

to the Government shows that he has not come to any conclusion

श्री राजनारायण . ज़ेमेडी है ।

(Interruption)

DROUGHT AND FAMINE CONDITIONS

*124 SHRI M K MOHTA† .

DR BHAI MAHAVIR .

SHRI Z A AHMAD

SHRI M V. BHADRAM

SHRI N PATRA :

SHRI M PURKAYASTHA .

SARDAR NARINDER SINGH
BRAR

DR (MRS) MANGLADEVI
TALWAR

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

(a) whether it is a fact that various States in the country are facing serious drought and famine conditions,

(b) if so, the areas where drought and famine conditions have been reported,

(c) the estimated damage to the standing crops in these areas and the extent to which it has affected the kharif prospects; and

(d) the Central assistance given to the States to meet the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) (a) to (d) Attention is invited to the statement indicating the drought situation in the country and measures taken to provide relief laid on the Table of the Sabha on 18th November, 1968

SHRI M K MOHTA . May I know, Sir from the hon Minister as to what is the attitude of the Central Government to the reported request of the

Rajasthan Government for Rs. 60 crores for drought relief, 45,000 tonnes of coarse grain and 25,000 tonnes of fodder, and may I know, Sir, from the Government whether it is a fact that the Andhra Government has offered to supply adequate quantity of fodder if transport arrangements could be made? If it is a fact, then what has been done in this regard?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE Sir, as far as the Rajasthan requirement in regard to drought is concerned, recently a Central team representing the various Ministries and the Planning Commission visited Rajasthan. They went into all details and only yesterday the recommendations of the Central team have been made available. The Central team has recommended Central assistance to the tune of Rs 9 crores. They have also recommended that the position should be reviewed in February and if additional assistance is required by Rajasthan that can be looked into.

As far as immediate assistance is concerned the Centre has already released some time back Rs. one crore. In addition to that, Rs 88 lakhs has been released to the Rajasthan Government for the sinking of 60 tube-wells. In regard to fodder, the Rajasthan Government itself is making efforts for importing fodder from the adjoining States. Fodder movement is taking place even on private account.

As far as the reference to the Andhra offer is concerned may I inform the hon'ble Member—in fact, I was myself in Andhra—that I requested the Andhra Government to find ways and means if they could send some fodder to Rajasthan. The Andhra Agriculture Minister said that they themselves were in difficulty but as a token, by way of assistance, they would like to send some fodder if arrangements were made.

DR BHAI MAHAVIR . May I know, Sir, whether it is a fact that in the drought areas in Rajasthan the cattle are in such shortage of fodder that

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri M K Mohta.

cows are reported to be selling at Rs. 10 or Rs. 15 each and large numbers of heads of cattle are being purchased or are being taken away by Pakistanis from across the borders.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN May I ask who is selling the cows?

DR BHAI MAHAVIR: Owners obviously who have no means of supporting them or who have no means of feeding them. It is a gross failure on the part of the Rajasthan Government as well as the Central Government which owes an overall responsibility to the people as well as the cattle of the area that the cattle wealth should not be depleted in this manner. It is reported that large numbers are being taken away by Pakistanis or they are simply dying away. If it is so, what steps have been taken on an emergency basis to provide immediate relief to such areas so that we do not lose our precious cattle wealth in this manner?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, obviously due to serious drought condition in Rajasthan there is considerable distress which has affected the cattle wealth in Rajasthan. But various steps have been taken. For instance, in Western Rajasthan which is subject to recurring droughts there is the tradition of taking the cattle from Rajasthan to the adjoining States. So a large number of cattle owners have taken their cattle herds from Rajasthan to the adjoining States. In addition to that, as a result of the efforts of the Centre and the Rajasthan Government the Madhya Pradesh Government have agreed to accept 1 lakh cattle from Rajasthan for grazing in Madhya Pradesh. Moreover, the UP Government also is prepared to accept about 60,000 cattle heads. The Punjab Government is also prepared to accommodate about 10,000 of them. I think, by and large, the steps which have been taken by the Government of Rajasthan to provide relief at least the Central team is satisfied with it.

