Chapter 5
LEGISLATIVE RESPONSE TO 1970-73 DROUGHT OF MAHARASHTRA
5.1 Role of legislature within theoretical and constitutional provision

Democratically elected government is a unique feature of modern state system prevailing over most of the countries of the world. Right from French Revolution onwards (1790) until date; ideas, techniques and methods of good governance in parliamentary form of government is being evolved. Although the legislatures exist in virtually every nation they vary greatly in their power and stability. Framers of the constitution contemplated supremacy of legislature over executive. Constitution has provided and sought harmonious blending of executives and legislature. Executives are the members of majority party of legislature and remain in power so long as they secure confidence of legislature. 1 Legislative bodies were empowered with varied rights, privileges and tools to make government more accountable. Legislative assemblies and councils are the source of power. Everything related with governance emanates from the legislature. Framing of governments, to direct governments to act judiciously and with public interests, to monitor governance, to bring no confidence motion, to keep check over the governance are some important functions of the legislative bodies in India. 2 As India had adopted British parliamentary form of government, India adopted the best practices of British parliaments. Questions, Adjournment motions, Resolutions, debates, and Legislative Committees are the instruments of legislative control over executive in India. Indian constitution had provided privileges to members of parliament and state legislature enumerated in the Articles 105 and 194 of Indian constitution. Member can remain absent as witness in the court while the house is in session. A member has sole freedom for his act behavior and speech in the house. Members are immune from prosecution and

1Basu Durga Das Introduction to the constitution of India Prentice-Hall of India New Delhi 1993 p.193

2Ibid pp.199-200 Basu enumerates other functions of the legislative bodies like Providing cabinet, control of the cabinet, criticism of the cabinet, act as an organ of information, legislation and financial control are few significant and important functions of legislative bodies.
punishment for his any speech argument and debate in the house except judiciary. Financial control of legislature over executive attained through provisions laid down in constitution. Legislature authorizes the government to collect taxes and to spend them in a particular manner. In theory, executive demands and the legislature approve. Budget and appropriation bill are two important instruments, which empowers legislators to guide economy on right path. It also empowers legislators for adopting benevolent schemes by allotting more funds for poor. The entire administrative machinery comes under the potential control of the legislature. This is because every action may provide a question; every question, an adjournment debate, and ‘every adjournment debate a full fledge debate’. Besides, the Parliamentary Committees too, exercise control over the Government of the day.

5.2 Types of Proceedings that Keep Control over Executives

Question hour

By asking questions members can keep the entire administration on its toes. A question is an effective device of focusing public attention, in a striking manner, on different aspects of administration’s policies and activities. A question usually asked with a view to getting information, obtaining ministerial opinion on a subject or hammering the government on alleged weak points. Many of the questions may be trivial, but some do cause tremendous harm to the Government. This is a widely known, popular and commonly employed

\[\text{\textsuperscript{3}}\] Without legislative approval the amount cannot be appropriated or collected in any form. It can also abolish or decrease or levy taxes

\[\text{\textsuperscript{4}}\] Therefore, before the government can work on its budget plan, it has to get it passed by the Parliament.

This is known as enactment of the budget. Discussions on the budget in Parliament provides an opportunity to the members, to review the working of various Departments and Ministries. It also enables them to obtain information on the progress achieved in the implementation of various programmes undertaken by the Government. The members get an opportunity to, Examine the relevance and efficacy of the social and economic implications of the new expenditure proposals included in the budget. After the budget is approved, the Appropriation Act is passed by Parliament, Authorizing the executive to incur expenditure against the allotments included in Various grants. Through the delegation of financial powers, the Ministry of Finance shares its responsibility for financial control with the administrative ministries during the implementation of the budget.

\[\text{\textsuperscript{5}}\] the Life Insurance corporation episode of 1956 resulting in the resignation of Finance Minister arose from an answer to a question.
method of ensuring accountability from time to time members have been raising matters of great importance through their questions.

**Adjournment Debates:**

The device of adjournment motion is a tool of day-to-day control, and may be utilized for raising a discussion in the House on any specific question of urgent nature and of public importance. If allowed by the presiding officer, an immediate debate takes place on the matter raised, thus suspending the normal business of the House.

**Debates on Enactment of Acts and Amendments**

The various readings of a bill provide opportunities to the members of legislation to criticize the entire policy underlying the bill. The criticism may even make the Government change its mind.

**Discussion on budget**

After the presentation of the budget, general discussion takes place. On this occasion the discussion relates to the budget as a whole or any question of principals involved therein. Similarly voting on grants provides the second opportunity. Discussion at this stage is confined to each head of the Demand, and, if cut motions are moved to the specific points raised therein, the discussion is sufficiently pointed and may be focused on specific points. Discussion on the Finance Bill provides an endless opportunity to discuss the entire administration. In the words of G.V. Mavlanker, "It is an acknowledged principle that any subject can be discussed on the Finance Bill and any grievance ventilated. The principle being that the citizen should not be called upon to pay, unless he is given, through Parliament the fullest latitude of Representing his views and conveying his grievances."

**Audit**

Parliament exercise control over Public expenditure through the Comptroller and Auditor General who audits Government accounts to ensure that the money granted by parliament has not been exceed without a supplementary vote and money expanded conforms to rules. The accountability of Government to parliament in the field on financial administration is thus secured Financial Control through the reports of the Comptroller and Auditor General. Parliament is mirror of public aspirations. However,
parliament has to perform various works in limited time span. Therefore, committee system is indispensable part of parliamentary democracy all over the world. This system saves valuable time of house and members’ therein. Control of legislative over executive has prime importance in theory as well as in practice.

Legislative bodies in India have adopted the best methods and tools to make government more accountable on the floor of house. Policies adopted, actions taken, expenditure incurred each and every thing of governance is answerable by government to honorable members in the house. Government has to take some stand on its action. It is liable to criticism by members of ruling party as well as by members of opposition. Members have some immunities as well as privileges. Members could not get prosecuted or arrested for their action and speech on the floor of house. This provides members immunity of actions and also liberty and freeness for their any actions on the floor of house. This ensures healthy and essential sovereignty, efficiency, and effectiveness of legislature. Best methods to provide publicity to the working and proceedings of houses are adopted since its inception in India. Free and ensured access to press and electronic media for recording and briefing of the proceedings also make government accountable. Embracement of government on the floor thus provides mass publicity. It also makes government more alert and sensitive on important issues. Government has to provide authentic information to members of legislatures. Prior to right to information act true and relevant information about governance was accessible to public through legislature. The information that government collects either pertaining to question asked or otherwise is collected to through very scientific method Performa and method to collect information is scientifically devised. A record of proceedings of the houses thus is very authentic source of information to students of social sciences.

5.2 The Caliber and Milieu of Representatives of Both the Houses

Most of the members of third and fourth legislative assemblies of Maharashtra were law graduates and graduates of other faculties. As the expansion of education picked pace new educated class emerged from agriculturist of rural Maharashtra after 1960. As these

6 District Registry office Government of Maharashtra, Manual of office procedure Nagpur government Press; 1970 p.31
natural leaders of society, people foresaw them as their leaders. Many young graduates from agricultural community sought this opportunity. During the scarcity and distress of acute severity caused due to consecutive droughts, congress was the major ruling party in Maharashtra. After formation of Maharashtra state second and third assembly were constituted and these assemblies performed its work. At both assemblies congress was the major political party. Congress secured 51.2% of votes and 203 seats in 1967 election. Similarly congress had secured 56.3% votes and 222 seats in 1972 assembly’s elections. It is very important to note that the qualifications, age and profession of honorable members. In third Vidhan Sabah 185 members out of 250 were between of 30 to 50 years of age. In this age group there were 23 women out of total 26 women members. The members of this Vidhan Sabha comprise quiet high number of graduates and post graduates with equally high numbers possessing professional degrees. Thus, graduates were 221 in numbers total out of 265. This age group is considered as efficient age group. The quality of debate and their performance testifies it. 121 members of this Vidhan Sabha were cultivators 50 were from legal profession 27 were political and social workers. There were sizable numbers of women members in the assembly i.e.26. Women members comprise 1 advocate, 2 doctors 4 entrepreneurs and 4 from education related field.

Vidhan Parishad the lower house of Maharashtra legislature was also actively responding to drought situation and its proceedings is equally important to consider the legislative response. Therefore, it is imperative to go into detail background of members of this house too. Maharashtra Vidhan Parishad comprises of 78 members and some members finish their membership tenure after every two years. The house in 1975 comprises 78 seats and majority members were from 40 to 50-age group numbering 38. Among members only 3 were women. Academicians and teachers were more numbers comprising 11 and 12 respectively followed by entrepreneurs. Among the members 34

7 Shirisikar V.M., Politices of Modern Maharashtra Orient Longman 1995 p.245 table 10.8

members secured degrees of graduation and post graduation courses including courses such as law and medicine. Members of such caliber were quiet aware of their responsibility. They often insisted on detail discussion. They were enthusiastic and always ready with meticulous study of every aspect of drought and drought relief works. They often visited the relief works and addressed the questions and difficulties on the floor of house. They didn’t spare government and vehemently insisted government on vital important issues to act and to implement remedial issues. There were many members who were experienced with legislative proceedings like Dhondge, T.C.Karkhanis. These members were acquainted with skills of effective addressing of questions. They had ability to catch government in embracing condition by questioning government efficiency on public vital issues. In second assembly, K.N.Dhulup of Jansangh was leader of opposition. During tenure of third assembly Dinkarao Patil of peasants and workers party was the leader of opposition. Krishanarao Bhegade, Rambhau Mahalgi, Mrinal Gore, Keshavarao Dhondge, Anantrao Thopte, T.C.Karkhanis, Namdeorao Mate, and many others prolific parliamentarian addressed many vital issues. In legislative council there were equally towering parliamentarian includes Uttamrao Patil, N.D.Patil, Datta Tamahane and many others. Congress government formed the government and Vasantrao Naik was chief minister during these both assemblies. 1969 was the peak performance of Maharashtra’s agriculture. However, three consequent years after that state faced acute scarcity during 1971-72 and 1972-73 and 1970-71 witnessed crop failures on account of untimely and incessant rains cause fall in agricultural produce. Drought created series of problems and consequences of it all drought related questions and issues were discussed and addressed. It revealed many dimensions aspects involved in respective issues. Best available solutions and alternatives were provided to issues and problems.

5.3 Evolving Rules of Proceedings and Its Impact

9 Ibid Loc. cit
10 He was elected on Kalayan assembly seat.
Since advent of constitution, there were many changes in the rules of legislative assembly of Maharashtra in accordance with the accepted and well-recognized principles of Parliamentary Practice and Procedure. Constitution has conferred powers to frame the rules of legislative assembly on speaker. \(^{11}\) The question-procedure was revised so as to secure their more expeditious disposal. The new rules provided for the constitution and working of four more committees of the legislature viz., the rules committee, the business advisory committee, the committee on private member’s bill, and resolutions and the committee on subordinate legislation. Representations to the members of the council also were given on the committee on subordinate legislation, the public accounts committee and the estimate committee. Parliamentary devices, such as notices for discussion for short duration on matters of urgent public importance and for calling attention to such matters, were also introduced in the rules for the first time. Committee on the government assurance and committee on absence of members from sittings of the houses were constituted. A new general chapter on committees containing general provisions applicable to the working of all committees was also inserted on the lines of the Loksabha (a committee to suggest changes was appointed the changes then incorporated and published in the gazette part IV-A, 1/10/1959.) The new rules empowered the speaker to treat a starred question as un-starred while admitting it in a certain circumstances. Other changes included a provision to enable the house to suspend temporarily, if necessary, the operation of any rule or rules; provision regarding registration of members; defining the scope of petitions; procedures for sending intimation of arrests, etc. \(^{12}\) Since the publication of the 2\(^{nd}\) edition of the rules, the said rules underwent further changes. There was another reorganization of the state in 1960. The speaker then referred the question of further changes, if any, in the rules to the Rules Committee in June 1960. The committee accordingly submitted its first and final reports

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\(^{11}\) Government of Maharashtra Publication, Printed in India by the manager, government central press Bombay and published by the Director, government printing and stationary Maharashtra State Bombay-4 1972. While framing rules of Maharashtra state legislature changes in rules and approach came after reorganization of states on 1\(^{st}\) November, 1956 brought in its wake some significant changes in the Rule. On 24\(^{th}\) July 1957, the speaker appointed a committee of 21 members to recommend any adaptation or modification that the rules may require. Committee’ recommendations were accepted and incorporated by speaker.

\(^{12}\) Ibid Loc. Cit.
to the House on the 8\textsuperscript{th} August 1960 and 19\textsuperscript{th} August 1960, respectively. Both these reports were approved by the House and the rules together with amendments as recommended in the two reports were adopted under article 208 (1) of the constitution. The salient features of the amendments then introduced in the rules were that the two financial committees viz., the Estimates and the public accounts committee would have a non-official as their chairman instead of the finance minister who till then used to be the ex-officio chairman of the these committees; powers were given to these committees.\textsuperscript{13}

\textbf{5.4 All Pervading Drought}

As enumerated in previous paragraphs of this chapter best methods of parliamentary proceedings are included in legislative proceedings of the legislative bodies of the Maharashtra. Government bills and matters related to government, question hour and proceedings related with non-governmental matters were major parts of the proceedings in both the houses. Half hourly discussions, discussions on the adjournment motion and calling attention motion, honorable governor’s address and discussion on the same, discussion on the budget, on supplementary grants, on appropriation bill, special resolutions on the drought and scarcity conditions, bill to postponement of Panchayat, Cooperative societies scheduled elections, number of starred un-starred questions and supplementary questions, debate arose in that regard on the floor of house, all such proceedings were full of concern and care for scarcity affected people throughout this scarcity. Pages after pages of proceedings dealt with only drought and scarcity. The discussion on the floor of both the houses were showing deep concern towards masses. Every aspect of rural life and every alternative of providing relief to rural masses was sought and discussed in the houses. Thus, scarcity famine like condition which was developed during 1970-73 was overshadowed over the legislative assembly and councils proceedings of Maharashtra at that time.

\textbf{5.5 Issues of Vital Importance}

\textsuperscript{13}Ibid. pp.4-5
Untouchability and drinking water issues highlighted existing untouchability over so-called progressive Maharashtra of that time. There were academic discussions on number of occasion over the concepts of scarcity, famine and drought in the both houses of state legislation. Price hike and measures to curb it was the issue of concern to everyone in the houses. There were resolutions in both the houses to discuss the issues related with prices of essential commodities and measures to curb it. Members vehemently addressed issues related with price hike and executive with equal promptness responded to issues. These issues had occupied sizable time and space of both the houses. Through the proceedings, it realized that the hikes in the prices were considered as major issues of the time. In order to check the restaurants rate; Grocery, vegetables grains supplied to restaurants and hotels were under controlled prices. There were frequent meeting of bureaucrats with the wholesalers and grain merchants to provide essential commodities under controlled rates same procedure was followed with vegetable merchants. Public distribution system and grain availability issue was most vigorously, frequently surfaced and stirred in the houses. Questions after questions with details ranging from supply to irregularities, misappropriation, transportation, hoarding black-marketing, and corrupt practices addressed in the houses. Starvation deaths occupied most important times of the proceedings. Maximum numbers of adjournment motions, calling attention motions were about alleged starvation deaths. Chief Minister’s statement mentioning government would take care to avoid starvation deaths of men and animals and otherwise made impact on whole policies of scarcity relief. Members of opposition vigorously put cases of starvation deaths through questions, motions and debates of the houses. After starvation deaths incidences of police firing, latthi charges and broking of tear gases on public protest marches by police members of opposition raised and questioned with vigor in the house. Water scarcity and measures to solve it, productive works and unproductive works, grain sacking incidences, public protests these were other important issues addressed by opposition.

5.6 The polices
Legislative workings though bound by various rules, regulations and time limit; the voluminous works it produced during 1970-73 have not comparison in the history of the Maharashtra legislations. As noted before the drought and scarcity of this period had deep impact and influence on the every type of proceedings that occurred in the house. The expressions, thoughts, discussions and even the response in the form of answers statement declaration by the executives in the house itself show the diligence the grace decorum and honor of the houses. However, it is evident from the proceedings that after bitter exchange of words on exceptional occasion, on very next movement the house came on normal tone with serious expedition of work. The members participated with zeal in every proceeding. Views expressed, issues addressed, suggestions made shows deep concern of members and their contemplations.

Complaints were made about the injustice in disbursing the scarcity relief funds to various districts. However, chief minister clarified that these were not final installments the amounts for other districts were adjusted and disbursed according to the requirements of the state. Complaints about the low wages were made from very early stage. Suggestions were made about the land revenue. The issues of untouchability and drinking water surfaced more often in the house in this regard one progressive and pragmatic suggestion was made right to water from untouchables by member. Members stressed on augmentation of irrigation potential of state. Many members objected the

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14 Government of Maharashtra Publication, Printed in India by the manager, government central press Bombay and published by the Director, government printing and stationary Maharashtra State Bombay-4 Vidhan Sabha Proceedigs 25th March 71 p.376-77 K.Dhulup actually 21 districts were affected by scarcity whole disbursing the fund for scarcity relief the funds were not disbursed judiciously more fund were disbursed to influential leaders district. More fund diverted to Pusad. P.602 1.4.71 V.R.Patil Solapur less amount. P.1505 27th April 71 K.S.Dhondge complained about very less funds to Kandhar.

15 Ibid VidhanSabha p.391 the rule of working land revue should be revised. V.R.Patil less amount to Solapur


17 Ibid Vidhan Sabha Vol. 36 p,1055-56 K.S.Dhondge Ban on untouchables ot take water from public wells at Mahausane taluka Kandahr district Nanded S.B.Patil protection against ban had been taken.

18 Ibid Vidhan Sabha Vol. 36 p,1055-56 K.S.Dhondge Ban on untouchables ot take water from public wells at Mahausane taluka Kandahr district Nanded S.B.Patil protection against ban had been taken.

19 March-April 71 P.1771 R.G.Gunjal pursuasion of Karnjavane dam S./B.Jivtode on budget 15th April 71 use full irrigation potential of Vidharabha. 4.5.71 pp 1764-169-19 Upper Manyad, Upper Vardah and other irrigation projects should be completed earlier. V.C.Naik Kalumnari stressed need to tap all irrigation potential. P.1775 B.S.Kore to tap all irrigation potential
existing rules of scarcity were falling short to cope with emerging severity and providing relief to the people. Many suggestions were also made to suffice the need of water. There were also complaints and suggestions to implement the suggestions of Pardanasani Committee in six talukas which were chronic drought prone. Prabhugaonkar pointed out that major irrigation projects were not viable in the Konkan region as there are no hard rocks in Konkan. He further suggested that there was need of minor irrigation project and further research by engineers to develop techniques to pursue the major irrigation project. There were constant and frequent demands for revising the rules of anna valuations. As anna valuations, linked with the declaration of scarcity. Without declaration of scarcity the areas suffering from the scarcity could not receive any assistance from government. Productivity of agriculture in Maharashtra is very low need to improve it was expressed by members. Some members pointed out that there was mark demarcation between British policy and Maharashtra government. The policy of issuing, more rice instead of the Jowar (Sorghum) in the wake of scarcity of the Jowar. Plight of farmers was the major concern of the members as most of the members were themselves farmers and the representatives of the farmers. Getting easy loans, waving of the loans, relief from

20 Ibid Vidhan Sabha p.1426 20.4.71 the rule of scarcity change at once by K.B.Mahske
21 P.631 K.S.Tidke 2.4.71. No ipmllementation of esixting water schemes by government. P.1016 P.G.Kher Mahabaleshwar water scheme should be progressed.
22 Ibid Vidhan Sabha P.318 23rd March 1971 G.A.Deshmukh (Sangola) explained background of Sangola taluka and its history of chronic scarcity due to drought. The implementation of scheme of scarcity and drought prone development programme of Sangola taluka of Solapur district and other five talukas. 23..3.71 p.322 chronic scarcity talukas are to be more attended.
23 Ibid Vidhan Sabha p.1790 V.Prabhugaonkar:- there is need of minor irrigation project in Konkan as there is no hard rock for big dam in Konkan. Ngineers should new research in this regard. (March-May 71 assembly session)
24 Government of Maharashtra Vidhan Sabha Proceedings. 21st April 71 p.1273 R.P.Valvi, March-April 71 P.1504 objections were raised by K.B.Mahaske on anna valuation in answer to this objection Vartak answeerd that declaration of scarcity justifies the validity of the anna valuation system. P.1471 S.T.Bamne complaind about faulty assement of anna valuation p;1487 P.R.Sanap (mangaon) the open eye survey of crops in Kolaba did not conducted on Novemebr. In this regard complaint about faulty valuation lauched and some was not considered at the time of final announcement.
25 Ibid Vidhan Sabha 7.4.71 p. 813 B.S.Kore The productivity of rice in Maharashta is 928 kg. per hectare while in other state it 100kgs.
26 Ibid Vidhan Sabha P,1434-35 . Darade Chausala at the time of revenue ministers visit at our place revenue minister satated that government is very vigiland and prompt to adopt measures agaons tscurity tit was not allowed privately by Britidsh government.
27Ibid Vidhan Sabha p.1294 21st April Vartak:- instead of Jowar rice and wheat in more quantity to the customer.
compulsory recovery and relief from the property confiscation therein were demands made in the houses. 

