

English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee on 'Action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report of the Committee on review of the working and financial results of the railways during Fifth Plan period (1974-78) and during 1978-80 and targets and achievements with regard to freight and passenger traffic during the Fifth Plan period (1974-78) and during 1978-80.

SHRI HARISH KUMAR GANGWAR (Pilibhit) : I want to make one submission only.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No. Calling Attention—Shrimati Usha Prakash Choudhari. Nothing will go on record. Anything said in the House without my permission shall not go on record.

12.25 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Harish Kumar Gangwar came and sat on the floor near the Table.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Difficulties being faced by farmers due to withering away of orange trees on account of shortage of water and disease of trees in Vidarbha.

श्रीमती ऊषा प्रकाश चौधरी (अमरावती) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्त्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर कृषिमन्त्री का ध्यान दिलाती हूँ और प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक वक्तव्य दें :—

“महाराष्ट्र के विदर्भ प्रदेश में पानी की कमी और पेड़ों की बामारी से संतरे के पेड़ों के सूख जाने के कारण किसानों द्वारा अनुभव की जा रही कथित कठिनाइयों और इस मामले में उन्हें केन्द्रीय सरकार द्वारा अधिकतम सहायता दिये जाने की आवश्यकता”

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Owing to aberrant behaviour of the monsoon last year, large parts of the country, including Maharashtra, are experiencing drought conditions. According to the information furnished by the State Government, scarcity of water is particularly acute in 21 districts of the State. The districts of Nagpur, Amravati, Buldhana, Akola and Yeotmal falling into the Vidarbha region are amongst the affected districts.

2. Maharashtra is an important citrus growing State and has an area of about 28,900 ha. under citrus fruits as against a total area of 2.08 lakh ha. in the country as a whole. Area under orange cultivation in the Vidarbha region is reported at 20,200 ha. The State Government have reported that area under orange cultivation in this region has been badly affected by the current drought and water scarcity. However, the State Government are assisting the orange growers to tide over the difficulties. A sum of Rs. 1 crore has been sanctioned to be given as loan to the farmers for deepening wells. 25 teams of experts including Horticulture Extension Officers have been deputed to the affected areas for advising the farmers to adopt soil moisture conservation practices. Work of constructing percolation tanks is also in hand. The State Government are also considering as to what type of medium and minor irrigation projects can be undertaken in this area.

3. In addition to drought, this region is also suffering from a malady commonly known as citrus-decline. This has weakened the trees considerably and they are more prone to the vagaries of weather than the normal healthy trees. The reasons attributed to this decline are (i) sub-standard planting material (ii) unsuitability of soil (iii) poor nutrition and management (iv) lack of irrigation, and (v) viral, fungal and bacterial diseases. Citrus Plantations also suffer from white and black fly menace against which the State Government have been organising spraying operations. During 1980-81 a sum of Rs. 1.74 crores and during 1981-82 a sum of Rs. 98.16 lakhs were spent on these operations.

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4. A Memorandum seeking Central assistance against drought was received from the State Government on 18th September, 1982. After considering the report of the Central Team and the recommendations of the High Level Committee thereon, the Central Government sanctioned ceilings of expenditure up to Rs. 56.38 crores for the year 1982-83. These ceilings included a component of Rs. 20.50 crores for solving the drinking water problem. For the current year, a ceiling of expenditure up of Rs. 7.83 crores has been sanctioned for the same purpose over and above the State plan provision and the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of accelerated rural water supply. Ceilings of expenditure have also been sanctioned under the head 'Employment Generation' to assist the State Government to provide employment to the people in the affected areas. Employment guarantee scheme, run by the State Government, is also in operation in the affected areas.

श्रीमती ऊषा प्रकाश चौधरी : सब से पहले उपाध्यक्ष महोदय मैं आपका और यहां पर सभी का आभार मानती हूँ कि विदर्भ के किसानों की समस्या को सेंट्रल लेवल पर इस सदन में चर्चा करने का निर्णय लिया गया जिस के लिए मैं आप सबकी बड़ी कृतज्ञ हूँ।

जिस विदर्भ रिजन का यहां जिक्र किया गया है जहां से मैं आई हूँ और यहां बैठे हुए मंत्री महोदय साठे साहब यहां नेतृत्व करते हैं। विदर्भ रिजन महाराष्ट्र का कपास और संतरो के लिए प्रसिद्ध है। पूरे देश में कपास का उत्पादन सब से अधिक विदर्भ में होता है। संतरो का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है उस इलाके को देश का कैलिफोर्निया कहा जाता है। कुछ वर्षों से वहाँ की समस्या इस कदर गम्भीर बनती जा रही है कि इस सदन में भी उसकी चर्चा हुई है। इन संतरो से शासन को काफ़ी फारेन एक्सचेंज भी मिलता था और इससे हममें आर्थिक सबलता आई थी। विदर्भ का किसान जिसने लोकशाही तंत्र में बहुत बड़ा आर्थिक योगदान दिया है, अपना उत्पादन उस क्षेत्र में बहुत अधिक बढ़ा कर योगदान दिया है, उसकी दर्द भरी पुकार में आज यहाँ आपके सामने रखना

चाहती हूँ। निःसर्ग की जो उस पर अकृपा हुई है, वह चीज मैं आपकी सेवा में प्रस्तुत करना चाहती हूँ। कोलशी नामक बीमारी इन पेड़ों को लगी है जिसको ले कर हम लोगों ने पिछले सेशन में कई बार चर्चा उठाई है और यह विषय राज्य सभा में भी आया है। कोलशी की बीमारी और पानी की कमी, दोनों के कारण वहाँ 1 करोड़ 40 लाख संतरो के पेड़ों को नुकसान हुआ है। आपने भी अपने वक्तव्य में आंकड़े दिए हैं। मेरी अर्ज यह है कि आप आंकड़ों की दुबारा जांच करें। अभी-अभी नागपुर में जो सम्मेलन हुआ था, परिषद हुई थी वहाँ हर जिले के बी०डी०ओ० तथा दूसरे अफसर आए थे, वहाँ किसानों के प्रतिनिधि भी आए थे, संघों के लोग आए थे और उन्होंने जो आंकड़े वहाँ पेश किए वे अखबारों में भी छपे हैं। वे भी एक प्रकार से आफिशल आंकड़े हैं। उनको मैं यहां पर उद्धृत करना चाहती हूँ ताकि आपको समस्या की गम्भीरता का पता चल सके। मेरी जानकारी के हिसाब से अमरावती, नागपुर और वर्धा इन मुख्य तीन जिलों में संतरो का उत्पादन कुल मिला कर 44138 हैक्टर जमीन में होता है। वहाँ पर 1 करोड़ 16 लाख 21 हजार 535 संतरो के पेड़ हैं। यह जानकारी उस सम्मेलन में अफसरों ने दी है। मैं नहीं कहती हूँ कि ये बिल्कुल सही आंकड़े हैं। लेकिन आपने जो अपनी स्टेटमेंट में आंकड़े दिए हैं वे भी सही मालुम नहीं देते हैं। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहती हूँ कि अकेले मेरे जिले अमरावती में 25919 हैक्टर जमीन में संतरो की पैदावार होती है। इसके अन्तर्गत 6 लाख 91 हजार 44 संतरे के पेड़ हैं। तीन चार साल से कोलशी की बीमारी वहाँ फैल रही है। साथ ही पानी का संकट है। कोलशी की बीमारी एक दम से उभर कर नहीं आई है। चार साल से वहाँ पर हालत बिगड़ती जा रही है। आज बहुत ही भयग्रस्त स्वरूप उसने धारण कर लिया है। आपने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि 25 दल प्रभावित क्षेत्रों में भेजे गए हैं। साथ ही परिषद टैकों का निर्माण कार्य भी हाथ में लिया गया है। मैं पूछना चाहती हूँ कि किकने टैकों का निर्माण कार्य पूर्ण हो गया है और कितने

