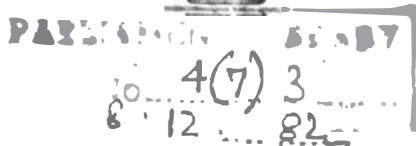


Fifth Series, Vol. XLIII No.25

Saturday, August 24, 1974
Bhadra 2, 1896 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(Eleventh Session)



(Vol. XLIII contains Nos. 21 to 30)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT
NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA

11.01 hrs.

Saturday, August 24, 1974/Bhadra
2, 1896 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at
Eleven of the Clock

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (GUJARAT), 1974-75

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI K. R. GANESH): Sir, I beg
to present a statement showing Sup-
plementary Demands for Grants in
respect of the State of Gujarat for
the year 1974-75.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

11.02 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

DISCUSSION RE FLOOD AND
DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE
COUNTRY

REPORT (1974) OF THE TARIFF COM-
MISSION ON THE REVIEW OF DYE-
STUFFS INDUSTRY AND A STATEMENT.

MR. SPEAKER: We will now
take up Discussion under Rule 193.

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE
(PROF. D. P. CHATTOPAD-
HYAYA): I beg to lay on the
Table—

Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami.

- (1) A copy of the Report (1974) of the Tariff Commission on the Review of Dyestuffs Industry, under sub-section (2) of section 16 of the Tariff Commission Act, 1951.
- (2) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons (i) for not laying simultaneously the Government Resolution on the above Report, and (ii) for not laying simultaneously the Hindi version of the Report.

SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN
(Kishanganj): Sir, on a point of
order. With your permission, I
would like to say this. Sir, on 12th
of August I gave a notice to the Lok
Sabha Secretariat signed by me and
supported by my two colleagues Shri
R. P. Yadav and Shri Jagannath
Mishra seeking a discussion under
Rule 193. Then, Sir, on my notice,
you were kind enough, the Lok Sabha
Secretariat was kind enough to invite
me to a meeting of the Business
Advisory Committee. In pursuance
of that invitation, I attended the
meeting. But what happened actually?

MR. SPEAKER: Is this a submis-
sion or a point of order?

SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN: I
am making my submission. You
were kind enough to allot seven

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-
8270/74].

[Shri Md. Jamilurrahman] hours time. But, what happened actually? When the list was published, neither my name was there nor the names of Shri R. P. Yadav and Shri Jagannath Mishra were there.

MR. SPEAKER: They come in the order in which they are given.

SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN: There was no ballot. I was told that the names of the persons, who gave the notice in the printed form, were published.

MR. SPEAKER: Your notice was for allotment of time.

SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN: That was under rule 193.

MR. SPEAKER: What difference it will make?

SHRI MD. JAMILURRAHMAN: I may not get a chance to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: The other notices came much earlier than yours and I cannot mention all the names. Your notice was for allotment of time and time was allotted. That cannot change the order.

श्री मधु सिन्घे (बांका) : अध्यक्ष महोदय मेरा प्वाइंट आफ़ ऑर्डर कहिये या प्रार्थना, सर्जिमिशन कहिये मैं इसकी मदद के लिये कहना चाहता हूँ कि प्लानिंग कमिशन ने निर्णय किया है कि अब बाढ़ और सूखे के लिये किसी तरहकी कोई सहायता नहीं दी जायेगी।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : जब आप बोलेंगे तब यह कहियेगा।

श्री मधु सिन्घे : गोस्वामी साहब भाषण दे इसके पहले क्या प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर इस पर कुछ कहेंगे? सरकार की नीति क्या है उस पर कुछ उनको कहना चाहिए।

श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव (कटिहार) :

अध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। फ्लड और ड्राइट के ऊपर चर्चा में यहाँ पर इरीगेशन मिनिस्टर मौजूद हैं लेकिन हम चाहते हैं कि प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर भी यहाँ पर रहे क्योंकि बिहार और अन्य प्रदेशों में जो आज बाढ़ की समस्या है उस पर जब तक कि यहाँ पर प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर नहीं बैठते हैं, डिस्कशन करना कोई अर्थ नहीं रखता है। मेरी आप से प्रार्थना है आप इस पर अपनी व्यवस्था दें।

MR. SPEAKER: It is note a point of order.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI (Gauhati): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on this important day of our national life when the new President of the Republic of India, Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed, has assumed office with an abundant measure of good will and regard from the people of this country and from the members of this House, I take this opportunity of inviting the attention of the House to an equally important national problem, i.e. the problem of floods and droughts in this country. I start with an expression of thanks, a sincere appeal and a note of apology. My thanks are to you, Mr. Speaker, for giving us this opportunity to discuss this matter. My appeal is to the members of the House, particularly to the opposition to the effect that let us for once not turn this into a political debate, as we have tried to do in the case of many debates in the past. By trying to turn it into a political debate with allegations and counter-allegations, the opposition may be able to achieve the limited objective of embarrassing the Government by focussing on its failures or we may be able to score a point by substantiating that the Government has taken all the measures

possible, but I think that will not help the cause of the millions of distressed people whose cause we are trying to focus through this discussion.

My apology is to this House is because, though the discussion is on both flood and drought and as the initiator of the discussion I should deal with both these aspects, I will deal with only the aspect of flood because, so far as the present drought situation is concerned. I have no personal knowledge and so I will leave it to my friends who have personal knowledge about it.

The question of flood has become an annual feature in this country and this year is no exception. But the only exception this year has been the magnitude of the problem because we have found the country being ravaged by unprecedented floods, particularly in the North Eastern region, where millions and millions of people are suffering tremendously under the impact of flood. Right from the hilly regions of Arunachal Pradesh to the coastal area of Kerala there has been indescribable, destruction to crops, properties lives and so on and so forth.

I will try to place on record some facts as to the totality of destruction in this country. Of course, I will be brief about the destruction and damage in other parts of the country except my state as my other friends would be placing them. I will simply give some statistics and figures.

So far as Bihar is concerned. the area affected officially is 15,000 hectares and the unofficial estimate of the population affected is 8 million and the minimum estimate of damage to crops is Rs. 5 lakhs. In Kerala the damage is Rs. 5 crores to 6 crores. 32 people have died there. The damage by land slide in Idikk has been estimated to be Rs. 2

crores. In Maharashtra the situation can be gauged by the fact that 49 human lives have been lost. In Manipur the lives lost is 3 and damage Rs. 1.06 crores. In Orissa the damage is to the extent of Rs. 52 lakhs. In West Bengal 10 lakhs of people in two or three districts are suffering tremendously because of food shortage. Gujarat has been ravaged by Narmada. In Madhya Pradesh the district of Hoshangabad has been very badly affected. There has been marginal damage in Punjab, Rajasthan and Arunachal. Though it may seem paradoxical, it is a matter of surprise to us that this year we had floods even in the hilly regions of Meghalaya also. This can be compared to something like snowfall in Calcutta. From that you can gauge the magnitude of the problem.

Similarly, in the neighbouring country of Bangladesh there has been tremendous floods. I am referring to the problem of floods in Bangladesh because floods in Bangladesh is related to floods in India. We can imagine the extent of damage in Bangladesh when we hear the voice of anguish of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, esteemed Prime Minister, that the entire post-liberation gains have been washed away by the floods. I take this opportunity of conveying our sincere feeling of distress to the affected people of this neighbouring country, a distress which we all of us share today in this country also.

Coming to my own State, which has been affected most by the floods. I must place on record certain statistics. The area affected by floods in my State of Assam has been 10,000 sq. miles. The crop area affected is 3.25 lakhs hectares. The number of villages affected is approximately 6,000 and population affected 40 lakhs. Along with floods we had also devastation by erosion. Land erosion has taken away 50 sq. miles. A further area of 100 sq. miles is under threat and as the water will

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami]

subside, this area is likely to be eaten away by the Brahmaputra. The number of families affected by erosion are about 6,000. The damage caused to houses, public institutions etc. has been assessed according to moderate estimates at Rs. 5 crores. The value of crops lost is Rs. 40 crores. The damage caused to roads, embankments etc. come to Rs. 5 crores, making a total of Rs. 50 crores.

You can very well imagine the plight of the State of Assam. Assam is a State with very limited resources. If on account of the annual floods—because, we are now having the fourth wave of flood this year in quick succession—we lose Rs. 50 crores how can the economy of the State and the people bear its impact. You can judge the magnitude of the problem from the fact that so far 4,286 educational institutions have been either damaged or destroyed. On that account alone the loss comes to Rs. 2.10 crores. We have to provide relief to 39,000 people in camps. The loss of cattle is 3,254 and the houses damaged come to 13,550. On account of the ravages of these unprecedented floods I have seen for myself people coming in streams from the villages to the nearby cities like the city of Gauhati or other urban or semi urban areas in search of a morsel of grain. I have with me a very touching report of a news item from the *Times of India*.

I know, there may be some exaggeration in this report. But even assuming that in spite of all the exaggeration if there is some element of truth in the report, it makes indeed a very sorry reading and it makes a shocking news. This is *Times of India* dated 20th August, 1974, which says:

“We never had to stir out of our houses for anything. But acute food scarcity has forced us to come here and beg from door to door for food to save our children from

starvation. We are ashamed seeking alms, but in villages, rice is either not available or its price is beyond our reach...”

This harrowing picture was painted by a group of women from Hajo village in the district of Kamrup in the State of Assam from which I come.

A very significant and a very important aspect of the report is:

“Abject poverty and near-starvation conditions have forced many villagers to abandon children surreptitiously at the doorsteps of well-to-do people”

Also, the report says:

“Though the city has no red light area, the railway station premises, some hotels and vast stretches of the Brahmaputra banks have turned into dens of vice. Some taxi-drivers are allegedly engaged in trafficking in women.”

I have also heard from a very reliable source which I have no reason to doubt that trafficking in women has taken place because these women have got nothing to fall back upon to maintain their livelihood. I feel that the entire House, irrespective of party affiliation or considerations, should take this serious thing into consideration and should try to find out ways and measures as to how not only the misery but the social evil that is cropping up because this problem can be tackled effectively.

I have seen for myself, because of heavy floods and erosion, people leaving their homes and hearths. I have with me also the Assam Government publication, “Tears Rolling Down” which I will present to Mr. K. C. Pant showing the devastation of floods, by photographs. While I was in Gauhati, I saw a photo in one of the newspapers in which an old lady of about 75 years of age, a middle-aged lady about 40—45 years of age and her son, a young boy of about 11-12 years of age of my constituency were

shown leaving their home and marching to Gauhati with bundles on their heads in search of food and shelter. The young boy who was carrying a bundle was almost of the same age of my eldest daughter. At that time, a feeling came to me with a sense of anguish that supposing this thing would have happened to me, if I had to leave my home and hearth with my children, my wife and my ailing and old mother, how would I have felt. I, therefore, feel that we should seriously take into consideration this matter.

When I looked at the photo of the young boy, he was almost asking me with innocent face. "I have been born in this independent country. Have I not the right to have a little shelter, a piece of cloth and a grain of food for me". When I looked at the photo of an old lady, with wrinkles all over her face, I found her face speaks nothing. Probably, her whole life has been a life of suffering. But when I looked at the photo of the middle-aged lady, I felt as if she was asking me. "We have given you all the powers. We are not asking for more. What are you doing to give us at least the minimum of shelter, clothing and food?". At that moment of anguish, in an acute feeling of distress, I asked myself: "Do we justify our presence here if we are incapable of doing anything for this suffering humanity."

When I say this, it is not with the intention of criticising the Government. But I feel we should reflect our anguish in this House. I know, in Mr. K. C. Pant, we have a Minister who knows the north-eastern region much more probably than any other person because in the capacity of the Home Minister he had to deal with the problems of that region for many years. He is a man who has not only the knowledge of the human aspect of the problem but also the knowledge of the technical side of the problem. Therefore, it is not with a sense of criticism that I am placing these facts before the House. But I feel that our anguish must be reflected in the highest forum

of the country. One may say that it is all because of the fault of the Government because the Government has not done anything. I will not subscribe to that view. Because I know the Government has in its limited and humble way tried to tackle the problem. Controlling measures have been taken and this Bulletin of the Parliamentary Research and Information Service gives some information which says:

"While it may not be possible to control flood completely, all efforts should concentrate on the minimisation of loss. Till the end of March, 1973, nearly 7,375 kms. of flood embankments and 11,134 kms. of drainage channels were constructed, nearly 4,600 vilages were raised and 197 towns were brought under protection schemes."

Of course, a lot has been done by the Government with regard to controlling the floods and still the question may arise why in spite of these efforts the ravages of floods are on the increase. I have been able to find out three reasons: (1) there has been a rising accumulation of silt in the river beds and offtake channels which make them prone to water spilling over during monsoon. (2) I have been told by experts and knowledgeable persons that the bed of Brahmaputra is rising every year and also the beds of the tributaries are also rising every year and, therefore, the ravages and the intensity of the floods in Assam and the neighbouring areas are on the increase as the years are passing by. Another reason is that because of the pressure of population, more and more people have started inhabiting the low-lying flood-prone areas which was normally not done and the third factor which is more important and on which, I think, the Government should concentrate now very seriously is the inadequate steps taken for soil conservation and the indiscriminate felling of trees. There have been reports that this year's floods are in the nature of flash floods. Flash-floods have a very interesting definition it is said to be

[Shri Dinesh Chandra Goswami]

nature's revenge on man for his wilful destruction of its delicate system of checks and balances. I feel that immediate steps to avoid deforestation and the conservation of the forests are very much necessary. What is more necessary is a proper State legislation and its implementation and the strong will of the government and I do not know why the Government uptill now is not really placing much importance in this direction....

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): It is a State subject—forests.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: The Parliament has the guiding power even if it is a State subject.

If we look to the intensity of the damages, we find that since 1955 to 1971—I do not have the recent statistics with me—the country has suffered a loss of Rs. 2,400 crores and this does not take into account the losses of the Government due to remission of land revenue, etc., and expenditure on roads and buildings, etc. The annual average loss of life which is indeed a very tragic figure has been placed at 7-30 during the period of 1968-1971 and when the floods are more, I am told the average loss has been more.

The whole question now is: what are you going to do about it? As you have already rung the bell, I will now concentrate myself only on the aspect of the solution of the problems of my own region—that is, the Brahmaputra river basin.

The question of Brahmaputra river basin is engaging our mind for a long time. We have realised that this problem of Brahmaputra cannot be solved unless some solution at the international level is attempted at. And I know such solution has been attempted with success at the International level, in case of many other rivers of similar nature I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the success of the international efforts in the case of Mekong river which has many a feature parallel to Brahmaputra.

If you permit me some indulgence Sir, I wish to place certain facts, so far as Mekong and Brahmaputra are concerned, to show similarity of features. For example, Brahmaputra passes through three countries—Tibet—166 km. India—800 km. and Bangladesh—420 km. Mekong also passes through five countries—Burma, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia and Vietnam and the annual offtake of water in mekong is not less than in Brahmaputra which is assessed at 3,82,107 million cubic metres and that of Mekong at 4,75,000 million cubic metres. In 1951 when the Bureau of Flood Control of ECAFE decided to take some international rivers for investigation, they took the Mekong river and I have heard somewhere that they were inclined to take up Brahmaputra rather than Mikang but decided it again because they thought that it would not be possible to bring India and Pakistan together for joint venture.

A committee was formed to research and investigate the areas and after the Committee submitted the report, all these countries set together, formed a preparatory Committee and the project got liberal assistance from the United Nations and other organisations. I beg of the hon. Minister to take note of this and try to explore the possibilities of getting assistance from international organisations, including the United Nations to tame Brahmaputra. Today we have got a very favourable climate for a joint efforts between India and Bangladesh is concerned. The joint River Valley Commission of India and Bangladesh is already doing good work in this direction. In a recent statement one of the experts of Bangladesh, Mr. Abas, has said "the methods which were not practicable earlier for the solution of this problem are now open because of the readiness of the two riparian States to cooperate." Please look to the immense potentialities of the river. Instead of being a river of sorrow, a river of tragedy, we make it a river of great help to the economy of this country. The hydro electric generation potential of Brahmaputra has been

assessed at 6.5 million kilowatts, but so far only 0.5 per cent has been developed. In these days of power crisis, imagine the magnitude of the loss that we are suffering. So far as irrigation is concerned, the total cultivable area in Assam is 22,85,000 acres and the irrigable area today is less than 13 lakh acres. The entire area can be irrigated provided some efforts are made regarding channelisation of Brahmaputra.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what has really happened to the Brahmaputra Flood Control Bill. This has become now, as it appears, a million dollar question. We know that, even if you bring the Bill before the House today, the Brahmaputra is not going to be controlled tomorrow. But we want that the Government should make a beginning somewhere to tackle the problem. With its limited resources it is not possible for the State of Assam to tackle the problem. Even the Ganges passes through many resourceful States and they can probably tackle the problem in a much more effective way than what we can do to tackle the problem of Brahmaputra, which is dealt with by the poor State of Assam alone. The hon. Minister's predecessor, Dr. K. L. Rao, assured this House that he would bring a Bill. The hon. Minister also has assured us. I would like to know what exactly is the position now and where the matter stands. What has happened to the Barak Project? This is a project which has been pending for long and about which Mr. Chowdhuri will speak in detail; so, I will not go into it.

How long will you allow the inter-State disputes to come in the way of settlement of these problems? After all, the time has come when you have to think in terms of national interests. The States should not allow their petty, local interest to come in the way; they must be made to sacrifice their interest partially in the interest of the nation. I feel that the Central

Government should come with a strong hand in this regard.

I do not want to take much time of the House. Lastly, I would submit that, apart from long term measures, my State today is also in need of short term relief measures. We want relief in a big scale. The estimated relief requirement today is about Rs. 1 crore of gratuitous relief, apart from various other relief measures like medical, clothing etc. In villages women have only tattered clothes on them, and it may be possible for them to remain with tattered clothes indoors but when you open camps, naturally they need some clothings. Medical relief is also necessary. The details of relief, which come to about 12 crores will be supplied by my friends. I hope, the hon. Minister of Irrigation will try to impose upon his other colleagues the need for immediate relief measures.

I would conclude by saying this. When the country suffers from external aggression, we do not sit idle saying that we cannot do anything because we do not have resources. Equally, when the country suffers from such a natural aggression, I think, it is not proper for us to say that we cannot do anything because we do not have resources. As we find resources to fight any external aggression, this House is duty-bound, the country is duty-bound, to find resources; a way must be found to combat this problem because by properly combating this problem, I feel, we can transform the negative effects to high-yielding, positive effects. With this appeal, I conclude.

SHRI NOORUL HUDA (Cachar):
Floods and drought have become annual features all over the country. It is a measure of the failure of the Central Government as well as of the State Governments for the last 27 years that uptill now they are not able to check any flood of any State or of any river. We never expected that Government will be able to eliminate flood altogether from the face of the

[Shri Noorul Huda]

country but we definitely expected that the Government should check the flood of one river at least in the whole country and even that they have failed to do. In West Bengal, the districts of Cooch-Bihar, Jalpaiguri, Murshidabad, West Dinajpur, Malda, and parts of Midnapore districts have been affected due to flood. Storm and gale has swept off parts of 24 Parghanas and Midnapore which have left a trail of misery and damage worth crores of rupees. In West Bengal alone crop damage was Rs. 122 crores and 11.88 lakhs hectares of land were under water. In U.P., 81 crores worth of crop and other properties were lost. 12 people died. 1349 villages were inundated. In Bihar Rs. 56 crores worth of crops and other properties were damaged, 61,000 houses were washed away. 4146 sq. miles were affected involving 52 lakhs of people.

Then I come to Majuli which is the world's biggest river-island in Sib-sagar district in Assam. 50,000 people are marooned. In Assam 9 districts are affected, namely, Gopalpara, Kamrup, Darrang, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Nowgong, Sib-sagar, Cachar and Mikir Hills. 29,000 sq. KMs of land have been affected and there were four successive waves of flood. Even Garo Hills and Mikir Hills (which were not previously affected by floods) have been affected this time and there were extensive damages caused.

Newspaper reports have told about the damages in various places, how peopel have been turned into destitutes, how mothers and sisters have been turned into prostitutes; that is the condition we have come to. Only day before yesterday in Poona we have seen that helpless people have been digging up graves in search of saleable bones. That has come out in the papers.

Sir, the whole country beginning from Manipur, West Bengal, Bihar, U.P. to certain southern States like

Karnataka and Kerala has been terribly affected. We hear so much about flood control schemes and measures and things like that. But I am sorry there is a complete failure on the part of Government to implement them. My friend, Shri Goswami was asking as to what has happened to Brahmaputra flood control scheme. Only about a month or two ago we saw in the newspapers that the Government had not been able to fixed up the responsibility as to which Government would be in charge of the Flood Control Scheme. It is either the sole responsibility of the State of Assam or the Central Government which has to step into the shoes if Assam fails to protect. None of them is serious and earnest in taking up the responsibility. Naturally, our attention has been drawn to all these failures of the Government. Of course we do not want to make a political capital out of this situation. Government should see to it that in all seriousness and earnestness—whether it is in Assam or anywhere else,—they take steps to control the floods in time. The Government has failed totally to check the floods and starving millions of our countrymen. Many have been rendered homeless due to floods. They have failed to take the assistance of the military and other forces in times of need. We do not see at all any serious efforts on the part of government to tackle the flood situation in our State of Assam, West Bengal or in any other part of our country.

Sir, you would have seen another situation. Press reports have been published regarding scanty relief measures that are available to the States which have been misappropriated by vested interest people and by the people connected with the ruling party. That is the situation in our country. We try to draw your attention and the attention of the House to the seriousness or the gravity of the situation and asked the Central Government to immediately rush food, medicines and other assistance to

State Governments and also to speed up the same. But, to our disappointment the same has been misappropriated and this was made use of for their own purposes. My next point is this. I would ask the Central Government—the Minister concerned is present here—as to what they have done with regard to Brahmaputra flood control measures and the Barak Dam Project which are pending for a long time. Take for example Mahanadi Project or for that matter, any project in Bihar and other regions. The Government should come out with concrete measures so that projects can be taken up with all seriousness and completed in time. I can only say that Government is lacking completely in its determination to tackle this situation. I know that these problems cannot be solved within two to three months or six to nine months. What have they done in the last 20 to 25 years? I do not want to quote any further as this is time-consuming. Everywhere this is agitating the minds of the people. We do not have much time at our disposal to quote many more things. I would request the hon. Minister for Irrigation and other concerned ministers as also the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister to see to it that floods which are an annual feature in north-eastern regions or in Bihar and U.P. do not recur. These involve a loss of crores of rupees worth of crops and other materials and properties as also the lives of hundreds of people. The official figure of those that have been killed in Assam is put at only 45 whereas, unofficially, more than 80 to 90 persons have been lost in Bihar, North-eastern regions and other places all over the country. That is the situation that is developing. So I charge this Government that they are heartless and cruel and they are completely inefficient to tackle the flood situation, drought and other situations that have inflicted damage to property and lives of people. Sir, Rice is being sold at Rs. 4.50 per kilo in north Bengal and Calcutta. In Bihar and Kerala rice is being sold at Rs. 7 per kilo.

Therefore, in conclusion I would like to ask the Government to come out with concrete proposals and render immediate assistance to the people affected by floods and drought all over the country. The official assistance rendered by the Central Government to different States should be made effective and it should be seen that the funds are not misappropriated. Public men of social status should be associated with these flood relief measures. I hope the Government would spell out the various measures today on the Floor of the House so that the same may be discussed and future recurrence of floods may be avoided.

SHRI DHARNIDHAR DAS (Mangaldai): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I thank you for admitting this discussion on floods thus giving due importance to this subject of great national importance.

Sir, with an anguish of heart I am going to deal with this subject. This month is very important for our nation. During this month of August, on 9th August, we celebrated the day of national revolution that eventually brought us Independence. We celebrated the 15th August on which day we achieved our Independence and today, the 24th August, is also an important day being the coronation day of the 5th President of the Indian Republic. On this day, we are discussing a problem of great national importance, namely, floods. I am much pained because I was a soldier of that national revolution in which the rural masses were in the forefront bearing its brunt and today we have to see those people suffering havoc of floods so many years after independence. Before I deal further with the subject, I want to mourn the loss of so many lives. According to the Background Note 109 persons died in these floods in different States.

So, this should be taken as a day of resolve. Actually it is so. We have

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already taken the resolve to fight inflation. These floods are aggravating inflation. Already these floods have raised prices and already there has been shortage of food. When our country is passing through a serious economic crisis, when we need increased production, when we have undertaken planning to develop the economy with a socialist objective, just at that time, annually, according to Government's assessment, we are losing Rs. 125 crores worth of food crops and property. This proves our helplessness.

Civilisation is the conquest of nature. But we have been still victims of nature, and we have not been able to control or conquer these rivers. The rivers which were rivers of blessings and prosperity at one time have now become rivers of sorrow. We have to exercise our thought over this subject, particularly when our economy is in a very critical state.

Regarding the present floods, I visited certain areas, and there I have seen three main problems of immediate concern, namely inundation, erosion and shifting of the rivers. At a village called Namdonga-Balilesa which is about three miles away from Nalbari town, the whole river Pagladia shifted about half a furlong from its original position. On 27th June, in the evening, the engineers went and assured the people that they were quite safe and there was no danger of further erosion. In the small hours of 28th June, erosion began rapidly, and at about 10 a.m. in just five minutes' time, the whole village was washed away and there was no trace of even a single house. One person had just narrated how it happened. His was a concrete building and he thought that water would just pass over it and it would not at least be washed away. But to his surprise, he found that in five minutes everything disappeared and the entire area became a vast sea. The mood of the people is

rather more painful. Somehow they climbed tree tops; they also took shelter on the embankments. When I met them, they said 'It should have happened at night, not in the day time'. This is how people are feeling about their life.

I would like to quote Mahatma Gandhi. He said many years before independence about the peasants who constitute 80 per cent of our population who really performed the national revolution, not so much these town or city people; he said national independence was the fruit of the struggle and sacrifice of these people. About them, Mahatma Gandhi said that they had lost the lustre of life; they had lost the fascination of life. "They are fast losing the will to work, to think and even to live; they are living a life of living death." This is the position of the majority of the people in the villages.

I want to emphasise one point. What are we going to do about them in our planning? We have huge unemployment in the villages and massive poverty. No doubt, the floods are one of the causes. These villages which were described by Mahatma Gandhi as dung-heaps, are after independence still remaining in the same condition; rather some of them are living in greater poverty.

At the same time, according to Government's own statistics, the economy is working for 10 per cent of the rich class in the cities. Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru as Prime Minister himself said: 'We have constructed so many dams and so many projects with thousands of crores of rupees invested in them. Where has all increased wealth gone?' The answer was given by Mahalanobis; 50 per cent of the national income assessed on the basis of the taxed income in the corporate sector went to 10 per cent of the rich class in the cities. Ninety per cent became poorer.

The root cause of all the problems including floods lies here. What can the Ministry of Irrigation and Power do? Money is not allocated to this department. Even in a capitalist country like America, to solve the problem of unemployment and development—that was a period of crisis for them in 1930s—Roosevelt adopted two plans; the Tennessee Valley Authority and the Soil Conservation Scheme. Flood Control and electrification were achieved soon. Electrification is the first thing to be done to develop a planned economy. In the Soviet Union, before they started the five year plans in 1928, they had the plan of electrification of villages in the entire country adopted in 1920. Hydropower plants and river planning gained precedence over other things. Similarly agriculture was given first priority. In China, I visited a dam near Peking generating hydropower and controlling flood, and facilitating a similar development as in USSR. 'Agriculture first' was the policy. They gave importance to agriculture. They treated agriculture as the foundation and industry as the leading sector. Flood control, irrigation, soil conservancy were basic task of the New Economic Policy. Today, we have to seriously think about our economic policies, about our economy, which is giving rise to enormous concentration of wealth in the hands of few capitalists while generating black money to the extent of Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 14,000 crores, which is causing inflation, hyper inflation and soaring prices and hindering the implementation of our developmental projects for want of financial resources.

In the country, there is both drought and flood. It seems to be a paradox that both flood and drought occur together. This paradox is there in the capitalist economy, where there is uneven distribution of everything; uneven development is the law of the capitalist economy with the conse-

quent regional imbalances. In our country, these imbalances are there and there is uneven distribution of not only national wealth but also national water. Sir, flood control should be treated as a national subject so that water can be distributed to the needy areas, where it is more needed, to the drought prone areas. There has been a demand that this national subject should not be left to the States, which creates more inter-State disputes. Sir, Assam Government has been pressing the Central Government to take over the Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission. Here, the Members of Parliament from Assam have been demanding, during the last several Sessions, times without number, that the Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission should be taken over by the Central Government. I am very happy that Mr. K. C. Pant Minister of Irrigation and Power has given the assurance that probably, a Bill will be introduced in this Session. Then, it will be the responsibility of the Central Government. He seems to have said that this will require a big amount. But, that amount will not exceed Rs. 800 crores. This is not a big amount compared to the annual loss of so many years. This year, Assam Government has made an assessment of Rs. 50 crores as a loss due to flood damage alone.

MR. SPEAKER: You please conclude. You have taken more time.

SHRI DHARNIDHAR DAS: Sir, I am mentioning some very important points.

According to an assessment made by the Assam Government, they would require Rs. 10 crores for undertaking repairs to damaged roads and bridges etc. Sir, the sixth Finance Commission is standing in the way of the weaker States in the matter of flood relief. It has not considered financial allocation in terms of socialism which is the objective accepted by this Parliament and our party parti-

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cularly. According to the principle of socialism, weaker States have to be helped by the Centre to bring them on par with richer States, advanced States. So, this should be looked into by the Minister, i.e. the demand of the Assam Government for providing Rs. 10 crores. They do not have funds. Should they be left in this condition?

MR. SPEAKER: We see the flood in your speech, which is coming at the end. I am unable to stem it. It is much better if you conclude. You have taken almost double the time.

SHRI DHARNIDHAR DAS: This is a new point. This should be discussed by the House and we should find a way out. The Central Government should help the States in the matter of flood relief. So, I would request the Minister as well as the Members of this House to give their thought to this. This should be considered in the interest of very backward and weaker States like Assam.

12.00 hrs.

For repairing the damages to the roads and bridges, Assam Government has requested the Centre to give relief to the tune of Rs. 10 crores. For providing gratuitous relief and other relief taken together, Assam Government requires Rs. 10 crores. This is beyond the means of the State Government. Therefore, I request the Minister to take this matter to the Cabinet level, because the Finance Commission has laid down certain policies. The Cabinet should find a way out to give relief to Assam and other States which are unable to bear the burden by themselves.

My last request to the Minister is that the Brahmaputra Flood Control Commission should be taken over immediately by introducing a Bill in this Session itself and there should be a long-term project. It may require Rs. 800 crores, but that will be a permanent solution to this problem.

श्री योगेश्वर झा (जयनगर) : मध्यम महोदय बरसात से बाढ़ आये या बरसात के न होने से सूखा पड़े यह कोई नई बात नहीं है इसलिये हमारे देश के कुछ इलाके तो आम तौर से सूखा पीड़ित रहते ही हैं। लेकिन सोभाग्य से इस साल कुल मिला कर सूखा पीड़ित इलाके कम हैं—पिछले वर्षों के मुकाबले में। लेकिन बाढ़ की समस्या जो हर साल आती थी, इस साल जिस रूप में आई है उस में कुछ फर्क है। दक्षिण में केवल में भूस्खलन के चलते जो नुकसान हुआ जिस में बहुत सी जानें गईं और बरबादी भी हुई, इधर नर्मदा राप्ती माही नदियों में बाढ़ के चलते गुजरात और मध्य प्रदेश में जो बरबादी हुई खास कर मध्य प्रदेश के होशंगाबाद में बहुत ज्यादा बरबादी हुई उड़ीसा में बैतरणी ब्राह्मणी और स्वर्ण-रेखा नदियों के चलते जब कि दक्षिणी क्षेत्र में सूखा है लेकिन उत्तरी उड़ीसा में जो बरबादी हुई अनेकों तटबन्ध टूटे। लेकिन बाढ़ का मुख्य सवाल हिमालय से आने वाली नदियों के चलते एक ऐसा सवाल है जिसको मैं चाहूंगा कि यह सदन और खास कर सरकार जब तक उस को मौलिक रूप से सोचने के लिये तैयार नहीं होगी इन का हल होने वाला नहीं है। हिमालय से आने वाली नदियों में ब्रह्मपुत्र से लेकर कोसी कमला बूढ़ी गण्डक, गण्डक घाघरा राप्ती— इन सभी नदियों की बाढ़ से जो बरबादी हुई है वह अभूतपूर्व है। अभी हमारे कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने असम बाढ़ नियंत्रण आयोग का उल्लेख किया— मेरी समझ में यह उस का इलाज नहीं है। सिर्फ बाढ़ नियंत्रण के लिये कुछ कदम उठाने से हिमालय की नदियों का इलाज नहीं हो पायेगा। ब्रह्मपुत्र कोसी और कमला का इलाज असम्भव है, राप्ती घाघरा और गण्डक का इलाज भी हम नहीं कर सके हैं। फॉरेन सिचुआई का सवाल पैदा हो जाता है, क्योंकि हिमालय की नदियां तेजी से आती हैं और उस के बाद गंगा में मिलती हैं या समुद्र में चली जाती हैं। तेज रफ्तार से पानी आता है और चला जाता है और उस के बाद सूखे का

Situation (Disc.)