Members questioned and forcefully as well as tactfully cornered government on many issues by asking the expenditure and judicial explanations.

Managing and transferring required staff and materials from other departments for scarcity works and relief was sought questions in this regard asked in the houses. There were instances of clashes and protests. At such instances, members tried to acquaint with the facts and polices of government.

Some members like Prabhugaonkar, Khanolkar, V.D.Deshmukh specially pursued the theoretical study of the important concepts like drought, scarcity and famines, causes of famine, impacts of the scarcity and famines. They also suggested measures to overcome scarcity conditions. Members also collected data pertaining to ongoing scarcity, budgetary provisions, ground reality at scarcity works, and scarcity of drinking water, fodder and food grains. They also made tours collected data pertaining to starvation deaths, incidences of corruptions, misappropriations of money, misappropriations of grains, black marketing fake musters for misappropriation of money. They suggested measures to overcome all difficulties to reduce malpractices.

Governor’s speeches and expressing gratitude for that was an opportunity as well as tool of legislation to criticize government polices and make government accountable. The

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28 Ibid Vidhan Sabha p.1042-43 D.B.Patil (Supplimentary grants on agri) providing credit to farmers and agricultural labors.

29 Ibid Vidhan Sabha  P.963 30th April 72 T.C. Karkhanis (Kolhapur) Arid area development programme Mandrup centres expenditure(G.P.Pradhan in council)

30 Ibid Vidhan Sabha  p.2002 dt 6.3.73 question by Govindrao Adik (Shrirampur):- Answer by A.R.Antuly “- Sufficient technical staff from the BNC had been provided for scarcity works. there is no further need to provide other technical staff to scarcity works.

31 Ibid Vidhan Sabha 6.9.73 p.2562 Questions were asked about scarcity works of Chittod village of Dhule taluka. The works were stopped during 1st December 1972 to 2nd January 73 was closed due to grievances of the labors. The laborers working on scarcity works were not following the rules and orders of authority.

32 Ibid Vidhan Sabha Feb-March 73assembly session p. 602  S.G.Patil (Shirpur) The population of 21 million came under the grip last year it was 10.5 million. 222 croers rupees expenditure on water supply schemes. Till January 31 government have incurred 2.7 million rupees on scarcity relief programmes. Agriculture minister of India have recently stated that last year there was 104.1 million tones of grain production in India this year the production will be 100 million tones. The all grain deficit this year is 4.1 million tones. In Maharashtra last year the production of food grain was .26 million tones. This year the stat deficit will be of 56% in terms values. S.B.Patil (Nilanga) :- the total laborers of 25lakhs on scarcity works on 15th January 73 and the expenditure was 38 croers. At the end of May 73 : 69 small irrigation schemes, 8 medium scale projects and 415 water irrigation schemes will be completed. In local area 150 small irrigation schemes, 31 medium projects will be completed. 250 cattle camps are opened.

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speech of D.B.Patil on governor’s speech in February-March 73 session is evident to substantiate the same. Members suggested long term measures that government should adopt. Members study is evident from their speeches delivered in lower house on governor’s address during Feb-March 73 session of assembly. A.N.Thopte put number of complaints, mentioning no long-term planning and productive works to mitigate the danger of droughts, no rigs to deepen the wells. Thopte further complained about not mentioning number of cattle benefited from 250 cattle camps. Also there did not found mention of the number of cattle not adjusted to changed environment in camps. Issue of equal wages not yet solved. Excavation as well as construction of public wells was important for its durability. Expressed concerned about non transferring farmers’ loan from short term to long term. So far rehabilitation of farmers affected from land acquisition did not took place. There were problems in implementing wells excavation program which financed by Land Development Bank due to criterion of distance of 1000 meters between two wells. V.G.Prabhugaonkar stressed on to change the famine code. 

Sursinghrao Jadhav (Purandhar) Suggest to consider advance to farmers in the form of Taqavi and Khavati immediately. Wages were not encouraging hence laborers were not coming on this works they prefer metal breaking works. Tilling operations of land be provided free of charge as there were no cattle with farmers. Members also expressed, need to employ students having age above 14. A.R.Tope requested to provide more rigs and tankers. Navalkar complained that Governor had not mentioned hardship of scarcity laborers they faced. Some members presented issues of tree plantation as scarcity works

33 Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly session, P.627D.B.Patil:-the speech is not reflecting people opinions. The issue of border was also not reflected. The water distribution issues between states not addressed. The focus or emphasis was not on productive works during scarcity works of 1971. Scarcity is not natural but it is also manmade. No sufficient technical staff on the works, no consistency on the relief works. No regular wages to laborers working on the scarcity works, no works at nearby places, fake musters, very meager wages, no medicines to laborers, no drinking water to scarcity workers, no timely payments, number of cattle are dying, no fodder, many chiefs of the houses are migrating for employment, oppose to reduce the duration of assembly on account of scarcity, these were some issues addressed by D.B.Patil in his speech.

34 Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly session, P.628V.K.Tembe (Chembur) stressed need of long term planning to counter droughts. R.K.Mahalgi suggested some measures as follows, Tilling of soil is to be considered as productive work in scarcity relief works. The wages should be increased to Rs.4 per day to laborers. The supply of grains should be 12 kg. per month.
on the hills. Funds were not disbursed for the scarcity works over scarcity-affected area were the complaints. Answering to such complaints revenue minister answered that disbursing the funds for scarcity works related with declaration of anna valuation since declaration of anna valuation not commenced the funds were not disbursed. Complaints and demands were also about making works available at nearby places. Government policy of opening labor camps during the year 1971-72 implemented due to the water scarcity. However, the number of works increased so high in numbers that in subsequent days that the idea of opening labor camps automatically got terminated. Productive versus unproductive works was the debate or contested issue during that time. Government from December 72 onwards became more economical to save the expenses other than scarcity works. It also curtailed its administrative expenses. While putting statement on issues of migrants and migration over Pune and Mumbai H.G.Vartak revenue minister answered that the civic amenities were provided to migrants from Marthwada and other scarcity areas. However, government cannot encourage such type of migration on the contrary government was trying to avoid such migration and providing employment at rural places. Thus, it is evident that official policies were to discourage villagers from migrating to big cities. In first year of scarcity the complaints were about the fewer wage on the scarcity and the contractors of scarcity works were exploiting laborers. The works get closed due to the meager wages because the workers get attracted wherever they get more wages. It in turn resulted into closure of works.

35 Ibid Feb 73 assembly 20.2.73p.2918 :- Questions were asked by R.A.Patil (Walva) :- Questions were about the plantation on the hills under the scarcity relief programme. These types of works are being worked as Satara, Sangli, Solapur and Amravati districts.

36 Ibid November-December 72 assembly session question by A.N.Thopte and answered by Vartak p.1263

37 Ibid p.1264 by Wankhede, Bhegde, Adik

38 Ibid loc.Cit.

39 Ibid Vidhan Sabha Nov-Dec.72 assembly session p.1264-65

40 Ibid Nov.-Dec 72 assembly proceedings pp.1264-65

41 Ibid Vidhan Sabha March to May 71 (Vol32 Part ) p.389-90 during discussions in assembly N. V.Ugale of Ashti mentioned that the wages of laborers of the scarcity works should get proper wages. contractors appointed for execution of such works are paying very meager wages to the scarcity works. in due events somebody pay more wages
Equal wages was the issue during late stage of scarcity addressed by socialist party members, peasants and peoples party members which was upheld by all other party members latter but women members of the houses put it with more force.\textsuperscript{42} “There are many irregularities in the scarcity relief works. Many works completed by private contractors. The expenditure incurred on scarcity relief works is not properly executed and there is also irregularity. The wages determined by government is also not paid. When there is hard work at work site the wages that received are too short for laborer. Irregularities or mismanagement in distributing gratuitous relief had been noticed. The rainfall from last three years are too less and last year it was lowest. The scarcity relief works stopped should be immediately started. Metal breaking work is not work of farmers many farmers are getting injured therefore it is requested that there should be substitute work for such metal breaking works. Digging of wells will be good project as far as relief strategy concerned. Sufficient loans be granted to farmers. Many people are facing acute water shortage.”\textsuperscript{43} These were some comments and complaints surfaced about scarcity works in the house. As the severity of the scarcity getting more intense on failure of both Kharif and Rabi season of year 1971-72 the situation get reflected through the proceeding of the house in the words of the members can be experienced in the words of Wankhede as follows. “Maharashtra state is now facing acute problem of scarcity. 1970-71 was the year of incessant rainfall and this year rainfall failed short. From my district 30 thousand agricultural labors are migrated in search of employment in other district. As there are no scarcity works in my district laborers from my district are migrated in adjoining Jalagaon district. Whenever there was demand of 100 laborers 1000 laborers were present and demanding works. Applications were invited for Taqavi to the scarcity workers at such instances these workers usually goes to these works and on account of less attendance of laborers such works are usually get closed by government.

\textsuperscript{42}Ibid  Feb.-March assembly session p.1494 Kamlabai Ajmera (dhule-south) Kamala Raman (Matunga) Mrinal Gore (Malad) R.A.Patil (Walva) asked questions. Members questioned about the difference of wages between male and female workers. Raman objected that the digging and carrying the debris are equally important. D.B.Patil stated that the female workers are also performs digging work. In coming days the decision of equal wages will be solved.

\textsuperscript{43}Ibid  Feb-March assembly session 72  on 28\textsuperscript{th} March 72  by Sheshrao Deshmukh (Jintur) pp.201-204
loans in December. So far there is no response to Taqavi loans till date. So the expenditure incurred on scarcity relief works is not properly executed and some expenses are on useless items. Only works provided is metal breaking work. On metal breaking site there is hardly any provision of medicine and health. The expenses incurred on this is only 1.99 Croers and in other district and in Buldhana district it is 58 Lakhs. The infrastructure in Jalgaon district is better compare to Buldhana district there is no one to look after Buldhana district. Lastly I request that whatever expenses incurred on scarcity relief works should be reexamined whether the expenses met were right or wrong."

B.S. Chalukaya (Umaarga) expressed satisfaction over the scarcity works which were in progress in his constituency. He requested to start works which were stopped in March. Road works and metal works though provided employment to many people it was necessary to start minor irrigation works. The constituency, which he was representing, had 91 villages with 4 Anna valuations of crops. Every ministry of state has responsibility to deal with the scarcity relief works. In many villages the scarcity relief works started in his constituency. H.G. Vartak visited his constituency and as far as relief work and distribution of food grain concerned the works in his constituency was satisfactory. The relief works which were being in progress in January to March then sopped. Therefore, it was requested that these works should be started immediately. The road works now had been finished and the metal breaking works cannot provide employment to needy employee. It was therefore requested at that time that the works of minor irrigation works be started immediately. Wherever the Anna valuation went below 4 Anna request had been made that juncture to start scarcity works immediately. Many cattle including agricultural, sold to butchers. Those farmers who were creditors of bank due to fall in their income could not pay their loan installment. Therefore, request was made that government should declare farmers’ friendly policies. Policy of union government to provide employment to only 2-3 persons from the family would made life more stringent of rural masses. Whosoever demands the employment should be provided it immediately was constant demand. Appreciated Vartak’s efforts but stressed the

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44 Feb.-March assembly session 72, speech on supplementary demand no 31 by Wankhede, p.205.
employment need of those farmers who had substantial land and never came to the scarcity works as they were in the need of employment. Fodder Taqavi loan were not sufficient to full fill the fodder needs of farmers. Government should try hard for providing drinking water to people.\textsuperscript{45}

The issues of the meager wages to scarcity works was felt more seriously to the members and addressed in the form of adjournment motion by K.N.Deshmukh and H.R.Barkule.\textsuperscript{46} ‘There are fake musters prepared by clerks of scarcity works and real wages earners are not getting proper wages.’ Such complaints were addressed. Mrinal Gore addressing on governor’s speech complained about very meager wages to workers. Some places some workers were getting one rupees wages. She further complained that the wages of 25\textsuperscript{th} January works not received till 19\textsuperscript{th} February of the villages Adewadi and Kalewadi of Purandhar taluka. For this wages people have to protest at Teahsil office. 21.2.73. Mrinal Gore (Malad) further complained raised the points rising prices of food grains. It was very hard to get 3-4 kg of food grains per head in villages. She questioned how vitamins A doses had been provided to scarcity workers. Wages are meager and tools are flexible and unworkable. She stressed the need of supplying all types of food grains to various regions of Maharashtra. She highlighted government responsibility to suffice the grains to every citizen. The energy of people was diminishing day by day she put it as most urgent complaint. On the assurance of equal wages and the employment to children between 14 to 18 so far government have not taken any action. She also complained about the recommendations of Pardasani committee had not been implemented so far.

“Government’s attitude towards scarcity relief program should be of life saving instead incurring expenditure. Laborers cannot attend the stipulated task of works within day. Hence they receives very meager wages. Wages of labors should be linked with inflation.” These were suggestion of A.T.Patil\textsuperscript{47} K.B. Mahaske (Ahmednagar) expressed his observations on finding in following words “Condition of drought this year is

\textsuperscript{45} Ibid pp.206-208
\textsuperscript{46} Ibid Feb-March assembly session 73 p.715
\textsuperscript{47} Ibid Feb-March session 73 on 28.3.73 p.209 A.T. Patil (Pen) Supplementary demand speeches on revenue and food
different than the droughts previously faced. Government’s efforts with respect to employment generation is appreciable. Previous scarcities affected only landless and agricultural labors. This long drought is also affecting farmers. Government has responsibilities to provide livelihood and feeding such a colossal population. This responsibility is ably shouldered by government at this juncture. Due to elections this poverty alleviation program had been undermined to some extent. Payments to laborers were delayed in some places. In some places these works were carried by ZP. But ZPs performed this task through contractors and contractors were paid less wages to laborers. Scarcity is not declared in some places. There is no concession provided in repayment of loans. There are no scarcity works in progress. My request to government is to start the new works immediately. Taqavi loans should be provided to farmers immediately for purchase of oxen and seeds. The halted works of percolation tank be started immediately. New scarcity works should be started immediately.”

V.B. Langhe expressed his views, “Hon minister Vartak visited to Ahmednagr during last scarcity and he had declared in meetings of ZP member and local workers that the employment will be provided whosoever demands it. At that instance thousands of labors went to collector demanding employment. Government at that time expressed its inability due to lack of funds. The real beneficiaries of this scarcity are contractors. Contractors claimed higher rates for soft and hard Murum. The rate of soil was Rs. 3.00, Soft Murum Rs. 4.50 and Hard Murum was Rs. 6-11. They profit was 2 and 2.50 Rs. At scarcity works generally 1000 labors attend works. In such works contractors benefit is nearly equal to wages of all laborers. Government had incurred 33 croers last year. Out of it contractor may have gained nearly 10 croers. During scarcity as per policy contractors were not allowed. Still some ZPs. and Panchyat Samitis allotted works to contractors. People of Pathardi village are facing acute problem water scarcity. This is my request to government to make necessary arrangement for this 15000 populated village.”

Shrimati Kesarbai Kshirsagar( Chausala) Beed appreciating government efforts asserted in the house that Government had tried

48 Ibid p.211.
49 Ibid p.212
best to provide employment within every village of Beed. There was no any starvation death in Beed district. Migration for employment was noticed and it is up to 50% in some places. She further added “Provision of employment to only two members of family would cause serious discrepancies in family income to full fill the needs of families. If ever we have to undertake the scarcity works we have to undertake lift irrigation, minor irrigation, schemes. Such works should be undertaken at large number in Beed district and particularly Chausala taluka of Beed. The fodder and oxen Taqavi loans be distributed immediately. Lastly I would like to point that district bans on Jowar had seriously hampered the purchase of Jowar. I will request to remove this ban and open fair price shops at every villages.”

Here are some other suggestions by members. “This is to be noted here that there should at least 5 works either of tank or roads, be started at least at one Taluka. There must be ample works at disposal of government so that it will be easier to provide works to people. The yardstick criterion for works should be given up.”

“The provision of work for more than six months should be provided to landless laborers. To finance this scheme there is need of 300 croers of Rs. Out of enlisted laborers those who will not get employment should get 100Rs. unemployment allowance.”

“The issue of water scarcity was raised on various front including motion of extending gratitude towards governor for his speech in the house. There is constant demand from ruling party and MLA my friend Ratnappa Kumbhar to cooperate him. We are cooperating ruling party. We are not instigating people to go on strike for inflation. But there are many starvation deaths. Even in my constituency there is starvation death. There is confiscation drive for recovery. It is very much painful.”

K.S.Dhondge addressed these issues. These were some issues and feeling expressed by members on the

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50 Government of Maharashtra Publication, Printed in India by the manager, government central press Bombay and published by the Director, government printing and stationary Maharashtra State Bombay-4 Feb-March 73 session P.213

51 Ibid includes, R.A. Patil (Valva) p.351

52 Ibid Krishnarao Bhegde pp.353-54:-

53 Ibid K.S. Dhondge (pp.490-91)
floor of the house. One can adjudge the nature and severity of drought through this proceedings.

5.7 First Year of Scarcity Addressed In the Legislation

March-April 71 sessions of both the houses in this regard generalizes the alarming situation at its early stage and emerging scarcities in every sphere of life. It also depicts concerns and worries of the representatives of the houses. The emerging picture of scarcity depicted in the speech of revenue and supply minister Shri H.G.Vartak’s speech of 9th September 1971. However, exact nature and ground reality reflected through the speeches of the honorable members on the supplementary grants demands of various departments and the discussion on budget and governor’s speech of the sessions of legislatures during March-April 71. There were no scarcity works, this complaint addressed most of the time in house. Members complained about the works not sanctioned, works are too less to incorporate all other employment seekers of the villages for employment, works sanctioned but not started yet. After finishing one work workers have to wait for more than 15 days for work, labors from Buldhana are migrating to other states like Madhya Pradesh. These were other such type of issues addressed. Works should be at nearer or within 2 kms of the employee was constant demand. When scarcity was not at the alarming stage the crash employment program and employment guarantee schemes were also in progress in same as reflected through proceedings of the houses. Houses proceedings are the mirror of all round development. Gangman method was exploitative were the allegations of the members.


55 Ibid November-December Session 72 p.267

56 Ibid March-April 71 assembly session V.A.Darade addressed many issues p.1435

57 Ibid March-April 72 assembly session27thMarch72vol 34,. D.B.Patil For better employment opportunity in MP the people of Buldahana district were migrating there.

