

aware of the serious drought situation prevailing in large parts of the country and the serious difficulties and miseries of large sections of the population due to shortage of water;

(b) if so; what are the specific steps taken by the Central Government to help the States which are facing drought and water shortage;

(c) whether Government have made any allocation of funds to help the various states to tide over the (serious) situation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Due to erratic behaviour of the South-West monsoon this year,' the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh have reported drought conditions and the Government of Uttar Pradesh has also reported about the developing drought situation. Reports of moisture stress and shortage of water have also been received from the Union Territory of Pondicherry.

(b) to (d) Relief to affected farmers is extended by the respective State Governments and the Central Government extends need based assistance to the State Governments at the latter's request. Government of India maintains close liaison with the State Governments concerned and supplement their efforts with a view to mitigate the distress of affected people. The concerned State Governments have taken up employment generation programmes, acceleration of water supply programmes, transportation of drinking water to areas where sources of drinking water is not available, transportation of fodder from surplus areas to the drought affected areas for cattle conservation, etc. Central Government besides providing technical and financial assistance to the States for improving rural water supply has also launched a "Technical Mission on Drinking water in

villages and 'related Water Management' scheme. The areas selected for taking up 'Mini Mission Pilot Project' under the Technical mission in 1986-87 also include areas known for prolonged drought, such as Kutch in Gujarat, Jhabua in M.P., Gulberga in Karnataka, Mirzapur in U.P. and Bankura in West Bengal.

A ceiling of expenditure to the tune of Rs. 226.43 crores have so far been approved for tackling drought conditions during 1987-88 in respect of 9 States including Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Madhya Pradesh. In addition, 5.00 lakh M.T. wheat has been allocated during 1987-88 to the States of Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat for distribution to the workers engaged in drought relief works.

Allotment of steel to the Northern Zone

713. SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity of steel allotted to the Northern Zone by the Steel Authority of India Limited/Steel Plant during the last two years, year-wise and item-wise;

(b) the quantity distributed in the Northern Zone as per the allotment order of the Regional Iron Steel Controller/SAIL and the quantity sold in the open market, year-wise;

(c) the quantity remained unlifted, yard-wise;

(d) the number of Yard Managers working for more than four years in the yard; and

(e) the number of complaints received against Yard Managers, yard-wise, for malpractices under weighing and over charging and for not honouring the allotment order together with the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M. L. FOTEDAR): (a) and (b) Steel materials are distributed in terms of the Distribution

Guidelines of the Joint Plant Committee (JPC) of main producers. These guidelines do not provide for Zone-wise or Yard-wise allotment of steel. In the case of Status 'A' consumers such as Defence, Railways, major Central Government Departments/ Undertakings, etc. materials are supplied against the allocations made by JPC, at present. The remaining: consumers received materials against demand registrations. The quantity of steel supplied from the Northern Zone of SAIL comprising stockyards located at New Delhi, Faridabad, Gha-ziabad Agra and Gwalior, during the last two years is shown in the Annexure (*See* Appendix CXLIII, Annexure No. 42).

(c) The details of stocks lying in the branches in the Northern Zone of SAIL at the end of the last two years are shown in the Annexure (See Appendix CXLIII Annexure No. 42.)

(d) There is no Branch Manager or Executive working for more than four years in a particular stockyard/ branch of SAIL.

(e) During the last one year, one recorded complaint each has been received against the Executives in the yards of SAIL of New Delhi, Gha-ziabad and Agra. These have been investigated and action where considered necessary taken. In addition, *Some* complaints regarding discrepancy in weighments etc. had been received by SAIL and these were dealt with on merits by the Branch Offices concerned.

Suicide committed by the Scientists of ICAR

714. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of the Scientists and Researchers working under ICAR and other Institutes

under his Ministry who have committed suicide so far;

(b) whether any inquiry was instituted in this regard; and

(c) if so, what were its findings and recommendations and also the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Four scientists of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research and its Institutes have so far committed suicide. Their names are: —

(1) Dr. S. S. Batra

(2) Dr. V. H. Shah

(3) Shri S. V. Raghavan

(4) Shri S. D. Sahu

(t) Following the suicide of Dr. V. H. Shah a Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. P. B. Gajendra-gadkar Ex-Chief Justice of India was constituted to probe into the working of the ICAR system.

(c) The recommendations of the Gajendragadkar Committee mostly relate to the organisational structure and personnel policies of ICAR. The Government have already implemented the recommendations with slight modifications.

Regularisation of services of employees of MCD and Delhi Water supply and sewage Disposal undertakings.

715. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Beldars, Watchmen, Sweepers, Fitters, Asst. Meter-Readers, Pump drivers and Clerks who have been working in Municipal Corporation of Delhi and Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking only daily wages for the last 7, 5 and 3 years; and