

[7 December, 2000]      RAJYA SABHA

**Drought/famine condition in Rajasthan, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh**

1917. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an assessment has been made of the prevailing drought/famine condition in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat and Chhattisgarh, due to scanty rains;

(b) if so, the details of the assessment;

(c) relief measures undertaken to fight the present grim conditions; and

(d) long term durable measures envisaged to overcome such unfortunate calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) As per available information, 9 districts in Chhattisgarh received deficient rainfall during South-West monsoon period resulting in drought like situation affecting population of 69 lakhs, 31 districts in Rajasthan are reported to be affected by drought affecting a population of 32 million and 169 taluks in 10431 villages in 21 districts of Gujarat are facing drought like situation.

(c) The situation in the drought affected States are regularly monitored. In addition to release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for 2000-01, funds have been released under schemes/ programmes implemented by different Central Ministries/ Departments. A Drought Contingency Action Plan has been circulated to the concerned State Governments and they have been requested to take necessary action for timely initiation of drought mitigation measures.

(d) The Ministry of Rural Development are implementing the Drought Prone Areas Programme which aims at drought proofing in identified areas through regeneration of natural resource base. 32 blocks in 11 districts in Rajasthan, 47 blocks in 13 districts in Gujarat and 29 blocks in 8 districts in Chhattisgarh are covered under the programme.