

in for coloured programmes, the Kerala people also wanted coloured programmes. Therefore, the plan estimate had to be revised from the original Rs. 448 lakhs to Rs. 862.91 lakhs. This has been done. I have already said that the studio had been commissioned in 1985 itself. Production is going on and the language programme will be started very soon. That I have already said. As far as the criteria is concerned, mainly we are basing it on the population. As I have said in my answer to the first supplementary question, as far as Kerala is concerned, by the end of the Seventh Five Year Plan, the coverage area-wise as well as population-wise will be much above the national average.

**Additional Aid to Maharashtra for  
Drought Relief**

\*452. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE† :  
SHRI MUKUL WASNIK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the basis or criteria fixed to determine the amount of drought assistance to be given to States by Union Government ;

(b) whether the Central assistance given to Maharashtra Government is considered adequate keeping in view the enormity of the problem ; and

(c) if not, whether Union Government propose to reconsider the allocation to Maharashtra ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (c) A statement is given below.

**Statement**

(a) The policy for financing relief expenditure is based on the recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission and Government decisions thereon. Though the State Governments are primarily responsible for financing of relief, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government, if necessary. As recommended by the 8th Finance Commission an amount

of Rs. 240.75 crores per annum is allocated as Margin Money to the States, of which 50% is contributed by the Central Government. The State Governments provide the balance 50% in their budgets. On the occurrence of a natural calamity the concerned State Government meets the expenditure from its share of margin money and is entitled to draw the Central contribution after exhausting its own share. If the expenditure requirements of a State exceed the total margin money, it may seek assistance from the Centre. On receipt of a memorandum seeking Central assistance, an Inter Ministerial Central team is constituted. The Inter Ministerial team consisting of experts from different disciplines visits the affected areas to make an on the spot assessment of the situation. The Central team holds detailed discussions with the State Government officials and also has discussions with the people's representatives in order to make an objective assessment of the situation. On the basis of the field visits, discussions and taking into account the Central norms for various items and plan provisions available with the State Govt. for various schemes, the Central team submits a report recommending item-wise ceilings of expenditure. In case the requirement is not large and an assessment can be made without sending a Central Team, an Inter-Ministerial Group considers the matter. On the basis of the report of Central Team or the Inter-Ministerial Group and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, ceilings of expenditure are sanctioned for the States.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : By increasing the length of the statement they have carefully evaded the answer.

MR. SPEAKER : Have not reduced the amount.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : If they were to be sharp, probably sharp reply would have been given.

In the statement that has been made by the hon. Minister, he has said.

"As recommended by the 8th Finance Commission an amount of Rs. 240.75 crores per annum is allocated as Margin Money to the States, of which 50% is contributed by the Central Government. The State Governments provide the balance 50% in their budgets."

If they find that in any natural calamity this amount is not adequate, then they have to get the Central assistance. Before I come to the Central assistance asked for by the Chief Minister of Maharashtra—incidentally the father of the newly elected Member—before I go to that, I would like to ask you whether there has been any complaint, that this particular amount of Rs. 240.75 crores for all the States for margin money, is that inadequate or not? Firstly, are you going to revise that amount? I will come to the second part later on.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** It is within the jurisdiction of the Finance Commission and not the Government. When the Finance Commission is appointed the States represent their case and they request for the increase in the margin money and it is only because of the request of the State Governments that the margin money was increased. Earlier it was nearly Rs. 100 crores. Now it is Rs. 240.75 crores. So, it is more than double.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** He will realise that this amount is inadequate when I come to the second part of the question. He has evaded what exactly was the amount that was demanded by the Maharashtra Government for the famine relief work and how much is the amount that has been actually sanctioned by the Central Government. How much is actually paid? On what basis has the amount been worked out?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** The request of the Maharashtra Government was Rs. 261.62 crores for 1986-87 and Rs. 233.07 crores for 1987-88. That comes to Rs. 494.69 crores. The amount sanctioned by the Government of India is Rs. 36.27 crores.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** How much is paid?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** Sanctioned is always paid. Whenever they like, they can draw.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Not always.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** Let me complete.

