

regarded to take increased discharges. Division Drain No. 8, breaches in which has caused flooding in the past, has also been remodelled and regarded and its right bank is patrolled round the clock during the flood season. Remodelling of the Bawana Escape and Drain No. 6 has also been taken up and work on some reaches will be completed before the flood season. The banks of these drains are also patrolled.

In order to deal effectively with flood emergencies in Delhi, a standing Committee has been constituted with the Lt. Governor of Delhi as Chairman. The Members of the Committee include the Inspector General of Police, Commissioner of the Delhi Municipal Corporation; Housing Commissioner; Deputy Commissioner; Director of Civil Defence and Commandant General, Home Guards, in addition to a representative of the Army and other officers of the Delhi Administration.

(b) Expenditure on flood control and drainage works in Delhi during the Third Plan was about Rs. 2.8 crores. In 1966-67, the outlay was about Rs. 86 lakhs. The proposed outlay during 1967-68 is Rs. 96 lakhs.

(c) The bunds along the River Yamuna protect the urban areas of Delhi as well as the rural areas and villages on the land side of the bund. Localised protection is also afforded by the bunds in the Alipur Block. Substantial relief from drainage congestion is afforded in the Najafgarh, Kanjhewala and Alipur blocks.

#### **Shortage of Drinking Water in Andhra Pradesh**

\*535. **Shri Parthasarathy:** Will the Minister of Health and Family Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage of drinking water in parts of Cuddapah (Rajanpet and Rajschoty Taluq), Chittoor (Modanapalli, Vyalpada and Chandragiri Taluq) and Anantpur (Kadiri Taluq) of Rayalaseema Area in Andhra;

(b) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh have represented about the shortage and requested for help for funds and power drillers to meet the problem of shortage of water; and

(c) if so, the action taken by Government and the assistance given so far?

**The Minister of Health and Family Planning (Dr. S. Chandrasekhar):** (a) Drought conditions were reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1966 in the District of Chittoor and Anantapur. No such scarcity was reported in respect of the District of Cuddapah.

(b) The State Government had requested for grant of financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 21.83 lakhs for the water supply schemes in the drought-affected areas. No request for power drillers has been received in the Ministry of Health and Family Planning.

(c) A statement is laid on the table of the Sabha

#### *Statement*

The Government of Andhra Pradesh had requested for financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 21.83 lakhs (later amended to Rs. 21.54 lakhs) for executing the schemes for meeting the shortage of drinking water supply in certain municipal towns in that State. They had requested that this assistance should be made available to them outside their Plan Ceiling. The Government of Andhra Pradesh were informed that since the National Water Supply and Sanitation Programme was a Centrally-aided Scheme, the entire expenditure for the programme had to be accommodated within the Plan Ceilings of the State Governments concerned. Therefore, they were requested to meet the required expenditure from within the Plan Ceiling of the State Government for the 4th Plan and claim Central assistance in accordance with the normal procedure.

The Ministry of Finance (Department of coordination) had sanctioned a loan assistance of Rs. 2.00 crores and a grant-in-aid of Rs. 50 lakhs to the Government of Andhra Pradesh during 1966-67 for relief measures. It was also suggested to the State Government that the amount required by the State Government for providing relief measures in the water scarcity areas might be met out of the assistance given by the Ministry of Finance. The State Government have recently stated that the amount of Rs. 2.5 crores provided to them for drought relief has already been spent on relief measures and the requirements of the municipalities for arranging water supply could not be met out of that provision. It has been explained to them again that it would not be possible for the Government of India to provide any assistance outside their Plan Ceiling and they should take appropriate action to accommodate this expenditure within their Plan allocation.

#### Rise in Prices

\*536. **Shri Virendra Kumar Shah:** Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received complaints that the prices of various essential items, particularly those like Cigarettes, Tea, Coffee, Cloth and Shoes on which excise duty has been imposed in the Budget Proposal for the current year, have been raised abruptly in the retail market in an unauthorised manner immediately after the announcement of the proposals;

(b) if so, the price levels of different popular brands of these items reached and how it compares with previous prices; and

(c) the steps taken to prevent such abrupt rise of prices in the retail market?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) No complaint of the nature referred to has been received by the Govern-

ment. The Government have however, received a number of representations against the increase in the excise duty on commodities like tea, coffee and footwear.

(b) A comparative statement showing the level of prices in the pre-Budget and post Budget periods of cigarettes, tea, coffee and footwear on which excise duties have been increased or reimposed is contained in the annexure which is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-688/67]

(c) There is no indication at present that there is an abrupt rise in the prices in the retail market. The situation is, however, being kept under review and remedial measures will be taken as and when necessary.

#### Power Position in Rajasthan

\*537. **Shri Brij Raj Singh-Kotah:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) what is the general position of power in Rajasthan, particularly in Kota Region where large number of heavy and vital industries are located;

(b) whether it is a fact that shortage of power is retarding the industrial growth here; and

(c) if so, steps taken to meet the situation?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) In Rajasthan, the power availability from all sources at present is limited to about 10.6 lakh units against the demand of about 20 lakh units per day. In Kota region, the availability is 3.9 lakh units against a demand of 5.5 lakh units per day.

(b) The power shortage is hampering the industrial growth in Rajasthan.

(c) The following measures have been taken to improve the power supply position in Rajasthan:—

(i) Import of power to the extent of 1.0 lakh units per day