

just like to say that India's security cannot be a question of debate or negotiation. At no cost, our security will be allowed to be endangered by any action of any other country and appropriate action will be taken to safeguard it

SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY : Sir, my specific question is like this. Some time back it appeared in the press that the Government of the United States has agreed in Principle to supply AWACS to Pakistan. Is it a fact or is it not a fact? And also, it appeared in the press some time back; that the Prime Minister has taken up this matter with the US Government at the time of his earlier visit to United States of America. If that were so, what has happened actually and what was the assurance given by the Government of United States of America to the Prime Minister at that time?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : The Prime Minister did take it up when he visited Washington on 20th October, 1987. We have taken up this matter with the United States authorities at various levels and are doing so constantly. I would like to be precise here because we are dealing with our relationship with other countries. The factual position as of now is that US 610 million dollar package has been approved for Pakistan for the fiscal year 1988. The details are : For Development Assistance 50 million dollar; PL-480-80 million dollars; Economic Support for 220 million dollars, FMS concessional 230 million dollar, FMS forgiven 30 million; IMET 815 thousand. These are the details.

As for the package for 1987-93, it is 4.2 billions. Now we have to see what will be the allocation for fiscal year 1989-90. We know what it is for 1988. With regard to the particular question that you asked me, I said no decision has been announced although the matter is with the Congress. It is a confidential report which they may or may not publish with regard to the military assistance that is to be given to Pakistan.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : The Minister himself has referred to the possibility of an agreement over Afghanistan being

arrived at in the near future about the withdrawal of the Soviet Troops from Afghanistan. Would like to know whether the Government has taken up at diplomatic level or in any specific way with the Government of United States of America and urging upon them that the rationale for giving Pakistanis the AWACS planes no longer exists and therefore they may refrain from any further process of considering the Pakistani request.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : I just said so in reply to a question by Shri Sharad Dighe. This is precisely what I said.

SHRI G. G. SWELL : What you say in this House is different. Have you taken up specifically either at the diplomatic level or at any other level with them?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Far be it from me to say anything in this House light heartedly. I have said this with full sense of responsibility that these matters have been taken up with the United States Government at the highest level and at other levels—ministerial, secretarial and at other levels—constantly. This is a matter which is before us all the time.

Small Farmers and Landless Labourers

*206. **DR. A. K PATEL :** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have made any assessment about the percentage of small farmers and landless labourers who are likely to go below poverty line due to drought and flood conditions;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps taken or contemplated by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI BIREN SINGH ENGTI) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has provided assistance to drought affected and flood affected States. This assistance has enabled implementation of programmes which benefit small farmers and landless labourers.

DR. A. K. PATEL : Two days back I asked this question to the Agriculture Department. Unluckily it was shifted to the Planning Department and I was hopeful that the Planning Department would give me a correct reply; but I am surprised to see the reply. No attempt is made to study, to isolate or to identify the people below the poverty line. You know that drought is there for the last three years in so many States; especially in my State of Gujarat it is the 4th year of drought. I know the condition of farmers, they are dying actually. Without ascertaining the number of persons, how are you going to help them? Therefore, I want a specific reply from the Hon. Minister about the steps that they are going to take for the persons—farmers and landless labourers—who are already below the poverty line. Again, the figure would increase after the 4th year of drought.

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR) : While sharing the anxiety of the Hon. Member for the purposes of ascertaining of the people who are landless labourers and small and marginal farmers who are affected by the drought, I would say that it is not possible to have a clear cut idea of the fluctuations that take place in a short time by drought or floods.

As regards the question of the impact of drought, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Members that it is a case of roughly about 28.15 crores. People who are affected by the drought. Out of them 9.29 crores would be belonging to the vulnerable sections of the society. It was not possible to specifically demarcate the small farmers and agricultural labourers within this class. As I have said, it is not possible to do it in a short time.

On the question of action plan I must submit that the Cabinet Committee on drought was constituted to tackle these problems and *inter alia* this Cabinet Com-

mittee has directed for the preparation of water budget to optimise the use of available water in reservoirs, supply of power to agriculture sector, strengthening the public distribution system, undertaking public health measures, provision of fodder and drinking water in rural areas and taking effective measures for providing special nutrition to the young and needy children, etc. All these programmes have been taken up.

As far as Gujarat is concerned the population that was affected by the drought was 215 lakhs. So far as the small farmers and landless labourers are concerned they are 30% of this population which has been affected by drought and it works out to 64 lakhs. So far as the Government is concerned Government had taken up 6763 number of works and the persons who have been employed and who are in the vulnerable sections of the society is 18.72 lakh.

DR. A. K. PATEL : Sir, I have moved in the Gujarat drought affected areas and I found that the workers who are actually employed by the Government they hardly get Rs. 6 per day whereas the farmers if they employ them have to pay Rs. 11 per day. Is this proper?

