

than the business in other states. In spite of this no funds were provided through LIC to Rajasthan for any social scheme for irrigation and drinking water supply whereas Rajasthan is facing acute drinking water problem. In Jodhpur, Ajmer and Beawar these is acute shortage of drinking water. Will you please ask the LIC to give some money to Rajasthan for this purpose.

**SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :** The LIC system has been taken to the tea garden labourers, those who earn Rs. 5 per day. But they do not get the benefit out of their investment in time. Suppose a man dies, they do not get the benefit immediately. He cannot apply, because he is illiterate. What is your duty? Can you not render all help to the family immediately? The tea garden labourer is earning Rs. 10 or Rs. 5 per day. An illiterate man cannot apply or go to the authorities. It is your duty to see that help is rendered immediately. What is your comment? That is your duty.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** So far as the LIC is concerned, we have to get the policies.

**SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :** Policies are there.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** So far as helping the agricultural labourers is concerned, we have got a scheme wherein we are giving even Rs. 1,000 on death, per agricultural labourer, and some State Governments have also got some schemes for agricultural labourers and also poor people. I do not want to name them. But the hon. Member coming from Assam can suggest to the Chief Minister of his State to look into the problem. Some other States also have come forward with a scheme for such people, to benefit them.

**SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :** What is your barometer on it. Does it cover agricultural labourers and tea garden labourers?

**DR. G.S. RAJHANS :** Shri Azadji said that the list does not compare favourably in the case of Bihar. It is really unfortunate that the Bihar Government has not come forward with proposals. Can the Centre take the initiative and suggest some schemes to the Government of Bihar so

that the weaker sections of the unfortunate State may be benefited? Besides, I also want to know whether there is any monitoring system in the case of the loans being advanced by LIC to different States?

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** I have stated that I do not know why. There are schemes, like water supply schemes and sewerage schemes. But it is pertinent to note that if the State Governments from their own budget they provide for water supply and sewerage schemes, they need not come before the LIC for allocation. So, it is for the State Governments to give their proposal and we, from the Central Government's side, need not suggest to them. It is for them to say what is their genuine requirement, what is their scheme for their people and for that at the time of the formulation of the Plan they should be prepared for that and they should come before the Central Government.

**PROF. N.G. RANGA :** It is for the Central Government to take the initiative and send their proposal to Bihar and then they should talk to the Ministry.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :** That is why I have stated that if they have provided from their own budget for water supply scheme and sewerage schemes there is no need for them to come before the LIC.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee.

**SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Question Number four, two, zero but not '420'.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P.K. GADHVI) :** My answer to Question No. 420 tabled by the honourable lady member is . . .

#### **Audited Accounts of Relief Assistance**

**\*420. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has been asked by Union Government to send audited accounts of

financial relief assistance spent by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

(c) whether other State Governments have also been asked to send audited account of flood and drought relief expenses; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : (a) and (b). A ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 69.50 crores has been sanctioned to the Government of West Bengal for floods relief works for the current year. The sanction order requires the rate to send certified figures of expenditure as booked by A.G. to enable this Minister to release Central assistance due against approved ceilings.

(c) and (d). All the State Governments who have been sanctioned relief assistance are required to send such certified figures.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : I want to know whether the Central Government have received the accounts for Rs. 20 crores sent up to 31st October, 1987 that is, pending up to 31st October 1987 for flood relief and rehabilitation, despatched by the West Bengal State Government on the 19th November, 1987 ? If so, then out of the ceiling expenditure stipulated by the Central Government for West Bengal Flood Relief, of which the Central Government are to give more than Rs. 33 crores apart from the matching grant, why only Rs. 12.50 crores apart from the matching grant was sent by 29th November and by what time the Central Government would send the rest ?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, I regret to say that initially the West Bengal Government sent us a statement of expenditure which was incorrect and which was misleading. Initially they sent us the statement of expenditure as if they had spent Rs. 44.77 crores. But on our query, they said, 'No, the amount actually incurred was only Rs. 19.85 crores'. Therefore, what was due to them as per their correct statement of expenditure has already been paid to them and nothing is due to them now. We will be giving more assis-

tance to them on receipt of further statement of expenditure.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : By 19th, they have sent the statement of expenditure for Rs. 20 crores. I would like to know whether you follow the practice of giving only up to what the account has been sent.

