

Minister let us know if any advice was given on the basis of this conviction of Government to the Planning Commission and if so what is the remedy suggested ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : That will depend on the report of the body that has been sent for investigation and the decision on their report.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Am I to understand that the hon. Minister has not given any advice on the basis of the distress that has been prevalent for the past six months ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I don't know what he means by my giving advice. We have been in constant correspondence and whatever the Government of India can do has been indicated.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : Have the Government tendered any advice on the basis of these distress conditions to the Planning Commission drawing their attention to the necessity of having some permanent relief measures to this area ? I want to know if the Government is still waiting for the expert advice to arrive or have they given any advice ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : The Planning Commission has itself undertaken the investigation and it is not for us to advise them.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : Is it a fact that because of financial stringency they are not in a position to take any effective steps and the Government of India have been sitting on the fence ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : That is absolutely wrong. The Government of Madras are in a position to take steps and wherever they are not in a position to do so, the Government of India is prepared to help.

PROF. G. RANGA : Are we to understand that the Planning Commission would be in a position to make additional recommendations for the introduction of permanent measures of relief and rehabilitation in this area

as soon as the report from these experts reaches them ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I don't see any difficulty as to why there should not be modifications when conditions demand them of the Planning Commission's recommendations.

SHRI P. SUNDARAYYA : When is this Committee expected to report to the Government ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : It will not be very long.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Why is it that the existing Committee has not gone to Rayalaseema ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : It is going to Mysore and Rayalaseema.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Is the Government aware that the short-term relief measures are a waste and that some long-term or some permanent measures could have been undertaken with better results.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : If that is the view, we will discontinue the short-term measures.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Will the Government consider the desirability of looking into the huge amounts of money spent in Rayalaseema on short-term measures, and whether they could relieve the distress greatly by undertaking some permanent measures ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : The relief measures undertaken were on the recommendations and in consultation between the Government of India and the Madras Government. I don't think they have acted wrongly.

FOOD SCARCITY IN MYSORE

*112. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the resolutions passed at a meeting held on the 28th September 1952 at Mysore

under the presidentship of the Chief Minister of Mysore with regard to the food scarcity in the State ;

(b) what action the Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : (a) Yes.

(b) Relief in scarcity areas is the responsibility of the State Government. A statement showing the action taken is placed on the Table of the House. In view of the abnormal nature of the calamity, the Government of India have agreed to assist the State Government by giving it loans to the extent of 50% of the cost of relief works and a grant to the extent of 50% of losses on schemes of gratuitous relief. Furthermore, a team led by Shri Sonti Ramamurthi has been appointed to study the nature and extent of the distress and to recommend suitable measures for providing relief on a permanent and semi-permanent basis. The report of this team is under consideration.

Statement showing action taken for relief of distress in Mysore

(i) *Relief Works*.—Upto 31st March 1952 an expenditure of Rs. 94,509 was incurred on 286 relief works started in the districts of Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug whereby employment was provided for 27,707 persons per day.

In view of the deepening and widening of distress conditions in the State subsequent to 1st April 1952, the programme of relief works had to be expanded and also extended to all the affected areas. A sum of Rs. 32,71,000 has so far been allotted out of the Famine Reserve Fund in respect of about 2,600 relief works categorised below :—

1. Sinking and deepening of drinking water wells.
2. Repairs of drinking water ponds for cattle.
3. Desilting of tanks.
4. Formation of village and inter-village roads.
5. Restoration of "Talapariges".
6. Repairs to Feeder Channels.

Practically the entire grant referred to above has been spent and there is demand for additional grants from all the districts.

In addition to the expenditure incurred from the Famine Reserve Fund as above the Public Works Department has also undertaken a programme of works under the G. M. F. Scheme in the distress areas from the 15th August 1952 at an estimated cost of Rs. 73.59 lakhs, out of which an outlay of Rs. 21.57 lakhs has been incurred so far.

Government have also authorised the District Board, Kolar, to take up works to the extent of Rs. 2 lakhs in that district by way of supplementing the expenditure incurred by Government on relief operations. Further, the District Boards and Village Panchayats of all the distress districts have taken up works within their resources for affording relief.

(ii) *Supply of Fodder*.—4,000 tons of paddy hay has so far been purchased in the canal area of Mandya District at a cost of Rs. 5½ lakhs and supplied to individual cattle-owners in the distress areas at a subsidised rate of 6 pies per lb. This has involved an expenditure on subsidy to the extent of Rs. 2,40,000.

Stocks of wheat bran in the Food Department have also been made available in the distress areas at a reduced rate of Rs. 6 per bag.

At the same time cattle in the affected areas have been categorised into essential and non-essential and action has been taken to encourage the movement of the latter category of cattle to the nearest State forest or grazing ground where grass is available.

(iii) *Grant of Taccavi Loans and Well Subsidy*.—A special grant of Rs. 5 lakhs for Taccavi loans and Rs. 4 lakhs for well subsidy has been made to the three affected districts of Kolar, Tumkur and Chitaldrug for distribution on a liberal scale to those in need. This is found to be quite insufficient and a large number of applications for loans received have been kept by for want of additional funds.

(iv) *Supply of Seed Grains*.—The Agriculture Department has distributed 4,790 pallas (100 seers of Mysore measure) of seed grains to the ryots in the distress areas to overcome the shortage of seed grains.

(v) *Gratuitous Relief*.—A sum of Rs. 66,000 has so far been spent on the free issue of grain weekly to registered destitutes and disabled persons in the affected areas.

(vi) *Distribution of Milk Foods etc. by the Red Cross Society*.—The Mysore State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society has up to date distributed 13 tons of milk powder and one lakh multi-vitamin tablets through 41 centres started for the purpose in the distress areas.

