

(ii) The demand of the Central Secretariat service to remove the intermediate pay scale in the grade of Rs. 2500-1000 (pre revised), (iii) The demand for upgradation of pay scale at the level of Engineering Assistants under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(iv) The demand of Senior Auditors and Accountants of various Accounts Organisations in respect of their pay scales.

(v) The demand of JTOs and Assistant Engineers of Telecom Department.

(vi) The demand of DANICS and DANIPS to accept the recommendation of the Fifth Central Pay Commission.

(b) The issue of pay scale of Section Officers though specifically not referred to the Fast Track Committee was considered by the Committee while examining the demand of DANICS and DANIPS to accept the recommendations of the Fifth Central Pay Commission. The issue of grant of Desk Allowance to Desk Officers of CSS was considered by the Fast Track Committee while examining the demand of Central Secretariat service to remove the intermediate pay scale in the grade of Rs. 2500—4000 (pre-revised).

(c) Yes, Sir. The Desk Officers are still drawing allowance at pre-revised rates. A decision has been delayed on account of completion of necessary formalities.

(d) These issues are under consideration of the Government but an indication of the time likely to be taken in deciding them does not seem feasible.

Flood situation in the Country

*337. SHRI GOVINDRAM MIRI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have assessed the flood situation during 1997;

(b) if so, the details of the States badly affected as a result thereof;

(c) whether Government have received Memoranda from the State Governments on the floods;

(d) if so, the details, State-wise;

(e) the assistance released, so far, as relief measures/compensation etc., Statewise; and

(f) the steps taken by Government to brave such situation in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) According to the reports received from the State Governments, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal were affected by heavy rains and floods during 1997 in varying degree.

The State Governments are required to undertake relief operations in the wake of natural calamities like floods, out of the corpus of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) which is contributed to by the Central Government and State Governments in the ratio of 3:1. Additional assistance is provided from the National Fund for Calamity Relief (NFCR) to the States in the wake of calamities of rare severity.

A statement indicating the details of assistance sought by the affected State Governments from the NFCR in the wake of floods during 1997 and funds released is enclosed as Statement-1 (*See* below).

In addition to the financial assistance for relief and rehabilitation to the State Governments, the Government of India also takes the following measures to mitigate the impact of natural calamities including floods:—

(i) Flood control measures like construction of reservoirs and

- embankments, Channel improvement, town protection and river training works under scheme of Ministry of Water Resources
- (ii) Drought Prone Areas Programme and Desert Development Programme, by Ministry of Rural Areas & Employment.
- (iii) Satellite based cyclone forecasting and warning system by India meteorological Department.
- (iv) Expansion and upgrading of seismological monitoring network by India Meteorological Department.
- (v) Review and assessment of disaster preparedness measures in the Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners of the States, before the on set of Monsoon by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.
- (vi) Preparation and circulation of Crop Contingency Plans by the States for responding to different types of weather conditions.
- (vii) Regular monitoring of rainfall pattern and crop situation by the Crop Weather watch Group in the Ministry of Agriculture by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.
- (viii) Monitoring of immediate response measures in the wake of natural calamities by Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.
- (ix) The Ministry of Agriculture have established & National Centre for Disaster Management at the Centre and has funded faculties on Natural Disaster Management at the State Level Training Institutes/ Universities for upgrading skills for disaster management and for promoting community awareness—Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

Statement-I

Details of Assistance sought from NEFCR by the States affected by floods during 1997-98

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	State	Assistance Sought	Status of release	Date of release
1.	Andhra Pradesh	168.00	#	—
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	115.15	#	—
3.	Bihar	428.82	10.00	14-1-98
4.	Gujarat	664.33	86.90	18-8-97
5.	Himachal Pradesh	609.78	24.80	14-1-98
6.	Karnataka	173.50	Under consideration	
7.	Kerala	1106.26	12.91	29.8.97
8.	Madhya Pradesh-I-II	121.36	22.50	14-1-98
		2103.75	Under consideration	
			(To be considered by NCRC)	
9.	Maharashtra	156.76	#	
10.	Manipur	59.13	Under consideration	
			(To be considered by IMG/NCRC)	
11.	Orissa	151.50	#	—
12.	Punjab	175.72	#	—
13.	Sikkim	107.39	7.00	19-8-97
14.	Uttar Pradesh-I	242.97	#	—
	Uttar Pradesh-II	323.10#		
15.	West Bengal	177.00	#	—

#Not considered as calamity of rare severity.