सवाल पेश हो जाता है। इसलिये बाढ़ नियंत्रण और सिंचाई योजना को साथ लेना पड़ेगा लेकिन इन दोनों को साथ लेने से भी इलाज निकलने वाला नहीं है। जैसे इस बार हम ने देखा बिहार में जितने तटबंध थे कोई नहीं टूटा लेकिन सभी तटबंध निरर्थक साबित हो गये। तटबंध मौजूद है लेकिन दोनों बगल पानी पूरा भरा हुआ है या तटबंध के ऊपर से चला गया है। इस में कुछ हमारी सरकार की ओर कुछ हमारे इंजीनियरों की मेहरबानी है—क्षमा करें मैं विदेश मामले में अपने देश की सरकार की निन्दा करने की बात कर रहा हूँ— इस में हमारी सरकार के कुछ इंजीनियरों और मिनिस्टर लोग भी, सिंचाई विभाग के शामिल हैं उन की तुच्छ बुद्धि के चलते हमारी बाढ़ादो हुई है। नैपाल के साथ हमारा समझौता था कि कमला का तटबंध जयनगर के उत्तर में सीस पानी तक जायेगा। यह लिखित समझौता नैपाल सरकार के साथ है लेकिन एक गुप्त आदेश के जरिये—अगर मंत्री महोदय चेलेंज करेंगे तो मैं उस को दाखिल करने को भी तैयार हूँ—कहा गया कि जयनगर तक अपनी सरहद तक बांध ले और ऊपर छोड़ दें। इन्होंने नैपाल को सबक सिखाने के लिये उस को छोड़ दिया। इन की तुच्छ बुद्धि का यह परिणाम निकला कि ऊपर नैपाल के सैकड़ों गांव तो बूबे ही लेकिन चूकि उन के गांव तो साथे पर थे लिहाजा सारा पानी दोनों तटबंधों के दोनों बगल में आ गया कमला का तटबंध नहीं टूटा लेकिन दोनों बगल के क्षेत्र पानी में डूब गए। दोनों बगलों में पानी समुद्र की तरह से छाया हुआ है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय अब मैं इस की जड़ में जाना चाहता हूँ—अभी जो परबादी हुई खास कर उत्तरी बिहार में वह अभूतपूर्व है। हम लोग जो इस को देख रहे हैं और हमारे अलावा जो बूढ़े हैं उन्होंने भी जीवन में ऐसी बाढ़ नहीं देखी।

Situation (Disc.)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आप तो अभी बूढ़े नहीं हुए हैं।

श्री भोगेन्द्र शर्मा : मैं बहुत बूढ़ा होने का दावा तो नहीं करता, लेकिन जो बहुत बूढ़े हैं उन्होंने भी अपने जीवन में ऐसी बाढ़ नहीं देखी। ता 0 9 से ले कर आज तक सीतामढ़ी, मधुबनी, दरभंगा के जिले रेल और सड़क के रास्ते समूचे भारत से कटे हुए हैं। रेलवे लाइन के ऊपर 4 से 6 फुट तक पानी वह रहा है। पी 0 डब्ल्यू 0 डी 0 की सड़क पर समस्तीपुर से दरभंगा के बीच में 9 जगहों पर कहीं कहीं 1 किलोमीटर, डेढ़ किलोमीटर, 2 किलोमीटर की दूरी तक ढाई से तीन फुट पानी के नीचे डूबी हुई है—इस तरह से वह पूरा इलाका कटा हुआ है।

इसलिये मेरा आग्रह है कि इस में जो नदियां हैं उन में दो देशों का पाला पड़ता है—एक तो ब्रह्मपुत्र का सवाल है, जिस में भारत और बंगला देश का सम्बन्ध है—गोस्वामी जी ने अभी उस के सम्बन्ध में विस्तार से बतलाया है—लेकिन मैं ऐसा समझता हूँ कि बाढ़ नियंत्रण कमीशन असम से केन्द्र ले ले तो उस से इलाज होने वाला नहीं है। यद्यपि मैं इसका विरोधी नहीं हूँ—लेकिन इस को मैं इस समस्या का इलाज नहीं समझता हूँ। मेरी दृष्टि में जब तक मल्टी परपज प्रोजेक्ट के रूप में—बाढ़ नियंत्रण सिंचाई और विद्युत् उत्पादन—इन तीनों को एक साथ नहीं लिया जायेगा, तब तक ब्रह्मपुत्र का नियंत्रण नहीं हो सकेगा, न कासी का होगा, न कमला का होगा, न गण्डक का होगा, न राप्ती और घाघरा का होगा...

एक माननीय सदस्य : गंगा का भी नहीं होगा।

श्री भोगेन्द्र शर्मा : मैं तो अभी गंगा का जिक्र नहीं किया है। इन नदियों पर रोक लगायेंगे तो गंगा भी कंट्रोल में आ जायेगी।

[श्री भोगेन्द्र झा]

अध्यक्ष महोदय कोसी और कमला ऐसी नदियां हैं जिन्हें विपत्ति की नदियां कहते हैं। बचपन में हम से कहा जाता था कि ये दोनों नदियां 100 सालों में मिल जाया करती हैं और 100 सालों में अलग हो जाया करती हैं, लेकिन हम लोग इस को अश्विश्वास कह कर इस को नहीं मानते थे, लेकिन अब देखते हैं—मेरी जिन्दगी में ही 50 मील का सफर कोसी ने किया है—पूरब से पश्चिम की ओर, और 40 मील का सफर कमला ने किया है—पश्चिम से पूरब की ओर। हम लोगों ने सोचा था कि तटबंधों के बाद इन दोनों का मेल नहीं हो सकेगा, लेकिन फिर भी दोनों का मेल हो गया।

मैं आज मंत्री जी को चेतावनी के रूप में कह रहा हूँ—मैं अर्मा उर्मा इलाके से आ रहा हूँ—कोसी की चोट पूरब के तटबंध पर पड़ रही है। ये ऐसी नदियां हैं जिन का धारा निश्चित नहीं है, वे एक तरफ अपनी धारा बन्द कर देती हैं और दूसरी तरह धारा खोल देती हैं—इस तरह की संहारक नदियां हैं। इस साल इन नदियों से जो संहार हुआ है—बिहार सरकार से जो सूचना मिली है उस के अनुसार 71 करोड़ रुपये की फसल की बरबादी हुई है...

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी (गोपालगंज) :
74 करोड़ रुपये की बरबादी हुई है।

श्री भोगेन्द्र झा : इस साल भदई की फसल बड़ी अच्छी थी, अगर 15-20 दिन भी बाढ़ में देरी हो जाती तो एक अच्छी फसल निकलती लेकिन अब 100 फंसदी नष्ट हो गई है, धानकी खेती भी पूरी तरह आबाद हो गई थी और अब मैं पिछली सफा आया था तो यह सोच कर आया था कि इन बार लेकी की बसुली का काम जम कर करायेंगे, लेकिन वह पूरी फसल बरबाद हो गई। घरों के गिरने का जहाँ तक सम्बन्ध है, इस में दिया गया है कि सवा लाख घर गिरने का अनुमान है, लेकिन

अब जो बाढ़ का पानी घट रहा है—घर गिरते चले जा रहे हैं। एक पक्के घर को गिरते मैं ने देखा है। दरार पड़ कर फटते हुए मैं ने देखा है। अगर एक दिन भी पानी और बरसा तो पानी निकलने के बाद लाखों घर और गिरेंगे। मवेशियों का कोई हिसाब नहीं है। सवा सौ से ऊपर लोगों की जानें चली गई हैं। इसके अलावा जो बरबादी हुई उसके लिए फौरी राहत का मामला है। यह बात किसी भी राज्य सरकार के ध्यान की नहीं है। केरल की सरकार ने 3 करोड़ की मांग की है, 1 करोड़ उन्होंने दे भी दिया है। असम सरकार की जो मांग है उमका एक छोटा सा हिस्सा केन्द्र ने दिया है। बिहार सरकार अभी तक कुछ गल्ले की मांग कर चुकी है, पूरी रकम का उमको अन्दाजा नहीं है लेकिन उत्तर बिहार के लिए जो सब से आवश्यक चीज है वह मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ।

12.12 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

कृषि मन्त्री यहां पर थे, अब नहीं है, मैं चाहूंगा एक चीज उत्तर बिहार के लिए अभी भी आप कर दें, केवल धान की सीडॉलिंग आप वहां पर फौरन पहुंचा दें, पश्चिम यू०पी० से, हरयाणा से संज्ञाव से—जहां से भी हो—तो धान की फसल अभी भी हो जायेगी अगले साल के लिए। वहां की जमीन बहुत अच्छी है। 15 दिन में वहां पर लोग धान को आबाद करेंगे, केवल आप बीजड़ा पहुंचा दीजिए। सबसे अच्छी रिस्लीफ यही होगी, बेकारों को काम मिल जायेगा और जमीन भी आबाद हो जायेगी। बाढ़ में जमीन काफी ढीली हो गई है। तो इनसे अच्छा रिस्लीफ का काम दूसरा कोई ही नहीं सकता है। बिहार में बीजड़ा उपलब्ध नहीं है। सौ सवा सौ रुपये काट्टा विफलता है और वह भी मिलता नहीं है। कुछ तो मध्य बिहार से जा सकता है। पटना डिवीजन से लेकिन

सिर्फ उसी से काम नहीं चलेगा। आप कुछ स्पेशल ट्रेन्स चलाकर वहाँ बीजड़ा पहुंचा पायें तो अगले साल का इलाज हो सकता है नहीं तो अगले साल भी हाहाकार होगा। अमीर गरीब का कोई फर्क नहीं होगा क्योंकि एक छटांक कहीं पैदा नहीं होगा। तो उस स्थिति को बचाने के लिए आप एक, दो, चार दिन में फौरन बीजड़ा भोजना शुरू कर दें। अगर आप यह पहुंचा सकें तो लोग अपनी खेती आबाद कर लेंगे।

दूसरे—जो आपका राज्य है और जैसी आपकी व्यवस्था है उसमें नकद रूप में अगर आप सहायता भेजेंगे तो आप इम्तियान रखें आधे से ज्यादा पैसा खाने वाले लोग बीच में ही मौजूद हैं। कम से कम आधी सहायता वह खा जायेंगे। कुछ इलाकों को छोड़ दीजिए क्योंकि वहाँ के लोग लड़ने के लिए तैयार हैं, आपके दफ्तर को घेरते हैं, वह तो आपसे ले लेंगे। लेकिन वह तो जर्बदस्ती ही लेंगे, अपनी ताकत के बल पर लेंगे, आन्दोलन के बल पर लेंगे परन्तु आम तौर पर अगर कहीं आधी सहायता भी पहुंच जायें तो आप समझिये वह बहुत ईमानदार इलाका है, वह; के अफसर ईमानदार हैं वरना वह भी गायब हो जायेंगी। बीजड़ा आप देंगे तो उसके गायब होने का खतरा नहीं है, वह पहुंच भी सकेगा और वह सहायता कारगर भी साबित होगी।

बिहार में एक और भी मुसीबत है। अभी जगजीवन बाबू वहाँ पर गए थे, उन्होंने जयप्रकाश नारायण जी से अपील कर दी कि आप आन्दोलन बन्द कर दीजिए। उन्होंने जयप्रकाश जी से दोस्ती करने का आह्वान किया है तो वे अपनी दोस्ती उससे तय कर लेंगे, मैं तो केवल यहीं कहूंगा कि उत्तर बिहार का जो इलाका है वहाँ के लोगों ने जयप्रकाश जी का इलाज पहले ही कर दिया है। बाढ़ से पहले ही वहाँ पर सारे कानोजों की परीक्षाएँ हुई हैं, पूरी यूनिवर्सिटी में परीक्षाएँ हुई हैं। बाढ़ के पहले से ही वहाँ कोई आन्दोलन नहीं है

क्योंकि वहाँ के लोगों ने समझ लिया है कि हमारी मांगों के लिए यह आन्दोलन नहीं है, हमारे लाभ के लिए यह संघर्ष नहीं है। इसलिए वहाँ पर बाढ़ सहायता में कोई भी बाधा पड़ने वाली नहीं है। बाधा का मतलब यही है कि बड़े पैमाने पर आप वहाँ राहत भेजते हैं या नहीं। राहत में गल्ले का मतलब है क्योंकि जैसा मैं ने कहा जिनके पास थोड़ा गल्ला है या जिनके पास बीजड़ा है वह उनको सवा मी सपया बहुत बच रहे हैं। बिहार की सरकार डिहोडिंग कर चाहेगी, ऐसा उसका हालत नहीं है। केन्द्र में भी यही हालत है। उत्तर प्रदेश में गल्ले का थोक व्यापार अपने हाथ में लेने की मांग की है लेकिन केन्द्रीय सरकार उस पर बैठकर सी रही है। उनको अपने हाथ में लेने की केन्द्र सरकार की हिम्मत नहीं है। गल्ला चोरों का प्रभाव पटना और दिल्ली सभी जगह पर है। लेकिन अगर आप गल्ला चोरों में डिहोडिंग करके गल्ला दे सकें तो लोग मुफ्त में ही उसको लेने के लिए तैयार नहीं हैं, वरन् अपने बर्तन बेचकर आपको पैसा देकर और खरीदकर चाहेंगे। अगर आप उनको गल्ला दे सकें तो यह बहुत बड़ा काम हो जायेंगा। तो जो वहाँ पर स्थिति पैदा हो गई है उसमें केन्द्रीय सरकार एक तो गल्ला दे, अभी थोड़ा सी ही मांग बिहार सरकार ने की है लेकिन जो मांग की है उससे बहुत ज्यादा की जरूरत पड़ेगी। अगर अभी आप किसान के धान के खेत आबाद करवा देते हैं तो अगले अगहन के बाद वहाँ रिलीफ का कोई आवश्यकता नहीं होगी। मैं यह भी जानता हूँ रिलीफ में प्रशासन की ओर से कितना अष्टाचार होता है। हमारे यहाँ के एक मुखिया थे जो रिलीफ का माल खाने के अपराध में गिरफ्तार हो गए। उन्होंने सैकड़ों व्यक्तियों के फर्जी नाम लिखाकर पाई करवा लिए और उसको खा गए। इस सिलसिले में मुखिया, बी० एल० डब्लू०, सैकल इंस्पेक्टर और दुकानदार—

[श्री भोगेंद्र झा]

चारों पर मुकदमा चलाया गया। अब उनकी पैरवी में नेता जा रहे हैं, मिनिस्टर जा रहे हैं। कलक्टर ने इक्वायरी की लेकिन जब वह फर्जी भ्रामदी थे तो मिलेंगे कहां से? फिर भी पैरवी हुई। राज्य सरकार से इक्वायरी हुई और उसके बाद मुकदमा चला। वह व्यक्ति संगठन कांग्रेस में एम०एल०ए० थे। जब मुकदमा चल गया, कोर्ट से सम्मन हो गया, पूरी रिलीफ का मौल वह खा गए उसके बाद वह विधायक कांग्रेस में दाखिल हो गए हैं। अभी उन पर मुकदमा चल रहा है। यह मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूँ कि शासक दल जो है उनमें खाने की होड़ है। बिहार सरकार के परिवर्तन का इतना हल्ला है लेकिन एक भी एम० एल० ए० और एम० पी० इधर उधर से किसी ने नहीं कहा है, क्योंकि लेकर जवान तक, कि जिस नीति पर बिहार सरकार चल रही है वह गलत है तो यह व्यक्तियों का झगड़ा है। किसी के कान खराब हैं, किसी का मुंह अच्छा नहीं है, कोई लूना है लंगड़ा है उस यही वहां पर सवाल है। उसमें नीति का सवाल ही पेश नहीं होता है। या फिर यह है कि उसने ज्यादा खा लिया, मझे भी खाने दो। तो यह बड़ी दुर्भाग्य की बात है। (व्यवधान) मैं हटाने के लिए लड़ रहा हूँ लेकिन बेहतरी के लिए, बदतरी के लिए नहीं।

इसलिए जो राहत आप दे रहे हैं उसमें सबसे पहले बीजड़े के रूप में राहत दें। घरों की हालत यह है कि कहीं कहीं पर लोग सड़कों पर हैं, संघे अस्मान के नीचे हैं। सरकार की ओर से कहा गया था कि थोड़ा सा तिरपाल वगैरह दे देंगे धूप और बारिश से बचने के लिए लेकिन अभी तक कुछ ही नहीं पया है। उनके लिए घर बनाना तो बहुत दूर है, आप उनको कुछ एमीच ज नुरस्त दे दें कि खटा पर उसको खड़ा करके किसी तरह अभीसे लेकर जाड़े तक का समय बिता सकें क्योंकि जो फूस के घर थे उनके लिए लोगों को फूस भी मिलने वाला नहीं है। तो अभी जो स्थिति है उनमें लोगों को खाना खेत को भ्रामाद करना, गल्ला, इन सारी चीजों

की जरूरत है और यह काम जरा बेहतर तरीके से होना चाहिए। इस सम्बन्ध में लोकप्रिय समितियों के गठन के लिए मैं समझता हूँ केन्द्रीय सरकार सारे देश में भ्रामदेश दे दे ताकि एक प्रखण्ड में जो और सहायता पहुंचे कपडे या गल्ला के रूप में उसका हर पंचायत में पूरा हिसाब किताब रखा जा सके और ग्राम लोग जान सकें कि किस किस को क्या क्या सहायता मिली है। ऐसा न हो कि 8 या 12 ग्राम सहायता बीच में ही गायब हो जाये।

आखिर में, जैसा मैंने कहा ब्रह्मपुत्र का मसला भारत और बंगलादेश का मसला है। हम अपने लिए और बंगलादेश के लिए अगर मल्टीपज प्रोजेक्ट के रूप में, हिमालय से निकलने के समय ही ब्रह्मपुत्र पर ऐसी योजना लागू कर सकें तो पूर्वी भारत के लिए, बंगलादेश के लिए यह बाढ़ जो अभिशाप है वही ब्रह्मपुत्र हमेशा के लिए वरदान के रूप में ही जायेगी। इससे बाढ़ का इलाज ही जायेगा, सुखाड का इलाज ही जायेगा, सिंचाई का इंतजाम ही जायेगा, पनबिजली का प्रबन्ध ही जायेगा और पूर्वी भारत के विकास के लिए यह एक बहुत बड़ा कदम साबित होगा। इससे नेफा और मेघालय का इलाका हिन्दुस्तान का बागीचा बन जायेगा। लेकिन इससे भी बड़ा मामला कोसी का है। ब्रिटीश राज्य के जमाने में जत्र लार्ड डैवल थे तब विदेशी विज्ञेपन भी आये थे और एक योजना तैयार हुई थी कि मल्टी-पज प्रोजेक्ट बनाया जाये। यह भाखड़ा नंगल से भी पहले की बात है लेकिन उसको खटाई में डाल दिया गया। आज इतनी बर्बादी हो रही है बाढ़ और सूखे के चलते उस इलाके में लेकिन अगर कोसी से पनबिजली बनेगी तो सारे हिन्दुस्तान में जितना बिद्युत का उत्पादन हो रहा है उसके चौगुई में ज्यादा, लगभग सिहाई बिजली अकेले कोसी से पैदा होगी और इतनी तस्ती बिजली और

कभी भी उपलब्ध नहीं होगी। मैं ने प्रधान मंत्री को लिखा था और उन्होंने आश्वासन दिया था कि इसकी व्यावहारिकता के बारे में वह जांच करवायेंगी। और यह कोसी, कमला, गंडक और राप्ती का भी मामला है। इन के लिये नेपाल सरकार से बात कर के हम अपना और नेपाल का उद्धार करेंगे और अभी जो अभिशाप है उस को बरदान में बदल देंगे, विद्युत का संकट हल हो जायगा क्योंकि हिमालय से निकलने वाली नदियों में जितनी शक्ति पैदा हो सकती है यदि उस का उपयोग हम कर ले तो ब्रह्मा रहेगा। नेपाल कभी नहीं चाहेगा कि इस मामले को टाला जाय। मेरी जानकारी है, मेरी नेपाल सरकार के लोगों से बातचीत हुई है, मैं चाहूंगा मंत्री लोग खुद बात करें और नेपाल खुद सहयोग करना चाहता है क्योंकि उस का भी इगी में फायदा है और हमारा भी है और हमें इस काम को करना है। सारे भारत के लिये जो डा० के० एल० राव नेगनल प्रिड को बात कहते थे यदि उस को मूर्त रूप दिया गया तो इस अभिशाप को हम बरदान में बदल देंगे।

कोसी, ब्रह्मपुत्र, कमला, गंडक और राप्ती इन पांचों नदियों पर बहु घंठी प्रोजेक्ट के लिये आप क्या जांच करने जा रहे हैं यह मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ, और जो लार्ड देवल के जमाने की जांच रिपोर्ट है उस को हुंइवा कर उस पर अमल करने को आप तैयार हैं कि नहीं जिस से हर साल जो बाढ़ और भूखे पर हम बहस करते हैं वह न किया करें।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, there are about 54 names sent to me by the Whip of the Congress Party..

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE (Banka): You can add my name also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If you come to this side.

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Now, even if I give five minutes to each speaker, it will be round about 5 hours and the time allotted for the Congress Party is 4 hours 10 minutes. I have just mentioned this so that the Members may keep this in mind.

Now, for a change, I have here the name of Dr. K. L. Rao who has been a Minister in charge of this Ministry and he has not been speaking since he left the Ministry. We may learn something from him and in his case I may depart from this five minute limit. But I will request Dr. K. L. Rao to finish his speech within ten minutes.

Dr. K. L. Rao.

DR. K. L. RAO (Vijayawada): I would like to express my great appreciation to the hon. Minister, Shri K. C. Pant, and his Deputy Minister, Shri Siddheshwar Prasad and the officers for the excellent work they are doing under very great strain.

[Flood control work was un-known to India as a Central subject. Centre has been taking interest and responsibility since 1954. It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who had initiated the idea and from that time on, quite a large number of works have been done. Why I mention this is because some new Members may not know exactly what has been done. In these two decades since 1954 we have constructed many works which have given beneficial results. For example, Dibrugarh would not have been there had the flood protection work not been done. Likewise, if Hirakud dam was not constructed, the delta would have been merely a sheet of water instead of what it is to-day. Likewise, if the Kosi project has not been done, the Kosi would have been causing greater havoc as also would have occupied the bed of the Kamla Balan, if not Darbhanga.

If similarly Ukai project is not built on Tapi river, Surat would have been drowned. So, quite a

[Shri K. L. Rao]

large number of works are done. But still many more problems are there. The problem of flood is quite intense. The fact is that this year there was normal rainfall. It was nothing extraordinary. In spite of that we find that very Great amount of disaster has occurred in many States. It is high time that a fresh look is taken and a new approach made to those problems. I would submit what I have been thinking on this subject, for the consideration of the honourable House. The flood problem can be divided into three major groups.

The first group consists of the river systems below the tropic of cancer which passes very near Bhopal. There are a few more problems to be tackled in this region. For example Narmada which is giving trouble in Hoshangabad and Broach has to be controlled by construction of a dam at Bargi. Narmada dispute is under tribunal but Bargi dam can be sanctioned and taken up. What I say is, both Gujarat and M. P. will accept the construction of the Bargi dam. In view of the importance of the project the tribunal will accept its sanction. If that is done flood can be controlled. With this construction of Bargi and completion of Tawa the floods would not be there in Narmada.

Orissa is a State where we have cyclone and depression almost every year. It is almost an annual performance. If there are no depressions and cyclones in Orissa coast there will be no rainfall in most parts of the country. There are four major rivers which are giving trouble in Orissa. They are: Brahmini, Baitharni, Buralang and Survarnakha. These are the four major rivers. They will continue to do so unless we undertake construction to control them. There are good dam sites on these rivers, for example, the Rengali dam on Brahmini and Bhimkund dam on Baitharni and Chandil dam on Survarnakha. These are possibilities which can

save Orissa from flood damages. Rengali has been sanctioned, and this must be expedited. In Buralang there are not good dam sites and to deal with the problem of draining the excess water in the river, we have got to construct adequate outlets in the railway embankments, in the national highways and other cross structures. If this is done, the problem of Orissa, which is suffering from flood damages, will be over. Works on Survarnakhs will assist in flood control of both Balasore district in Orissa and Midnapore districts of West Bengal. According to me, the estimate would come to about Rs. 100 crores. The Centre should help the State with these funds. We have got excellent engineers in the country. If there is no money nothing can be done. No flood control can be achieved. What has to be done in the national interest has to be done quickly.

The second group of rivers is in regard to the Ganga system. The areas are eastern UP and North Bihar. Ganga river system covers both these UP and North Bihar areas populated by some 40 million people. The land here is the richest land in the world but the people are very poor. There is not even electricity. Why? Every year flood comes there. It is a case of accumulation of poverty, not prosperity. You have to tackle all these problems of these areas at a national level. These areas are Eastern U.P. and North Bihar where there are certain major rivers.

Sharda, Ghaghara, Rapti, Rohini and Gandak are the five rivers which are annually in floods and which inundate extension areas. These rivers drain water from Nepal. One more thing to remember is this, these are the rivers which flow through more than one country and which may be called international rivers. They are different from other rivers of India. Ghagra river is much bigger than Ganga at Allahabad. It comes fast. The rivers coming from Manasover

Lake are very big and you cannot expect them to be quiet. They create troubles for us unless we take measures to control the rivers. I have thought of a minimum programme to be undertaken for the next ten years. For example, take the river, Ganges. There is no problem at all upto Allahabad because it is a mild and good river. Sometimes there may be floods and inundation of large areas as at Hasanpur. These should be protected by Construction of embankments. That is the problem that we have for this river up to Allahabad. The State Government can do this. There are three places where the erosion takes place extensively. They are: Ballia, Mansi and Dhulian. These are the three places where the erosion takes place very vigorously and unless we construct protection works it can not be stopped. It means money. We have got to take up the responsibility for it. There is no use by simply saying this or that should not be done. Take for example Mansi erosion. The width of land left between the river and the National Highway is hardly from 400 to 500 feet: if this is eroded, we would lose communication in Eastern India, North Bengal and Assam. Rapti is the worst as this creates a large amount of havoc. Practically the whole of the water comes to the fertile plains. Every year there is a trouble because of the fury of this river in Eastern U.P. Gorakhpur area. Therefore, you have to construct a dam across this river. We have to arrive at some agreement with Nepal Government for the purpose. I hope the Minister is aware of it. Also the Nepal Government is aware of it. There is one site where a dam can be constructed which may be beneficial to both of us—to us as well as to Nepal—by way of irrigation in Nepal and flood control in India. That has to be pursued.

As I said some international co-operation is necessary to solve the problem of floods in Eastern U.P. and North Bihar. Three countries

are involved in this—India, Nepal and Bangladesh. Whatever we do, that would be beneficial to Bangladesh. So, international cooperation for the flood control is necessary. I will give an example of the Columbia river. There it gives prosperity to the U.S.A. It rises in Canada and flows through U.S.A. We should take note of this important achievement. The agreement provides for the construction of dams on the Columbia in Canada by U.S.A. These dams are for the benefit of the flood control areas in U.S.A. Likewise Canada is building dams for generator of hydro-Power. The water is made use of there for additional generation of power in U.S.A. This water is paid by U.S.A. Like that, we too can arrive at an agreement. We do not want to deceive anyone. There should be an international understanding with our neighbours soon. Take for example Karnal and Pancheswar dams on the Sarda for which no agreement has been made so far. The hon. Minister knows that something stands in the way of taking up the projects. There is a possibility of constructing a dam on the Rapti. The question is about Nepal's agreeing to this. There would be loss of land in Nepal due to submersion. That problem is there. River Gandak is causing a lot of havoc. Every year the loss is being caused which runs into several crores of rupees. At several places like Chittoni and Piprchi. The only solution for controlling Gandak is construction of a bridge. That project has been sanctioned by the Railways. I would request the minister to associate the Ministry's experts in the hydraulic modelists to find out the best location, with proper location side movement can be stopped. The location of Mokamah has something to do with the vast erosion taking place along with the river downstream. The location is very important. I suggest we should take advantage of the construction of the Railway Bridge, so find out the best location.

[Shri K. L. Rao]

Now I come to North Bihar. North Bihar is attacked by seven international rivers—Gandak, Bagmati, Buri Gandak, Kamla, Adwara system, Kosi and Mahananda. Nobody can help ensuring flood control unless we take some steps to receive Nepal's co-operation. There is a possibility but the work has to be done. For example, on Bagmati there is a place called Nurthore suitable for construction of a dam. The silt in the river is very rich and should not be trapped. It should be allowed to go through sluices as at Krishna Raja Sagar and old Aswan Dam. It is the richest silt in the world and we do not want to lose that silt. It is all in Nepal territory.

I want to draw the attention of the Minister in regard to Kosi. Kosi is the most difficult river next only to Yellow river of China. It is called river of sorrow. Earlier it was flowing near Purnia. Now, it is flowing 75 miles West. We provided the slit trap by providing embankment 10 miles apart. At that time we calculated the project will be effective for but I am very happy to say it is not showing any tendency to shift for another 20 years. But this will give problem at the end of the century. In the meantime we should investigate and carry out constructions at Balka, Karhera Bara Kshetra or any other detention dam on Sun Kosi. There are number of projects all along but fortunately or unfortunately they are all in Nepal territory.

There is another problem. There are three lakhs people living between the embankments in Kosi. At the time of the construction of the project we thought that the people will go out. But problem of rehabilitation still persist which has got to be taken into consideration.

Coming to the third group—Brahmaputra system—it is the most difficult one. It is one of the most difficult problems in the world because it is in a highly complicated region, that is to say, it is a region where

earthquake is of the maximum intensity in the world when it occurs. Secondly, there are a lot of mountains. These mountains are young and there are a large number of mountain slides which give a heavy silt charge. Thirdly, there is no adequate width the whole valley is about 50 miles—for the river to meander and manoeuvre. These are the inherent difficulties. The problem is a difficult one. But I am not one of those who feel any sense of despair about it. We should do something about it. What should we do? At one stage we were thinking of constructing a series of dams on the tributaries. But it is a very difficult problem. One has got to look into that matter very carefully. For example, Subansiri site is a first class granite foundation area. But to construct a dam of 800 feet in an earthquake area and at a place where the hills may slide down is a very dangerous thing. Unless we study it very thoroughly, we should not do it. Therefore, I would suggest that we should make a very thorough study of this problem from every angle, from the economic angle, from the safety angle and from every other angle in order to see whether we can do that.

The Pagladia project has been sanctioned already but it should be expedited and constructed as early as possible so that we know, taking it as a pilot project, what will happen. If we construct a project of that type on a tributary, we shall know what its impact is on the whole system. From this point of view, I would put it as a pilot project. It is a very valuable one and, therefore, I feel that we should try to build it in one or two years and not prolong it over any longer period.

But there is one hope so far as the Brahmaputra is concerned, that is, there is a place where we can construct dams very nicely on the Brahmaputra with a good effect, and this is on the Tsang-Po which is the name for the river portion in the Tibet

region. There we can construct a dam with complete safety, because it is flowing in a plateau; if you construct a dam there it will hold back the water. But that is in the Chinese territory now. I do not see why we cannot be friends with China. After all, China and India have been friends for centuries. It is only for the last ten years that there has been misunderstanding. I had the privilege of visiting that country and I had received the most extensive hospitality and they showed me all the great works. I hope for an opportunity to visit again that country to see how those works have been effective in control of floods. I think that with the great flair that our Prime Minister has for settling amicably with all our neighbours along with our External Affairs Minister, they should be able to restore friendship between India and China, even if it be for the purpose of constructing a dam on the Tsang-Po. A dam on the Tsang-Po will give positive results to us. That is my feeling. Of course, I have not gone and seen that area. But since it is in a plateau, the earthquake will have no disastrous effect on it. There is also no danger of any technical difficulties in the construction of the dam. If the water is held back, it will have a very good effect. In these floods, what we desire is this. We do not want to hold back all the water. We want to hold back only the peak water or the top water.

For example on the Yangtse river, at a place called Shesi-Yi the Chinese have constructed a regulator, not on the main river but on one bank, and whenever the flood level goes above a certain level, they allow the water to go into that sideways thereby giving a diversion. That has proved very greatly successful. So, what we want really on the Brahmaputra is this. If during the floods about 25 lakhs cusecs of water is flowing in the Brahmaputra, if we could only hold back about 3 lakhs cusecs, that will do the trick.

Of course, we must conduct very extensive and heavy geomorphological

studies for this purpose. We must continue the geomorphological studies already started on the Brahmaputra. We have done some work in this direction, but we should do more. In geomorphology, we trace the origin of the river and analyse how it has come about. Geologists tell us that the Brahmaputra from its source near Mansarover lake is used to go and join the Mekong and the Salween rivers and it had never entered Assam. If it had not have entered Assam, we would not have had any trouble at all. There is one river called the Dihang river in India which went on eroding at the head, and in course of time it has joined the Brahmaputra. This is called river Piracy, and this river has gone on and brought down the whole water to us. These things have been revealed by geomorphological studies. So, we should go very extensive investigations in this regard.

As I said, the minimum work that we have to do in that part of the country is to strengthen the embankments. The embankments there are very weak. That is why we are getting breaches. In fact, we spend crores of rupees every year on repairing the breaches, and after six months, they again get breached, and again we repair and the thing has gone on this way. This is the story that we have been having and repeating for all these ten years. So, we should build the embankments to the standard completely. But there is always the difficulty of acquiring land. Nobody allows us to take the earth there. But we should insist and see that the embankments are constructed to standard.

Secondly, there are some important gaps to be filled. In Nowgong, there is one gap which must be filled up. Piglada detention reservoir must be completed quickly. Complete investigation must be done at Subansiri in order to know whether we can take it up or not. This I would put as the minimum programme of work for that part of the country.

Also in the Barak river, there is no other alternative except to construct the dam. We have been thinking of

this for long. Unless you do that, Chacher district and Silcher town will be absolutely at the mercy of the river and every year this will go on happening. You can prepare your speech on flood damages in advance of the seasons so regular are the floods in Barak.

SHRI R. S. PANDEY (Rajnandgaon): Please shift from Brahmaputra and come to Narmada also.

DR. K. L. RAO: As for the Barak dam, the earlier it is done the better. It will also help very greatly Bangladesh. It would be a gesture of great friendship which this one single structure would provide. It will immediately have a beneficial effect on the Surnam and Meghna valley.

The Brahmaputra Group III is estimated to cost about Rs. 350 crores to be spent in that part of the country. This will include the construction of the Barak dam.

I want to say a word about organisation. We have got two organisations already. We have got the Ganga Flood control Board and the other organisation for the Brahmaputra. Whatever you do, you must create complete autonomous bodies from two organisations completely independent with complete powers and responsibilities and finance, so that for Group II and III they can go ahead in an undisturbed way for ten years—the amount of money envisaged is for ten years—Rs. 200 crores for the Ganga system and Rs. 350 crores for the Brahmaputra system. Ten years, two organisations—this will complete all the necessary work. That is the minimum I would put as the programme of flood control of the difficult parts of our country.

The national policy should be that these works should be done by the Centre. Other works can be done by the respective States.

There is one other point. We say India is very rich. Rich in what? Rich in the human resources. What are you doing with the human resources? We are not making use of it except for voting in the elections. There

is no other use we are making of these human resources. If you want to make use of these resources, you must study the methods adopted in China and USSR and see what they have done. They have utilised this human resource in a most wonderful way. I have seen a work in China where 13 lakh people were employed and they were working in a most devoted manner and completed the work in 80 days, whereas here it would have taken 8 years. Therefore, it is very important for us to utilise this human resource to the best possible extent. The only way it can be done is to ensure that every man above 18 or 20 or 25, whatever it is, must do the work for one or two years as a sort of service. Flood control is a field where you can introduce it very nicely. I think a start can be made in Assam in that respect. Everybody should work for one or two years in some capacity or other, in investigation, in planning, or in construction.

