

- (9) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1987 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 805(E) in Gazette of India dated the 18th September, 1987. [Placed in Library See No. LT-4956/87]

12.07 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

Forty-second Report

SHRI M. THAMBI DURAI : I beg to present the Forty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

STATEMENT RE. CURRENT DROUGHT AND FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY AND THE RELIEF MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE GOVERNMENT

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Sir, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the current drought and flood situation and the steps taken by the Government for rendering relief to the affected population. I am aware that the Hon' ble members are quite concerned about the hardship caused by drought and floods in most parts of the country.

As at the end of September, when the monsoon season ends, 18 of the 35 meteorological sub-divisions received deficient rainfall and 3 scanty rainfall and only 14 sub-divisions had received normal or excess rainfall. In terms of area, only about 3 per cent of the country received normal or excess rainfall.

The rainfall since 1st October has been quite satisfactory in most parts of the country except the North Western parts of the country. While this may not help the standing Kharif crops, this will ease fodder and drinking water position. The crop prospects in Rabi season, particularly in the peninsula would substantially improve.

As a result of deficient rainfall in large parts of the country, Kharif agricultural production has been adversely affected. We hope to make up some of the shortfall in Kharif, by higher production in the rabi season. The rabi production target for the country has now been fixed at 76 million tonnes. A detailed strategy for increasing rabi production has been worked out in consultation with the States, with emphasis on :

- (a) increasing area coverage under rabi crops ;
- (b) better water management ;
- (c) increasing the coverage of less water intensive crops.

The States were also advised to prepare water budgets keeping in view the priority requirements of drinking water. Further, with a view to utilise the irrigation potential under wells and tubewells fully, the State Electricity Boards have been advised to give power supply to these sources and assure a minimum 8 hours of uninterrupted supply. All the States have responded positively and the results have been quite encouraging. In order to meet the full requirements of diesel for agricultural pumpsets, the movement and storage of diesel oil in all critical areas has been planned and monitored regularly. Consequently, there has been no shortage of diesel for agricultural purposes. Special attention has been given to timely supply of agricultural inputs like seeds, fertilisers and credit. With a view to meet the shortage of vegetables, a scheme for production of vegetables and vegetable seeds has also been launched for this Rabi and the ensuing summer season.

The Government of India has been taken a large number of initiatives evolving a well knit Action Plan for the implementation of drought relief measures even a

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

early as August, 1987. These include setting up coordinating machinery at different levels—a Cabinet Committee on Drought, a Committee of Secretaries, a Crisis Management Group in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, so as to give the requisite thrust and direction to the relief effort. Since the Action Plan has to be implemented at the field level by the administrative machinery of the States, a Conference of the Chief Ministers of the affected States was also held on 3rd September, 1987 to provide the requisite emphasis and coordinated effort in organising prompt and timely relief measures.

Further the Central Government took the initiative in the current year in assessing the situation by sending assessment and reconnaissance teams, and also extending ways and means assistance for meeting the immediate requirements even before the receipt of formal memoranda from the States. While Ways and Means advance was given to 15 States, the memoranda received from the 15 States and 4 U. Ts. have been dealt within a well laid out time schedule, and assistance aggregating to Rs. 747.29 crores has already been sanctioned.

Fodder has been an area of major concern for the Government. Fortunately, the late rains in September and October, 1987 have eased the position in most of the drought affected States except Rajasthan and Gujarat. A special scheme for fodder cultivation for raising about 60 lakh tonnes of green fodder by providing incentives to small and marginal farmers to the tune of Rs. 9 crores has been launched. In order to improve the cattle feed availability, the Government has reserved 10% of molasses production for use in the manufacture of cattle feed. Paddy straw available in Punjab is being moved to Gujarat and Rajasthan. Railways are according high priority for fodder movement.

The Government of India has been quite alive to the need for providing drinking water in drought affected areas and has also been taking advance action to plan for the difficult months ahead. With the assistance of Space Application Centre and National Geophysical Research Institute,

State Governments are helped in water targetting and spot the sites for bore-wells. This minimises the number of failures. The existing rigs have been redeployed depending on the needs of the terrain and new rigs have also been procured.

Our report would show that an amount exceeding Rs. 600 crores is still available with the States. The progress of implementation of plan programmes is low. The States have been requested to expedite completing these Schemes. The monitoring efforts particularly in regard to rigs and handpumps has been strengthened so that the existing facilities are utilised optimally.

An important component of the relief effort is employment generation for which nearly Rs. 400 crores have been approved as expenditure, in addition to the regular programme of employment generation and poverty alleviation like NREP, RLEGP, IRDP, DPAP, DDP. With the ongoing plan programme and the large amount of resources available for employment generation there should be no dearth of funds for this purpose. We have enabled the States to pay wages in kind upto 2 Kgs. per man day on relief works; by allocation of foodgrains upto 50% of the ceilings of expenditure for employment generation approved for a State.

It is also our concern that the labour on employment generation works gets sufficient nutrition. As part of drought relief assistance, the Government of India have also sanctioned nearly Rs. 30 crores for providing supplementary nutrition to young children and expecting mothers in drought affected areas, not covered by ICDS.

While extensive drought was experienced in most parts of the country, States of Assam, Bihar, Arunchal Pradesh, West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh experienced heavy rainfall resulting in high floods and extensive damages to life and property. Assam experienced as many as 5 waves of floods and in Bihar and West Bengal the fury was considered unprecedented. All the 10 States/UTs. submitted memoranda for assistance and Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 244.16 crores has been approved to the States of Assam, Bihar,

Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Sikkim, Punjab, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh and Nagaland. Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir where shortage of rabi seed was experienced, supplies of quality seeds have been arranged.

In order to effectively coordinate the relief operations, the Central Ministers have been assigned responsibilities for certain States for closer interaction with the State Governments. In conclusion I would like to assure the House that a very close watch is being maintained over the drought situation and all necessary measures to combat the adverse effects of drought in the coming months will be taken in time and in full cooperation of all the agencies. Central and State Governments and non-Government agencies alike concerned with the implementation of the relief programmes.

(Interruptions)

PROF N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : We also want a report about the cyclones in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh) : There should be a discussion on management of drought.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No interruptions please.

12.14 hrs.

HIGH COURT JUDGES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICES) AMENDMENT BILL*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER) : I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2, dated 11.11.1987.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the High Court Judges (Conditions of Service) Act, 1954.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I introduce the Bill.

12 15 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[Translation]

(i) Need to check the production and sale of spurious medicines

SHRI MANKURAM SODI (Bastar) Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the production of spurious medicines in the country has gone to such an extent that there is hardly any medicine which is genuine. It is because of such spurious medicine that 200 people have died of dysentery in Bastar district of Madhya Pradesh between May and September, 1987. Majority of them were children. Complaints have been received that the medicine used for the treatment of the disease was spurious. The maximum number of deaths due to this disease have occurred in Konda Gaon, Darbha and Antagarh Development Blocks.

In the absence of effectiveness of the medicine, the people because of their conservative thinking were compelled to go to the persons with hocus-pocus treatment with the result that this disease spread in a wide area. The Central Government should direct the State Government that in future, medicines should be bought only from reputed companies and that before the medicines are released for the use of the public, these should be tested to see that these are not spurious. Orders should also be issued to take strict action against the persons responsible for the purchase of such medicine because of which hundreds of people died in Bastar.