A reference has been made that a number of cattle are being sold away or are being taken away by Pakistanis, this is unfounded. The Rajasthan Government has not corroborated this fact.

SHRI M V BHADRAM: Sir, in view of the fact that the drought in Andhra was so serious in some of the districts like Visakhapatnam that even drinking water was not available, and also in view of the fact that the northern districts were twice hit by cyclone may I know what was the relief asked for by the Andhra Government and what is the relief that has already been given by the Central Government?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, the situation was a little difficult during the months of August and September in Andhra. But there have been widespread rains in September and October all over Andhra and the position has eased very much as far as drinking water and other things are concerned, though the late rains did not help early sowing of paddy, etc. The Central team visited Andhra also and looked into the requirements of Andhra. It has recommended a Central assistance of Rs 12.5 crores and actually Rs 7.5 crores has been released in favour of the Andhra Government.

SHRI N PATRA: In view of the chronic drought affecting the raising of kharif crop in Orissa—this was experienced since 1966—does the Central Government suggest any alternative crop pattern for certain areas where early monsoon fails?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, the peculiarity of Orissa is that by and large we have good rains but there are certain tracts which do not receive adequate rain. Sometimes even the distribution of rain is so uneven that some areas get affected. That is why the Centre has circulated a scheme to the State Governments suggesting measures which if undertaken by the State Governments would provide permanent relief to the drought-affected areas. So far as Orissa is concerned, this year, though some areas have been affected,

the position is much better than last year and even the production this year is expected to be better than last year

सरदार नरेंद्र सिंह बरार : میں آنریبل منسٹر صاحب سے صرف انکا بوجھنا چاہوں گا کہ میرے دوست نے کہا ہے کہ وہاں گئے پانچ پانچ یا چھ چھ روپے میں بکیں لیکن میوا تو یہ کہنا ہے کہ انکو بکنے کا موقعہ ہی نہیں ملا۔ نا معلومہ کمٹی گائیں میں اور جو لوگ گئے انہوں نے دیکھا کہ مرنے والے بدلوں اور گائوں کے تھاجے ہی تھاجے پڑے ہیں اور اس کے بعد ایکے کہنے کے مطابق وہ وہاں کے ہرن کو لے کر کے ساتھ کے گاؤں میں دے گئے تو یہ صاب طاہر کرنا ہے راجستھان گورنمنٹ کی نالائقی اور سنٹرل گورنمنٹ کی کوتاہی جس کی وجہ سے انکو گھر باہر چھوڑ کر سب کو چھوڑ کر باہر لے جانا پڑا جب کہ پنجاب میں انکا فائر ہوا تھا وہاں انکا گندم پیدا ہوا کہ بہت سارا فائر پڑا تھا لیکن وہاں سے فائر نہیں دھینکا جاسا۔ جب کہ اسے ہم معیت دینے کے لئے یا نامینل ڈائنس پر دینے کے لئے ہمارے ہے۔ جب اسے جانور مر جاتے ہیں نا اسے آدمی مر جاتے ہیں اس کے بعد ہی یہ سرکار سوچتی ہے کہ ایسے رول بنائے کی کوشش کیونکہ کہ گورنمنٹ اسکو ایکشن میں لے اور اسے کام ہو۔

†[सरदार नरेंद्र सिंह बरार : मैं आनरेबल मिनिस्टर साहब से सिर्फ इना पूछना चाहूंगा कि मेरे दोस्त ने कहा है कि वहां गाय पाच-पाच या छ-छ रुपये में बिकी, लेकिन मेरा तो यह कहना है कि उनको बिकने का मौका ही नहीं मिला। न मालूम कितनी गायें मरीं और जो लोग गए उन्होंने देखा कि मरने वाले बैल और गायों के ढांचे ही ढांचे

†[] Hindi transliteration.