During the second world war, I stayed in England. There everyone had to do fire watching compulsorily. Whether one is a topmost professor or a lecturer or anybody else—I was a research fellow there—everybody had to do it by turns. You go in the evening to the place assigned and stay for the whole night and if there is any fire caused by Molotov 'baskets'—they used to call incendiary bombs by this name—we had to go out and put out the fires. People were trained beforehand for this work. We enjoyed that very much. We used to have discussions on various subjects when there was no bombing. Likewise we should have a survey and work out details. Otherwise, for such emergencies you have to rush in the army people. People have to be trained beforehand for this work. For Group II on the Ganga system, we must have necessary boats, medicines and other essentials stored at a central place. There must be an organisation which will take care of these things before the monsoon sets in. So I submit that all this can be looked into before occurrence of floods.

Again I would submit that we must have a national flood control policy. For Group II and III, I have described what is necessary to be done. For Group I, you have to provide only the money. That will do.

Below the Tropic of Cancer, there is no trouble from floods. Only in Kerala there is some trouble on account of sea erosion. We are losing valuable land there on account of sea erosion. First class lands in Kerala and sea erodes them. The Estimates Committee of Parliament had many times agreed that the required money should come from the Centre. But the Planning Commission says that it should come from the State Funds. The State is not able to do this and most valuable lands are being lost to every year.

As far as Group I is concerned, one need not worry about it. We can provide Rs. 100 crores and forget about it. But Group II and Group III require careful watching. In fact, solutions have also to be found for Group III. An International Corporation is necessary. We should have friendship with both China and Nepal and we have got to negotiate with them. Unless we do this, there is no use feeling that floods will be a thing of the past. But if we do that, India would be very safe. Then Twentyfirst Century can start without these troubles.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I think Dr. Rao's departure from the Government has been a gain to the House. He has been able to speak with candour and without inhibitions of office.

*SHRI M. S. SIVASWAMY (Tiruchendur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I wish to participate in the Discussion on the Flood and Drought situation in the country and express my views.

The States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Assam have had to face the fury of flood this year also. The floods in these States have taken a heavy toll of human lives and cattle. They have brought untold misery to millions of people living in these States. The floods are not a rare phenomenon of this year only. The

floods have been a recurring feature year after year. We in this House have also been discussing the havoc caused by floods every year. Sir, I have to regretfully point out that, except for this annual routine, the floods have not yet been controlled by vigorously implementing a Master Plan with a massive investment in the interest of general welfare of millions of our countrymen who have been the regular victims of the floods.

A Perspective Plan for Flood Control for the Decade ending March, 1981, a pamphlet published by the Central Water and Power Commission of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, gives a graphic picture of the flood havoc during the period 1953 to 1971. I would like to quote certain statistics from this pamphlet, as it will help the Members to realise the extent of loss suffered by the country on account of recurring floods. It will also bring home the fact that the Government have not taken serious steps to control the menace of floods. During this period of 19 years, the total area affected by floods was 131.5 lakhs hectares. The cropped area affected was 61.4 lakh hectares. The population affected by floods was 587 lakhs. The number of houses damaged in floods were 23.04 lakhs. The value of crops damaged was Rs. 419.6 crores; the value of damage to public utilities was of the order of Rs. 129.1 crores. The total loss on account of damage to crops, houses and public utilities was Rs. 627 crores. The agriculturists, the people in general and the Government have all suffered this loss of Rs. 627 crores. The Government have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 228 crores upto the end of March, 1971 on flood control works. On an average, the damage caused by floods is of the order of Rs. 33 crores per year and again, on an average, the Government's expenditure on flood control works has been Rs. 12 crores a year. I would like to know whether this does not reveal the callous attitude of the Government in the matter of controlling floods. As I mentioned in the beginning, the Government have prepared the perspective

*The Original speech was delivered in Tamil.

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plan for Flood control for the decade ending March, 1981 with a capital outlay of Rs. 540 crores. I would appeal to the hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power that he should ensure full implementation of this perspective plan and the entire amount of Rs. 540 crores should be spent on flood control measures.

Even this 10-year perspective plan may not yield a permanent solution to the recurring problem of floods. The northern parts of our country are inundated by flood waters on account of frequent downpour and at the same time the southern parts of our country are suffering for want of rains. In one part of the country there are roaring floods and in the other there is acute drought. Several hundreds of crores of rupees are lost both in floods and in drought. A Master Plan with a capital outlay of a few thousands of crores is a must, if the Government are keen to find out a permanent solution to the problems of flood and drought. I would like to warn the Central Government that, if such a Master Plan is not formulated and implemented earnestly, the flood waters will continue to devastate our country and the drought also will continue to sear our country.

On 12th November, 1973, the Union Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power laid on the Table of this House a statement on the damage caused by floods and cyclones in the country during the monsoon of 1973. The country had suffered the highest damage from floods in the year 1973. In 1973, the State of Assam suffered a damage of Rs. 16.5 crores; Bihar—20 crores; Gujarat—119 crores; Madhya Pradesh—69 crores; Orissa—40.6 crores; Rajasthan—101 crores; Uttar Pradesh—Rs. 68.5 crores; West Bengal—15.6 crores. All other States suffered a loss of Rs. 33 crores during 1973. The total damage on account of floods during 1973 was Rs. 485 crores, out of which the damage to crops was of the value of Rs. 364 crores. Every year the floods come and create havoc. Valuable human lives are lost; any num-

ber of cattle dies; lakhs and lakhs of houses are washed away. In view of the fact that during 1973, the loss was of the order of Rs. 485 crores, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the concrete steps that have been taken during the past twelve months for controlling the floods.

During the past 20 years, the country has lost nearly Rs. 1000 crores on account of recurring floods. The normal feature of floods is that they come in the same rivers year after year. Godavari in Andhra Pradesh; Brahmaputra in Assam; Ganga, Sone and Gandak in Bihar; Narmada in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Brahmini, Baitarani and Subarnareka in Orissa; Ganga, Rapti and Ghagra in Uttar Pradesh—these are usually the rivers that flood the country during the monsoon. What I wish to emphasise is that the Government are not caught unawares of these recurring floods. The rivers are the same year after year. The floods come only during the monsoon. In fact, so far as the floods are concerned, it is a monotonous routine. Naturally, it is expected of any Government worth the name to take precautionary steps before the floods come and also to implement flood control works expeditiously before the monsoon. The Government are not helpless, like the people before the onrushing floods, and they have adequate number of technical personnel and competent Engineers. It should not be beyond the competence of the Government so far as flood control works are concerned. The Government have got both machinery and men to control the recurring floods.

During the past four Five Year Plans, the Government have invested Rs. 7500 crores or so in the public sector industries. The Reports of these public sector industries come before this House and it is common knowledge that there is annual loss of Rs. 500 crores or so in these public sector industries. While the Government can afford to incur such heavy losses annually in these public sector industries, I wonder why the Government have not cared to invest adequate sums for controlling the floods, which will save hundreds of crores of rupees to

the country and which will also save many hundreds of valuable human lives and cattle. The fact that the Government have not permanently solved the problem of floods even after 27 years of our independence is to be strongly condemned by the entire House.

13 hrs.

Yesterday, when I was sitting in the D.M.K. Parliamentary Party Office, I heard a Press Correspondent telephoning to the Statesman the news which he has gathered from official sources that the Government of India have requested the Government of the U.S.S.R. to supply urgently 20 lakh tonnes of foodgrains, as the floods this year have damaged large quantities of agricultural crops. Even after 27 years of our independent existence, should the country continue to depend on the tender mercies of foreign countries in the matter of foodgrains? Should the Government beseech the foreign Governments to send urgently foodgrains to India? What is the reason for this sorry plight? Even after four Five Year Plans, the Government have not given adequate importance to the matter of eliminating the menace of floods from the country, which year after year damages lakhs and lakhs tonnes of foodgrains. If only the Government had implemented flood control measures during these Four Five Year Plan periods with vigour and verve, they would not be in the awkward situation of begging for foodgrains from other countries.

On the other hand, the Rapti River Project is under the consideration of the Government for the past two decades. Nobody knows when the stage of consideration will be over and when will this project be implemented to save Uttar Pradesh from ravaging floods. Similarly, Narmada river water dispute is under the perennial consideration of the Government, like the perennial floods in this river. Perhaps, the Government may settle the Narmada river water dispute, after

the State of Gujarat is completely destroyed in its floods. Likewise, the sharing of Cauvery river water between Tamil Nadu, Karala and Karnataka has not yet been settled. Such procrastination on the part of the Government of India is proving very dear for the country.

Sir, the Central Planning Commission has expressed the view that 75 per cent of the total flow of our rivers are going waste into the sea, even though the Planning Commission itself has prepared five Five Year Plans. If this is the situation, not only from America and Russia but also from neighbouring countries like Ceylon and Burma, we will continue to beg for foodgrains. Out of the total area under cultivation in the country, i.e. about 390 million acres, 100 million acres is provided with irrigation facilities. Even a major portion of these 100 million acres is affected by floods during monsoon. Out of the remaining 290 million acres depending on rains a major portion is affected by drought year after year. In the North the rivers overflow, but in the South particularly in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala, the rivers are dry for want of rains. I will refer to a few Headlines in the newspapers of July, 1974 only—Starvation deaths in Patna; Entire Madhya Pradesh affected by drought etc.

Sir, the Geological Survey of India has conducted a significant survey revealing that the country's ground-water potential is 180 million acres feet and if it is tapped, it can fill a tank of 500 miles long, 100 miles wide and 5 feet depth. I would like to know the steps taken by the Government to exploit this huge ground-water potential available within the country. The Northern States of our country suffer from a surplus of water, while the Southern States do not have water for agriculture. Ganga—Cauvery link-up is being discussed both inside and outside this House during the past two and half decades. The Government of India have not taken up this project seriously. In Soviet

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Russia, 25 years ago the floods in the rivers Moscow and Vodga used to cause terrible damage. The Government linked up these two rivers and thus permanently solved the problem of floods there. Not only Ganga—Cauvery link-up should be undertaken by the Government of India, but also all the northern rivers should be linked up with the southern rivers. Then only the twin problem of floods and drought can be solved permanently. It is not enough to have a discussion of 6 hours or 7 hours in this house after the floods and drought have ravaged the country. The Government of India must formulate a Master Plan for this purpose and implement it forthwith for the permanent solution of floods and drought in the country.

SHRI LILADHAR KOTOKI (Now-gong): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, constrained with the time-limit that you have been pleased to impose, I will try to compress my ideas on this subject in making a few straight submissions to the Minister and the Government for consideration.

The flood devastation of Brahmaputra is well-known to this House and to the country which has been related here by my predecessors from Assam and Dr. K. L. Rao. As soon as the flood started, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister and endorsed a copy to the Minister here and the Chief Minister. I visited my constituency twice during the floods. It is one of the worst-affected areas. This time the damage in Assam has been too much; the devastation has been much too great, perhaps the greatest ever since 1950, when we had the Great Earthquake and since when the floods in Brahmaputra have become a perennial affair. According to the estimate of the State Government, this year's damage on account of floods would be of the order of Rs. 50 crores. hitherto it had been of the order of Rs. 10 crores in average. So, Sir, this is the picture. What I am worried is

not so much about floods, but about the assurances which were given but not implemented. As early as 5 December 1969, in a statement by the Prime Minister to this House and to the other House, assurance was given that a comprehensive plan would be made and adequate resources would be provided for the implementation of the comprehensive plan; a Commission for that purpose would also be constituted. The Commission has been set up as early as 1970. They have drawn up some schemes, but not a single scheme has been implemented for want of funds.

Secondly, floods have been a regular feature. But the piece-meal, inadequate, short-term measures like weak embankments and inadequate sluice gates on embankments, have caused greater devastation than by normal floods. This has been our experience. These are also the findings of the several Committees; even the Committee of Ministers set up by the Government of India in their report has said it. Therefore, unless these piece-meal measures are rectified by filling up the gaps and missing links and providing suitable sluice gates things are not going to improve. Dr. K. L. Rao also has spoken about it, he was in charge of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, and, therefore, he knows much better than I do.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power, Shri K. C. Pant, in his reply to my letter written to the Prime Minister, has been good enough to say that it is very necessary that a comprehensive plan should be made. It is also admitted that the State has no resources. They have made repeated representations to the Centre to take it over. I do not know what is the difficulty in the Central taking over this; I want the hon. Minister to make this very clear to the House. It is not merely for the sake of taking over that we are asking the Centre to take over. Taking over by the Centre means that they will provide adequate

resources to tackle this gigantic problem of Brahmaputra. Even the Centre will not be able to solve the problem unless it is provided with adequate resources. That is why I have taken your time to refer to what the Prime Minister herself has committed; at that time she was the Minister of Finance also; she is also the Chairman of the Planning Commission. Therefore, I appeal to her through this House to implement the assurance given to this House. In her reply to me she has said that it will require a very large outlay, and therefore, it has to be done in a phased manner. While appreciating that it will involve a large outlay, I have suggested that the formulation of the comprehensive plan and its implementation should be expeditiously undertaken. Then we should be able to go to the people and say that we have made a plan, but it is a huge one and it will take time. In fact it has taken time and people are suffering. Therefore, my humble appeal to the hon. Minister is that this matter should be taken up at the highest level, something concrete must be decided upon and the House should be taken into confidence so that we know where we stand and when these problems are going to be tackled.

May I submit a very concrete, realistic, practicable and immediate solution to this problem? This comprehensive plan must be there. It will take time. Therefore, what I would submit as a matter of relief—it could even be an integral part of it—is this. Sanction must be given forthwith to harness all available resources of water, both surface and underground, so that irrigation could be provided to the flood-affected areas to enable the people to raise the rabi crop—winter paddy and other crops and vegetables as also wheat—so that they may get some succour.

The last point is regarding relief. Hitherto, the formula which was a nice formula, although not adequate,

was that 75 per cent of the total relief was given by Centre for each State—a Central team made on the spot study and out of their total assessment 75 per cent was given by the Centre—50 per cent as grant and 25 per cent as loan and the remaining 25 per cent was to be borne by the State. The recommendation of the Sixth Finance Commission, which has been a bolt from the blue for the States, is that the Centre cannot give any financial help by way of relief. May I, request the Government to reverse this recommendation? I think the Government has not accepted the recommendation but if they have accepted it, they must reverse it and revert to the old practice and extend the relief which is so essential. Mr. Goswami has referred to the acuteness of the distress. There should, therefore, be no more technicality for granting relief. That applies equally to the drought-affected areas also. People from the other States where floods and drought have affected have also asked for help and I resume my seat by appealing that similar relief should be extended to all the flood and drought-affected areas also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Very good. Short and sweet.

Now, I think I should call two members from the Congress and one from this side.

Shri Narasimha Reddy.

SHRI P. NARASIMHA REDDY (Chittoor): I have heard with rapt attention the authoritative discourse delivered by Dr. K. L. Rao in regard to the too frequent scourge of floods and drought through which the country is passing. We have noted the fact that this recurring scourge of floods and drought is increasing in its virulence and lessening in its periodicity.

We have heard last year in a discussion on the same subject an alarming picture given to us. In 1971 the

[Shri P. Narasimha Reddy]

loss sustained by this country on account of floods, was estimated at Rs. 630 crores and it is also a record figure for the past so many years. Soon on its heels in 1973 we have got another calamity in the shape of floods involving the country in a loss of Rs. 500 crores. In this year of 1974 also we have floods and drought in this country which we do not know what dimensions of loss will result in.

Therefore, it is crystal-clear that this twin scourge of floods and drought is not only increasing in its extent of devastation but is occurring at lesser intervals frustrating all developmental efforts in this country.

It is in this connection that we must realise that authoritative bodies like the Finance Commission and the Planning Commission which have applied their mind to this increasing menace, have come out with certain suggestions and pleas for a re-oriented, changed, total approach to this problem.

This morning, I think hon. Member Shri Madhu Limaye briefly made a reference to one such suggestion that emanated from the Planning Commission and the *ad hoc* way in which the relief is being given to meet this problem of flood control has undergone a total change and that the Planning Commission has recommended—I do not know whether the Government has accepted it or not—that hereafter, effective from September 1973, no such *ad hoc* grants for drought relief are to be given and the way in which we have so far applied our *ad hoc* relief measures to meet such calamities has been to an extent infructuous and has not come upto our expectations in so far as they could adequately meet the challenge.

I hope you will bear with me if I make a small quotation from the Sixth Finance Commission's report, with reference to this sort of *ad hoc* approach being taken and the way we have been

channelising aid and relief works for fighting this problem. They said:

At the same time we are convinced that the present arrangements for providing assistance to the States for meeting expenditure on relief operations in terms of the policy enunciated in 1966 need to be completely overhauled. The existing arrangements suffer from 2 serious defects. Firstly, the States have no incentive for economy in expenditure on relief or maximising results for the expenditure incurred. They to get as much as possible by way of Central assistance for drought relief because in the overall scheme of fiscal transfers from the Central to States, this is almost the only element for which no clear guidelines have been laid down for Statewise distribution and therefore in respect of which there is considerable room for exercise of discretion. Secondly the schemes on which relief funds are utilised are not always integrated with the overall plans for development of the areas prone to droughts or floods.

This suggestion merits serious consideration at the hands of the Government. Infructuous expenditure which is involved in such *ad hoc* schemes of things should be avoided. The nation's economy should be insulated from the ravages of flood and drought which are coming up every year. I appeal to the Government and I request the Government to evolve a long term measure built into the State plans so that this problem can be solved effectively and without any wastage or loss of valuable life and property.

Now, the question of drought does not receive the same sort of attention because it is not spectacular or dramatic. In fact it is more devastating. I come from an area, Rayalaseema, which is a chronic drought-prone area, a hunting-ground of famines year after year. We have been talking so much about permanent eradication measures but nothing much has been done and

nothing substantial has been done. The Finance Commission has rightly drawn attention to this aspect of the matter. They said:

The need of the hour is a massive time bound programme of action which aims at substantially reducing if not completely eliminating the vulnerability of the drought and flood prone areas to these calamities. There is reason to fear that the needs of drought prone areas have not received the recognition due in our earlier plans.

This fact should be realised and steps should be taken to meet the situation. Drought-prone areas continue to be neglected in our country and nothing much has been done so far. It is strange that we have the paradoxical situation of flood in one place and drought in another place. We find some interesting factors here.

Ours is a rich country which is, of course, inhabited by a poor people. We have rich rivers and river water systems are there. But yet, there are droughts and floods. These are factors which are well within our control. And we should be able to overcome them. Inter-State water disputes have held up very many multi-purpose projects which also act as a threat to flood problems. It has been estimated that nearly twenty million hectares could have been protected if only we have these irrigation projects thereby controlling the rivers. Inter-State river disputes are holding up many of our projects. Could we not overcome this sort of an unseemly and unwise rivalry so as to go ahead with the projects? If this is done, we could get rid many of our troubles on account of floods. There was a proposal to the Ministry that, if necessary, the Constitution should be amended and all inter-State rivers should be declared as national assets and national control should be

brought over them. It is high time that this proposal receives the attention of the Government. A Constitution amendment, if necessary, has to be brought so that these inter-State river disputes are taken out of the political arena.

Sir, the flood and drought have to be effectively controlled in a systematic manner on a war footing. It is no use our discussing this year after year. As pointed out by Dr. Rao delivering speeches here are not going to solve the colossal and mounting problems of this country. Action is called for. I appeal to the Irrigation Minister to take up such a line of action as he deems necessary to meet this situation.

श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव (कटिहार) :
 उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आजादी के 27 वर्ष बीत गये और देश के आर्थिक विकास की दर बढ़ाने के लिए हम लोगों ने पांच साला योजनाएँ बनायीं और चार पंचवर्षीय योजनाएँ भी बीत गईं। लेकिन प्रकृति ने भी विनाश की दर बढ़ाने के लिये अपनी विनाशलीला शुरू की और उस में विकास की दर से विनाश की दर अधिक हो गई। 1972-73 की रिपोर्ट जो मिचार्ड मंत्रालय द्वारा दी गई है उस में लिखा गया है :

The total damage during 1972 due to cyclone & floods was Rs. 149 crores, of this

“The damage due to floods is Rs. 74 crores and the balance was due to cyclone. The average annual damage during the period 1953—1971 was Rs. 1.26 crores and the maximum in one year being Rs. 632 crores in 1971.”

इस प्रकार से हम देखते हैं विकास कि दर बढ़ाने के लिए जिस प्रकार से केन्द्रीय सरकार पंचवर्षीय योजनाएँ बनाती रही उसी प्रकार से प्रकृति ने भी विनाश के लिए कुछ छोड़ा नहीं।

[श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव]

साथ ही साथ उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, केवल सम्पत्ति की ही क्षति नहीं हुई; बल्कि मानव जीवन की भी क्षति हुई है।

The Minister's Committee on Floods and Flood Relief, Vol. I, page 17 state as follows:—

“Against the average annual loss of 73 human lives, the annual flood loss, during the four years from 1968 to 1971 has been above 1,000. The maximum loss of human lives took place in 1968 when as many as 3,498 lives were lost.”

इस प्रकार से विनाश की दर बढ़नी चली गई। क्या हमारे इंजीनियर्स विदेशी इंजीनियर्स का मुकाबला इस मामले में नहीं कर सकते हैं? अवश्य कर सकते हैं। क्या हमारे इंजीनियर्स ने जिस प्रकार से ग्रानुविक क्षेत्र में काम किया है बाढ़ के क्षेत्र में नहीं कर सकते? देश में जो नदियां बहती हैं उस को अपने नियंत्रण में ला कर के नियंत्रित ढंग से बहने के लिए क्या हमारे इंजीनियर्स बाध्य नहीं कर सकते हैं? अवश्य कर सकते हैं। मैं चारुंगा सिंचाई मंत्रालय इस विषय पर ध्यान दें और कम से कम समय पर ज्यादा से ज्यादा रकम खर्च कर के उस योजना को स्वीकार करे ताकि देश को हर साल बाढ़ की मुसीबत का सामना न करना पड़े।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, केवल बाढ़ आसाम, बंगाल, बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश में ही नहीं बल्कि केरल और मध्य प्रदेश में भी आती है। जहां तक ब्रह्मपुत्र की बाढ़ का सम्बन्ध है प्रासाद के हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने उस पर काफी प्रकाश डाला है। जहां तक पश्चिमी बंगाल की बात है उस के विषय में भी हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने प्रकाश डाला है। उत्तर प्रदेश की बाढ़ में 81 करोड़ ६० की क्षति हुई है इस बार और 5 लाख 20 हजार हेक्टेयर की फसल मारी गई है 6,535 गांवों के 26 लाख लोग

बाढ़ से परेशान हुए और 10 व्यक्ति मारे गये हैं, ऐसा पू० एन०आई० की रिपोर्ट में लिखा गया है।

केरल में भी बाढ़ से बहुत नुकसान हुआ है 8000 हेक्टेयर की फसल उसकी मारी गई है। मध्य प्रदेश की सरकार ने सभी संसद सदस्यों को जो मध्य प्रदेश के हैं एक परिपत्र जारी किया है और उस में राजस्व विभाग से बाढ़ के कारण जो वहां समस्या उत्पन्न हो गई है उसके बारे में उनकी जानकारी दी है। और उन से आग्रह किया है कि संसद में वह इस चीज को रखें। मंडा की बाढ़ के कारण आगरा दम्बई रोड को खारगोन जिले के एलयाट ब्रिज को बिल्कुल तोड़ती हुई चली गई है और पानी सड़क पर आ गया है जिस के कारण नेशनल हाईवे जो आगरा से दम्बई की तरफ जाता है उस पर आवागमन ठप्प हो गया है। हमारा सम्बन्ध उस रोड से समाप्त हो गया है। मंदरौर उज्जैन, हांशगाबाद, शिवना, छिपर आदि में बाढ़ का प्रकोप हुआ है और लाखों की क्षति हुई है। वहां केवल बाढ़ की बात नहीं है। मध्य प्रदेश में सूखे के कारण भी भयंकर समस्या उत्पन्न हो गई है। सुखे की चपेट में दतिया, इंदौर, रतलाम, झबूआ, जबलपुर, मंडला, छतरपुर, पन्ना दस्तर, राजनंदगांव, छत्रसगढ़ आदि जिले आ गए हैं। वर्षा न होने के कारण वहां सूखे की अभूतपूर्व स्थिति व्याप्त हो गई है और उस ने भयानक रूप धारण कर लिया है।

अब मैं अपने प्रान्त पर आता हूं। बिहार की स्थिति के बारे में अपने विचार यहां रखते हुए मुझे ऐसा लगता है और मुझे यह कहने में संकोच नहीं है कि बिहार के साथ आपने सीतेली मां का सा व्यवहार किया है। एक उदाहरण इसका मैं आपको देना चाहता हूं। बिहार में बाढ़ बराबर आती रहती है। बाढ़ों पर नियंत्रण पाने के लिए कोई कारगर ढंग से योजना आप अभी तक नहीं बना पाए है। इस साल भी वह

प्रसाधारण बाढ़ आई है। मुझे आश्चर्य होता है जब कुछ लोग कहते हैं कि वहाँ साधारण सी बाढ़ आई है। उत्तर बिहार के 15 में से 14 जिले बाढ़ से बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुए हैं। बिहार सरकार ने एक परिपत्र अपने संसद सदस्यों को भेजा है जिसमें इस बातका उल्लेख किया गया है कि पंद्रह में से चौदह जिलों में बाढ़ से प्रभावित हुए हैं और 132 प्रखंड तो बिल्कुल जलमग्न हो गए हैं और वहाँ धान अनकी भारी हानि हुई है और भदई मकई की फसल और घास की फसल जिस का रकबा अधिक होता है। तबाह हो गई है। सम्पूर्ण खेतों में धान की रोपाई समाप्त हो गई थी और इस अप्रत्याशित बाढ़ के कारण सारी की सारी फसल नष्ट हो गई है। उस में कहा गया है कि 70 करोड़ 87 लाख की क्षति हुई है। जहाँ तक प्रदीप तथा दूसरे प्रखण्डों में छपे आंकड़ों का सम्बन्ध है वे कहते कि लगभग 1 अरब 20 करोड़ रुपये की क्षति हुई है। न केवल कोसी, कमला, भागमति, महानंद आदि जो उत्तर बिहार की नदियाँ हैं उन में ही बाढ़ आई है बल्कि इस बार गंगा में भी बाढ़ आई है। आज के ही हिन्दुस्तान में यह निकला है कि बाढ़ ने उत्तर बिहार में तबाही मचाया शुरू किया है। गंगा की बाढ़ ने भी तबाही मचाया शुरू किया है। उसके कारण उत्तर बिहार की हालत और भी खस्ता हो गई है। जो बचे हुए ब्लाक्स थे जो गंगा के किनारे थे वे भी अब बाढ़ की चपेट में आ गए हैं। अभी डा० के० एल० राव ने गंगा की धारा का जिक्र किया है। उससे मांसी से धुलिया तक जो कटाव होता है और हजारों एकड़ जमीन हर साल कटती है और सैकड़ों गांव हर साल नदी की धारा में विलीन हो जाते हैं उनकी सुरक्षा के लिए क्या हम गंगा इरीजन स्कीम स्वीकार नहीं कर सकते हैं। बेगुसराय जिले से लेकर कटिहार जिले के मदबाद प्रखंड तक जिस का जिक्र माननीय राव साहब ने किया है यह सारे का सारा इलाका अत्यन्त उपाजक है और 155 मोल की लम्बाई में यह फैला हुआ है और हर दूसरे साल यहां

भीषण रंग से कटाव होता है जिस के कारण खगरिया बैगुसराय नोगठिया और कटिहार जिले के अत्यन्त की उपाजक भूभाग गंगा की धारा में विलीन हो जाते हैं। ऐसा हर साल होता है। इसके कारण करोड़ों की क्षति उठानी पड़ रही है। चूंकि यह योजना में सम्बन्धित मामला है इस लिए मैंने कहा था कि आज योजना मंत्री कम से कम सदन में रहे ताकि जो भाग की जा रही है उन पर ध्यान दिया जा सके और कोई विशेष योजना बनाई जा सके। कम से कम 15 हजार एकड़ जमीन बैगुसराय की है दस हजार एकड़ जमीन खगरिया की है दस हजार एकड़ जमीन नोगठिया अनुमंडल की है और 7-8 हजार एकड़ जमीन कटिहार जिले की है और दूसरे जिलों की है और वह हर दूसरे साल कटती जाती है, हर दो बरस के बाद सैकड़ों गांव कट जाते हैं और लोगों के सामने एक समस्या उत्पन्न हो जाती है। जो लोग दूसरे देशों से भगाए जाते हैं उनको हम यहां पर शरण देते हैं लेकिन अपने ही देश में प्रति की विनाश लोना के कारण जिन को सारी सुख सम्पत्ति गंगा के गर्भ में विलीन हो जाती है क्या उनके लिए हम कोई विशेष कार्यक्रम रिहैबिलिटेशन को तैयार नहीं कर सकते हैं, बना नहीं सकते हैं, इसलिए मैंने मन्त्री महोदय को एक सप्ताह पहले एक पत्र लिख कर उन से अनुरोध किया था कि उनके पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था की जाए, जिन लोगों की सम्पत्ति और घर बार नष्ट हो जाते हैं उनके लिए आप रिहैबिलिटेशन मंत्रालय से कुछ अपना तालमेल बिठाएं ताकि उनकी समस्या का कुछ समाधान हो सके। अगर पुनर्वास मंत्रालय केवल दूसरे देशों से भगाए गए लोगों के पुनर्वास के लिए ही है तो कम से कम संसद को और केन्द्रीय सरकार को इसके विषय में सोचना चाहिए कि नदियों की विनाशकारी लीला के कारण जो लोग प्रतिवर्ष विस्थापित होते हैं उनका सारा सामान, घर जायदाद तबाह और बरबाद होते हैं, उनके पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था की जाए। बीस बीस

[श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव]

साल तक उस जमीन में खेती नहीं की जा सकती है। मैं स्वयं उसी क्षेत्र से आता हूँ। मेरा घर 1961-62 में गंगा के कटाव से कट गया था। मैं गंगा के तट पर रहने वाला व्यक्ति हूँ उसके कटाव से पीड़ित हूँ, और बाढ़ से पीड़ित होता हूँ। ऐसे लोगों में से मैं भी एक हूँ। मैं उस समस्या को अच्छी प्रकार से जानता हूँ। केरल में भी जमीन उपजाऊ है, वह समुद्र के कटाव से कटती है। उसको बचाने के लिए आपने पहली योजना में ध्यान दिया था और करोड़ों रुपये खर्च किए थे। अपनी 1972-73 की रिपोर्ट में आपने कहा था :

"The total expenditure incurred on these protective measures covering 82 km. of the coastline is Rs. 11.5 crores.

प्रथम पंचवर्षीय योजना में आपने फुलड कंट्रोल के ऊपर केवल 13.21 करोड़ रुपये रखे थे। उसमें से 11.5 करोड़ रुपये केरल की कोस्टल लाइन की सुरक्षा पर खर्च किए गए।

1973-74 की रिपोर्ट में आपने स्वीकार किया था कि लोअर लैंगम प्राजैक्ट जो सिक्किम में है, वहां पर धारा को मोड़ने की एक प्राजैक्ट आपने स्वीकार की है। उस पर 5 करोड़ 93 लाख रु० खर्च होगा। अपनी रिपोर्ट में आपने कहा है :

In this project it is proposed to divert the waters of Roro-chu Jalichu streams and carry the diverted water on the left Bank of Roro-chi through a water conductor system.

"The water of Tak-Chom Chu will be carried through a water conductor system to the surge shaft."

The project is estimated to cost Rs. 5.93 crores.

सरकार का प्रयास यह है कि इस धारा को दूसरी ओर मोड़ कर सम्बद्ध क्षत्र की सुरक्षा की जाए। जब यह सरकार केरल में 11 करोड़ रुपये खर्च कर सकती है और सिक्किम में 5.93 करोड़ की योजना बना सकती है, तो क्या वह बिहार में ऐसी योजना नहीं बना सकती है, जिस से बगूरसराय से कटिहार जिले के ग्रहमदाबाद ब्लाक तक के भूभाग की सुरक्षा हो सके? उस भूभाग में करोड़ों रुपयों की हानि होती है और श्रमर मकानों को जोड़ दिया जाए, तो श्रमकों रुपयों की राशि हो जाएगी। क्या प्लानिंग कमिशन उस के लिए कोई योजना बनाएगा?

मैं ने 29 तारीख को नियम 377 के अर्धीन यह प्रश्न उठाया था कि वेगूसराय से कटिहार तक की जमीन बराबर गंगा से कटती है। मानसी के प्रोटक्शन के लिए सरकार ने खर्च भी किया है। लेकिन स्टेट सर्वेनमेंट के द्वारा अभी-बाढ़ के समय-खर्च किए जा रहे हैं। बिहार की सरकार और उस के इंजीनियर्स ग्याहर महीने तक चुप बैठ रहते हैं और बाढ़ के समय लाखों रुपये पानी में फँकते हैं। उन से क्या वहां पर प्रोटक्शन वर्क चल सकेगा। वहां पर इतना बड़ा प्रोटक्शन वर्क चलाने से लिए एन्टी गंगा इरोजन स्कीम का हाथ में लेना चाहिए।

बाढ़ से बिहार की जो भयंकर तबाही हुई है, वह गत बीस सालों में नहीं हुई है। खाम कर कटिहार और पूर्णिया जिलों में महानन्दा के द्वारा बहुत तबाही हुई है। महानन्दा पर सिन्धुपिया के नजदीक रिग बांध पूरा हो सकने के कारण उन जिलों में तबाही हुई है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस बात की जांच कराये कि वास्तव में वहां के इंजीनियर्स ने किस तरह की भूल की है। वहां उन्होंने लाखों रुपये कमाये हैं, लेकिन उन्होंने कटिहार जिले के जन-जीवन के साथ खिलवाड़ किया है, क्योंकि व एक छोटा सा रिग बांध कम्पलीट नहीं कर सके हैं।

मेरा सुझाव है कि सरकार एंटी गंगा ड्रेजिंग स्कीम को कार्यान्वित करे, ताकि बैंगूल राफ से कटिहार तक के धूलावा की सुरक्षा हो।

अब तक रीलिफ का सम्बन्ध है, अब बिहार सरकार ने हाथ फैलाया है। लेकिन मैं चाहूंगा कि सीडलिंग का इन्तजाम किया जाए। बिहार की मिस्कम्पी सरकार से वह नहीं हो सकता है। इसलिए बिहार सरकार को विस्तृत सम्बन्ध कर के, उन का डिस्बालूशन कर के, बिहार में राष्ट्रपति जामन नाम किया जाए, और राज्यपाल श्री संडारे के नेतृत्व में रिक्लीफ कमेटी के द्वारा रिक्लीफ के काम का संवाहन हो। बिहार के मंत्री बहुत भ्रष्ट हैं। उन्होंने कृषि की मदद का सारा पैसा कारें खरीदने में लगा दिया है। एक मंत्री ने डीजल पंप खरीद कर लाखों रुपये बर्बाद हैं, जिसके कारण लोकसभ्यता ने उन को नोटिस दिया है। 1971 की बाढ़ के तिरपाल बांड को कौन नहीं जानता है। सेंटर के जो अनुदान वहा जाते हैं, बिहार के भ्रष्ट मंत्री उन से अपने आप को सालामाल करते हैं।

अब सरकार धन्न के सीडलिंग दे कर धान की कपाई की व्यवस्था करे, तो अच्छी बात है, लेकिन बिहार की भ्रष्ट सरकार ऐसा नहीं कर सकेगी। इसलिए मैं कृषि मंत्री से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वह समय रहते रबी की बुवाई के लिए अधिकतम गेहूँ के बीज मज्दाई कम्पे की व्यवस्था करें, ताकि आगामी वर्ष में रबी की खेती ही सके।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We can do with less of flood of words. We have enough floods outside.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi.