(vii) *Remission and Suspension of Land Revenue Assessment*.—A sum of Rs. 5.5 lakhs of land revenue has been remitted and the collection of an equal sum suspended for the year 1951-52 in respect of 29 Talukas affected by distress.

(viii) *Opening of Fair Price Depots.*—144 additional foodgrains sales depots have been started in the distress areas for making foodgrains available to people nearer their places of residence and in the vicinity of important relief works. The supply of foodgrains, more especially of milo, to the affected districts has been progressively stepped up from 6,537 tons to 8,960 tons per month from July onwards. The foodgrains offtakes from Government depots have mounted steeply both on account of dwindling local resources and the rise in the open market price of cereals.

(ix) *Donations and Gifts.*—The Prime Minister has been pleased to make a donation of Rs. 65,000 and His Highness the Rajpramukh of Mysore of Rs. 1 lakh for the relief of distress. These amounts have been utilised on the several items of relief in the affected areas.

Gifts from abroad in the form of foodgrains, milk powder and cash have been received recently for the relief of distress in South India of which the share of Mysore is as follows :—

Wheat	.	.	2,000 tons.
Rice	.	.	1,000 tons.
Milk powder	.	.	1,00,000 tins.
Cash	.	.	Rs. 1,25,000.

The above will on receipt be distributed to the needy in the distress areas through the State Branch of the Indian Red Cross Society.

(x) *Private Philanthropy.*—Private philanthropy has also mobilised in each locality for objects such as the starting of free kitchens and gruel centres for the disabled and the free supply of fodder to cattle. At present about 70 gruel centres and free kitchens are being run by philanthropic organisations supplying free food to 16,000 destitutes and disabled persons.

(xi) *Chief Minister's Relief Fund.*—Action in other directions such as collection towards Chief Minister's Relief Fund, constitution of Central Distress Relief Committee and holding Distress Relief Conference of leading citizens of the State, has also been taken to see that the situation caused by the adverse seasonal conditions is met in some degree and the distress relieved to the extent possible. So far donations to the extent of Rs. 2,60,000 have been made to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Is the resolution passed at that meeting going to be taken into consideration—Resolution No. 6 ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think so.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : May I know in what respects the help is going to come from the Centre to meet the contingencies mentioned in Resolution No. 6 ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : It is not possible to state this unless the whole matter is considered.

SHRI M. VALIULLA : Are the Central Government going to finance any minor irrigation works in Mysore ? That is one of the points mentioned in Resolution No. 6.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I believe if that is considered necessary, it will be done.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : Have any funds been allotted by the Centre to the State ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes. I have got a long list of things done so far.

SHRI GOVINDA REDDY : I am asking about actual allotment.

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : In view of the fact that the report of the Expert Committee obviously would be published or finalised after the publication of the Five Year Plan, will Government give us an assurance that on the basis of that report of the Expert Committee the plan that may be recommended by this Expert Committee would be included in the Five Year Plan ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : So far as Government would be in a position to accept the recommendation, I believe it will be included.

SHRI C. G. K. REDDY : What will be the consideration to accept or reject this recommendation ?

MR. CHAIRMAN : The merits of the report.

SHRI K. S. HEGDE : When we get these grievances voiced in the public meetings, is it not a sorry spectacle ? (Interruption.)

PROF. G. RANGA : Is the Ramamurthy Committee also charged with the task of visiting Rayalaseema which was referred to in the earlier question and if so, was any difficulty experienced in this Committee in visiting Rayalaseema first or even at present ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I think the priority is left to the Committee.

SHRI K. C. GEORGE : Has any amount been actually given out of the 50% allotment ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Is the Government aware that the Prime Minister announced that a high-power Committee would be appointed to go into this matter and is this Committee consisting of Under Secretaries and Deputy Secretaries supposed to be the High-Power Committee ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : Yes.

KHWAJA INAIT ULLAH : Is any maximum amount to be paid by the Centre to the Mysore State fixed by the Central Government ? How much is the Centre ready to pay to the State on account of the 50% allotment ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : It will depend upon the proposals of the Mysore Government. No maximum has been fixed.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Is the Government aware that famine conditions almost similar to Rayalaseema exist in the Tamil parts in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Ramnad and will the Government consider the advisability of asking the Commission to visit these areas also and make a recommendation ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : For the present the idea is to confine it to Mysore and Rayalaseema but if similar circumstances are brought to the notice of Government, Government will consider it.

SHRI T. S. PATTABIRAMAN : Is the Government aware that the Chief Minister of Madras has made it clear on more than one occasion that famine conditions exist in so many parts of Tamilnad also ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : I am not aware.

SHRI N. SANJIVA REDDY : Will the Government consider the desirability of including some non-officials also who know the area, and who will be prepared to come boldly and make recommendations to Government, instead of having only officials of the Department sent over there ?

DR. P. S. DESHMUKH : The Committee will not depend upon its own members, but will certainly get advice and suggestions from local leaders also.

INDIAN CENTRAL COCOANUT COMMITTEE

*113. SHRI M. VALIULLA : Will the Minister for FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Central Coconut Committee has been financing certain coconut nurseries ;

(b) whether Government are aware that there are large coconut plantations in Tumkur, Chitaldrug and Bangalore Districts in the Mysore State ;

(c) whether any nurseries in those districts are financed by the said Committee ; and

(d) whether coir comes within the purview of the said Committee ?

THE MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE (DR. P. S. DESHMUKH) : (a) The Committee is at present financing twenty-nine coconut nurseries.

(b) Yes.