

be received from the State Governments. The total entitlement of Central assistance after adjustments for 'Margin Money' in the current year is Rs. 201.59 crores against which a total Central Assistance of Rs. 154.39 crores has been released so far.

(c) A ceiling of assistance of Rs. 14.00 crores has been sanctioned for the State of Karnataka for the current year. The State Government is reported to have spent Rs. 14.68 crores from 1st April, 1983 to 30th June, 1983 on relief works.

(d) Effects of drought continued to be felt in some parts of the country during the current year.

(e) The period for utilisation of sanctioned assistance is being extended. The requests from some States, for fresh assistance to continue the relief measures are under processing.

Movement of Raw Materials for Irrigation Projects by Railways

***5. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOS-SAIN :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that movement of raw materials for irrigation schemes was not given high priority by the Railways ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether some improvement in the priority is expected in view of delay in almost all irrigation projects causing serious damage to economic and development activities ;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ; and

(e) if so, by what time changes are expected ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (e). The priorities to be accorded for transport

by Railways are decided at the National Level after considering the relative needs of the country in this regard. For transport of material required for irrigation projects such as cement, the Railways have accorded priority next to items needed for Defence and transport of food-grains, fertilisers etc. The priorities are normally reviewed by the Railway Board every six months.

Drought in States

***6. SHRI CHHOTAY SINGH YADAV :**
SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI :

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

(a) which of the States suffered the drought conditions during the current year and what is the estimated area of crop land hit by drought ;

(b) the estimated fall in the production of foodgrains as a consequence thereof in each of the drought affected States ; and

(c) the strategy formulated by Government for maximising yield from every hectare of irrigated and dry land areas to meet the shortfall and to achieve the anticipated food-grains production in 1983-84 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) The current year only saw continuance of the affects of drought in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Union Territory of Pondicherry and Mizoram. The total cropped area affected in these States is 350.25 lakh hectares.

(b) The estimated loss in foodgrains production is currently assessed at 6.3 million tonnes during 1982-83. The final estimates of production of foodgrains for 1982-83 are yet to be received from all the States.