1877 LS—4.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar):

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister and the Government the distress that the people of Orissa are suffering today. It is due to both drought and floods. Sir, during the last one century, Orissa had drought or flood alternatively 48 times. It means, every two or three years, we had either drought, flood or cyclone. The latest news bulletin of All India Radio from Cuttack says that the price of rice has gone up to a very high level. According to the reports with me, it is selling at Rs. 4 per Kilo. This is for the first time in the history of Orissa, the rice granary of our country, that rice is selling at Rs. 4 per kilo. There are no market arrivals. Therefore, the most distressing condition prevails and it is because of both drought and flood. This year the distress is more acute because rainfall was not normal and adding to the drought conditions, there were floods which affected Cuttack as well as Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj and Balasore districts. Even, drinking water is a problem in Ganjam district because of drought. The condition is most serious. The hon. Minister should give urgent attention to the immediate problems that the people of Orissa are facing.

Sir, because you have allotted me less time, I would ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have not; your party has.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: You were also good enough to see that some important contributors are accommodated. Here, I would bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that out of a little over 3,000 panchayats, 865 panchayats have been declared as distress areas by the Government of Orissa. Even this report is not complete, as reports are coming in slowly from the district headquarters. I can

[Shri Chintamani Panigrahi]

say that the condition is distressing in all the 13 districts including those districts where the State Government says that there was a little above normal rainfall like Puri district and my areas which I visited recently like, Jatni, Khunda, Chandka areas. Bolgarh, Begunia, Nayagarh, Daspalla and Kandapada, I can see starving conditions in many places. Therefore, it needs immediate attention from the Government. Here, I would like to refer to what the Director of the Central Rice Research Institute at Cuttack said. When one pressman from Delhi went to see all these places, he said that during his stay in Orissa for the last 28 years, he never saw such a summer in the rainy season. This shows how distressing the condition is. Here, because of drought, sowing operations were delayed and transplantations could not take place and whatever seedlings were there, have withered away and along with that, the hopes of the peasants and farmers have also withered away. The problem is most acute because 65 per cent of the people in Orissa live below poverty line and they constitute the largest number of the weaker section of the Indian population. They have been most seriously affected because of the drought and flood conditions. The agricultural labourers are not getting even wages. They are the worst hit.

Here, I would bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the flood situation also. According to the prescription of the Sixth Finance Commission, Rs. 1.5 crores has to be provided by the Orissa Government and that an equal amount will come from the Central Government. This will be completely inadequate and I hope the Government will try to see that the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission do not hold good so far as relief work is concerned.

Sir, there is this drought prone area programme. Today, 19 per cent of the total area in the country is

drought prone. This enhances regional imbalances in the country. Under this programme 72 districts in 7—9 States were selected. Under this programme, every district must have an agency of the drought prone area scheme. These agencies should adopt an integrated approach to fight the drought menace. But nothing has been done in this regard.

Since the first plan to date, the outlay on flood control in Orissa comes to about Rs. 9 crores only including the approved outlay for 1973-74, out of a total outlay of Rs. 285.34 crores for the whole country. This is a very meagre amount. How can effective flood control measures be taken with this amount? The average annual damage due to floods in the country during 1953—61 was Rs. 55 crores. The average annual damage during 1962—71 came to Rs. 183 crores. The average annual damage due to floods in Orissa has been worked out at Rs. 7.2 crores. In the perspective flood control plan for the decade 1971—81, for Orissa, the provision is fourth plan schemes Rs. 3.5 crores, priority schemes 28 crores and other schemes Rs. 28 crores, making a total of Rs. 59.5 crores. It was further stated in the perspective plan that between 1971 to 1974 Orissa should have spent Rs. 13.5 crores on flood control measures. And out of this Rs. 11 crores were to be met outside the plan. But this has not been done. Why? Today the total cropped area in Orissa is 8,328,000 hectares out of which only 7.39 per cent have been provided with flood protection arrangements. Similarly, out of 4.7 million hectares of paddy crop, only 18.1 per cent have been provided with irrigation.

The Ministers' Committee on flood control suggested a list of priority schemes to be taken up during the fourth plan as a result of the 1971 floods in Orissa: These are 1. Construction of a dam at Rengali on Brahmani and 2. Construction of dam

at Bhimkund on Baitarani. These were to be started during the fourth plan, but nothing has been done so far. The other schemes to be taken up during 1974-81 are:

Raising and strengthening of existing embankments on rivers other than Brahmani and Baitarani Rs. 4 crores. Construction of new embankments Rs. 4 crores. Subarnarekha flood control scheme Rs. 15 crores. Brahmani cut scheme Rs. 1 crore. Improvement to the surrounding of Chilka lake Rs. 1 crores. Raising of villages Rs. 1.5 crores. Other schemes Rs. 2 crores. The total comes to about Rs. 28 crores. But nothing has been done so far as these programmes are concerned. I humbly submit to the hon. Minister that whatever programmes you are formulating they should be implemented. Today Orissa is in great distress. You must send your study teams to go there and find out the actual position and act accordingly. Let them come to our assistance and also include Manibhadra scheme for providing irrigation to a vast area.

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे (गोरखपुर) :

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, बाढ़ देश में हर साल आती है। वैसे तो उत्तर प्रदेश, बंगाल, बिहार, केरल और और बहुत से सूबे सूखे और बाढ़ से ग्रसित हैं जिनके बारे में विभिन्न प्रदेशों के माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने विचार रखे हैं। मैं अपने प्रदेश के बारे में आपका ध्यान आर्ष्ट करना चाहता हूँ। हमारे प्रदेश में इस साल गोरखपुर डिवीजन में, पूर्वी जिलों में, सब से ज्यादा बाढ़ आई और वह बाढ़ राप्ती, रोहिन और घाघरा में बहुत ज्यादा थी जिसका परिणाम यह हुआ, आप ने अखबारों में भी देखा होगा कि सारे गोरखपुर को, उसके बन्धों को बहुत ज्यादा खतरा पैदा हो गया था और शहर के भी बह जाने का खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया था। आज सारे पूर्वी उत्तर प्रदेश के जिलों में एक ऐसी स्थिति पैदा हो गई है

जिसका आप अनुमान नहीं लगा सकते। वैसे ही आप जानते हैं कि आबादी के घनत्व के हिसाब से हमारा पूर्वी क्षेत्र सब से ज्यादा घनी आबादी का माना जाता है और पावटों के हिसाब से भी सब से ज्यादा गरीब लोग वहाँ पर बसते हैं। आज ऐसे क्षेत्र में बाढ़ आये और बाढ़ आने के बाद लोगों के पास खाने के लिए अपने घर में कुछ न रह जाय, सरकार कुछ करे न तो एक बड़ी गंभीर समस्या खड़ी हो जाती है। 60 लाख आदमियों में से दस प्रतिशत ही ऐसे हैं जो एक एकड़ से ऊपर के किसान हैं। बाकी जितने हैं उनको दोनों बघत खाने को नहीं मिल रहा है और इन बाढ़ ने तो और भी कठिन स्थिति पैदा कर दी है। अब को साल जैसी बाढ़ पहले कभी नहीं आई जिसका कारण है जैसा कि कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा है कि पहाड़ों पर बड़े जोरों से डीफारेस्टेशन हो रहा है, तो पहाड़ के गाँव तो ऐसे ही तबाह हो रहे हैं और मैदानी इलाकों में भी जहाँ 54 के बाद या पहले बन्ध बने थे वे सारे बन्ध टूट गये। उन बन्धों के टूटने के बाद राप्ती और रोहिन का सारा ही पानी गोरखपुर में आ कर इकट्ठा हुआ जिससे ऐसी स्थिति आ गई कि हमारे यहाँ के लोगों के पास कोई सामान नहीं रहा जिसको खा कर दोनों समय अपनी गुजर कर सकें। मैं ने मुख्य मंत्री और सिचाई मंत्री को पत्र लिख कर वहाँ की स्थिति के बारे में जानकारी दी थी कि इस बाढ़ को मुस्तकिल तरीके से रोकने के लिए कोई स्कीम बनावें। डा० के० एल० राव ने और उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकारों ने नेपाल सरकार से मिल कर कोशिश की थी कि जलकुन्डी की योजना को लागू किया जाय। 1954 से यह स्कीम चल रही है। लेकिन आज तक इस स्कीम का कार्यान्वयन नहीं हो सका। उसके कारण चाहे जो भी हों, अब दूसरी एक आलटरनेटिव स्कीम "सिक्रिटिया प्रोजेक्ट" के बारे में सरकार अपने विचार रख रही है। मैं आप से कहना

[श्री नरसिंह नारायण पांडे]

चाहता हूँ कि नेपाल में भी हमेशा सप्तरी नदी परेशान करती है। वहाँ भी आज इसी तरह से तराई के गांवों में रहने वाले किसान इससे काफी परेशान रहते हैं और उत्तरप्रदेश के भी नेपाल से लगे हुए जो जिले हैं जहाँ से सप्तरी नदी गुजरती है वहाँ के लोग काफी इससे प्रभावित होते हैं। दोनों देशों के हित में हैं कि राप्ती के ऊपर कोई ऐसी योजना बना कर कार्यान्वित की जाय चाहे वह जलकुंडी योजना हो चाहे सिंकटिया हो, नहीं तो हमारे यहाँ बाढ़ का मूलतः इंतजाम नहीं हो सकता और पूर्वी क्षेत्र के लोग बाढ़ से बचाव नहीं पा सकते।

हमारे यहाँ आज 26 लाख आधमी बेघरबार हो गये हैं और वहाँ कोई ऐसा काम इस बाढ़ के बाद नहीं दिया गया जिसमें योग्य लग सकें, टेस्ट वर्क या मेन फौजरी काम कोई नहीं चालू की गई, बांध जो टूट गये हैं, सड़कें टूट गई हैं, होवर्ट बांध, मलौनी बांध जो बहुत ही इम्पॉर्टेंट बांध हैं, अगर इनका इंतजाम नहीं किया गया तो मखमरी की स्थिति वहाँ पैदा हो जायगी। यह इसलिए मैं कह रहा हूँ कि एक एकड़ से नीचे का किसान जो 60 परसेंट है, उसकी हालत बहुत खराब है। उसके पास खाने को नहीं है। यदि कोई काम नहीं चलेगा तो वे कैसे अपना जीवन-यापन कर पायेंगे? इसलिए 6 महीने के लिए सितम्बर से लेकर जनवरी फरवरी तक के लिए आप को कोई रोजगार देना पड़ेगा। आज राशन के द्वारा एक एकड़ से नीचे के किसान को 8 किलोग्राम एक महीने में बालिक के लिए और जो बच्चे हैं उनको 4 किलोग्राम दिया जा रहा है। 10 लाख आधमी ऐसे हैं जो अगर एकड़ के नीचे हैं और जो बाढ़ से प्रभावित हैं। अगर देखा जाय तो आज की स्थिति में 1,250 रुपये टन के हिसाब से 5 करोड़ 25 लाख रुपये तो केवल खाने के खर्च जरूरत है। इसके अलावा बांध टूट गये हैं

उनकी मरम्मत के लिये रुपये की जरूरत है। उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार ने इस सम्बन्ध में एक 47 करोड़ रुपये की योजना बना कर भारत सरकार के पास भेजी है। आज जिस तरह से विशेष बाढ़ का प्रकोप घटया है उसके लिये आप जैसे भी हो उनकी मदद करें—वहाँ के लोगों को राहत दें, फ्लड प्रोटेक्शन का काम करें, गांव को ऊंचा करने का काम हो—तब इस समस्या का सामना करना सम्भव हो सकेगा। इस लिये मेरा अनुरोध है कि आप फाइनेंस कमिशन या प्लानिंग कमिशन, जो भी हो, उनके साथ बैठ कर हमारे प्रस्तावों पर विचार करें और उनका समाधान निश्चय करें। केवल सिन्धु फाइनेंस कमिशन की राशि से कुछ नहीं होगा।

14.00

हमारे यहाँ एक सब से बड़ी समस्या है मदेथियों के चारे की—इस पर भी पैसा खर्च होगा। आज उनके लिये चारे का कोई सामान बाकी नहीं बचा है, चरागाह के लिये कोई जगह नहीं बची है, खेती की फसल बरबाद हो चुकी है—ऐसी हालत में जानवरों के चारे की बहुत बड़ी समस्या है। इसके भी शीघ्र से शीघ्र प्रबन्ध होना चाहिए।

इन समस्याओं के साथ ही हमारे यहाँ बहुत बड़ी महाभारी आने वाली है। बिहार में चेचक का प्रकोप हुआ, हजारों आधमी मारे गये। अब जब कि बाढ़ आई है और इसके लिये फौरन कोई उपाय नहीं किया जाता, गांवों में दवाइयां नहीं छिड़की जातीं, कुओं को साफ नहीं किया जाता या ऐसे इन्तजाम नहीं किये जाते कि कम से कम लोगों को पीने का पानी साफ मिल सके तो नाना प्रकार की बीमारियां वहाँ पैदा होने वाली हैं जिससे लोगों की परेशानियां और ज्यादा बढ़ जायेंगी। इस लिये मेरा अनुरोध है कि हमारी इन जरूरतों की तरफ तत्काल ध्यान दिया जाय।

आज हमारे यहां सब ये बड़ी अस्मरत—
 रबी के बीज की है। एक एकड़ से नीचे के
 जो भी किसान हैं उनको याज यदि मैन्योर
 और बीज मुफ्त नहीं मिला तो वे रबी की
 बुवाई नहीं कर सकेंगे। उनके घरों में कुछ
 भी बाकी नहीं बचा है जिससे वे खेतों में लगा
 सकें। यह ठीक है कि आज देश के सामने
 आर्थिक संकट चल रहा है और हम चाहते हैं
 कि हम अनाज के मामले में आत्मनिर्भर हों—
 लेकिन हम इस आत्मनिर्भरता को पूरा नहीं
 कर सकेंगे यदि इन समस्याओं पर हम ने सही
 तरीके से ध्यान नहीं दिया। इस लिये मैं
 माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूँ कि
 आप प्लानिंग कमीशन के अन्दर 60 फाइनैन्स
 कमीशन के द्वारा मिले धन पर निर्भर रह कर
 प्रदेश की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने में
 समर्थ नहीं हो पायेंगे। आप को इसके बारे
 में एक निश्चित नीति अख्तियार करनी चाहिए
 जिससे लोगों को सही तरीके से राहत पहुंच
 सके और जब तक कोई परमानेंट स्कीम
 नहीं बनती, मैं बहुत अदब से मंत्री महोदय से
 कहना चाहता हूँ, यह काम प्रांतीय सरकारों
 पर न छोड़ें, बाढ़, सूखे और कटाव का काम
 वे नहीं कर सकेंगे, इन कामों के लिये आप
 अपने यहां सेंट्रल फलड कन्ट्रोल के मातहत
 अपने हाथ में लें तो अच्छा हो।

हमारे यहां ड्रेनेज स्कीमें बनीं, दो साल से
 वे लागू हुईं, उनके लिये इंजीनियर्स और
 दूसरे लोग लगाये गये, लेकिन उनके पास
 न पैसा है और न कार्य करने के लिये सामान
 है, नतीजा यह हुआ कि कोई काम पूरा नहीं
 आ और आज जब बाढ़ आई तो अगर वहां

सारा ग्रन्थ डिपार्टमेंट न लगा होता तो एक
 बहुत बड़ी समस्या पैदा हो जाती। इस लिये
 मेरा अनुरोध है कि आप फलड कन्ट्रोल
 डिपार्टमेंट अलग से बनायें। सारे बंधों की
 जिम्मेदारी स्टेट के इंरिगेशन डिपार्टमेंट या
 ड्रेनेज डिपार्टमेंट पर न छोड़ें, अपने हाथ
 में लें।

आप ने गण्डक की नहर बनाई है—
 देवरिया और गोरखपुर जिलों में ये नहरें
 तालाबों के पास लाकर छोड़ दी गई हैं।
 जब बाढ़ के कारण नदियों में पानी बढ़ा और
 उसे इन नहरों में छोड़ दिया गया तो सारा
 पानी तालाबों में भर गया और उसने सारे
 गांवों को जलमग्न कर दिया, सारी फसलों
 को जलमग्न कर दिया, एक तरह से इन नहरों
 के द्वारा कृत्रिम बाढ़ आ गई, क्योंकि इन
 नहरों को आगे ले जा कर दूसरी नहरों से नहीं
 जोड़ा गया था—यह एक बड़ी भारी समस्या
 हमारे यहां पैदा हो गई है।

एक समस्या हमारे यहां यह पैदा हुई
 है—जिसका जिक्र अभी डा० राध साहब ने
 भी किया है—पानी उताना नहीं बरसा,
 लेकिन इस तरह से पानी का रुकाव हुआ
 कि उसके रहते सब जगहों पर पानी का स्तर
 ऊंचा चला गया, क्योंकि हमारे यहां पहले से
 कोई ड्रेनेज स्कीम नहीं थी। मैं चाहता हूँ कि
 ड्रेनेज स्कीम की तरफ भी आप का ध्यान
 जाना चाहिए।

SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnagar):
 Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, floods and
 famine have become, more or less, a

[Shri P. Mehta]

permanent feature in this country. Our Five-Year Plans have failed to control the floods and famine. These calamities have always affected the general economy of the country, and I do not see any sign that the Government will be able to control the floods in the flood-prone areas and the drought in the drought-prone areas.

Gujarat is facing calamities one by one. It had droughts in 1972 and 1973 and it also faced Government-made calamities by the misuse of two successive governments since 1972. Now Gujarat is hit by natural calamities: the south Gujarat is hit by floods and the north Gujarat is hit by drought. In south Gujarat about 700 families from Baroch district and about 600 families from Baroda district are affected. More than 100 villages are affected. Evacuation operations are going on and the administrative government is trying its best to save the lives of the people. But the floods have destroyed all the crops, the whole agricultural production. As I have said, evacuation operations are going in these villages. But 59 more villages are under floods and require evacuation operation immediately.

Regarding drought conditions, Kutch is facing this situation for the last three or four successive years. In the same way, Saurashtra—except Junagar district all other districts like Jamnagar, Rajkot, Surendranagar, Amroli and Bhavnagar—is facing acute shortage of rains; the rainfall has been so low that it is hardly sufficient for agricultural requirements, sowing operations.

Today Gujarat is under President's rule. For all practical purposes it is under the Union Government. The administrative government can do very little without the help of this Government because they have their limitations. Now I will tell you what happened about fodder. Fodder from Bulsar and other districts of south Gujarat was allowed to go to other States; even though there was acute

shortage of fodder in the other districts of Gujarat, the Government could not check fodder going outside Gujarat. Only recently, they have banned the movement of fodder from those districts to other States. But that much is not sufficient. The situation is so acute that the Government should arrange immediate supply of fodder to Gujarat. Otherwise, our cattle-heads will perish without fodder and there will be a milk famine in the whole of Gujarat. This is the situation.

Today, according to the Governments they have employed 94,000 people in Kutch and some other areas, but the requirement is much more. Practically, the whole of Gujarat is affected by drought. So, they should create more employment and for purpose, they will require more funds. The position is this. The Sixth Finance Commission has recommended creation or build-up of a reserve of Rs. 4.5 crores but this is a very meagre amount. Actually, during the last drought the amount required to meet the situation was of the order of Rs. 60 to 70 crores. Now this Rs. 4.5 crores is nothing. This time the cost has gone up. So more funds will be required. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to make adequate funds available to the Government of Gujarat so that the situation could be met adequately.

The Gujarat Plan for the year 1974-75 as part of the Fifth Five Year Plan is of the order of Rs. 140 crores. If this amount is utilised for the drought and flood control measures, then there will be no schemes to be implemented under the Plan. Therefore, an additional amount is absolutely necessary to meet the drought situation in Gujarat. There are schemes but the schemes are not ready for the technical approval or for the administrative approval. So, if the Government will insist to go according to the first year plan, then I think the Government will fail to render timely assistance to Gujarat. Therefore, it is very necessary to ask the Gujarat Government

to put forward their proposal for the requirement of the funds. Now, they have the limitations. They are not coming forward. The Government of Gujarat is not coming forward to press this Government because they are an administrative government and they have their own limitations. But the Union Government should see what is the requirement of Gujarat to face this natural calamity. As I said, it will require Rs. 60-70 crores and the work should immediately be started.

There is the big problem of drinking water in many parts of Gujarat, in rural areas as well as in urban centres. My own home town of Bhavnagar is facing a very serious situation. Therefore, the Government should immediately act to provide to the local self-government all the assistance which they require by way of equipment, rigs, compressors, adequate funds and other things so that they can arrange for drinking water before it becomes too late. Rajkot is facing acute shortage of drinking water. The Government at the Centre should ask the Gujarat Government to send a proposal regarding three things: fodder, drinking water projects and employment. These are the major problems and the Centre should give timely assistance to Gujarat because there is no popular Government there and the administration is facing difficulties and they have their own limitations. There are schemes of minor irrigation and soil conservation which should be taken up. There is potentialities of lignite and coal and these operations would be taken up without loss of time. I hope that this will help to some extent to solve the present situation.

In Bhavnagar district there was acute shortage of fodder. It was decided in the Coordination Committee that Collector should ask for more fodder from Bhavnagar district. Government asked the collector to send fodder from Bhavnagar district to other districts. When there is acute shortage in one district the Government

should get from other States; simply by sending from one district to another the problem is not solved. I hope these things will not be repeated in future.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak): It is unfortunate for me and it is a sad reminder to this House when I say that I represent a constituency in Orissa which has been affected repeatedly since 1970 by flood, cyclone and this year by drought. The State Government report stated recently that 'the district of Balasore popularly known as the rice bowl of Orissa is the worst affected as the rainfall was only 38 m.m. as against the normal rainfall of 475 m.m. during the month of June and July.' While this was the condition, in my district, there suddenly came a wave of flood on 13th and 14th of this month and as a result whatever remnant of kharif crop was there was damaged and now people undergo great distress and they are undergoing endless suffering. This was the condition of the people of our State. Official machinery also added fuel to fire. I agree with our prominent engineer and ex-Minister Dr. K. L. Rao that our officers, are very competent and they can make any wonders to save the nation. I say, they can do wonders if they do not quarrel among themselves over petty matters as a result of which certain projects and schemes are delayed indefinitely. The cost escalation of the project rises higher and higher and the whole State suffers due to want of execution of the project in time.

When there were severe floods last year two central teams have visited especially my district which has been affected like anything. Government at the Centre was kind enough. They have sanctioned Rs. 18 crores for rehabilitation and repairs. Unfortunately, the money was not utilised in a proper way. As a result, the people are suffering presently because of this reason. The Ex-Development Commissioner, Orissa as a head of the Central Team, also visited the area.

[Shri Arjun Sethi]

He visited the breach that occurred on the left bank of the embankment of river Baitarniat Mishrapur. In fact, as a result of this breach in the river embankment, in Dhamanagar, Chandbali, Basudevpur and Bansda Panchayat samities areas, all kharif crops were washed away. That is why the central teams had repeatedly reminded the State Government and the Engineers concerned to repair the breach so that there would be no rush of water there and the people will not suffer in future. At that time the State Government spent a lot of money—Rs. 40,000 had been spent—but still there has been a breach on the very spot; this time also the people have lost their crops and everything.

In this context, I would like to point out one or two things. There is one major irrigation project called Bhimkund project which is under the consideration of the Central Government since 1958. But, unfortunately, due to the quarrel between the two Chief Engineers—one is posted now in C.W.P.C. and the present Chief Engineer of Orissa—over the proposed site, the project has been put in the coldstorage. And, after so many years, this time when the team of engineers from the C.W.P.C. visited the spot, they finalised the site—of course, after ten years or 12 years or so. In this context also, I request the hon. Minister that he should immediately examine this project and take up implementation of it immediately. These are of course under the consideration. If implemented, the fury of floods and drought here can be mitigated to the extent possible.

Lastly I would like to say one thing. I have repeatedly pointed out and even drawn the attention of the Minister to this fact. Still, a final decision has not yet been taken. That is why I again would like to draw the attention of the Minister that a barrage may be constructed on the River Baitarniat at Anandpur. The barrage has been cleared by the C.W.P.C.,

Planning Commission and everybody. Still, the site for this project has not yet been finalised. Rs. 30 lakhs of money has been spent on this during the year 1972-73 and 1973-74. I do not know why. The foundation stone for the project has been laid thrice. They might have utilised Rs. 30 lakhs only for this purpose! I request the Minister to see that he takes a decision immediately and implements the scheme. The people are very much worried about this prolonged delay in coming to any decision. Since no decision has been taken, I request him to see that something is done immediately for implementing the project. At the same time, I would urge upon him to inquire into the matter as to why this has been done and how this took place at the cost and sufferings of the millions of our people. Last year they sanctioned Bengali Project and money was to be released and the execution work was to start this year. But, unfortunately, they have not yet issued the sanction. I request again that he should look into the matter and sanction the money so that the project can be implemented.

It is correct that droughts and floods are basically the two sides of the same coin. Both of them originate because of large-scale erosion hazards in the hills and with integrated soil and water conservation measures it is possible to solve both the problems.

I will end by quoting what Dr. Swaminathan said recently:

"It is time we wake up and spread throughout the country a consciousness of the value of soil and importance of scientific land use."

श्री डी० एन० तिवारी (गोपालगंज) :
 उषाध्यक्ष जी, मैं सारे देश की बाढ़ की समस्या के सम्बन्ध में बातें नहीं करूँगा। भारतीय कै० एल० राव ने इस समस्या को हल करने के बारे में सुझाव दिये हैं और मैं आशा करता हूँ कि सरकार उन पर विचार करेगी। मैं

श्रीर प्रान्तों के बारे में नहीं कहना चाहता क्योंकि हर प्रान्त के प्रतिनिधि हैं जो अपने यहां की समस्या से मुझ से ज्यादा अच्छी तरह से परिचित हैं इसलिये वह लोग वहां की चर्चा करेंगे। मैं अपने प्रान्त और जिले के बारे में कुछ कहना चाहता हूं। बिहार का दुर्भाग्य है कि एक ही समय में वहां कहीं सुखार और कहीं बाढ़ है। कहीं अभाववृष्टि है तो कहीं अतिवृष्टि है दोनों साथ साथ चल रही हैं। यदि एक जगह हालत ठीक रहती तो पीड़ित क्षेत्र के लोगों को सहायता आसानी से मिल सकती थी। लेकिन दोनों जगह सुखार और बाढ़ के कारण उनको अपने प्रान्त से सहायता नहीं मिल पा रही है।

सुखार और बाढ़ में फर्क यह है कि सुखार वाले लोगों को कुछ रहने की जगह होती है कुछ खाने पीने की भी हो जाता है, लेकिन भविष्य अंधकारमय होता है। लेकिन बाढ़ वालों का तो वर्तमान भी और भविष्य भी अंधकारमय होता है। आगे क्या होगा कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता। बीमारी से खाने बिना कितने लोग मरेंगे मच्छरी कितने मरेंगे यह कुछ नहीं कहा जा सकता। वहां की समस्या बहुत कठिन होती है। बिहार प्रान्त के बारे में बहुत से लोगों ने अपने अपने जिले की बात कही है इसलिये मैं भी अपने जिले की बात कहूंगा। सारन जिला अब तीन जिलों में बट गया है लेकिन मैं उसको एक ही जिला मानता हूँ। वह चारों तरफ से नदियों से घिरा है—पूर्व में गंडक है दक्षिण में गंगा और पश्चिम में जमुना है। यदि एक भी नदी बड़ी तो सारे जिले के बहुत बड़े हिस्से में पानी आ जाता है। इस वक्त जब सब नदियों में बाढ़ है और अन्ततोगत्वा गंगा में भी बाढ़ आ गई तो जिले को कहीं राहत नहीं है। चारों तरफ से पानी से घिर गया है और चारों नदियों का पानी उसमें आ रहा है जिसकी वजह से सारा जिला जल-प्लावित है। यही नहीं कटाव बहुत तेजी से चल रहा है। मत साल हमारे क्षेत्र में बैकुण्ठपुर क्षेत्त्र में कटाव से दो, तीन क्षेत्त्रों में चले गये। इस साल भी कई गांव कटान में हैं और

सारी जमीन जायदाद लोगों की गिर गई। बिहार सरकार ने योजना बन्द थी, कुछ रुपया भी मंजूर किया था लेकिन लालफीता-शाही की वजह से कुछ काम नहीं हुआ। मैं थक गया दौड़ते दौड़ते तब जा कर रुपया मंजूर हुआ लेकिन काम नहीं हुआ। आप इसकी ओर ध्यान दें कि यदि स्कीम मंजूर हो गई तो काम क्यों नहीं होता है समय पर। दूसरे साल भी बाढ़ आ गई और जो गांव बचा था वह भी कट कर गंडक में चला गया।

हमारी नदियों में बाढ़ आने से ही बाढ़ नहीं आती। अतिवृष्टि से भी बाढ़ आती है क्योंकि ड्रेनेज का अभाव है जिसकी वजह से नदियों में पानी जाने का रास्ता नहीं होता। और जिन गांवों में पानी निकलने का रास्ता नहीं होता वह गांव जलप्लावित हो जाते हैं और उनकी फसल; मकान वगैरह नष्ट हो जाते हैं। नदी की बाढ़ से प्रभावित एरिया ही फलड एफेक्टिव एरिया न आप मानें बल्कि ऐसा एरिया भी जहां अतिवृष्टि होती है और उस कारण से वह जल-प्लावित होता है उसको भी बाढ़ के एरिया में आपका सम्मिलन करना चाहिए और उसी प्रकार का इसके साथ भी आपको व्यवहार करना चाहिए। इंजीनियर या सरकारी कर्मचारी जब रिपोर्ट देते हैं तो वे ऐसे स्थानों को छोड़ देते हैं, उनको इसमें शामिल नहीं करते हैं। उनसे आपको रिपोर्ट मांगनी चाहिए कि ऐसे भी क्षेत्र कितने हैं जो अतिवृष्टि से जल-प्लावित हो चुके हैं, उनकी फसलें और घर-द्वार नष्ट हो चुके हैं और उनके वास्ते भी आपको राहत का इंतजाम करना चाहिए।

गंडक नहर बहुत अच्छी प्रोजेक्ट थी। आशा थी कि उससे हम लोगों की समस्या बहुत हद तक हल हो जायेगी। लेकिन पानी जब बरसता है तो गंडक नहर भी विनाशकारी हो जाती है। आप ने पांडे जी से सुना कि पानी होने पर उस नहर का पानी लोग छोड़ देते हैं और मतीजा यह होता है कि जहां पानी न भी हो वहां भी बाढ़ आ जाती है।

[श्री डी० एत० तिवारी]

आपको इसका ध्यान रखना चाहिये और देखना चाहिए कि ऐसी स्थिति आने न पाये। इस सम्बन्ध में मंत्री महोदय को हिदायतें जारी करनी चाहिये कि जब आलरेडी पानी दूसरी जगह है तो गंडक नहर का पानी छोड़ा न जाये। पानी छोड़ने से विपत्ति और भी बढ़ जाती है। कहीं कहीं उसमें ऐसे गेट बनने चाहिये कि बांध के नजदीक अधिक पानी हो तो उसको ले जाया जा सके। आजकल होता यह है कि यहां से वहां तक बांध बना हुआ है और पानी जिस तरफ अधिक है उधर पानी अधिक ले जाते हैं और इससे लोगों की तकलीफ और भी ज्यादा बढ़ जाती है और बाढ़ से वे अधिक सताये जाते हैं।

हमारा सारन जिला एक डिफिसेट जिला है, बहुत ही ज्यादा डिफिसेट जिला वह है। साल में छः महीने से अधिक खाने को वहां पैदा नहीं होता है। आबादी करीब 45 लाख है। कल्चरेबल लैंड 6.7 लाख एकड़ से अधिक नहीं है। उसकी तरफ ख़ास कर आपको ध्यान देना चाहिये ताकि वहां के लोग भूखों न मरें। खाद्य मंत्री जी को इसका ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि जो जिसे अधिक डिफिसेट है वहां ज्यादा अन्न का प्रवन्ध किया जाये। राज्य सरकारों को भी उनको मलाह देनी चाहिए कि ज्यादा डिफिसेट जिलों के वास्ते ज्यादा आपूर्ति की जाये। सभी धान वाईस पंचरो वाला सिद्धान्त अगर लागू किया गया तो वहां के लोगों को ज्यादा तकलीफ होगी।

गंडक के सम्बन्ध में एक बात में और कहना चाहता हूँ। 1972-73 की रिपोर्ट को मैंने देखा है। सारे भारत की योजनाओं को देखा है। बहुत अधिक रुपये की योजनाओं को भी देखा है। सब में पोर्टेशन है 85, 86। लेकिन गंडक 1.5 मिलियन हैक्टियर यानी 2.85 मिलियन एकड़ की योजना है। लगभग सारा भाग बन गया है। पूछ ही लटकी हुई है जिसके कारण बड़ी हानि हो रही है।

पूछ भी हमारे जिले में आ कर अटक गई है, हमारी कंस्ट्रिब्यूएसी में आकर अटक गई है। पूछ को भी सीधा आप कर दें ताकि बाढ़ के समय भी पानी उसमें न छोड़ा जाये। हम लोग बिना मौत के मारे जा रहे हैं। उस योजना को आप जल्दी से जल्दी समाप्त करें ताकि हम पानी भी ले सकें और बाढ़ का पानी भी उसमें जज्व हो सके। इस और आप ध्यान दें और अगर आपने नहीं दिया तो हम लोग बिना विपत्ति मारे जायेंगे।

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY (Raiganj):
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at the outset may I endorse the sentiments that were expressed by the previous speakers in thanking the Speaker of this House for giving us time to discuss this very vital problem that is facing vast areas of India? May I also express my deep appreciation of the valuable contribution that Dr. Rao has made to this debate because I cannot forget the great sympathy that I have had from him in the past when we and other colleagues of mine from West Bengal have badgered him and sat on his doorsteps and worried him about problems of North Bengal. He has treated with such utmost courtesy and kindness and, I may also say, he has helped me as much in regard to the Teesta Banegal project. I am also warning the present Minister that such a situation may also occur when he will find a deputation of West Bengal MPs sitting on his doorstep rather more frequently than in the past and I am giving his adequate warning of this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: When you go through the door, you will not find him inside.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): My complaint is that since I left the Home Ministry, they do not come often enough.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: We shall seal to that and put him to the test as far as that is concerned.