टैंकों से आज तक सूखाग्रस्त भागों को पानी मिल सका है? जो मदद राज्य सरकार ने माँगी है क्या वह आपने दी है? किसानों की माँग यह है कि उनकी युद्ध स्तर पर मदद की जानी चाहिये।

आज उनके पेड़ सूख रहे हैं। टैंक या इर्रिगेशन की आगे की जो योजनाएँ हैं या उनका सर्वे करने का काम है इनमें तो समय लगता है और अभी 60 प्रतिशत पेड़ संतरे के खत्म हुए हैं, लेकिन जब तक सर्वे वगैरह होगा और आप पूरी जांच करायेंगे तब तक वहाँ एक भी पेड़ नहीं बचेगा। इसलिए जो आपका स्टेटमेंट है उसके बारे में अपना असमाधान व्यक्त करना चाहती हूँ। आपने राज्य सरकार पर सब छोड़ दिया है। 1 करोड़ रु० पानी के लिये उन्होंने रखा, लेकिन वह राशि कम है इसीलिए राज्य सरकार बराबर माँग कर रही है कि साधन और पैसे की दृष्टि से आप विदर्भ के किसानों की युद्ध स्तर पर मदद करें। अगर राज्य सरकार स्वयं ही कर सकती तो इतना नुकसान ही क्यों होता? तीन साल से आप यही कहते रहे कि यह जिम्मेदारी राज्य सरकार की है। मेरा निवेदन है कि आपका भी तो कोई फर्ज है कि आप भी इस बारे में कुछ सोचें और किसानों की सहायता करें।

विदर्भ के किसानों पर वैसे ही आरोप लगाया जाता है कि वह मेहनती नहीं हैं, इर्रिगेशन नहीं चाहते कि वैस्टर्न महाराष्ट्र, हरियाणा या पंजाब ने जैसी प्रगति की है वैसे विदर्भ के किसान क्यों नहीं कर सकते? लेकिन सिंचाई के साधनों के अभाव में वहाँ के किसान कुछ नहीं कर सकते। मेरे मालूमात से वहाँ की हालत यह है कि विदर्भ की इर्रिगेशन कंपैसिटी 50,60 परसेंट है, और अभी तक जो इर्रिगेशन हुआ है वह बहुत कम है। इसलिये इर्रिगेशन की पहले ही विदर्भ में कमी है। वहाँ के लोग पहले अनाज उगाते थे तो उसके दास व्यापारी के पास जाने के बाद बढ़ते थे। कपास वहाँ का सबसे बड़ा उत्पादन था लेकिन उसकी कीमत भी समय पर उनको नहीं मिलती थी। इस-

लिये वहाँ के किसान संतरे की फसल के पीछे पड़े। उन्होंने अपनी जिदगी भर की मेहनत और पैसा संतरे के बाग लगाने में खर्च किया। लेकिन आज हालत यह है कि जहाँ पहले 10,20 फीट पर पानी था आज वहाँ 100 फीट तक पानी नहीं मिल रहा है और नीचे काला घना पत्थर है जिसको सरकार भी नहीं तोड़ सकती यही कारण है वहाँ के किसानों को कुओं से पानी नहीं मिल सकता है। 4, 5 साल से उनकी यह हालत देखते हुए भी आप युद्ध स्तर पर पैसा क्यों नहीं दे रहे हैं? कभी राज्य सरकार और केन्द्र सरकार एक साथ बैठकर वहाँ के किसानों के लिये क्यों नहीं सोचती जिससे हमें जो फौरन ऐक्सचेंज मिलता था उसका नुकसान न हो। इतनी बड़ी विदेशी मुद्रा न मिलने से हमारी अर्थ-व्यवस्था पर बुरा असर पड़ता है। इसलिये पूर्वनियोजित कार्यक्रम उस भाग के लिये बनाना चाहिये था। अभी भी उसकी आवश्यकता है। 5 साल तक पेड़ों को बच्चों की तरह वहाँ के किसान पालते हैं लेकिन जब फल लेने का मौसम आया तो पानी के अभाव और बीमारी के कारण वहाँ के किसान, 40 परसेंट किसान, ईंधन के रूप में व्यापारियों से सौदा कर रहे हैं क्योंकि पेड़ों पर फल नहीं लग रहे हैं। पानी के लिए लोग कूआ नहीं खोद पाते हैं, दवाई पर पैसा खर्च नहीं कर पाते हैं। पेड़ काटने के बाद वहाँ के किसान क्या उगायेंगे, समझ में नहीं आता क्योंकि जमीन में पानी नहीं है, ऊपर इर्रिगेशन की व्यवस्था नहीं है। तो कैसे वहाँ के किसान जी सकेंगे। यह एक बहुत बड़ी समस्या विदर्भ और महाराष्ट्र के किसानों की मैं आपके सामने रखना चाहती हूँ।

आज जो नुकसान हुआ है, उसके आँकड़े मैं यहाँ पेश करना चाहती हूँ। 800 करोड़ रुपये का संतरे के उत्पादन में घाटा हुआ, और 4 लाख लोग बेकार हो गये जो कि संतरे के बागानों में काम करते थे, या उस पर निर्भर थे, मजदूरी करके अपना पेट भरते थे।

मेरे जिले अमरावती में सबसे बड़ा मार्किट

वरुड़ है जहां लाखों गाड़ियां या ट्रक संतरे के आते थे, वहां मेला सा लगता था, लेकिन आज वहाँ कोई दिखाई नहीं देता। वहाँ के व्यापारियों ने बोला है कि पिछले साल 5 लाख ट्रक संतरा मार्किट में आया था और इस साल सिर्फ 40 हजार ट्रक संतरा मार्किट में आया है। एक ही साल में इतना उत्पादन कम हो गया, इसकी ओर मैं मन्त्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ।

मन्त्री जी किसानों के प्रतिनिधि हैं, नेता हैं। हमारा कृषि प्रधान देश है जब तक हम किसानों की हालत ठीक नहीं कर सकते हैं तब तक हम प्रगति नहीं कर सकते। यह बात तो हमने मान ली है कि सिर्फ इण्डस्ट्रियल डवलपमेंट पर ही हम अपनी तरक्की करेंगे, मैं मन्त्री जी से जानना चाहती हूँ कि कृषि को वह उद्योग समझेंगे या नहीं? किसानों को उनकी फसल की सुरक्षा, सुरक्षित दाम की गारन्टी देंगे या नहीं? अगर हम उनके अनाज और फसल को दुर्लक्ष्य करेंगे, समय पर उनको पैसा नहीं देंगे तो वह उगाना बन्द करेंगे। हमारे देश को जिस चीज की जरूरत है, उसको अगर किसान न उगायें उसका बहिष्कार करें तो इससे हमारी हालत क्या होगी?