58 Ibid p.1488 P.R.Sanap of the Mangaon addressed this complaint

59 Ibid November December 72 session of the assembly p.264 V.C.Mahaske complained while talking on the no-confidence motion on 22.10.72
Krishanarao Bankhile in his speech on no confidence motion complained that gang-men were oppressing labor they are not even relieving scarcity women workers to breast-feed their babies. March-April 71 developed severe scarcity all round reflected through the questions asked in both houses of legislatures. These questions demanding declaration of anna valuation, scarcity declaration, asking details about the number of villages that scarcity affected, number of scarcity works in progress and condition of scarcity works. September-October session of assembly witnessed more questions enquiring about the anna valuation, number of villages scarcity affected and scarcity works and its nature status compare to March-April session of 71. During 1969-70 the agricultural production throughout India including Maharashtra was on top. Food grains were easily available in open market through India including Maharashtra. This in turn resulted into the dislocation and dysfunction of the fair price shops and its grain distribution system over rural and urban Maharashtra. Gradually in the wake of alarming scarcity people demanded more grains through the fair price shops. Thus, question about the fair price shops appear during March-April 71 sessions of both the houses and latter on in subsequent session too. Questions and discussions pertaining to the new fair prices shops to appeared on the floor of houses. Village Panchyat and cooperative societies were permitted licenses to run such fair price shops. Even Rs.2000/- assistance provided to

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60 Ibid March-April assembly session part 1 22nd March 71 pp.265-66 Burgute and G.A.Deshmukh asked questions about the number of scarcity works in Solapur district .cfr p.276(Kavathe Mahankal) p.276 (Gangakhed) p.279(Nanded district)

61 Ibid Loc.Cit.pp.265-279 March-April assembly Session71 part 2 p;1487 P.R.Sanap (mangaon) the open eye survey of crops in Kolaba did not conducted on November. In this regard complaint about faulty valuation lauched and some was not considered at the time of final announcement.


63 Ibid p.232-255 Vartak Speech on talking on scarcity motion

64 Ibid March-April 71 assembly session part 2 pp.1268-69
each Village Panchyats to run shops.  

65 Number of new shops opened during this period and questions in this regard were asked.  

66 There were other issues like monopoly procurement of rice, restrictions on movement of grains and shopkeepers’ inefficiency in bringing grains from government as well as zoning of the grains noticed in the session. Demands were to stop these measures.  

67 The alarming scarcity of grains testified from this proceedings.  

68 Under monopoly procurement, Jawar was being smuggled to Gujarat.  

69 The rates of grains should be reasonable was another demand of members.  

As the distress went on more severe the questions and issues pertaining to drought and scarcity acquired more other dimensions too. These question were like, types of scarcity works, the amenities to be provided to scarcity works etc. Employment to the children above 14 years and hike in the wages were other important demands during peak of scarcity. Latter part of the scarcity period the issues and questions addressed in the houses were about the taqavi loans, the grain quota, bullock taqavi, community wells and the dues yet to be paid of the wages.

5.8 Addressing the Inflation Inside and Outside Legislations  

It was the age of price control when most insufferable distress prevailed over Maharashtra. Right from the common person to the all members of legislatures and even executives were very sensitive to price hike and price rise. Price hike and to curb it was the issue of vital importance to everyone in the legislation. Through various types of proceedings and on number of occasions, issues of price hike and prices of essential commodities discussed in both the houses. Even executives responded to issues with equal promptness. These issues had occupied sizable time and space of both the houses.

65 Ibid Jun-July-August 72 assembly Session 20th July 72 p.2353


67 Ibid March-April 71 assembly session dated 21.5.71 by P.A.Kinalekar (Vengurla) p.1265

68 Ibid March-April 71 assembly session part 2 pp.1268-1297 proceedings of supplementary grants on food and civil supply department. Demands to remove restrictions of grain movement, not to take levy from farmers having below 10 acres of paddy. P.1283 V.C.Naik(Kalumnuri) also complained about the monopoly procurement of grains as it took away 10 months stocks of the farmers.

69 Ibid March-April 71 part 2 p.1273 addressed by R.P.Valvi eff. Patil C.N. (Dhule) p.1284

70 Ibid p.1283
The extension of policy of supplying vegetables and other required materials to the Restaurants under control prices followed during Bangladesh war that continued during scarcity. There were frequent meeting of bureaucrats with the wholesalers and grain merchants as well as with vegetable merchants to provide essential commodities under controlled rates. Public distribution system and grain availability issue most vigorously and frequently surfaced and stirred issues in the houses. Questions after questions with details ranging from supply to irregularities, misappropriation, transportation, hoarding black-marketing, and corrupt practices addressed in the houses. This reflected through the proceedings of both the houses. On number of occasions, members come together and demanded discussions under various rules. One such discussions held in the assembly under rule 282 by prominent members.71

Number of questions pertaining to the price hike, consumer price index, commodity markets, and prices of food-grain articles and non-food grain articles were asked in both the houses.72 The motion was initiated in the assembly on 10th of August 1972 to discuss the price rise.73 More, serious notices put forth for motions like adjournment and calling attention notices74 put for addressing the issue of inflation in both the houses of state legislations.75


72 Ibid Vol 32 number 1 March-April session council 1971 p. 241 ; Feb-March73 Council p824 Kanitkar Athwale rates of essential goods; July-August 73 details were demanded of the retail price of essential commodities p.473; Vol36 Nov-Dec 1972 session pat 2 of council.proceedings pp.166; Vol.36 council proceedings Nov-Dec-72 p435; P.325 V.R.Pandit price index during August 72. Nov-Dec 72 council proceedings p. 742 ;Feb-March73 Council p824; July-August 73 details were demanded of the retail price of essential commodities p.473;November-December session of assembly 72 p.25-57; V.A.Deshmukh (Paranda) talked about the commodity market and speculations, which resulted into the price hike. November-December 72 session of assembly.290 23rd November question by Kakhanis Keshvaro Patil on price hike of essential commodities

73 Ibid July-August 73 session of council P.216 scarcity of essential goods adjournment motion by Pandit Lahane and V.G.Deshpande and G.K.Athawale.


75 Ibid July-August 73 session of council p.273 distribuion of essential goods for reasonable price. Manohar Joshi put such notice for adjournment motion.
There were frequent meetings of the merchants with collectors to control the prices and was addressed in the houses. As far as rising prices concerned issues addressed in the houses were mostly concerned with sugar and edible oil. Real pressure of scarcity mounted after October 72 and same was reflected through the proceedings. Actual retail prices of essential commodities over rural and urban areas were enquired in both the houses by members every year. However, such question was asked particularly related with prices of essential commodities that they sensed hiked so much.

Outside the legislation there were protest marches demanding to control the price rise. One such a huge and spontaneous march reported from Jalana on 22nd August 73 at Jalana city. This and other marches were addressed in the houses. Question was asked about number of protest marches organized during scarcity period. During March 1972 to September 1972 there were 26 protests March, 119 Morchas, 13 processions, 4 Hunger strikes, Dharna Andolan 7 Styagrahas 2 against inflation in state. questions were asked about the detail prices of the commodities over rural as well as over urban areas.

76 Ibid Nov-Dec. 72 assembly session question by R.K.Mahalgi and N.K.Patil (Jamner). Question was about the meeting called upon by collector of Nagpur of merchants and businesspersons of Nagpur to control the prices. Whether this information was right asked in the question. Answer was in affirmative. p.1269 It was is decided in the meeting not increase the rates of essential goods artificially and this meeting and its results were fruitful.

77 Ibid Feb-March 72 assembly proceedings calling attention motion on rising prices of essential commodities by S.M. Thakare, R.K. Mahalgi, K.D. Bhegde, Vilas Savant, T.D. Memjade, V.G. Prabhugaonkar, T.C. Karkhanis. Discussions were mainly on sugar and edible oil. p.189-191, similar calling attention notice by A.P.Salve Feb-March 73 assembly calling attention notice by A.P.Salve :- the inflation in the rates of edible oil on account of fall in import of edible oil from outside. p.3873

78 Ibid Feb-March assembly session 72 questions were asked by D.B.Patil (Panvel), P.B.Kadu (Rahuri), D.D. Padvai (Taloda), K.D.Bhegde, Hussen Dalvai (kedbandar) N.K.Patil (Jammer) Pratibah Tidke (Murtajapur) R.K.Mahlgi, F.M.Pinto(Mahim), K.S.Dhondge, Kamala Raman(Matunga) :- The rate of essential commodities during October, November, December, 72 and January 73. What measures government are going to take to control the prices. p.966.-967 at urban areas

79 Government of Maharashtra Publication, Printed in India by the manager, government central press Bombay and published by the Director, government printing and stationary Maharashtra State Bombay-4 July-August 73 council session 22nd August 73p.1007

80 Assembly Session Feb.-March 73 assembly session question was asked by p B.S.Patil (Gadhinglaj) .p.1639
data thus put on the floor of the house is important to judge and assess the situation of that time.

5.9 Food Grain Availability

Members were well equipped with statistics. The questions asked were for acquiring facts and even international grain situations. These facts in turn were used to corner the government and to know the ground reality. Information used to quantify, needs and deficiency of grains. Different methods to fulfill the deficiencies were suggested by members. In this regard questions were asked about the grain production supply by union government and grains purchased by state government.

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81 Ibid Feb.-March 73 assembly session questions were asked by A.T.Patil(Pen) F.M.Pintoo(Mahim), S.G.Gholap (Murbad), T.D.Menjade (Bhavani Peth) N.R.Mate (Mulshi) Leela Merchant (Kasba Peth) R.A.Patil (Walva) Ridwan Harris (Bhivandi), D.D.Padvi (Taloja), A.N.Thopte (Bhor) S.D.Mandlik(Kagal) D.B.Barge (Koregaon), V.J.Karlekar(Vardha) R.G.Mirashi (Deogarh), S.G.Kolhe (Shirdi), Smt.Pratibha Tidke (Murtizapur), S.S.Patil(Mohal) Ramnath Pande (Andheri) Prabha Shinde (Man). Questions were about hike in the prices of essential commodities. Questions were answered by Vartak. p.359

82 Ibid Feb-March 71 assembly session S.K.Wankhde budget of 1971-72 all india grain production 99.5 million tons wholesale price index P.332 K.N.Dhulup there should be control on price rise and expenditure p.579 1.4.71 K.N.Dhulup very tardy growth on food grain front p.580 :cf K.N.Dhulup very tardy growth on food grain front and elaborated the food grain statistics. P.580-82 :cf March-April assembly session M.V.Sangvikar (Ahmednagar) the food situation of state compare to 1964-65 is satisfactory. Provided grains carefully to rural area. P.1288 :cf, June-July-August 72 session assembly F.M.Pintoo quoted all food grain production statistics p.3911 ; February-March 73 council proceedings p.622-31 Naik Fodder efforts, food grains :- even Russia Purchased30 million tones it was 55 doolar per tones now 155 in international market;cf Dec 72 K.S. Dhondge Kandhar question state self sufficiency in food grain production and Varatak quoted statistics as follows, ‘The population of Maharashtra during 1971 census is 504.12 lakhs i. e. 50.42 millions Per person need is 15 ounce cereals and 3 ounces pulses per person. Maharashtra is present need is 96.63 lakh tones and production is 60.86 lakh tones. States 47% land holders are holding land below 2 hectares. Only 8% of land is under irrigation. According to Maharashtra irrigation corporation it will take 1980 when by adopting all measures it will reach to 30%.’ p.2040; June-July-August session 72 Assembly session F.M. Pinto a p. 3911

83 Ibid Feb-March 717.4.71 B.S.Kore The productivity of rice in Maharashtra is 928 kg. per hectare while in other state it 100kgs. p. 813

84 Ibid Dec assembly session 72 K.S. Dhondge Kandhar question state self sufficiency in food grain production p.2040

85 Ibid Vidhan Sabha Proceedings 31 March 73 p.3757 question was asked by Mrinal Gore (Malad) questions were about the purchase of food grains by state government during July 72 to December 72 from other states.
Maharashtra state was always deficient on the food-grain production front. 1969 was the year of surplus food grain production of India. However it was the year of all time high grain production year for Maharashtra state. Even then this production was not sufficient to fulfill the state grain need. Food grain production, distribution and shortage acquired sizable space in the proceedings of the houses. Government was quiet relaxed on food supply front up to October-November 72. The stance and language of state in answering questions pertaining to food supply, till that time seems quite confident. However, after October 72 from proceedings it reflects that government was not that much safe on food grain supply front. The grain supply during November 72 came up to 8-9 kgs per head from December 72 it got further reduced. From November-December 72 onwards more questions pertaining to the shortage of supply, the quota sanctioned and about grain supplied asked by members. Questions of such types appeared till end of November-December 73 sessions of councils and assembly.

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86 Ibid Vol.36 number 19 council session of Nov-Dec 72. Mohadi district tBandara meager supply of food grain S.B.Patil was due to the wagons unevacted in Mannad. P.1039 ,eff , 28.3.72 V.R.Katdare :- More attention should be paid to more chronic area. p.322.; Vol.36 Nov-Dec 72 Council session of Nov-Dec.72 C.R.Khanolkar asked question about the scarcity of grains over the Vengurlla Kudal etc. p184; Vol.36 Nov-Dec 72 Council session of Nov-Dec.72 questions about the grain scarcity over Konkan By C.R.Khaonlkar p.185; February-March 73 assembly session questions were asked by N.R.Bhorkade ( Yeole). Questions were about the quota of wheat, rice, and sugar sanctioned for Yeole taluka for December, the need of taluka for this month, the reasons of getting less quota than required quota. The quota was as per the need of people or usual quota. p.491; February-March 73 assembly session 16February73 P.475 p.491 ; November-December 72 assembly session Mrinal Gore’s question about the food grain status. p.1395; Nov-Dec 72 council session part 2 of 28th November 72 the supply of grains at scarcity regions is 8-9 kgs. It should be 12 kgs. p. 286 No-Dec 73 Shishi Chalukaya (Umerga) the grain supply of Umerga during July-August-Sept 73 it was 5.3, 4.2 and 2.4 per capita. p. 859 Nov-Dec 73 council session P.338 the quota of the Nagpur city reduced Vartak yes because the centre’s quota reduced considerably,eff.; Nov-Dec 73 council session P.341 Pandit Uttamrao Patil question about only 1 kg Milo in Malegao city per person and not other grains. Nov-Dec 73 council session question by Chaudhari The answer was that the grain quota was four kgs. P.341; Nov-Dec 72 assembly session question by Mrinal Gore about The status of food grains in government stores stocks on 30th April 72 . p.1395

87 Ibid November-December 72 assembly session calling attention motion in the Walve taluka of Sangli district in village Walve, Bavachi, Bagani, Motkhind, Islampur and Ashta no proper supply of food grains due that many starving. The charts of supply of the supply was between 6367 quintal to 6607 quintals during September 72 to November 72. In the month of December 8000 tones of wheat and 5500 tones maize. The supply will improve soon and regular distribution of grains will came in to force. p.2140

88 Ibid November-December 72 assembly session questions were asked by A.N. Thopte and Mrinal Gore. How much assistance of grains was demanded by state. What were measures taken by government if central assistance not received yet what measures have been taken by government to solve grain crisis. p.1254; Cff. November-December assembly session 72 calling attention motion by S.M. Thakare “ Reduction in distribution of rice and low quality rice to the citizen causing public anger. p.2135-36 ;cff Vol.34 part 1 number 1 March –April session council 1972 shortage of Jowar and supply to Marathwada and measures to overcome it. Vartak affirmed and 73told issued license to import from MP. p.34 ;cff P.1359 Dec 73 council session the grain quota of the Osmanabad from 25th October 1973. P.1359 grain supply and quota of Ratangiri (Khanolkar);cff Feb-March 73 assembly session Mrs. Mrinal Gore pointed that There is on letter from Kudal taluka to us explaining the grave situation of food grain distribution in Kudal taluka of
of grains to consumers. Members of the houses were more anxious that they thought the quota of the state reduced and transferred to other state. Questions pertaining to it appear in the houses. From proceedings of both the houses questions were about the grain quota of districts and talukas of November, December, 1972 and January, February, March 1973 and actual supply of grains. For grains government was substantially dependent on union government it also reflected from the proceedings of the houses. Food grain production, supply from union government facts and figures pertaining to it were known by honorable members and reflected from the discussions and debates of the houses. Government sensed grave shortage of food grains and issued some innovative measure like not issuing of the grains to farmers having above 5 acres of land. Time and again when required and situation demanded; honorable supply minister enumerated government efforts with respect to supply. The measures suggested by honorable members were inculcated in official policies of scarcity relief. Series of questions with respect to food grains supply to fair price shops and quantity per person per month were asked at the time of acute distress. Questions were asked about alternative food adoption by villagers. As the distress went on increasing cases of bogus rationing cards came forth.

Ratnagir district. The complaints of shortage or very meager distribution food grains in Vasi taluka of Thane district. People there are getting very meager amount of food grains. High quality rice of PDS is being sold out in Mumbai in black-markets. Harun Patil is involved in such business. Why only some societies are getting grain import and sales licenses. p.1903, Feb-March 73 assembly session, K.R.Patil (Shegaon) ; instead of dozen of statements by Faqruddin Ali Ahmed and Annasaheb Shinde of sufficient stocks of food grains, it is very hard to get 3-4 kgs of food grains. Maharashtra state had 24 thousand fair price shops only. Fair prices are not functioning efficiently. p.1907; Feb-March 73 session p.2579 questions were asked by D.V.Purohit (Mahad) : questions were about the food grain quota per persons in Kolaba district for July to December 72. Questions were answered by Vartak. Feb-March 73 assembly session Gaganbavada taluka of Kolhapur p.2582 Nilanga p.2584 .cfl16February-march assembly session73 P.475 p.491 p.497 Feb-March 73 council session Kolhapur grain supply status during Oct72 to Dec 72 by S.A.Shinde p.817, Nov-Dec 73 council session the grain quota of the Osmanahad from 25th October 1973. P.1359 council session of Dec 73 by Kanitkar and Lahane. P.1359 grain supply and quota of Ratangiri (Khanolkar)

88 Ibid Nov-Dec 72 council session part 2 of 28th November 72 R.P.Chaudhari on the supplementary grants discussion pointed out that the employees of supply department are terminated and resulted into the delay into grain supply everybody of rural Maharashtra including the agricultural labor and peasants having below 5 acres of land should get concession. p. 285

89 Ibid Vol.36 Nov-Dec 72 Council session of Nov-Dec.72 enquired about the Maharashtra’s quota will be shifted to Karnataka and other state Vartak answered no. p.185
Cases of grain sacking were reported and same were questioned in the houses. Protest Marches demanding sufficient grains at Barshi during first year of distress and at Nagpur, Sinnar, Malegaon and Tumsar turned into grain sacking and looting events. At Barshi protest march tried to sack government grain stores. Such incidences also occur at Malegaon and Sinnar. In Nagpur there were attacks by mob on grain shops for looting the grains. At Chandwad protest march demanding wages at first instance went to Panchyati Samiti office and then the mob sacked shops of cooperative marketing federation’s shop. There were two instances of attacking rich farmers grain hoarding and distributing the grains to poor farmers. These events were addressed in the house. All these events and Black-marketing, hoarding smuggling of grains, cross border trading of grains these issues were addressed by members of the houses. Illegal export of grains from bordering area of Maharashtra to Gujarat was affirmed by state and addressed on number of occasions by members.90

Honorable members tried to well equip with the information of food statistics. The issue of Bangladeshi migrants, heavy grain import by Russia, the cost of grains in international market, cropping and harvesting as well as availability of Milo from America these international events and knowledge of markets all such things were known to honorable members. Internal grain trade, effects of monopoly grain trade, black-marketing, hoarding these issues was discussed and even questions about these were asked in the legislation. On several occasions like discussion of supplementary grants, half hourly discussion resolutions on prevailing drought and scarcity situation the nature extent gravity solutions discussed about the grain supply provided many solutions and alternatives to government. Rabi crash scheme, growing of food grains on the banks of river bed and rivulets growing of wheat at northern Konkan such type of innovative ideas were suggested and implemented by government through official policies. Restricted supply to medium farmers and lifting of restrictions suggested and discussed in the house. Illegal export of grains from adjoining districts of Gujarat such as Dhule Thane were addressed officials also admitted the same and measures to curb it adopted latter.