We are now Sir, in the 27th year of our independence and yet we are faced with the perennial problem of drought and floods and alternative cycles of droughts one year and floods the next year, but this year to and behold, in West Bengal we are having drought and floods simultaneously. One natural calamity after another has been befalling us.

Today I am sorry I am going to restrict myself to a very narrow field because I feel it is about time I spoke of the millions of people that I do represent. Therefore, I shall digress just a little and speak of the hinterland of the area that I represent which is North Bengal comprising basically of six districts which are Cooch-Bihar, Jalpaiguri, Darjeeling, Malda, West Dinajpur and Raiganj. The total area of these six districts excluding Malda is about one-fourth of West Bengal and the population about one-sixth of the State's. And—this is the most important part that I want to emphasise—the contribution to the income of the State is one-third, that is to say, Rs. 354 crores by way of jute, tea, tobacco, forest products and dust coal in the Bagrakote area with potentialities of lime, dolomite, copper and zinc. So, that this is a very vital part of the country.

AN HON. MEMBER: Jute also.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: I mentioned that in the beginning Mr. Das Chowdhury. I would never leave out jute because I know in the Islampur sub-division, they grow the richest quality of jute in West Bengal, and in fact, probably in the whole country.

I just want to give a few more details. The average per capita income of West Bengal is Rs. 562 while the average per capita income of North Bengal is Rs. 284.

Then again—and this is the saddest part of the whole story—the total outlay in three Plan periods in West

Bengal was Rs. 687 crores, but what of North Bengal? 15 crores.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I thought we were discussing about floods.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: I am just giving that background and now in the context of that, I will now come to the question of floods.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Minister says that you are complaining against your State Government.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: I, and I have every reasons to for the mistakes committed by the erstwhile Government not the present one.

In this context, I now come to the subject of this debate. If you go to the Library and look up the books, there have been discussions year after year, there have been statistics churned out by the various Governments and departments year after year, there have explanations year after year. But what do we really need? What we really need is to recognise that the whole of North Bengal, particularly Malda, Cooch-Bihar and Jalpaiguri are flood-prone districts and have been so every year for the last twelve years, with very few exceptions. The last most terrible flood was in the year 1968 when I personally spent time in North Bengal, it was one month at a stretch, where we did relief work. I can remember personal experiences, where the roads and communications were completely disrupted; large chunks of the Himalayan mountain side fell into the Teesta which is one of the turbulent rivers that can be in any part of the country; in fact in any part of the

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river does not flow through one State, world I might say, I remember, when communications were totally disrupted, we climbed on the back of salt trucks to get to Kalimpong through military roads. Here, I must pay my compliments to the hill people. They did the finest job by taking us through these precarious roads and we got to our destination and spent, as I said, one month there. This is not hearsay, and I have experienced this myself in that part of the world. I would say this for the hill people that they are a very proud race because when relief was offered to them, they did not take the money. They said 'No, we do not want it that way; Give us wool, we will knit garments and sell them; that would be our relief'. This is something for us all to know. I have digressed a little, but, I am coming to the main point.

To tackle this gigantic problem, my suggestions are—if I can fit them in within the time because I can see Mr. Raghu Ramaiah already giving me black looks; I must be nearing 5 minutes already; anyway, we shall deal with him later and I would not look that way any more—first we should have a new orientation in our approach to grapple with this gigantic problem. Of course, it cannot be done in 5, 7 or 10 years. I know. But, whatever has gone on, has gone on for far too long. My suggestions are briefly this. There should be co-ordination and cooperation as between departments, that is to say, Irrigation, PWD, Railways and most of all the Forest Department because this is a very vital department to take into consideration because of the deforestation problem which in its way is very much linked with floods, soil erosion and soil conservation. The second part of my suggestion is there should be coordination and cooperation between States *inter se*, that is to say, neighbouring States—after all, a

in a water tight compartment and then stop somewhere else; it flows right from the North to the South and then to the seas, and therefore, all these neighbouring States are linked—and the Central Government and this is where, the hon. Minister of Irrigation comes very much into the scene. This cooperation and coordination should be in anticipation of the monsoon vagaries. After all, we have meteorologists; people who can forecast the prospects. I hope we are not devoid of any scientific talent or anything like that. Therefore, this should be anticipated and this coordination should come in. What we need are master plans. There should not be this tinkering about this piece-meal approach or patch work, that all right, the last time we had floods was in 1968 and we will have a couple of bunds here... I am not looking towards Mr. Raghu Ramaiah. I am looking towards you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You lend your ears to me and your eyes to him.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: I will definitely not look on that side. He has let me down this time. He gave me ten minutes and then cut it down to five. I was not able to say half of what I wanted to say. But, Sir, I do not wish to incur the odium of either the other hon. Members of the House who will certainly have more valuable contributions to make or Mr. Raghu Ramaiah's, whom I shall deal with in my own fashion way some time or other.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Not in my presence.

SHRIMATI MAYA RAY: As I said, I had so much to say and so very little time to say it. I would make one last fervent appeal to the Irrigation Minister. I saw the Finance Minister a little while ago. He has suddenly disappeared at the right time. I see however I shall leave that internal arrangement between the Irrigation

Minister and the Finance Minister to settle among themselves I would make one fervent appeal. I understand—I am open to correction—that there is a project called the Ganga-Brahmaputra canal which covers the whole areas of Assam, North Bengal, Bangladesh and in fact the whole of the Eastern Region. I gather that this is in a conceptual stage and that the flies have gathered dust for many years. May I plead with the Irrigation Minister to bring that into an implementation stage, after dusting off all the dust that has accumulated during all these years. May be, this will give new light. He should throw all orthodox and conventional manners to the wind and let us see some dynamism which we do expect from this new, young and dynamic Irrigation Minister of ours.

SHRI RANABAHADUR SINGH (Sidhi): Sir, it is almost ritualistic and I must say anguishing incantation that we come across every year when we discuss either the floods or the drought. This year again we are at it and representing the north-eastern part of M.P. I wish to bring before the House its sufferings, because its sufferings are not so splendid enough as to catch attention. If there was a flood which would inundate a thousand hectares or a drought which would drive millions to migrate, that draws the attention of the nation and remedies are applied. But there are regions in this country which suffer silently and because of that silence, their remedies go by default. I unfortunately represent one of those regions. Last year and year before last, we faced two very very slender monsoon seasons, and being a mainly rice growing area, we were deprived of our main crop. I tried a number of times to draw the attention of the House to our predicament and with all the efforts that I could muster, all that I got was permission from the Chair to raise the matter under Rule 377. And having done that, I did not receive any statement from the side of the treasury benches as to what

was being done for that. I feel that my effort to draw the attention of Government towards the fact that that region was suffering without rain was not believed, since unfortunately the central team that visited Mirzapur which borders my area happened to be at Mirzapur on those two days when the district had its only rain during the monsoon and because we were neighbours to Mirzapur, it was presumed that the rains were widespread enough to cover my area. It is only when the Rihand Dam went far dangerously low for any electric generation that the matter came to the attention of the House that the rainfall in the catchment of Rihand which happens to be my region was low. In this context, having lost the main crop for the last two years, this year we are faced with a situation wherein the crops have been delayed because of late rains. I have taken your time to go into these details only because this region has so far had no attention whatsoever as far as provision of irrigation facilities go. There is only one single hope that looms on our horizon in the nature of a beckoning star and that is the Bansagar project. It has been a great satisfaction to us of that region that our new Minister who I would certainly say plays cricket with a straight bat has been kind enough to give us to understand that the agreement part of this most crucial project is behind us. But I would bring to his notice some very disturbing factors that are emerging concerning that project. One of them is that almost all the people who had been posted for the construction of the preliminary work of Bansagar have been posted out and in spite of the fact that there is a whole colony of buildings meant specifically for the people who are going to construct the Bansagar dam, they are today standing absolutely empty like a ghost town.

Well for those who were looking for this dam as a lifeline of prosperity or as a lifeline for a full stomach, this is a very gloomy prospect indeed. So, I would request the hon. Minister to as-

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sure us that this ghost town is not turned into the tomb stone of this project.

Again, Bansagar originally was a project which should have been completed in about 10 to 15 years of time with an expenditure of about Rs. 130 crores. When this agreement was finally agreed to by the previous incumbent in this office of the Irrigation Minister, who happens to be with us today, and to whom we as a people are grateful, because he was the first man to give us this good tidings, we had hoped that the Fifth Plan would have provision which would be in keeping with the size of this project. And in this background, it has come as a great shock to us that the financial provision for the Bansagar dam for the year 1974-75 is a mere Rs. 50,000. This lends itself to a doubt on the whole question whether we are going to have Bansagar or not, whether that region is going to become a region that would contribute to the tune of 6.5 million tonnes of extra foodgrains to our nation or whether we are going to be a region which does not even get the focus of attention of this House, because it is neither too wet nor too dry; yet it is neither hungry nor with a full stomach.

We have had another failure of rains in one tehsil Sengrauli, which is adjoining the Rihand dam. Last year they lost their paddy crops completely and this year, because the rain came late, they have again been forced to re-sow the seedling. I would request the hon. Minister to have some sort of arrangement whereby the underground water of that region could be surveyed for possible exploitation, because otherwise this region which has a very rich soil and which does not lend itself to irrigation under the Bansagar, cannot be developed.

This region, which is a perennially drought prone region, has been provided with a DPA programme, which

comes to about Rs. 2 crores to 3 crores. But this programme is meant entirely to be oriented towards the provision of irrigation facilities. That implies that funds that are available under the programme cannot be diverted for roads. But the district of Sidhi has only one road running from west to east and all the possible project areas, unfortunately, do not happen to be situated by the side of this road. Unless there is provision for the construction of roads there is the danger of the entire money lapsing because this money could not be utilised for road building and without the roads there is no possibility of people reaching those areas and building irrigation projects. I would say that this is a matter which requires the attention of the hon. Minister. He should see to it that these finer points do not hold up our lifeline by depriving us of water for our irrigation.

In the end, as I said, every year we have to live through the anguish of either floods or droughts. Very humbly I have two suggestions to offer to our hon. Minister and, through him, to the Government. Firstly, for a government sitting in New Delhi, to take upon its shoulders the complete rehabilitation, of our people who live in the villages, is an impossibility.

As has been rightly said by one of the speakers, unless there are people from the villages involved in a meaningful way to help the Government, this burden is going to be progressively impossible. I plead for a closer examination of the points as to how the people could be made to share the burdens of this Government. No amount of taxation, no amount of foreign aid, can possibly help our Minister to face meaningfully, and, when I say, meaningfully, I mean, to face these problems in the context of a welfare state where the smallest man gets the highest priority and, because this commitment is made by the Government, the financial implications are beyond the reach of any Government. Unless the

people on a basis of equality, on a basis of true involvement, share the burden with the Government, this tale of woe is bound to be repeated over and over again in this House and, what I fear most is that if this continues and no actual help reaches the villages, this would undermine the democratic institution of this country.

My second suggestion is: Is it possible that we now consider giving a complete stoppage to any investment on the industrial field for at least three years? We have almost reached the commanding heights of our industrial society and our investments in that region have been far beyond what they have been in the agricultural sector. Is it impossible for the Government to consider whether it would dry up all the funds towards industries and channel them just for three years towards agriculture, towards power, so that we might look to a future where, in spite of the flood and in spite of the drought, the people who live in the villages can look forward to a future of repletteness.

14.59 hrs.

[SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI *in the Chair*]

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are really devoting a substantial chunk of time, about seven hours, to this debate because the proceedings generally take a turn, as my hon. friend, Shri Ranabhadur Singh said, to the problems of industrial society in this country even though they affect a very small portion of our population.

15.00 hrs.

The drought in our country is a sort of recurrent problem. In my part of the country, namely, the State of Karnataka, it has been as bad as it was in the years 1972 and 1973, the worst famine years, which we faced. But the areas of districts of Tumkur, Kolar, Bangalore, Mandia, the rain-shadow belt from Coorg to Mysore, to Shimoga are being affected this time. The traditional areas of Gulbarga and

Bijapur, what we call Hyderabad Karnataka and Bombay Karnataka have not been affected. But, in the district of Belgaum the principal affected areas are the taluks of Athni, Raibagh, Hukkeri and Chikodi. Certain suggestions were made like the Hippergi dam which would solve the problem of drought conditions. In this case, I would like to say that according to the present estimate, about 25 per cent of the total cultivated area in the State can be provided with irrigation facilities, only if the entire water resources were harnessed. This is the ultimate irrigation potential of the State of Karnataka. We could never hope to reach the high level of irrigation of States like Haryana or Punjab or the tremendous potentialities of the States of Rajasthan or Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu... (*Interruptions*) What I am trying to say is that with this 25 per cent of the potentiality the present award that has been given by the Krishna Waters Tribunal is going to take away substantial chunk of our irrigation potential.

In this behalf I may kindly draw your special attention to Direction 117 given by the Speaker that a private Member may lay a paper on the Table of the House when he is authorised to do so by the Speaker. Two days ago I have sought the permission of the Speaker to lay on the Table a statement that was presented by Shri Bhaira Reddy, the Advocate-General of Karnataka, when the State Government of Karnataka walked out. I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister for Irrigation that this is unprecedented. Some attention will have to be paid. Why is it that a responsible elected and representative government functioning in a State is driven to the walls in such a peculiar manner that they had to stage a walk-out out of the Tribunal. I, therefore, suggest that this matter should be given due and appropriate consideration that is necessary. We would like to be convinced by the Irrigation Minister as to what has happen-

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ed with due deference to Dr. Rao, our illustrious former Irrigation Minister, on the floor of the legislature of Karnataka even his fair name has been dragged and I think there is justification for us to know what has happened.

In regard to the irrigation potential and its proper utilisation, one of our hon. friends from Telangana suggested that you better nationalise the rivers: You see to it that there is an optimum utilisation of the water of the rivers in the country, especially, when they are inter-State rivers. I have been pleading for this. I have been consistently pleading and I will still plead, but, let us not try to run forward and backward at the same time. If you are going to treat all the rivers as the national asset, then, where is the necessity for a tribunal? Let it be decided by the Centre. I think that the hon. Minister, in view of the manner in which this problem has been looked at, will kindly come out with a statement and let us know the mind of the Centre in this respect.

With his vest personal study, Dr. K. L. Rao, draw our attention to one point that 1.3 million people have been working on one project in China and the floods in the Yellow River have been controlled in a fantastically low period of about 30-36 months.

With regard to drought and flood what is the non-governmental institutional framework which we have in this country? What is the amount of money for flood relief or drought relief given year after year and what are the permanent assets created? Sir, we do not have any institutional framework and this is the main difficulty which stands in the way. You cannot do all these things under your governmental agencies alone. You should have institutional framework through which these things can be attempted. Dr. Minhas has headed a task force

which has expressed the view that the drought relief operations and the methods of financing them had not only led to infructuous expenditure and malpractices but had encouraged unhealthy politics at the State level and disturbing trends in Centre-State relations: I came from a drought prone area; drought is regular feature: The suggestions made for building up structure which will be able to create viable assets should be given thought to.

I once again urge for a definite statement from him regarding Krishna Water Dispute.

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola): I congratulate Dr. Rao as many others have done for his excellent and authoritative contribution and I was particularly impressed by these suggestion of having an arrangement with China to build a dam on Brahmaputra in Tibet. May be that can be a beginning of new friendship with Chinese Government. I would have wished Dr. Rao to say something about the National River Grid which he was trying to propagate for some time. What has happened to that project? Has it been put into cold storage? Have you forgotten about it? That project would have utilised the manpower of the country on a massive scale. That would have brought about a permanent solution to flood problem; Have you forgotten about it? I request our young and dynamic Minister Shri K. C. Pant and his colleagues to say something about this project in which even international agencies and United Nations were trying to give some help and grant.

I come to the problem of my region and that is the drought problem. I now quote from a report about Integrated Agricultural Development in Drought-prone Areas. This is a report by the Task Force on Integrated Rural Development. They say about the main elements of the strategy to be adopted. They said:

'The main thrust of effort will be in the direction of restoration of a proper ecological balance in these areas: Some of the important elements which may constitute the strategy for such ecologically intergrated development are listed below:

- (i) Development and management of irrigation resources;
 - (ii) soil and moisture conservation and afforestation;
 - (iii) Restructuring of cropping pattern and pasture development;
 - (iv) Changes in agronomic practices
 - (v) livestock development
 - (vi) provision of drinking water supply
 - (vii) development of rural communication and
 - (viii) development of small marginal farmer and agricultural labour.'
- Sir, while saying this, they have suggested as follows:—

"The Irrigation Commission has computed that, at present, about 13 per cent of the cropped area of the drought-affected region is irrigated. This is likely to rise to about 19 per cent when the schemes under execution are completed. Even so, as much as 81 per cent of the cropped area will remain without irrigation. In the drought areas of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Mysore, the position will remain much worse. In this background, a proper programme for development and management of irrigation resources in the drought-prone areas is of obvious significance."

They suggest that the priorities should be:—

- (i) Improvement of existing irrigation works so as to stabilise extend irrigation through available water supplies;
- (ii) Expendious completion of irrigation projects which have already been taken up;
- (iii) Investigation of further possibilities of increasing irrigation from surface and ground water sources."

Then, Sir, in this Report, they envisage that a D. P. A. P. project will be of the magnitude of Rs. 388 crores. They further say:

"This is likely to be supplemented by an outlay of another Rs. 300 crores or so under the Minimum Needs Programme. In addition, we expect a certain order of institutional finance will also be attracted to drought-prone districts. Thus, without reckoning their share of investment from medium and major irrigation plans of the States, an investment of nearly Rs. 900 to 1,000 crores may be directed towards these areas in the course of next five years."

My suggestion is this. You have such huge funds for the drought-prone areas which originally visualised 54 districts. On account of contiguous areas, they are not 54 in number. I take at about 110 districts. You have a common drought-prone area development authority at the centre for all of them and pool the entire resources. With D.P.A.P. and all other programmes, we can go along with them, and we can concentrate our efforts on intensive area development.

Recently there was a seminar. I quote from the speech of Shri Qureshi, Secretary, C.W.P.C. at a regional meeting of D.P.A.P. held at Lucknow on 11th May 1974 in which he made a very valuable suggestion. He says:

"As you know, the programme was earlier called the "Rural Works Programme". Subsequently, at the time of the Mid Term Appraisal of the Fourth Plan, it was renamed as DPAR. Its redesignation signifies a basic shift from employment and 'work' orientation to an integrated area development approach. However, as most of the Fourth Plan Programme outlays had by then been committed, the change was more conceptual than operational."

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He further said:

"The new approach lays emphasis on a permanent solution to the drought problem by evolving long term strategy of development appropriate to a district. The Master Plans in the Fourth Plan have failed to evolve such a strategy and were no more than collection of individual schemes in different sectors."

I would make concrete suggestions. You are all the time thinking in terms of machinery-civil service machinery: The solution I suggest is that for the drought-prone areas at least, you should have in each area a development programme wherein you will be allocating and spending about Rs. 1000 crores out of the total of the Fifth Five Year Plan. Have a Board in each district with M.Ps. as head of that drought development board or whatever be the name by which you may call it. Have also M.L.As and people from Gram Panchayat, Zila Parishad etc. That should be a Board to implement your entire programme of drought-prone areas development of drought prone areas so that you will have someone accountable. Today there is no accountability in our entire effort in the country neither civil service is accountable nor your political cadre is accountable. You must hold someone accountable. If you take this step and make the areas M/s. responsible and ask them to report from month to month the task they have completed then you will get some results as far as drought relief is concerned as a permanent solution.

SHRI H. M. PATEL (Dhanchuka): Mr: Chairman, Sir, when I listened to Dr. Rao this morning I asked myself a question—when he put forward his very valuable and well thought-out scheme for flood control—why is it that he did not

think of all this when he was in-charge of Ministry of Irrigation and Power? I am quite certain he must have thought of it. He must have put this forward but he probably got no funds. In other words, really what comes in the way of efficient flood control and efficient schemes for combating drought is the question of funds. But there again, I have reason to wonder. We have made quite substantial provisions for flood control as well as for combating drought in each of our Five Year Plans. One of the speakers today said how a large sum of money which was provided for flood control in his State remained unutilised. Therefore, we have two kinds of difficulties which we are facing in this matter. One is that for schemes that matter, that is, comprehensive schemes, adequate funds are not provided; and where funds are provided for States they are not utilised. For what reason they are not utilised is a question which ought to be examined. If there are worthwhile schemes for flood control and they are not implemented, the fault surely lies with implementation. For instance, it was mentioned, and I know this, right from the day we became independent the greatest emphasis was being laid on afforestation of catchment areas. A great deal of de-forestation had taken place during the Second World War and it was realised that this problem must be tackled with the greatest urgency. And yet to this day these areas remain virtually as badly deforested as they were in 1947 despite various schemes that have been drawn up and funds provided. What is the reason for it? What is the good of speech-making? As Dr. Rao said we can go on making speeches, but they can lead us nowhere. The same suggestions are made year after year, but where is the implementation. Why not proceed with at least this, one thing which is easily realisable namely, re-forestation of catchment areas of all the major rivers of this country.

What is there to prevent Government from doing it? It does not cost a great deal of money. It is a perfectly practical proposition.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad): Even if it costs, it is worth it.

SHRI H. M. PATEL: This is one. Secondly, in regard to flood control, why do we not maintain efficiently what has already been done to control flood water. This was mentioned by another speaker. He said that there was an embankment in his state in which there was a breach, which resulted in several districts being submerged. Why did that breach take place? These embankments are built to contain flood waters, because we know that the waters will rise during certain periods, and, therefore, they must be controlled. But, these embankments require to be watched carefully throughout the year and patrolled constantly to see to it that small leaks are plugged as soon as they occur; particularly during the period when floods are expected, this patrolling has to take place, because the moment a small leak develops, waters widen it into a wide gap and then it is quite impossible to stop it. Therefore, this again emphasises the point of efficient administration and maintenance of that which we have built for flood control.

I would like only to emphasise that if we wish to face this vital problem in an efficient and purposeful manner, there is only one thing to be done: We must implement the schemes which we have already evolved, carry them out as efficiently as possible and as speedily as possible.

I do hope that the amount of money that Dr. K. L. Rao said would be needed for the three groups would be provided. The amount he mentioned are not very large. Flood Control schemes must be given the highest priority.

This would be obvious if we bear in mind the amount of harm and damage that is done year after year, not only in terms of money but in terms of the loss of life and the human misery that is caused year after year.

Are we only wanting to shed crocodile tears and good saying each year when floods over-whelm vast areas: 'How terrible!' and then do nothing about it and forget it immediately after the trouble is over? I think the time has come, not, as rightly emphasised by Dr. K. L. Rao, for making speeches, but for giving effect to the knowledge that we possess already, to give effect to schemes which we know ought to be taken in hand and to be implemented and carried through with the utmost expedition.

In the matter of drought, may I say that I come from a State which is highly drought-prone. What is done about combating droughts? My hon. friend here suggested that there should be a drought-prone area authority for the whole of the country. Another speaker from the Congress said also 'Nationalise the rivers'. I think these are suggestions which are commendable but, alas, they are not practical propositions. But they do indicate a basic idea, namely, the Centre should undertake the implementation of these Schemes and projects.

I think that Dr. K. L. Rao also suggested the same thing when he urged that the Centre should accept the responsibility for flood-control measures. What does it mean? It means a certain amount of suspicion of the States. I think there may be justification for it. But in any case, I am all in favour of the Centre accepting the responsibility. The instruments for carrying them out may still remain the State services, but the responsibility should be assumed fairly and squarely by the Centre for carrying through these schemes of flood-control.

[Shri H. M. Patel]

I would like to refer to one other matter. Dr. K. L. Rao began by referring to the river Narmada. He said how year after year there are floods in that river. Now, practically they happen every year. There was a time when the Narmada river floods used to occur not every year but at intervals of five or even ten years. Now, since 1964, they are almost an annual occurrence. There reason for it is not far to seek. But what are we proposing to do? While the inter-States quarrel goes on, must we delay even the schemes that are necessary to be undertaken and would help in Controlling the river waters?

Dr. Rao suggested that at least the construction of one dam should be undertaken—I think it is the Bargi scheme. Why is that not being undertaken? That is entirely within the sphere of Madhya Pradesh. It has nothing to do with inter-State quarrels or anything. Funds are there. Why is it not being implemented? It would certainly help Gujarat which is at the tail end of the river.

In so far as droughts are concerned, how serious is the Agriculture Ministry in regard to dry farming research projects? You have undertaken much research. Every now and again we read accounts of wonderful results having been achieved as a result of some research projects on dry farming in different parts of the country. What are the actual results available that are suitable for mass adoption? After all, the greater part of this country has to live on dry farming. In all these drought-prone areas, the greater part of the area under cultivation is under dry farming. Therefore, greater importance should be given to dry farming research and such worthwhile results as are achieved should be passed on to the farmers. Whatever funds that are necessary should be provided for this purpose.

I would like to conclude by reiterating what we should now do in regard

to flood control measures. We should draw up a Five year plan, and whatever funds are necessary for implementing the various schemes that we already have, and which were outlined briefly by Dr. Rao during these five years, those funds should be made available. There is no need to take the heroic step suggested by one hon. member that we should give a holiday to industrialisation for three years; indeed it would be necessary for us to have enough funds for providing all necessary infra-structure facilities such as power. Nevertheless, whatever funds are necessary for carrying through the entire package of schemes for flood control throughout the country should be provided.

It is not only a question of provision of funds. I think the greatest emphasis again should be laid on the speedy implementation of the schemes. I think there the Centre should take responsibility for this and use the States as instruments for seeing to it that the various projects are carried through with speed and efficiency.

श्रीमहम्मद जमीलु र्हमान (विश्वनाथंज)

मोहताम बेधरमैन, आप का श्रुक्रिया जो आप ने मुझ वक्त दिया है। मैं थोड़े ही वक्त में सारी बात कहने की कोशिश करूंगा। यह जो विचार सरकार की तरफ से हम लोगों को किताब दी गई है बाढ़ के बारे में इस के मूलाविक 14 जिलों में बाढ़ का काफी असर है। इन के नाम इस प्रकार हैं पूर्णिया, सहरसा, कटिहार, दरभंगा, मधवनी, मूजफरपुर, सीमामढी, मुंगेर, वैशाली, समस्तीपुर, गोपालगंज, छपरा, बतिया, चम्पारन ईस्ट। 232 ब्लाक में से 132 ब्लाक वस्ट अफैक्टड हैं। टोटल रकम है 5,29,053 स्कावायर किलोमीटर और पूरा रकवा अफैक्टड हुआ है 1,40,057.2 किलोमीटर। और आबादी की तादाद है 252 लाख, और जो टोटल पीपुलेशन अफैक्टड हुई है वह है 69.78 लाख जो फसल के नकसान का व्यौरा है उस में 1,554 लाख एकड़ को नकसान हुआ है और जो टोटल बायदाद का

नुकसान है वह है 7,067.68 लाख। और इसी ब्यौरे में कई और बातें भी शामिल हैं।

मकानात जो बाढ़ की जद में आए हैं, जिन को बाढ़ से नुकसान हुआ है उनकी तादाद 1,35,042 है। उनकी कीमत 362.94 लाख है। यह पुरी स्टेट बा. र्. रा. है। पूणिया जिले के नौ थलाक्स वर्स्ट एफक्टड हैं। जो नौ हैं और जो मेरी कांस्ट्रूयण्सी में आते हैं उनके नाम हैं, ठाकुरगंज, जोकीहाट, वसा, वायसी, अमौर, बहादुरगंज, कोचा (ग्रामन, पलासी) ईस्ट, पोठिया। इन में से पलासी ईस्ट का पोठिया गवर्नमेंट ने जो लिस्ट दी है, उसमें नहीं है। लेकिन इनको मैंने खुद जा कर दो तारीख को विजिट किया है। ये सब थलाक्स वर्स्ट एफक्टड हैं। इनको इन लिस्ट में आना चाहिये था।

बाढ़ में जो भरने वाले हैं उनकी तादाद बहुत ज्यादा है— जो बताई जा रही है वह निहायत ही कम है। मेरी जानकारी यह है कि मेरे हलके में भरने वाले की तादाद 19 के करीब है। गंग, बेल और भंस तीन हजार के करीब मंश्रे हैं। जो टोटल एरिया एफक्ट हुआ है वह 2368 मक्वेयर किलोमीटर है। आठ लाख के करीब पापुलेशन इसमें एफक्ट हुई है। पांच लाख एकरड के करीब क्राप्स को नुकसान हुआ है। इसकी कीमत 1134 लाख बैठती है। 15000 के करीब मकानात डैमेज हुए हैं। इनकी कीमत कोई पन्द्रह लाख है। न न मीने हुई हैं। कुल मिलाकर पन्द्रह करोड़ का नुकसान हुआ है। बीस पच्चीस दिन तक बाढ़ का जर्वदस्त अमर रहा है। भदई डंडी, जुट क्राप जिसने हमें विदेशी मुद्रा प्राप्त होती है और अग्रहनी क्राप बिलकुल नष्ट हो गई हैं। अब आगे आने वाली जो क्राप्स हैं, जैसे गेहूँ या और जो फसलें हैं उनकी तैयारी की तरफ आपको ध्यान देना है और उसके लिए आपको, अभी से स्टैप्स लेने शुरू कर देने चाहिये।

इस साल जो बाढ़ आई है वह महानब, कोसी, पनार, बकरा, मंची, कनकई नदियों की वजह से आई है। इन नदियों को पूणिया जिले का सांरोँ आफ पूणिया कहा जाता है। मैं 3 अगस्त, 1974 को बी० डी० सी० की मीटिंग एटेंड करने गया था। किशनगंज में ग्यारह बजे मे दो बजे तक और ठाकुर गज में तीन बजे से छः बजे तक। वहां पर बाढ़ का दृश्य मैंने खुद अपनी आंखों से देखा है। कुछ भी तो वहां बचा नहीं है कहीं पर फसल नजर नहीं आ रही थी। मैं वहां पर लोगों से मिला हूँ। जोकीहाट और प्लासी ईस्ट के लोगों से मिला हूँ। मैं आपको धताना चाहता हूँ कि अररिया में ठाकुरगंज तक लैटरल रोड पर 52 पुल है। उन में से दस पुल ऐसे हैं कि अगर उनकी तरफ अभी से ध्यान नहीं दिया गया तो वे टूट जाएंगे, अब नहीं तो अगले साल टूट जायेंगे। एक-एक ब्रिज पर लाखों रुपया आपका खर्च हुआ है। अगर वे टूट गए तो सारा आपका रुपया जो इन पर लगा है वह बेकार हो जायेगा। इसबाबत अभी से आपको इनकी तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिए। पनार और बकरा दरियाओं ने बहुत जर्वदस्त तबाही जोकीहाट में मचाई है। 2 अगस्त को मैंने वहां पर देखा कि बोटस का, किश्तियों का कोई इंतजाम नहीं था। तीन अगस्त को इनके लिए टेंडर काल किए गए। क्या बोटस का पहलें से इंतजाम नहीं किया जाना चाहिए था? पता नहीं उन टेंडरों का क्या हुआ। मैं आपकी सेवा में उसके बाद यहाँ आ गया। अब जा कर उसके बारे में पूछूँगा मैंने चार तारीख को डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट को डाई बजे फोन किया, मुझे बताया गया वह सो रहे हैं। फिर साढ़े तीन बजे किया तब भी यही बताया गया कि वह सो रहे हैं। फिर साढ़े चार बजे किया तब भी यही कहा गया कि वह सो रहे हैं। तो मैंने कहा कि अब ज. उ. जगाने के निये यह कितनी शर्मनाक बात है। एक तरफ तबाही मची हुई थी और दूसरी तरफ वह सो रहे थे। यह आपके अफसरों का हाल है। उनको एक-दस रिमूव आपको करना चाहिये। ए० डी० ओ० अररिया को भी रिमूव करना चाहिये।

[श्री महम्मद जर्मलूरहमान]

जोकीहाट में बेमौत लोग मरे हैं। कुसुम लाल जोकीहार जो एक हरिजन था और अन्न के दाने की तलाश में गया था वह बाढ़ के कारण मर गया। एक लड़का जो चकई का था वह भी अन्न की तलाश में जाते हुए मौत का शिकार हो गया। इस तरह से कई मौते हुई हैं।

आपने जो रूपया बिहार में पलड एफ़ैक्टिड एरियाज के लिए तथा लोगों के लिए प्रोवाइड किया है वह दो करोड़ सतरह लाख के करीब है। यह तो ऊंट के मुंह में जीरा के समान है। इसको आपको बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ाना चाहिये।

बिहार की जो फड रिक्वायरमेंट्स है अगस्त, सितम्बर, अक्टूबर के लिए वे कम से कम 35000 टन हर महीने की हैं। उनको आपको पूरा करना चाहिये।