मैं मन्त्री जी से कहना चाहती हूँ कि वह इस बारे में दिल से बात करें। वैसे ही हमारे विदर्भ का किसान और देश का किसान सीलिंग और अपने बढ़ते हुए परिवार से किसान से मजदूर बन गया है।

हमारे शासन ने और हमारी नेता श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी जी ने किसान को आह्वान किया और उसे जो विश्वास दिलाया उसके बारे में मैं बहुत कुछ कहना चाहती हूँ लेकिन मैं इस गम्भीर विषय पर आपका ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहती हूँ कि उसका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन करते समय जहां तक हमारी योजना युद्ध स्तर तक जानी चाहिये, आज वह व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं है।

पिछले साल शासन ने निर्णय लिया था कि

स्प्रे की व्यवस्था महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट करेगी लेकिन जो नियम रहते हैं, उन पर सैन्टैरिएट में काफी विचार और चर्चा होती है कि किस ढंग से देना चाहिये। मेरा कहना यह है कि किस थाली में खाना है, यह महत्त्वपूर्ण नहीं है, लेकिन पेट भरना महत्त्वपूर्ण बात है। इस बात में ही कई दिन निकल गये कि जिला परिषद की तरफ से स्प्रे हो जाये या मन्त्रालय की तरफ से हो। युद्ध स्तर पर किसानों की मदद करने के लिये चाहे वह व्यवस्था स्टेट गवर्नमेंट हो या सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की हो वह अभी अच्छी नहीं है, इसमें सुधार की आवश्यकता है। इसलिये मैं कुछ डिमांडज करना चाहती हूँ। यह हमारे क्षेत्र की समस्या है, इस पर जितना भी बोला जा सके, मेरा दिल बोलने के लिए करता है, लेकिन समय का अनुबन्ध है इसलिये आखिर में मैं माँग करती हूँ।

आपने अपने स्टेटमेंट में बताया कि यह सेंट्रल समस्या नहीं राज्य की समस्या है। कुल कितना पैसा दिया गया, परसों राज्य-सभा में श्री मकवाना ने यह बताया है और कहा है कि हम काफी मदद कर रहे हैं, लेकिन 82-83 में जो आपने पीने के पानी के लिए मदद की है वह 1983-84 में अब तक बहुत कम की है। आपने 7 करोड़ 83 लाख की मदद की है और 29 करोड़ की माँग है। पानी की इतनी गम्भीर समस्या होने के बावजूद इतनी कम राशि आपने वहाँ के लिये दी है। फसल और पीने के लिये पानी की आपने कोई व्यवस्था नहीं की है। आप कहते हैं कि वह राज्य की बात है, फिर भी हमारी यह डिमांड है कि युद्ध-स्तर पर मदद करने के लिये आप आर्थिक उपलब्धि कीजिये और उसी के साथ-साथ वहाँ राज्य सरकार से जो डिमांड आई है कि वहाँ बोरिंग मशीन की आवश्यकता है, डीप बोरिंग मशीन की आप वहाँ के लिये व्यवस्था कीजिये। जो छोटी मशीनें कुएँ में डालने के बाद बोरिंग का काम कर सकती हैं, राज्य सरकार के पास उनकी कमी है। केन्द्र सरकार को इस बारे में उसकी मदद करनी चाहिए। पेस्टीसाइड पाउडर की भी काफी कमी है। राज्य सरकार वह नहीं खरीद सकती है। राज्य सरकार ने माँग की है कि

केन्द्र शासन को उसके लिए 50 प्रतिशत सबसिडी देनी चाहिए। डेढ़ साल पहले यहां से जो टास्क फोर्स भेजी गई थी, उसने रीकमेंड किया था कि केन्द्र शासन को सबसिडी दे कर वहां पर ये दवाइयां उपलब्ध करानी चाहिए। मुझे उम्मीद है कि मन्त्री महोदय मशीनरी और दवाओं के लिए सबसिडी की व्यवस्था करेंगे।

गुस्से से बात करना राव साहब पसन्द नहीं करते। वह उस क्षेत्र का नेतृत्व करते हैं, जहां 80 से 90 प्रतिशत इरीगेशन है। वहां के किसानों के लिए उनकी आंखों में आंसू आ जाते हैं और उनकी तरक्की के लिए प्रयास करते हैं। विदर्भ में तो 20 (बीस) प्रतिशत इरीगेशन नहीं। मुझे उम्मीद है कि किसानों के प्रतिनिधि होने के कारण मन्त्री महोदय को वहां के किसानों के साथ भी सहानुभूति होगी और वह उनके लिए शासन से ज्यादा राहत देने की कोशिश करेंगे।

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना ; उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माननीय सदस्या ने जो कुछ कहा है, वह हमारे दिमाग में भी है। उनका कहना सही है कि वहां के किसानों को बहुत दिक्कत हुई है, क्योंकि उनकी आरेंज की फसल नष्ट हो गई है। महाराष्ट्र स्टेट में पूरे देश का 8.7 परसेंट साइट्स वहां ही होता है। ऐसा नहीं है कि सब साइट्स वहां ही होता है, लेकिन वहाँ पहले से होता है और वहां का ओरेंज अच्छा है। करीब 20,000 हेक्टर जमीन उसमें लगी हुई है, वहाँ के किसान ज्यादा संख्या में उसमें लगे हुए हैं और इसलिए उन्हें ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ है।

वहां की खास प्राबलम पानी की है। माननीय सदस्या ने टास्क फोर्स का जिक्र किया है। उस टास्क फोर्स ने हमें कुछ सुझाव दिए थे, जिन पर सरकार ने अब तक काफी काम किया है। जो टास्क फोर्स 1980 में एपायंट की गई थी, उसने कई शार्ट-टर्म और लांग-टर्म मेजर्ज का सुझाव दिया था। खासकर एक सुझाव राइस की व्हाइट और ब्लेक पेस्ट के बारे में आया था।

जहां तक पानी का ताल्लुक है, मैंने इरीगेशन मिनिस्ट्री से जानकारी की है।

I have been told by the Irrigation Ministry that 13 major and 35 medium irrigation projects benefiting the Vidharbha region in Maharashtra State have been included in the Sixth Plan. The total irrigation potential in the Vidharbha region which was 0.53 lakh hectares in 1956 has increased to 4.14 lakh hectares by June, 1982.

लेकिन यह सफिशेंट नहीं है। वहां पर पानी की जो कमी है, उसको पूरा करना बहुत जरूरी है। इसके अलावा हर साल पानी का लेवल पांच मीटर नीचे जा रहा है। तीन सालों में किसान भाइयों को करीब 15 मीटर नीचे तक जाना पड़ता है। फिर भी पानी की बहुत कमी है। इरीगेशन मिनिस्टरी ने बताया है कि पानी पहले 20, 25 मीटर के अलावा तीन साल में 15 मीटर और नीचे गया है।

As a result of this, the yield from dug-cum-borewells has fallen by 70 to 80 per cent in addition to the increase in the pumping lift.