Sir, in reply to my question (c) and (d) that 'whether other State Governments have been asked to send the accounts', the answer is interesting, it says : 'All the State Governments who have been sanctioned relief assistance are required to send such certified figures'. I want to know, whether they were asked to send and if so, what were the response ? Now I ask, how many State Governments, particularly ruled by Congress-I Government, were asked to send the required statement and which are those Governments responded to it ?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : As a matter of fact, the hon. House would appreciate that although as per the rules, the figures certified by Accountant General are accepted, however because those figures are likely to come after the end of the year, in between also when the state Government furnishes the statement of expenditure on their own, which may not be strictly certified by Accountant General, even then if we find that the actual expenditure has been incurred, we release that much of amount. This procedure is uniform for all the States. There is no question of Congress-I and Non Congress-I States

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : My question is specific. How many State Governments have responded and at what time they have sent their accounts ? This was my question.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, the question pertains only to West Bengal. I do not have the figures of other States.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Your answer is evasive. My question is specific about other State Governments.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : You may kindly go through part (c) of your question. The

question is : "whether other State Governments have also been asked to send audited account of flood and drought relief expenses; and if not, the reasons therefore ?". Our answer is : "All the State Governments who have been sanctioned relief assistance are required to send—not requested—such certified figures".

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :  
My supplementary was specific.

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, one minute. I can settle the question like this. Mr. Minister, you furnish the other part also.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : If they have not sent, they should be asked to send.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, we will get the information. Mr. Azad, there is no excuse for West Bengal Government also not to send. Everybody has to.

*(Interruptions)*

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : It is a matter of shame that when the Central Government is giving money for the Flood relief to the West Bengal people, it is not reaching them. This is not the campaign of Congress (I), but this is the campaign of CPI, RSP and Forward Block that the State Government is not properly utilising this money. So, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether he will review the situation as to how many persons have got the flood relief amount and how many have not. Has the Government any proposal to nationalise this incompetent State Government ? *(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHANDRA PRATAP NARAIN SINGH : At least the hon. Member is able to keep the hon. Members from West Bengal at bay which even you cannot. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD : Nationalise a State Government is a novel idea !

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I can appreciate the concern of the hon. Member that the relief which is being provided either for flood or drought or any other natural calamity must go to the people who are affected. It is the responsibility of every State Govern-

ment to see that whatever assistance is provided to that, it reaches the people who are affected. But we do not distrust the States that it is not reaching the really affected people. At the same time, with a view to have a little more monitoring we insist on a statement of expenditure so that diversion of funds can be prevented from taking place and the money is utilised for the very purpose for which it is sanctioned. That is why, as I said in my reply to the earlier supplementary, that initially the West Bengal Government gave us a statement of expenditure amounting to Rs. 44.77 crores. Later on, when we examined that, we found that out of this, Rs. 33.69 crores was the anticipated expenditure which they were likely to incur in future. Therefore, we did not release it. When our teams go, they do go to the areas which are affected, assess the needs of the people who are affected and then on that basis, after examination, the amount is released. I very much wish that the State Governments should try to see that there are no leakages, that there is no diversion and the amount reach the people for whom it is meant.

#### Fall in Value of Rupee Vis-a-Vis Pound Sterling

\*422. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK† :

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the Hindustan Times dated 30 October, 1987 wherein it has been stated that the rupee slumped to an all time record low against the pound sterling;

(b) if so, the causes thereof;

(c) what steps are being taken to improve the situation; and

(d) how much loss is expected to the exchequer due to the rupee slumps in the world market ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B. K. GADHVI) : (a) to (d) A statement is given below,