

him, in view of the statement he has made that he expects the production to go up considerably in the present year and next year also, whether they will at least consider reducing the price of levy sugar by that 65 paise which they had increased per kilo in last December, whether the total quota of levy sugar as compared with free sale sugar will be increased to give some relief to the consumer since the production has increased.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** The price of 65 per cent of the production which is taken in the levy system is based on certain calculations according to a formula. And this price for levy sugar is paid to the factories with a view to ensure that the producers get a remunerative price for the sugarcane which they supply to the factories. Therefore any drastic reduction in the price of levy sugar that is being paid to the factories will also decrease their capacity to pay the farmer for the sugarcane. Therefore, in view of the need for giving a remunerative price to the farmers and also to supply sugar to the people at a reasonable rate through our public distribution system, all these prices are gone into in detail. At present there is no question of increasing the levy sugar percentage from the present 65 per cent because that has been worked out already, and we think that any increase in the quantity in the levy sugar will only put up the price of sugar in the free market.

**SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** It must be the opposite.

(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER:** Order please.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA:** I agree with the Minister that in view of the price paid to the agriculturist a certain increase in the price of sugar is but natural but the consumer should also not suffer in the open market. Therefore, I would like to know from the Minister whether he would enter into an informal agreement with the mill owners to

see that the open market sugar is sold at a reasonably fair price, particularly in the season when there is a great demand for sugar.

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** We always try to persuade the sugar mills to try and not to make undue profits. And we seek their cooperation as we did last time. They voluntarily offered to hand over all their sugar stocks to the Government for sale at a fixed price.

#### International Year of Disabled Persons

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\*86, SHRI R. K. MHALGI:  
DR. VASANT KUMAR  
PANDIT:

Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether the International Year of Disabled Persons is being organised this year;

(b) if so, the specific schemes which the Central Government propose to undertake, including legislation, to rehabilitate the handicapped persons, specially during the current year; and

(c) the allotments for the various schemes proposed State-wise?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN):** (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the existing programmes for the disabled persons are being strengthened and new programmes are being evolved in the context of International Year of Disabled Persons. A Working Group has been set up to examine the question of legislation in this field. Significant programmes are as under:—

(i) Under the scheme of Integrated Education, Government of India

meets 50 per cent of the cost on certain items on a fixed scale. These include among other things, salary of teachers, transportation costs, cost of books and stationery, assessment costs and cost of initial equipment. Further liberalisation of the scheme is being considered.

(ii) Scholarships are given to disabled persons from class IX onwards to pursue education. Stipends are also given for in-plant training.

(iii) There are 11 vocational rehabilitation centres for the physically handicapped set up in various States by the Ministry of Labour which are giving vocational training and helping the handicapped persons to secure gainful employment.

(iv) Grant is given to voluntary organisations upto 90 per cent of the cost for training, education and rehabilitation programmes for the disabled persons.

(v) 3 per cent vacancies have been reserved under the Government of India and in Public Sector Undertakings in group 'C' and 'D' posts.

(vi) There are 18 Special Employment Exchanges to identify and provide placement facilities for the handicapped. Opening of more Special Employment Exchanges and a Special Cell for the disabled in other selected employment exchanges is under consideration.

(vii) Ministry of Petroleum have decided to reserve 10 per cent of dealerships/agencies for certain categories of disabled persons and have prescribed a roster for this purpose.

(viii) Ministry of Communications has decided to allot telephone booths for the disabled persons, including the blind.

(ix) Under differential rate of interest scheme, loan is available to disabled persons and institutions upto Rs. 1500/- as working capital loan and Rs. 1000/- on term loan at 4 per

cent rate of interest. This is to promote self-employment ventures.

(x) Weighted deduction of 1-1/3 times the salary paid to blind or physically handicapped persons by an employer in respect of employees whose salary does not exceed Rs. 20,000 in a year is allowed under Income Tax Act. This is to encourage employment of physically handicapped persons.

(xi) National Awards are given each year to outstanding employers of the disabled persons and most efficient employees.

(xii) Government sponsors research in areas of rehabilitational aids for the handicapped.

(xiii) Cost of diesel/petrol is being subsidised to facilitate mobility of the disabled.

(xiv) A new scheme for rehabilitation of cured leprosy patients is under consideration of the Government.

