

CENTRAL ASSISTANCE TO KERALA FOR FLOOD RELIEF MEASURES

*272. SHRI NIREN GHOSH :†

SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN :

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be
pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Central assistance for flood relief measures to the Kerala Government is only about Rs. 135 lakhs against the State Government's request for an amount of Rs. 650 lakhs; and

(b) whether in view of the serious flood situation in Kerala, the Central Government propose to enhance the assistance to the Kerala Government for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE
(SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The State Government have requested that relief expenditure to the extent of Rs. 4.50 crores should be eligible for Central assistance as against the approved ceiling of Rs. 1.35 crores. The Central team has been asked to review the expenditure qualifying for Central assistance.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Sir, Kerala is a deficit State. Kerala exports certain commodities which give India a big amount of foreign exchange earnings. Money is also required for this purpose. In view of the fact that Kerala is a chronic deficit State and the density of population is the highest, will the hon'ble Minister explain why he cannot make this amount of Rs. 4-5 crores available because, as far as I remember, in his entire Economic Survey and the Budget Speech, he has extended credit of a little over Rs. 2 crores ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : As I told you the question of providing resources for planned development is a separate question which has been looked into by both the Finance Commission and the Plan-

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Niren Ghosh.

ning Commission. Necessary resources are being made available to them. Here we are considering the very specific question about necessary relief to be given for flood relief and other things. There the procedure is that certain assessments are being made as to what will be the requirements for relief work. The State Government makes its own reports on the basis of which the Central Team is asked to visit the State. They go and make on-the-spot study on the basis of which certain ceilings are fixed. In this particular case the State Government asked for more than Rs. 6 crores in the beginning. The Central team went there and after on the spot study fixed Rs. 1.35 crores. Then the State Government again made representation to the Central Government. And they also reduced their requirement from Rs. 6 crores to Rs. 4 crores and odd. We asked the team to visit again. They must have visited in the month of February. After their report comes we will try to look into it.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH : Can I take this assurance that the Government will try to meet to some extent the reduced demand made by the State Government ?

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : It depends upon the report of the team.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON : Sir, there is a misconception in the Government of India circles that the flood problem in Kerala is not so serious because even when serious floods occur in Kerala the loss of life is very limited. This is because the people in Kerala are accustomed to that and they are always prepared for flood with their boats and all that. Everything is ready. So the impression is created...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Kindly put your question.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON : ... that the floods are not serious problem in Kerala. But actually, Sir, during the last few years there have been heavy floods and the State Government...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already said this.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON : I would like to have an assurance from the Government that the flood protection works and other relief measures suggested by the Kerala Government will be sanctioned by the Government of India and the money provided for that.

SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN : We are considering the question of flood relief and wherever there is a flood we always look at it sympathetically. We never have any misconceptions about flood not having a large effect on Kerala.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Question Hour over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DIRECTIVES TO NATIONALISED BANKS TO OPERATE SAVING BANK ACCOUNT ONLY

***271. SHRI GOLAP BARBORA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India has directed any of the Nationalised Banks to operate only savings bank accounts; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

- **THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) :** (a) The Reserve Bank of India has reported that it has not given licence to any nationalised bank to open branches exclusively for savings bank accounts.

(b) Does not arise.

TAKING OVER OF COTTON TRADE

***273. SHRI N. G. GORAY :** Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state whether Government have taken a decision to take over the cotton trade ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : No, Sir.

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COUNTING OF STAGNATION PAY GRANT TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES IN THE REVISED SCALES RECOMMENDED BY THE THIRD PAY COMMISSION

***274. SHRI SAWAI SINGH SISODIA :**

SHRI GANESH LAL MAI

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether class III and IV employees who had suffered stagnation several years in the pre-Third Pay Commission scales were granted special compensation for their stagnation period with effect from 1-3-1970 and Personal Pay was allowed to be counted while fixing their pay in the revised scales;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) whether in fixing their pay in new scales recommended by the Third Pay Commission, an *ad-hoc* increment granted to them about two years back to break their stagnation has not been considered to form as part of their pay;

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI Y. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to A Statement is laid on the Table of House.

STATEMENT

According to the orders issued on July, 1970, employees in Classes III and IV who had been stagnating or more thereafter stagnate at the maximum of their pay scales for two years or more were to be granted a 'Personal Pay' equivalent to the rate of the increment last drawn by them in their existing scales. In the case of Class III employees who were in pay scales carrying a maximum of Rs. 575/- or more were stagnating at the maximum of their scales for two years or more, the personal pay to be granted to them was to be Rs. 30/- per month. This element 'Personal Pay' was to be taken into account for all purposes as admissible under the normal rules including that determining the class of railway train whether on duty/transfer or for leave.