वहां पर सब-सायल वाटर कम हुआ है। बारिश कम होना भी इसकी एक वजह है। वहां पर पानी की कमी ही मेन बात है। वहाँ ऐसी रिग्स चाहिए, जो कुएं में बहुत नीचे तक जा सके। उसके लिए इरीगेशन मिनिस्ट्री के पास तो अभी तक चार ही रिग्स हैं। एक रिग्स वहाँ भेज भी दिया है, बाकी आन्ध्र स्टेट से काफी रिग्स वहां के लिए डाइवर्ट किये गये हैं। वह रिग्स वहां पहुंच जायेंगे और उनकी उस से मदद होगी।

माननीय सदस्य ने यह जो कहा कि भारत सरकार कुछ कर नहीं रही है, टाल रही है, राज्य सरकारों के ऊपर जिम्मेदारी डाल रही है यह सही नहीं है। जितना हो सकता है वह करने की हम पूरी-पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं। हमारे लिए हरियाणा का किसान ही अकेले नहीं हैं। राव साहब चूंकि हरियाणा से आते हैं इसलिए वह हरियाणा

का ही ख्याल करते हैं यह बात भी गलत है क्योंकि देश के सब किसानों को हम एक ही निगाह से देखते हैं और यही हमारा कर्तव्य है।

महाराष्ट्र की आज की जो हमारी समस्या है उसके लिए नान-प्लान में हमने बताया कि ग्रेचुटस रिलीफ 0.20 करोड़ दिया गया है ड्रिफ्टिंग वाटर के लिए 5 करोड़ दिया गया है, कैंटल कंजर्वेशन के लिए 1.60 करोड़ दिया गया है और दूसरे रिलीफ मेजर्स के लिए 0.20 करोड़ दिया गया है। सब मिलाकर 7 करोड़ रुपया तो नान-प्लान के अन्दर दिया है। उसके अलावा भी और योजनायें हैं। जैसा मैंने कहा यह समस्या अकेले पानी की नहीं है। इसके साथ-साथ व्हाइट और ब्लैक जो फ्लाइज हैं उनका भी उसमें महत्व रहा है क्योंकि उससे काफी पेस्ट स्प्रेड होता है।

इसके लिए कुछ हमारे सेंटर्स महाराष्ट्र में काम कर रहे हैं। खास तौर से महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट की महाराष्ट्र की जो यूनिवर्सिटी है उसमें महात्मा फूले कृषि विद्यापीठ, राहूरी, पंजाबराव कृषि विद्यापीठ, अकोला, कोंकण कृषि विद्यापीठ दातौड़ी और मराठवाड़ा कृषि विद्यापीठ, गर्भांगी इस के लिए काम कर रहे हैं। इनके अलावा भारत सरकार के भी तीन सेंटर वहां हैं। ये तो सब स्टेट के हैं। भारत सरकार का एक सेंटर श्रीरामपुर में है जो नागपुर के बहुत ही नजदीक है, दूसरा अकोला में है और तीसरा एक न्यू एक्सपेरिमेंट स्टेशन आफ आइ. सी. ए. आर., प्रोजेक्ट किया है छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना में। छठी पंचवर्षीय योजना के अन्दर वह बनेगा जिससे हमारे किसानों को काफी मदद रहेगी। वहाँ रिसर्च कर सकेंगे और यह जो समस्या है उसका हल निकाल सकेंगे।

खास तौर से हमारी बहन जो कह रही थीं कि भारत सरकार कोई मदद नहीं करती है; उसके बारे में मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि अभी-अभी हम लोगों ने निर्णय लिया है, कल तक नहीं था, अभी-अभी लिया है, उसमें ये जो बातें हैं उनको हम एन्डेमिक डिजीज डिक्लेयर करने वाले हैं जो

सेंट्रली स्पान्सर्ड प्रोग्राम होगा। उस में पचास परसेंट सरकार देगी और पचास परसेंट स्टेट गवर्नमेंट देगी। जो उस को पचास परसेंट सब्सिडी मिलेगी उसमें पच्चीस-पच्चीस परसेंट हमारे यहां से होगा, स्टेट और सेंटर को मिला कर के। पचास परसेंट सब्सिडी किसानों को मिलेगी स्प्रे करने के लिए। जो पेस्टिसाइड्स स्प्रे करने का काम है उस के लिए यह होगा जिससे जो कीड़े हैं वे मारे जा सकेंगे। जो कुएं हैं उनको ज्यादा नीचे ले जाने के लिए महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट ने एक करोड़ रुपये का लोन भी डिक्लेयर किया है और जैसा मैंने कहा एक रिग्स वहां पहुंच भी गया है। 20 रिग्स वहां आन्ध्र प्रदेश से भेजना चाहते हैं, वह भी कुछ समय में वहां पहुंच जाएंगे।

इसके अलावा हमने 25 ग्रुप्स एप्वाइन्ट किए हैं जिनमें अलग-अलग डिमिप्लिन के कंसल्टेंट हैं जो वहां जायेंगे। उसमें एग्रीकल्चर यूनिवर्सिटी का आदमी होगा। हार्टीकल्चर डिपार्टमेंट का होगा, ग्राउन्ड वाटर आर्गनाइजेशन का होगा। इन सब के एक्सपर्ट्स को मिलाकर 25 ग्रुप्स बनेंगे। यह ग्रुप हर जगह जाएगा और किसानों को म्वायश्चर कंजर्वेशन के लिए सलाह देगा, ड्रिप इर्रिगेशन और वकेट इर्रिगेशन के लिए सलाह देगा क्योंकि आज जो समस्या है वहां वह पानी की कमी की है। उसके लिए हमें नये-नये मैथड्स एडाप्ट करने होंगे जैसे ड्रिप इर्रिगेशन और वकेट इर्रिगेशन जिससे पानी ज्यादा वेस्ट न हो। इससे हमारे किसानों की मदद होगी।

ये सारे मेसर्ज जब लिए जाएंगे तब इस समस्या को हल करने में काफी सुविधा रहेगी। लेकिन आज जो हालत है उसमें किसानों को ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ है। हम जानते हैं कि किसानों को बहुत नुकसान हुआ है। उसके लिए भारत सरकार को जो करना है वह भारत सरकार ने किया है।

श्रीमती ऊषा प्रकाश चौधरी : मन्त्री महोदय ने बताया कि कृषि विद्यापीठ कितने हैं, टेक्निकल हैंड्स कितने हैं और नए सेन्टर्स कितने खोलना

चाहते हैं मैं। यह जानना नहीं चाहती, मैं तो यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि प्रेक्टिकल में क्या है? यदि कृषि विद्यापीठ यह जिम्मेदारी लेती तो पिछले साल यह हालत नहीं होती।

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना : मैंने बताया है...

श्रीमती ऊषा प्रकाश चौधरी : जो कुछ भी व्यवस्था की गई है उसके वहाँ पहुँचने में देरी क्यों हो रही है?

