

I request the hon. Minister to take some real steps to see that the copper deposits in the Salem area, just in the river area, are also tapped. Under these circumstances I appeal to all Members in this House, especially the labour representatives, to make this scheme a grand success and give a good 'bravol' to the Minister and ask the people to produce more, and not as one of my friends here said: do not produce, always create trouble. But I want any man who calls himself a national leader to tell the people to produce more honestly. There are some people who want to sabotage, but anybody who wants to harm the labourers by their ill-advice will certainly have to pay through his nose. So I commend the bill and would ask the hon. Minister at least not to fail to have an eye on the industrial development of Tamil Nadu also while taking over the Copper Corporation into the Government sector.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER RE. DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): Sir, shall I read the statement or lay it on the Table?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.B. RAJU): You can read it if it is not too long. Hon. Members may like to ask questions.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It would take five minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.B. RAJU): Then you kindly read it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Hon' Members will kindly recall the statement made in the House on the 1st August, 1972, regarding the drought situation in certain parts of the country.

I am glad to inform the House that with the recent rains, the drought situation and the prospects of the kharif crops have improved to some extent in most parts of the country. However, as a result of the earlier dry spells,

scarcity conditions are prevailing in some areas of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Mysore, Madhya Pradesh, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. In all these States, effective relief measures continue to be undertaken by the State Governments.

Central Teams have by now visited the States of Bihar, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal for on-the-spot assessment of the situation. Such Teams would shortly be visiting Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mysore, Nagaland and Rajasthan. The request of the Gujarat Government for deputing a Central Team has just been received and is under consideration. Meanwhile, ad-hoc loan assistance to the concerned State Governments, wherever required, has been provided.

As part of the new initiative taken by my Ministry this year, a country-wide emergency production programme for retrieving the losses of the kharif crops and increasing the production of rabi and summer crops has been formulated and is being vigorously implemented. Under this programme, arrangements are being made for immediate augmentation of irrigation facilities by commissioning of existing tubewells and construction of new ones, installation of pumping sets, erection of kutchha bunds for diverting water from rivers and streams, and completion of irrigation channels, etc. The supply of seeds, fertilizers, pesticides, plant protection equipment, aerial spray and of short-term credit is also being arranged. Special allocations, over and above the plan provisions are being made to the State Governments for implementing the emergency production programme.

Altogether, Rs. 85.43 crores have been sanctioned by the Central Government so far to the various affected States as ad-hoc loan assistance for the relief operations, towards assistance for implementing the emergency production programme and towards short-term loans for agricultural inputs.

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My senior colleague Shri Fakhrudin Ali Ahmed, Prof. Sher Singh and I, as well as senior officers of my Ministry, have visited most of the affected States and held discussions with the State Governments to ensure that timely and effective measures are taken for providing relief.

At the advice of my Ministry, the State Governments have strengthened and augmented the public distribution system to ensure the availability of foodgrains, particularly in the areas affected by scarcity. We have adequate stocks of foodgrains to meet all the reasonable requirements of the State Governments.

In the House, particular attention has been drawn by the Hon'ble Member Shri Sita Ram Singh to the scarcity conditions in Bihar and to certain alleged cases of death due to starvation there. The drought has undoubtedly affected large parts of Bihar. However, the State Government as well as my Ministry have taken prompt and effective measures to provide relief to the people by opening relief works, organising gratuitous relief and undertaking the necessary public health measures. The State Government has also constituted an All Party Relief Coordination Committee.

My senior colleague visited the State recently and held discussions with the State Government. I and senior officials in my Ministry have also discussed various matters relating to the supply of foodgrains and organisation of relief operations and the special production programme with the State Chief Minister and his senior officials. As a result of these discussions, all necessary help is being provided to the State. My Ministry has considerably stepped up the despatches of foodgrains to the State. The State Government has also strengthened and augmented the public distribution system. I assure the House that all reasonable requirements of the State for foodgrains will be met. Regarding starvation deaths, the State Government has reported that no case of death due to starvation has occurred. The cases

of starvation deaths pointed out by the Hon'ble Member have also been referred to the State Government for enquiry and report. Particular concern has also been expressed by some of the Hon'ble Members regarding the scarcity conditions in Andhra Pradesh. The situation in that State is admittedly difficult because of insufficient rainfall successively over the last two years. However, the State Government and the Government of India have been fully alive to the situation. Adequate relief measures have been undertaken by the State Government. My senior colleague recently visited the State and held discussions with the State Government on various matters relating to the supply of foodgrains, organisation of relief operations and the emergency production programme. By now, the State Government has been sanctioned an *ad-hoc* loan assistance of Rs. 4.5 crores for the drought relief operations. My Ministry has also sanctioned Rs. 2.06 crores for minor irrigation works and Rs. 10 crores for agricultural inputs under the emergency production programme.

