

(12) The Richardson and Cruddas Limited (Acquisition and Transfer of Undertaking) Bill, 1972.

(13) The Mulki Rules Bill, 1972.

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE

TWENTY-FIFTH AND TWENTY-SIXTH REPORTS

SHRI K. N. TIWARY (Bettiah): I beg to present the following Reports of the Estimates Committee:—

- (1) Twenty-fifth Report on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Agriculture) regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifth Report on Tractors and Other Agricultural Machinery and Implements.
- (2) Twenty-sixth Report regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fifteenth Report on the Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Food)—Directorate of Sugar and Vanaspati.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SIXTY-SECOND REPORT

SHRI SEZHIAN (Kumbakonam): I beg to present the Sixty-second Report of the Public Accounts Committee regarding action taken by Government on the recommendations contained in their Fourth Report on Indian Council of Agricultural Research.

STATEMENT RE DROUGHT SITUATION

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE (Kanpur): About the drought situation we have given a call attention motion. He has got every right to make a statement about the drought situation in the country which is very horrible. I would only request you to allow a special discussion on the basis of his statement.

SHRI PYOTRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): Adjournment motions have been

given on the famine conditions and the aftereffect of drought which involve millions of people and the Government has been completely ineffective. This sort of statements will take up nowhere.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI F. A. AHMED): I beg to lay on the Table a statement on the drought situation in the country.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय (मुनेरा) :
खाद्यान्न के भाव काफी बढ़े है इस लिये इस को
एक माय लिया जाय ।

Statement

The Hon'ble Members will recall that we had occasion to discuss the drought situation in the country during the previous Session when I have an account of the extent of the drought and the relief measures taken to deal with the situation. Since then the significant developments that have taken place *vis-a-vis* the drought situation are—

(i) Continuation of unfavourable weather conditions and dry spell in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and parts of Mysore and Andhra Pradesh, and consequent augmentation of relief works in these States;

(ii) Some improvement in the production of Kharif crops due to rains and generally favourable weather conditions in the months of August, September and October in the States of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(iii) Beneficial rains during November/December/January for the sowing and growing of wheat and other rabi crops in the rabi growing areas of Haryana, Punjab, U.P., and Bihar and for the winter paddy crop/late sown kharif/rabi crops in the States of Orissa and Tamil Nadu.

On account of these favourable weather conditions which have prevailed during these 3 months over major parts of the country, excepting Gujarat, Rajasthan, Ma-

harashtra and north interior of Mysore and substantial increases in areas under wheat and extension of area under high yielding varieties in the States of U.P., Bihar and Punjab and as a result of the implementation of the Emergency as well as the normal plan programmes, prospects of forthcoming rabi crops have improved considerably and production of wheat in these States is expected to be larger than last year.

2. With a view to relieving the distress caused by the drought, necessary relief measures have been continued and augmented according to requirements. All-out efforts are being made for providing employment to the affected population on relief works, providing gratuitous relief and making arrangements for the supply of drinking water, fodder and for preventing the out-break of epidemics in the affected areas. The number of relief works and the persons employed thereon which stood at 69,594 and 35.38 lakhs respectively in November, 1972 has increased to 90,000 and 48 lakhs respectively as on 15th February, 1973. This year the number of relief works and the persons employed thereon, has been the highest ever during the last decade. In organising relief works, emphasis has been laid on taking up works which are by and large productive, such as soil conservation, construction of percolation tanks and wells, canal excavation, lift minor and medium irrigation schemes, and roads. Besides, full advantage has been taken of the approved Plan and non-Plan schemes for creating employment opportunities in the affected areas.

3. Prompt action to provide gratuitous relief to the old, the infirm and those who are unable to work for some reason or the other has been taken. Besides, the free-feeding and milk distribution programmes are being undertaken at a number of centres to take care of the children, expectant and nursing mothers. The total number of beneficiaries under these programmes is 17 lakhs at present.