90 Ibid March-April 71 assembly session C.N.Patil (Dhule) More attention should be paid to rural population smuggling of grains to Gujrat. P.1284; eff, 21st April 71 R.P.Valvi there is smuggling of jowar to Gujrat. p.1273
Separate establishment to stop this illicit cross border movement of grains and to monitor inter-district grain movement separate establishment of police officials was created. As the availability situation worsened number of bogus cards reported and members were quiet sensitive on this issue they presented this issue through debate as well as through questions. Discussion and questions with respect to composition of vigilance committee, food advisory committee substantially improved the supply side of the grains. Certainly discussions and questions removed impediments in the distribution mechanism and it improved food supply mechanisms. Corrupt officials, servants and shopkeepers were punished. However, it was absolutely essential to make food available within short time span. Some members also complained about the alternative diet habits. Tamarind the hard seed of legume fruit and its floor, seeds of wild grass and tube-roots were alternative sources of foods which were adopted members cited these examples in the house and urged government to make necessary arrangement of foods for poor sections of society. Judicious and equal distribution of grains to every member of society could avoid hunger of every one. All India food statistics of 1973 shows that the reduction of grain production during peak year was 1 million tones less than normal production. Very slight or marginal cut in the consumption at all India level and proper and judicious distribution of grains was able to suffice need of existing population of that time. Grain at such instance get deposited and stalked at untraceable area. Certainly black marketing and hoarding instead of strict restrictions on trade cannot stop such practices. This created scarcity situation over Maharashtra. Zoning of grains, restrictions on grain movement also added difficulties. Central government realized that there are surplus productions of potato in northern India could be used as supplementary source of diet to distress affected region of Maharashtra. Potatoes a perishable vegetable was purchased by state government and made available at very cheap rate to customers. However, members raised objections that government made it compulsory at fair price shops. At one place shopkeeper was making it compulsory. However government have clarified on the floor of houses that this was not compulsory. The scheme was implemented voluntarily and the rates were so cheap that people voluntarily purchased potatoes. There was only one complaint in regard with this.
At initial stages village Panchyats were ordered to run fair price shops and even Rs. 2000 each to such Panchyats were provided. However, there were critiques of this scheme claiming Panchyat cannot expedite its day today work due to this administrative burden. The orders and government resolution came latter to relieve those Village Panchyats, from running such shops; which are not able to dispense its other work expediently. At latter stage the fair price shops which were run by Village Panchyats stopped by government by special orders. The grain scarcity mounted high after November-December 72 onwards and it further increased until April 73. At the peak of distress the per person monthly grain quota was reduced up to 3-4 kgs. Over all grain scarcity attributed to number of factors. Honorable members chief minister were aware of the international grain situation. The international grain marked hike so much so that it was beyond reach of the India to purchase grains from there. 1972 was the year of the international drought year and it endangered the grain market. Even country like Soviet Russia secretly purchased food grains from America. All these event reflected through proceedings of both the houses. It seems that even knowing all facts regarding Milo the cattle feed in America infested with poisonous weed, government of India decided to bring Milo the red grain from United States of America for human consumption in India. Right from its decision to bring it in state, it created lot of anxious movement for government in both the houses. Legislators of both the houses discussed, enquired debated the issue vigorously through various types of the proceedings.91 It appears that it was very difficult to government to purchase grains from abroad during peak of distress. However, United States of America offered Milo, which was cattle, feed there. Despite government’s plea to provide grains America could not provide food-grains, as there was no grains with them also. American government well acquainted with the fact of contamination of Milo with poisonous weed. It was informed to government of India accordingly. Governments of India choose to take all labor to sieve it instead denial of it

91 Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly proceedings p.1522 Adjournment motion by Mrinal Gore:- The Milo which was imported from foreign country is adulterated by Dhatura.cf. Feb-March 73 council proceedings as there was also emergency discussion in the council during this discussion members asserted that honorable minister can be arrested under food and drug adulteration act. Other objections were the cost of sieving Milo was too high. The responsible executive should be punished pp.830-873

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altogether. There were statements in both the houses regarding contamination of Milo in.\textsuperscript{92} It created stir in both the houses. Even then grains distributed to rural Maharashtra. Though there were very few cases of alleged toxic infection from consumption of Milo it consumed by masses. It appears from the houses proceedings that government took utmost care to remove Dhatura seeds from Milo. At the end of distribution of Milo the stuff remained from sieving of the same was sold out through tender. It further resulted into toxic infection of some persons.\textsuperscript{93} This, issue has occupied major time and space of the proceedings of both the houses. However, this created awareness among the masses about the adulterated and infested Milo with the poisonous weed. The members studied Milo background in detailed and raised various objections.\textsuperscript{94} It was decided to make flour of the Milo. However, the flour mill owner were not ready to crush Milo for flour due to risk involved in it. There was one hour discussion in regard to this in the assembly.\textsuperscript{95} At latter stage of the scarcity grain scarcity emerged major issue before houses.

\textsuperscript{92} Ibid Feb-March council session p.794

\textsuperscript{93} Ibid  Feb-March 73 assembly session question by K.D.Bhegde, R.K.Mahlgi about the epidemics broken due to the consumption of Milo Roti in Ambejogai taluka. In the months of February and March of 1973 two thousand tones of Milo disbursed to the Beed district. As far as Milo consumption concerned the strict orders have been issued to collectors to clean the Milo and after cleaning only to distribute the same. As far as Ambajogai concerned so far no Milo had been disbursed and distributed too. Therefore the allegation itself get automatically cancelled. p.3864

\textsuperscript{94} Ibid Feb-March assembly session 73 R.K.Mahlgi, cited the contents from Science Toady stating that dahtura causes death within 24 hours. Consumption of Dhatur in traces can also results into vomiting. It also results into sleeplessness. In these seeds there are contents of soyacine, Soyckerimine and Android alkaloids. Referred periodical Vivek and other news papers. In his statement he further informed that he enquired with the officer who was related with the American embassy and that person revealed the information that union government before two months demanded food grains from America. On that America informed that the commitment of supplying food grains to Russia China and other countries there was no wheat with America then. It was further informed that there was Milo but it was specially prepared for animals. The Milo adulterated with Dhatura is nutritious feed to goat and sheep. Therefore it is usual trend in America to cultivate Milo along with Dhatura. Both crops are harvested simultaneously. Therefore the seeds of Dhatua usually get mixed with Milo. American government further informed that Dhatura is inseparable from Milo. Even then union government demanded and informed to send such Milo immediately. This information was corroborated from the news article written by Parshuram in Indian Express.

Mahlgi further cited reporting of Indian Express reported by Parshuram. “ Americans pointed out that a percentage of what they call ‘Jimson weed’ is normally mixed in the grade of Milo which India bought for human consumption, but which is given to cattle here.” “ Unlike in India, there is grain for every need and there is a broad distinction between foodgrains and feed grains.” As this is cattle feed government of Maharahtra should informed to union government that we are not going to distribute this Milo to the people and arrange food grains from anywhere to people of Maharashtra. p.2049

\textsuperscript{95} Ibid. p.1522
The issues addressed in the houses about food grain supply were like very meager supply of food grain, supplied grains of inferior quality etc. The levy of grains should be stopped as significant demand. Questions pertaining to the hoarding black marketing appear more in numbers. Sacking of the grain markets and godowns were addressed in the houses more. Even sacking of market places appeared in the proceedings of the houses. Misappropriation of grains of the public distribution system noticed and addressed in the house more intensly. There were demands regarding quick actions against the shops and persons including supply officers or clerks whosoever involved in the misappropriation or corrupt practices. Government was not able to improve the supply of food grains with immediate effect. However, government adopted measure to advertise alternative food by public, providing potatoes at cheap rate to consumer. This policy also came under strong criticism in the house. Government pursued policy of taking compulsory levy of grains from the bigger farmers, not to issue grains to the farmers having more than 5 acres irrigated land. It also includes providing import licenses to the traders, merchants and cooperative societies to bring grains from outside state. Government adopted polices of growing more grain crops on the rivulets and river water. Even attempts were made to grow more grains at government bungalows.

96 Ibid February-March 73 session calling attention motion by K.D.Bhegde, A.N.Thopte, Keshvarao Patil, Mrinal Gore and other members like P.B.Kadu and Vakilrao Langhe. For compulsion made on the fair price shop keepers of the Pune and Ahmednagar districts to sell the perishable vegetables. 6March73/p.1889 ;cfl Feb-March73 Council session potato purchase M.T.Kulkarni, V.R.Pandit, calling attention notice Vartak answered. p. 709 cff; Feb-March 73 assembly session Vartak explanation on potato purchase and distribution through PDS It was not made compulsory on the shopkeepers was the answer of H.G.Vartak. Vartak in his statement provided following information. It was difficult to suffice the need of grains of people due to shortage of grains. The production of potato in UP was good, It was therefore decided that to bring the potato from UP at lower prices and sell out it through PDS at very lower prices as supplementary food. 3.5 thousand tones of potato were bought and sold out. At such instance to buy new stocks is under consideration. One instance of compulsion to sell yet was noticed at Lonvala. Honorable members cited instances of compulsions and perished potatoes. Vartak agreed that some of the potatoes were perished. However, affected potatoes were removed and good and clean potatoes were sold out. The rate of potatoes at fair price shops was 65 paise per Kilo but instead of buying perished and affected potatoes it was good to buy good potatoes at the rate of 80 paise per kilo.

97 Ibid Feb-March73 assembly session vartak explained In answer to the proposal H.G.Vartak Calling attention motion p.596

After October 73 state government had been pursuing central government to supply more grains to Maharashtra. There was ban posed by Punjab government on the transport of food grains. The import licenses were issued to the traders to import food grains. However the import of grains was too meager. Government has no permission to purchase grains in open market of other states. There is ceiling on the sales rate of grains. It is fixed at 130 Rs. maximum 5% profit is permitted. Total input of food grains up to February is 28 thousand tones and the yearly requirement is 73 Croers.

98 Ibid Vol.34 part 1 number 1 March –April session council 1972 utilization of government bungalow for growing food grains. p.401
processed food from outside state was stopped by respective state and it was demanded to pursue to relive restrictions on the same by members.\textsuperscript{99} It also pursued policy of the issuing of raiding hoards of grains of big farmers and black marketers and government too pursued it.\textsuperscript{100} People should avoid unnecessary free dining on various ceremonies was enactment of government and issues of such type reported and addressed in the houses.\textsuperscript{101} There were constant demands from state government to union government regarding food grains. What measures government took to bring grains from other state governments and purchases of grains from other states? Such questions appear in the house.\textsuperscript{102} At very late stage of the scarcity questions pertaining to the per person grain quota and actual supply in that regard of grains appeared more in numbers from almost all members of assembly and council. This highlights the severe scarcity of grains at late stage of the scarcity. It also shows the concerns of members for the people of their constituency.\textsuperscript{103} Mrinal Gore also addressed the issue of non-availability of grains to the scarcity works. She also questioned diet and nutrition of the workers and asked question about their vitamin doses.\textsuperscript{104}

\textsuperscript{99}Ibid Nov-Dec 72 council proceedings G.P.Pradhan Restrictions on import of Pohe and Kurmure from MP. Contact to MP govt. p. 715

\textsuperscript{100}Ibid November 73 Maniben Desai from 1\textsuperscript{st} January to 30\textsuperscript{th} September 73 Black marketers and adulterators of the food number of cases. P.31 the quantity and weight of the grains received from Nagpur godowan is short. R.F.Chaudahri and V.G.Deshpande p.31 S.A.Shinde the grain confiscated from Kolhapur 235 kgs

\textsuperscript{101}Nove-December council session 73.P.317 beside shortage of food at the time of Onam the free dining to the people in Mumbai in ceremony. Rice was not from PDS.cff; November-December 73 council session the restrictions on the public dining in Mumbai Bapt Pujari and at 3 places. Pp.343 agitation against rising price in MUMBAI P.341cff. Feb-March 73 assembly session Question was asked by Smt. Pratibha Tidke (Murtizapur) :- questions were about the ban on public dining ceremony on account of marriage or other family functions. The orders were issued on 1\textsuperscript{st} September 1972 and immediately came into effect that there could not be public dining of more than 100 people on account of marriages and other religious or family functions. One cannot give meal to more than 25 people. In any ceremony or dining programme one cannot use more than one dish of rice. From 11.12.72 the rules were strictly followed. One dish of rice and two dishes maximum of Farsan is admissible more than that is not admissible. p.3795

\textsuperscript{102}Ibid June-July-August council session pp.478-79 questions were asked by G.P.Pradinghan.

\textsuperscript{103}N.D.Patil quantity over Walve taluka P.1470 Feb-March 73 assembly Session p.1984 Supply of PDS from Nov. 72 to Jan. 73 over all parts of Buldhana

\textsuperscript{104}Ibid Feb.-March 73 assembly session p.715
‘Missionaries are taking undue advantage of tribal and poor people as they are providing free grains thinking that these poor people will succumb to the missionary appeal of conversion.’\textsuperscript{105} Such were complaints from members in both the houses. Grains from surplus state usually arrive in the month of May in Maharashtra. Up to 1972 such grains were coming in the state. However during 1973 grains from such states not came in the state was complaint and concern addressed by Vartak in the house.\textsuperscript{106} Februar -March 73 state faced acute shortage of food grains and actual picture emerged from the discussion in the houses emergency discussion was sought by members in the houses.\textsuperscript{107} The Sukhadi\textsuperscript{108} and Milo\textsuperscript{109} were the issues pertaining to the grain supply debated with vigor and for longer time.\textsuperscript{110} The questions and issues pertaining with Sukhadi were about the nutrition value of Sukhadi and its cost. It was recommended by many members by citing expert studies that instead of Sukhadi the wages should be hiked by 50 paise to scarcity workers. In 50 paise workers could purchase more wheat and had high calorific value as

\textsuperscript{105}Ibid  Feb-March73 Council p.1656 27\textsuperscript{th} March 73 Conversion at Rahuri Naik affirmed complaint at Police station but no conversion by cheating.

\textsuperscript{106} Ibid February-March 73 council session Vartak Response If government would have fall short then blame to government would have been justified. Two years back this country on the grain front became self sufficient. It was decided then that hereafter the country would not import grains from outside country. The grains from Punjab, Haryana, and Utter Pradesh normally arrives in May. Last years also during scarcity grains were coming. However, this year there is no sufficient stocks of the grains. p.1688

\textsuperscript{107}Ibid Feb-March73 Council emergency resolution on insufficient supply of food grains by V.G.Hande and C.R.Khanolakar; Central reduced quota.November72 94 thousand tones grains. Decembr72 88 thousand tones and Milo 23800 tones. Fifty thousand tones short to quota, January73 75thousand tones and Feb-March 73 the shortage was 90-95 thousand tones. p.1675

\textsuperscript{108}Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly session p.1528 Calling attention motion by K.D.Bhegde, N.K.Patil, Mrinal Gore, A.N.Thopte. The Sukhadi was not received to people of Beed. There are 226999 laborers on scarcity works in Beed district. Among them 38532 are in Ashti aluka, 34244 in Patoda Taluka 45075 are in Beed Taluka and total of all these talukas 117851 laborers are receiving Sukhadi. In Gewarai taluka the distribution of Sukhadi will commence on 25\textsuperscript{th} February 1973. 28.2.73\textsuperscript{nd} March 73 council session p.604 calling attention motion by M.U.Lahane

\textsuperscript{109}Feb-March 73 council session on 1\textsuperscript{st} March 73 Vartak made his statement. P.794

\textsuperscript{110}Ibid 2\textsuperscript{nd} March73 February-March 73 council proceedings p.830 Uttamrao patil and R.P.chaudahri calling attention notice about Dhautra and Milo. Februrary-March73 council session p.870 emergency discussion on Dhatura and Milo Datta Tamahane why did Supply minister should not be arrested u/s food and drug adulteration act for violation of the same. 5\textsuperscript{th} March 73 proceedings from Feb-March council proceedings 73 p.867-70 G.P.Prathan what is our use if we would not solve the common people problem. To remove all Dhatura seeds from the Milo will cost 1 croer of Rs.p.872 N.D.(J) Patil whosoever is responsible for bringing Dhatura should be punished. P.873 who ever noticed dhatura is eligible for honor.cff. February-March 73 assembly session D.B.Patil notice of encroachment on special privileges for denial of grinding the Milo by mills. Grinding mills are not denying to grin Milo and cleaning the same therefore this could not be encroachment of special privileges of the members of house. p.2639
well as proteins compare to 200 gms Sukhadi of same cost. At latter stage of scarcity suggestion of Bajara disbursement through fair price shops came at fore-front.\textsuperscript{111} As scarcity situation became more severe malpractices went on increase. There were grain riots at Sinnar, Malegaon, Tumsar and Nagpur.\textsuperscript{112} This issue was volatile issue and addressed seriously by members in the houses. There were also cases of market looting and from proceedings it came to know that 98 cases of looting of weekly markets all over state reported this information revealed through legislative questions.\textsuperscript{113} In order to take more food from public distribution system there are cases reported from many cities that many people tried to took fake ration cards is also mentioned in aforesaid passage.\textsuperscript{114} To ease the pressure supply to the severely affected districts more attention was paid and questions were asked in that regard in the houses.\textsuperscript{115} The strikes of dockyard workers and transport workers added in the difficulties in timely supply of food grains at close of the year 1973 questions pertaining to this issue also appear in the houses.\textsuperscript{116}

5.10 The issues pertaining to Public Distribution System

On the very onset of three-year drought establishment of public distribution, system over Maharashtra was distracted and disorganized. H.G.Vartak then revenue and supply minister explained that due to large amount of grain imported till end of June 1971 in Maharashtra and grain production over Maharashtra was satisfactory during 1969-70. During first year of distress, questions were raised about the insufficient number of fair

\textsuperscript{111}Ibid Nov.-Dec-73 council session The bajara through PDS from October 73 p.1214-15

\textsuperscript{112}July –August 73 council session Malegaon grain riots question by Dani, police firing 1 killed and 4 injured. For proper supply of threads and grains the Socialist party unit of Malegaon arranged the protest march mob became violent and pelted stones at Rsly station and on SDO then the firing orders were issued. p.157 Tumsar grain riots firing 3 killed and 6 injured. P.158, council proceedings 6 September 73 p.1631

\textsuperscript{113}Ibid November-December council session on 28 November 73 p.662

\textsuperscript{114}Ibid Nov-Dec 73 the bogus cards at Dhule City. U.L.Patil and Lahane p.1209 11 dec 73 Lahane the smuggled grain from to Gujrat and MP. 43 cases reported. P.1209cffe, November-December 73 P.332 bogus rationing cards are noticed from Nagpur, Mumbai, Solapur, and Aurangabad. Question by Kanitkar and Pandit, Nagpur 3712, Solapur 25044, Aurangabad 8562.

\textsuperscript{115}Ibid July-August-September 73 council session on 29\textsuperscript{th} August73 grains imported from northern India to be supplied for nine severely affected district of Maharashtra total 158625 tones of wheat 62734 was for the scarcity affected districts.p.1175

\textsuperscript{116}Ibid November-December 73, council session p.1208 the grain scarcity and the dockyard labors strike. Vartak yea between 11 to 18\textsuperscript{th} October 73.
price shops over rural Maharashtra. As food grain production in state and all over India was satisfactory and grains were easily available in open markets. No one came to sought grains from fair price shops just prior to distress years. This resulted into closing of existing fair price shops over rural Maharashtra. But alarming condition emerged due to failure of agricultural seasons of 1970-71.\textsuperscript{117} In addition to this employees of supply department were reduced it added inconvenience in the grain supply mechanism.\textsuperscript{118} Issues addressed on the floor of the houses to start new fair price shops over rural Maharashtra by members of the houses. As many people did not found more profits from fair price shops, very few people were willing to such shops. Therefore, government assisted to cooperative societies and village Panchyats to run the fair price shops. Provision of Rs. 2000 assistance was provided to these institutes to run such fair price shops. Government and also some members realized that the running of fair price shops hampers the working of village Panchayat and such responsibility was taken from them.\textsuperscript{119} Monopoly procurement of rice should be stopped at once was demand from many members.\textsuperscript{120} Questions also appeared pertaining with the number of fair price shops opened in particular taluka.\textsuperscript{121} As such type of questions signifies that government

\textsuperscript{117} Ibid September-October session 71 assembly session Supply minister Varatk addressed the house contain references to fair price shops, pp.232-255; Feb-March 73 assembly session, p.1980

\textsuperscript{118} Ibid Vo wl 33 number 9 Vol 32 number 1 March-April session council 1971 At middle of the scarcity the employees of supply department were terminated. p.105

\textsuperscript{119} Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly session p.1988 questions were asked by H.M. Dalwai (Khedbandar) :-Power of village Panchyat to run fair price shops was taken away by government. Classification of owner of fair price shops. Vartak stated in his statement that the villages Panchyat which are efficiently running the fair price shops without any hurdles in regular works of Panchyat such villages Panchyats are allowed to run their fair price shops. The village Panchyat which have misused Panchyat funds while operatting such shops then such Panchyat’s shops are withdrawn from them.