The Hon'ble Members will thus appreciate that both the Central and the State Governments are fully alert and vigilant and have been taking and will continue to take all necessary steps to deal with the situation.

6 P.M.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): Sir, the approach to the whole problem has to be two-fold, short-term and long-term. May I know what projects have been taken up which can be completed within six or eight months? And one of the projects of the Haryana Government is the augmentation canal. May I know whether the Government has sanctioned it and how much amount has been sanctioned for it? In the same way, what about the other areas? About the long-term programme, have they any programme for increasing the number of tubewells within the next year because the hon. Minister while making the statement said that the tubewells are being erected? Have you any scheme that so many tubewells will

be erected this year and that the chronic famine areas will be dealt with immediately? Secondly, even today a deputation of Bihar MPs met the Prime Minister about famine there, about the distribution system of foodgrains, etc. How many fair price shops have been opened there or grants have been given to them? Actually, a Member from Bihar was saying that even now in Ranchi District, though it is a famine area, there is no proper distribution system. She had gone there. She said that the people were not getting foodgrains. What have you done to streamline the distribution system? Is the Government thinking of revising the famine code so that certain more areas can be brought under it?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE

The hon. Member has rightly raised three relevant issues. Firstly, he asked what is the approach regarding the emergency production programme? The programme that has been prepared has laid emphasis on such items as rabi crop, mainly wheat and pulses, and summer crop, summer paddy, maize, etc. The very size of the programme has been worked out and we anticipate an additional production of almost 15 million tonnes. Sometime before, hon. Members raised a question about ambitious programmes, how they will be worked out. Even if we succeed by 80 or 85 per cent, I have no doubt in my mind that a substantial part of this programme will go through because many of the State Governments have the effective machinery. For instance, take the case of Haryana, Punjab and West Bengal and a number of other States. The Haryana Government has a very ambitious programme of energising tubewells, sinking new tubewells in certain relatively low rainfall areas in Haryana and also completing all the canal projects there. All these projects have been examined in my Ministry and broadly we have indicated to the State Government that they should go ahead with this programme. Initially Rs 4 crores have been sanctioned for this programme. Depending upon the performance of

the State Government additional sanctions will be issued.

Similarly, steps are being taken in regard to all State Governments and actually about Rs 75 crores work programmes have been sanctioned throughout the country. Similar sanctions are being issued to the various State Governments.

Distribution system is another important point. As far as the distribution system is concerned, at the moment there are about 17,000 fair price shops in Bihar, but I must concede that all the fair price shops in Bihar are not working very satisfactorily. This was one of the points which I recently discussed with the Chief Minister of Bihar. However, they are trying to strengthen the distribution system. As far as the Central Government part is concerned, we are pushing up very large quantities of foodgrains to Bihar. For instance, in the month of August, the Bihar Government was given indication by us that about 17,000 tonnes of wheat would be despatched to Bihar. I examined the position a day earlier. In the month of August almost 90,000 tonnes of wheat, much more than was committed by us, has been despatched to Bihar. We are trying to step up despatches to Bihar. That will be our effort.

All over the country our effort is to strengthen the public distribution system because even if we have stock, unless we ensure that they reach the needy and weaker sections of the society who are in need of getting wheat from the fair price shops, all these stocks will not be useful. Therefore, we have drawn the necessary attention of the State Government to strengthen and streamline the distribution system.

As far as the Famine Code is concerned, this is the usual question. As I said last time the attention of the State Government has been drawn to these aspects. A number of State Governments have brought their Famine Codes up to date, but not all the State Government. My

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request to the rest of the State Governments would be to modify them and bring them up to date.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra). Sir, this is a very important statement. Drought conditions are prevailing not only in one or two States but in many States. Therefore, would you not give us some time so that we can raise certain issues from all over on Monday? Otherwise, it is very difficult. We have got the copies of the statement in our hands but we do not know what questions to put.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): I have raised the question. But I have no opportunity to get clarification. The question is on Monday we have a very heavy agenda. Let us complete it today.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: We have no papers in our hand.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE. You are a senior Member. For you it is not difficult.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: For instance, I would like to ask about the fodder situation. What have you done about cattle camps? Have you opened cattle camps or not?

