

meeting of the leaders of the opposition. But when the Minister replies that the Government is not prepared to allot any bungalows to any political party and that the political parties have to find their own buildings, to what extent the Speaker is justified in saying, over and above it, that he would call a meeting of the leaders of the opposition parties. As far as I understand the position of the duties of the Speaker, I do not think it is proper on the part of the Speaker to say anything against a decision of the Minister. I do not think the Speaker is competent to say anything against the decision of the Minister, which is an executive function of the Government.

MR SPEAKER: No point of order arises because the Government decision is always subject to further consideration. I have said that I will call the leaders for a discussion. Ultimately, it is for the Government to decide on all executive matters, subject to any decision by Parliament. As I have said, I have called them for a discussion in the matter, because I consider it is an important matter.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: The Minister has given wrong information by saying that no house has been allotted to the Janata Party. No. 25, Asoka Road has been allotted to the Janata Party.

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: It is wrong; it is allotted to one M.P. It is not allotted to the Janata Party.

MR. SPEAKER: I presume the answer given is correct. If it is not correct, you have other procedures laid down by the rules for remedial action.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: I am raising it now. Is this the sort of answer that is being given?

SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT: I have said that no house is allotted to the Janata Party. I am saying it again.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Drought in Andhra Pradesh

2. **SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received reports from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding the drought conditions prevailing in that State; and

(b) in view of the seriousness and urgency of the situation, what immediate measures are proposed to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Andhra Pradesh have reported that they have already sanctioned Rs. 4.65 crores towards drinking water and relief works to meet the immediate needs of the situation. The Central Government propose to send a Central Team to make an on-the-spot study of the situation as soon as the State Government are ready with facts and figures.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: What is the amount of Central assistance asked for by the State Government?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: They have asked for Rs. 20 crores. The amount will be determined only after the visit of the Central team.

SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO: Since I believe the State Government is ready with all the figures, will the sending of the team be expedited?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: As soon as the memorandum from the State Government is received, the team will be sent.

SHRI K. SURANARAYANA: Though the Andhra Government had requested for Rs. 20 crores, you have sanctioned only Rs. 4.65 crores. That has already been distributed. Have they given any details as to how much has

been distributed and under what heads?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Rs. 4.65 crores that is mentioned in the statement has been out of the resources of the State. They need not send the details to us as it is out of their own resources.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Conference of State Ministers to Implement National Irrigation Programme

*105. **SHRI M. KALYANA SUN-DARAM:**

SHRI M. N. GOVINDAN NAIR:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had called a two-day Conference of the State Ministers of Irrigation to chalk out the strategy to implement national irrigation programme; and

(b) if so, the details and decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The Third Conference of State Ministers of Irrigation was held on the 8th and 9th November, 1977 in New Delhi.

(b) The Third Conference of the State Ministers of Irrigation was held on the 8th and 9th November, 1977 at New Delhi. The agenda items *inter alia* included strategy for the sixth Plan including programmes for drought prone, backward and tribal areas, and modernisation of irrigation systems, and preparation of perspective plans. At the Conference, a general consensus was reached on several vital aspects having bearing on the future programmes for irrigation.

The need for preparation of perspective plan was agreed to and it was decided to prepare detailed master plans for river basins in the next five years. There was a consensus on the strategy to be adopted for successful implementation of the next Five Year Plan beginning April, 1978. A target of 17 million hectares comprising 8 million hectares through major and medium irrigation projects and 9 million hectares through minor irrigation projects, both in public as well as private sectors was considered well within reach. The State Governments were urged to prepare physical and financial programmes for completion of ongoing schemes, and taking up new projects, taking into consideration the needs of drought prone and tribal areas and for minimising the regional imbalances with regard to irrigation development. It was also decided to embark upon a programme of modernisation pre-plan and earlier plan irrigation systems, with a view to optimising the use of water. It was also decided to prepare operational programme for irrigation supplies through the existing systems and monitor them with a view to progressively improving the efficiency of water use. The Conference also recommended that at least Rs. 50 per hectare of gross irrigated area or culturable commanded area, whichever is more, should be provided annually for proper and efficient working of irrigation systems.

Inclusion of Kabaddi in International Games

*106. **SHRI R. K. MHALGI:** Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts made by the Indian Olympic Association as per its promise during period of last six months to include 'Kabaddi' as one of international games; and

(b) the results thereof?