\textsuperscript{120} Ibid March-April assembly session 21st April 71 P.A.Kanalekar (Vengurla) p. 1265; S.K.Athalye (Murbad) p. 21.4.71 levy should be stopped at once. It had removed the domestic stocks of the farmers. p.1250

\textsuperscript{121} Ibid Feb-March 71 assembly session Collector. Dhondge New fair price shops over areas. p.284; Lahane Nov-Dec 73 council session p.340 districtwise shops in Vidharbha Ram Meghe; Feb.-March73 assembly session questions by A.T.Pawar (Surgana) Questions were about the number of fair price shops on 31\textsuperscript{st} December 1971 and 30\textsuperscript{th} September 1972 to cooperative societies. p.3157; Feb.-March73 assembly session question was asked by S.D. Natu Guhagar about the number and type of fair price shops in Ratnagiri district. p.3399; Nov-Dec 72 assembly session The number of fair price shops of Walve Taluka p.1819, Nov-Dec. 72 assembly session question was asked by B.M. Gurpude (Brahmapuri) number of fair price shops have been sanctioned permits up to September 1972 in Brahmapuri taluka of Chandrapur district p.1821.
pursued new policy of opening new fair price shops to cater the need of people.\textsuperscript{122} During 1971 Shorgum (Jowar) shortage noticed in the state. Monopoly procurement and zoning of Jowar and Rice was in vogue. Demands to remove it appeared.\textsuperscript{123} However, Sorghum (Jowar) procurement suspended during 1971 but rice procurement was continued. Restrictions on grain movement were also in practice. There were zoning of the grain movement. Jowar was getting smuggled from Gujarat border to Gujrat state. As a result there were complaints against the zoning of grains and compulsory levy as well as against the government resolution of not issuing grains to the farmers having more than 5 acres of land.\textsuperscript{124}

Government monopoly procurement of rice and Jowar was in practice during 1971. However, Jowar production failed during 1971 and government could not procure Jowar during that year. Rice procurement was in practice. During 1973 government took over wholesale trade of the wheat and started monopoly procurement of grains.\textsuperscript{125} Private traders were obligated to declare their stocks and sold out their stocks in stipulated prices. Questions pertaining to that appear in the houses.\textsuperscript{126} Private traders were banned from purchasing and selling of grains. However, cooperative societies were freely allowed to

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\textsuperscript{122} Ibid September-October session council 1971 G.P.Pradhan asked question about the number of fair price shops in Pune district. p. 305

\textsuperscript{123} Ibid March-April 71 assembly session Shri Homi J.H.Taleyarkhan plead the case of cancellation of zoning of grains. P.1276

\textsuperscript{124} Ibid March-April 71 assembly session 21st April 71 R.P.Valvi Anna valuation is faulty therefore the government decision not to issue grains to medium farmers is injustice to them. Similarly compulsory leavy also do not keep domestic consumable grains with farmer. p.1273

\textsuperscript{125} Ibid Vol37 Number 32 p.1915 Feb-March council session73 session of councils stament of minister under rule 46 relaxing the restrictions of wheat and Jowar Sorghum sales and transportation. Taking over the trade of the wheat and for that sake the monopoly procurement of the wheat. This resolution or move was for easy supply to rural areas.

\textsuperscript{126} Council session June-July August 73 Dani and Kanitkar :- enquired about the stock declaration by merchants. The confiscation of wheat 5 quiontal in Mumbai and 43 quintal at Nashik. P.190-91 Levy recovery of wheat from Jalgaon, Ahmednagar, Vatak provided details. 15480 A’nagar, 16657 Jalgoan and 3170 Buldhna recovered. P.168 cff, July-August 73 council session the grains confiscated from Selu by Vaimshaipayan total 486 bags confiscated. p.318
bring grains from outside state and purchase it at stipulated prices.\textsuperscript{127} Gothi the member of council purchased grains from Orissa through cooperative societies and sold at lower prices.\textsuperscript{128} This was his claimed while there was debate about it in the upper house. Government could not purchases all the stocks of farmers and questions in that regard appeared in the houses. Questions regarding all concerned points of the state trading and monopoly procurement were asked in the houses.\textsuperscript{129} Questions from all over Maharashtra demanding details of classification of fair price shops and functioning of it were asked in the houses. Fair price shops are not nearer to the residence, the number of fair price shops too small to cater the need of people, change the shopkeeper and attached the cards to other shops such were other demands of people addressed in the houses.\textsuperscript{130} Running of fair price shops hampers day to day functioning of Village Panchyat was main complaints after few days from the members of the houses. This resulted into taking away the responsibility of fair price shops from the village Panchyats as mentioned earlier. Some Panchyats also incurred losses. There were even complaints against fair price shops run by Village Panchyats.\textsuperscript{131} When pressure on public distribution system mounted, the staff of supply departments reduced or transferred to other departments. It

\textsuperscript{127} Ibid July-August 73 council session G.P.Pradhan questions about the misuse of licenses of grain import in Ahmednagar district. P.199

\textsuperscript{128} Ibid July-August 73 council session The allegations made by food and civil supply minister about Gothi:- Gothi explained his social works at very cheap he had provided grains to trials for that he bought grains at very cheap rate from Orissa. P.341

\textsuperscript{129} Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly session p.3159 questions by Ramchandra Harinkhede (Goregaon) Under Monopoly procurement of rice, after purchasing of rice the rice was not immediately taken into possession due to that there was loss in the weight. Questions were answered by Vartak and he had answered that the purchased rice was taken immediately into custody except Gondia and Bhandara districts. After purchasing of rice if it remains for more than with sub agents then the fare of godowans, deficit and freight price is get compensated to them. November-December 72 questions regarding monopoly procurement of grains asked by R.A. Patil and Mrinal Gore. what targets were set by government and what are rates of purchase. Whether government have planned to increase in the purchase rates. p.1266

\textsuperscript{130} Ibid Nov.-Dec. 73 council session Vghala Vardha Chaudhari and V.G.Deshpande the place of the fair price shops temporarily changed from Vaghala to Kharagna due to rainy season river flooding. p.882

\textsuperscript{131} Ibid Feb-March Session Council 73 13 th Feb 73. Tamhane Kopar Khairane Village Panchyat misappropriation of money from PDS Shop run by Village Panchayat. P.76
further added pressure on the public distribution system. There were number of complaints about fair price shops involved in various corrupt practices like, misappropriation of grains, selling grains in open market, non issuing of grains to card holders, irregularity in maintaining registrar, not displaying stocks and rates of grains, irregularity in purchasing government stocks and disbursing the same. There were also complaints from untouchables that they did not issued fair price shop cards and same was addressed in the houses. Government sought public advice and participation in improving the supply at various places. Food supply and advisory committee formed to suggest various measures, like opening of new fair price shops, etc. questions pertaining to performance and constitutions of these committees were asked. There were

132 Ibid June-July-August 72 assembly session question was asked by Shri Vasantrao Karlekar (Vardha) regarding the employees of food and supply department had reduced their staff and some staff had been transferred to other departments. p. 3562

133 Ibid Nov-Dec 73 council proceedings 4th Dec 73 Tayde Black marketers fair price shopkeepers shops Kuhepan Bhusawal (All category shopkeepers found) p.876

134 Ibid 20th July 72 assembly session PDS shopkeepers usually did not takes grains from government to distribute some people. (PDS Shopkeepers did not took grains from godwans) Nov-Dec 73 council session P.340 the committee on reducing corruption from the Nagpur supply department; Feb-March Session Council 73 16th Feb 73. C.R.Khaolkar Nirwade village Panchyat PDS shop grains was sold at Sawantwadi the shop was taken from the panchayat P.220; Feb-March 73 Council At Khed Shivani Taluka Sakoli complaints against PDS shop keeper No display, No distribution etc. by citizens p824

135 Ibid Nov.-Dec 72 calling attention motion by D.B. Patil, K.S. Dhondge, S.D. Mandlik, A.N. Thopte, Not issuing of rationing cards to un-touchable persons of Mahlungi tal. Karvir Dist. There should be overall requirement of 58 rationing cards to Dalits of Mahlunge but only 8 were issued cards. This year 50 card holders were asked to renew their cards. But these Dalits they don’t want to attach their cards to existing society and want to attach with other shop. p.2137

136 Ibid Nov-Dec72 assembly Taluka Food and civil supply guidance committee structure, . Thasildar Chairman, three social worker out of that one female member, one member of fair price shopkeeper, one member of private merchant, one member of private wholesale dealer. One member(Chairman) of agriculture produce market committee, Taluka sale and purchase committee (chairman), Chairman taluka Panchyat Samiti, residing members of state legislature. District food and civil supply committee structure All members of district representative of parliament, all state legislature members, chairman of ZP, two municipal members, two taluka Panchyat Samiti Chairman, one member of traders, private and cooperative fair price shop keepers representative, one wholesalers representative, one woman representative, if collector feels one representative of district collector. Two social workers. District collector should be the chairman Dec72 p.2122
complaints reported from Purnandar Block Pune district by Sursingh Jadhavarao member of legislative assembly about insufficient supply of grains from state and black marketing i.e. the atta was transported to gray market etc.\textsuperscript{137} Government decided to appoint vigilance committees to monitor and to redress the grievances of customers of fair price shops. There were number of questions pertaining to vigilance committees regarding its formation, members and it’s working. There were raids on big farmers in Panvel taluka, and it was addressed through adjournment motion in the house. The Powder like Sukhadi also found in the same taluka and reported and addressed in the houses. Similar raids on farmers also noted elsewhere in the state. Government took actions against such complaints.\textsuperscript{138} Group politics of villages created suspicion and allegation against the fair price shops of cooperative societies which were under control of certain groups of villages.\textsuperscript{139} Deprived and underprivileged group at such instances made complaints of such fair price shops. There are instances reported where public itself took stringent actions against corrupt fair price shop owners.\textsuperscript{140} Government could not produce grains as per demand of people or representative. However, redressed the grievances reported about the corruption of shopkeepers or bureaucrats immediately which was possible within government’s authority. Licenses of many shopkeepers cancelled on account of

\textsuperscript{137}Ibid Nov.-Dec 72 assembly session calling attention motion proposed by Sursingh Jadahv and Mrinal Gore about the improper distribution of food grains this resulted into starvation of some parts of the Purandhar Taluka of Pune district. \textsuperscript{138}Ibid February-March 71 assembly session Date 29.3.71 Mahlgi fair price shop of cooperative society at Davdi taluka Vartak this shop taken away due to complaint sand irregularities. p.383-84 \textsuperscript{139}Ibid Nov.Dec council session 73 Varud district Aurangabad U.Patil and Lahane about the society shop the enquiry is going on. P.341 \textsuperscript{140}Ibid Nov-Dec 73 council proceedings Lahane taluka Patoda district Beed at Loni villagers closed fair prices shops irregular distribution. villagers did not take grains from the alleged shops. Demanded to change the shop. p.871, Feb-March 71 assembly session Mahalgi fair price shop was run by handloom weavers taken over by government.
irregularity or misappropriations. State government not allowed by centre to procure grains from outside state. At middle of the distress other states banned to export grains from their state to outside state this added difficulties of Maharashtra state. However, Jean Draze and other experts believed that grain at acute scarcity came in Maharashtra from outside state illegally through private traders. Questions pertaining to import licenses, profits of cooperative society, profits of other private persons, misuse of licenses were asked in the houses. Issue of bakery and atta i.e. refined floor of wheat came in lime light. Many bakery owners misused their bakery licenses for obtaining more wheat flour and even some of them misused old licenses.

Raids on the black-marketers, hoarders of grains, and even big farmers were one of the significant aspects of the policy adopted by state government to make available more grains to the consumer. Government officials and vigilance committees raided fair price shops and government took necessary action against such shopkeepers. Public and government were vigilant to look after illicit transportation of grains. The issues related with government grain warehouses like mismatching of stocks and sells, supply

141 Ibid July-August 73 council session Khanolkar asked about number of licenses of the PDS shops cancelled. p.469

142 Nov-Dec 73 council session p.336-37 from Vasi taluka merchants brought grains : Vartak according to import licenses

143 Ibid July-August 73 council session Sinnar bakery owner misused old license to get Atta. P.121 ; Nov-Dec 73 session council 3Dec 73 Bakery’s atta and wheat supply reduced. p.844

144 Ibid Ibid July-August 73 the grains confiscated from Selu p.318 by Vaimshapayan total 486 bags confiscated.,cff November-December 73 council session 13th November 73 Maniben Desai from 1st January to 30th September 73 Black marketers and adulterators of the food number of cases, p.11

145 6th September 73 V.G.Deshpande the raid on the fair price shops of Akola district on RSS complaint the raids were on 25 shops. In one shop wheat from fair price shop was found. p. 1569, November-December assembly session 73,30th November 73 At Nagpur Jari Patka region Vigilance committee stop the sale of rice due to irregularity in the functioning of the shop. p.1536 ; July-August 73 council session Khanolkar number of licenses of the PDS shops cancelled. Five licenses were cancelled. p.469

146 Ibid July-August 73 council session Vaimshapayan question about the illicit traffic of the grains by truck from Parbhani to Beed. P.355 July-August 73 council session Two trucks on 14th April and another on 8th May 73. To evidence this from Sonpeth(Parbhani district) the grain exports’ 25 cases registred by police. P.461

147 Ibid November-December 73 the council session the quantity and weight of the grains received from Nagpur godowan is short. P.31 Nov.-Dec.73 council session adulterated food of the Nagpur city p.1386
of low quality grains and its contamination with iron particles and died rats etc were addressed. At latter stage of the scarcity there were complaints and allegations about the adulterated food grains appeared in the houses.

5.11 Starvation Deaths

No government in modern days will easily accept the deaths of starvation this finding of Almgir Muhamad of renowned theorist of famine get confirmed from the proceeding of Maharashtra state legislature. Incidence of starvation death addressed through whichever type of proceedings suddenly made government alert and defensive and argumentative. It made other people legislator curious and worried. Issues related with starvation death found place almost every type of proceeding of both the houses of legislation during 1971-74. As soon as scarcity situation emerged over Maharashtra issues of starvation, deaths surfaced on the floor of legislation. This alarmed government as well as public of Maharashtra. It also made government to remain always alert on food supply front. Efforts of government in that regard is reflected through frequent explanation and measures adopted and stated on the floor of house both by supply minister and chief minister of state. It was the commitment of government to

148 Ibid November-December 73 Council Khanolkar and Uttamroa Patil while the grains were distributed from the godowans of Malegaon two bags were extra distributed. p.330

149 Ibid July-August 73 council session questions about the argot,mixed wheat and other adulterated grains March to May 73 the care government taken. p.169 Pawar in 54 bagas the iorn found No answer to the infection through perished food. (Toxicities food) July-August 73 Vaisampayan p.1175 ; Nov-Dec 73 assembly session Zakeria ergot caused the toxicity of the bajari. p.893-94

150 Ibid Nov-Dec assembly session 72 Vartak while answering to the no confidence motion said that the starvation death at Aundhya Nagnath was due to illness and not starvation deaths as such. Vartak further calarified allegation made by honorable member claiming 17 starvation deaths from Ahmednagar was not actually starvation deaths and was due to the snake bites. Kesharbai Kahirsagr while discussing on same motion also supported government that the alleged starvation deaths are not actually starvation deaths. On 21st November 71p.198-99 ; Feb-March 73 council session Appasaheb Jadhav V.R.Pandit at Akola PDS shop que 27th April 73 one death Vartak denied starvation death. p.114; Feb-March 73 assembly session Mahske “ To prove the starvation death a person of such quality yet to born. p. 1919

151 Ibid Sept-October 71 assembly Session Kalmunuri on 8th September 71 R.M.Ghangare (Vardha) mentioned that at Kalmnuri taluka village Giraswadi one blind man Shankar Hanumanta was working on scarcity works. He did not receive his wages and he was died. He ate wild tubers (Sindhi) and it resulted into his death. At Karanja Dhabha one person died due to heavy work. Third death occurred in the village Nishana. Shankar Hanumanta victim of starvation was from Biramvadi near to his village reported by Kalmnuri M.L.A. pp.228-29
avoid deaths of men and animal in the house and for that sake opposition sought this commitment as an opportunity to corner government. Opposition never missed opportunity to embrace government by initiating adjournment and calling attention motions. In that regard members of opposition party tried to put cases as they sensed were starvation deaths. Severity of scarcity increased day-by-day amid it seems that every death from poor family censed by members of legislation and people in general as starvation death. Draze commented that the food situation of Maharashtra after Dec 73 worsened so much so that it created critical situation. Allegations of starvation deaths came almost from every part of state. Most of the cases addressed were from Marthwada region. The addressed and reported alleged cases of starvation were from chronic drought prone areas. Deaths at scarcity work due to the overwork and of

152 Ibid Sept-October assembly session 71 Dhulup in his speech stressed that government is not acting on the assurance that honorable chief minister commitment regarding government would prevent even single death of the people and even cattle. Also everyone want work will be provided the same p.130


154 Ibid Sept-Oct.71 assembly session Nathapur Beed the death of Eknath Baburao Jogdand was died due to starvation pp.593-94,September-October71 session Mr.Mornale of Deogad Sangvi of Kandhar taluka p. 593 but suggested to put as calling attention motion. Motion denied by speakerSeptember-October71 session by Dhonge for alleged starvation death of the woman at Solapur of Kandhar taluka pp. 1149

pregnant women accidental deaths and suicides were also starvation deaths was the argument of some of honorable members. Government had never admitted single case of starvation. However, at one or two instances even government caught in awkward situation. Most of the alleged starvation deaths were addressed through adjournment motions. However, adjournment motions are censure motions very few motions allowed by speaker for debate. Speaker of both houses at such instances directed to H.G.Vartak then revenue minister or government to make statement in that regard in respective houses. At some instance speaker directed to members whoever put the notices of adjournment motion to put it as calling attention motion which did not considered as censure motion. As it was too difficult to collect the evidences in time for starvation deaths to address it as adjournment or calling attention motion such cases were addressed through the questions and through debates. Questions in that regard appear late or after few months in the houses. Addressing starvation deaths through debates and questions

156 Feb-March Session Council 73 13 th Feb 73 V.G.Deshpande due to lower wages Dhondabai Atmaram Suicide with three children. P.275
cff, Nov-Dec 72 assembly session Suicide of Mr. Chonde at Chondi taluka Kandhar p.986

157 June-July-August 72 assembly session 23rd August 1972, starvation deaths from Martahwada region addressed starvation deaths from village Shivankhed Mulki Khamasvadip of Osmandabd districts p..3734 pp.3826-28

158 September-October71 assembly session death of Kashinath Beemrao Hammnapalle of Aurnagabad an activist of the PWP was in the jail for his scarcity works activity and alleged improper treatment in jail he suffered lot and resulted to his death. Suggested to put calling attention motion after ruling Dhonge in protest left house p. 875.

159 November 73 assembly session P.1528 28th November 73 Metal breaking scarcity works at Kalamb-Latur road starvation death of Kedari Nana Ambeer. Denied by Vartak. 30th November 73 At gondur airport as the person who was on scarcity work was died due to starvation question was by S.S.Mali (Dhule), D.D.padvai(Taloda), N.K.Patil(Jamner) Vartak No by natural death. P.1528; cff. Feb-March 73 assembly session starvation death of Rama Kalu Chavan of Devghat village died due starvation. p.2587
was easy task. However, in such cases government accountability and effective redress did not expected that much seriously.\textsuperscript{160}

There were allegations leveled against government that government failed to provide dole to needy people and that resulted into deaths. One such case reported from Islampur after the stopping of dole to deceased victim after 45 days resulted into death. Government officials feel safe to admit that the dole stopped as per norms of union government as the town had a municipal corporation. More cases of alleged starvation came in the form of notices of calling attention motion.\textsuperscript{161} However equal or sizable number of cases also addressed in non-confidence motion, debate on the governor’s address, discussion of supplementary grants. As government never admitted any starvation death members tried to convince government to admit the same. Even members tried to give different definition to starvation deaths and forced government to accept the same as official definition. There was typical pattern of government officials to prove alleged starvation deaths are not starvation deaths. For that sake in every case official enquiries were being held. Immediately the government officials were recording the statement of witnesses. There was usual method of recording statements of close relative stating economic condition of deceased was good. Deceased was suffering from deceases and the said death was not starvation death\textsuperscript{162} there was enough food in the house.\textsuperscript{163} There was

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160 & Ibid September-October assembly session 71 question by Nihal Ahmed, Ramchandara Ghangre V.R.Patil 

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starvation deaths of Bilkot village. Vartak answered that these deaths are not starvation deaths. There are 3 months stocks with every district. Per person quota determined was 12kg per person. Bajara and Maize had been taken from FCI.p.769

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161 & Ibid Feb-March 73 council session 29\textsuperscript{th} March?73 question by Lahane to revenue minister about the persons died on account of not receiving dole explanation sought. 

