

account of drought conditions, milk production might have gone down. I am not disputing that.

DR. BHAI MAHAVIR: How do you claim then that it has gone up? Both are official figures.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Adisesiah can tell us something. Yes Dr. Adisesiah. Let us finish. There are only two minutes left. Let the economist come forward.

DR. MALCOLM S. ADISESHIAH: Mr. Chairman, I was only going to say...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, what is this?

..(Interruptions)..

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. Please sit down. I am conducting this House.

DR. MALCOLM S. ADISESHIAH: Sir I am only going to say to you and the Minister that within the Government, in each department there is machinery for reconciling differences which arise between the departments so that we cannot say that what comes in the name of Government will have contradictory positions. Now there is something wrong in the situation here referred to because these figures should have been reconciled within the department. It has not been done. There is machinery for reconciliation.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Very well. All right. Then we will wait for the reconciliation.

Scarcity of drinking water in Maharashtra

*284. DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEPTULLA:

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav.

that nearly 17,112 villages in Maharashtra are facing acute scarcity of drinking water due to failure of rains during the current year;

(b) whether the Central Government have received a memorandum from the Government of Maharashtra seeking additional funds of Rs. 27.41 crores to meet the situation, if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what decision has been taken thereon; and

(d) if no decision has been taken, the reasons for the delay in this regard and by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) According to the Supplementary Memorandum submitted by the Government of Maharashtra on 6 January, 1983, 11,472 villages in 19 Scarcity affected districts and 10 non-scarcity districts are expected to face drinking water scarcity in the coming months.

(b) Yes, Sir. The State Government have requested for an assistance of Rs. 27.41 crore for solving drinking water problem in both rural and urban areas through piped water supply schemes, bore-well programme and emergency water supply measures.

(c) The proposal is under processing.

(d) The proposal of the State Government was discussed in two meetings of the Inter-Ministerial Group on 24-1-1983 and 17-2-1983. On both

these occasions, the State Government came up with incomplete information. They could furnish the requisite information only on 28-2-1983. Final decision is likely to be taken soon.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Sir, in the statement given the question is not properly answered. It has been asked whether Government are aware that the total problem villages in Maharashtra are 17,112 but they say that because of drought during this year the badly affected villages are 11,472. We asked about the total number of problem villages in Maharashtra but the figure is not given properly. The second question is, the total amount demanded by the Maharashtra Government is Rs. 27.41 crores for drinking water. But in the statement itself the answer is not given properly. It is said that it is under processing and that the decision will be taken on 28-2-83, which date has already passed. Now eighteen days have passed. From that point of view, I want an affirmative answer from the hon. Minister to the question: Are you going to sanction Rs. 27.41 crores for drinking water purpose in Maharashtra, which is most essential? The Minister has stated in the House that at any cost the drought will be met on a war footing. So it is from that point of view. The second thing is that Rs. 131 crores have been demanded by Maharashtra for meeting the drought situation, but it has been given only Rs. 56 crores. There are some 48,000 problem villages. In the national budget for these 48,000 problem villages, what is the share for Maharashtra?

SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN: Sir, the figures which we have supplied are the figures which have been given by the Maharashtra Government to us. As for the demand of the Maharashtra Government for Rs. 27.41 crores, we had an inter-ministerial group meeting on 24th January and 17th February. Certain information which the Maharashtra Government was supposed to furnish was not fur-

nished in these meetings but was finally furnished on 28th February. After 18/19 days they furnished the information, which they were supposed to furnish earlier. That is why the proposal is under processing. Now it is in a final stage and a decision is likely to be taken very soon.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Visit of Central Teams to drought affected States

*282. **SHRI U. R. KRISHNAN:**
SHRI B. C. PATTANAYAK:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Central team has gone to Orissa to study the conditions of drought affected areas there;

(b) if so, what are the estimates of the losses in Orissa made by that team; and

(c) what are the details of the Central assistance provided to the other drought affected States in the year 1982-83?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARIF MOHD. KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A Central Team on drought had visited the State from 11th to 15th January, 1983.

(b) The total affected area under various crops in the States is reported at 37.82 lakh hectares. No estimates of loss of crops have been made by the Team.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.