4. In accordance with the prescribed procedure for giving Central financial assist-

ance, Central Teams have, by now, visited all the drought affected States except Madhya Pradesh and Manipur. Central Teams for these states have been constituted and would be visiting them shortly.

5. The total ceiling of expenditure for 1972-73 fixed by Government on the recommendations of the Central Teams for the States visited so far aggregates to about Rs. 192.84 crores, against which assistance of Rs. 100.05 crores has also been released according to the requirements of the State Governments concerned.

6 The Emergency Agricultural Production Programme launched during the year is being vigorously implemented. The schemes undertaken by the State Governments under this programme envisage (a) energisation of 1,44,000 tubewells/pump sets, (b) construction of nearly 1800 deep tubewells and over 77,000 shallow tubewells, (c) completion of more than 4,000 lift irrigation projects, besides other types of minor irrigation works capable of yielding immediate benefits. There are expected to bring sizeable areas under irrigation during the rabi and summer seasons this year. Special allocations of financial assistance of over Rs. 152 crores have been made to State Governments to enable them to take up these schemes. An amount of Rs. 92.9 crores has already been released to the State Governments for special minor irrigation schemes. Besides, another amount of Rs. 92 crores has also been made available as short-term loan for agricultural inputs.

7 In the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh where difficulties about fodder supply appeared in a big way, special measures have been taken to meet the situation, such as:—

- (a) free and concessional supply of fodder;
- (b) opening of cattle relief camps and migration of cattle;
- (c) subsidy/loan for raising fodder crop;

- (d) pressing non-conventional sources such as molasses, sugarcane tops in order for fodder
- (e) arrangements for purchase of fodder from the neighbouring States
- (f) throwing open of the forests for grazing by cattle

Special ceilings of expenditure for arranging fodder supply and cattle relief have been adopted on the recommendations of the Central Teams for these States. A total ceiling of Rs 16.31 crores has been fixed so far.

8. Similarly special steps for overcoming the difficulties in drinking water in cities which have posed a serious problem in the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Mysore and Andhra Pradesh have been taken. The measures taken include—

- (a) supply of the suitable for the plateau areas required for boring wells for drinking water,
- (b) loans/grants for digging wells
- (c) arrangement of water tankers for transportation of water

Special ceilings of expenditure for drinking water supply have also been adopted on the recommendations made by the Central Teams. A total ceiling of Rs 13.95 crores has been adopted so far.

9. All foodgrains available with the Government agencies are being channelised through the fair price shops and necessary movement programme has been undertaken to meet the reasonable requirements of foodgrains of the drought-affected and the deficit areas.

10. The Government is deeply conscious of the hardship caused to the people in drought and scarcity areas and the rise in price. The Government of India is constantly in touch with the State Governments and no efforts are being spared to alleviate the hardship by taking all possible relief measures. The Government of India is confident that with the co-operation of all concerned, it will be possible

to tide over the situation effectively.
11.40 hrs

UNTOUCHABILITY (OFFENCES) AMENDMENT AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BILL

EXTENSION OF TIME FOR PRESENTATION OF REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE.

SHRI SHAMBHU NATH (Saidpur) I beg to move

‘That this House do further extend upto the first day of second week of the next session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and further to amend the Representation of the People Act 1951’

MR SPEAKER The question is

“That this House do further extend upto the first day of second week of the next session the time for the presentation of the Report of the Joint Committee on the Bill to amend the Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955 and further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951’

The motion was adopted

MR SPEAKER Now what about the Railway Budget?

AN HON MEMBER After lunch, Sir

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) I have given notice under Rule 377 about the trouble that is created out of the outcome of an obnoxious editorial written by the Calcutta Paper, *Hindustan Standard*

MR SPEAKER Railway Budget will come up at quarter to three. I think it will be all right

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU I have given written notice

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप यके हुए है। आप बैठ जायें।

श्री ज्योतिर्मय बोसु : यह बहुत गम्भीर मामला है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैंने आप से कहा है, आप बैठ जायें।