(xv) A scheme for giving free/subsidised aids and appliances to the disabled persons is also under consideration.

(c) No state-wise allotment of money is made for the various schemes.

SHRI R. K. MHALGI: I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. House that a casual attitude has been taken by the Government in respect of a very important issue like the handicapped class of society. Practically two months of the International Year of the Disabled Persons are over. Still, what is the reply that is being given? The reply that is being given is that the new programmes are being evolved in the context of the International Year of the Disabled Persons. Secondly, in the statement 15 programmes have been shown out of which four have been stated to be under consideration. Thirdly, while answering a question on 1st December, 1980 about legisla-

tion, the hon. Minister had stated that the working group was examining the question of legislation and that it had yet to submit its report to the Government. More than two months have passed still the answer is the same. That shows that the Government is taking a casual attitude towards this problem.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Please ask the question.

**SHRI R. K. MHALGI:** Does the Government propose to observe the year of disabled sincerely and seriously? If so, how is it that new schemes are not ready uptil now? Who is responsible for this? When will these new schemes be finally ready for implementation? When was this working group set up? When will it submit its report?

**SHRI S. B. CHAVAN:** The hon. Member is fully aware of the fact that the Government is very sincere in implementing the schemes that we have already decided upon.

**DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY:** What about seriousness?

**SHRI S. B. CHAVAN:** If he cares to go through the statement which has been laid on the Table of the House I am sure the hon. Member will be fully convinced that the Government means what they have stated in the statement.

For the information of the House I may state here some of the schemes which have been finalised by us. There are about 8 or 10 schemes which have been finalised and orders are now going to be issued about these. These schemes are going to be introduced for the first time for disabled persons.

At present, 50 per cent of the cost of this integrated education is met by the Central Government. Now it is proposed that 100 per cent of the

scheme be met by the Central Government.

Rates of incentives for the teachers, cost of books and stationery, assessment costs, costs of initial equipment are being revised upward.

A new scheme of supply of aids and appliances either free or at 50 per cent subsidy depending on the income of the disabled/parents of the disabled, has been formulated. Persons whose income is upto Rs. 750/- 100 per cent subsidy will be given to them. To persons whose income is between 751 and Rs. 1500, 50 per cent subsidy will be given to them. This scheme is being introduced for the first time.

To implement the reservation of 3 per cent vacancies under Central Government and public sector in category C and D posts certain operational details such as reserving specific points on 100 points roster and identification of jobs which disabled persons can perform have been finalised.

State Governments has also agreed in the recent conference of State Ministers of Social Welfare to make 3 per cent reservations of vacancies in certain categories of posts.

More special employment exchanges, special cells for disabled in selected normal employment exchanges, vocational rehabilitation centres, skill training centres and rural rehabilitation centres are proposed in the Sixth Plan.

Like this, there are about 8 to 10 schemes. I would not take much time of the House to read all this.

**SHRI R. K. MHALGI:** What about the working group?

**SHRI S. B. CHAVAN:** The working group is at the final stage of drafting its report. They have almost completed their deliberations.

**SHRI R. K. MHALGI:** Who, according to the Government, is a disabled person? What is the approximate number of disabled persons in the country? How much amount are you going to expend on them in this international year of disabled persons?

**SHRI S. B. CHAVAN:** We do not have the exact number. The census operations have begun and they are going to tabulate and give the exact information. This information was made available on the basis of the sample survey conducted by the Survey of India people.

**DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT:** The hon. Minister has stated that he will be serious and sincere about the displaced persons. In the programme it is stated that there are 11 vocational rehabilitation centres in the various States. I would like to know whether those States which are now not covered by vocational rehabilitation centres will also be covered this year. Similarly, in item No. (vi) it is mentioned that 18 employment exchanges are existing in the country. You will agree that 18 employment exchanges and 11 vocational rehabilitation centres are not sufficient to meet the demands of the displaced persons. Those States which do not have vocational rehabilitation centres and employment exchanges, will they be covered this year, taking advantage of the International Year for the Disabled Persons? Thirdly, apart from providing hearing aids and spectacles, will the Government provide artificial limbs in case there is a demand?

**MR. SPEAKER:** I would request hon. Members to be precise in their supplementaries and not to ask more than one question, saying parts a, b, c and d. I am going to allow only one supplementary in the future, not so many parts.

