

80 to 85 per cent on external power. The long-term solution of this problem is to have captive power plants and we are putting up captive power plants in Durgapur, Rourkela and Bokaro. The one in Durgapur will also cater to the needs of the Alloy Steel Plant and that is the only way to sort out this problem on a long-term basis. On the short-term basis, whatever discussions we have had inter-Ministerially, we have been told that the generation of DVC can be expected to be around 750 MW and at that level if the steel plants get a share of say, 230 to 240 MVA, that should be adequate to take care of their needs. So, I would not, at this stage, anticipate difficulties but if they do arise, I will keep the suggestion of Prof. Dandavate in mind.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Sir, the difficulty is that a number of bogies and a number of wagons have been stalled for want of proper power.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Sir, the hon. Minister has kindly stated that he is thinking of having captive power plants in Durgapur and Bokaro. This thing we are hearing for the last several months, if not several years. May we know as to what stage is the installation of captive power plants at Durgapur and Bokaro there and when is he going to have them completed ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Sir, these have been in the air not only for months but for several years. It takes several years to set up these units. They cannot be set up in months. Therefore, I am not surprised if my hon. friend has been hearing about them for several months....

¶ (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : He is not aware of it yet ?

SHRI K. C. PANT : Now, I have come to know.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : Please tell at what stage they are ?

[*English*]

SHRI K. C. PANT : Unit-I of Bokaro Steel Plant was to be completed in December, 1985 but due to a fire accident, it is out of operation now it has been delayed and will come up in January 1987; Unit-II in June 1987; Unit-III in September 1987; Durgapur Unit-I in December 1986; and Unit-II in December 1987.

Farm inputs assistance to Assam farmers affected by floods

*89. **SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI :** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Union Government propose to provide aid to Assam Government for supplying the critical farm inputs to farmers free to cost, in view of the unprecedented floods in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have assessed the damages caused to the cultivators; and

(d) if so, the extent of damages caused to the poor cultivators in respect of their standing crops, cattle and dwelling houses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below.

Statement

(a) to (d) The Central Government do not provide assistance for free supply of agricultural inputs to the affected farmers. However, agricultural input subsidy @ Rs. 200 per ha. is allowed for the area held by small and marginal farmers where the crop loss is more than 50% due to a natural calamity. A memorandum seeking Central assistance in the

wake of recent floods has been received from the Government of Assam on 3.11.86. A Central Team is likely to visit the State shortly for assessing the damages and recommend ceilings of expenditure for relief/rehabilitation measures.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : I am very sorry to get reply from the hon. Minister—"A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha." I put specific questions which have not been answered. In his answer he states—

"Agricultural input subsidy @ Rs. 200 per ha. is allowed for the area held by small and marginal farmers where the crop loss is more than 50%."

Recently, in Assam the flood has caused heavy damage to the people of Assam. Four districts practically were cut off from the rest of the country. In my Constituency 2,70,000 people have been rendered homeless including myself. Standing crops have also been washed away by these floods. The Chief Minister of Assam sent an S. O. S. message to the Government of India. But the Government of India remains a silent spectator to the distress of the people of Assam. No assistance has been sent. No Government machinery has been sent to the rescue of the people there. I am surprised, when the people of Assam were drowning in the water, the Government of India were enjoying at our distress. I put specific question to the hon. Minister—has the total damage caused to the people of Assam been assessed by the Ministry? What is the quantum? Has any fund been allocated to the State Government?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : First of all let me clarify to the hon. Member. He has either not contacted the State Government or he is not aware of the facts. Therefore, he is making wild allegations. He says that nobody has visited. The Minister of Agriculture has visited. He has made an aerial survey. Based on his visit and based on his survey he recommended and we

have given Rs. 12 crores Ways and Means advance to the State Government.