अब मैं आपको उन गांवों के नाम बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि जो पूरे तौर पर पानी में बह गए हैं। बसा ब्लाक में मंगलपुर। कनकई रिवर के कारण वरदीहा, अशिया 1। महानंदा से मिला रघुनाथपुरा, अरजा। अमौर ब्लाक में बस्ती ताल बारी। जोकीहाट ब्लाक में पनार दरिया की वजह से महाजली। ये सब कट कर समाप्त हो गए हैं। इनका नामोनिशान बाकी नहीं रहा है। जो "रिवर आफ सारासे" पूर्णिया के लिए वे हैं, महानंदा, मेची, कनकई, पनार या परवान, बकरा। इन पर आपको डम बनाने चाहिये। इनकी वजह से हर साल बाढ़ आती है। यह एक रेग्युलर फीचर है। इसका आपको कुछ इंतजाम करना चाहिये ताकि आगे से लोगों को इन बाढ़ों की तकलीफ से नजात मिल सके।

जिन हल्कों का मैंने नाम लिया है उनको फमिन एफैक्टिड एरिया डिक्लेयर किया जाए और फमिन कोड लागू करें। अगली फसलों के लिए आप से जो स्टैप्स लेने हैं वे अभी से लेने आप शुरू करें। आपको जो डिपार्टमेंट्स हैं उन में कोओर्डिनेशन होना चाहिये, एग्रीकल्चर,

इरिगेशन एण्ड पावर, फारेस्ट, प्लानिंग और फाइनेंस में कोओर्डिनेशन होना चाहिये और मिल कर सब को इस क्षेत्र में काम करना चाहिये। 35000 टन फटग्रेज आप हर महीने नवम्बर तक बिहार को दें। एग्रीकल्चर, हाउसिंग और जानवर खरीदने के लिए एफिसेंट लॉज का आप प्रबन्ध करें। रेंट का रिमिशन तो होना चाहिये। लैबी भी नहीं लगनी चाहिये। मेडीकल ऐड भी आपको प्रोवाइड करनी चाहिये। आप तो जानते ही हैं कि चालीस हजार आदमी पहले ही चंचक से मर चुके हैं बिहार में। इस वास्ते मेडीकल ऐड की वक्त रहते आपको व्यवस्था करनी चाहिये। पीने के पानी तथा मडी सीडिंग का आपको एक दम प्रबन्ध करना चाहिये। मकान बनाने के लिए जिन के मकान इह गए हैं एक हजार रुपये की ग्रांट आपको उनको देनी चाहिये।

कटिहार जिले की बहुत बुरी हालत है। वहां एयरॉपेज से फूड पैकेट्स आदि गिराये जा रहे हैं। बिहार प्रदेश कांग्रेस के अध्यक्ष के साथ सात अठ तारोख को मैंने वहां दौरा किया था, मनीहारी में गया था, कदवा बन्क के हल्के में गया था। मुझे डी० एम० ने कहा कि बंगाल की माइड का जो ईस्टर्न भाग है वहां कोई आउटलैट नहीं था जिसकी वजह से यहां बाढ़ आ गई। वहां और आउटलैट होते तो पानी निकल जाता और दूसरी नदियों में गिर जाता। आउटलैट न होने की वजह से वैंट की ओर पानी गया और वहां बाढ़ आ गई। इस ओर भी आपको ध्यान देना चाहिए।

मधुबनी जिले की बात मैं आपको बता दूँ। उसमें अठारह ब्लाक हैं। उनमें से चौदह वस्ट एफैक्टिड हैं। इनके नाम मैं आपको बता दूँ। मेरे दोस्त श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र नहीं हैं। अपने हल्के में गये हुए हैं। उनकी बात मैं कह देना चाहता हूँ। उनके हल्के के जो वस्ट एफैक्टिड ब्लाकस चौदह हैं, उनमें से कुछ हैं, राहिका, राजनगर, पंडौर, संभारपुर, माधोपुर, फूलपरास, लंकही, लौकाही, अंधरायराही।

یہ جو مسامحہ ہے اسکو سرکار کو
 وار فوٹنگ پر حل کرنا چاہیے۔ ہر سال
 اس مسامحہ کا ہمیں سامنا کرنا پڑتا ہے۔
 اسی کو شیش کرنا چاہیے کہ کس سے
 ہم کو اس سے نجات مل جائے۔ اس
 مسامحہ کو حل کرنے کے لیے ہم لوگوں سے
 آپ کام لیں۔ ہم سے ہلکے سے آپ
 آئیے نہ آئے۔ آفیسروں کے کہنے سے
 ہی کام نہیں ہو سکتا ہے۔ پارلیمنٹ
 کو ہم بھی جانتے ہیں۔ اسکو سامنے
 رکھتے ہیں۔ اس کو دیکھ کر اس
 مسامحہ کو حل کرنے کے لیے آپکو
 لینے چاہیے۔

کے نقصان کی اطلاع ہے اس میں
 1000 ایکڑ کو نقصان پہنچا ہے۔ اور
 جو ٹوٹل چاندان کا نقصان ہے۔ سو ہے۔
 706768 لاکھ۔ اور اسی بھرا میں
 کمی اور باتوں بھی شامل ہیں۔
 مکانات جو بارہ کی زد میں آئے ہیں۔
 جن کو بارہ سے نقصان ہوا ہے۔ ان کی
 تعداد 35000 ہے۔ ان کی قیمت
 9200000 لاکھ ہے۔ یہ پوری قیمت کا
 بھرا ہے۔ پورنہ ضلعے کے نو بلاک
 بائیکل ورست افیکٹڈ ہیں۔ جو نو
 ہیں اور چار پوری کانسٹیبلڈ ہوشن میں
 آئے ہیں۔ ان کے نام ہیں تھاکر گلج
 جوکی ہات۔ بھسا۔ بھٹی۔ امرو۔ بہادر
 گلج۔ کوچا تھن۔ پلائی ایسٹ۔ پوتھا۔
 ان میں سے پلائی ایسٹ اور پوتھا۔
 کونستبلڈ نے جو لسٹ دی ہے۔ اس
 میں نہیں ہیں۔ لیکن اس کو میں
 نے خود جانر دیکھا۔ تاریخ کو وزٹ
 کیا ہے۔ یہ سب بلاکس ورست افیکٹڈ
 ہیں۔ ان کو اس لسٹ میں آنا
 چاہئے تھا۔ بارہ میں جو مرنے والے
 ہیں۔ ان کی تعداد بہت زیادہ ہے۔
 جو پلائی جارہی ہے وہ نہایت کم
 ہیں۔ مہری جانکاری یہ ہے کہ میرے
 حلقے میں مرنے والوں کی تعداد 19
 کے قریب ہے۔ گائے بھل اور بھوسوں
 3000 کے قریب مرے ہیں۔ جو ٹوٹل
 اپریا افیکٹڈ ہوا ہے۔ وہ 2368 Sq. K. Metre
 ہے۔ آٹھ لاکھ کے قریب
 پارلہشن اس سے افیکٹڈ ہوئی ہے۔

[شہر محمد جمہل الرحمان (کن
 کلج) : مسترم چہرمین صاحب۔ آپ
 کا شکریہ۔ جو آپ نے مجھے وقت دیا
 ہے میں اس سے بہت ہی وقت میں
 ساری بات کہنے کی کوشش کوںکا۔
 یہ جو بہار سرکار کی طرف سے ہم
 لوگوں کو کتاب دیکھی ہے۔ بارہ نے
 ہمارے میں۔ اس کے صابق 12 ضلعوں
 میں بارہ کا کافی اثر ہے۔ اس کے نام اس
 طرح سے ہیں۔ پورنہ۔ سہرسہ۔ کاتی
 ہار۔ دربھنگا۔ مدھوبنی۔ مظفر پور۔
 سہتا موٹی۔ سلنگھر۔ ویشانہ۔ سمست
 پور۔ گویال گلج۔ چبھرا۔ بیکھا۔
 چمپارن ایسٹ 22 بلاک میں سے
 12 بلاک ورست افیکٹڈ ہیں۔ ٹوٹل
 رقم ہے 5,29053 Sq. K. Metres اور پورا
 رقمہ افیکٹڈ ہوا ہے
 140057.2 Sq. K. Metres اور آبادی
 کی تعداد ہے 302 لاکھ۔ اور جو ٹوٹل
 پارلیمنٹ افیکٹڈ ہوئی ہے۔ وہ ہے
 19077 لاکھ۔ اور جو فصل

[شہری محمد جمیل الرحمان]

پانچ لاکھ ہیکڑ کے قریب کراچی کو نقصان ہوا ہے۔ اس کی قیمت ۱۱۳۳ لاکھ بڑھتی ہے۔ ۱۵ ہزار کے قریب مکانات تیسرے ہوئے ہیں۔ ان کی قیمت کوئی ۱۵ لاکھ ہے۔ ان مورتوں کو ہرنی ہے۔ کل ملا کر ۱۵ کورز کا نقصان ہے۔ ۲۰-۲۵ دن بارش کا زبردست اثر رہا ہے۔ بھدنی دھان۔ جوت کراچی جس سے مہوں بدیشی مدراملتی ہے اور اگلی کراچی بالکل نشٹ ہو گئی ہے۔ اب اے آنے والی جزیرہ ہے جو سے گھبوں ہے اور جو فصالیں ہیں۔ ان کی تھاری کی طرف آپ کو دھیان دینا ہے۔ اور اس کے لئے آپ کو ابھی سے سٹیپ لہے شروع کر دیتے چاہئیں۔ اس سال جو بارش آئی ہے وہ مہاند۔ کوشی۔ بقرہ۔ مہجی۔ کلکتی ندیوں کی وجہ سے آئی ہے۔ ان ندیوں کو پورنہ فلے مہں Sorrow of Purnea کہا جاتا ہے۔ مہں ۳ اگست ۱۹۷۳ کر B.D.C. کی مہٹنگ اتھنڈ کرنے دیا تھا۔ کشن گنج مہں ۱۱ بجے سے دو بجے تک اور تھاکر گنج مہں ۳ بجے سے ۶ بجے تک تھا۔ وہاں پر بارش کا نظارہ مہوں نے خود اپنی آنکھوں سے دیکھا ہے۔ کچھ بھی تو وہاں بچتا نہیں ہے۔ کہیں پر فصل نظر لہیں آ رہی تھی۔ مہں وہاں پر لڑکوں سے ملا ہوں۔ رچی ہات اور

پلاسی ایسٹ کے لوگوں سے ملا ہوں۔ آپ کو بتانا چاہتا ہوں کہ ارویا سے تھاکر گنج تک بقرہ روڈ پر ۵۲ ہل ہیں۔ ان مہوں سے ۱۰ ہل ایسے ہیں۔ کہ اگر ان کی طرف ابھی سے دھیان نہں دیا گیا تو وہ توٹ جائیں گے۔ اب نہوں تو اگلے سال توٹ جائیں گے۔ ایک ایک برج پر لاکھوں روپیہ آپ کا خرچ ہوا ہے۔ اگر وہ توٹ گئے تو آپ کا سارا روپیہ جو ان پر لگا ہے۔ وہ بیکار ہو جائگا۔ نس واسط ابھی سے آپ کو ان کی طرف دھیان دلانا چاہئے۔ پمار اور بقرہ ندیوں نے بہت زبردست تھامی چوکی ہا مہوں مہائی ہے۔ ۲ اگست کو مہوں نے وہاں تو دیکھا کہ کشتوں کا رھاں پر کوئی انتظام نہں نہی۔ ۳ اگست کو ان کے لئے تھاکر کال دئے گئے ہیں۔ کہا کشتوں کا پہلے سے انتظام نہں کہا جانا چاہئے تھا۔ پتہ نہں ان تھاکر کا لیا ہوا۔ مہوں آپ کی سہوا مہوں اس کے بند یہاں آ گیا۔ آپ جا کر اس کے بارے مہں پوچھو۔ مہوں نے ۴ تاریخ کو دسترکٹ مہجسٹریٹ کو دھائی بجے فون کیا۔ مجھے بتلایا گیا کہ وہ سو رہے ہیں۔ پھر ساڑھے تین بجے کہا۔ تب بھی یہی بتلایا گیا کہ وہ سو رہے ہیں۔ پھر ۴ بجے کہا تو پھر بتایا کہ وہ سو رہے ہیں۔ تو مہوں نے کہا کہ مہوں خود آ جاؤں چکانے کے لئے۔ یہ

کتنی شرم ناک بات ہے۔ ایک طرف
تھاہی مچھی ہوئی تھی اور دوسری
طرف وہ سو رہے تھے۔ یہ آپ کے
انسوؤں کا حال ہے۔ ان کو آپ کو
ایک دم دیمہ کرنا چاہئے۔ ایسے۔
تی۔ اور۔ اریہ کو بھی دیمہ کرنا چاہئے۔
جو کی حالت میں بے موت لوگ
مرتے ہیں کسم لال چوکیدار جو کہہ
کہ ہری جن تھا، اور کھانے کے لئے
دانے کی تلاش میں گیا تھا۔ وہ بارہ
کے کارن مو گیا۔ ایک لڑکا جو چکنی
کا تھا۔ وہ بھی اناج کی تلاش میں
جاتے ہوئے موت کا شکار ہو گیا۔ اہس
ظوح سے کئی موتیں ہوئی ہیں۔

آپ نے جو روپیہ بہار میں فلڈ
ایگٹ ایریاز کے لئے ارد لوگوں کے لئے
پرووائیڈ کیا ہے۔ وہ دو کروڑ اور 17
لاکھ کے قریب ہے۔ یہ تو اؤٹ 2
ملیوں میں زبردے کے سمان ہے۔ اس
کو آپ کو بہت زیادہ بوجھانا چاہئے۔
بہار کی جو فرد ریکوارممنٹ
دس اگست ستمبر اور اکتوبر کے لئے
وہ کم سے کم 350000 ڈنار تین مہینے
کو ہیں۔ ان کو آپ کو پورا کرنا
چاہئے۔ اب میں آپ کو ان گاروں کا
نام بتانا چاہتا ہوں جو کہ پورے طور
پر پانی میں بہتے گئے اور کٹ گئے ہیں۔
بھسا بلاک میں منگلوڑہ۔ کلمکتی۔
دیریا کے کارن ہودیہا۔ آیسٹونہ
نہا نلدہ سے۔ سہنا سر نہو ناہ پوز۔
اسجا۔ امرور بلاک کھوں بستہ۔

تال باری جو کی حالت بلاک میں
بہار۔ دروا کی وجہ سے مہا جاسی
یہ سب کٹ کر سماپت ہو گئے ہیں۔
ان کا نام نشان باقی نہیں رہا ہے۔
جو ریورز آف سورو میں پورنہ کے لئے
وہ بھی۔ مہاتندہ۔ مہجی۔
کلمکتی دیوادیہ اور بہار۔ یا بقوہ ان
پر آپ کو دیم بنانے چاہئے۔ ان
کی وجہ سے ہر سال بارہ آتی ہے۔
یہ ایک ریگنوں فیچو ہے۔ اس کا آپ
دو فیچو کو کچھ انتظام کرنا چاہئے۔
ناکہ آگے سے لوگوں کو ان بارہ کی
تکلیفوں سے نجات کامل جائے۔ جن
حلقوں کا میں نے نام لیا ہے۔ ان
کو ہمیں ایگٹ ایریا تکسیر کر
دینا چاہئے اور فن کوڈ لاکو کریں
اگنی فصلوں کے لئے آپ نے جو سٹیمپ
لینے میں۔ وہ آغوی سے لینے آپ
شروع کریں۔ آپ کے جر دسترکٹ
تہارتہ ریمٹ میں ان میں کوآرڈینیشن
ہونا چاہئے۔ ایگریکلچر۔ آریگوشن
ایڈ پاور۔ فورسٹ پلاننگ اور
فائڈس میں کوآرڈینیشن ہونا چاہئے۔
اور مل کو سب کو اس حلقہ میں
کام کرنا چاہئے 350000 تن فرد کریں
آپ کو ہر مہینے نومبر تک بہار کو
دیں۔ ایگریکلچر۔ ہاؤسنگ۔ اور
جانور خریدنے کے لئے معقول قرض کا
آپ انتظام کریں۔ ریمٹ کا ریمشن
تو ہونا ہی چاہئے۔ لیوی بھی
نہوں لکھی چاہئے۔ مہیکل ایڈ

[نوی محمد جمیل الرحمان]

بھی آپ کو پروویڈ کرنی چاہئے۔
آپ تو جانتے ہی ہیں کہ ۴۰۰۰۰
آدمی پہلے ہی بہار میں جھپک
سے مر چکے ہیں۔ اس لئے سہڈیکل
ایڈ کا وقت رھتے ہی آپ کو انتظام
کرنا چاہئے۔ پہلے کا پانی اڑھ پھری
سہڈیکل کا آپ کو فوراً انتظام کرنا
چاہئے۔ مکان بلانے کے لئے جن کے
مکان کر گئے ہیں۔ ایک ہزار روپے
کی گرانٹ آپ ان کو دیں۔

کاش ہمارے ضلع میں بہت بری
حالت ہے۔ وہاں ہوائی جہاز کے
ذریعے فوڈ پیکٹ گرانٹ جا رہے ہیں۔
بہار پردیس کانگریس کے اندھوہس
کے ساتھ اڑھ میں نے ۷ تاریخ کو
وہاں کا دورہ کیا تھا۔ ملہاری میں
کہا تھا۔ کدوہ (بلک کے حلقے میں
کہا تھا۔ مجھے آئی سی ایم نے کہا
ہے کہ بلکال کے سائیڈ کا جو ویسٹرن
بھاگ ہے۔ وہاں کوئی آؤٹ لیٹ
نہیں بھا۔ جس کی وجہ سے یہاں
بازہ آ گئی۔ وہاں اگر آؤٹ لیٹ
ہوتے تو پانی نکل جاتا اور دوسری
ندیوں میں گر جانا آؤٹ نیٹ نہ
ہونے سے کی وجہ سے وبھت کی
طرف پانی آ گیا۔ اور وہاں بازہ
آ گئی۔ اس طرف کو
دھیان دینا چاہئے۔

مدہ برمی ضلع کی غات میں
آپ کو بتلا دیں۔ اس میں ۱۸ بلاک
ہیں۔ ان میں سے ۱۴ درست
افہیکٹڈ ہیں۔ ان کے نام آپ کو
بتلا دیں۔ سہڈے دوست شری جن
ناتھ مترا جی یہاں نہیں ہیں۔
اپنے حلقے میں آئے ہوتے ہیں۔ ان
کی بات میں کہہ دینا چاہئے۔
ان کے علاقے کے جو دوست افہیکٹڈ
بلاک ۱۴ میں۔ ان میں سے کچھ
میں ہیں۔ راہی کا سراج نگو
سہڈوڈو پندوز چھوڑ پور۔ نانہو پور
پہل پر اس ہلٹی۔ لوک لائی
ہوا دھوائی۔

یہ جو سمسہہ ہے ان کو سرکار
کو وار فوٹنگ پر حل کرنا چاہئے۔
ہر سال اس سمسہہ کا نہیں سامنا
کرنا پڑتا ہے۔ ایسی کوشش کرنی
چاہئے۔ کہ کسی طرح یہ ہم کو اس
سے نجات مل سکے۔ اس سمسہہ
کو حل کرنے کے لئے ہم لوگوں سے
آپ کام لیں۔ ہم سے ہینپ لیں۔
ریڈکٹوزم کو آپ آڑے نہ آنے دیں۔
افسروں کے کہنے سے ہی کام نہیں ہو
سکتا ہے۔ پبلک انٹریٹ کو ہم
بھی جانتے ہیں۔ اسکو سامنے رکھتے
یعنی ان دی سہڈت فیصلے اس سمسہہ
کو حل کرنے کے لئے آپ کو لیڈ
چاہئے۔

SHR! MOINUL HAQUE CHOU-
DHURY (Dhubri): Sir, the problem
of floods is a very serious one, parti-
cularly for the areas which are being
affected. In 1973 the country suffered
a direct and indirect loss of Rs. 485.45
crores due to flood. This year, although
the flood season is yet to be over and
there are a few more months when
we can still expect floods, the country
has already suffered a loss of Rs. 49.58
crores.

In fact a study was made about the
loss suffered by the country since 1953
and the team came to the conclusion
that on an average in all these years
the flood affected 6.3 million hectares
of land of which 2.3 million hectares
were the crop area in this country.
The annual direct damage by floods
was of the order of 980 million
in average of which 70 per
cent would be with regard to crop
area. The total annual loss, taking
both direct and indirect during this
period for a year on an average was of
the order of 1.260 million. This is the
situation with regard to loss in the
country. I need not emphasize, there-
fore, that this is a serious problem.

As Dr. K. L. Rao has said, there
have been quite an amount of study
about the problems and the probable
solutions. In fact, we can take it as
an authoritative statement made by
him that the solutions to most
of the problems are ready, but they
have not been executed. Starting
with the high-level com-
mittee on floods set up in 1957,
there have been at least 9 committees
of the Central Government which had
gone into the problems of flood in one
part of the country or the other, or the
country as a whole. One of the most
important committees was the one
which was set up in 1964, about which
a reference has been made by two of
the speakers before me, namely, the
Ministers' Committee on Flood Con-
trol. I had the honour of not only
being a member of that Committee
but also the Chairman of the Drafting
Committee, which prepared the draft

report, which was adopted by the Com-
mittee and which became part of the
documents for flood Control and the
future plans.

I have got to say that some works
have been done in these years with
regard to flood control, but most of
these recommendations have not yet
been carried out. And whatever has
been done, has been done in piecemeal
and, therefore, it is largely ineffective.
Take, for example, a measure like
putting embankments on both sides
of the river. If you put embankment
on one side and the other bank is left
as it is, then it causes much graver
danger to people in the bank
which is exposed, because the water
which otherwise spreads over both
banks gets diverted to one side and
causes more damage there. Similarly,
if you make embankments on
upper reaches and downstream and
in between you do not do it, that area
gets devastated. The same thing has
happened in most parts of the country,
whether it is North Bihar, North Ben-
gal or Assam.

One of the main reasons for the pre-
sent situation is the very low priority
we have given, so far as flood control
work is concerned. One of the speak-
ers from the other side was saying
that we have spent a large amount of
money on flood control and still we
are not getting any result. My grie-
vance is in the other way sufficient
amount of money has not been spent
on this item.

Where the direct and indirect aver-
age annual loss of the country was
Rs. 126 crores to tackle the problem
in the First Plan we spent Rs. 13.21
crores for flood control work. In the
Second Plan we spent Rs. 48.06
crores. Is it giving sufficient impor-
tance? In fact, from the First Plan
till March, 1973 the total expenditure
on flood control in the country is of
the order of only Rs. 300.44 crores,
which is not the cost of even a mini
steel plant. This is the importance
we have given to flood control. In the
Fifth Plan the proposed outlay is
Rs. 281

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crores and God alone knows whether the sum of Rs. 281 crores would be fully and timely available or would be pruned down.

These things got to be considered in the background, as I have said, that annual average loss in this country is Rs. 1260 crores. In 1973, it was Rs. 485 crores. Can you stop a loss of Rs. 485 crores which took place last year by making an investment in the whole of the next five years by a paltry sum of Rs. 281 crores? As compared to the problem, it is a paltry sum. What we have done uptill now with regard to flood control, although they are not complete, as I have already said, has only touched one-third of the areas which are prone to floods in this country. According to one of the publications of the Government of India, even if we find money at the rate as we did find in the past, it will take us to the grace year of 2000 by which we will be able to cover the rest of the flood areas in this country. Let us think what will be the population in the year 2000, whether any low-lying areas will remain vacant in this country. If not, with the likely conditions of agriculture, much more people will be affected and there will be much greater urgency for us not only to give protection to the Agriculture in normal areas but also to give protection to more low-lying areas which will be prone to floods. Therefore, I would most respectfully submit not only to this House but would request the Government to reconsider about this problem and about the priority that they should give so far as flood control is concerned. This is what I have spoken about the whole country.

As time at my disposal is very limited, I will not touch the problems of other States although I do know about them as a member of that Committee and, in my capacity, as the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.

Since every Member has or will speak about their problems, I will confine myself only to Assam now.

Assam's problems can be gauged if I give only one set of statistics. Last year, 1973, in the whole country, the area affected was 50.5 lakhs hectares of which 24.4 lakh hectares were in Assam. That means, half the affected area was in Assam alone last year. I am quoting the Government of India figures, not mine, that the population affected in the entire country was 110 lakhs and in Assam alone, the population affected was 21.1 lakhs. The crop loss in the country was Rs. 3,800 lakhs of which Assam's share was Rs. 1,131 lakhs. The total crop and other losses, direct and indirect, including utilities were to the tune of Rs. 4,958 lakhs of which Assam's share was Rs. 1,163 lakhs in 1973.

These figures will themselves show that in terms of the area affected in to whole country, Assam's share is one-half; in terms of population, it is nearly one-third and in terms of loss, it is about one-third. Assam is a very poor State with meagre resources. I would request the hon. Members themselves to appreciate what amount of troubles and difficulties flood create for people Sir, this year's loss in Assam has been very ably given by you when you were speaking from here. I am not repeating it. It is estimated to be Rs. 60 crores.

According to the Government of Assam and me too, two or three serious things have happened this time. The biggest river island Majuli has been partially washed away. The Gangadhar bridge on the National Highway No. 31 has been partially washed away. Thereby, Assam has virtually no road link with the rest of the country. The river Brahmaputra has diverted at a place called Fakirganj and has gone towards Jinjiram which flows through Meghalaya. The result is that a situation has arisen today that the whole of south bank right from Lakh-

pur to Mankachaukar in the Garo hills border is likely to be completely washed away, if urgent steps are not taken, otherwise the river may shift to the border of Garo Hills resulting in the entire population of round about 20 lakhs being left with no land or house in the South Bank of Brahmaputra unless we can tackle it. The Assam Government has asked for a help of Rs. 10 crores from the Government of India. You have already pointed out that in view of the Sixth Finance Commission's report, not only Assam but all the States are in difficulties with regard to Assistance from Centre for flood relief or drought relief work about the urgency of which our friends have spoken and they have asked for a liberal help from Centre. Hitherto, the procedure of the Government of India was of a set pattern help so that whatever be the expenditure made by the States, there would be a matching contribution from the Centre and a team of experts would go from the Centre consisting of officials from the various Departments and they would visit the place and assess the damage, quantum of requirements for relief and other costs and make their recommendations. The Sixth Finance Commission has not taken all this into consideration and the matter has now been left as if bank. To-day I was just reading a report in the *Hindustan Standard* that the Central Government has told the West Bengal Government that they were not even sending a team to West Bengal as in the past a team used to be sent to gauge the loss and requirements and make its recommendations. I would, therefore, request the Government of India to reconsider it.

The Dhubri Sub-division which I have the misfortune to represent—this is according to me as well as the Government of Assam's report—is the worst affected area where from I have returned only 48 hours back. Nearly half the population of the Sub-division is affected by floods and the people of three Thanas, viz., Lakipur, South Salm-

ara and Mankacher are virtually on the embankment and on the roads for the last two months or so. The Assam floods were there for a period of two months—from 23rd June, 1974 to 15th August, 1974. These dates may kindly be noted. The Brahmaputra river was never below the danger mark in the whole of this period. The danger-mark is at 94 feet above the sea level. So far as the Dhubri area is concerned the Brahmaputra was above the danger mark that in these two months and it went upto 97 feet and so. The result was the Ahu crop, the jute crop and all crops have been completely destroyed and there has been a loss of over Rs. 2.22 crores in the area. I have seen with my own eyes thousands of people on the embankment. I can tell the House that till the *Times of India* sent a report about it, the world did not know much about it. But, till to-day, two months after the floods, there are thousands of people who are without a shelter. There is no tarpaulin or any cover over their heads. They are drenched by rain and they are under the sun. Required tarpaulins have not gone. Of the flood affected people who are to be camped, till my coming not even one-third have been given any roofing material. They are just living under the rains and sun on the roads and embankments and I am told that despite repeated requests things have not improved as yet.

The other day, I heard my friend the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture Shri Shinde telling Rajya Sabha that there was no shortage of food in Assam. He made a statement like that.

Apart from high prices what they get in Dhubri is only 250 to 500 grammes per month. How can they live on 250 to 500 grammes? The Assam Government has got to give the minimum requirements of these people. The flood-affected people have to be given food, baby food, medicine etc. and on the top of it they have to be

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given clothing. Hundreds of naked and half-naked women are hiding themselves in camp houses roofed with leaves of plantain trees,—that is the pitiable situation there. I know that Governmental efforts are not sufficient. I appeal to the people of India through this august House and also to the Press to come to our help generously.

I suggest these short-term measures: Food must be immediately rushed to Assam. In regard to baby food, medicines, doctors, etc. necessary arrangements should be made. The Government of Assam must be given adequate financial support to meet the situation. Roofing material like tarpaulin and CI sheet should be rushed to the place expeditiously. Restoration of Gangadhar bridge, washed away on NH 31 should be taken up and completed expeditiously. The repair of the breach of the Brahmaputra embankment near Fakir ganj should be taken up; it should be restored and strengthened. I found that sanction for the work on this retirement was given so late that the work was being done in May when rains had already started. In such a state of affairs the work of Brahmaputra embankment could not be done properly. So this money was wasted by the breach. Not only that, the river got diverted in another direction washing away villages.

My long-term measures are the following:

Flood control and soil conservation should be a Central subject. Or at least, the schemes for these must be centrally-sponsored only financed by the Centre.

Sir, these gigantic works cannot be financed by the States alone. Now they have to be financed by loans from the Government of India. The State Governments have not got ade-

quate resources. Further, soil conservation cannot be effective if done in one area only. The catchment areas of most of the big rivers are in more than one States or areas. That being the case you cannot undertake the work in one State alone. You have to do it in Assam, Meghalaya, Naga hills, in NEFA, Bhutan and all these areas for the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. For Bihar it is to be done in some areas or countries which are not even in India; for U.P. the same problem is there. My suggestion is that the soil conservation should be done through Centrally-sponsored scheme financed by the Centre. The Brahmaputra Commission Act should be passed immediately. There are a certain places in the Brahmaputra, its tributaries and Barak embankments where gaps are there and these should be immediately completed. In Dhubri sub-division particularly in the south bank of Brahmaputra some high platforms for shelter during flood should be constructed. If there are floods and more breaches particularly in the embankment and the roads on the south bank in Dhubri. God forbid, thousands of people will be washed away. So this is one of the suggestions of mine, Sir, for immediate action.

16.00 hrs.

Then, Sir, in Assam, no long-term work has been done. Some multi-purpose storage schemes had been envisaged in Aai, Minas, Baki, Pag'adia Subansari, Jingimam, Jia Bharala Kopilli; Gaddhadhar etc. Some of them they should be taken up in right earnest and should be done expeditiously.

With regard to barak project, I should say that for this project an investigation was done by Dr. K. L. Rao when he was an officer. He had retired from service after giving this scheme as an engineer. He completed his task as a Minister thereafter. But, even to-day it has not been taken up for execution; what we hear is that

there is some objection from Manipur. I do not know why. I requested the Central Government to make an arrangement so that the concerned parties like the Assam Government and Manipur Government might come together under the leadership and initiative. The Central Government should initiate some work so that the projects could be made. But, it was not done. Now a plea has been advanced that we are having discussion with Bangla Desh. Like this quarter of a century—I should say, three decades—had passed. So much time cannot be allowed for proceeding leisurely, we must do something expeditiously.

One more point and I shall conclude. In Brahmaputra unless dredging is done, the flood and erosion problem cannot be solved; for that matter even erosion cannot be partially tackled. The idea originally was that dredgers would be put in operations in Brahmaputra. Orders for the same were placed when I was the Flood Control Minister. Since then it became not possible to bring the same from the foreign countries. So, it was thought that they should be manufactured in India itself. They were manufactured in India. One dredger was delivered to Govt. of Assam in June 73 or so and another in November, 1973. Till to-day, although one year or so has gone these dredgers are lying idle just below the Gauhati Circuit House. I can say that you must be seeing them lying in your constituency. What is the difficulty? Why such a costly resource of this country spent on these dredgers, remaining unutilised. As I said, I can give the date also. I think it was delivered in June 73 and the other in November, 1973. They have dredged not an inch of Brahmaputra. What is the difficulty of Government of India or Assam Government? Why the work was not started at all?

Therefore, I most respectfully submit to Government, particularly to the ministry that they should kindly

consider these suggestions of mine and make efforts to tackle this flood problem quickly. Let us not be asked to wait till 2,000. Let they be expeditiously completed.

With these words, I conclude.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE):
 Sir, I am thankful to you for permitting me to intervene in this debate. The reply would be given by the Irrigation Minister, Shri Pant Ji. I am only intervening so far as this debate pertains to the problems of food and scarcity.

There are large number of hon. Members who have already participated in this debate and a number of valuable suggestions have been made.

As far as my ministry is concerned, only three or four days back, my senior colleague, Shri C. Subramaniam convened a meeting to consider the problems of agricultural production arising out of floods. As already mentioned on the floor of the House, some area has been very badly affected by floods. And some measures of course will have to be taken to provide immediate relief. What needs to be done for protecting these areas is to be done on a permanent or short-term basis. These are matters which naturally would be pointed out by the Minister of Irrigation and Power. But so far as immediate agricultural production programmes are concerned we have taken a decision—Shri Pantji also participated in the deliberations—and we are deputing teams of high-level officers to the States like Assam, Bihar and U.P. which are very badly affected by floods and find out what could be done to see that the production does not suffer. Actually, some production has suffered. In some of the areas, for instance we will have to see that measures are taken so that transplantation of paddy is carried out early. Perhaps, some of the State Governments may not have resources. We have in the Ministry

[Shri Annasaheb P. Shinde]

provided about Rs. 60 crores for advancing to State Governments for helping them by way of short-term loans so that they can help the farmers by giving them loans for purchasing seeds and other inputs. These matters would be looked into. In some areas we have advised the State Governments not to take up late transplantation. It does not apply to Assam as in Assam the transplanting is done in August-September. In other areas if transplanting is done late the formation of grains come late and as the winter comes the grain formation does not take place and thus the yield is less. So, in these areas our advice would be to have a short-term crop like maize and prepare the lands for seed sowing. This is our agricultural production strategy.

As far as drought is concerned this year, unfortunately, monsoon started late by two to three weeks. In the beginning—I must frankly share my concern—we thought we are in for a great trouble but fortunately from July onwards very vigorous monsoons started in some parts of the country. For instance, U.P. today is in the most happy position. Very wide-spread rains have been received there. Similarly, in Maharashtra and North Orissa the position has been improving since the last three to four weeks but unfortunately, as Mr. Mehta pointed out, in some parts of Gujarat, namely Kutch and North Gujarat the position is not good.