**SHRI S. B. CHAVAN:** I am very glad that the hon. Member is now fully convinced of the sincerity of the Government in implementing the programme, that we have undertaken.

The vocational rehabilitation centres are as follows: Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Physically Handicapped Kurla, Bombay; Vocational Rehabilitation Centre for Physically Handicapped, Vidyanagar, Hyderabad...

**AN HON. MEMBER:** Why do you read the whole list?

**SHRI S. B. CHAVAN:** He wanted information about these centres and the employment exchanges. I have the information but I do not have the time.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It has already taken too much time. So, it may be laid on the Table of the House.

श्री मूल चर्चा : इतने टाइम के बाद भी आप यह नहीं बतला सके हैं कि कुल कितने डिस्प्लेस्ड पर्सन्स हैं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह प्रश्न तो पूछ लिया गया है, कोई नया सवाल पूछिये ।

.... (व्यवधान) ....

श्री मूल चर्चा : मैं प्रश्न करता हूँ कि जो विकलांग लोग हैं, उन में क्या मन्टली रिटाईर्ड पर्सन्स भी आते हैं या नहीं ? इस के अलावा आप यह बतलाइए कि आज तक आप ने कितने आदमियों को नौकरी पर लगा दिया है और कहाँ-कहाँ पर लगाया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल आप अलग से पूछ लीजिए ?

Come to the pointed question.

श्री मूल चर्चा : किन किन लोगों को सर्विस पर लगाया है ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह सवाल इस से कहाँ उठता है ?

can you answer this question at the moment?

**SHRI S. B. CHAVAN:** As far as employment opportunities is concerned, the number of handicapped people registered with the employment exchanges is only about 90,000.

So far about 24,000 handicapped people have been given placement.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अध्यक्ष जी, क्या मंत्री महोदय यह बतलाएंगे कि विकलांग अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय वर्ष के उपलक्ष्य में 1 तारीख को विकलांग लोगों ने जो मांग पत्र आप को और प्रधान मंत्री जी को समर्पित किया था और उस पर लाठी-चार्ज भी हुआ था, तो उस मांग-पत्र में उनकी क्या क्या मांगें हैं और उन पर कोई आप ने विचार किया है या नहीं ?

अध्यक्ष महोदय : वह तो बहुत पुरानी बात है।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय विकलांग वर्ष में उन पर लाठी-चार्ज हुआ है और उन्होंने एक मेमोरेण्डम दिया है, तो उस पर आप ने क्या कार्यवाही की है। . . . (इश्वरान) . . . जो डिमांड्स उन्होंने रखी है, उन पर क्या कार्यवाही हुई है। लाठीचार्ज का जवाब तो होम मिनिस्ट्री देगी लेकिन इस का जवाब तो आप दें।

MR. SPEAKER: Do not get agitated. I do not think it is relevant.  
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:  
regarding demand. . . (Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER: You cannot have a wild goose chase. Any relevant portion can be answered.

SHRI S. B. CHAVAN: I will require notice.

#### Drought Conditions in Karnataka

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\*87. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have received any report from

the State of Karnataka regarding drought conditions in that State;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Government have approached the Central Government for financial assistance; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI BALESHWAR RAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is laid on the Talbe of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) A Central Team visited Karnataka from the 29th to 31st December, 1980 to make an on the spot assessment of the drought situation and to estimate the requirements of funds by the State Government. On receipt of the revised Memorandum from the Government of Karnataka on the 17th January, 1981, the Central Team finalised its report which was considered by the High Level Committee on Relief on the 5th February, 1981. On the basis of the recommendations of the High Level Committee, a proposal to approve a ceiling of expenditure is now under consideration of the Government of India.

#### Statement

The Government of Karnataka in the Memorandum on 'Scarcity Conditions', has stated that agriculture in the drought affected areas suffered due to prolonged dry spells and failure of rainfall during the critical stages of crop growth.

According to the Memorandum of the 144 Taluks in the 15 affected districts, 101 Taluks have been affected by drought conditions—49 Taluks fully and 52 Taluks partially. A total population of 82.33 lakhs and a cropped area of 31.43 lakh hectares have reportedly been affected. According to the State Government, shortage of drinking water is being