

[Shri Rajesh Pilot]

views on one point only then zero hour will lose its importance.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I agree with you.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Our colleagues have given their names. I think they should be called if they had given their names.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am calling them.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : That is okay. You may call them afterwards.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will call them.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : But I will call them strictly according to the list given by the hon. Speaker. I will not call anybody who shouts like that.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAAF FATMI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Please get me the reply...(Interruptions)... Or ask him to give an assurance...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please sit down. There will be no reply.

SHRI SAT MAHAJAN (KANGRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, in Himachal Pradesh, we are having some floods. We are having incessant rains and the entire crop has been damaged. The fruits have been perished. There are no seed takers for potato. We are in a great agony and anguish. The whole of Himachal Pradesh is reeling under flood. Eighty-five per cent of the Himachal Pradesh region is dependent on horticulture and agriculture...(Interruptions) Please let me speak. Eighty-Five per cent of the agriculturists are in problem.

[Translation]

Let me speak. You are from my party...(Interruptions)

[English]

My request to the Central Government through you is that from the Ministry of Agriculture a team should be despatched immediately to survey the losses and immediate steps should be taken to give relief to the farmers. We are in a great trouble. We are a poor State and we

are totally in anguish and in agony. Our farmers' backbone has been broken. Sir, we request you that immediate steps should be taken.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE (JADAVPUR) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I draw the attention of the agitated Members of the House to a different problem altogether? I want to draw the attention of the House to the handling of wheat vessels which carry imported wheat from Australia, Canada and other countries through different ports of India(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Order please.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA BOSE : The Food Corporation of India had decided in a meeting in December 1996 the quantum of imported wheat to be handled by different ports of India. Calcutta and Haldia were allotted 60,000 metric tonnes of wheat. Calcutta Port has a Silo Plant which is unique in Asia. This plant makes unloading of bulk of wheat easy and smooth. The plant was kept in readiness in expectation.

But for some mysterious reason, not a single metric tonne of wheat arrived in Calcutta Port or in Haldia Port. The vessels were directed to other ports which are under private stevedores. This is the most vital point.

Will the Government clarify the position and explain why Calcutta and Haldia were deprived and the allocation order was not followed ?

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT (AGRA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the time of speaking on the confidence Motion the Prime Minister, Shri Inder Kumar Gujral, said that both potable water and environment would be his first priority. Construction of a barrage on Yamuna in Agra was approved both by the Centre and the State Governments. The Hon. Governor during the President's Rule laid its foundation stone as well but now it is being said that the Central Government has not given its approval to the barrage till date. The reason being given by the Central Government is that it does not know about its estimated cost and how to manage the funds to be spent on it. But the planning Commission has made allocations for this and the mission, management board which has been formed at the behest of Planning Commission has also made provisions. Some objections are being raised from the point of view of environment. A ridiculous situation has been created. During the President's Rule, the Governor laid its foundation stone on behalf of the President and now the Central Government is not giving permission. The people are being made the scapgoat on very flimsy grounds. Gokul Barrage is being constructed. Its water would be stored in the Yamuna Barrage at Agra. Crores of rupees have been spent on Gokul Barrage and now it will go waste. Therefore, my submission through you is that the Yamuna barrage which is being constructed in Agra should be approved at the earliest. The Hon. Prime Minister is not present here, otherwise I would have urged him but now I would like to urge the Government that a Committee