

Aid to Drought Affected Areas

*7. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that Agriculture Prices Commission Chairman has recommended for higher aid to drought affected areas;

(b) if so, what is the present percentage of aid given to the drought affected areas; and

(c) the percentage suggested by APC Chairman and the decision taken by Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Loss due to Rains and Cyclone in Sambalpur, Orissa.

*8. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have made any assessment about the total loss of lives, crops, cattle-wealth and property due to extensive rain fall and cyclone which swept off Sambalpur in Orissa in third and last week of August, 1982;

(b) if so, the total loss as assessed by his Ministry;

(c) the relief and rehabilitation measures taken up there so far; and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). Assessment of damage is made by an Inter-Ministerial Central Team constituted by this Ministry. Such a Team visited the flood affected areas in Orissa between the 16th and 21st

September, 1982 and its report is awaited.

(c) and (d). The State Government have taken up the following measures:—

1. Relief camps were opened for providing emergent relief to the distressed people;

2. Gratuitous relief was given;

3. Mobile teams of medical officers were deployed for inoculation and treatment of the affected people;

4. Seps were taken to inoculate the livestock;

5. Areas affected have been disinfected; and

6. Affected people were supplied with clothes.

Ind Bengla Talks on Teesta Barrage Project

*9. SHRI CHITTA BASU:

SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had recently bilateral discussions with the Government of Bangladesh regarding the execution of the Teesta Barrage Project; and

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDEY): (a) and (b). The 22nd Meeting of the Indo-Bangladesh joint Rivers Commission was held in Dacca on 28th August, 1982. The Commission, *inter alia*, discussed the sharing of the Teesta Waters between the two countries. The Bangladesh side emphasised the

urgency of arriving at a mutually agreed sharing formula for early completion of the Teesta Barrage Project in Bangladesh. The Indian side also recognised the need for an early resolution of the matter. The two sides accordingly expressed the commitment of their Governments to reach agreement on an expeditious determination of a formula for sharing Teesta waters and agreed that the Joint Rivers Commission should endeavour to finalise such a formula within three months but not later than six months. It was also agreed that intensive studies would simultaneously be undertaken for sharing of the Teesta Waters on a more scientific basis and to maximise benefits to the people of the area. They agreed to review the position at the end of three years in the light of these studies to be completed within that period.

Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour

*10. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHA-DASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the results of the fishery resource assessment survey in Wadge Bank and other Deep-Sea Fishing ground off the coast of Vizhinjam conducted by the Exploratory Fishery Project, Bombay to verify the commercial importance of the Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour Project are encouraging; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay on the part of Government in giving clearance to the second and third stages of the Vizhinjam Fishing Harbour Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): (a) The progress report on the exploration of Wadge Bank Area received in March, 1982 indicates possibility of exploitable fishery resources. Further exploration of fishery resources is in progress. Final report is still awaited.

(b) There has been no delay. On the basis of the encouraging report on exploration of the area received in March, 1982, the Government have decided in principle to process the scheme for obtaining the approval of the Public Investment Board.

Drought in States

*11. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

SHRI ANANTHA RAMULU MALLU:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain parts of the country are facing severe drought due to shortfall of rain;

(b) if so, the names of such States;

(c) the details of assistance sought by these States to face the situation;

(d) whether any team from the Centre has visited those areas; and

(e) what are the findings of the team and the details of assistance provided to those States?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH): (a) and (b). From the Memoranda received from the States so far, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been affected by drought.

(c) The assistance sought by the States for drought relief is as follows:

State	Central assistance sought (Rs. in crores)
1. Andhra Pradesh	199.75
2. Bihar	234.00
3. Maharashtra	131.14
4. Orissa	57.93
5. Uttar Pradesh	165.00
6. West Bengal	72.83