

(b) Consequent upon the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission, the State Governments themselves are required to finance the drought relief expenditure from their own resources and the margin money provided to them annually by the Centre under the recommendations of the Commission. The Central Government assesses the situation for advance Plan assistance as requested for by the State Governments. No request for advance Plan assistance has been received from any State except Karnataka and Orissa during the current financial year.

(c) The following advance Plan assistance was sanctioned to the affected States during 1976-77 for meeting drought conditions:

	Rs. crores
Tamil Nadu	15.70
Karnataka	7.60
Kerala	1.50
Madhya Pradesh	6.15
Orissa	5.10

During the year 1977-78 advance Plan assistance of Rs. 4.75 crores has been sanctioned only to Karnataka so far. Request of Orissa Government for additional advance Plan assistance is receiving the attention of the Central Government.

Scarcity of Water in Tamil Nadu

*7. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of conditions of scarcity in Tamil Nadu due to inadequacy of water for irrigation purposes;

(b) whether efforts to secure release of more water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu have not fructified; and

(c) if so, the action proposed to be taken for ensuring a balanced release of water from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu to overcome scarcity conditions?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI PRAKASH SINGH BADAL): (a) and (b). Cauvery basin experience very lean monsoon during 1976. The Government of Karnataka had released 15 TMC of waters from their reservoirs on the Cauvery for use in Tamil Nadu during September-October, 1976.

(c) According to the understanding reached amongst the concerned States, in August, 1976, the manner of sharing the Cauvery water in lean years is to be worked out by a Committee of representatives of the Central Government and the State Governments and recommendations made for consideration at the next meeting of Chief Ministers. The Report of the Committee is expected by the end of July, 1977.

Status of Women in Rural Areas

*8. SHRIMATI AHILYA P. RANGNEKAR: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the status of village women in India was deteriorating in an alarming manner as stated by the Chairman of the Advisory Body of Women's Study; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken by Government to raise the status of women in the rural areas economically and socially?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) Action to raise the status of women economically and socially, is a continuous process. As a first step, Government constituted a committee in 1971 to make an assessment of the status of women in India and to suggest remedial measures. The Committee presented its Report to Government on 1 January 1975. This Report pointed out the deteriorating trend in the Status of Women, particularly in the rural areas. The