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना : मैं इतना ही कहूँगा कि इम्प्लीमेंटेशन का काम हमारा नहीं है। हम तो पैसा दे सकते हैं, इम्प्लीमेंटेशन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को ही करना है। यह सवाल वहाँ की असेम्बली में उठाना चाहिए या मुख्य मन्त्री से मिलकर बात करनी चाहिए। हम तो पैसा दे सकते हैं, सइन्टिफिक मदद कर सकते हैं लेकिन इम्प्लीमेंटेशन स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ही करेगी।

SHRI BALKRISHNA RAMCHANDRA WASNIK (Buldhana) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, The hon. Member from Amravati, Shrimati Usha Prakash Choudhari has very ably stated the conditions prevalent in Vidharbha. The drought situation there is very serious, and has adversely affected the orange crop. The Calling Attention notice to-day is particularly meant to attract the attention of the Government to two matters : one is the shortage of water ; and another is disease of trees in Vidharbha region of Maharashtra.

The hon. Minister has explained a lot. He has also said how much money Government has sanctioned for relief measures. But what the people there would like to know is this : Since the problem is of an immediate nature, what is being done to-day ? We are not very much concerned about what will be done tomorrow, how much money will be spent in the 6th five-year Plan or in the future. What is being done to-day, is the question.

The Minister has explained certain things here. Some money is given. But for what

purpose has that money been sanctioned ? The money sanctioned for Maharashtra is for drinking water supply schemes. So much money has been given. I will not give the figures. They are all there. The money sanctioned is for employment generation in the drought-hit areas ; but what is the money sanctioned, to save the orange trees in Vidharbha ? What is the money sanctioned to save the crop there ? That information is not given. I do not see any money sanctioned to save the crop, to save the trees and to make more water available for irrigation for those trees.

The immediate problem is the sinking of wells, to deepen them more. But what is being done in that regard ?

Nature has been very unkind, and we do not want that the Government—Central or State—should also be unkind to the cultivators and people of Vidharbha. As it is, there is a lot of loss of crop, a lot of loss to the people and cultivators. We want that something more should be done, than mere words.

The Government of Maharashtra has also been urging the Central Government to give more financial assistance. I do not know ; the Central Government might have sent an experts team to the State, and might have assessed the need there ; and I think, on the basis of that assessment, something like Rs. 56.38 crores have been sanctioned for Maharashtra.

13.00 hrs.

As a matter of fact, the Government of Maharashtra has urged the Central Government to sanction Rs. 131.14 crores for relief measures. Now, less than half of the amount has been sanctioned for the State. I do not know what was the consideration of the State Government for asking so much of money, that is Rs. 131.14 crore ; and what had been the consideration of the Central Government to sanction only Rs. 56.38 crore ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : How much time will you take ?

SHRI BALKRISHNA RAMCHANDRA WASNIK : I will take some time.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Then you can continue after lunch. The House stands adjourned to meet at 2 P.M.

13.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at seven minutes past fourteen of the Clock

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** in the Chair]

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—
Contd.

Difficulties being faced by farmers due to withering away of orange trees on account of shortage of water and disease of trees in Vidarbha—Contd.

SHRI BALKRISHNA RAMCHANDRA WASNIK (Buldhana) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was saying that the Government of Maharashtra has asked for Rs. 131.14 crores to meet the situation but the Central Government has sanctioned only Rs. 56.38 crores. It is a very small amount and I for myself do not see any justification for such a big gap, asking for Rs. 131.14 crores and sanctioning only Rs. 56.38 crores. Either the Central Government must be too miserly or the State Government must have made inflated claims. That should be the reason. But I think, the State is facing a very serious situation and the Centre should come forward with a little more attention so that the State Government should be able to help the people. The question here is that the Central Government says that it is a State matter. They further say that whatever is being done is done by the States. But when we ask the States they say that they cannot do sufficiently because the Centre is not giving them sufficient funds. So, when they speak in two different voices, it becomes very difficult for

the people to know what is the position and what should be done.

I say that both the Central and State Governments should co-operate with each other and provide the necessary funds to meet the situation.

Then I come to another aspect. Though financial assistance and some facilities are being provided by the Government to save the orange plantations, many a time it is very difficult for the smaller farmers, or people belonging to the weaker sections, or Scheduled Castes and Tribes, or small farmers with small gardens and very little means, to get advantage of these schemes. Therefore, even though money is sanctioned by the Central or State Government, it does not reach the people belonging to the weaker sections or Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You want to solve all the problems through this Calling Attention ? Come to the subject and concentrate on one point so that you can get something.

SHRI BALKRISHNA RAMCHANDRA WASNIK : The situation is very serious. Whatever assistance is given is reaching only the rich farmers, and not the poor ones. Therefore, when the State Government are extending help to solve this problem, to save the orange trees, they should ensure that the help is reaching not only the rich farmers but also poor farmers, owning 10, 20, or 25 trees, people who may be belonging to the weaker sections. So, the point I am raising is not away from the Calling Attention ; it is part of the problem.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In a Calling Attention you should ask a question ; it is not a discussion.

SHRI BALKRISHNA RAMCHANDRA WASNIK : Do the Central Government not feel the need to provide more help in the matter ? What is the immediate assistance given to save the orange trees and crops ? According to the newspaper reports, the damage is to the extent of Rs. 800 crores. Are the Central Government in the know of any specific scheme that is being implemented by

the State Government in this regard, because since they are giving the money they should also know that some specific scheme is being implemented. It is not sufficient only to mention all the universities in Maharashtra. The Minister has kindly taken the names of all agricultural universities in Maharashtra and some other agencies. As far as I know in Nagpur and other neighbouring places, the Punjabrao Krishi Vidyapith is doing something, but no other University is doing anything in the matter.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : They are paying allowances to the staff.

SHRI BALKRISHNA RAMCHANDRA WASNIK : May I know if any specific scheme is being implemented, what is the ... (Interruptions). No, no. He has taken the names of all the agricultural universities—in Vidarbha there is one agricultural university, in Rahuri there is another, in Konkan there is another, in Marathwada there is another, like this the Minister has taken all the names. So, if any specific scheme is implemented, I would like to know what is the lay out (1) to save the orange trees from scarcity of water, and (2) to save it from pests. I understand that there are about 1,40,00,000...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Don't give the reply also. Please put your questions.

SHRI BALKRISHNA RAMCHANDRA WASNIK : I am only giving more information.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The same thing you can put in the form of a question. If you have done the homework, the same thing you could have put in the form of questions ; so many questions you could have put.