श्री सुलतान सिंह (हरियाणा): क्या आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि हरियाणा का एक आग्लेमेंटेशन कैनल, जिसके बारे में अभी मंत्री जी ने बताया कि 4 करोड़ रुपए उसके लिए सैक्शन किया, तो उसका मैं मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद करता हूँ, लेकिन उससे आगे हरियाणा का जो डाउट एरिया है उसके अंदर एक चक्रवर्ती कैनल, एक इन्दिरा गांधी कैनल दोनों के ऊपर अभी काम जारी है और वह कैनल इस ढंग के हैं कि जो पानी फ्लड का है उसे लिफ्ट करके डेजर्ट एरिया के अंदर ले जाया जा रहा है। तो क्या मंत्री महोदय बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि उन दो स्कीमों के लिए, चक्रवर्ती कैनल और इन्दिरा गांधी कैनल से जो फ्लड के पानी को दूसरी एरिया में ले जाया

जा रहा है ताकि डाउट दूर हो और खेती की काश्त हो सके, उसके लिए भी कोई रुपया सैक्शन किया है या करने की कोई इच्छा है सरकार की ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, any project which is a non-Plan project, which is incomplete and can be completed within the shortest possible time and which will help us to augment our production in rabi crop, will receive our sympathetic consideration. But I cannot say right here at the moment what will be our attitude to any particular project. If the Haryana Government takes it up with us, we will give a very sympathetic consideration. We feel that Haryana's potential is so rich and unexploited that there is a lot of possibility for increasing production. The non-Plan schemes will be coming under the annual plans and they can be taken up with the Planning Commission. If any State Government, including the Haryana Government says that by completing a particular project, immediately the production of wheat or pulses can be increased, we will give attention to that.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि परे सत्र भर में सूखे की बात किसी न किसी रूप में चलती रही है और लगभग 12 राज्यों में सूखे की स्थिति वर्तमान है। क्या सरकार ने अभी तक इस बारे में असेस किया है कि इन 12 राज्यों में सूखे के कारण कितना नुकसान हुआ है ? अगर सरकार ने इस बात का अन्दाजा लगा लिया है तो सूखाग्रस्त जनता को भूख से मरने से बचाने के लिए उसने कितने धन तथा अन्न की व्यवस्था की है ?

इसी सन्दर्भ में मैं एक बात और जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार सूखे के कारण अत्यधिक प्रभावित हुआ है और बिहार सरकार ने सूखे से नुकसान के जो आंकड़े सरकार को भेजे हैं, वह लगभग 300, 315 करोड़ रुपए के लगभग हैं। उसने ऋण, खाद, बीज और दूसरी चीजें देने के बारे में

आवश्यकता बतलाई है, उसको हम लोगो के पास भी भेजा है और सरकार के पास भी भेजा है। बिहार सरकार ने सहायता, ऋण और उपज के लिए 78 और 85 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की है, तो इसमें से सरकार कितने रुपये की व्यवस्था कर रही है। इसी तरह से उन्होंने अन्न के सम्बन्ध में भी सहायता देने के बारे में कहा है। अभी माननीय शिन्डे जी ने बतलाया कि बिहार सरकार ने 70 हजार टन अनाज मांगा था जबकि केन्द्र ने 90 हजार टन अनाज भेज दिया है। मेरे पास जो रिपोर्ट है उसमें यह दिया हुआ है कि उन्होंने 40 हजार टन की मांग की थी, जिसमें से 15 हजार टन तो पहुंचने वाला है और 15 हजार टन रास्ते में है। यह रिपोर्ट हमें बिहार सरकार से प्राप्त हुई है। आपने 90 हजार टन की बात कही है, लेकिन 1966-67 में जब अकाल पड़ा था तो उस समय केन्द्र सरकार से 70 लाख टन अनाज की मांग की गई थी और आज जो स्थिति है वह उससे कम भयावह नहीं है निवाय इसके कि वहां पर इस समय कांग्रेस सरकार है और कांग्रेस सरकार होने के कारण लोग भूख से मरने के बजाय आज जहर खाना पसन्द कर रहे हैं और फिर भी यह सरकार उस क्षेत्र को अकालग्रस्त क्षेत्र घोषित करने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। बिहार सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार को 70 लाख टन की व्यवस्था के बारे में बतलाया होगा जैसे कि हमें जानकारी प्राप्त हुई है।