AN HON. MEMBER: Only 10 per cent of the area in Gujarat got 50 per cent of the rainfall and in the rest of the area there is no rainfall.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: We share your concern. Some of these areas have received very scanty rainfall and as far as Kutch is concerned our sympathies really go with the people of Kutch. This is the fourth year of drought for Kutch. You can imagine in an area where

everything depends on agricultural economy, one of the most valuable national wealth, that is, cattle wealth is located in this region of Saurashtra and Kutch. If the rains are not there you can well imagine the danger to our cattle wealth. There are certain parts in South Orissa, very large pockets, where the rainfall is not normal. It is below normal.

Then, there is the Chota-Nagpur area in Bihar and there are also certain other areas which have not received the normal rainfall. But we need not take a panicky view of these things, because our country is so vast. My experience is that even during the past year we had droughts here and there. Except for this big chunk of North Gujarat and Saurashtra, we can manage possibly the other areas, and the State Governments will take the necessary measures. As far as Gujarat is concerned, I think we shall have to concentrate our attention on providing relief to these areas.

Regarding Gujarat, I think Shri P. M. Mehta was a little unfair to the Administration—I hope he would not misunderstand me when I say this—when he said that because there was President's rule, therefore, the Administration was not attending to the problems of drought in Gujarat. He may not agree with me, but...

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: I said that the Administration had its own limitations, and, therefore, they could not do it. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to attend to it.

SHRI ANNASAHAB P. SHINDE: If that is his view, I am glad to hear it. But I must say this in fairness to the Administration there. The Governor and his officers have been very active there, in fact, they have been most active, as I have been seeing them; not a week passes when

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they are not in touch with us or they do not present any problems before us, and I must say that they have been very active.

Already, in Gujarat, about one lakh people are employed on drought relief operations. Then, they are also seeing that the food problems of economy are also attended to in this area.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Is he suggesting, therefore, that they should continue now for years?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am not suggesting that.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL (Mehsana): Relief works have been started only in Kutch. There are many other districts in the State where such relief works have to be started. I have received telegrams from Surendranagar and North Gujarat districts making a request that they are not given adequate finance to start relief works and asking for starting of relief works there also....

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Relief measures will be taken up in other areas too which are affected by drought.

SHRI D. D. DESAI (Kaira): I had some talk with the Administration and I find that those people are helpless because there is no money and they have to come to the Centre for money. In these circumstances, what are they to do? What sort of relief work can they start?

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member can make his points when his turn comes for speaking.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: I have not been able to speak, and I have not been able to get the time unfortunately.

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MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him not interrupt now. Let him speak when his turn comes.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: 125 scarcity relief works employing 19,000 labourers and 635 departmental works employing about 88,000 labourers have been started in this area.

There is also some problem of drinking water in some villages.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: May I point out that....

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order. This is not fair. First of all, he must not speak till he gets my permission. This is the third time he is doing it. Let him not interrupt. I shall give him full opportunity when his turn comes. Let him not interrupt now.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I am replying to the points raised by hon. Members.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The hon. Member may not agree with the hon. Minister but that does not give him the right to interrupt.

SHRI D. D. DESAI: The information with the Ministry is limited. That is what I am pointing out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him not interrupt like this.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: I concede my limitations. In 133 villages, drinking water is being supplied by tankers and in about six villages by bullock-carts, and this will be extended as and when required.

Then, about 77 lakhs k. g. of grass has been moved to some of these areas because there is some problem in this regard. The problem of making available adequate quantity of grass in this areas is receiving the attention of the Gujarat Government, and we are in touch with them and we

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try to help them, and I am quite sure that the Gujarat Administration will be in a position to find out a solution to the problem of providing fodder to these areas on the basis of emergency movements to these areas.

As far as Orissa is concerned, the Orissa Government have also taken every quick steps. About Rs. 55 lakhs has been sanctioned for relief works, and about Rs. 25 lakhs taccavi loans have been sanctioned to the farmers. Rs. 7 lakhs has been provided for gratuitous relief in those pockets in South Orissa, where drought has been developing.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY (Kendrapara): Not in South Orissa.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: It does not touch the fringe of the problem. Out of 15 districts, 13 are in distress condition.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It may not be sufficient, but he cannot expect the hon. Minister to satisfy him here just now.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: We have already seen those figures, because Government have given us those papers already.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Did I say this is sufficient?

MR. CHAIRMAN: He himself admit it is not sufficient.

SHRI D. K. PANDA: He should realise it (Interruptions).

I am warning you. People will be dying like flies.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: If any hon. member has any suggestions, I will take them up with the Orissa Government.

As far as the food situation in some of these States is concerned, I will say a few words. Take, for instance, Gujarat. We have fortunately a good stock position in Gujarat. Though they have some difficulties in regard to coarse grains, since one vessel is expected to arrive at Kandla during the current week, we shall be in a position to deliver a substantial quantity of coarse grains to them. As on 8-8-74, the following is the stock position in Gujarat: 74,000 tonnes wheat, 18,000 tonnes coarse grains and 11,000 tonnes of rice. Normally, We have been allotting about 50,000 tonnes of foodgrains to Gujarat monthly and they were distributing at the level of 25,000 tonnes. We will see that every effort is made to help the Gujarat Government in times to come.

As far as Orissa is concerned, the Chief Minister was good enough to speak to us. She said they are doing everything possible to provide relief. They have some stocks of rice. We are exploring the possibilities of what should be done to help them with wheat.

One of our senior colleagues Shri Moinul Haq Choudhury, referred to Assam. He referred to one of my statements in the Rajya Sabha. I am afraid my statement was totally misreported by the press. I had never said in my statement that the stock position in Assam was satisfactory or adequate. Only I said that for meeting immediate requirements, there was some stock. But this has been misreported. I would like to dispel any wrong impression on this score. I have no complaint against the press. It is no use entering into a controversy. What needs to be done is to see how we can find ways and means to help the State Government. The Chief Minister of Assam is here. He has been discussing with us. Three days back only we had sanctioned an additional 3,000 tonnes of wheat. We were usually giving 9,000 tonnes of wheat. These 3,000 tonnes are additional.

As far as rice is concerned, we are exploring possibilities and we will do everything possible and we shall be in a position to issue orders within one week for helping the Assam Government. This is as far the food situation in some of the drought and flood affected States is concerned.

Many hon. members referred to the point that ad hoc decisions should not be taken. You yourself made some very valuable suggestions for taking up operations in drought areas on a sound and scientific footing. You were referring to some very valuable documents. In this country, during the Fourth Plan itself, the Government of India took up for the first time a very sound and scientific programme of development of drought-prone areas. We have identified 54 districts and 18 districts adjoining these 54 which are prone to drought, because we know the history of rainfall, we know the erratic behaviour of the monsoon in places like Rajasthan and Gujarat. A number of these districts have been identified. Actually Rs. 100 crores were provided. An expenditure of Rs. 84 crores has been incurred during the last four years. Now the Government of India propose to expand this programme in the Fifth Plan. The final exact outlay is still under consideration, but tentatively it is proposed that Rs. 187 crores as against Rs. 100 crores last time should be provided for development of these areas.

You were very right because it is no use making ad hoc decisions. A master plan for these districts will have to be prepared. As you said, the most important thing is to see that an ecological balance is established in these districts.

So very sound programmes are being taken up and I am quite sure that during the course of the Fifth Plan, these schemes will create impact because they are new schemes and new programmes. We have been working on these schemes during the last 4 years. Even during the current year,

these programmes are on in these districts. Of course, ultimately there is no use resorting to these schemes in an ad-hoc fashion but, we should have a sound, permanent programme for these districts so that human suffering is minimised to that extent. Government is already seized of this problem. Various suggestions which have been made by the Task Force, most of which you were yourself good enough to suggest in the House, are under the active consideration of the Government and we will not hesitate to include some of these suggestions in our programme.

Sir, you made one suggestion. I hope you will not misunderstand me when I say this. You suggested that a Central authority should be established. Here, we have to be a little cautious. As you know, drought relief is a State subject and there are elected Governments in the State. Naturally, we have to consider their feelings and we have to take their views into consideration. I think in such a vast country like ours, any Central authority is bound to have some drawbacks. Therefore, I would humbly submit...

MR. CHAIRMAN: It can play a coordinating role. My object was this.

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: This is very valid. In fact, unless Government of India plays a very effective role in coordinating these activities, I think, these will suffer. So far as coordination is concerned, may I assure you on the floor of the House that we will see that a very effective machinery is evolved at the Centre for coordinating these activities.

I would not like to take more time of the House because important points regarding floods etc. would be dealt with by my colleague, the hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power. I am thankful to the hon. Members for having given me this opportunity.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not ask questions. He was only intervening.

(Interruptions)

सभापति महोदय : इस वादविवाद का उत्तर देने के लिये जो मुख्य रूप से जिम्मेदार मंत्री हैं वह पन्त जी हैं . . .

श्री ज्ञानेश्वर प्रसाद यादव : हम को गेहूँ का बीज चाहिए। इस बारे में मंत्री जी को क्या कहना है? . . . (व्यवधान) . . .

सभापति महोदय : आप को जो कुछ कहना है कहने को इजाजत दूंगा। लेकिन कुछ तो नियमों का पालन कीजिये। आप इस वादविवाद को पटरी से न उतारिये। इसको कन्वर्ट कर देंगे फूड के साथ तो मुश्किल हो जायेगी। माननीय शिन्दे इन्टरवीन कर रहे थे। अब अगर 6, 7 लोग सवाल पूछने खड़े हो जायें और उसमें एक घंटा ले लें, तो बड़ा मुश्किल हो जायगा। इसके लिये अलग डिबेट होने वाली है, उस वक्त जो आप को कहना हो कह दीजियेगा। इसके अलावा जो आप को मौका मिलने वाला है उस वक्त जो कहना चाहें कहें।

Please do not convert this debate into a debate on food.

श्री श्याम नन्दन मिश्र (बेगूसराय) : अभी जो बहस है वह बाढ़ और सूखा, दोनों पर है। जिस मंत्री का ताल्लुक सूखा से है वह बोल चुके हैं। अब उनसे हम को स्पष्टीकरण का मौका कब मिलेगा? अब जो हम बोलेंगे सूखा के सम्बन्ध में उसके ऊपर कौन प्रकाश डालेंगे?

सभापति महोदय : जहां तक ड्राउट का सवाल है वह खाली फूड मिनिस्टर के प्रश्न नहीं आता। ड्राउट में इरिगेशन पर्सिलिटीज एक बड़ा मेजर स्टेप है। तो उसके लिये पन्त जी ही जवाब देंगे। वह मेजर्स टेम्पोरेरी होंगे या परमानेंट इस बारे में जवाब पन्त जी ही देंगे। जहां फूड का मामला होगा उन से जानकारी लेकर उसको भी देंगे।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contd.): In reality, today's debate really concerns not the Minister of Irrigation and Power, who will be dealing with the long-range problems of flood control, but the Minister of Food who has to deal with the immediate issue of giving seed, wheat and food. The whole discussion should have been divided into two immediate issue and long-term issues.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Shinde has told me that he has to fly at 5 O'clock to attend an important meeting. I have said that the Government is jointly responsible. Don't insist that he should remain.

श्री शंकरदयाल सिंह : (वत्स) : 7 बजे वाले प्लेन से मंत्री जी जायें। क्योंकि अगर हमारी बात को कन्वे ही करना है तो हम लिख कर भी दे सकते हैं, बोलने की कोई जरूरत ही नहीं है।

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Such a serious subject should not have been treated so lightly by the Government. What is more important than the discussion in Parliament?

SHRI ANNASAHEB P. SHINDE: Sir, I am not going. I will remain.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is not going. You have had your pound of flesh.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am really sorry for creating personal inconvenience to my hon. friend, Shri Shinde, but I could not help it, because he is responsible for feeding the helpless millions of people who have been affected by drought, flood and cyclone. So, I apologize to him personally.

Sir, in the area from where I have been elected as the representative of the people, during the last eight years there have been six major floods, one drought and this year both floods and also the devastating cyclone. Dr. Rao

knows the history of that coastal belt of Midnapore and a part of Balagore in Orissa and what horror it faced for the last eight years. This year these have been tidal bores and cyclone in the area which devastated the people and according to the press reports about five lakhs of people have been rendered homeless, 20,000 people have lost their residential houses and 200 cattle are missing. In the background of this the District Magistrate, Midnapore, asked the West Bengal Government to send 10,000 tarpaulins but only 100 have been sent and nothing more; only some food and clothing has been sent. It will not cover even one per cent of the people who have been the victims of flood and cyclone.

This is an area which can be called the rice bowl or the granary of South Bengal because it is a surplus area—although it is producing only one crop a year. Now in that very area rice is selling at Rs. 4 a kilo. In the area which was known as surplus area and a granary of Bengal are now most of them almost beggars. Starvation and famine have become the common feature there. Not only that, for the last eight years they have taken so many Central loans, so many State loans, as a result loans after loans, debts after debts, have piled on them and they have been crushed under the Government loans. I do not know what relief is going to be given to these people. Their economy is shattered.

In this House speeches after speeches have been made. This House has been flooded by angry speeches. I want to know from the hon. Ministers, particularly the Minister of Food and the Minister of Irrigation, to what extent these angry floods of speeches will permeate into their heart and percolate in the form of immediate relief in the form of food, shelter and other perquisites. Here I am not talking of long term plans but immediate short term relief measures.

The immediate problem before the country now, especially in Assam, North Bengal, Bihar, UP and other places is to provide food, clothing, shelter and medicine to the flood and cyclone victims. Then the top-most priority should be given to providing seedlings to all the areas which have been inundated by floods, because within the next 10 to 15 days the waters will recede. Then the cultivators will be hungry to get seedlings so that replantation can be done. It is the duty and the responsibility of the Food Minister to get the proper seedlings from the agricultural farms that are under their command and, if need be, transport them even by aeroplanes so that they could reach the flood-affected areas in time for replantation the moment the flood waters recede.

The second priority should be given to cattle fodder. The people will somehow manage. But if a cultivator loses his cattle, he loses everything. Therefore, the second priority should be given to cattle fodder in the flood affected areas. Thirdly, we have to provide them food and shelter.

In this matter, I know what is the position of the Government. Last time, almost 12 districts in West Bengal were flooded and there was a drought in three districts and, recently, there was a survey conducted which showed that about 80 per cent of the people of Purlia district are suffering from the near-starvation. There is a report from my district that the people are dying of starvation. But I know what the Government will say. They will say that they died of gastroenteritis. That is the usual reply given by the Government. I know that.

There is a request from the West Bengal Government to send a team to assess the requirement of relief and other measures. The Central Government dare not send it. The reason is obvious. As soon as they send a flood-assessment team, naturally, the responsibility will be on the Central

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Government to provide all financial resources to the State. At the moment, neither the Central Government nor the State Government has financial resources. I know the position. They are levying taxes after taxes to fill up the budgetary deficit. Even the Railways have increased the freights and fares by 20 to 25 per cent.

I want to make a few concrete suggestions to the Government. Let the Government do what they want. Yesterday, I met 8 or 9 major international relief organisations that are operating in India. I made an appeal to them, "Why don't you help the flood affected areas in the country, naturally, in my area also?". Do you know what is the reply? The Catholic Relief Association of America said. "We had thirteen thousand tonnes of foodgrains at our disposal for relief work. But the Food Corporation snatched away, took away that food from the Calcutta port for their purpose." Then, they further said. "We have got a request from the Government of Bangladesh; we have got a request from the Pakistan Government. But the Government of India has not made any request to any international organisation. If we get a request from the Government of India, we can also write to our countries for help in the form of foodgrains."

I want to make a suggestion to the Government to immediately write to all the international organisations whom they have allowed to operate in this country, to provide as much relief as possible to our country and get food and other material from their countries. The difficulties are there. In fact, our national pride may be pricked. But when the people die of starvation, when the people die of hunger, when the people die for want of food, the question of pride should be kept in the cold storage for the time being.

My second suggestion is that in the private companies, in almost all the big houses, they have got trust funds. Let the Government take a decision about it. Let them call a meeting of all the Directors of all these private companies who have a trust funds and ask them that a portion of the trust fund be diverted to relief work.

My third suggestion is this. This time, all over the country there are floods. Is it possible that both in the public sector and in the private sector organisations a call may be given that all the officers and the workers should contribute their one day's salary towards relief funds.

These are some of the concrete suggestions that I want to give to the Government to help them. I know their position we cannot afford that our people should die of starvation. But I know what will be the Government response.

During the last occasions, each time, in Contai area about 7000 to 8000 people have offered satyagraha. This time I do not know what to do. Even last year, the people offered satyagraha. After that, a trickle of relief percolated there. After satyagrah, what next? I want to know. They do nothing. I know what happened last year.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This time, you start relief work.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Hundreds of volunteers, thousands of volunteers are there. But I know that even if we start a Satyagraha and even if we start a movement, the relief will not come either from the Centre or from the State Government. I want to give Mr. K. C. Pant a warning...

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA: Which he very much deserves.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: ...that we will not wait, the hunger cannot wait.

People can wait for your long-range flood control or drought-control measures but hunger cannot wait.

At least, I know my constituency and I give you advance warning. I do not want to create trouble for you. I do not want to play with the people on the issue of food and relief but if the situation develops and if the Government do not take any relief measures and if the Government do not come forward with the help for the people, certainly we will not see that the people die of starvation and hunger, we will start a movement, whatever be the cost, to compel the hands of the Government to provide relief, food and shelter to the people.

I will not make a foolish exercise on the long-range programme of flood control as the Government have enough documents. Dr. Rao has said about it. I want to draw your attention only to one or two points. Dr. Rao knows about the Barachowka project. It was a project of Rs. 33 lakhs but the government during the last 8 years alone have spent Rs. 57 lakhs by way of relief work in that area and the loss of crops amounted to Rs. 2 crores, but they could not spend Rs. 33 lakhs by which the flood could have been controlled, the crops could have been saved and relief work would have been unnecessary.

Then, there is the Subarmarkha project which is one of the causes of misery to the people of Orissa as also Midnapore. The work was started there and it was approved by the Central Government as also by the State Government. The work started but what happened? Somebody objected and immediately, a new orientation was given. What kind of wisdom is this?

The problems of flood of Assam, the problems of floods of Bangladesh and the problems of floods of North Bengal and the problem of supply of water to Farakka Barrage to save the Calcutta port can be secured to the

satisfactory resolution of all the problems, as I mentioned, if the Government here had a master plan for connecting Brahmaputra with the Ganga. If this had been done, much of the problem of Bangladesh and the North Bengal could have been solved and if only the Government had the courage of at least undertaking one single project in that direction, they can solve all the problems of this vast area.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Behar): I have been listening with rapt attention to the speeches delivered by the hon. Members. One thing is that the Members from all States have become very much agitated and, rightly so, over the ravages and damages and misery caused by the floods and drought in the country. But, with one exception. Probably my friends from the Punjab have not yet started talking anything in terms of the damages caused either by the floods or the drought. Do you know the reason? Because, the question of floods has been totally controlled in the Punjab and it is controlled in the Indus Basin. Here is the question and here is the answer.

Whether it is possible to control nature's fury and save the country from the floods and the resulting loss of hundreds and hundreds of crores of rupees—it is possible and it has been proved by the gigantic schemes undertaken in the Indus Basin as a result of which to-day Punjab and Haryana are the granaries of the country. Irrigation facilities are there. Floods have been controlled. It is possible and considering that aspect, is it not possible to control the damage of the floods in the course of a few years? It is possible. But, what are the steps so far taken by the Government? It has been amply stated by some of the hon. Members that if only a very small part of the amount that is spent to offset the losses caused by the floods and the losses caused and the damages done in various States, is expended in this direction, the floods could have been controlled. That amount is not being sanctioned by the Government, Sir,

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on an average, taking all aspects into consideration, including houses washed or damaged or turned to the ground, the loss of cattle and other things, this amount comes to nearly Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores. But, corresponding to that, what is the amount spent in the First Five Year Plan? As one hon. Member said it is Rs. 45 or Rs. 46 crores. In the second Plan it is a little better; in the Third Plan a little more better. Even in the Fourth Plan this was Rs. 130 crores. In the Fifth plan which we are taking up it is proposed to spend nearly Rs. 300 crores whereas the annual loss itself is very much more. Flood plays havoc in my constituency and the area that I represent is the worst-affected, Sir. Out of 1313 sq. miles of my area, 700 sq. miles are affected. In 264 villages the people are rendered homeless. 60,000 people are affected and the most interesting feature is this. In 1961 census the cultivable land was reported to be seven lakh acres and more. In 1971 census the cultivable land in my district has come down and it is now 6.57 lakh acres only. You see the damages done by the flood if you understand that each and every year the total number of cultivable land is reduced. In the country from year to year the total number of cultivable land gets increased because fallow land and uncultivable land are brought under cultivation and that is why such increase takes place; but if you take a very realistic approach of the whole country, you will find that the amount of land under cultivation as a whole, is decreasing year after year and this is due to floods.

Our production in the country of foodgrains is over 110 to 112 million tonnes. 10 per cent or at least 10 to 12 million tonnes of foodgrains are damaged due to floods. We are importing 3 million, 4 million or 5 million tonnes as required from time to time costing about Rs. 400 to Rs. 500 crores. We can save foreign exchange to the extent of Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 crores if

we will be in a position to control the flood damages even partially. This is my point.

There is no national plan to that effect. We have not taken into consideration an integrated approach of the national plan, consisting of flood protection, irrigation and power.

Water is a wealth which is a boon to everyone but in our country water wealth has not been taken as wealth properly. Flood devastation occurred four times in Assam. In the case of North Bengal it occurred three times. Why should we not have a national integrated approach, a national plan, consisting of flood protection, irrigation and power?

Why do we not consider as to how to check these breaches in the embankments? Why do we not take sufficient measures to repair the damaged embankments and increase the number of embankments? The Government, I know, have already constructed embankments to the extent of 8,000 k.m. in the course of these twentytwo years. To-day we need much more. What is more damaging is that there are certain embankments which are known as the embankments controlled by the Department of Finance or the Revenue—Revenue Embankments—I am afraid none of the hon. Members mentioned anything about this in this House—and these embankments were constructed even long before the partition or even after Independence. After certain embankments having been taken up by the Department of Irrigation and Power as a control measure, why they have not been able to check up the floods havocs. I do not know why such a plan has not been taken on hand. Why have we not had a sort of schemes so that we may have a sort of flood protection to our flood affected people who have been annually and habitually affected by floods? Well, that is our policy that after giving a sort of perennial source of irrigation, we may impose a certain levy or a fee on agricultural

farmers as an irrigation levy. There is no bar to resort to this small levy on farmers they will be prepared to pay this fee provided their agricultural lands are protected. So, why can't you have a measure of flood controls? On the top of all this, I would like to mention one thing. That is finance is really coming in the way of this problem. Somehow we have to tackle this problem.

MR. CHAIRMAN; Mr. Das Chowdhury, kindly conclude.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: I am finishing without having a dialogue.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not have a dialogue with me. Instead of five minutes, I have given you eight minutes.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: I am finishing. For a gigantic scheme even if a few thousand crores of rupees are necessary, let them not hesitate to seek the international assistance. Spell that out first considering the programme as a long-term one. Is it not possible to seek the international assistance for these spectacular schemes? These are possible. My apprehension is this. The Ministry concerned has not made an approach to this aspect of the problem. Sir, the other day there was a question of linking the Ganga with Brahmaputra. The reply came from the Minister that the scheme is still under the conceptual stage. How many more years will it take for its full conception?

As a matter of fact, I would refer you to one unstarred question No. 922 on 21st March, 1972. Kindly allow me to read that out.

MR. CHAIRMAN: And with that, you will end your speech.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Sir, the question was:

"Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) a brief outline of the scheme to link Ganga with Brahmaputra and its present position; and

(b) when the final report is expected to be ready?

(a) and (c). A scheme called the 'Tista Multi-purpose Barrage Project' was prepared by the Central Water and Power Commission. It envisaged the construction of 3070 feet long barrage across the river Tista near Gajaldobe, in West Bengal, with two main canals taking off from either side of the river and linking with the Brahmaputra on the left side and the Ganga upto Farakka on the right side. Besides providing navigation facilities, it was to afford irrigation to an area of 22.8 lakh acres (CCA) in the States of Bihar, West Bengal and Assam. Hydro-power generation to the extent of 64 M.W. (firm power) was also to be developed at power houses located at the principal fields along the main canals. As the estimated cost of the scheme was of the order of Rs. 357 crores, it was proposed to implement in suitable phases, with the irrigation aspect as a first priority.

The Government of West Bengal conducted further investigations in regard to the irrigation aspect of the project and submitted a project report on the 'Tista Barrage Project, (Phase I). The first phase is estimated to cost Rs. 44.6 crores and will include a barrage across the river Tista at Gajaldobe with a link canal to the Mahananda river and a second barrage across the Mahananda at Sonapurhat with a canal system to irrigate 7.5 lakh acres (CCA). The report has been technically examined by the Central Water and Power Commission. A reply of the State Government on these comments is awaited."

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While replying to this particular question on 21st March, 1972, the Minister of Irrigation and Power said that the scheme has already been prepared. It would be done in a phased manner and the total estimated cost is Rs. 357 crores.

Due to heavy floods and the nature's fury we find rivers' course do change but here we do not know whether it is on account of nature's fury or the Minister's fury. Now, they say it is still at conceptual stage. I want a specific reply on this question. In 1953 Dr. Rao wrote to me a letter stating that the first-phase programme has already been completed and a little discussion between West Bengal and Bihar is going on and that this will be finalised and the scheme will have a go-ahead. Here we find the whole scheme has been scuttled out and it is still in conceptual stage. I would like to know how long this conceptual stage will continue. Sir, when this multi-purpose project is completed—it will produce 64 MW of power and 22.8 lakh hectares of land will get irrigated.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Daschowdhury, you must cooperate. I have already given you more time. You are quoting book after book. It will not end.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: This scheme was prepared in 1924 when Sir John Gripps was the Chief Engineer of Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Department and later on in December, 1946 when Mr. A. N. Khosla was the Chief Engineer of Waterways Irrigation and Navigation Department. The same scheme was finally prepared, signed and sealed and the blueprint was made ready. Now, they are saying it is in conceptual stage. I would urge upon the hon. Minister considering all these aspects this particular scheme should be given a top priority and all steps should be taken to expedite execution of the Tista Barrage multi-purpose project and to link Ganga and Brahmaputra.

श्री ^{रिपन} विवेकनाथ सिंह (मुन्सुनूर) : सभापति जी, बाढ़ और सूखा दोनों एक दूसरे से विपरीत चीजें हैं लेकिन फिर भी दोनों पर एक साथ सदन में चर्चा हो रही है इसलिए कि दोनों ही दैवी प्रकोप हैं और हमारे देश में दोनों साथ साथ चलते हैं। समूचे देश में ही नहीं बहुत से प्रान्त भी ऐसे हैं जिनमें बाढ़ और सूखा ये दोनों चीजें साथ साथ चलती हैं। इसके लिए पिछले कई सालों में बाढ़ नियंत्रण के लिए देश में अच्छा काम हुआ है। हम यह नहीं कह सकते कि कतई इस दिशा में काम नहीं किया गया है। लेकिन हमारा देश विशाल है, हमारी समस्याएं विशाल हैं। इसलिए जितना होना चाहिए था वह नहीं हो पाया है। और कुछ खास कमी यह रही है कि जितना धन लगा है उसका सदुपयोग पूरे का नहीं हो पाया है, यह हमारा शिकायत है। इसी तरह से सूखे के निवारण के लिए भी बहुत सी स्कीमें बनी हैं और उनके कुछ परिणाम भी सामने आये हैं, लेकिन जितनी समस्या है वह हल नहीं हो पाई है और दिन पर दिन उसकी बढ़ोतरी हो रही है। यह भी एक समस्या है।

मैं पूरे देश की बात न कह कर राजस्थान के सम्बन्ध में थोड़ी निवेदन करना चाहूंगा। राजस्थान हमारा ऐसा प्रान्त है कि जिसमें विभिन्न प्रकार की समस्याएँ हैं। हमारे यहाँ साथ-साथ सूखा भी चलता है और बाढ़ भी चलती है। इस समय भी राजस्थान के 28 जिलों में से दस ग्यारह जिने हैं जिनमें सूखा है और उनमें भी 6 जिने ऐसे हैं कि जो भयंकर सूखे में हैं। इसके साथ ही साथ कुछ हिस्से ऐसे भी हैं कि जहाँ बाढ़ आई है और कई करोड़ के बांध और सड़कों की क्षति हुई है। बहुत बड़ी संख्या में जानवर मारे गये, मनुष्यों की जानें भी गई हैं—इसके लिये राज्य सरकार ने तात्कालिक रूप से थोड़ी सी मदद दी है। लेकिन यह जिस प्रकार की समस्या है उसके पूरी तरह से निवारण के लिये हमारी राज्य सरकार के पास साधन नहीं हैं।

17.00 hrs.

सभापति महोदय, मैं इस समय ज्यादा समय सूखे की समस्या पर लगाना चाहता हूँ। हमारे प्रान्त में ढाई करोड़ आबादी में से 95 लाख आबादी और करीब 14143 गांव सूखे से पीड़ित हैं। इन लोगों को राहत पहुंचाने के लिये हमें बहुत बड़ी धनराशि खर्च करनी पड़ेगी। फाइनेन्स कमिशन ने जो सुझाव दिया था, उसके अनुसार राजस्थान सरकार को 10 करोड़ रुपये मिले हैं, लेकिन यह जिस प्रकार की समस्या है, उग्राभो मीट-आउट करने के लिये 40 करोड़ रुपया खर्च होगा, जो हमारी राज्य सरकार के बने की बात नहीं है। इस लिये मेरा केन्द्रीय सरकार से अनुरोध है कि इस मामले में वह राज्य सरकार की विशेष सहायता करे।

हमारे यहां पानी की कमी नहीं है लेकिन पानी निकालने के साधनों की कमी है। राजस्थान का बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र आज सूखे में पीड़ित है, इस समस्या के समाधान के लिये हमारे राष्ट्रीय कृषि आयोग ने एक स्कीम दी है, जिसके अनुसार जहां लगातार सूखे की स्थिति चलती आ रही है, देश के उन विभिन्न प्रान्तों और विभिन्न जिलों में इस समस्या को आधार मानते हुए केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई कन्सोलिडेटेड प्रोग्राम बनाये ताकि हमेशा के लिये सूखे की स्थिति का निवारण हो सके। यह तो सम्भव नहीं है कि जहां सूखे का इलाका है, वहां वर्षा करे लेकिन ऐसा प्रावधान कर सकते हैं कि जहां जहां अपडर-आउट वाटर है उसको हम जमीन से बाहर निकाल कर सिंचाई में उसका उपयोग कर सकते हैं। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान के पूर्वी हिस्से में जिसमें 7-8 जिले आते हैं, जैसे झुंझुनू, सीकर, अलवर, भरतपुर, सवाई माधोपुर, आदि इनके बारे में ज्योलिजिकल सर्वे आफ इण्डिया के सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार बताया गया है कि इन जिलों के अन्दर भूतल जल अतुल मात्रा में है, उसको बाहर निकालने के साधन चाहिए। हमारी प्रान्तीय सरकार

ने इसके लिये 68 करोड़ रुपये की योजना बनाई है, यहां पर कुएं खुदे हुए हैं उनके जल को बिजली की सहायता से बाहर लाया जायगा। जहां तक मुझे सूचना मिली है— बड़ौदा बैंक ने इस काम के लिये 68 करोड़ रुपया राज्य सरकार को देने का प्रावधान किया है। लेकिन पिछले 5-7 दिनों में बैंकों द्वारा ऋण देने की नीति में कुछ कठिनाइयां आई हैं और उनको आदेश दिये गये हैं कि वे ऋण न दें। आप यह ऋण प्राइवेट आदमियों को न दें, अनप्रोडक्टिव कामों के लिये इस ऋण को न दें लेकिन जहां बिजली का विस्तार होना हो, ऐसे कामों के लिये उन पर पाबन्दी नहीं लगाई जानी चाहिए। राजस्थान सरकार ने इस के लिये अपना कार्यक्रम बना लिया है, सामान खरीदा जा रहा है, लेकिन अब यदि वह 68 करोड़ का ऋण उसे नहीं मिलता है तो राजस्थान का पूरा इलाका इस मुविधा से वंचित रह जायगा। इस लिये मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो भी इस विभाग से सम्बन्धित हों तत्काल उनमें बातचीत करके इस बैंक को दूर कराया जाय ताकि राजस्थान सरकार को यह ऋण मिल सके।

पिछले दिनों में हमारे राजस्थान में 157 करोड़ रुपया सूखा निवारण के लिये खर्च हो चुका है, लेकिन वह सब बेकार गया, कंस्ट्रक्टिव प्रोग्राम पर खर्च नहीं हुआ। पिछले साल उसकी दिशा बदली गई और उसके द्वारा राज्य में 15 हजार कुएं खुदवाये गये। लेकिन ये 15 हजार कुएं बिजली प्राप्त करने के लिये तरस रहे हैं। यदि उनको बिजली मिल जाती तो उसमें हमारा उत्पादन बहुत बढ़ सकता था और सूखे की मार से बचा जा सकता था। इसलिये मैं माननीय पंत साहब से, जिनके जिम्मे बिजली के विस्तार की जिम्मेदारी है, अनुरोध करता हूँ कि वे राज्य सरकार की इस मामले में मदद करें। जितने कुएं खुद चुके हैं उनके लिये व्यापक

[श्री: विश्वनाथ सिंह]

योजना बनाई जाय, चाहे इस काम को राजस्थान इलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड अपने हाथ में ले या कोई अन्य प्रथारिटी संभाले, जो भी व्यवस्था हो, उनको बिजली प्रवश्य मिलनी चाहिए।

हमारे यहां राजस्थान नहर का काम बहुत लम्बे समय से चलता आ रहा है। हमें सूचना मिली है कि विश्व बैंक इस योजना के लिये 106 करोड़ रुपये दे रहा है, लेकिन विश्व बैंक जो रूपया दे रहा है वह एरिया डेवलपमेन्ट के लिये दे रहा है। जब नहर ही पूरी नहीं बनी है तो एरिया डेवलपमेन्ट क्या होगा। मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ एरिया डेवलपमेन्ट का काम इतना महत्वपूर्ण नहीं है जितना नहर का काम पूरा करना है, वह काम तो कितना खुद ही करेगा। इस लिये मैं चाहता हूँ कि आप ऐसा प्रयत्न करें जिससे यह रूपया नहर की कंस्ट्रक्शन के काम के लिये डाइवर्टे हो सके। यदि आप इस काम को करा देंगे तो राजस्थान की भूमि लहलहा उठेगी और अकेला राजस्थान समूचे उत्तर भारत को अनाज खिला सकता है—इतनी क्षमता हमारे किसानों में है। हमारा किसान मजबूत है, मेहनत करता है, जमीन उसके पास है, यदि राधन मिल जाय तो बहुत बड़ा काम कर सकता है। पिछले दिनों केश प्रोग्राम पर काफी रूपया खर्च हुआ लेकिन उससे जो रिटर्न मिलना चाहिये था, वह नहीं मिला। आप कोई भी योजना बनायें, उसको कंस्ट्रक्टिव रूप में चलाइये, ताकि उसका सदुपयोग हो सके।

आज हमारे प्रान्त में, बल्कि समूचे भारत वर्ष में पेड़ों को काटने का काम बहुत जोरों से चल रहा है। जब तक इन पेड़ों का काटना बन्द नहीं होगा, तब तक पानी बरसने का वातावरण नहीं बन पायेगा और सूखे का प्रसार बढ़ता जायगा। इस लिये मेरा निवेदन है कि आप इस ओर भी ध्यान दें।

अन्त में, मैं फिर यही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान नहर के लिये विश्व बैंक जो 106 करोड़ रूपया देने जा रहा है उसको नहर के कंस्ट्रक्शन के लिये डाइवर्टे करायें तथा बैंक आफ इंडिया ने जो ऋण राजस्थान सरकार को देने की मंजूरी दी थी, उसको भी इसी शीघ्र दिलवायें।

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: It is a matter of deep regret that in spite of four Five Year Plans, the Government has not been able as yet to redeem the people from the twin scourges of Indian life, namely, flood and drought. According to the published figures, during 1955—71, the country has suffered a total loss of Rs. 2,400 crores on account of floods excluding government revenue losses due to remission of land revenue etc. In 1971 alone, the flood damage was Rs. 631 crores. In spite of such colossal losses, so far only one-third of the total flood-prone areas has been brought under protective schemes and it would not be before the end of the century that the remaining flood-prone lands would be covered by protective measures. This is what the Government's anticipations are. Similarly about drought, according to government calculations, about 72 districts in 13 States have suffered from constant droughts. Yet this Government has done precious little to redeem the Indian people from these floods and droughts.