SHRI BALKRISHNA RAMCHANDRA WASNIK : Further, I would like to know what steps are being taken to meet the additional assistance asked by the State Government, whether the Centre will send a team afresh to assess the situation, looking to the growing seriousness of the problem,

I would like to say one word more that

when we read in the press a statement by the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra, Mr. Adik, saying that the Prime Minister will be visiting the drought-hit areas of Maharashtra, we were rather very happy. And we wish that the Prime Minister soon visits, because it so happens that whenever the Prime Minister or any other dignitary visits the State, then the whole machinery is accelerated in order to show the results. So the Prime Minister's visit will necessarily benefit the State and I wish at this time that the Minister also should recommend to the Prime Minister to pay a visit to make an on-the-spot study.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Sir, I think, I am under the impression, that the hon. Member has not heard me properly because it is not only that I have said about all universities, but I have informed the House about three centres put up by the Government of India also. At the same time, I have informed the House about the help rendered by the Central Government. I said that the Centre has declared this as an endemic disease area. Now, an endemic disease is declared so only if it is spread throughout the country and, as I have earlier informed the House, it is only 8.7 per cent that Maharashtra grows citrus apart from oranges. Oranges may be lesser than 8 per cent or so because the total citrus production of the country is only 8.7 per cent which the Maharashtra growers are producing. So, it is a very small area and a small production which is affected, but even then the Government has declared it as an endemic disease as a special case. Otherwise it is not possible for a particular area to be declared like that ; you cannot declare it like that, and after declaration, we have to provide 50 per cent assistance to the State Government of whatever they provide to the growers. So, 50 per cent subsidy will be provided of which 25 per cent will go from the Centre because the State will provide 50 per cent to the farmers of whatever they put into it ; that means 50-50 from the Centre and the State. This is what is done by the Central Government. So far as the State is concerned, I have also informed the House that they are providing Rs. 1 crore by way of loan to the farmers. They have to deepen their wells.

Whatever the Irrigation Ministry has done, that also I told the House. In the Sixth Plan they have provision for 13 major and 35 medium irrigation schemes only for Vidarbha area. I have also informed the House that one rig has already reached and twenty rigs from Andhra Pradesh have been diverted for deepening the wells.

I have already told about the universities which are doing the work. They are doing the work on pest and disease which has occurred in the area of the orange crop. The universities and the centres of the Central Government are working on it.

The hon. Member says that the State Government has requested for a sum of Rs. 158.55 crores, whereas the Central Government has given only Rs. 56.38 crores. I would like to inform the hon. Members through you that all the State Governments, not Maharashtra alone, are putting inflated claims. Wherever there is a calamity, they multiply by ten to fifteen times and place a claim. How can the Central Government give that much? The Central Team goes. High Power Committee is also there. After visiting, they consider all aspects. . . .

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE : Rs. 27 crores for drinking water.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have not talked of drinking water. We are providing 50%. It is just now we have declared.

For the information of the hon. Members I would like to give one figure. During 1982-83 all the State Governments put together demanded Rs. 3,000/- crores.

The Central Government team and the high power team assessed it at approximately Rs. 781 crores. You can well imagine—the demand of the States was Rs. 3000 crores whereas the Centre's assessment was Rs. 781 crores. How is it possible to provide all that they have requested? Their demand is inflated. In case of Maharashtra too it is an inflated demand.

I am happy that the hon. Member was very keen for the help to the Scheduled

Castes and the Scheduled Tribes and the poorer section of the society. For the vulnerable section we have also provided earlier and now to the State Governments we have provided—Rs. 167 crores for 1982-83. Rs. 180 crores is also for small and marginal farmers for 1982-83. I do not know whether the State Government is using. My information is that the State Government has not used this amount. The hon. Member should ask the State Government to use the amount first and then come.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad) : But not to waste.

SHRI MADHUSUDAN VAIRALE (Akola) : Central Government can also direct ask them.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The Central Government has already asked. We are asking them again.

The hon. Member wanted to know about the allocation for agriculture. It is a State subject. Everything is there in the State Budget.

Whatever information I had, I have given. If they want any further information, they may get from the State Government.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) : It is an irony of fate that inspite of having two Inders in the Cabinet (Rao BirIndra and YogIndra), the country is facing a miserable drought. The agriculture scientists generally tell us, people who depend upon rain fed areas, cultivators must have 1/3rd of the area under horticulture.

As you are aware when you have one-third area under horticulture and two-third area under seasonal crops and if you lose one seasonal crop, the loss will not be of a great magnitude. (*Interruptions.*)

But when the horticulture section or the horticulture part is affected, there is a great loss. As you are aware, for a citrus plant, it takes five years to bear fruit and the life of the citrus plant is almost 25 years. If the tree or plant is affected this year, the whole period is lost to the cultivators. So, I want

to ask the Minister how is it that this Government which has been planning for the last 30 years or more than that, have failed to envisage such a situation in which the horticulture will come in great trouble. I was shocked to read the reply that was given to the hon. Member, Shri S.W. Dhabe in the Rajya Sabha. In the Answer under part 'c', they say, "there is no Central or Centrally sponsored scheme under which assistance would be given to citrus cultivators". How is it that the Agriculture Ministry tell the rain-fed area people to have one-third area under horticulture? How is it that they did not envisage such a situation? Is it that our planning has failed to that extent?

I would like to know specific reply from the hon. Minister that hereafter what would they do to meet such eventualities in future? We are thankful to the hon. Minister, one of the "Indras" for the scheme which has been declared just now. But I am sorry to read the statement given today. It says that a sum of Rs. 1 crore has been sanctioned to be given as loan to the farmers for deepening wells. Rs. one crore or Rs. 10 millions is too small an amount. In Vidarbha region, there is one Taluk Morshi and in that there is a village called Varud. Water is dried in the thousands of wells. You know, Sir, what is the rate of boring. For 4 inch diameter per foot, it costs Rs. 30 to Rs. 40. At this rate, do you think, it will be possible for a cultivator or a man who has invested money in horticulture and who is affected by the calamity will be able to survive? The loan sanctioned is very meagre. I want to ask the hon. Minister, "Can you do something for deepening wells by giving subsidies to these people?"

As far as the insecticides are concerned, I also thank the Government because it was Shri Sathe, the hon. Minister for Chemicals and Fertilizers who declared the other day that they had come out with pesticides which can be useful for controlling the disease which has been harming the citrus plant. The cultivator has lost everything. He has not only lost for this season but for coming years also, he has lost. Why do you want to give him only 50% subsidy? You please give him cent percent subsidy and make him stand on his own legs. 60% of the crop is already lost to him. Only 40% is left. At

least, help him to that extent. You will be saving the national economy. You will be keeping the poor agriculturists alive. I would request the hon. Minister to do away with 50% subsidy and make it cent per cent and also help them by giving subsidy for deepening their wells through small boring machines which has been stated by my hon. friend who spoke earlier.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I am thankful to the hon. Member. I will only deal with the limited questions which are not covered by me earlier.

So far as the deepening of wells is concerned, it is not my Ministry which is doing it but it is the Irrigation Ministry.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : I am sorry. I do not agree. It is the joint responsibility.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You can write to the Ministry of Irrigation.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : It is the joint responsibility. But I cannot say anything on behalf of any other Ministry. Sir, the hon. Member should discuss with the Irrigation Ministry. I can only say how far the Irrigation Ministry is going to help on the basis of information which they have supplied to me.

I have already informed the House about the rigs. They have already sent 20 rigs diverting from Andhra Pradesh and they have referred to the other help also.

That I have already informed the hon. Members. But so far as subsidy part and other things are concerned, it is not work of my Ministry. It is the Irrigation Ministry which is doing it. I cannot say anything on behalf of the other Ministry because I do not know anything about their programme.