MR. SPEAKAR : No. Are you satisfied with the answer?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Sir, I agree that we put the question in the perspective of the minimum wages. Under the Minimum Wages Act which is meant on the daily basis of the workers that, of course, has not been paid but on the piece-rate basis linked to the drought affected areas etc. the Government of Gujarat and Rajasthan have notified it at the rate of Rs. 11 per day. That is quite different from the minimum wages. That is a matter which directly, of course, comes within the purview of the Labour or Agriculture Ministry. I would certainly take up with them the complaint of the hon. Member that the labourers have not been receiving this Rs. 11 per day.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : May I know whether Government has made any study to identify the drought prone and flood prone blocks and districts in the country?

If so, what is the number of such blocks and districts and whether any plan has been formulated to tackle them on a short and long-term basis ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I would like to bring it to the notice of the hon. Members that the study is now at the final stages and thereafter the plans would be thought of.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Would the Minister agree that especially in the midst of drought conditions apart from evolving schemes to provide relief and rehabilitation to the affected people at least those sources of employment which exist at present should not be allowed to lapse ? In this context, in particular reference to Maharashtra, I would like to know whether there is a move on the part of the Maharashtra Government to abolish the Maharashtra State Farming Corporation as a result of which members of the weaker sections, depressed communities, economically weaker sections are likely to lose their jobs.

If it is so, will the Centre intervene—I am not saying political intervention—to give guidelines and directions to the State Government not to disband the State Farming Corporation in Maharashtra ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : The hon. Member has put the question in three parts. The first part is with reference to the sources of employment. They should not lapse. I entirely agree with him. Since he wanted an answer whether I agree with this, I do agree.

But on the second and third part, where he has referred to Maharashtra State Farming Corporation and the intervention of the Centre, I would like to take it up with the Chief Minister because I am not aware whether the State Farming Corporation is sought to be abolished because this would be beyond the scope of the question that has been put.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Would you agree that it should not be abolished in the midst of the drought conditions ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I have already said.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Agree with us so that we can take it up with the Chief Minister.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I have said that the sources of employment should not be abolished. On the broad proposition, I agree with you. Whether anything is being done to the State Farming Corporation and whether the Centre should intervene in it, I will look into that part.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Weaker sections are within the jurisdiction of the Centre.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : I see the point in what you have said.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The hon. Minister has stated that it is not possible to assess the impact of drought with regard to increase or decrease in the percentage of small farmers and landless farmers. Is it a fact that the number of small farmers and marginal farmers from year to year, over a long period, has been decreasing and small and marginal farmers are giving up agriculture because they find it unprofitable and the number of landless labourers is increasing ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : To a large extent, what the hon. Member has been pleased to observe, is correct.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : The hon. Minister has said that piece rate wages are being paid and they come up to Rs. 12 a day or something like that per worker. Apart from the wage that is being paid to the actual worker who is employed on piece rate wages, may I know whether any effort is being made to see what happens to the members of his family of working age ? Are they being employed ? Are they being paid anything at all either in food-grains or in terms of food ? Are subsidised rations being supplied to them ?

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKAR : Under the Central schemes, already a portion of the wages is being paid in the shape of grains.

So far as the employment part is concerned, it is in the different schemes, that the Central Government runs, the different type of people have got to be employed. The approach is to see that in cases where the people are affected by the drought, the family does not suffer. It is from that point of view that the employment part is taken care of.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, there have never been such devastating floods in the past hundred years as in the northern Bihar in 1987. The people of Bihar are grateful to the Prime-Minister for paying a visit to the state to have a survey. (*Interruptions*). . .

MR. SPEAKER : Ask your question.

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : In these floods nearly fifty thousand landless people have become homeless. The Government of Bihar had promised to pay Rs. one thousand to each family, which became homeless due to these floods, and later the amount was reduced to seven hundred and fifty rupees. Some families were paid and others did not get this amount. Most of the people are homeless, I want to know whether some assistance to those families which have become homeless in these floods would be given for constructing their houses by the Government of India or not. . . (*Interruptions*). . .

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down .

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN : Let me have the reply.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : It is irrelevant.

Criminal Cases Against Persons who Made Inflammatory Speeches

*209. **DR. A.K. PATEL† :**

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any criminal cases have been registered against persons who made

inflammatory speeches at a Public meeting held at Boat Club, New Delhi on 30 March, 1987 inciting communal feelings and hatred between one community and another;

(b) if so, the details thereof and progress in these cases; and

(c) if no case has been registered, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Taking a total view of the prevailing situation, the local Administration took a view not to register any case but took other effective measures to maintain peace and communal harmony.

DR. A. K. PATEL : Everybody know that on 30th March, 1987 speeches were made. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps or what action going to take against the persons who made the speeches.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I have already answered that after examining all the circumstances and the prevailing situation, the Delhi Administration has taken the decision not to register any case in respect of those who made the speeches but other steps are being taken to maintain peace and communal harmony.

DR. A. K. PATEL : What are the other steps ?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : The other steps that have been taken are that we have formed Peace Committees; we have strengthened the police machinery; we have strengthened the intelligence machinery, we have provided more vehicles and more wireless communication facilities to the police and we are keeping a watch over the situation. Every step which is required to