बिहार सरकार ने उपभोक्ता ऋण के लिए छोटी-छोटी स्कीमों के लिए, जो वहां के लोगों की जीवन रक्षा के लिए आवश्यक है, 30 करोड़ रुपये की मांग की है। मुझे आशा है कि सरकार बिहार सरकार की इस मांग की ओर जल्द से जल्द ध्यान देगी।

अभी आपने अपनी रिपोर्ट में बतलाया कि अधिक पैदावार या रबी की पैदावार बढ़ाने के लिए जोरदार कोषिश की जायेगी और जो फसल सूखे से बरबाद हो गई है उसको कम्पैन्सेट किया जायेगा। रबी की फसल बढ़ाने के लिए

बीज, पम्पिंग सैट और विद्युतीकरण की आवश्यकता होगी। इसके साथ ही साथ बिहार की सरकार कह रही है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार वहां पर अनाज भेजे। आपने कहा है कि वहां पर 70 हजार दुकाने हैं, यद्यपि वहां पर इससे भी दुगना करने की जरूरत है। यद्यपि वहां पर 70 हजार दुकाने हैं, लेकिन अनेक दुकानों में अभी तक अनाज नहीं पहुंचा है। मैं इस बारे में सरकार की निन्दा नहीं करता हूँ लेकिन उनके ध्यान में यह बात लाना चाहता हूँ कि आज राशन की दुकानों को वहां पर बेचा जा रहा है। तो यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो साधन राहत के वहां दिये गये हैं उनकी वितरण के सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने क्या व्यवस्था की है, पम्पिंग सैट है, ट्यूब वेल है, इसके लिए विद्युतीकरण आवश्यक है, बिजली की आवश्यकता है और सरकार इस बारे में क्या करने जा रही है? इन सारी चीजों को सुपरवाइज करने में जो खर्चा आयेगा उसके लिए आप क्या व्यवस्था करते जा रहे हैं? आपकी मशीनरी वहां पर यह काम क्षमता से करे, कुशलता से करे, उसके बारे में आप क्या व्यवस्था करने जा रहे हैं?

अंतिम सवाल मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जैसा आपने कहा कि पार्लियामेंट के मेम्बर इस कार्य में सहयोग देगे। सलाहकार समिति में भी इस सहयोग के बारे में पूछा गया था कि इस सहयोग का रास्ता क्या होगा और किस प्रकार से पार्लियामेंट के सदस्य वहीं ठग से इस बारे में सहयोग कर सकेंगे। कांग्रेस के सदस्यों ने भी इस बारे में प्रश्न किया था कि राज्य सरकारों के साथ इस बारे में किस तरह से सहयोग किया जा सकेगा, आप किस तरह से कोऑर्डिनेशन करेंगे ताकि पार्लियामेंट के सदस्य इस काम में सही तौर पर सहयोग दे सकें।

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE:
The honourable Member has referred to the point as to what are the precise estimates of losses in the various States. In fact, two or three weeks earlier the picture appeared to be very discouraging because the present wet spell had not come at

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that time. For instance, take the case of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh at that time reported that almost 70,000 villages would be affected by draught. Now in Madhya Pradesh there are widespread rains during the last two or three weeks and I think the problem is within very manageable proportions and very few villages may come under this category by and large, Madhya Pradesh has received . . .

SHRI V. K. SAKHALECHA (Madhya Pradesh): Still there are so many drought affected areas there.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: You can always argue it. What I am suggesting is, by and large, there is considerable improvement in the situation. Take the case of Rajasthan. Two or three weeks earlier the position appeared to be desperate. Now West and East Rajasthan have received very widespread rains. The cattle will not have any problem now. Fodder will come up and many of the bajra and such other crops will also come up. By and large, as compared to two or three weeks earlier in the country as a whole the situation has improved. Therefore, the picture is much better now as compared to a few days earlier. Precise estimates are not available. The honourable Member will appreciate that it is very difficult to give precise losses, because the kharif crop is on; and even if rains are there now, at the time of flowering, at the flowering stage, rains were not there. This will make a material difference to the yields. Therefore, it will be hazardous on my part to try to make any precise estimates. But there have been some losses in certain areas some substantial losses in kharif crop have been there . . .