So far as the question in the Rajya Sabha is concerned, when I told Shri Dhabe that there was no scheme of the Central Government to subsidise for the loss to the growers in Maharashtra, it was a fact that there was no such scheme. Unless it is declared as an endemic disease which decision was taken only yesterday or day before yester-

day, we cannot have such a scheme. So, when I replied to that question in the Rajya Sabha, this decision was not taken. Unless it is affecting the entire country, we cannot say like that. Therefore, this reply in the Rajya Sabha has no relevance to the reply in the Lok Sabha because every day the situation changes; every day the Government takes a new decision. Once a new decision is taken, to say today why it was not told to the Rajya Sabha on the earlier day, that is not a correct thing.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Maharashtra there are three backward regions, Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan and the tragedy is that every region that produces sweet fruit is a backward area. Vidarbha region produces sweet oranges and it is a backward area. Konkan region produces sweet Alfanso mangoes and that is also a backward area. All these backward areas seem to be neglected even in the field of agriculture and horticulture.

I would like to raise certain questions relating to the basic policies. I would not like to waste the time of the hon. Minister in repeating the same points which are already covered. The first point that I would like to raise in connection with this particular problem is a general problem regarding agriculture and horticulture, the problem that they face due to their sickness. If you compare the sickness of agriculture and horticulture with the sickness of industry, you will find that while treating a sick industry, a preferential treatment is given whereas while treating sick agriculture and horticulture, you will always find that a preferential treatment is never given to them. For instance, if a few industrialists manipulate a crisis in an industry and the industry becomes sick, the Government takes over the industry, spends a lot of money on the industry, restores its health and returns back the recouped industry to the entrepreneur and he is able to earn profits. On the contrary, when horticulture becomes sick as it has happened in this particular case which is not only due to drought or lack of water but to an endemic disease that has cropped us as a result of which there is a considerable damage to the orange production, no such thing is done.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the figures that he has supplied are reliable figures. I do not want to make any allegation. It might well be that they may be working on a computer machine and something may be wrong with the computer as a result of which their calculations might have gone wrong. Probably, at the other end from the State Government also, while they send the figures, there might have been errors in calculations as a result of which they are transferring the same error in a national debate in this House and we are receiving the wrong figures at the wrong end.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Error itself becomes a national commodity.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: You have spoken the wisdom. That is correct.

Let me tell the hon. Minister that some of the expert cultivators in that particular region have told me and a number of other MPs here that actually 60 per cent of the orange trees have been damaged and totally destroyed. So, I would request the hon. Minister to check up the figures to see whether these are correct or not.

Against, he has said that Maharashtra is an important citrus fruit-growing State and that an area of 28,900 hectares is under citrus fruit as against a total area of 2.08 lakh hectares in the country as a whole. These figures do not appear to be very correct. Therefore, I would like him to find out whether these are also correct figures.

There is another aspect also. As far as distinction between agriculture and horticulture sickness and industry sickness is concerned, as I said, a lot of capital investment is put in the case of industry and the industry is properly improved but, when it is a question of giving subsidies, whether it is a question of giving treatment to the sick agriculture or horticulture, trying to give them better water facilities, in that case, you do not tell us what is the gap between the actual demand from the States and what actually is the amount that has been sanctioned. It is true that whenever the States make a demand, a Central team goes, they assess the situation and on the findings of that team,

you ultimately sanction the allocations to be made. I would like to find out what are the actual allocations asked for by the Maharashtra Government, whether they have asked for break-up and in that case to tone up the entire sick horticulture in Vidarbha, how much amount will be required. Ultimately when they ask for certain pool, they always try to have the break-up first, then on the basis of that they make the required and particular allocations. Therefore, I would like to point out for this region and particularly for horticulture, what is the total amount that they require and, what is the total amount that you have given.

In paragraph 4 of your reply, you have only given a general answer and you have given certain figures which are not very relevant. For instance, you referred to the drinking water facilities and the amount sanctioned for that. I do not know whether the water facilities that are required for the growth of the trees, that water is supposed to be drinking water for the trees. Otherwise, how do you include that? Whatever amount you have sanctioned for the drinking water, that is of course useful for the villages for drinking water facilities but no portion of that drinking water allocation is going to be utilised to give water supply or water facilities for the cultivation of trees.

Secondly, you had referred in paragraph 3, that the reasons attributed to the decline are sub-standard planting material, unsuitability of the soil, poor nutrition management, lack of irrigation, viral, fungal and bacterial diseases. These are the various causes and sources that you have clearly identified specifically as various factors and to remove those factors, what are the allocations that have been made by the Centre and what are the allocations that have been made by the States? There are certain causes that have been stated in paragraph 3 which are long-term causes for these types of diseases and if that is so, over-all policy has to be taken. As a whole throughout the country one of the greatest defects of our agriculture and horticulture has been that we have to depend for this production on the vagaries of the rains. The percentage of the irrigation facilities provided are extre-

mely small and if you go to the backward regions like Vidarbha, Marathwada and Konkan, you will find that the allocations made by the State are still less. Also in the major projects, please take note of that, wherever the major projects are undertaken in the backward region of any State, in that case, the Central assistance is automatically available for that. It is not merely the sole responsibility of the State. Therefore, if you want to have major irrigation projects for these areas so that citrus production can be effectively stepped up, then it will not be merely the responsibility of the State Government but, indirectly it will also be the responsibility of the Central Government, because wherever the major projects are to be undertaken in that case, a definite percentage of assistance is available from the Centre and from that point of view, keeping this long-term perspective before your eyes, what are the allocations which you are going to make and for all these four causes which you have stressed as the basic causes for all these maladies, what are the concrete steps in the direction of research and other facilities that you are providing. I would like to know.

He has raised the question of State subject and Central subject. Precisely because there is a water-tight division between the State and Central subjects and they create further problems of allocations because the financial powers of the State are not adequate, that is the reason why the Prime Minister has accepted the demand of re-examining the entire structure of giving more financial powers and resources to the States. Precisely for that reason, the Sarkaria Commission has already been set up. I would like the Hon. Minister to use his good offices with his Government to make certain recommendations also to the Sarkaria Commission on the basis of various figures that they come across whenever the Central assistance is to be given to the States and whenever the local resources raised by the States are not adequate because, a substantial portion of these resources are transferred to the Centre and as a result of that, they are also starved of the resources. This basic issue should also be examined properly and on the basis of your experience in various fields—you are in charge of agriculture and horticulture—you

should point to them that these are the specific difficulties. If the Central assistance is not coming in a big way, at least certain State resources should be allowed to be mopped up and they should not be drained away too much by taking a big quota for the Centre. If that is done, it will be possible for us to see that these difficulties are completely eliminated.

There is another aspect. There are allocations for drought areas and the Central assistance is given, that is, on the basis of paragraph 4. Here I would like you to tell us whether, when you are giving these allocations and the Central assistance to various States, you have got set norms. Particularly wherever the backward regions are involved, would you not try to go slightly away from the set norms of giving Central assistance and to those States in which certain regions which are backward are involved will you not try to give some preferential assistance over and above the normal assistance that is given? That is a given specific question I want to raise.

As far as loss is concerned, I think most of the experts have said that 60 per cent of the trees have been damaged beyond repair, there is a total loss of Rs. 800 crores and at the same time more than 4.5 lakhs of people involved in this cultivation have also become completely unemployed. In order to tackle this specific problem...