The Memorandum was received only on 3rd of November. It will take some time to send the team. When the team visits, assessment will be made by them and they will give their views to the high level people. *(Interruptions)* In the mean time we have given Ways and Means advance.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : What is the date of the visit of the hon. Minister? Floods took place from 8th of October.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The Agriculture Minister made an aerial survey of the flood affected areas on the 14th October, 1986.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : After the floods the hon. Minister visited and that too on our demand. The Government of India should take a note of it.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The demand has to be made.

[English]

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : No, demand is necessary! Your honour, the Government *suo motu* should visit and have survey. After the flood is over, if you visit, it will not be that much helpful. It will not be in conformity with what the hon. Prime Minister's desires and the purpose will be defeated.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Whenever there is flood either the Prime Minister or the Minister or myself, somebody from the Ministry does visit. It is not necessary for the Minister to visit the flood affected areas. Let me inform the hon. Members that it is just not possible to visit as in many States there are floods, calamities. There are only two Ministers and one Prime Minister. How can we

run all over ? It is not possible. It takes time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Is it necessary for the Ministers of the Government of India to visit ?
(Interruptions) What steps have been taken by the Government of India to rehabilitate them and to give relief to the people of Assam ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : As per norm of the Central assistance we are giving Rs. 200/ per hectare for the affected areas to the small and marginal farmers if the damage is more than 50%. The Government of India does not compensate the farmers for loss.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : Has the fund been already released or not ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have already informed the hon. Member that Rs. 12 crores have been released.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Sir, Floods in Assam were unprecedented this time and the people of Assam were very much encouraged to know from the papers that the Prime Minister was visiting Assam on 4th November. But it did not materialise. Now that the Prime Minister is here, can we expect the Prime Minister to kindly take the earliest opportunity to visit Assam and render some very urgent financial assistance to the flood affected people of Assam ?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir, I think about the Prime Minister's visit to Assam he has not replied.

Mr. Prime Minister, this question is addressed to you, that you promised that you would visit Assam, but you have not visited. So, you should answer this question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So far as flood is concerned, the Minister

of Agriculture has already visited the area, I said he has made an aerial survey, and based on his observations, Rs. 12 crores were given to the State Government.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : My request is that the hon. Prime Minister should visit Assam. On this, the Prime Minister himself may reply.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : How many Ministers are replacing the Prime Minister.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI : It is because the hon. Prime Minister has visited the flood affected areas of Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already allowed them to put questions.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : We don't get, [Sir, the chance of putting questions on Assam.

MR. SPEAKER : Why not ? We have already given you the chance. All the questions are put by Assam Members.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Only two.

MR. SPEAKER : All right, you also put the question.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA : Sir, my question was not answered.

(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Prime Minister was on his legs already, Sir.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY : He has been on half legs; he is now getting up with full legs on !

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir, though the hon. Minister has said that the memorandum was received as late as 3rd of November, in fact since the message was sent by the Chief Minister of Assam a detailed statement consisting of all the facts in a memorandum has been sent to you on 3rd. But the Central team has not gone as yet. Therefore, I would like to know whether composition of the Central team has been finalised and when the Central team is going to Assam.

Part (b) of my question is, we pointed out to the Government of India that there were ongoing projects costing Rs. 60 crores and also other projects costing Rs. 35 crores and if these projects are not completed, Assam will have devastating floods, and the only amount allocated was less than Rs. 70 crores and we asked for a mere Rs. 25 crores more. But unfortunately that was not given on account of which provision for the ongoing projects to tackle even the normal erosion was not there. Therefore, may I know from you and the Prime Minister whether adequate care will be taken of it. And I would still like to know, because the general feeling in Assam is that the Bengal elections are there, therefore the Prime Minister is going, and because there is no election in Assam, you are not going there. Kindly explain this.

AN HON. MEMBER : In Andhra Pradesh also elections are not there. You ask for elections then.

(Interruptions).

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : Sir, I will tell you that on his return from foreign tour, the very first thing that the Prime Minister intended to do was to go to Assam, and all of us were to accompany him. But there was some information that your people were not ready yet to receive him, because of poor condition of roads.

(Interruptions).

