

श्री आर० पी० खैतान : माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो फिगर्स दिये हैं उनसे पता चलता है कि देश में काटन के डेवलपमेंट प्रोग्राम के लिए 1962-63 से 1968-69 तक 664.31 लाख रुपया दिया गया जबकि इस साल के संबंध में जो फिगर्स दिये हैं उसमें 44.72 लाख रुपया ही दिया गया है। इस संबंध में उन्होंने पूरा व्योरा नहीं दिया है। तो क्या मैं इस संबंध में यह जान सकता हूँ कि इस साल और कितना ज्यादा खर्च करने की सम्भावना है जिससे हमारा देश काटन के मामले में सेल्फ सफिशन्ट हो सके ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : Madam, I have not been in a position to give complete figures for 1968-69 because a substantial part of the expenditure is met by the State Governments themselves as part of cotton development schemes. Unless we get all those figures from the State Governments, it will not be possible for me to give the consolidated figures for 1968-69.

SHRI M. K. MOHTA : Madam, the fact remains that in spite of the development that has taken place, cotton is in short supply in the country and every year between 5 and 10 lakhs bales of cotton have to be imported from abroad. My question is whether it has been brought to the notice of the Government that sufficient money is not available for plant protection measures which have been proved to increase cotton yields by 15 to 50 per cent, as has been shown by the pilot projects taken up by the cotton industry's apex organisation, the Indian Cotton Mills Federation, and whether Government would allot more money, particularly for plant protection measures.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. Government is doing everything possible to increase the productivity of cotton. One of the reasons why cotton yield is low is that cotton is grown on unirrigated lands, and the other is that our cotton crops are affected by pests and diseases. That is why there is a Centrally-sponsored scheme which subsidises the plant protection measures carried out by the State Governments to the extent of 50 per cent.

SHRI M. M. DHARIA : Madam, this statement is a clear confession of Government's failure in the matter of cotton production in this country. While we have spent nearly Rs. 500 crores during the last 10 years on import of cotton, we have hardly spent Rs. 6 crores on cotton deve-

lopment activities. From the statement itself we see that the increase in production has not even been 2 per cent. Will the hon. Minister assure this House that more and more money will be spent and this import of cotton amounting to Rs. 60 to 70 crores every year will be immediately stopped ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE : I would like to have the support of this House to have more and more money for development of cotton, and my hands will be strengthened with your support.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Is the Government aware that one of the reasons why cotton crops are not being grown abundantly is that the support prices announced by the Government are not remunerative ?

Will the Government think of increasing the support prices ?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

DROUGHT CONDITIONS

*131. SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL :

SHRI BABUBHAI M. CHINAI :

SARDAR RAM SINGH :

SHRI M. K. MOHTA :

Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the areas in different parts of the country which are at present lying drought-affected;

(b) the total number of people affected as a result of drought conditions there and the nature and extent of loss suffered by them;

(c) the nature and volume of assistance provided by the Centre to the State Governments for providing relief to the people there; and

(d) whether the Central Government have devised any long term measures to check drought conditions in future and if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) Drought conditions have been reported by the following State Governments :—

Sl. No.	State Union Territory	No. of affected districts	No. of villages affected	Population affected (in lakhs)
1	Andhra Pradesh	20	18,200	127.60
2	Bihar	2	Not available	Not available
3	Gujarat	16	10,323	86.15
4	Haryana	5	4,656	17.04
5	Madhya Pradesh	16	7,995	27.08
6	Mysore	17	16,321	111.96
7	Orissa	Not available	Not available	Not available
8	Pondicherry	Not available	Not available	Not available
9	Tamil Nadu	11	Not available	24.72
10	Rajasthan	26	22,799	132.00
11	Tripura	Not available	Not available	Not available
12	Uttar Pradesh	8	26,400	105.12

(b) Detailed and authentic reports about the nature and extent of loss suffered by the cultivators have not been received from all the States concerned.

(c) Providing relief in the drought affected areas is the responsibility of the State Government concerned. When the expenditure on relief is expected to exceed the margins fixed by the Finance Commission, Central Financial assistance is accorded according to the prescribed pattern. The financial assistance granted for 1968-69 and 1969-70 (so far) for drought is indicated below :

State	Rs. (Crores)
1. Andhra Pradesh	15.00
2. Gujarat	7.00*
3. Mysore	10.00
4. Orissa	5.00
5. Rajasthan	24.01
6. Tamil Nadu	5.25

*In addition, a sum of Rs. 9.00 crores has been released for drought and flood relief.

N.B.—Pondicherry Administration have been allowed to incur an expenditure of Rs. 10 lakhs on drought relief operations.

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(d) Subject to the availability of resources, schemes for permanent development of the drought affected areas are included in the Plan programmes of the States. In considering the requirements of Central assistance for the Plan, due weightage is given to the backwardness, aridness, etc. of the States. To the extent possible, schemes of permanent benefit such as construction of wells, irrigation and soil conservation schemes, repairs and desilting of old tanks and reservoirs etc. are also undertaken under the relief works programmes.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में तारघरों की स्थापना

132. श्री सूरज प्रसाद : क्या सूचना तथा प्रसारण और संचार] मंत्री यह बताते की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि हिमाचल प्रदेश के कांगड़ा जिले के ग्राम नगरोटा सुरिया और उसके आसपास के गांवों की जनता की तार भेजने और टूंक काल करने में बहुत कठिनाइयों का सामना करना पड़ता है क्यों कि