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव : मवाल यह है कि जो बात आप भविष्य के बारे में कह रहे हैं, वह तो ठीक है, लेकिन जो फसल खत्म हो गई है, जैसे समरी पैड़ी है, जेठवा धान है, भदई धान है, ये सब समाप्त हो चुकी है, इनके बारे में आपका क्या कहना है ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE:

Why does not the honourable Member allow me to finish? Even in regard to summer paddy this year the programme was so large in West Bengal and other areas; and we know that this summer was extremely dry and losses did take place. But the total production of summer paddy as compared to the last year is much larger. It is not Bihar alone. There are many parts of the country where the acreage has increased and crops could be saved. If the dry summer had not been there, then the production would have been much larger as compared to the last year. The summer paddy crop of the country as a whole is not lower than that of last year. The second point to which he referred was the supply of foodgrains. This year I think we are trying to step up and what is really required is to strengthen the public distribution system. What is really material is the public distribution system. Whatever quantity we despatch is not really material because we are trying to meet all the reasonable requirements of the State Governments. What is required really in the villages, in the areas is an effective distribution system. And in Bihar really much more needs to be done to strengthen that. The Chief Minister assured me and my Ministry that everything will be done to strengthen and streamline the distribution system in Bihar . . .

SHRI N. G. GORAY: May I just say something because I have to attend some other meeting? I just want to say a few words. I do not know whether it is because he comes from Maharashtra that the Minister has not said anything about Maharashtra, may be, due to modesty or . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): I do not think States will go by default by not being mentioned here. There is nobody to mention about Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: You can ask the question from there.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: What I would like to point out is that many

of the districts in Maharashtra, especially the eastern districts, are suffering from drought not only this year, but last year and even the year before last they were victims of drought. Therefore, I would like to point out that it is not only the question of crash programme. There is no water available at all. Whatever may be the Government's intentions to push up the rabi crop, unless there is availability of water, all their programmes are not likely to succeed. I would like to ask him whether the Maharashtra Government has asked for any help. Today's paper reported that Maharashtra Chief Minister is touring all the areas. What is their need and what has the Central Government done and to what extent they are going to help them by way of money or by way of grains or by way of fertilizer, etc. I shall be grateful if he can tell me something about Maharashtra.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE

As far as production programmes are concerned we have sanctioned about Rs 16 crores to Bihar Government and Rs 7 crores by way of short-term loans for agricultural inputs. Ultimately it will depend upon the ability of the State Government to implement this and then further sanction will follow. We are in close contact with the State Government. I can assure the hon Member that whether it is their financial requirement or otherwise, we are in close touch with them and have been consulting them and I think we shall be extending all the co-operation to Bihar Government to see that they are able to meet the requirements of the situation.

As far as Maharashtra is concerned, I am glad the hon Member has raised this issue because some districts in Western Maharashtra and Marathwada are very hard hit. I come from a very unfortunate area where there has not been any rain since 1st September that is to say for the last one year. People are struggling even for drinking water. Recently the Maharashtra Chief

Minister was here and he met everybody here including the Agriculture Minister, Planning Minister and Prime Minister. We have assured him that in order to meet the situation which is very serious there we will extend all the possible help. When I refer to production programme, our intention is not to neglect relief measures. Everything is done to provide relief. As far as Maharashtra is concerned we have been very generous and almost production programmes worth Rs 12,85,00,000 has been sanctioned and Rs 10 crores have been given as short-term loans. For relief there will be additional sanction because vast areas in Poona, eastern part of Satara, Sholapur, Ahmednagar, Bhur, Usmanabad and Aurangabad are very hard hit. In my own district about two lakhs of people are working today, I can assure hon Members that we are not neglecting any State

Your State Mr Vice-Chairman, is also very badly affected. We are not neglecting that too. The situation in Andhra Pradesh and parts of Mysore adjacent to Andhra and Maharashtra is very bad. The whole area is very much hardy. But in the country as a whole the situation is very much under control and therefore there need not be any fear or panic. It shall be our endeavour to see that the State Governments are helped in organising relief and emergency production programmes.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI (Gujarat)

Sir Bihar, Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh have represented their cases and their demands are all being sympathetically considered. But I have to put forward the demand of Gujarat. After a proper ground survey before the later day rains came, Gujarat Government is supposed to have reported to the Centre that over 15,000 villages were affected by drought conditions. When this report was already available with the Central Government the hon Minister in reply to a question in the other House said that no report had yet been received from the Gujarat Government. After the rains came the

[Shri H. M. Trivedi]

Gujarat Government has also furnished the Central Government with a report saying that after a second ground survey something like 6,253 villages are affected by drought conditions.

