers, credit etc, to the farmers so that they are able to grow better rabi crops, and the loss from the Kharif crop can be to some extent, made up. Is it not a fact that the Government of India has not been able to make adequate arrangements for certified seed of wheat ? Also, there is a shortage of gram seed. And, is it a fact that ordinary wheat has been purchased from the godowns of F.C.I. at a rate of Rs. 287 per quintal whereas farmers were paid for it only Rs. 160 of 162 ? And this wheat purchased from FCI is being upgraded and bagged by the National Seeds Corporation. This is not quality seed; this is not certified seed. It will be certified now by the National Seeds Corporation and will be supplied to the

farmers at Rs. 325 per quintal, and the subsidy on this because of Rs. 103 or Rs. 105 to be given to the National Seeds Corporation and the distributors, comes to several crores of rupees, without any benefit to the farmers.

Will the Minister please inform the House as to how much shortage exists as regards wheat seed and gram seed and also oil seeds, and how it is to be made up ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The hon. Member is right so far as shortage of certified seeds is concerned. At present, I have no figures available with me about the exact quantity which is in short. But we have, as the hon. Member has rightly pointed out, procured good quality foodgrains, that is, wheat, from the FCI. It is cleaned, the germination tests are carried out, its germination test is very good. This is supplied to the farmer with some subsidy.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Three fourths of his question has not been answered.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : What other assistance is given ? Is there also any arrangement to help the farmer to buy fertilizer ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This question is about subsidy given by the Government of India in the drought affected areas. But it is not directly connected, because the question of supply of certified seeds to the farmers is not for drought affected areas but to all farmers who are going for the *rabi* season. For them there is a shortage. We have procured the seeds but the exact quantity is not available with me. I will not venture to give the exact quantity because it is not with me at present. It is not connected with this question directly.

AN HON. MEMBER : Half an hour discussion may be allowed.

MR. SPEAKER : It is going to be a full discussion later on. But now I find the importance of the question and I have given a latitude; that is all.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Farmers are

being charged more for the seeds than what they give for the grains.

MR. SPEAKER : Because there is some process; there is something else.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Reverting, for a moment, to the question of this assistance which has been promised by the World Bank, somewhere between four hundred to five hundred crores, according to Press reports, yesterday, in reply to an unstarred question in the House the hon. Minister of State in the Department of Expenditure in the Ministry of Finance has said in his reply that this money—that was a specific question about this World Bank assistance—is going to be utilised for purchasing food grains from abroad. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact, because a little while ago he said—what I understood him to say—that this money will be used for various projects. But specifically the Minister of State in the Department of Expenditure has said that this money will be used for purchase of foodgrains from abroad. I want to know, if that is so.

AN HON. MEMBER : Edible oil.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : I do not know about edible oil. I want to know about the foodgrains, whether the sources from which this purchase is to be made have also been laid down or agreed upon and if so, he may give us some details about them.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Now Bofors is also included.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I do not know what the Minister of State for Expenditure has said in this House. But I can certainly say that at present we have not assessed as to how much we have to purchase from abroad, particularly foodgrains, wheat and not coarse grains and oilseeds. There is some shortage in oilseeds and coarse grains. We may take a decision in future for purchase of it. So far as my Ministry is concerned at present we have not taken any decision.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, although many parts of our country are in the grip of drought, it is Western Rajasthan, the desert areas and the Kutch areas of Gujarat which are worst hit. In view of the seriousness of the situation, will the hon. Minister make arrangements for providing special assistance to the Kutch area of Gujarat and areas like Barmer, Jaisalmer of Rajasthan which are affected by severe drought conditions so that no one dies of hunger in these areas. Secondly, cattle-fodder for Rajasthan used to be supplied from Punjab earlier but now that is also not available. I want to know whether arrangements will be made to supply fodder from other States to prevent deaths of cattle in this State ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We have thought of making special arrangements for areas like Jaisalmer, Jodhpur etc. In Rajasthan and the Kutch, Saurashtra etc. areas in Gujarat and some arrangements have already been made. In so far as fodder is concerned, we are trying to get it from wherever it is available and we have been supplying it in areas which have shortage of it. We have made certain arrangements for Rajasthan also. As regards the areas in Gujarat, we are trying to supply fodder from Gujarat itself but in regard to Rajasthan, we have made arrangements for fodder supply from other States besides Punjab.

[English]

Demand to scrap fishing charter policy

*22. SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether demands for scrapping of the charter policy of fisheries have been made by many coastal States;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to undertake a review of this policy;

(c) whether any fresh measures are being contemplated by Government to ensure that foreign charter fishing trawlers are removed to at least 100 miles from our coasts; and

(d) if not, what are the problems