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI RAJIV GANDHI) : Firstly, I did not visit Bengal because elections were on in

Bengal. I also visited Andhra Pradesh. I do not think, unless the hon. Member has some election at the back of his mind, elections are due in Andhra. There is no connection with the elections. And I would like to make it absolutely clear to the Member that there is no linkage between Bengal elections or any other elections and my visiting an area when there is an emergency situation like flood or drought or some havoc or devastation that is taking place. I will definitely visit Assam. In fact, when I was in Bangkok, from there I was trying to make a programme to visit Assam. But there was some confusion because I was told in Bangkok—may be there was some communication problem—that the Assam Government was not at all keen that I go by road to this area. Let me tell you what message I got because on that basis then I took a decision. I was told that I could only come and I could hover around in a helicopter and go back. I said, “if that is all I can do, it is no use my going now because the Agriculture Minister has already been there.” I said, I would go when the roads were in a proper condition, “proper” meaning, a condition in which a jeep can go across the road. I will go...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : You mean, the Agriculture Minister is better suited to hover around in a plane!

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : He had already gone to one or two points and it is no use my going to the same places that he had already been to. It would have just been a duplication of effort, and when relief work is in progress, it does not help, as you know, if senior people and Ministers land up at points and call everyone at that point. Once it has been done, the exercise has been carried out, the work has been delegated, the Central Government is aware of the situation, then that work should continue and our work should continue.

And as soon as I get some time, I will go and see the areas.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Nanje Gowda,

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : The question that I asked was, whether the Central team has been finalised and when it is likely to visit the area.

SHRI RAJIV GANDHI : I will see that the Central team goes as soon as possible.

New system of distribution of fertilizers

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*91. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**
SHRI AMARSINH RATHAWA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the present system of distribution of fertilizers to reach the farmers;

(b) whether Government are considering to introduce a new system of distribution of fertilizers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far it will be help-ful in increasing the production and consumption of fertilizers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) to (d) A Statement is given below.

Statement

The requirement of fertiliser for each State/Union Territory/Commodity Board is assessed before the beginning of each crop season. This is done in consultation with the State Governments/UTs/Ministry of Railways/Planning Commission/Fertiliser Industry and various Commodity Boards.

2. After assessing the requirement of fertilisers, allocation of indigenous fertilisers is made to cover the requirement of each State/UT/Commodity Board and short-fall, if any, is made up by allocating the required quantity of imported fertilisers.

3. The pattern of allocation is decided in such a manner that every State gets its requirement from the nearest production unit or port. In the case of urea, which accounts for the largest quantity of fertiliser consumed in the country, certain specific areas/number of districts in the State are being indicated in the supply plan. However, the State Governments have been given the option of allocating one or two additional contiguous districts to the unit for supply of urea only covering not more than 10 per cent of the total quantity of allocation given to the unit in the State, in case the State considers it absolutely necessary. The States/UTs have also been advised to make district-wise allocation of urea and single super phosphate. This has been done with a view to minimising the cost of transportation, which is borne by the Government of India, besides avoiding cross movement of fertilisers. This will also ensure adequate availability of fertilisers in all parts of the country.

4. From October, 1986 the States have been advised to nominate a 'lead manufacturer' for each district and one for the State as a whole, in consultation with the fertiliser industry. This has been done with a view to associating the fertiliser industry more intimately with the State Department of Agriculture in assessing the requirement of fertiliser at the district level, popularising the use of fertiliser in the rainfed areas, in improving the system of collection of fertiliser statistics, in opening of additional retail outlets and in training of fertiliser dealers and farmers for handling and use of fertilisers.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : Sir, I am grateful to the Agriculture Ministry for their welcoming efforts to increase the fertilizer utilisation by the farmers throughout the country by providing huge amount of subsidy. But you may kindly see my question, my categorical question in which I have asked for the details of new system of distribution of fertilizer. Except mentioning that this new system has been introduced from October, 1986, and a "lead manufacturer" for each district and one for the State as a whole, would be selected by the States, nothing