

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

faced in a number of villages and the situation is likely to aggravate during the coming months, also due to failure of both kharif and rabi crops fodder scarcity reportedly may become critical during the coming months.

The Memorandum outlined various drought relief measures taken by the State Government to combat the drought situation in the State. These are:—

1. Suitable contingency plan for drought affected areas for taking up alternative crop.

2. Acceleration of the departmental works covering in particular minar irrigation, soil conservation, roads afforestation etc. Employment Affirmation and Rural Communication schemes to provide employment to the agricultural labourers.

3. Drilling of a large number of additional bore wells, digging open wells and taking up of Rural Water Supply Scheme to provide drinking water.

The original Memorandum projected a requirement of Central assistance of Rs. 28.0 crores during 1980-81 which was revised to Rs. 205.21 crores and 50,000 M.Ts foodgrains till June, 1981.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: May I suggest that Questions 87 and 88 may be taken together.

MR. SPEAKER: All right. May be included.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): They may be taken separately because Members concerned may like to put specific questions differently.

Karnataka's position is different.

Some Members may be interested only in Rajasthan and not in Karnataka.

MR. SPEAKER: Q. 87.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: Parts (c) and (d) have not been answered properly Karnataka is facing a very

acute and dangerous situation so far as drought is concerned. About fifteen districts are affected 101 Talukas are affected and 82.33 lakhs people are affected by this drought. People are migrating from place to place for want of work. There is shortage of drinking water. There is no fodder for the cattle and the cattle are dying. May I know from the hon. Minister the amount allotted by the Central Government to Karnataka to face this problem. Has this amount been properly spent by the Karnataka Government? If not, what is the action taken by the Central Government?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Reply to the part of the question which the hon. Member referred to has already been given. It was after receipt of the Memorandum from the Karnataka Government that the Central team visited the State and submitted its report. That report has already been taken into consideration by the High level Committee and money has already been sanctioned for relief measures. Reaction of the Government is visible. The team was sent. Some relief has already been provided in the form of money allocation. A sum of Rs. 6,65,00,000 was sanctioned for the period upto 31st March, 1981. After the money has been spent, the progress of the relief work has to be reviewed by the Central Government through another Central Team that may visit the State in March. Further report will be received as to how much more money is required for further relief.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: I received some complaints that the money allotted to the State for this purpose was not spent on that. What is the reaction of the Government? Has it received any complaint from the State Government that the money allotted has not been properly spent?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It is for the State Government to make on the spot assessment of the needs and requirements of the particular area and even a particular district. The Central Government cannot direct the State Government to allot a fixed pro-

portion of the money that is provided by the Centre to a particular district or block. But the State Government, we hope, will fulfil its responsibility. Work will be reviewed by the Central Government Team which is likely to visit in March.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: May I know whether the amount sanctioned has been properly utilised for the purpose?

MR. SPEAKER: You have already put that question.

SHRI K. MALLANNA: He has not answered whether the money sanctioned was properly utilised.

MR. SPEAKER: He said that another team will be going. That is what he answered.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: By sitting here, without sending a team to review, we cannot say whether the money has been spent or not. The money has to be spent by 31st March. The time is still there for the relief measures and spending this money.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Kolar District is facing the worst type of drought. The people are going to a distance of 18 kilometre to fetch water. Even water for drinking is not being provided. What is the type of assistance given so far to that particular area? Not only that, the performance of the FCI is not satisfactory. Is the Government thinking of opening some more branches and also of opening more issuing centres in that particular area? What is the quantity of rice and wheat that has been made available to this area?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I would not be able to tell the quantity released for a particular area or District just as I cannot say how much money has been spent on any particular District by the State Government.

The first point was about the drinking water arrangements. Under the Plan schemes Rs. 80 lakhs has been

provided as advance Plan assistance to the State Government for drinking water supplies. Apart from that there is another Rs. 20 lakhs given for drinking water schemes under the non-Plan fund. Foodgrains also were supplied to the State Government for food for work programme.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Issuing Centres.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Well, the suggestion will be taken into consideration. It is for the State Government to suggest if any more centres are required in the State. We shall take into consideration the recommendations of the State Government. But the responsibility for issue of foodgrains in the blocks and the level below is that of the State Government. The State Government gets foodgrains from the depots of the FCI.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Provided the food is there.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: There is enough food available in Karnataka. There is no shortage at all. Under the Food for Work Programme there was a carry over quantity of 26325 metric tonnes and so far during the year about 58325 metric tonnes of foodgrains has been made available to the State Government under the Food for Work Programme. Apart from that material support in cash also has been provided. Rs. 326 lakhs has been given for material support and Rs. 104 lakhs towards wage support—cash component for Food for Work Programme.

SHRI B. V. DESAI: In Karnataka, almost all the dry districts are affected by drought. The coastal areas are also affected due to heavy rains. In view of the fact that the entire dry area of the State is affected by drought, the assistance of Rs. 6.6 crores is quite insufficient. I learn that the State Government has asked for more funds. May I know whether the Government is prepared to sanction that amount? Secondly, about the food component, I may tell the hon. Minister, from my

own experience, that there is no food-available there. It may be available on paper. Wheat is not available there; jowar is not available there; ragi is not available there. Jowar and ragi are the main food there. But they are not available. May I request the hon. Minister to see that at least wheat made available to the people there?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Wheat has been given to the State according to the quota allotted for that State. At present, there should be no shortage of foodgrains as such in Karnataka. Karnataka produces enough rice also and we have been asking the State Government to procure rice, as much as possible, which they can also use for their own needs. I have already stated that the State Government's request for more funds will be taken into consideration after the money that has been sanctioned already has been spent and the Central team has visited the State again in March.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: As has come out in the course of the answers, it is a fact, that Karnataka is suffering from a very acute drought. Similar is the situation in Rajasthan about which you are going to have next question. So also is the situation in Rayalaseema from where our President comes. About 10 million people are at the moment suffering. It is the worst drought in living memory. In the entire country, about 100 million people are victims of drought. My question is this. These little fire-fighting operations are not going to provide the solution. Would the Government stop immediately-spending any further money on the Asian Games which is running upto several hundred crores of rupees and divert all this money to provide relief to the people in Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere where the drought conditions are very acute?

MR. SPEAKER: Not allowed.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: He must answer. Everybody here is demanding more money. (Interrupt-

tions) You will have the Asian Games and also the drought. Then, don't ask for more money.

SHRI T. R. SHAMANNA: In Karnataka, out of 19 districts, more than 14 districts are in acute drought condition. Apart from the man not getting food, the cattle is not getting fodder. The situation is very acute in districts like Bijapur. May I know from the hon. Minister whether he would visit the drought affected areas and see the condition of the people there so that he will himself be convinced and provide early necessary relief to those people there?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I visited Bangalore sometime back and I discussed the matter with the State Government. After the Central team has visited the area, I will certainly try to find time to visit the drought-affected districts if I possibly can get away during the Parliament session. But, as it is, since our officers have visited most of the drought affected districts in Karnataka and a Central team is proposed to be sent again for the purpose next month, I do not think it is immediately necessary to visit the area.

Drought in Rajasthan

*88. **SHRI JAI NARAIN ROAT:**

SHRI VIRDHJ CHANDER JAIN:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering Rajasthan State as a seriously drought affected State this year;

(b); if so, what assistance Central Government would provide to Rajasthan State;

(c): whether it is also a fact that Udaipur, the second most populous district of Rajasthan, is facing severe drought for the second year due to water scarcity following less than average rainfall; and