

**Talks with State Governments
regarding Power Shortage**

67. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether in view of the serious situation that has arisen out of the power shortage in many States for the last two months the Union Government have initiated talks with the State Governments for overcoming the power shortage in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome of the talks held with the State Governments; and

(c) the new measures Government propose to take to overcome the power shortage in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The talks have been fruitful and the concerned Chief Ministers have assured to take effective measures.

(c) To minimise the problem of power shortage efforts are being made to accelerate the programme of commissioning new generating capacity, undertake renovation and modernisation of existing plants, improving coal supplies and training of engineers and operating personnel of the power stations. Longterm measures include taking up more new projects in the coming Five Year Plan.

Hike in Procurement Price of Wheat

68. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to raise the procurement price of wheat in the ensuing rabi season;

(b) if so, when final decision is likely to be taken;

(c) whether in October, 1984, country-wide campaign was made to concentrate on mobilising all input distribution agencies to facilitate timely supply to the farmers;

(d) whether arrangement were made for quick disbursement of all the inputs, including seed, fertilizers etc; and

(e) whether Government are also making efforts to provide effective marketing support to coarse grains as well ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The price policy for wheat for 1985-86 marketing season is under active consideration of the Government.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir.

(e) Yes, Sir. It has been decided that institutional arrangements should be made in States for price support operations of Coarse Cereals. Accordingly, the State Governments intending to implement the programme have been requested by the Department of Food which is the nodal Department to indicate the arrangements made in this regard.

Drought Relief to Karnataka

69. SHRI B.V. DESAI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Karnataka Government have sought assistance of Rs. 31.50 crores for drought relief measures in the State from the Central Team which visited Karnataka on 10 October, 1984;

(b) whether two memoranda were submitted in September, 1984 seeking Rs. 123 crores and Rs. 55 crores respectively for fighting drought which has affected 16 out of 19 districts in the State;

(c) whether Central team was convinced of the need to meet the drought situation; and

(d) if so, the total amount granted so far to the State Government to meet the drought situation in the State ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government of Karnataka sent a memorandum