And, Sir, I am most surprised that even today the honourable Minister says in his statement that a request from the State Government for sending a Study Team is under consideration. Study Teams have already been sent to every other State and financial assistance has already been declared and sanctioned for some other States. Here is a report from the State Government saying that about 6,253 villages have been affected and yet, we are at the stage where the honourable Minister is in the process of considering sending a Study Team. I am most surprised, Sir. A Study Team has already gone and investigated in every other State and financial assistance has already been given. If this is the position, Sir, then if an agitational approach is required, we would be very happy to undertake that also.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I do not think, Sir, for the honourable Member there is any need to resort to agitations. Sir, drought relief is a State subject and, therefore, they need not wait till the arrival of the Central team, because for providing relief, on their own judgment, on their own assessment, they should start the relief work. Central assistance is available whether the Central team has gone a little earlier or a little later, because the State Government is entitled to reimbursement above the ceiling which is recommended by the Central team. So, Sir, the Gujarat Government need not wait for the Central team for undertaking the relief work or starting the relief measures. Therefore, Sir, I would like to dispel the impression of the honourable Member that everything is held up because the Central team has not gone there yet.

SHRI H. M. TRIVEDI: How come, Sir? The Central team has not yet gone there.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE:

You see, there is a procedure. We have to receive a request from the State Government. And we have received the request only now. Therefore, we are deputing the Central team now. The ways and means position is very good there. Perhaps there was no intention to delay on their part. I know the Chief Minister has asked for all those things from us and he has started all the necessary relief works. Recently, the major part of Gujarat, except Saurashtra and Kutch, has received very good rains. The dismal picture which was there two or three weeks ago is no longer there. This year Gujarat is expected to have a bumper crop of cotton in the cotton belt. But, Sir, it does not mean that the problems of the drought-hit areas are to be neglected. We will extend the same assistance and help to the Gujarat Government as we have been extending to the other States.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Orissa): Sir, from the statement of the Minister, I could notice a sense of jubilation in him about the rainfall.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: No jubilation.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: You are happy that there was some rainfall which confirms that our agriculture is still dependent on the monsoon.

Sir, with regard to my State where assured irrigation is only 11 per cent, the Minister was mentioning about tubewells. There are some Small Farmers' Development Agencies in my State and there have been so many reports in the newspapers that the money sanctioned for the digging of tubewells especially the World Bank Loan, is subjected to the scrutiny in the technical reports of the Ground Water Division which is not forthcoming in certain cases and there is delay in that. So, Sir, I would request the Minister to kindly enlighten me as to what the position is.

Then, Sir, about the distribution system which the Minister was referring to in my State, especially

in my own district, there is adequate amount of food grains and there is no dearth of it. But the off-take is not there. The stocks are fine and super-fine quality. But, Sir, the people do not have the purchasing power, because, after the cyclone of last year, we have been subjected to floods as well as drought. In Orissa, there are four districts, Cuttack and Denkanal and two others which were affected by floods, drought and cyclone.

Then, Sir, there was some mention about the starvation deaths. As far back as May and June, Sir, there was a clamour that people were dying in Orissa due to starvation. Even Sardar Joginder Singh, our former colleague here as Governor of Orissa, had gone and visited the various parts and denied these reports. Now, Sir, I want to know why these people who were clamouring that there were starvation deaths in Orissa are keeping quiet now? Is it because they think that now they are in power and so they should make it appear that such things do not happen? I want to know whether the reports of May and June are true or not.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I think, Sir, there has been enough controversy about starvation deaths and I need not add to the controversy. But, Sir, every statement made by the honourable Member, we take it seriously and whatever reports have been received by us, we have referred them to the State Government and the State Government has positively conveyed to us that there have been no starvation deaths in Orissa.

As far as the distribution system is concerned, in Orissa there is a need for strengthening the system. At the moment, there are about 9,000 fair price shops and the State Government is doing everything possible to see that the foodgrains are sent to the various places. In fact, I may assure hon Members that adequate foodstuffs are there. We have allotted 55,000 tonnes of coarse rice to Orissa and that is un-

der despatch from last month. I have assured the Orissa Government that reasonable requirements of rice will be fully met. In fact, I must say that Orissa is one of the States where the largest number of people are receiving gratuitous relief and the State Governments are doing everything possible to see that the situation is adequately met and the hon. Member, who is so knowledgeable, is aware that Orissa is receiving very good rains during the last . . .