पड़े हैं और उसके बाद आपके कहने के मुताबिक ही हर्ड के हर्ड को ले करके साथ के गांव में चले गए तो यह साफ जाहिर करना है राजस्थान गवर्नमेंट की नालायकी और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की कोनाही जिसकी वजह से उनको घर बाहर छोड़ कर, सबको छोड़ कर बाहर ले जाना पड़ा, जबकि पंजाब में इतना फंडर पड़ा था, वहां इतना गंदम पैदा हुआ कि बहुत सा फांडर पड़ा था, लेकिन वहां से फांडर नहीं भेजा जा सका। जबकि इसे हम मुफ्त देने के लिए या नामिनल प्राइस पर देने के लिए तैयार थे, जब इतने जानवर मर जाते हैं या इतने आदमी मर जाते हैं, उसके बाद ही यह सरकार सोचती है कि ऐसे रूल बनाने की कोशिश करे कि गवर्नमेंट उसको एक्शन में लाए और उस पर काम हो।]

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Member that the Rajasthan Government has not competently handled the situation. In fact the Rajasthan Government has done its best to see that the cattle wealth is protected.

श्री राजनारायण . यह तो गलत कह रहे हैं मिन्हे साहब ।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE The hon Member should see the difficulties of terrain how even drinking water is difficult, the distance between the villages and so on. Especially the areas of Western Rajasthan like Jaisalmer are very difficult. But even then nobody is sparing any effort to see that the valuable cattle wealth is protected. I am not denying the fact that there has been distress in certain areas of Western Rajasthan.

MR CHAIRMAN Mr Vaishampayan

SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA Sir

MR CHAIRMAN I want to tell you that the Government is having a motion on this matter. Then you can certainly discuss it for nearly two or two-and-a-half hours. I can assure you that I would not cut you off.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: If other Congress Members are also to be called, will we be shut out?

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is no question of shutting out, Mr. Bhandari. I always respect you and certainly I shall give you an opportunity. But I must be within my own ruling and I am trying to see how the House can adjust itself according to my ruling. Mr. Vaishampayan

SHRI S K VAISHAMPAYEN Sir, besides these areas which have been affected by drought and famine as a result of the vagaries of nature there are some famine belts which are chronically affected . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Put your question.

SHRI S K. VAISHAMPAYEN I am coming to the question. I will be very brief. Now there are some belts which are chronically affected. May I know what schemes of Central assistance are there by which irrigation and other facilities will be given to the agriculturists to increase agricultural production?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir, whenever any drought develops in any part of the country, naturally we have to take . . .

SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYEN: I am asking about the famine belts which are chronically affected, where famine is there for a number of years

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE. Whether they are areas which are subject to recurrent drought or other areas, the approach is common. First of all, we have to take emergency measures to provide employment, to make drinking water available, to make fodder available to the cattle, etc. And along with that we have to take long-term measures also. If the areas are suitable for the sinking of tubewells, we emphasise the necessity of sinking tubewells. If the areas are favourable for the tapping of underground resources or for minor irrigation facilities, then we suggest these measures to the State

Government, and Central assistance to the tune of 75 per cent of the drought relief is provided

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next question.

श्री राजनारायण श्रीमन्, इमजे, राजस्थान
मैं तो जानते हूँ लोगों को पीका नहीं दिया।
हम लम्बी रपट लाये हैं।

STRIKE IN MOHANNAGAR BREWERIES LTD., GHAZIABAD

*125 **SHRI A. G. KULKARNI** Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether there was any strike in the Mohannagar Breweries Ltd., Ghaziabad during the year 1967-68;

(b) if so, what were the points of discontent,

(c) whether Government referred this matter to the Arbitration or tried to resolve it through private negotiations, and

(d) if the reply to part (c) above be in the affirmative, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI JAISUKHLAL HATHI): (a) There was no strike in Mohannagar Breweries Ltd. Ghaziabad during the financial year 1967-68. The Hon Member is presumably referring to the strike of June 5, 1968

(b) The main demands of the workers were re-instatement of 7 workers of the Glass Factory who had been suspended on ground of serious misconduct, fixation of minimum wage and dearness allowance, facilities for quarters, etc

(c) Government did not refer the matter to arbitration but during discussions with the Labour Minister, the two parties agreed to refer the dispute to the arbitration of Shri Raj Narain, M. P.

(d) Shri Raj Narain gave an interim award on 31st July, 1968 providing for a wage increase of Rs 23 and the payment of suspension allowance to the workers who had been dismissed.