

14.40 hrs.

STATEMENT RE FLOOD AND DROUGHT  
SITUATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE  
COUNTRY

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): Sir. Hon'ble Members will recall that on the 20th July, 1982. I had made a Statement in this House about the behaviour of the monsoon in the various parts of the country. Although the South-West monsoon was normal up to the middle of June, it became altogether weak thereafter and for nearly three weeks i.e. upto the first week of July it remained as a feeble current in the Southern Peninsular region with its Northern limits stretching upto Bombay. By the middle of July, 27 Sub-Divisions out of 35 Meteorological Sub-Divisions in which the country is divided were having deficient rainfall.

However, from the last week of July onwards, the monsoon became vigorous practically over the entire North and North-Western part of the country giving widespread rainfall. The month of August turned out to be a month of excessive rainfall in certain parts of the country which corrected the deficiency in rainfall and brought down the number of deficient Sub-Divisions to 11 only. However, due to erratic behaviour of the monsoon, drought conditions are prevailing in parts of West Bengal, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. According to the information furnished by the India Meteorological Department, the number of districts in

these States which had deficient rainfall is as follows:—

State	Number of Districts with scanty/deficient rain
West Bengal . . .	13 out of 15
Bihar . . . . .	18 out of 33
Orissa . . . . .	4 out of 13
Uttar Pradesh . . .	25 out of 57
Maharashtra . . . .	13 out of 31
Andhra Pradesh . . .	14 out of 23
Tamil Nadu . . . . .	11 out of 15

I had already explained in my earlier Statement the various steps taken by the Department of Agriculture asking the States to prepare Contingency Plans on drought and to take timely steps for helping the farmers in combating situations of adverse weather conditions. An Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee in the Ministry of Agriculture has been reviewing matters relating to crop husbandry, provision of loans, fertilizers, supply of power and diesel and use of water in irrigation reservoirs. A total amount of Rs. 113.50 crores was distributed amongst the State as loan for supply of agricultural inputs to the farmers during the kharif season.

While on the one hand the rainfall was deficient in certain parts of the country some others experienced floods. In early June, Hyderabad City, Udipi Taluk in Karnataka and five districts of Assam suffered from floods caused by localized heavy rains. A peculiar feature of the monsoon during August was that a number of deep depressions were formed in the Bay of Bengal which moved in the North-North Westerly direction giving high rainfall in Orissa, East and North Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. The result was that important

rivers like, Yamuna, Ganga, Ghagra, Gomti, Rapti, Sharda, Ken and Gandak and their tributaries flowing down both from North as well as South carried exceptionally heavy discharge of water causing inundation of vast areas in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. There was also extremely heavy rainfall in two spells in the catchment of Mahanadi which flooded a number of districts in Orissa.

Thus, these States suffered from both the drought conditions in the earlier part of the season and from floods during August and September.

Immediately after the occurrence of floods, and even before the receipt of the Memorandum from the State Government, an Inter-Ministerial Fact Finding Team headed by the Relief Commissioner was deputed to visit Orissa. Prime Minister made an aerial survey of the flood affected areas in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa on 9th September and held discussions with the Chief Ministers and their colleagues at Varanasi and Bhubaneswar. Prime Minister again flew over the flood affected districts of Uttar Pradesh on 18th September and discussed the situation with the Chief Minister at Allahabad. I also flew over some of the flood affected areas of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar on 17th September and held discussions with the Chief Ministers and their colleagues at Patna and Lucknow for assessing their immediate requirements. Emergent supply of relief material for preventing outbreak of epidemics and tarpaulins and polythene sheets for shelter were airlifted to Orissa. Additional allocations of 10,000 tonnes of foodgrains each to Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa were made for meeting the emergent requirements of the affected population. Temporary ways and means advance of Rs. 15 and Rs. 10 crores respectively has also been given to Orissa and Uttar Pradesh.

State Governments of West Bengal, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar had

earlier submitted Memoranda on draught but visits by the Central Teams to these States except West Bengal, had been deferred because of floods. The requirements of West Bengal for undertaking drought relief operations were assessed by the Central Team which visited the State early in August and based on the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, a total ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 24.77 crores has already been sanctioned for this State. Looking to the gravity of the flood situation in the rest of the States, the Government of India directed the Central Teams to visit Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa even before the receipt of the Memoranda from these States. The Teams have completed their visits and their reports are awaited.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Jadavpur): Is it the ceiling?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: That is what I said.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Is it the ceiling for all times to come?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Memoranda have since been received from Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Tripura in respect of floods and from Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra in respect of drought. Assessment of the requirements of the flood affected States are under active consideration of the Government of India. A central Team is already in Maharashtra assessing the impact of drought in that State. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned a Central Team would be going there shortly.

I would like to inform the House that our Prime Minister very promptly sanctioned a total sum of Rs. 79.50 lakhs from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to Assam, Bihar, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh which proved of great assistance in the initial stages of the calamity.

(Rao Birandra Singh).