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: What about my second question about the World Bank loan?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: We are trying to coordinate and expedite the matter. We have sanctioned almost Rs. 4 crores and 75 lakhs for minor irrigation schemes for Orissa, and the Orissa Government is one of the governments which has for the first time a very ambitious programme of minor irrigation for immediate implementation, irrespective of World Bank loan.

श्री सीताराम सिंह (बिहार) : श्रीमान मैं समझता हूँ कि यह सदन सत्य पर प्रकाश डालने के लिए है, लेकिन ऐसा लगता है कि यहां झूठ का रोजगार हो रहा है। बिहार सरकार की तरफ से जो रिपोर्ट आयी है कि एक भी व्यक्ति भूख से नहीं मरा है तो मैं बहुत अदब से आप के जरिये सदन से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि एक सर्वदलीय संसदीय समिति गठित की जाय और वह संसदीय समिति जांच करे। अगर यह प्रमाणित हो जाये कि वहां भूख से इंसान मरे हैं...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री वी० बी० राजू) : आप स्टेटमेंट के मुताबिक बोलिये।

श्री सीताराम सिंह : तो ठीक, लेकिन अगर यह प्रमाणित नहीं हो सका तो मैं संसद की सदस्यता से इस्तीफा दे दूंगा। लेकिन इस की जांच होनी चाहिए।

दूसरी बात यह है कि जहां तक बिहार का मवाल है वहां थोड़ी बारिश होने से स्थिति में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है। वहां की स्थिति बड़ी भयावह है। चारे के लिए मैं जानना

[श्री सीताराम सिंह]

चाहता हूँ कि क्या व्यवस्था की गयी है और दूसरी बात जो राहत का काम वहाँ होता है वह क्या हो रहा है और क्या-क्या सरकार कर रही है और मुट्ठी भर सफेद पोश लोगों के हाथ में सारा काम रहता है और उसमें ही गड़बड़ होती है और सारा पैसा उनके पास ही चला जाता है। उससे निपटने के लिए जिन लोगों के लिए वह राहत कार्य किया जाता है उन तक उस का फायदा पहुँच सके इसके लिए क्या ठोस कदम उठाये गये हैं और अकाल और बाढ़ से स्थानीय ढंग से निपटने के लिए क्या और कितनी राशि रखी गयी है और अनाज और पैसे की क्या योजना है इस बात को मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: About starvation deaths, I have stated what the State Government has conveyed to me and I think we should rely on the reports of the State Government that there is no starvation death in Bihar.

As far as fodder is concerned, because of widespread rains, the fodder problem has eased considerably in many of the States, except some of the States like Andhra and Maharashtra. If any State Government wants our assistance in regard to any specific points which are brought to our notice we are ready to help them.

Then, about the production programme and other things, I have already made a statement.

SHRIMATI PURABI MUKHOPADHYAY (West Bengal): The hon. Minister knows about the drought condition which was prevailing in West Bengal, and we are grateful to the Government of India for the assistance it rendered to us. Today our Food Minister met the Union Minister for Food and Shri Shinde. May I know whether the Government of India is fulfilling their commitment of supplying rice to us, according to our requirements? Secondly I do not know what kind of rice they procure, because the rice we give through our ration shops has a

smelling that we can hardly eat it. Of course, we have to eat it. Will the Minister assure us that we will at least get edible rice? Thirdly, we are contemplating to distribute mustered oil and essential commodities through ration shops. May I know from the Minister: Is it possible to intervene in the matter to take it up with the U.P. Government, so that we can get an adequate quantity of mustered seeds from U.P. Government?

The next point is about the release of wagons. Let the hon. Minister take it up with the Railway Ministry. We are doing our bit but if they do not release wagons even if the Government releases rice and mustard seed to West Bengal it hardly reaches us. These are the three points I wanted to raise.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: As far as the movement of rice and wheat to West Bengal is concerned we have assured the West Bengal Food Minister today that we are stepping up the supply of rice and wheat to West Bengal through a massive movement. In fact he himself was fully satisfied at the way the movement is going on. In fact it was indicated that with the way the movement of foodgrains was taking place to West Bengal they would be augmenting their stocks. Apart from the monthly requirements this month their stocks would be augmented as a result of this movement. So there is no need for any anxiety.

As far as the quality is concerned, this is engaging our attention. Last year in the border areas because of the conflict certain relaxations were made because we were interested that the rice should not get destroyed. Some high-moisture-content rice was procured. Therefore some quality relaxations were made at that time because of the difficult situation. Some of the stocks of rice is not to our satisfaction and we are attending to this problem.

As far as West Bengal is concerned, there has been considerable improvement in the situation because West Bengal is one of the States

which recently has been having very good rains. Transplantation has taken place and crops are coming up very well.

As far as mustard oil is concerned, it is a suggestion for action and we will take note of that.

श्री वीरेन्द्र कुमार सखलेचा (मध्य प्रदेश) : माननीय मंत्री जी ने जैसा बतलाया कि मध्य प्रदेश में वर्षा हो जाने के कारण स्थिति में सुधार हो रहा है, मेरी ऐसी सूचना नहीं है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश का जो बिहार से लगा हुआ इलाका है खास कर सरगंजा और रायगढ़ डिस्ट्रिक्ट वे मोस्टली ट्राइबल डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स हैं और उन ट्राइबल्स की परचेजिंग पावर बिलकुल भी नहीं रह गयी है और रेन्स के कारण वहाँ कोई लाभ नहीं हुआ है और वहाँ की जो राइम क्रॉप है उसको बहुत नुकसान हुआ है, इतना नुकसान हुआ है कि उसकी पूर्ति नहीं हो सकती। यहाँ पर माननीय सदस्य श्री विजय भूषण सिंह देव जी रायगढ़ से आ रहे हैं। वे बता रहे थे कि वहाँ के आदिवासियों को जड़े खानी पड़ रही है और उनके पास खाने के लिए पैसा नहीं है। तो मुख्य समस्या यह है कि वहाँ के आदिवासी लोग अनाज खरीद सके, इतनी परचेजिंग पावर उनकी हो जानी चाहिए। जो रिलीफ वर्क्स चलाने की बात आप कर रहे हैं व वहाँ नहीं चल रहे हैं। आप ने पूरी सहायता की बात जो मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को कही है, वह ठीक हो सकती है लेकिन वहाँ कोई रिलीफ वर्क अभी नहीं चला है। सब लोग इस इम्प्रेसन में हैं कि जबलपुर में कुछ रेन्स के कारण हालत सम्भल गयी है, लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश के एक बार्डर पर काफी वर्षा हो जाने के कारण वहाँ हालत सुधर गयी है लेकिन दूसरी तरफ हालत में कोई परिवर्तन नहीं हुआ है खासकर जो ट्राइबल इलाके हैं उनकी हालत अत्यन्त खराब है और इस दृष्टि से आप क्या प्रयास कर रहे हैं यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ।

दूसरे माइनर इन्जिनेशन के बारे में जैसा आप कह रहे हैं कि हम प्रायिडि देते हैं, उनकी सहायता कर रहे हैं, तो मध्य प्रदेश सरकार को क्या आप

ने इस के लिए कोई स्पेशल सेक्शन किया है, कोई स्पेशल प्रोग्राम इस दृष्टि से लिये जा रहे हैं। वहाँ तो स्थिति दूसरी है। वहाँ जो माइनर इन्जिनेशन के काम हैं उनको जो इलेक्ट्रिसिटी उपलब्ध करायी जा रही है उस के रेट्स बढ़ा दिये गये हैं। तो जो ड्राउट स्ट्रिकन किसान हैं उनके सामने एक समस्या है। वह रेट्स इसी वर्ष बढ़ाये गये हैं। तो मेरा निवेदन है कि इस प्रश्न के बारे में आपने राज्य सरकार से कोई चर्चा की है या आप उनको एडवाइस करेंगे कि चूकि अकाल की स्थिति है, चूकि फसले खराब हो गयी हैं इसलिए उन पर बढ़े हुए टैक्स तो न लगाये जायें।

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE:
I will draw the attention of the State Government to the suggestions made by the hon. Member.

With reference to particular areas, what I said was a few weeks earlier the whole of Madhya Pradesh was having very deficient rainfall and they reported that nearly 70,000 villages were likely to be affected. Now the situation has so radically changed; not that there will not be pockets or districts where the rainfall may not be adequate. I am not saying that.

As far as Adivasis are concerned, that is a point I will refer to the State Government. The Madhya Pradesh Government has also taken up an emergency crash programme. We have sanctioned a programme of minor irrigation of the value of two crores and twenty-five lakhs of rupees. A sum of Rs. 5 crores has also been advanced as short-term loan to the Madhya Pradesh Government and they are expected to implement the programmes during the year.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. B. RAJU): The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Monday.

The House then adjourned at forty-one minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday the 4th September, 1972.