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(1) & Pandu Chemte Shingori taluka Shengaon 

(2) Shankar Boli Shitur taluka Namkhed 

(3) Gopi Bhaga –Chincholi 

(4) Dada Bhalerao- (Khasepuri) 

Died due to non receiving dole up to Dec 72 Vartak answered that the dole was paid. Solunke the deaths were due to various deceases. p. 1797

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162 & Ibid September-October assembly session 71 Vartak on 9.9.71 Alleged starvation of Jankibai and Nana Bhusahan Sonawane of Malegaon Taluka death due to TB and Hashba Vitthobha Malahari died due to old age p.235

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163 & There was

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enough food provided from the fair price shops of the village.\textsuperscript{164} There were enough works being in progress to the vicinity of decease’s village. Almost in every case government followed same procedure and same inference was drawn. However, opposition at every occasion counters government argument and raised objection to government argument stressing the death was starvation death. Even allegation of starvation deaths of migrants from scarcity-affected village to Mumbai was addressed. These cases addressed in the house by members with the help of information they got from the telegraphs, the applications they received from close relative’s information received from political leaders. Many times the applicants and close relatives usually reversed their complainant and statement in fresh recording before government official. Usually investigating officers were Tehsildars and Sub divisional officers. There were occasion when influential local political leaders made necessary application to collectors and to member of opposition to address the cases. At such instances at the time of official enquiry the signatories and close relatives of deceases’ had reversed their statements. Frequent such presentation of alleged starvation deaths on the floor of houses made government more responsive. As scarcity went on more acute the number of starvation cases addressed in the house through various types of legislative proceedings went increased. At such instance supply and revenue minister Vartak and Chief-Minister V.P.Naik tried to convince that any death during scarcity cannot be labeled as starvation death, however government tried its best to avoid starvation and starvation deaths. Government declared a policy to avoid starvation deaths funds and responsibility handed over to village Panchyat.\textsuperscript{165} Members of opposition made demand of change in the

\textsuperscript{161}Ibid Feb- March assembly session 73 p.3295

\textsuperscript{164}Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly session statement by S.A.Salunke revenue and cooperative minister on starvation death of Mrs. Devappa Shivappa Kamble. p.2754

\textsuperscript{165}Ibid Feb-March73 Council C.R.Khanolakar question answered by Solunke, The responsibility of starvation death is delegated to Village Panchyat and expenses incurred on this scheme is chargeable to 64 relief fund. p.1455
definition of starvation death. Members also enforced government to pursue more vigorous measures to avoid the same.166

5.12 Drinking water

Drinking water is always the typical problem that rural Maharashtra faces each summer. There are many villages of drought prone Maharashtra even during normal monsoon season faces acute shortage of water. Intensification of scarcities get noticed when drinking water scarcity shows its first sign. 1971-72 and 1972-73 seasons recorded substantial low rainfall. The question answers and proceedings of the year 1971 shows that systematic attempts were being made to create drinking water resources and pipe line arrangement for small towns and big villages.167 During June- July 1972 most of the questions were pertaining to the water scarcity appear in the month of June- July. It alarmed the coming severity of water scarcity it also highlighted the developing grim situation of rainfall. As in July most of the rural Maharashtra receives good rainfall and the drinking water scarcity diminishes. 168 It is amply clear that until these days state

166 Government of Maharashtra Publication Legislative proceedings Council session Nov.72The definition of starvation death must be changed. V.R.Pandit on scarcity motion of 29th Nov.72

167 Government of Maharashtra Publication legislative proceedings Vol.32 part 1 March April May 71 assembly session question and answers 16th March 1971 Water supply p.21, March April May 71 assembly session Pushegaon water supply scheme. P.26 March April May 71 assembly session Pintoo Unicief Fund and sinking of wells, March April May 71 assembly session 17.3.71 p.17Hasu Advani PM tour expenses. March April May 71 assembly session, March April May 71 assembly session 18.3.71 Nanddeorao Gunal p.156 March April May 71 assembly session Ahmednagar city water p.239 19.3.71 pipe water scheme of Buldhana district.

date 23.3.71 Deshmukh (Sangola) Permission by Solapur to sink tube wells A.V.Nimbakar N.M.Tidke:- western India.missing taking bore wells in ZPS of Maharashtra. If ever sweedihs Hindusatn Machine is ready to tube wells in Solapur district by the solve rate of western India machines rate permissions will granted. P.1057 5th May 71 S.R.Raut (Kolhapur) asked about water supply scheme of Cahuk village.P.1125 5.5.71 pipe water scheme by Hussien Dalvi.7.5.71 the suppl of watr at Bahadurpura Mansapura by Dhondge tank works and the source of water from Manyyad to be augmented for the drinking water. P.1242 Ramchadra Ghangre Vardan city drinking water scheme

168 Ibid June-July 72 Assembly proceedings Drinking water :-

government has to make careful and vigilant attempts to full-fill the need of difficult villages in respect to drinking water deficiency. Real water scarcity surfaced through proceedings of March-April 72 session of assembly the acute scarcity was addressed through following words, “The cost of 12 liter water is 50 paise in Jejuri.” 169 “Wide spread water scarcity over Satara, Solapur, Ahemadnagar, Sangli, Pune, Kolhapur and Akola districts which resulted into severe distress of potable water, severe crop loss and scarcity of fodder, the measures to be adopted and being adopted by government I would like to address the issue to government by this calling attention motion.” These were some remarks from the members when water scarcity during first measure scarcity year showed its impact. S.B.Patil then the rural development minister of state elaborated all government efforts to fulfill the same.170 The villages facing problem of drinking water be provided with excavation of new wells or supply through closed pipelines was the policy and proposal of the members. In order to give impetus to such government policy, the resolution proposed by Shri Ali Hassan Mamdani (Darhva) as in following words, “Where ever water scarcity persist in villages, in all such villages excavation of new wells or closed pipe water supply scheme be started by government within two years this resolution is referred to government by this legislative assembly.” He further in his motion added that out of 25 districts 13 districts received deficient rain. The wells that were perennially water self-sufficient, even such wells dried out. There is special provision of supplying water to villages which were having anna valuation below 4. But there were villages have more than 6 Anna valuations and still these villages were facing acute water scarcity. Government claim of creating new wells in water deficient villages,

72 Keshavarao Patil Water scarcity villages of Khatav. P.1685 V.R.Mahaske 11th July water scarcity villages 25 villages are water scarcity villages.

169 Ibid March-April session 72. A. Khaire (p.204) People are facing acute problem of potable water due to scarcity. 28.3.72

but this claim could get endorsed after ratifying the potential water source of the particular wells. In the discussion of this resolution K.B. Kotwal, D.V. Purohit (Mahad) R.G. Mirashi participated and addressed the water scarcity problem of their respective constituency.\textsuperscript{171}

Widespread water scarcity all over Maharashtra was developing into grave problem and same was addressed and presented for debate in the form of calling attention motion by T.C. Karkhanis, B.G. Patil, K.D. Bhegde, Dilawarsingh Padvi, P.B. Kadu, R.K. Mahalgi, K.S. Patil B.S. Patil, R.A. Patil, B.B. Khanjire, K.S. Dhondge and Ms. Pratibha Tidke on 7\textsuperscript{th} April 72.\textsuperscript{172} S.B. Patil answering to this calling attention motion elaborated the government efforts while putting explanation to the issue.\textsuperscript{173} K.S. Dhondge questioned whether government would take responsibility to support poor village Panchayats to its endeavor in providing drinking water. The response of the government was quiet positive to this question. Panchayat Samiti and Zilla Parishad shouldered the support to village Panchayats to provide drinking water was the response of respective minister.\textsuperscript{174}

\textsuperscript{171}Ibid Feb-March 72 pp.330-336. D.V. Purohit (Mahad) addressed in his speech, “out of 250 villages 130 villages of my constituency is facing problem of water scarcity. district local boards have incurred Rs. 35 lakhs on well excavation programme in such wells from January onwards there is no water. Excavation of lakes in villages is important measure to augment the water resources of villages on Konkan region.”

R.G. Mirashi (Deogad) addressed in his speech, “It is directed that to implement water supply scheme of Deogad, it is mandatory on Village Panchayat to pay 10% amount for the said scheme to government. However, it is not possible to village Panchayat to pay the same. It is therefore requested that 10% amount to be paid by village Panchayat should be remitted.”

\textsuperscript{172}Ibid Feb-March 72 session of assembly 30.3.72; p.612

\textsuperscript{173}Ibid The survey and report of 1st April 1969 there were 12485 villages which were facing water scarcity problems. This survey states that the question of water supply of these villages could be solved by simple measures. For 19188 villages where water scarcity problem is to be solved by digging of wells and through piped water the expected expenditure is 93.36 crores. There is scheme in which government provide Rs. 1 Lakh as grants in aid for pipe-water scheme and grants for excavating wells in the villages through the ZP. The pipe water schemes are sanctioned for 1196 villages and the schemes and actual works for 558 villages are in progress. 253 new schemes of pipe water supply are newly sanctioned for 472 villages. In order to fulfill all needs of the villages government have devised phased programme. In which LIC of India have decided to provide 10 Crores Rs. in the form of loan to finance this scheme. LIC have sanctioned 4.89 Crores for this scheme in this year and next year it will sanctioned further 4 crores. There is programme excavation of tube wells. As Bombay scarcity manual the villages which are having anna valuation below 4 are to be declared scarcity villages at such villages there is provision of supplying water by tankers and bullockcarts. There is also provision of financing Rs. 2000 for deepening of wells of villages.

\textsuperscript{174}Ibid Feb-March 72 Session p.616
Throughout scarcity period honorable members were quiet anxious to address the water scarcity of their own constituency and number of question in that regard surfaced in the houses. Some more questions could be sited as follows. Questions were asked about the water supply problems countered on account of technical problems. Questions were asked by V.B. Kahadiwale (Udgir) about difficult villages in respect with water scarcity of Udgir Taluka. Questions were asked by Sharad Tasure (Chandur) number of villages faced water scarcity problem. From last 5 years over Chandur taluka of Amravati districts 77 villages were facing drinking water problems. In 48 villages deepening of wells or excavation of new wells were under progress. 29 villages were difficult villages where pipe water schemes was operational told by Sarnayak.

Some typical questions with respect to water shows that intensity, popular perception of the issues gravity of the problem and its implications. B.B. Khanjire raised question some villages have paid half of the popular contribution what were the schemes to assist such villages devised by government. S.B. Bendre asked to name these districts. Whether it was possible to implement, the scheme of pipe water in Melghat area was the question

175 Ibid pp.617 Pratibha Tidke, S.D. Natu, R.A. Patil, K.B. Mahaske, Namdeo Rao Mate; Feb-March 73 assembly.-p.1741-44;- S.D.Mandlik (Kagal) :- What measures are taken to supply drinking water to Kagal city. p.2395 question by Mrinal Gore about the drinking water status of Vinchur Village. Answered p.2586 question by R.A.Patil (Walva) :- questions were about the drinking water scarcity of Bagani, Bavachi, Gotkhind, Kameri, Bhavaninagar and Kalamwadi villages. p.2934 10th August 72:- Question was asked by R.G. Bhoie (Javara) how many villages of Javara and Mokhada Taluka are water scarcity affected villages:-p.3363 questions by Kesharbai Kshirsagar about the Kej, Patoda, Beed talukas scarcity about the drinking water. How many villages are water scarcity villages in these talukas? 1 to 15Dec 72p.1060 question was asked by T.M. Savant (Gangakhed) How many villages of Parbhani district are facing drinking water scarcity problems. Whether due to scarcity many villages are J.G. Ambekar (Biloli) :-How many pipe water scheme have been started, completed and finished and in under progress in Degluar taluka of Nanded district. T.M. Savant (Gangakhed) How many villages of Parbhani district are facing drinking water scarcity problems15th December 72 p.2025 J.G. Ambekar (Biloli) K.S. Dhonde (Kandhar) 952 villages water scarcity villages.2026 Suleman Khan Pathan (Kamathi) Nagpur district 320 villages water scarcity villages deepening of wells under the scheme WS-6 at the coast of rivers digging of trenches and water supply by bullock carts.

176 Ibid Vidhan Sabha proceedings 30.3.72 Assembly p.756

177 Ibid p.766 answered by S.B.Patil. The 98 villages were

178 Ibid p.773
appeared in the house. K.D. Bhegde asked question whether there was information of migrated villagers to government due to scarcity of water and number of cattle sold to butchers. Due to insufficient rainfall big cities like Aurangabad also faced many problems.179

Water scarcity could take such an acute condition that could even result into shifting of villages or the village settlements were sensed by some expert like V.M. Dandekar. Calling attention notice in that regard put by K.D. Bhegde, Mrinal Gore and A.N. Thopte.180 Water scarcity took acute stage one example cited in the house depicts real picture which explains how a child had to get down at the bottom of 90 feet deep well by tiding a rope around his waist.181

5.13 Public Protest

Protest marches for scarcity works and grain was one of the important aspects of political economy of scarcity. Peasants and workers party was one of the important political forces of Maharashtra. It showed exemplary resistance to government in and outside legislation for better scarcity relief policies. Most of the protest marches were either organized for grains, scarcity works, and wages; or influenced by ideology of peasants and workers party. Just after initial sign of the distress the protest marches for the scarcity works were organized all over Maharashtra.182 Protest marches for scarcity works reported from Daund, Chandwad, Varud, Nanded, Osmanabad, Balapur Teshsil, Shendurni of Pachora

179 Ibid p.623

180 Ibid Feb-March 73 Session p.907/21.2.73

181 Ibid 5.3.73 Speeches on supplementary grants p.819 K.N. Deshmukh (Ahemedpur)

182 Ibid September-October assembly proceeding part 2 without questions answers 1971 session on 13th July 1971 protest marches at Daund demanding scarcity works. Socilaist party at Deglur, K.S. Tidke complained that there were protest Marches at his home demanding scarcity works. pp.187-216. Assembly proceedings Sept-October session 71 The scarcity workers at Chandwad organized protest march for wages on Teshsil office and Panchyat Samiti. The mob then went to marketing federation grain shop and then sacked the shop. pp.253-54
taluka reflected through proceedings of both the houses.\textsuperscript{183} There were protest marches all over Maharashtra even at latter stage of scarcity. However, these protest marches were for the Taqavi loans,\textsuperscript{184} grains and better wages.\textsuperscript{185} At latter stage of scarcity, payment of wages were not regular and protest marches for the immediate payment organized and same were addressed in the houses.\textsuperscript{186} After three consequent years of scarcity people sensed unbearable inflation. People could not bear such pressure of inflation and it erupted through the protest march at Jalna city. The students of Jalna organized such protest march as there was hike in rates of their day-to-day meal.\textsuperscript{187} This event was addressed through calling attention motion. Even at the last stage of the protest scarcity incidences of protest reported and mostly were for hike in the wages.\textsuperscript{188}

\begin{itemize}
  \item \textsuperscript{183} Ibid Sept-October 71 assembly proceedings part 2pp.119-20 cff, September-October council session 71 Session council part 1 questions and answers:- p755, cff Septeber-October71 council session pat2 pp.1885, September-October 71 council session proceedings p.134 G.P.Pratham cited protest march of Shendurni. , At Osmanabad there was stone pelting and encircling of revenue minister while he was on the tour to review the scarcity situation Sept-October 71 assembly proceedings part 2p.81
  \item \textsuperscript{184} Ibid September-October council session 71 Session council part 1 questions and answers:- Mukund Kulkarni questions protest rally on Unmerkhed Tehsil for Taqavi Loan. p755
  \item \textsuperscript{185} Ibid Feb-March council session 73 workers at Shirala(Jaisinghpurrter headquarter of taluka) encircled the officer Tehsildar on 31\textsuperscript{st} Jane of 1\textsuperscript{st} Feb 73 The demanded more wages. Protest marh was whole night at Tehsil office p.535 Feb-March 73 council proceedings 20\textsuperscript{th} March 73 21 January Jaisingpur Morcha p.1353; Feb-March73 Council the portest march at Armori district Chandrapur march was for more wages p. 696 Feb-March 73 assembly proceedings p.1289 R.K.Mahlgi, A.A.Wankhed(Malkapur) B.N.Madvi(Armori) R.P.Valvi(Nadurbar) K.R.Patil (Shegaon) T.C.Karkhanis (Kolhapur) Promod Navalkar (Girgaon) Vishweshwar Atram( Gadchiroli) Mrinal Gore (Malad) these members asked questions about the police firing on the scarcity works mob on 5\textsuperscript{th} January 1973 at Armori Panchyat Samiti district Chandrapur. Answered by S.G.Pawar the scarcity workers came into mob and they surrounded the Panchayat Samiti. Some people the scarcity workers were having sticks and inflamed torches they tried to burn the godowans they were shouting slogans. What were their demands? Asked in sub questions by members. 2.50 Rs. per person without any measurement of their work performance. The mob was quiet violent and agitating mood. Two persons were injured and total 114 people were arrested
  \item \textsuperscript{186} Ibid July-August 73 council session At Dhamangaon and Pathardi A’nagar district there was no salary for more than three weeks. p.945
  \item \textsuperscript{187} Ibid July-August 73 council session 22\textsuperscript{nd} August 73p.1007
  \item \textsuperscript{188} Ibid September-October 73 council session; At Malegaon the scarcity workers protested but was not march their demand was to increase the wages. p.1568; February-March 73 assembly session proceedings; ‘adjournment motion notice by P.B.Kadu for latthi charge on the protest march of communist party by P.B.Kadu. Even after conclusion of march police had ruthlessly beat communist leader Nathu Kinhikar and injured him. Finally, adjournment motion ruled out by speaker. p.796 (2.10.73)
\end{itemize}
As soon as people sensed severity of distress the protest marches began demanding scarcity works and regular supply of grains even turned violent on 6th of September 1971 there were incidences of police firing at Varig and Nagpur. At Vairag communist party organized protest rally demanding scarcity works and regular supply of grains. At Nagpur weavers came on the street in protest rally demanding supply of sufficient cotton fiber. Cotton fiber supply felt short to demand because of prevailing drought. Both protest rally of Vairag and Nagpur turned violent and Police opened fire at both the rallies. There was allegation that at Vairag mob of rally tried to sack government grain stocks there. These incidences created anger in the mind of people and members of legislation. Members of opposition addressed the issues by putting adjournment motions. Handful of adjournment motions permitted for discussion by speakers in both the houses and these motions were among and permitted motions. 189 There were hot discussions on both the issues members of opposition challenged benevolent role of the government and blamed government for such a painful incidences. However government defended police firing as mob turned violent. Another such incidence occurred at Islampur in Sangli district. On 18th of October 1972 peasants and workers party organized a rally demanding more scarcity works. Police opened firing at such mob. This incidence addressed in the houses. Prominent leader of peasants and works party Shri N.D.Patil led the rally after police firing two workers of peasants and workers party died. One of the victim was Shri N.D.Patil’s nephew. N.D.Patil also suffered injury and same addressed in the houses. The reference of this incidence pointing apathy and insensitive behavior of government through number of proceedings in the houses. The notice of adjournment motions put by R.K.Mahalgi and S.D.Natu about the police firing on protest march demanding works and regular and secured supply of grains by peasants and workers party at Islampur

189Ibid September-October1971 assembly proceedings vol.33 part 2 adjournment motion for Vairag pp.112-130 at Varig 5 people died 54 injured due to bullet and 47 were injured due to lathi charge. September-October1971 assembly proceedings vol.33 part 2 adjournment motion for Nagpur pp.135-155 September-October 71 council session part 2 pp.82
district Sangli. The notice for this adjournment motion came on 20th November 1972 and speaker denied permission. 190

There was delay in the wage payment of scarcity workers encirclement of concerned officers and Satygrah incidence noted over delay in wage payments. 191

There were number of protest marches and rallies all over Maharashtra and incidences of violence and police firing reported. Numbers of legislators were distracted by government approach and violence and police firing in due course of protest marches. To tackle such situation members of legislation expected different kind of approach and mechanism of government. For that, sake notice of adjournment motion put in council during November 1972 session. 192

There were incidences of encircling Tehsildar and other officials for payment of wages of scarcity workers at late stage of scarcity. At 26 places all over Maharashtra protest marches for grains were organized between 1st April 73 to 15th June 73. 193 Even more violent grain violence broke at Malegaon, Nagpur, Tumsar and Sinnar. 194 195 These incidences addressed in the houses. Grain sacking event of Akola district was enquired by members and there were four such events reported from the district. 196 Discussion regarding this grain violence conducted in council on 6th September 73 V.G.Deshpande, V.G.Hande and other participated in the debate. Stone pelting on Tehsildar at Sinnar,

190 Ibid Secretariat of state legislation Maharashtra state brief summary of Vidhan Sabha Proceedings for November-December 1972 p.86

191 Ibid June-July-August council proceedings 73 p. 803 the staygrapha at Tandulwadi district Sangli was addressed by G.P.Pradhon. p.945 The Sarpanch of village Dhamangaon of Pathardi block was encircled and protest march to Tehsil office of Pathardi

192 Ibid November-December 72 council proceedings p.74

193 July-August-Sept 73 assembly session. p.274

194 Ibid July-August 73 council session p.157 reported violence on 17th April 73 and addressed in the proceedings of 3rd August 73 cff. July-August-Sept 73 assembly session. p.274

195 Ibid July-August 73 council session p.158

196 Ibid July-August-Sept 73 assembly session. p.274

197 Ibid p.672
attempt to burn legislative assembly member at Tumsar reported and informed by home minister for state. He further informed that such attempts to inflame the grain violence were made at Nagpur and Mumbai. Violence broke at Nagpur was due to scarcity of cotton and grain. Incidences of sacking liquor and other shops took place. Incidence of such nature reported during 16th April to 21 April 73 period. At Tumsar such grain violence reported and graver incidence of attempt to burn member of assembly reported. Incidences of beating social workers after revealing the corruption at scarcity works in Solapur district by persons involved in corrupt practices occurred.