I would also like to make a particular mention of the commendable role played by the Armed forces of the Country in extending a helping hand to the suffering humanity in all these States. They drafted their officers and men alongwith the rescue material like, boats etc. for the relief and rescue work including air dropping of supplies to the marooned people in the flood affected areas.

I assure the Hon'ble Members that Government of India would extend all possible assistance to the stricken States to tide over the calamity and to mitigate the suffering of the affected people.

State-wise position is briefly shown in Annexure-I which is placed on the Table of the House.

#### Annexure-I

#### ANDHRA PRADESH

1. There was a localised heavy downpour in the city of Hyderabad on the 15th-16th June, 1982. For this, the State Government had asked for Central assistance of Rs. 3.87 crores. The State Government were advised to meet the expenditure within the State's margin money of Rs. 8.58 crores, available with them.

2. Parts of the State have also been facing drought conditions, 20 out of 23 districts have been affected by drought either wholly or partly. Cropped area of about 38 lakh hectares and a population of about 31 lakhs have been affected. The State Government have sent a Memorandum which was received on 30th September, 1982, which is under consideration.

#### ASSAM

3. There have been three successive waves of floods, on 18th June, 20th July and 14th September, 1982. A

total population of 10.91 lakhs and cropped area of 39000 hac. in six districts have been affected. The Central Government have not received any detailed Memorandum from the State Government though a request has come on 20th September 1982 for the visit by the Central Team to make preliminary assessment of the damage caused by floods. A decision has been taken to depute a Central Team to assess the damage.

#### BIHAR

4. According to Memorandum received from the State Government, the rainfall in the three regions of the State, namely, North Bihar, South-west plains and Chota Nagpur Plateau have been inadequate and uneven. There was a long dry spell stretching over a period of 3 to 4 weeks. However the situation improved somewhat with good rainfall during latter half of August and in September. According to the information received a total cropped area of 44.17 lakh ha c. in 187 Blocks and a population of 190.65 lakhs in 22 districts have been affected.

5. The State has also been affected by floods because of the major rivers like Ganga and Gandak over-flowing their banks. According to reports from the State Government 14 Districts have been affected by floods covering a population of about 41.90 lakhs and a cropped area of 2.55 lakh hac. The number of lives lost is reported at 24. 39697 houses have been damaged either partially or wholly. Loss has also been caused to public properties, roads and communications, electrical installations, river embankments, canal system etc.

6. A Central Team visited the State between 20th and 22nd of September. Its report has been received and is under processing.

#### MADHYA PRADESH

7. Till middle of July, 1982, the State was passing through a situation of deficient rainfall. Subsequently, a sudden acceleration in the movement of monsoon completely altered the situation and floods occurred in as many as 13 districts, affecting a population of over 18 lakhs and cropped area of 4.30 lakh hectares. Besides, there was loss of 56 human lives and over 1400 cattle heads perished.

8. The State Government have sent a Memorandum seeking Central assistance which is under consideration.

#### MAHARASHTRA

9. The onset of the monsoon was delayed in most parts of the State and uptill the third week of June, there were only light and isolated showers. It was only in the last week of June that widespread rains were received in different parts of the State. The cumulative effect of the delayed monsoon, erratic and inadequate rains and the long dry spell had an adverse effect on the kharif crops. 10 districts out of 31 districts in the State covering a population of 46.94 lakhs, a cattle population of 36.72 lakhs and a cropped area of 22.84 lakh hac. have been affected.

10. A Central Team is visiting Maharashtra between 4th to 6th October, 1982 to make an on the spot assessment of the situation.

#### ORISSA

11. Orissa passed through a series of worst calamities in the living memory of the people and that too is quick succession-cyclone on the 3rd and 4th June, a prolonged dry spell during June and July and finally floods in the months of August and September.

12. So far as drought is concerned the State suffered a dry spell stretching over 2 to 3 weeks affecting 13

districts of the State during the months of June and July. 41.39 lakh hac. of cropped area was affected.

13. The position, however, changed in the month of August when the State started receiving good rainfall. On 18th and 19th August there was heavy downpour in Sambalpur district as well as in the adjoining areas when 58.17 cm. of rainfall was recorded in a period of 18 hours between 3.30 PM on 18th to 8 AM on 19th August. As a result of this heavy rainfall extensive damage was caused to house properties, roads and embankments and canal systems in the Sambalpur district. The Burla Power Station at Hirakud Dam was also flooded and generation of power was disrupted.

14. Another disaster overtook the State in the form of unprecedented floods between 29th August and 1st September, 1982 in Mahanadi downstream of the Hirakud Dam. The discharge in Mahanadi at the Naraj weir just above Cuttack was recorded at 15.70 lakh cusecs on 31st August at 5 PM—the highest ever recorded. The result was that Mahanadi and their tributaries over-flowed their banks and caused heavy damage by submerging large areas chiefly in Bolangir, Phulbani, Dhen Kanak, Cuttack and Puri districts, 54 lakhs persons and a cropped area of 12 lakh hac. have been affected, 140 human lives and 26,359 cattle heads are reported to have perished.

15. On receipt of information, Central Government sent an Inter-Ministerial Team headed by Relief Commissioner, Government of India and comprising members from Ministries of Health and Irrigation. Emergent needs of the State were listed as prevention of epidemics, provision of shelter and foodgrains. Immediate arrangements were made to fly bleaching powder and Indian Air Force did a gallant job by airlifting the material from Calcutta as well as tarpaulins from Kanpur spared by the Army.

[Rao Birendra Singh]

Jet-Vaccine Teams for mass vaccination against outbreak of any epidemic were sent from Delhi. Requirements like oral rehydration packets, tetra-cycline capsules, anti-cholera vaccine and chlorine tablets were also arranged by the Ministry of Health. Empty gunny bags for plugging the breaches, milk powder, 1,00,000 metre of polythene sheets with the help of UNICEF were also sent, some of which were airlifted by I. A. F. Arrangements were made for diverting rigs and air compressors from the neighbouring States to tackle the drinking water problem. Supply of diesel, kerosene, cement, steel, has been assured to the State Government and adequate stocks are available within the State.

16. The State Government have forwarded two Memoranda seeking Central assistance for devastation caused in the district of Sambalpur and other districts. A Central team has visited Orissa between the 16th and 21st September, 1982 and its report is awaited.

**TAMILNADU**

17. According to the preliminary estimates, practically all districts in Tamil Nadu have been adversely affected. Reduction in cultivation of areas of various crops and loss of crops of Samba and Kuruvvai paddy are expected. The State Government are, however, making the assessment and will be sending a detailed Memorandum in due course.

**TRIPURA**

18. Tripura has also been affected by floods. A request received from that Government is under consideration. According to Memorandum received from the State Government 31,000 Ha. of cropped area and a population of 1.10 lakhs was affected by floods which also caused loss of 4 human lives, 44 heads of cattle and damage to 4808 houses in the affected areas.

**UTTAR PRADESH**

19. The State Government had reported earlier in July prevalence of drought conditions. The State Government informed that the detailed assessment of the damage to the kharif crop by drought could not be made at that stage, but roughly indicated about 39 lakh ha. of cropped area affected by drought and had requested for Central assistance. The situation subsequently changed from the beginning of August. The State experienced very heavy rainfall resulting in wide-spread water-logging and floods. Major rivers in the State such as Ganga, Yamuna, Ghagra, Ken, Rapti, Sarda, Gomti etc. were overflowing above danger level.

20. The floods have affected 43 districts in the State and a population of 201 lakhs, 492 human lives and 2100 cattle heads have been lost. Nearly 3.75 lakhs houses have been damaged and a cropped area of 28.97 lakh ha. has been affected, besides damage to public properties.

21. A Central Team visited the State between the 20th and 24th August 1982 and its report is awaited.

**WEST BENGAL**

22. The State has been affected by drought conditions since May, 1982. Twelve districts out of 15 and a cropped area of 8.4 lakh ha. have been affected. At the request of the State Government, a Central Team visited West Bengal between the 8th and 10th August, and on the basis of its report and the recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, the Government of India have already sanctioned a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 24.77 crores for drought relief measures upto the end of March, 1983.

**SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:**  
A discussion would be necessary.  
(Interruptions)

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH:** Another statement is there. I have got to go to Rajya Sabha. It you allow me... It is a very short statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It can be had on another day, because there is another business—the, Legislative Business.

You give notice and it will be discussed.

(Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have to make one announcement; and after the announcement I have to attend to some work in the Rajya Sabha.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not included in the agenda here; it is not in the papers here.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It had been given (Interruptions). In the forenoon, I had given a notice; in the forenoon, I had supplied copies to the Secretary. I will read it out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: At the end of the day you can make a statement; not now.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Is it very long?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATERJEE: He can read it out.

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास (भेलवाड़ा) :  
राजस्थान में फेमोन के बारे में मंत्री जी  
ने कुछ नहीं कहा । वहां सारी फसलें  
बरबाद हो गई हैं ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: What has happened to you?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is making a statement. Would you listen to his statement? What is this?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is making a statement. Kindly listen to his statement.

(Interruptions)

DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT  
(Rajgarh): What about the copies?

(Interruptions)

14.50 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. PROCUREMENT  
PRICE FOR PADDY AND COARSE  
KHARIF CEREALS AND MINIMUM  
SUPPORT PRICE OF COTTON FOR  
1982-83

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): I would like to make a statement. The Procurement price of common variety of paddy has been fixed at Rs. 122/- per quintal and of kharif coarse cereals viz., jowar, bajra, maize and ragi at Rs. 118/- per quintal for 1982-83 marketing season. Consequent on the increase in the procurement price of paddy it has also been decided to raise the issue prices of all varieties of rice by Rs. 13/- per quintal over the present levels with immediate effect.

In regard to cotton, the Government has decided to fix the minimum support price of kapas of fair average quality of J-34 variety at Rs. 380/- per quintal for 1982-83 season.

श्री रामवतीर शर्मा (पटना):  
यह तो बहुत कम है ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: This was not done last year; now they have fixed the price. The corresponding prices of other varieties would as usual be fixed by the Textile Commissioner.