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : The economy is ruined.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Only sugar prospers ; otherwise, the economy is completely destroyed. That is what is happening in the country.

Therefore, I would like him to tell us what are the specific steps that are being taken in view of these difficulties. I have referred to 4.5 lakhs of people becoming unemployed and a loss of Rs. 800 crores has been suffered by horticulture in this particular process. If the State resources are inadequate, in that case merely saying that the States always make inflated claims is no good. There also I would like to know from him whether it is

not a fact that the tendency of the Central Government is also like this : if you try to ask for a certain quantum, in that case they always cut down a certain percentage and then give the allocation. That being the position, there is a tendency on the part of the State Governments to make a higher bidding whenever their demands are to be met. If a trade union wants four months' bonus, they will ask for six months' bonus ; then four to four and a half months' bonus will become available. The State Governments are following the same pattern of trade unions and no doubt they are making an overbid. But ultimately when your Central team goes and examines the problem, will it not realise that, after all, the claims are not as inflated as you imagined them to be before examination by the team? In that light, will you upgrade the allocation that you have made to see that this particular form of horticulture is put on its proper footing?

I forgot one question. I was very much concerned about it. In addition to those problems created by the drought conditions, always those who are carrying on the trade in fruits, peasants as well as traders, have been finding one difficulty, and that is regarding transport. They have always been demanding certain concessions and facilities as far as the rates are concerned. The plantain-growers have the same problem, the orange-growers have the same problem, the mango-growers have the same problem. Of course, the mango-growers prefer motor-transport. But the others, plaintain- and orange-growers are constantly demanding that, whatever freight structure you have evolved must include more concessions. Some years back, in 1978, when this problem cropped up—even at the risk of being alleged, I would like to quote the experience—when the plantain-growers demanded certain concession in the movement of their produce, we had held a Conference of agriculturists along with traders and warned them that the concession of 50 per cent would be available provided the benefit of the concession went to the agriculturists and if the traders tried to pocket, then the concession would be discontinued. With that condition when a 50 per cent concession was given in 1978, the net result was that the

traders did not allow that concession to be swallowed by themselves, they allowed it to go to the agriculturists and as a result of that, the agriculturists were able to benefit by that. So, will you also recommend to the Railway Ministry? Do not say that you do not belong to the Railways. Fortunately or unfortunately you belong to the same Government. Therefore, I would like you to use your good offices, whatever they be, to see that appropriate recommendations are made to the Railway Ministry so that in the case of movement of oranges, freight on oranges and also freight charges for plantain movement are also brought under concessions and if possible, 50% concession should be given so that the agriculturists may ultimately benefit as a result of that and the Railways also will benefit.

I would like him to answer these specific questions.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : May I add one. . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no, you are not permitted. We are not discussing sugar cane policy at all here. This is about oranges. . . . you are mistaken.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Sweet oranges.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I will not agree with the hon. Member when he says that we are biased towards agriculturists and that we are helping big industries only. That is not the case. In fact the Government is very much concerned with the farmers and try to help them whenever it is required.

So far as the figures are concerned, whatever figures I have quoted in this House are supplied by the State governments. My only source is the State Government and whatever figure I get from the State Government, I supply it to the House. In case the hon. Member feels that it is not correct, I will again request the State Government if they want to revise their figures. Then I will communicate the revised figures; otherwise I will not communicate.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The

only alternative for me is to get elected to the Maharashtra Assembly and raise the question there.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I can refer to the State Government and I will request them that this is the claim made. . . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He can also come there to reply to you.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : . . . and in case the State Government revises the figure, I will communicate it to the hon. Member that these are the revised figures given by the State Government. At present, whatever the figures that are with me, I have given them to the hon. Members.

So far as the allocation is concerned, I have no separate allocations with me at present about what the Maharashtra Government has done. But I have the breakup of the assistance which we have provided to the Maharashtra Government so far as drought relief is concerned and if the hon. Member wants I can give these figures of central assistance.

Drinking Water—1982-83. . . . Rs. 20.50
crores.

1983-84. . . .

You don't want it?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That will not serve any purpose.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have got the breakup of what we have given to the State. So far as the State Government is concerned, I have no figure. That is one thing.

The hon. Member says about major irrigation projects. I have already said that I have no information. Otherwise, I will not hesitate to give even on behalf of the Irrigation Ministry. Whatever they have supplied to me, I have already given to the hon. Members. What the Irrigation Ministry is going to do so far as the deepening of the wells and so far as providing of the rigs are concerned, that I have given to the hon. Members. The other thing which they are now raising is not with me because it concerns

the Irrigation Ministry and I am not in a position to give at present.

The hon. Member raised the question about the set norms. Yes, there are set norms. Even then the Central Team goes to the State. They assess the situation. Then there is a high-level committee also which considers all the aspects which are reported by the central team and in the light of these they take the decision that this much amount should be given by way of relief to the State Government.

So far as the backward regions and backward people are concerned, that is also is taken into consideration while deciding this help to the State Government and the Government of India, whenever they provide assistance, they make separate allocation for the weaker sections also ; that is, preferential treatment is given to the weaker sections of the society.

So far as transport is concerned, yes, that is a main bottleneck for the growers of oranges and other horticultural fruits. It is, of course, for the Railway Ministry, but I can recommend to the Railway Ministry. I will write to the Railway Ministry and I can assure the House and the hon. Member that I will write to the Railway Ministry if they can help the farmers by providing some concession in the freight charges, etc. But I can say on my behalf and on behalf of my Agriculture Ministry that we try to organise co-operatives of growers so that the transport and marketing can be taken up by the co-operative societies and individual farmers may not feel helpless.

But here also there is one constraint. We have gone in a cooperative society so far as the milk production is concerned and we supply milk also. But there are Members who claim themselves as Socialists and their party also as a democratic socialist party, but every now and then they write against the cooperative societies. They do not want us to do the work of the cooperative societies, because they are more concerned with the private milk collectors. They are more concerned with those who exploiting the farmers.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Are you referring to the DSP ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Yes. Almost each and every Member of the Democratic Socialist Party has written to me against the milk cooperative societies. Now I have decided to take them to my District Khaira to show them what the cooperatives are doing in my District. I will also show them the Amul Dairy and other things.

Sir, in order to help the farmers, we entered into the marketing of oranges. The West Bengal Government approached us for the marketing of oranges and for the first time the West Bengal growers of Oranges in Darjeeling got three times the cost of the growing of oranges. As we entered into the marketing of oranges, there has been a great resistance from the other side. So, I would request the Hon. Members to cooperate with us and to help us so that we can help the farmers and the growers of fruits and other things. I want their cooperation. If they cooperate with us, then I can go into the collection of vegetables from the small farmers and can supply to the people in Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and elsewhere so that the farmers can get more money. We can go in the cooperative marketing of the oranges and other fruits similarly. So, if they cooperate with us then we are there to take everything in cooperation. But the problem is that they are not cooperating. Their cooperation is required in this direction.

14.53 hrs.

LEPERS (DELHI, ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS, LAKSHADWEEP, DADRA AND NAGAR HAVELI AND CHANDIGARH REPEAL) BILL*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave