

substitute 'Rs. 150', '300', '20 Paise', '30 Paise', '40 Paise' respectively

(v) in rule 2(iv)—

omit 'and the first 250 calls will also be charged at the rate shown in columns 4 of the Table applicable to measures rate systems appearing in item (a) of sub-section (1) of section III';

(vi) in rule 3, for '100' substitute '0.20';

(vii) in rule 4, for '50 Kms' substitute '25 Kms'.

This House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do concur in this resolution."

The motion was negatived.

—

17.33 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

DISTRICTS IN VARIOUS STATES AFFECTED BY DROUGHT DURING 1980-81

SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY (Adilabad): With reference to the answer given by the hon. Minister for Agriculture to Starred Question No. 478 on 23 March, 1981, I would like to raise certain points arising out of the answer given by the hon. Minister.

This is the time when the entire States are suffering from drought conditions. The month of May is so severe that this is the proper time for giving sufficient relief to the States which are suffering from drought. As I see the entire list which was laid on the Table by the hon. Minister, three States i.e. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka are suffering from severe drought conditions this year. As you all know, Andhra Pradesh unfortunately, even last year,

had suffered drought and cyclonic conditions. The people of Andhra Pradesh have been facing drought and cyclonic conditions for the last two, three years. The entire machinery of the State Government has been geared up. In spite of that, the people in rural areas in some of the districts, have started migrating for want of employment and drinking water. Although all the MLAs, Ministers and the Government officials have been trying to create confidence among the people of Andhra Pradesh that the Government is there and the Central Government is there to take care of them and to give all the assistance that they require, the situation is so grave that most of the people have already migrated. And the remaining people who have not migrated, have been transporting drinking water on tractors, trucks and so on and so forth. Here I would like to ask certain specific questions and expect specific answers from the hon. Minister. It is not a fact that the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are suffering almost with the same intensity of drought? In Andhra Pradesh the post-monsoon drought-affected area is about 22 lakh hectares, while in Tamil Nadu it is about 23.50 lakh hectares. The population affected by drought in Andhra Pradesh is about 200 lakhs while in Tamil Nadu it is about 219.90 lakhs. The assistance sought by Andhra Pradesh was Rs. 159.33 crores but, on the basis of reports, a ceiling of Rs. 23.33 crores has been fixed. Tamil Nadu sought assistance of Rs. 160.68 crores. According to reports, a ceiling of Rs. 60.91 crores has been fixed in the case of Tamil Nadu. If the statistics which I have given are correct, then it is very clear that both the States are having almost the same intensity of drought. While Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu asked for assistance of Rs. 159.33 crores and Rs. 160.68 crores, the Government of India has permitted only Rs. 23.33 crores for Andhra Pradesh, while it has permitted Rs. 60.91 crores to Tamil Nadu. I have not been able

[Shri G. Narasimha Reddy]

to understand the rationale for this in spite of going through all the relevant papers and the answer of the hon. Minister in reply to the Calling Attention in the Rajya Sabha.

In such cases the most relevant thing is not the source from which you get the money, but it is the ceiling recommended under the different heads.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What was the recommendation of the Central Study team?

SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY: The ceilings I have mentioned of Rs. 23.33 crores for Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 60.91 crores for Tamil Nadu are from the report of the Study team. Although both the States are suffering from the same intensity of drought, both in regard to population and areas affected, this disparity has been shown.

The Andhra Pradesh Government have requested the Centre to permit them certain schemes for soil conservation and containers for distribution of water. Without containers, we will not be able to transport water from a place where water is available to a scarcity area. They have also suggested a subsidy for marginal farmers. While all these items have been permitted for Tamil Nadu, in the case of Andhra Pradesh, all these have been denied to us.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Why?

SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY: I hope the hon. Minister agrees with all the statistical figures which I have given. The Revenue Minister of Andhra Pradesh has met the Prime Minister in this connection and acquainted her with the serious drought condition obtaining there. When the MLAs and the People in our cons-

tituency ask why this discrimination, we have no answer to give.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (New Delhi): A non-Congress Government is functioning there.

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY: When our Revenue Minister met the Prime Minister, she gave a patient hearing and promised to look into the matter. So, I would request the hon. Minister to categorically state that the Government of India would raise the ceiling of Andhra Pradesh upto Rs. 60 crores, which is the ceiling permitted to the Tamil Nadu Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The Minister may kindly reply. (Interruptions). The Minister will reply and then they will ask questions.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION (RAO BIREN-DRA SINGH): Sir, the hon. Member knows that the drought situation in the country, in almost all of the States that suffered, even during the year 1979 is still persisting. Andhra Pradesh is one of the States which have suffered the most. Tamil Nadu also is in district, so is Karnataka, parts of Maharashtra, Rajasthan and certain other areas. As you know, the Central Government cannot fully compensate for the loss that the people suffered on account of drought. We have certain rules and regulations and formula for giving some assistance under the non-plan head and some under the plan head. As soon as we received a Memorandum from the Andhra Pradesh Government, we asked the Central team to visit. Andhra Pradesh was suffering from drought even in the pre-monsoon weather last year and after the visit of the Central Team, a sum of something over Rs. 19 crores was fixed as ceiling for expenditure. Again, on account of drought which was persisting in the post-monsoon period, the Central Team visited the area and a

ceiling on expenditure of Rs. 23 crores and something was again sanctioned. The total comes to a little over Rs. 42 crores under the plan and non-plan heads. Tamil Nadu also had been suffering, but Tamil Nadu did not ask for any Central Team to visit in the pre-monsoon period. It was only late in the post-monsoon period, that the Tamil Nadu Government approached the Central Government. The hon. Member is right in saying that the intensity of distress, the area affected, the number of people affected are almost the same both in Tamil Nadu and in Andhra Pradesh. But whereas in the case of Andhra Pradesh sanction has been accorded by the Government of India twice on the recommendation of the Central Team and then the high level Committee, in the case of Tamil Nadu, as far as I know, so far no sanction has been given. There was a recommendation of the High Level Committee for Rs. 58 crores and something. The Central Team recommended, as the hon. Member said, Rs. 60.9 crores, but something was curtailed. But the final sanction has not been issued. But on account of the distress in the State, I am told that Rs. 10 crores have been given as advance assistance. But the final decision has not been taken for Tamil Nadu. Therefore, there is no question of any partiality being shown to a particular State.

PROF. N. G. RANGA (Guntur): Not partiality, but blind spot so far as Andhra is concerned.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Vajapayee may not feel happy if I say that it is not on account of the recommendation for non-Congress Government that Government of India has done something more than it has done for Andhra Pradesh.

Another Central Team is soon visiting Andhra Pradesh from 5th to 8th of this month. That means, it is going

tomorrow. The Central Team visited last time. It was decided that after the assistance has been utilised and the Central Government receives a report from Andhra Pradesh, a Team will again be sent.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: There are three items of expenditure which have not been sanctioned for Andhra.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Ad hoc advance of Rs. 10 crores was sanctioned. That has been given. We do not yet know on what particular items of relief this sum of Rs. 10 crores is being spent by Tamil Nadu Government. May be, in the hon. Members information is more than what I have got. We hope that the Central Government team visits Andhra Pradesh soon again. On receipt of their Report, Andhra Pradesh will also get adequate relief. We shall take all those recommendations into consideration fully.

PROF. N. G. RANGA: Thank you.

श्रीबुद्धि चन्द्र जैन (बाड़मेर) : इस अकाल की स्थिति के बारे में इस सत्रमें पहली बार चर्चा हो रही है। राजस्थान में सब से भयंकर अकाल की स्थिति है। राजस्थान प्रान्त के 35967 गांवों में से 21369 गांवों में अकाल की स्थिति है। दो करोड़ के करीब जनता अकाल से प्रभावित है। दो साल से लगातार वहां अकाल है। पश्चिमी राजस्थान में तीन से लेकर चार साल से लगातार अकाल की स्थिति है।

केन्द्रीय सरकार ने राजस्थान में इस अप्रैल मास में अध्ययन दल भजा था और उसने आन दी स्पाट जा कर स्थिति का अध्ययन किया है और अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत कर दी है। राजस्थान प्रान्त की जो स्थिति है —

MR. CHAIRMAN: How can the Minister reply? Has he come prepared to answer such question?

श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन : जरा सी भूमिका बांध कर मैं सवाल ही कर रहा हूँ। राजस्थान प्रान्त की जो स्थिति है उसको आप देखें। बागह लाख मजदूर लगे हुए हैं। हमारे राज्य की हालत यह है कि 55 करोड़ के घाटे का बजट प्रस्तुत किया गया है और 96 करोड़ का ओवरड्राफ्ट है। इस वास्ते राज्य सरकार इस भयंकर सूखे की स्थिति का मुकाबला नहीं कर सकती है। सर्वेथ फाइनेंस कमिशन की सिफारिशों के आधार पर जोकि पैरा 14, पेज 53 आफ दी रिपोर्ट में वर्णित है और जिस को केन्द्रीय सरकार ने

Para 4 as communicated by the Government of India vide letter No. F. 43(1) PFI/79 dated 25-4-1979

में मंजूर करलिया है, उसके आधार पर राज्य सरकार ने जो 132 करोड़ की मांग की है, हाफ लोन और हाफ सन्सिडी उसको देकर क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार फर्मिन की समस्या को हल करेगी?

MR. CHAIRMAN: It was a discussion regarding Andhra Pradesh. You are now going to Rajasthan. You should have taken the trouble of asking for Half-An-Hour discussion on Rajasthan. You give a separate notice on Rajasthan if you are so sincere about it.

श्री वृद्धि चन्द्र जैन : मैं खत्म कर रहा हूँ। सवाल ही मैं कर रहा हूँ। नैचुरल कलेमिटीज के अन्तर्गत जो मार्जिन मनी दिया जाता है 1974-75 में वह 10.19 करोड़ दिया गया था। जनता पार्टी की सरकार ने हमारे ऊपर बड़ी कृपादृष्टि की और 1977-78 में उसको घटा कर 7.74 करोड़ कर दिया। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस मार्जिन मनी को आप पंद्रह करोड़ करने पर विचार करेंगे और उस पर इसको निर्धारित करेंगे?

प्रधान मंत्री ने स्टेटमेंट दिया था कि वहां पर पानी की समस्या को हल करने के लिए दूसरे प्रान्तों से रिग्ड मंगा कर उसको दी जाएगी। इस तरह उसकी पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था की जाएगी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस दिशा में आप कौन से कदम उठा रहे हैं?

राजस्थान के ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में मिलिटरी के टैंकर्स से पहले पीने का पानी पहुंचाया गया था। अब भी क्या मिलिटरी टैंकर्स से पानी पहुंचाने की आप व्यवस्था करेंगे?

श्री राम बिलास पासवान (हाजीपुर) : सूखा के ऊपर चर्चा चल रही है। मंत्री जी ने मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा था कि 210 जिलों में ग्री मानसून पीरियड में सूखे की स्थिति थी और 120 में पोस्ट मानसून। इसी सदन में हम लोग हमेशा इस प्रश्न पर चर्चा करते हैं। जुलाई के बाद हम बाढ़ पर चर्चा करना शुरू कर देते हैं। एक तरफ सूखा और दूसरी तरफ बाढ़ इस बीच देश झूल रहा है। आज से नहीं बल्कि कई सौ सालों से झूल रहा है। आजादी के बाद लगातार हर साल इस पर डिबेट होती रहती है। हम रो-धो कर चुप हो जाते हैं। सूखे का मामला हो या फ्लड का, सरकार जवाब दे देती है और आज भी राव साहब दे देंगे कि इतना खर्चा किया गया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि निश्चित रूप से बताया जाए कि इस समस्या का स्थायी हल क्या सोचा गया है? साथ ही मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि तात्कालिक क्या कार्यक्रम बनाया गया है इस सूखे की स्थिति से निपटने के लिए?

राज्य सरकारों ने आपसे 1024 करोड़ रुपए की मांग की थी। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि अलग अलग आप नहीं बता सकते हैं तो कुल कितनी राशि उनको दी गई है, यह तो आप बता दें।

यदि वित्तीय संकट हो तो मैं फिर से कहूंगा कि एशियन गेम्स पर आप एक हजार करोड़ खर्च करने जा रहे हैं। क्यों नहीं इसको डाइवर्ट करके आप राज्य सरकारों को दे देते हैं? तो मैं अभी भी मांग करूंगा निश्चित रूप से सरकार उस योजना को खरम करके इस योजना को चालू करे ताकि गांवों में जिनकी संख्या 18,000 से 21,000 के बीच बतायी गयी है, जहां पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था नहीं है वहां पानी पहुंचाया जा सके। खेतों में भी पानी नहीं है। कितनी सिंचित जमीन है यह मंत्री महोदय को मालूम है और सिंचित जमीन में कितना ड्राउट होता है यह भी आपको मालूम है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि आपकी तात्कालिक योजना क्या है? दीर्घकालीन योजना क्या है, जो ग्रिड वाला मामला है नदी को नदी से जोड़ने का मामला है जो बरसात और ड्राउट में काम करेगा तो उस सम्बन्ध में सरकार ने कोई दिमाग बनाया है कि नहीं? और जो एशियन गेम्स हैं जिस पर सरकार करोड़ों रु० खर्च करने जा रही है, आप कैबिनेट मंत्री हैं, उस पैसे को उधार खर्च होने से रोकवाइये और इस पैसे को इन गरीब किसानों को दीजिये।

SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO (Koraput): Almost all the districts in Orissa last year have been devastated by drought. Some times drought and some times cyclone and some natural calamity or the other has been the annual feature of the State.

I would like to know whether the Government of India, keeping this in view, have taken any permanent measures to check the natural calamities like drought and whether any relief is proposed to be provided to the State Government by the Centre.

Is the Centre going to provide irrigation facilities as a permanent solution to the problem?

Is Government going to set up any Working Group on Drought to recommend permanent measures to be taken by the States and the Centre to check drought and other natural calamities?

What is the assistance provided by the Centre to the State of Orissa for the years 1980-81?

What is the future programme of the Governments both at the Centre and in the States by way of taking permanent measures to solve the drought and famine conditions caused by natural calamities?

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I have three questions to ask.

The Government is aware of the fact that several districts of Tamilnadu are in the grip of severe drought.

AN HON. MEMBER: He has answered it.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Just listen. Merely mentioning does not mean that he has answered everything.

Recently a Central Team visited Tamilnadu. Tamilnadu Government wanted that certain financial assistance should be given to it to meet the expenditure for the drought-stricken areas. My first point is what was the demand from the Government of Tamilnadu and what has been the result of the Study of the Central Team and to what extent and under what conditions the Central Government has agreed to render financial assistance to the Tamilnadu Government?

Drinking water is the main problem apart from other problems in the drought-affected areas.

AN HON. MEMBER: Fodder is also a problem.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is generally felt that due to want of supply of rigs, it was not possible to provide drinking water. I particularly mention the drought-affected areas. Several State Governments have been asked to loan rigs. I want to know which are the State Governments which required the rigs and what are the State Governments which are provided rigs on loan.

Has the Central Government set up a permanent machinery, a permanent source of supply of adequate, capable, and effective rigs in any State to meet the situation?

18.00 hrs.

My third question is this. The general practice of the Government of India is to give assistance to the State Governments in the form of Plan allocation; that is, the State Governments can get financial assistance on the condition that that amount will be adjusted against the Plan allocation. Many of the State Governments are not in a position really to step up the tempo of development and meet the needs of the social welfare measures which are expected of the State Governments by the people of the States concerned because they are short of the necessary funds. The Government of India, instead of following that method of adjusting the advances against the plan allocation for the States, should straightway give financial assistance from the Centre to meet the situation. Would the Government take up this policy after reversing the earlier or the existing policy in regard to financial assistance to the States?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Hon. Member Mr. Jain drew my attention to the conditions in Rajasthan. I agree with the hon. Member that the conditions in Rajasthan are really distressing. Large areas in Rajasthan are drought-prone areas, desert areas, and this is a problem which will have to

be tackled on a long-term basis to save the misery of the people year after year. For that matter, apart from providing relief in times of need from year to year, the Government of India is always considering various projects and schemes to relieve the people permanently from the effects of drought. For that matter, irrigation is one of the most essential things. Projects are being taken up and are being speeded up in all these drought-affected areas, and we hope that, with expansion in irrigation, a large part of these areas will be free from this calamity.

In Rajasthan there is a provision of Rs. 7.74 crores as margin money. The hon. Member wanted it to be raised. This is an amount sanctioned by the Seventh Finance Commission. We cannot increase it in the case of any State. But this money is at the disposal of the State Government to spend under all conditions of natural disasters, and over and above this money for what the State Government needs, they approach the Central Government; and this is our system of providing relief.

We have also been providing rigs to all the States. Mr. Chitta Basu and Mr. Paswan wanted to know what we had been doing. The State Government place an order for rigs and they are supplied through the DGS&D. Apart from that, we request the States which have got rigs to send them on loan to the States which need them. This has been done last year; the prime Minister herself wrote to the Chief Minister; we pursued the matter. This year also the Prime Minister has written letters to the Chief Ministers to give these rigs on loan. The results are....

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Which is the coordinating authority?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The results are that Bihar has loaned five rigs—two to Andhra Pradesh and

three to Karnataka; Madhay Pradesh has sent 20 rigs on loan—five to Andhra Pradesh, six to Karnataka and nine to Tamil Nadu. Uttar Pradesh has supplied eight rigs four to Karnataka, two to Maharashtra and two to Tamil Nadu. West Bengal also has given 5 rigs on loan. They have sent them to Andhra Pradesh. Orissa also has sent 4 rigs to Tamil Nadu. Rajasthan also has 6 rigs. 20 rigs were supplied to Rajasthan by DGS&D in 1980. That is only last year. 13 rigs were supplied this year and 20 more rigs will be supplied in June or soon after that. So, these are the rigs for Rajasthan. But there is a large number of rigs already working in Rajasthan and the State Government has informed us that they do not want any rigs from other states in Rajasthan.

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास (भीलवाड़ा) :

यह बात मानने लायक नहीं हैं। इस वजह से हम इतनी तकलीफ पा रहे हैं।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : आपकी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ने जो कहा है, मैं उसको बयान कर रहा हूँ। आप स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से पूछिए कि उसने ग्रीर गिग्ज क्यों नहीं मांगे हैं।

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास : आपके अधिकारियों ने गलत बयानी कर दी है।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: This is the position. Rajasthan has got a ceiling of Rs 20.10 crores sanctioned for pre-monsoon relief and Rs. 20.20 crores more have been sanctioned in

case of Rajasthan. That brings the total to Rs. 40.30 crores for Rajasthan...

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास : राजस्थान को 174 करोड़ रुपए चाहिए।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : जो चाहिए, वह तो दूसरी बात है। जो हम दे रहे हैं, वह मैं बता रहा हूँ।

A central team has visited Rajasthan again. It visited in April from 15th to 18th April. Their report is awaited and as soon as it is received, we shall be able to sanction more money for relief for Rajasthan.

I do not think the hon Member is interested in knowing the area affected in Rajasthan and all these figures. Orissa also has been suffering but at present there is no drought in Orissa. But Orissa got relief in the pre-monsoon weather. Last year we provided substantial relief for Orissa also. Relief is given both under the non-Plan and Plan heads. It is for cattle, drinking water, fodder for cattle, employment of people and agricultural practices. Short-term loans are also given for agriculture. There are various heads under which this relief can be utilised and we hope that the Government of India will be able to provide as much relief as the States need in case of drought.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

18.09 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, May 5, 1981|Vaisakha 15, 1903 (S).