5.14 Loan Recovery
There were number of complaints regarding compulsion and tyranny of the bank officers on farmers to recover loans from cooperative banks. Special resolution put in the assembly to extend the short-term loan in to the long term loan in the wake of consequent three long years of scarcity. Honorable cooperative minister Y.G.Mohite stated that government was planning to convert loan payment duration for 10 years. He further stated that Reserve Bank’s rules and regulations are putting limits on the government endeavor in that regard as Reserve Bank is not permitting to granting concessions to debtors. A.A.Wankhede requested to suspend recovery till the discussion with Reserve Bank get finalized. In answering to calling attention notice it was answered that in loan

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198 Ibid September-October council session p.1631

199 Ibid July-August-Sept 73 assembly session. p.278

200 Ibid At Kevad, taluka Mahada, district Solapur the laborers Shri Pandurang Naryan Dharm and Dashrat Tukaram Nirgane these two laborers were brow beaten by Sandipan Nimbaji Patil. This was revenge action by accused Patil on suspicion of providing news of false attendance at muster roll or attendance roll of scarcity relief work. The complete was launched in respective police station one accused got bail on the very first day and two other accused got two day magisterial custody.

201 Ibid Government of Maharashtra publication ‘Proceedings of Vidhan Sabha of Session June-July-August 72’ proceedings of 30th June 72(Marathi Version) p.1135 Honorable member K.B.Mahaske, Mahalgi and Bhegde asked question. However official answer that the drive of recovery was voluantry only recovery of debtors of Rs. 2000/- was in progress.; 28th March 73, assembly proceedings p.195,(Calling attention motion)


203 Ibid p.439
recovery cases nationalized and cooperative banks have to follow Reserve Bank’s guidelines.\textsuperscript{204}

Calling attention motion put in the house on 28 March 73 with respect to the suspension of loan recovery drive and tyranny of property confiscation for dues that had not been paid by agriculturists of rural Maharashtra.\textsuperscript{205} Sundrao Solunke then state minister stressed that land development bank’s recovery was absolutely necessary as this bank depend for its resources on recovery. He further added that loan incurred for irrigation enhances the power and capacity of the farmers. Such indebted farmers can pay the required installments they cannot spare from the drive. However, the farmers who did not have capacity to repay for them the concession of suspension could be granted.\textsuperscript{206}

Waving of loans is constant demand of agriculturists in recent years. However, during distress of such a colossal nature over Maharashtra during 1970-73 when agricultural production was at its lowest ebb, no constant and forceful demand came from either from agricultural community or from opposition leaders. However, waving of the loans of small farmers was addressed and such demand presented in the house without forceful constant demand.\textsuperscript{207} On the contrary, despite dismal performance of agriculture there were constant forceful drives of loan recovery. Confiscation of property and galvanized metal sheets of house roofs, domestic utensils took place. Members of houses demanded relief to agriculturist in that regard. Concerned ministers stated that orders had been passed to deal patiently with indebted farmers. There was usual policy of suspending loan recovery of villages having anna valuation below 6 anna. The recoveries of loans get

\textsuperscript{204} Ibid 28\textsuperscript{th} March 73, assembly proceedings p.195,(Calling attention motion) Shri S.A. Salunke answered the question, He stated that the amount raised by this way by government through various agencies the viability of Banking of this bank solely depend upon the recovery. The recovery of such banks is equally important. The farmers who have taken loans from such banks and utilized the amount for augmenting and harnessing water resources as well as developed irrigation and developed land would not face the problem of water and production as such. But there are some farmers who have capacity to repay and even they are not willing to repay at such instance whenever the recovery performed under section 137 of cooperative act is not extortion or tyranny of farmers on part of government.

\textsuperscript{205} Ibid proceeding of 28\textsuperscript{th} March 73 p.195 Due to recovery and confiscation drive farmers are facing severe inconvenience and these extortions on farmers should be stopped was addressed by R.A.Patil, K.B.Mahske,

\textsuperscript{206} Ibid Loc .Cit.

\textsuperscript{207} Legislative council proceedings September-October 1971 Vol. 32 Part2 p.256-57 Krishnarao Dhulup then representative of Kalyan constituency demanded that the loans of poor farmers should be waived.
suspended for two years and short term loan get converted into long term loans. However, during such colossal distress farmers were in dire need of great relief on loan recovery front. After declaration of anna evaluation the villages having below 6 anna valuation of crops at such instances the loan recovery get suspended. Short-term loan get converted into long term loan and the amount to be paid get added.\textsuperscript{208} There were demands like at some time farmers should be relived from the repayment of loans. Land development bank should cut its recovery from 50\% to 33\% demanded by B.G.Jadhav of Chandur constituency.\textsuperscript{209} Calling attention notice compulsory recovery of loans from scarcity affected region the calling attention notice by A.R.Jadhav. He mentioned in his motion and speech that instead of more loans to farmers, they caught in the grief of scarcity. They should get relief by further loans. As per Mumbai agricultural loan recovery rule 9, on reasonable guarantee the taqavi get sanctioned. Government issued an order not to recover loan with force.\textsuperscript{210} Government declared its policy regarding taqavi loans. Farmers with dues to be paid and having enough security should be sanctioned fresh loans in such distress. Instead of these orders if loans are not sanctioned cases reported then government will make probe in it and appropriated action will be followed. This condition is only applicable to bullock taqavi and fodder taqavi. From beginning of the distress means from 1971 itself the questions and cases of the loans reported in the houses.\textsuperscript{211} Farmers were misusing the taqavi loan and such misuse should be stopped.\textsuperscript{212} There were incidences of protest in the form of protest rally for Taqavi loans in some part

\textsuperscript{208}Ibid Legislative council proceedings of September-October 1971 Vol.33 part of question answers only p.22 7\textsuperscript{th} September 1971. P.22; pp172 Jeevanlal Chandak (Katol):- the loan burden on peasants should not feel them burdensome. The interest on loan should be waived.

\textsuperscript{209}Ibid Sep-Oct 71 assembly proceedings. P.206

\textsuperscript{210}Ibid Vol.32 number 15 council proceedings March-April-May session 71. p.446

\textsuperscript{211}Ibid Vol.32 number 15 council proceedings March-April-May council session 71. P67 V.G.Deshpande per captita wages Rs.70 per person. Farmers above 20 acres land lost galvanized roof sheet and other goods in loan recovery and confiscation drive of banks. p.446

\textsuperscript{212}Ibid Sept-October 71 council Session p.108
of state. There were questions pertaining to the amount sanctioned and the problems in the sanctioning of loans. At latter stage more questions regarding bullock taqavi were asked. This highlights the shortage of the bullocks and its need in agricultural operations ahead. There were issues addressed about the compulsory loan recovery at one such instance government answered that there was no compulsion and forceful recovery.

5.15 Untouchability, drought and scarcity

Untouchables should get right to water from the public wells was very early demand during scarcity. It itself signifies the vitality of the issue. Neo-Buddhist community of that village was not allowed to take water from the well reserved for potable water for the high caste Hindus reported from very beginning of the scarcity. Number of such types of issues addressed through number of proceedings. At one instance, the drinking

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213 Ibid September-October 71 Session council part 1 questions and answers: Mukund Kulkarni questions protest rally on Unmerkhed Tehsil for Taqavi Loan. Vartak: affirmed the same but denied the delay in disbursing taqavi. p755

214 Ibid September-October 6.9.71 council Session council part 1 questions and answers question by V.G.Deshpande Buldhana cooperative bank recovery amount out of 278.67 lakh only 1.30 lakh recovered. Up to 30th June 71. Mohites answers. No compulsory or forceful recovery from the scarcity area where the anna valuation is below 6. However the recovery drive is going on through the society and cooperative sugar mills of the debtors having dues of more than Rs. 2000/-. There were instances of property confiscation and members pointed out it that the recovery was being pursued forcefully. (V.G.Deshpande & R.P.Chaudhari dues below two thousand with example) Minister replied RBI preconditions p.22

215 Ibid March-April Session 71 assembly 15th April 71 V.R.Patil p.603

216 Ibid Vol. 36 March-April 71 K.S.Dhondge Ban on untouchables to take water from public wells at Mahausane taluka Kandahr district Nanded S.B.Patil protection against ban had been taken. pp.1055-56;cf Febr-March session assembly session 73 question by K.N. Deshmukh:- there is no facility available to the untouchable villagers of Hobharna of Ahmedpur taluka of Osmanabad. Untouchables having their own well still the mud of this well is not cleared. Answered by Pratibha Patil the drinking water facility was available to them. The well of said community visited by concerned authority and the desilting of well is in progress. p.1111

217 Ibid June-July-August 72 assembly session, 10th August 72 assembly proceedings calling attention motion by A.A. Vankhade Malkapur and D.D. Padavai addressed the issue of untouchability and drinking water In Nagpur district at Sataara village of Umred taluka there was ban( boycott ) on Nava Bavadha community not to take water from community well. The question was answered by Smt. Pratibha Patil incident of 5.6.1972 Gopikabai and her female friends after public well exhausted its water resource went to the Shiva Banats well to pour water in their pots. N.F. Gadhave of Manhal lost ZP elections he instigated to Gopikabai to draw water from well though it was expected that other than untouchable should draw water for untouchable from well at such instance Gopikabai herself withdrew water for herself Hari Shende saw this and stop her taking water from the well take away her pot. 7 people from untouchable community and 7 people from upper caste were detained for public security. p.2952
water source of untouchables infected by caste Hindu peasant while irrigating his filed through untouchables well. Instead of accepting, the fact of prevailing untouchability executive of states stated that the untouchables were having their own well and not willing to take water from the common well of high caste people of that village thus, hiding prevailing untouchability over state. Framers’ of constitution sought eradication of untouchability by laying different provisions in the constitution. These provisions were being implemented in urban area and untouchability reduced considerably over these areas. Rural Maharashtra despite tradition of social reformers did not influenced by their thoughts. V. Subrabmanium author of well-documented work Parched earth on this topic mentioned at one instance that this drought brought all sections of society on equal footing scarcity proved great leveler. However, from the evidences it seems that public wells and public water sources were not open to untouchables during this scarcity. There were incidences observed over all parts of Maharashtra that high caste Hindus were not ready to offer common water resources to so called untouchable castes. Government though seems quiet sympathetic towards schedule castes and tribes did not pursued vigorously to open public water resources to everyone in the villages. State was neither admitting prevailing untouchability over rural Maharashtra nor acting forcefully to eradicate the same. This is reflected from the proceedings of both the houses of legislature. Untouchability the social evil was prevailing all over Maharashtra and same was addressed from various motions and proceedings of both the houses covering

218 Government of Maharashtra Publication Vidhan Parishad Proceedings Nov-Dec.73 The incidence occur at Kolegaon taluka Jafarabad district Aurangabad between 10th September 73 to 20 September 73 where 12 persons from Neo-Buddhist community died due to gastro-intestinal infection after consuming infected water. p.341

219 Ibid Vidhan Parishad Proceedings Nov-Dec.73 However government have admitted that the farmer from high caste was taking water from that well for agricultural purpose the ditch which he excavated for the purpose caused infection in the well. p.341

220 Ibid Feb-March73 Council:- Alegaon Solapur water to untouchables question in this regard was asked by M.U.Lahane p.1525 April-May 71 councils session at Mahsane tal Parner district Ahmednagar issue was addressed, p. 1055, over Kandhar taluka district Nanded p.1056

221 Ibid Feb-March 73 council session Calling attention motion on Avsar Vadapuri region Feb-March 73 council session motion notice by U.L.Patil, V.G.Deshpade, S.G.Pawar incidence due to the rivalry clashed on the work and not due to the feeling of untouchability (touching of water at scarcity works by untouchable) p.1712
issues from all over Maharashtra. Untouchables themselves were using separate wells for drinking water purposes and refraining from taking water from common wells this was official stand of state while answering the issues emerged on the floor of houses pertaining to this. By this government was hiding its inefficiency inability to act on prevailing untouchability within the state. Government officials caught into awkward situation over these issues many times. It seems that state was evading from shouldering this responsibility. Untouchables banned even touching of the wells of high caste Hindus and common people. There were incidences of beating of untouchables by high caste Hindus on number of occasions after taking water from the public wells of high caste Hindus or even touching the wells. At one such instance-concerned minister Ms.Prathibha Patil then answered that untouchable who took water from the public well of high caste Hindus was instigated by someone to take water. However, honorable minister herself was not aware that instead of espousing cause of social justice and eradicating untouchability she was indirectly supporting the same. An incidence of

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222Ibid Feb-March73 Council at Tamdalge Village of Shirol the social boycott on the untouchables for they poured(drawn) potable domestic water from the common well. Calling attention notice on this issue by V.L.Ralekar p.1601; July-August 73 session of council :- G.P.Pradhant the untouchables of village Soni of Sangli district have to go away from their home to another 1.5 kms away for scarcity work. This type of complaints came but it was not correct added by Vartak.; July-August-Septembebr 7th September 73 session Khanolkar at village Harichari the boycott on well as used by cobbler community of the village p.1695; Vol.32 number 36 assembly proceedings 5th May 71 At mahasane taluka Parner district Ahmednagar public ban on the untouchable community to take water from the public outlet of drinking water at public well. Five persons were arrested in this regard 100 Rs. Fine imposed on the untouchables. P. 1055; 5th May 71 assembly proceedings K.S.Dhondge (Kandhar):- Ban on untouchables to take water from public wells at Mahusane taluka Kandhar district Nanded. S.B.Patil protection of untouchables and all necessary precautions against ban had been taken. p.1055-56 Feb-March 73 council proceedings M.U.Lahane asked questions about the untouchables of Alegaon district Solapur were not allowed to take water from public well.p1523

223 September-October 73 council session p.1695 at the village Harchari of Ratangiri where the cobbler community used the common drinking water well the high caste Hindus then banned or stopped taking water from such well.

224 Nov-Dec.73 council session 19th Nov.73 proceedings a girl child of the Pardhan community the untouchable community went to pour water from public well, she was stopped with slang language the adjournment motion notice was put by K.S.Dhondge then. The incidence was of the village Bordi taluka Vani district Yeotmal. Incidence occur with the daughter of headmaster Damodar Ramji Podam named Tara. p.492

225 June-July-August assembly session calling attention motion addressed the issuesas;In Nagpur district at Sataara village of Umred taluka there was ban(boycott) on Nava Bavadhha community not to take water from community well.
violence broke at Avasar Wadapuri of taluka Indapur district Pune where scheduled caste scarcity workers and common workers were working together. There were attacks of violence on each other between two groups of the scarcity workers. There was allegation that this violence broke due to touching of drinking water by untouchable. However statement issued in this regard by home minister of state that the allegations made on the ground of untouchablility was not correct. By studying history of incidences it was amply clear that there was no any intention of any one that provoked out of psyche of untouchability. Untouchability was so deep rooted in the minds of people that one untouchable bought land with temples of Hindu gods. Some anti social element convinced that such a heavenly wrath of scarcity was due to the purchasing of temple land by untouchables. This resulted into the frequent stone pelting(throwing) incidences on untouchable settlements.

The question was answered by Smt. Pratibha Patil incident of 5.6.1972 Gopikabai and her female friends after public well exhausted its water resource went to the Shiva Banats well to pour water in their pots. N.F. Gadhave of Manhal lost ZP elections he instigated to Gopikabai to draw water from well though it was expected that other than untouchable should draw water for untouchable from well at such instance Gopikabai herself withdrew water for herself Hari Shende saw this and stop her taking water from the well take away her pot. 7 people from untouchable community and 7 people from upper caste were detained for public security p.2952

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226 Feb-March 73 council session Calling attention motion on Avasar Vadapuri region Feb-March 73 council session motion notice by U.L.Patil, V.G.Deshpade, S.G.Pawar incidence due to the rivalry clashed on the work and not due to the feeling of untouchability (touching of water at scarcity works by untouchable) p.1712 cff; February- March 73 assembly session calling attention notice p.3297

227 Nov- Dec assembly sesssion72 assembly Calling attention motion By P.B.Kadu and Vakilrao Langhe Shri Eshwarbhau Trimbake at Mirajgaon, Taluka Karjat, District Ahmednagar of un-touchable community i.e. HARIJAN purchased the land of survey No. 554&555 with the temples of Lord Datta and Mahadeo which resulted into heavenly anger of god in the form of severe drought was the perception of villagers. Patil of village i.e. headman provoked other villagers of village. Therefore villagers were attacking the untouchables’ settlement in the villages occasionally, suddenly at night times with stones. In the assembly the story was affirmed by government. It was state in assembly that Mr. Trimbake went to Mirajgaon out post police station complaint orally but officer on duty asked him to launch written complaint. Mr. Trimbake did not wait and went away. But after that Karjat Police sub inspector and taluka magistrate visited Mirajgaon immediately and restored peace in the village. Eight persons of the said villages were being prosecuted under section 143, 149,440 and anti un-touchable law. On 31st October 1972 the case went to court of law. The case was thus under adjudicator. p.2132
There were incidences of social boycott on untouchables on many occasions after they used the public wells. At some places utensils of water of untouchables were thrown away reported and addressed.

### 5.16 Women Issues

Scarcity does not differentiate between men and women. Rather women were measure sufferer during these scarcities. Many anemic, ill health, pregnant and even just child delivered women worked for their survival on scarcity work. There were cases reported that such weak anemic women worked for their survival on the scarcity work and they died while working on scarcity works. Among total number of reported alleged starvation deaths numbers of women were sizable. Number of women died on scarcity works and such cases reported through proceedings. There were cases of exploitation of women. Women labor exploited and same were reported in the houses. Even Sarpanch of one village misbehaved with scarcity worker women. There were even exceptional cases of sexual harassment of women and two incidences of rape reported; at Roha in Raigad district and other at Wembala river in Amaravati district. Women legislators

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228 Feb-March 73 council proceedings in Shiroal taluka Tamdalge village p.1601

229 Nov-Dec.73 session of the council 27th November 73 p.647

230 Vol.38 number 22 3 September 73 .p.1309-10 one pregnant woman of the Rahuri named Shakuntals Shirole died on the scarcity work; July-August-September 73 Hasni taluka Nanded Sonubai a scarcity woman was died on the work itself but the incidence was denied by Vartak (Khanolakar) p.1568

231 July-August 73 council session Village Sardgaon Ambone of Beed district p.1178 by Lahane and U.L.Patil (Sardgaon Ambejogai Beed) Scarcity women of the scarcity women complaint against the Sarpanch who was misbehaving with them.

232 Nov-Dec 72 assembly proceedings p.1591 questions were asked by S.D.Natu and R.K.Mahalgi about the molestation of one Rajastani female laborer at Kavathe Guland in Shirol taluka of Kolhapur. Question was answered by S.G. Pavwar then home minister for state that the laborer and her husband were not scarcity workers. They were wonders. The police enquiry was on the progress.

233 Feb.March assembly session 73 questions by S.D.Natu (Guhagar) R..K. Mahalgi, Promod Navalkar (Girgaon) Mrinal Gore (Malad) H.R.Barkule(Partur) T.C.Karkhanis (Kolhapur) At Roha district Kolaba woman seeking scarcity employment was raped on 25th December 1972 whether this news is right or wrong. What is the progress of prosecution. One police constable and some persons committed this heinous crime. Police station in charge registered
and other members raised such issues in the houses. Women legislators constantly
demanded equal wages to men and women. It actually came into effect during last year of scarcity.

5.17 Distinct Issues

At the peak of distress the elections of Muncipal Corporation, Village Panchyat and
cooperative institutes were postponed. Metal breaking was the major exercise of this scarcity. There were heaps of the metals on roadside. Though this exercise provided employment to many people at peak of distress, numbers of questions were asked about the utilization of this metal in the houses. Other questions pertaining to selling price of the metal also appeared in the legislation.

After three consequent years of scarcity, one strange observation came to notice that number of people working on scarcity suffered from night blindness. Majority of such cases were reported from chronic scarcity areas. Over some places vasectomy

the crime in diluted form non cognizable offence. The said police officer suspended. p.1276; September-October council 73 proceedings Vembala river a contractor and his men raped a scarcity worker woman in Amravati district incidence reported on 23rd May 73 p.1382

234 Ibid Nov-Dec 72 assembly proceedings p.1555 a bill to provide for the postponement of the elections to certain Municipal Councils

235 Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly proceedings p.424 village panchyat electing bill

236 Ibid Nov-Dec assembly session P 1013: 10th December 72 S.A. Salunke: A bill to provide for the postponement of elections of committees for specified cooperative societies because of widespread scarcity conditions in the state. The orders which have been passed before to conduct the elections of cooperative society dated 31st December 1972. D.B.Patil

Patil raised objection that ruling party always tries to avoid the discussions on the floor of house

237 Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly question p.3062 Feb-March 73 assembly question p.3152

238 Ibid Nov-Decm72 assembly proceedings p.1462The adjournment motion by S.J. Jadhavarao, R.K.Mahalgi, K.D.Bhegde and Mrinal Gore on the overlabor and food that are devoid of nutritious value causing large-scale night blindness. (8th December 1972) :- In answer to the objection G.S. Sarnayak health minister for state said that the infirmity caused due to deficiency of vitamin A. the provision of providing doses of Vitamin A and D with capsules and injections is already made. The special drive in this regard by ZP and team of rural health had been undertaken. 16000 capsules of vitamin A and D had been distributed. 200 injections are performed. There are 2000 cases and total 50000 laborers are on work. Therefore the tablets distributed and the injections performed are too meager. What
operations made compulsory and compulsion in that regard were made in the houses. Two such incidenes addressed in the house by legislators of Vardha and Sangli. Questions pertaining to vitamin A doses appeared in the house in that regard. Questions pertaining to supply of medicines and medical check-up of workers were asked in the houses. Medical college students of Mumbai rendered their valuable service and toured rural Maharashtra and examined number of rural people. As signs of scarcity on the verge of finish, government reduced the rates of wages and stopped the employment of children between age 14 and 18. Only two persons from family were allowed to work on scarcity works. Further, there was phased out program of cutting scarcity works. At such instance, there was resistance of people to close scarcity works. There were fasts for protest on closure of scarcity works and also for the payment of dues of wages of scarcity works at Shriur taluka of Pune district.

At latter stage of the scarcity most of the questions were related to delayed wage payments, bullock taqavi, grain quota, poisoning of bajra with ergot and corrupt practices surfaced about the community wells. It was reflected through proceeding of both the houses.

From March-April 73 onwards many people including legislators, farmers and social workers realized there could be shortage of bulls for agricultural operations after three years consequent drought and scarcity number of measures like tilling of the farm through private tractors, providing extra bullock taqavi to farmers and even adoption of measures government are going to take? These objections were raised by Mrinal Gore. Hon.Memebr shir Loke asked question about the proposed sukhadi distribution program

239 Ibid Feb-March assembly 73 calling attention motion by T.C.Karkhanis (Kolhapur) by Rule 104. In Sangli district the laborers who are not ready for vasectomy undergoes tyranny of authority. It was agreed by the state health minister G.S.Sarnayak that concern department and officers involved in vasectomy drive are even proceeding on scarcity works sites to pursued people to be ready for the vasectomy drive. But there are no instances of compulsion and force administered on scarcity workers for vasectomy. p.518

240 Ibid. Feb -March 73 question was asked by Mrinal Gore regarding the sufficient supply of medicines to scarcity workers. In answer to this question it was informed by Rafiq Zakeria that orders have been issued to concern collectors to purchase sufficient medicines for scarcity workers. P.691

241 Ibid June-July-August 73 council proceedings proceedings of 16th August 73 p.612

242 Ibid June-July-August 73 council proceedings p.704
bells these measures suggested by experts.\textsuperscript{243} Documentaries and news trailers were produced to publish the government efforts and question in that regard were asked in the legislation.\textsuperscript{244} There were number of accidents on scarcity sites such issues were addressed through various motions enquiring the status of injury compensation to the victims etc.

Persons involved in corrupt practices of scarcity works beat some other persons who tried to reveal the corruption.\textsuperscript{245} There were accidents at works site and question with respect to asked in the house.\textsuperscript{246}

One very interesting observations put by Ulahasrao Patil in council while demanding more sorghum instead of maize because maize aggravates the injuries.\textsuperscript{247} Questions pertaining to the artificial rains were asked in the houses. While discussing on the various scarcity policies artificial rain one of the measure was suggested by members.\textsuperscript{248}

Throughout the scarcity period there were actions against black marketers and the traders

\textsuperscript{243} Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly proceedings Question by Govindrao Adik (Shrirampur) :- Questions were about the adoption of ox (bullock) in Pune district. In answer to this question Vartak answered that this policy was being run by privately. This scheme was not under the consideration of government. p.3162

\textsuperscript{244} Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly proceedings (23\textsuperscript{rd} March 73) The schemes which have devised for the scarcity relief by publicity department. Questions were asked by N.R.Mate. There was one documentary and two news trailors were formed p.2924-25

\textsuperscript{245} Ibid November-December 72 assembly proceedings Calling attention motion moved by Mrinal Gore, S.J. Jadhavaraao, R.K. Mahalgi and K.D. Bhegde “ At Kevad, taluka Mahada, district Solapur the laborers Shri Pandurang Naryan Dharm and Dashrat Tukaram Nirgane these two laborers were brow beaten by Sandipan Nimbaji Patil. This was revenge action by accused Patil on suspicion of providing news of false attendance at muster roll or attendance roll of scarcity relief work. The complete was launched in respective police station one accused got bail on the very first day and two other accused got two day magisterial custody p.2129-20

\textsuperscript{246} Ibid November-December 72 questions was asked by N.K.Patil and K.D.Bhegde about the death of two workers while working on the Mahrur dam and compensation. The incident was corroborated by minister and to compensate the workers efforts were taken to communicate commissioner of workmen compensation as per act as the incident took place at contractors site. Same question was latter asked by Sursingrao Jadhav Purandhar p.669; Nov-Dec 72 p.1118 adjournment motion by P.B.Kadu, and Vakilrao Langhe: One youth was working on scarcity work the percolation tank works. But he was injured during the work. He did not received medical relief on the spot. He suffered from tetanus and he died in due course.

\textsuperscript{247} Ibid Jan-Feb 73 council proceedings pp.490-92

\textsuperscript{248} Ibid Nov-Dec 72 assembly session p.1807
fetching profit by hoarding and hiking unnecessary the prices of goods. Stocks with a merchant Laxmichand was sold at stipulated prices as per government direction questions pertaining to that was asked in the house. At very last phase of scarcity most of the issues were concerned with bullock taqavi, taqavi loans, grain quota, grain supplied, community wells and corruption on public wells.

During Februrary-March 73 there were violence of grains reported all over Maharashtra. One very interesting issue addressed while discussing on budgetary provision in council on March 73 by N.D.Patil that every scarcity labors have to attach 10 paise revenue stamp and 10 paise scarcity stamps for his scarcity wage payments.

5.18 Long Lasting Impressive Members

Behavior of the members in the house and their participation in proceedings raised the standard of proceedings and honor of the houses. There were experienced members in the third and fourth assembly of state. Congress was ruling party and secured more than 2/3 of seats. However, opposition members were far less than the ruling congress, they did not appear as negligible entity. Opposition leaders and members thoroughly participated in the house proceedings kept government always alerts pin-pointing lacunas in government policies. Role of media plays important role in parliamentary form of democracy. Transmission of proceedings through radio an effective medium of publicity

249 Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly questions p.841-47 questions were about the raids on the shopkeepers for hoarding illegally the stocks of food grains. Questions were answered by F.M.Pintoo(Mahim), S.B.Patil(Nilanga), Ridwan Harris(Biwandi) Gajanan Loke (Paral), Smt. Mrinal Gore (Malad), Leelabai Merchant (Kasba Peth) T.D.Memjade (Bhavani Peth) N.R.Mate (Mulshi), Pramod Navalkar(Girgaon)S.G.Gholap (Murbad):- Pawar answered the question over all there were 569 raids on 545 hoarders. Out of that against 201 hoarders criminal cases were filed in the court of law. Out of that 174 were convicted and 27 were pending. The enquiries against 344 offender are going on. The orders have been issued to collectors and police officers that hoarding of more than 10 quintals of grains is not permitted without license.

Cases against inflation 155, In Mumbai the there were highest cases of prices rise against the trader (79) cases followed Yeotmal (20 ) cases, Pune (20 ) cases, hoarding of commodity highest number of cases were in Thane (15) Mumbai(10) Pune(5) there were highest case of adulteration in Mumbai 30 cases. These cases were registered during the 1971 war with Pakistan.

Prices hiked by traders cases 155 total, hoarding 139 cases, total black marketing cases,74 total cases were 335+74

250 Ibid Feb-March 73 assembly questions p.851

251 Ibid Feb-March 73 council proceedings p.1010
was providing wide publicity to the proceeding of the houses. Exclusive coverage of proceedings in daily renowned news papers was also keeping the proceedings of the houses in limelight. This in turn made executives in general and members of opposition more sensitive to their work. Participation in the houses and produced their best performance. It seems that more than 50% of questions came from Rambhau Mahalgi and Krishnarao Bhegde of Jansangh. One can notice it while going through the pages of proceedings. They equally participated and presented calling attention notices and proposed adjournment motions. Issues they addressed ranging from starvation deaths to community wells and expenses incurred on Prime-Minster’s visit to difficulties encountered in getting Taqavi loans. Question or calling attention notices did not appear so easily on the floor of house, it need meticulous preparation and speedy disposal and written communications with legislative secretariat. Speaker of house normally belong to ruling party. At this situation it is extremely difficult to bring various motions and issues for discussions. Speaker many times denies the discussions and even questions which have potential of creating embracement to honorable minsters. Beside above mentioned members of Jansangh Keshavarao Dhondge, Mrinal Gore , D.B.Patil, Pratibha Tidke, S.D.Nat, Keshavarao Patil, T.C.Karkhanis, Udhavrao Patil, Krishnarao Dhulup T.D.Memejade, Banatwala, A.N.Thopte, Sadashivrao Mandlik were very assertive in the lower house. At upper house Shantibai Dani, Datta Tamahane, V.G.Hande, G.P.Pradhan left their long lasting impression.

5.19 Proceedings in the Councils
Council proceedings were nearly similar to the assembly proceedings. There were exactly same questions and same motions place in the council that were placed in the assembly. It seems that the members of both the houses were very close to each other. They were consulting to each other and even they may put notices together in legislative secretariat.

5.20 Outcome of Proceedings and Concluding Remarks
Statistics of the Proceedings
“It will be seen that as many as 115 calling attention notices, 12 short notice questions, 77 resolutions, 20 no-day-yet discussions and 29 adjournment motions were moved during 1970-73, the majority of them during last two years i.e. 1972 and 1973, the Maharashtra
legislative assembly and council discussed the drought situation separately and on almost every occasion; for two consecutive days. Above all, 1226 questions on drought were asked in the assembly and the council during these years. Of these as many as 321 questions relate to the year 1972 and the colossal number of 696 to the year 1973. All these are inclusive of the questions asked on civil supplies matters and matters concerning law and order problems with particular reference to the drought, perhaps there is no parallel instances of any parliamentary democracy in the world in which a matter of public importance was so constantly in the public eye for such a continuous length of time. Apart from the fact that this was spur to the administration to be always alert, it was also an opportunity to the government to project a proper image of its concern for the relief of drought. But more than all this it was visible proof of he virility of democratic institutions in this country and in Maharashtra in particular.  

**Government Response in the legislature**

With some exceptions, ruling party members did not seem actively participated in the proceeding of the house. Whole burden of accountability on part of council of minister weighed by two ministers H.G.Vartak and V.P.Naik. Government of Maharashtra took serious cognizance of the scarcity and scarcity relief by stating all details of the scarcity relief and government actions on 9th September 1971 at the very first session after droughty condition of 1970-71. There were statements issued after every adjournment and calling attention motions in both the houses of legislations. There were statements issued under rule 46 in both the houses after every important decision that government took with respect to employment, wages, Sukhadi or Milo. Arranging debate in full sessions throughout scarcity was cumbersome exercise. Without getting embarrassed, it was difficult to government to run such an exhaustive work of proceedings. Almost every question was answered in both the houses. There were sub-questions and instant questions and minister tried their best to answer it. Speakers of both the houses were esteemed personalities of modern Maharashtra. They themselves were involved in rural

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252 Subramaniam V p.478

253 Government of Maharashtra publication September-October assembly session assembly session 71 pp.232-255

242
development program and actively involved in scarcity relief operations. They monitored the proceedings judiciously by allowing every essential issue gets addressed. There were lots many adjournment motions. As adjournment motion requires speaker permission and it being censure motion very few adjournment notices allowed by speakers of both the houses. However, speakers directed members to put it as calling attention motions. Members then addressed their respective issues through calling attention motion. With meticulous study and statistical information Vartak answered in detail all question promptly. Specially on grain supply condition on supplementary grants of supply department his honesty style of dispensing s works expeditiously witnessed through legislative proceedings.\textsuperscript{254} Chief Minister himself answered to the scarcity motions, on supplementary grants, on motions of inflations etc. He came to rescue of many ministers. He intervened in many debates and questions and answered the question by quelling all curiosities of oppositions.

**Ruling Party Members**

There were many ruling party members without any logic in their arguments appreciated government efforts in scarcity relief. There were speeches of many members came in support of government irrespective of merit of issues. Their support was more inspired by party spirit than by inner urge. They tried to lower down the tone and pitch of opposition members. However, they succeed in some extent to blunt the sharpness of the opposition criticism of government policies.\textsuperscript{255}

**Financing the Scarcity**

Government of Maharashtra tried its best to make sufficient budgetary provision for scarcity relief operations. However, the budgetary provision felt too short to mitigate the expenses. However, it is clear that all legislators discussed in positive frame of mind.

\textsuperscript{254} Ibid September-October session assembly session 71 p.286

\textsuperscript{255} Ibid Vol.33 part1 Sept.October session 71 number2 P.142 ;30\textsuperscript{th} March 71 C.N.Patil (dhule) appreciated government efforts of providing nutritious food to scarcity stricken area. p.524;M.T.Patil 21.4.71 Prasied Vatak for his efforts. S.G.Gholap P.1279Mrs. Leelabai Merchant 6.3.73 :- Appreciated government efforts with respect to distribution of food grains p.1902
while discussing annual financial statement and vote on account and granting supplementary grants for scarcity relief. The table appended below shows the heavy budgetary provision and more heavy supplementary provision to scarcity relief by legislators.

Table No. 5.1
Budgetary Provisions for scarcity relief  (Rs. In lakhs)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Budget Provision</th>
<th>Supplementary provision</th>
<th>Total provision</th>
<th>Actual expenditure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970-71</td>
<td>53.26</td>
<td>281.48</td>
<td>334.74</td>
<td>231.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971-72</td>
<td>936.54</td>
<td>3353.96</td>
<td>4290.50</td>
<td>4040.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1972-73</td>
<td>404.14</td>
<td>8321.00</td>
<td>8725.14</td>
<td>8380.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1973-74</td>
<td>5959.44</td>
<td>8148.70</td>
<td>14108314</td>
<td>14188.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: V. Subramanian Parched Earth p.110)

Heavy supplementary provisions have come in adverse comment by some experts. However, three consequent years scarcity went on increasing year by year it was very hard to predict the degree of severity and therefore budgetary provision seems so large. Government did not fail short in providing employment and relief operations due to such supplementary provision. All members of legislation voted for such a huge amount it is very much appreciable.

Revenue minister Mr. H.G. Vartak who was in charge of drought relief operations and his colleague, the minister of state for revenue Mr. Sundara Rao Solunke, carried operations efficiently and answered every questions of opposition in legislature. Some there were bitter exchange of words. There were sue-motto statements issued by ministry in public interest in the house many times. Chief Minister and his team many time cornered in the house by opposition. At the peak of outrage, some members blamed and named Chief Minster even as villain. However, one can notice the sincerity and commitment of ministers from their statements put in both the houses. The revenue minister and the chief minister had answered alleged charges level against them with real facts and fullest of
information with great conviction. It showed great commitment and honesty of both of the minister in the houses. On the issue of starvation death government never agreed any such incidence. Assembly and council where ruling party had overwhelming majority at such instances handful opposition members representing different groups came together in the houses. Many of these groups had contradictory political ideology still they came together and on many occasions jointly initiated adjournment motion notices. Many times insisted and pursued government to make statements on certain issues. It indirectly made government to take policy stand on certain intricate issues. Every government decision and resolution was outcome of debates of legislature. Employment to children between 14 to 18, increase in wages, equal distribution of grains, issues of Sukhadi, community wells, productive works these number of decisions were resulted from the popular perception and academic discussion in the legislature. Issue of starvation deaths was well insisted and persuaded in the houses and government considered all cases decided to delegate responsibility of avoiding such deaths on village Panchyat. For this purpose government allotted some amount to Village Panchyat. The members of opposition showed extreme efficiency during this scarcity. Though the opposition members were very few in numbers, they addressed enormous issues through motions and question along with speeches and debates covering every aspect scarcity and area of state. To address issues through questions and motions, it needs extreme hard work from the members as rules of proceedings are stringent. Members have to collect all proofs of that issues and problems which they want to address. In the history of legislative spirit, this period will remember forever. There were incidences where members never show any impatience to finish the proceedings earlier rather members with passion work hard and demanded more discussions. This led to well thought solutions long tern as well as short term to the problems. Many members showed their academic excellence in the discussion while dealing with scarcity and famines. Many members had authority on the subject of soil conservation, water shade management and agriculture. Members studied the nature of drought, scarcity and famine its ramifications. Many members made tours all over state saw the ground reality of scarcity and relief operations. The chief minister himself had to intervene very often during these discussions lowering high pitch tone of the
opposition members acquainting them with ground reality. During this period, there were no-confidence motions against the Government and one of the principal planks on which the no-confidence motion rested was the government’s handling of the drought situation. These proceedings were not only significant for strong traditions of parliamentary democracy; but also for drought and scarcity management. Finally, the presiding officers of both the houses gave full justice to the very vital issue of the period. Thus legislative response translated in many government scarcity relief operations and policies. These proceedings made government more responsive and helped in many ways in effective implementation of scarcity relief program.