My hon. friend Prof. Madhu Dandavate knows the procedure. This is the ceiling of expenditure in the State Plan itself. This amount is over and above the State Plan.

This amount is the ceiling of assistance sanctioned to the State Government.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** He himself has replied Rs. 494 crores were asked for and only Rs. 36 crores have been granted. Do you think that this amount is sufficient or adequate to meet famine conditions in Maharashtra? Why do you not reply please?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** The primary duty to meet the natural calamity is that of the State Government.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS :** No.

**SHRI AJAY BISWAS :** That is wrong.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** This is the primary duty of all the State Governments including Maharashtra. The Government of India is only supplementing their efforts. We know that their financial position is weak and it is limited. Therefore, the Government of India is supplementing their efforts. It is not the responsibility of the Government of India. Now the procedure is also explained to the hon. Member in the reply itself—that we constitute an inter-ministerial Committee which goes to the States, visits the effected areas, meets the representatives of the people and then makes the recommendations. These recommendations go to the high level Committee which is headed by the Member Agriculture Secretariat Planning Commission and that the ultimate sanction is given by the Finance Ministry. In all this procedure, the Committee which goes to the State is examining it in detail.

They make their own assessment and based on their assessment this is done.

**SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI :** Sir, the hon. Minister has said that a ceiling of expenditure is only fixed by the Central Team. Actually the amount is not given within the ceiling of the expenditure fixed. The centre is liable to pay 75% of the ceiling to the State after the amount is spent. May I know whether the Commission has also recommended that where the calamity is of a rare severity, the assistance should be more than 75% even 100% and if that is so, I would like to know the State which received more than 75% of the ceiling fixed because of rare severity ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** The Eighth Finance Commission has recommended that in case of rare severity, the amount is given as grant by the Government of India. Now, there are States for which we have given the amount. I have no information at present because the question relates to Maharashtra and in Maharashtra there is no rare severity because the rare severity means the entire State is affected by continuous drought year after year. If a part of one or two districts or five districts are affected, that is not the criterion.

**SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY :** Sir, it is not to Maharashtra alone that this question pertains. It is a national question. In the Inter-Ministerial Committee constituted under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Agriculture, they were to review the norms and the assistance to be given to the States. They have submitted an interim report. I do not know whether the interim report has been accepted by the Government or not. I do not know whether they have suggested any increase in the norms of assistance both for nutritional programme as well as housing and other facilities.

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** As I have already stated, this question is in relation to the Maharashtra State and I said that if the amount is sanctioned, that means the Committee has already submitted its report and the procedure has been gone into and after that this amount is sanctioned and the same is given to the State as advance plan assistance.

**SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE :** Sir, we are really agitated in Maharashtra. All MPs of Maharashtra know the situation in Maharashtra. Let me inform the hon. Minister that technicalities are not important to us. The results are important. The demand made by the State Government was Rs. 496.60 crores and the hon. Minister has mentioned that the whole State is not affected with drought. I beg to differ with him. Of the 30 districts in Maharashtra, 19,000 villages spread over in 210 taluks in 26 districts have been affected with drought. I am really surprised that the information that has been supplied by the Maharashtra State Government, representations that have been made by the MPs of Maharashtra are not being conceded to, are not being attended to. I would request the hon. Minister kindly not to go into the technicalities and the guiding principles. We are concerned with drought situation in the State and the relief to be given to the poor in the drought affected areas of Maharashtra. Will the Central Government look into this problem from the point of view which I have stated above ?

**SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA :** Sir, I do not want to go into the technicalities, but when the hon. Member wants to know the procedure, it is my duty to explain them. Otherwise you will ask me to explain. Therefore, I have to explain it, and I have explained.

So far as the State of Maharashtra is concerned, I have not said that it has not affected the entire State. I only replied to the question regarding the clause of rare severity. In that case only this is the norm. That is what I said. So far as the State of Maharashtra is concerned, whatever the Member has said they have submitted in their memorandum and the Team has examined it in detail and according to their assessment this relief is recommended and is sanctioned.

#### Hike in Prices of Electrical Steel Sheets

\*455. **SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA† :** Will **SHRI SUBHASH YADAV :** Will