Since the launching of the first Five Year Plan till March 1974, according to my calculation, about Rs. 351 crores have been spent. Out of this, Orissa's share is a paltry sum of only Rs. 9 crores. Similarly, in 1974-75, the provision under flood control programme amounts to Rs. 34.46 crores out of which, Orissa's share, which is constantly ravaged by floods, is only Rs. 70 crores. Sir, while Dr. Rao was the Minister, to control the floods of Brahmani, the foundation for Rengali dam was laid by the Prime Minister. But, I am sorry to say that was done more as a political stunt, for vote

catching than for the purpose of really constructing a dam. As yet, I regret to say, nothing has been done to construct the dam, whose foundation was laid about two years ago. Similarly, to control another turbulent river, Baitarani, the Bhimkund project has been conceived and I am sorry to say that sites are being changed, one site after another and nothing has been done about the Bhimkund project. Similarly, to control Subarnarekha, another river of sorrow of Orissa, the project is in doldrums.

This has been all the achievements of the Government as regards flood control and the less I say about protection to drought prone areas, the better. Sir, this reminds me of what an eminent international expert on Food and Agriculture had commented on Government of India's professions about protection to the people affected by drought and floods. Sir, Dr. Norman Borlaug is an eminent international expert on agriculture and he had suggested that Ministers and policy makers—Mr. Pant, I would request you to listen to this; this is meant for you—should be starved for a fortnight and they should have no water to drink for 4 days before they are allowed to handle policy matter of State:

“Delivering the Coromandel Lecture on 16th March, 1974 on ‘Conquest of hunger’ here (here means New Delhi), the world renowned agricultural scientist blamed politicians and policy makers, who never experienced the agony of hunger, for mishandling of agriculture, flood and food problems.”

I would like to add this post script to Dr. Norman Borlaug prescription. The Ministers will have also to live in flood marooned areas before they come to realise what are the pangs and agonies of the flood stricken people. Only then, not through this debate, one can look forward to some meaningful solution to the problem of flood and drought.

Sir, I will say a few words about my own State and then I will end. I do not find the ever optimist great green revolutionary, Mr. Shinde here. He was trying to paint somewhat a complacent picture about Orissa's drought situation. This year, Orissa has been struck both by floods and drought, first by drought and then by flash floods. As a result of this, the districts of Balasore, Sambalpur, Sundergarh, Pulbani, Ganjam, and Cuttack have been struck with drought of an unprecedented nature. According to the Government, 864 gram panchayats have developed acute scarcity conditions. What has the Government done in regard to rendering relief and succour. A sum of only Rs. 37 lakhs has been granted; out of this Rs. 55 lakhs only for test relief, Rs. 25 lakhs for taccavi and Rs. 7 lakhs for gratuitous relief. Sir, you are a man of conscience. I would ask you, while millions of people in these 864 gram panchayats are suffering this agony, is this amount of Rs. 87 lakhs enough? Therefore, I would plead with the hon. Minister that he should see that more sums are released from the Central fund, so that these people get some kind of succour.

In this context, I would like to make a suggestion. The sixth Finance Commission has rejected the idea of a National Fund for rendering relief to the distressed areas and has recommended dovetailing it into the overall five year plan of the States. This is a very dangerous recommendation which the Government should over-rule because the States have slender resources and they cannot face such situation of such magnitude. I noticed in the press that the West Bengal Government has released a sum of Rs. 12 crores for rendering relief to its flood-stricken people, but the Chief Minister has said this is at the cost of the developmental expenditure of the State. So, I think this recommendation of the sixth Finance Commission is a very dangerous one and I beseech the Government that they should reconsider it and render adequate relief to these

[Shri Surendra Mohanty]

people, particularly when this Government is pledged to the slogan of *garibi hatao*.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam): Sir, it is with a certain emotional involvement that I participate in this debate. Coming as I do from the coastal belt of Kerala, from my childhood I have experienced the tremendous devastation wrought by the sea erosions almost every year. In fact, I was drawn into public life as a result of the annual or biennial occurrences of these devastations due to sea erosion. As you know, Kerala is bordered on the eastern side by the Western Ghats and on the western side by the Arabian Sea. The people and land are sandwiched between the mountains and the seas and when rains start, there are floods and sea erosions. In those days, when Maharajas ruled Kerala, nobody used to bother. We used to make representations even to the Diwans and Maharajas, but they never bothered and used to say, "Nature will take its own course." Huge deposits of ilmanite, monazite and other rare earths basic to the manufacture of atomic devices have been washed away by the sea and nobody took any care. When Dr. Rao was minister, he was conscious of this tremendous waste of the country's natural resources and he said that both short-term and long-term schemes should be taken up to prevent the sea erosion. The main purpose of it was to have a sea wall wherever there is the possibility of sea erosion. He said that if we invest Rs. 40 crores we could completely protect the entire coastline of Kerala.

It is the duty of the Government and also of the people to protect, preserve and defend our territory. We are raising an army to protect our borders from our enemies. We should show equal concern for protecting our land from natural fury. Since my State is afflicted by a natural calamity, I hope necessary relief measures will be undertaken there.

I do not want to confuse the attention to my State because this is a natural phenomenon all over the country. Because of our geographical feature and the vastness of the area every year we have got some kind of drought, flood or cyclonic situation in one part of the country or the other. So, it is high time that we conceived both long term and short term measures to control floods and, if possible prevent them. A discussion of this nature should be utilized for bringing out both long range and short range solutions to the problem.

It is true that this is a colossal problem and the financial implication is quite huge. But unless we bestow attention on this problem it will be a tremendous disaster because we are losing crores of rupees every year because of these natural calamities. Take, for example, Brahmaputra. It is in spate almost every year. This is a country where we have chronic food shortage. If we could find out some mechanism to preserve the water which is flowing into the sea and divert it to arid land for cultivation, we could solve our food problem. In the same way, if we could prevent cyclones, cloud bursts and landslides we could free ourselves from natural furies. Now that modern technology has advanced and developed so much I think it is possible to predict, identify and take adequate precautionary measures against these calamities.

Since people in most of the States are suffering on account of these calamities the immediate problem is to give relief and rehabilitation to the suffering people. I hope necessary attention will be paid to that. Since I have dealt with this subject on an earlier occasion, I do not want to repeat my suggestions.

श्री विभूति मिश्र (मोतीहारी) : चेयर-मैन साहब, हम लोग हर साल बाढ़ पर चर्चा करते हैं। लेकिन जब बाढ़ आती है तो प्रसव पीड़ा की

तरह सरकार भूल जाती है कि बाढ़ का क्या इंतजाम करें। मेरे जिले में पूर्वी चम्पारन में 3338. 2 किलोमीटर एरिया में से 1045 किलोमीटर बाढ़ में पीड़ित है। 17. 2 लाख लोग हैं जिन में से 4. 89 लाख लोग तकलीफ में हैं बाढ़ के कारण। अभी अखबार में देखा कि दोबारा फिर चम्पारन में बाढ़ आ गई है जिस से लोग परेशान हैं। इसके अलावा पश्चिमी चम्पारन में भी घनहा इलाका के लोग बाढ़ से पीड़ित हैं। गंडक नदी से जो बाढ़ आती है उस से वहां के लोग पीड़ित हो कर दूसरी जगह बस गए हैं। भागपुर मठियां में भी बाढ़ है जहां के लोग दूसरी जगह जा कर के बस गए हैं। जोग बाढ़ के कारण परेशान है, उस के रहने के लिए घर नहीं हैं। डा० के० एल० राव बंटे हुए हैं, मेरे यहां जो बाढ़ आती है उसका कारण यह है कि आधा पानी मसाम नदी का आता है। चम्पारन मजफ्फरपुर और दरभंगा में जो पानी जाता है बाढ़ का उस में से आधा पानी मसाम का होता है। अगर मसाम नदी पर डैम बना दिया जाए तो इस से एक तो बाढ़ नहीं आएगी और आधा पानी रुक जाएगा जो सिंचाई के काम आ सकता है। लेकिन सरकार इस बारे में कोई स्कीम नहीं बनायी है।

बाढ़ क्यों आती है ? इसका एक कारण तो यह है कि जमीन की भूख के कारण जो नैचुरल बहाव था उस को लोगों ने जोड़ लिया। नतीजा यह हुआ कि नैचुरल बहाव रुक गया। सरकार ने इस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया। दूसरा कारण यह है कि मेरे जिले में जो जंगल हैं और नेपाल में जो जंगल हैं वह सारा कट रहा है जिस के कारण पानी का रुआव नहीं है या रहा है और पानी सीधे उत्तर बिहार में आता है और बाढ़ पैदा कर देता है। जिस से लोगों को क्षति होती है। इसके लिए सरकार को नेपाल सरकार से बात करके कोई इंतजाम करना चाहिए जिस से जंगल न कटें। इसके अलावा सरकार ने बहुत सी सड़कें ऊंची कर दी और आउटलेट काफी दिया नहीं जिससे बाढ़ आने पर पानी रुक जाता है और गांवों में चला

जाता है। पानी का बहाव रुक गया। इसको भी सरकार को देखना चाहिए। अगर सड़क ऊंची की है तो पानी निकलने का रास्ता रहमा चाहिए जिस से पानी निकल सके। जो नहर बनायो सरकार ने तो उस के साथ साथ सरकार ने पानी की निफासी के लिए वाटर ऐसकेप नहीं बनाए जिस की बजह से पानी रुक जाता है और जब वर्षा होती है तब पानी रुने से बाढ़ आ जाती है। मेरा जिला नेपाल के बाडर पर है जितनी पदियां हैं नेपाल से हो कर मेरे जिले में जाती हैं। इसके अलावा मसान, बागमाती, बंगरी, लाल बकैया आदि पदियां हैं इन से इतना पानी आता है कि आगे जा कर के समस्ती पुर से आगे काफी पानी हो जाता है। इसके अलावा गंडक नदी से कटाव भी हो रहा है, हजार पुरिया संग्रामपुर में कटाव हो रहा है मेरे क्षेत्र में 10 प्रबंड हैं सब के सब बाढ़ से अफ्लेटेड हैं। मेरे क्षेत्र और मेरे जिले के एक तिहाई हिस्से के लोग तकलीफ में हैं।

डा० के० एल० राव का एक लेख मैंने राजन्ड टेलिविजन में पढ़ा जब वह मंत्री थे तो उस को काम में नहीं लाये। उन्होंने लिखा है कि 13 लाख लोगों से चाइना में एक स्कीम को बनाया जब चाइना ने बनाया तो भारत की सरकार को आप ने क्यों नहीं कहा कि वैसे स्कीम बनायो? हो सकता है कि हमारा सिस्टम कारगर न हो। जब हर बार बाढ़ आती है तो डा० के० एल० राव आते थे पंडित नेहरू भी गए लेकिन इस मॉरपंत जो क्यों नहीं गए, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आता। इन के जाने से लोगों को कुछ तो राहत मिलती। नतीजा यह है कि भदई और अगहनो की फसल नष्ट हो गई। हमारे रेवेन्यू मिनिस्टर कहते हैं कि सितम्बर तक रोपनी हो सकती है ? सितम्बर के पहले सप्ताह तक। सितम्बर में रोपनी वहां होगी जहां पर दिगरे में पंक पड़ गया है। लेकिन और जमीन में जहां बाढ़ के पानी से रुह गया है वहां रोपनी नहीं हो सकती। इसलिए सरकार को इसके लिए रबी के बीज का इंतजाम

[श्री विभूति मिश्र]

करना होगा। साउथ बिहार में ड्राउड है। वहाँ ट्यूबवैल लगाने चाहिए। श्री जगन्नाथ मिश्र से जब इसके बारे में कहा तो उन्होंने कहा कि हमारे पास पैसा नहीं है ट्यूबवैल लगाने के लिए। वह कहते हैं कि पैसा नहीं है यहाँ पर कहते हैं कि पैसा दिया है। अब स्टेट और सेंटर के झगड़े में कौन पड़े। भगवान् जाने पैसा है या नहीं।

बाढ़ आने का एक कारण यह भी है कि पानी का जो नैचुरल बहाव है उस में रूकावटें खड़ी कर दी गई हैं। पानी निकलने का जो रास्ता था उसको लोगों ने भर कर घर बना लिए हैं या खेत आदि बना दिए हैं। अब पानी का जो नैचुरल बहाव है वह बन्द हो गया तो जरूरी बात है कि पानी ज्यादा आएगा तो फ्लड आएगा। इस और आपको ध्यान देना चाहिए।

गंडक में पुल टूट गया जिसकी वजह से गर्मा पानी नहीं मिला। उसके बाद अग्रहनी के बीज के लिए भी पानी देर से मिला। नतीजा यह हुआ कि बीजा देर से तैयार हुआ। जब तक गंडक का पानी आया और आसमानी पानी हुआ तो सारा बीजा जो लोगों ने लगाया था वह खत्म हो गया। खेत में जो धान लगाया था वह सभी मारा गया। बरबाद हो गया। जब बारिशें ज्यादा होती हैं बाढ़ आती है उस वक्त तो आपका ध्यान इनकी तरफ ज्यादा है राहत आदि कार्यों की तरफ जाता है लेकिन बाद में आप इस चीज को भूल जाते हैं। जिस तरह से औरतों को प्रसव पीड़ा होती है उसी तरह से आपको इस वक्त पीड़ा होती है और बाद में आप इसको भूल जाते हैं। ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिए। आपको उसके बाद चुपचाप नहीं बैठ जाना चाहिए। इसके लिए आपको चाहिए कि आप एक राष्ट्रीय योजना बनाएं और उसको कार्यान्वित करें। सारा साल इसका काम होता रहना चाहिए। मालूम होना चाहिए कि इतने दिनों में आप इस काम को पूरा कर लेंगे। समय आप निर्धारित करें और उस समय में

बाढ़ों की रोकथाम से सम्बन्धित जितने काम है वे पूरे हो जाने चाहिए।

जिस नदी को मुजफ्फरपुर में बूढ़ी गंडक कहते हैं उसको हमारे यहाँ सिकरहना नदी कहते हैं। यह एक कायदा है कि नदी में बांध बांधा जाए तो जहाँ से नदी निकलती है वहाँ से बांधा जाए। सिकरहना नदी में जहाँ से वह निकलती है वहाँ बांध नहीं बांधा गया। खगरिया से और उसे ले आकर मेरी क्रिस्टियुएंसो में पिपला कोठी तक। उसके आगे मसान तथा दूसरी नदियों का पानी आता है और यहाँ फ्लड पैदा कर देता है जिससे वपटिया मझवलिया सगौली, रक्सौल, मोंत हारों, बाका, घोड़ा सहन, आदापुर, है ममारी और मधुवनी में बाढ़ आ जाती है और हम लोगों को काफी नुकसान होता है काफी क्षति उठानी पड़ती है।

17.33 hrs.

[SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SINHA in the Chair]

नीचे जब आप बांध लगा देते हैं तो मुंह पतला हो जाता है। ऊपर से बांध लगाना शुरू करें तो ऐसा नहीं होगा। इसी नतीजा यह होता है कि ऊपर से जब हिमालय पहाड़ की नदियों से पानी आता है तो यहाँ आ कर फ्लड ला देता है। पता नहीं यह कौन सा साइंटिफिक तरीका है। गुहा साहब इंजीनियर थे और शायद उन्होंने का यह कसूर है। वह तो रिटायर हो गए हैं। अगर आपको बांध लगाना ही था ऊपर से लेकर नीचे तग लगाते और दोनों तरफ के लोगों को बचाते। लेकिन आपने ऐसा नहीं किया। इस और अब आप ध्यान दें।

आप एक स्थायी क मशम बनाएं। उस में सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के फर्ल डिविजन के लोग रहें। न सेंटर के हाथ में और न स्टेट के हाथ में यह रहे बल्कि उस डिविजन के हाथ में यह

सारा काम रहे और वही इस पर विचार करें।
 आप स्टेट यमनमेंट को यह काम दे देते हैं तो
 उसके प। बहुत सारा काम रहता है और दूसरे
 कामों में वह उस पैसा को खर्च भी कर देती
 है। निचुरल कलैभेटी के वास्ते उससे निपटने
 के लिए आप यह कमिशन बनाए और उसके
 जिम्मे इस काम को सौंपे यह पैसा उसके पास
 रहे। इससे दो लाभ होंगे। फनड भी रकने
 और पानी को सिंचाई के काम में भी लाया जा
 सकेगा। यह कमिशन इस काम को मुस्तैदी
 से कर सकेगा।

साउथ बिहार में आप ट्यूबवैलज का
 प्रबन्ध करें। वहां बिजली की बड़ी दिक्कत है।
 सारे हिन्दुस्तान में जितनी बिजली है उसका
 बहुत कम हिस्सा बिहार में है। इस वास्ते
 बिहार को आप बिजली भी दे। बिजली नहीं
 देगे तो बिहार का तथा ड्राउट एरिया का काम
 कैसे चलेगा।

आपके पास पैसा है लेकिन आप बिहार
 को नहीं देते हैं। बिहार की हालत बहुत खराब
 है। आपको सुबुद्धि आ जानी चाहिये।
 अगर अब 1974 में नहीं आएगी तो क्या
 1976 में आएगी? में चाहता हूँ कि 1976
 से पहले अब ही वह अपनी बुद्धि को दुहस्त
 कर लें। बिहार में बाड़ से लोगों को बचाने
 का इतजाम करें। बिजली बिहार को दें।
 ट्यूबवैलज की कमी है उसको पूरा करें।
 अभी में पटना गया था। वहां चावल चार
 रुपये किलो और गेहूँ ढाई तीन रुपये किलो
 है और इस भाव पर भी मिलना मुश्किल है।
 बिहार को गल्ला दें। दवाओं का प्रबन्ध करें
 तार्किक हूँका आदि न फँसे खेचक न फँसे।
 साथ साथ बीज का इतजाम करें।

17.35 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. RAILWAY ACCI-
 DENT BETWEEN YADUGRAM
 BLOCK HUT AND GURPA
 STATION OF EASTERN
 RAILWAY

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
 MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI
 MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): Sir, I re-
 gret to inform the House of an acci-
 dent which took place on the Grand
 Chord section of the Eastern Railway
 on 23rd August, 1974.

At about 05.30 hours on 23rd August,
 1974, while goods train No. 1211 Up
 was approaching the Up distant signal
 of Nathganj station on the Grand Chord
 section of Dhanbad Division of the
 Eastern Railway, 10 of its wagons got
 derailed blocking both the Up and
 Down lines. After the clearance of all
 infringements on the Down line at 1700
 hours, the relief trains including the
 cranes were to be removed from the
 Down line for the passage of 9 Down
 Doon Express. The first part of the
 assembly comprising of Gaya based
 Accident Relief Train and 120 tonne
 crane left the site for Gurpa at 18.10
 hours. However, the second part of
 the assembly comprising of Gomoh
 based Accident Relief Train, along
 with three re-railed wagons could not
 be despatched to Dilwa on account of
 the engine of this Accident Relief
 Train having failed. Consequently
 another engine was called up from
 Gujhandi. While coupling up this
 engine with the second assembly, the
 latter rolled towards Gurpa because of
 a steep falling gradient. This rolling
 assembly collided with the first Acci-
 dent Relief Train assembly between
 Yadugram Block Hut and Gurpa sta-
 tion at 1900 hours.

As a result of the collision, 15 rail-
 way staff including Assistant Security
 Officer, Dhanbad, were killed and an-
 other 7 injured of whom 2 sustained
 grievous injuries. A sum of Rs. 500 to
 the next of the kin of each of the dead

[Shri Mohd. Shafi Qureshi]

persons excepting one who has not been indentified so far, and Rs. 400 to each of the two grievously injured persons has been made. The General Manager has also sanctioned a special posthumous grant of Rs. 2,000 in respect of the dead persons who have been identified.

Additional Commissioner of Railway Safety is expected to commence his statutory enquiry into this accident on 27th August, 1974.

17.40 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE. FLOOD AND DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—contd.

श्री गेंदा सिंह (पदरौता) : सभापति महोदय, मैं श्री पन्त का ध्यान बाढ़ और सूखा सम्बन्धी कुछ बातों की ओर आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। हमारा जिला देवरिया कुछ समय से बाढ़ और सूखे से पीड़ित रहा है। 1971-1972 और 1973 का मक्का मेरे सामने है। 1973-74 और 1974-75 में बाढ़ से जो नुकसान हुआ है, उस के आंकड़े मेरे पास मौजूद नहीं हैं। केवल पिछले वर्ष 1.29 करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान एक छोटे से जिले देवरिया में हुआ और 26 लाख लोग पीड़ित हुए। उस बाढ़ में 34, 35 आदमी मरे, यह सरकार कहती है, हालांकि वहाँ पचासों आदमी मर गये।

इस बरस भी वहाँ अपार क्षति हुई है। शेषम के होते हुए मैं खुद वहाँ गया और मैंने कुछ घूम कर देखा। आज लोग जिस दुर्गति में हैं, उस को मैं बयान नहीं कर सकता हूँ। मैं एक लम्बे काल से पब्लिक वर्कर रहा हूँ। अगर मेरी शारीरिक स्थिति अच्छी होती तो मैं यहाँ नहीं बैठता मैं उन लोगों की सेवा में लगा होता। दो तीस बरस पहले से जॉ लोग

क्षतिग्रस्त थे, वे इस वर्ष की क्षति को उठाने में असमर्थ हैं। अगर मैं कहूँ कि भूख से मौत हुई है, तो वह कुछ प्रत्युक्ति नहीं होगी।

मैं जानता हूँ कि श्री पन्त किस दिल के आदमी हैं। वह उन पन्त जी के सड़के हैं, जिन्होंने बड़ी गंडक नहर की नींव डाली थी, और अरबों रुपये खर्च कर के देवरिया, छपरा, मोतिहारी जिलों की सहायता की थी। गोरखपुर और तिरहुत डिविज़न, बिहार के चार जिले और चार जिले यू० पी० के, यह घनी आबादी का क्षेत्र है, जिस की तुलना चाइना की जनसंख्या से की जा सकती है। उसी तरह सब बिगड़ी हुई नदियाँ वहाँ इकट्ठी होती हैं। उन में एक नदी बड़ी गंडक है, जिस को ग्रेट गंडक कहते हैं। सभापति महोदय, वह ग्रेट गंडक आप के जिले मुजफ्फरपुर, और चम्पारन तथा छपरा के किनारे किनारे जाती है, और वह समूचे देवरिया को छूती है। उस ने हमारे जिले को वरना कर दिया है। देवरिया में 542 मिलीमीटर पानी बरसा है। वहाँ अगस्त में इतना पानी बरसा है कि फमल चोपट हो गई है। पिछले वर्ष भी वह जिला सूखे और बाढ़ से वरना हुआ और इस वर्ष भी। पिछले वर्ष जिले भर में 35 आदमी मरे, 60 हजार घर गिर गये। और 29 करोड़ रुपये की तबाही हुई। इस बरस भी ऐसे ही फिगर्ज होंगे। करीब तीस लाख लोगों की आबादी बड़ी भारी विपत्ति में पड़ गई है। यह कहा नहीं जा सकता है कि उन का गुजारा किस तरह होगा। यू० पी० सरकार की भी आंख देवरिया की तरफ कुछ कम हो गई है।

मैं श्री पन्त, श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद और अपने नौजवान भाई, कृषि मंत्री, से कहना चाहता हूँ कि मेरे बदले में वे वहाँ जायें और वहाँ के लोगों को महारा दें। आज जिस विपत्ति में वे हैं, उतनी विपत्ति में वे पहले कभी नहीं थे। लेकिन ऐसी विपत्ति में सहायता कहीं नहीं दिखाई दे रहा है। वे लोग 14 शूगर फ़ैक्टोरियों

में बीनी पैदा करते हैं और एक्साइज ड्यूटी और परचेज टैक्स के रूप में करोड़ों रुपये सरकार को देते हैं। लेकिन आज हमारी अवस्था ऐसी हो गई है, जिसमें हम को विशेष प्रकार से सहायता की जरूरत है।

मैं आज दिन भर इस मदन में बैठा रहा। आप के आने पर मुझे मौका मिला है और मैं अपने यहां के लोगों की बात मुना दी है।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री (पटना) :
 सभापति महोदय, इस सरकार की पिछले सताईस वर्षों की गलत और जन-विरोधी नीतियों का ही यह फल है कि हमारे देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में हर वर्ष कहीं सुखे और कहीं बाढ़ की स्थिति उत्पन्न होती रहती है। इस वर्ष भी उसी तरह की स्थिति हमारे देश के विभिन्न राज्यों में है, जिस की चर्चा हम आज सवेरे से कर रहे हैं।

हमारे सुखे बिहार में, खासकर उत्तर बिहार में, इस साल जैसी बाढ़ आई है, लोगों का कहना है कि वैसी बाढ़ पिछले बीस वर्षों में नहीं आई थी। इस बाढ़ के कारण जन-धन की जो बर्बादी हुई है, उस ने बारे में बिहार सरकार ने एक टिप्पणी भेजी है। यद्यपि उस टिप्पणी में स्थिति की गम्भीरता को कम कर के दिखाया गया है, फिर भी बिहार सरकार ने जो कहा है, मैं उस का एक अंश पढ़ देना चाहता हूँ :

“जहां तक विभिन्न जिलों से प्रतिवेदन प्राप्त हुए हैं, उस के अनुसार उत्तरी बिहार के 15 जिलों में से 14 जिलों में बाढ़ का प्रकोप हुआ। इन 14 जिलों का क्षेत्रफल 52,993 वर्ग किलोमीटर है, जिस में बाढ़ का प्रकोप 14,057 वर्ग किलोमीटर में हुआ। इन समूचे 14 जिलों की जनसंख्या 2 करोड़ 52 लाख है, जिस में से बाढ़ से पीड़ित जनसंख्या 69 लाख 77 हजार

है। बाढ़ के प्रकोप के कारण 15,54,000 एकड़ में फसलो को नुकसान हुआ है। इस का अनुमानतः मूल्य 70 करोड़ 87 लाख रुपया है। अभी तक जो प्रतिवेदन उपलब्ध हैं, उस के अनुसार 1,03,542 घरों को नुकसान होने की सूचना है और उन के क्षति का मूल्यांकन 3 करोड़ 62 लाख रुपया किया गया है, किन्तु यह अनुमान अभी प्रारम्भिक है और समय बीतने के बाद ही वादप्रस्त क्षेत्रों में मकान की क्षति का सही अंदाज लगाया जा सकता है।”

सभापति जी, जब पांडेय जी बोल रहे थे तो उन्होंने कहा कि दोबारा तिवारा भी बाढ़ का प्रकोप चल रहा है। ऐसी स्थिति में किसी माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक ही कहा कि एक अरब से ज्यादा क्षति की तो बिहार को जरूर हुई होगी। बहुत सारे पशु धन की बरबादी भी हुई है और सरकार ने स्वयं स्वीकार किया है कि 7 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु हुई। लेकिन गैर-सरकारी सूत्रों का कहना है कि मरने वालों की संख्या कम से कम 30 जरूर है। इस तरह की स्थिति हमारे सूबे बिहार की और उत्तर बिहार की है। उत्तर बिहार का केवल एक जिला सिवान का है जो बाढ़ के प्रकोप से बाकी बचा है, बाकी तमाम जगह बाढ़ लोगों को तबाह किए हुए है। लेकिन सहायता नगण्य है। वहां की सरकार ने मांग की 35 हजार टन खाद्यान्न की और वह भी एक बार नहीं, हर महीने देने के लिए। लेकिन, ये वह भी नहीं दे पाते हैं, जब कि 35 हजार टन ऊंर के मुंह में जीरे के बराबर है। अभी पिछले दिनों आधे घंटे की एक बहस का उत्तर देते हुए खाद्य राज्य मंत्रों ने कहा था कि हम आगे आने वाले महीनों में, तीन-चार महीने जो संकट के हैं, उनमें 70-80 हजार टन देंगे। मगर वह यह 35 हजार टन भी नहीं दे पा रहे हैं। अभी भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी की बिहार राज्य परिषद् की बैठक ने, जो पटना में 13 से 15 अगस्त तक हुई,

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

तत्प्रायः स्थितियों पर विचार करने के बाद मांग की है कि कम से कम एक लाख टन गन्ना प्रायः प्रायः बाढ़ के महीनों में प्रतिमाह देने की व्यवस्था कीजिये और कम से कम 50 करोड़ रुपये दीजिये तभी आप सहायता कार्य जो वहाँ करना चाहते हैं वह कर सकते हैं, अनाज, कपड़ा, दवा, मकान छपर ज़रूरी जो भी जरूरत पड़ती है वह वहाँ दे सकते हैं। यह मांग हम लोगों ने की है। यह तो सहायता बाढ़ पीड़ितों के लिए चाहिए। बाढ़ के बारे में एक बात और कह दूँ कि इसमें भूख से भी मौतें हो रही हैं। अभी बिहार राज्य के कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के मंत्री श्री जगन्नाथ सरकार ने बाढ़-पीड़ित जगहों में घूमने के बाद यह बयान दिया है कि दरभंगा जिले में कुछ लोग भूख से मरे हैं। बाढ़ में वह गये वह तो अलग है, कुछ लोग इसके कारण भूख से भी मरे हैं और कुछ लोग खुदकुशी कर रहे हैं।

दूसरी तरफ छोटा नागपुर के इलाके में, सिंहभूमि में, रांची जिले में, पलामू जिले में, सयाल परगना के जिले में, इन क्षेत्रों में सुखाड़ है। वहाँ भी लोगों के भूख से मरने की खबर मिली है। सात आठ व्यक्ति मर चुके हैं।

श्री दामोदर पांडे (हजारीबाग) : हजारी बाग जिले को भूल गये। उसे भी शामिल कर लीजिये।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : वह आप बोलिएगा तो कह दीजिएगा। हजारी बाग भी उसमें शामिल है। तो एक तरफ बाढ़ दूसरी तरफ सुखाड़ और एक तीसरी बात भी है। बहुत सारे जिलों में और खास तौर से पटना जिले से मैं आता हूँ, पटना की बात और नालन्दा की बात मैं जानता हूँ कि किसी किसी इलाके में अतिवृष्टि के कारण मकई की फसल 50 प्रतिशत बरबाद हो गई। अभी तक हमारे यहाँ मनेर और दानपुर में बाढ़ ज्यादा नहीं आई है लेकिन गंगा नदी के बढ़ने से खतरा है।

वहाँ की भी मकई की फसल और जहाँ जहाँ भी मकई की फसल है ज्यादा वारिश होने की वजह से वह बरबाद हो गई। तो उनकी भी मदद करनी होगी। सुखाड़ पीड़ितों की मदद करनी होगी, बाढ़ पीड़ितों की मदद करनी होगी और पूरे बिहार को आप को खिलाना होगा। हम जानते हैं कि उन क्षेत्रों को बिहार की सरकार अकाल क्षेत्र नहीं घोषित कर सकती। लेकिन फिर भी आप की जवाबदेही है उन्हें खिलाने की, कपड़ा देने की और उन्हें बसाने की।

इसके बाद कटाव के बारे में कहना चाहता हूँ। कटाव की बात आप सुन ही चुके हैं मानसी के बारे में। इसके अलावा पूरे बिहार में जहाँ बाढ़ आती है या जहाँ नदियों के किनारे गांव बसे हुए हैं दियारे के क्षेत्र में हैं वहाँ लाखों किसान कटाव से पीड़ित हो रहे हैं। स्वयं मेरे क्षेत्र मनेर के दर्जनों गांव वर्षों पहले कट चुके और कुछ आज भी कट रहे हैं। लाखों लोग विस्थापित हो चुके हैं। उनके पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था अभी तक नहीं की गई। तो इस तरह की समस्या कटाव की है उनसे भी लोगों को बचाना है।

सहायता कार्य जो सरकार कर रही है वह असंतोषजनक है, उनको संतोषजनक बनाने की जरूरत है। लेकिन तमाम हिन्दुस्तान के हर कोने में चाहे बाढ़ आये, सुखाड़ हो, अति-वृष्टि हो, उससे लाखों कर्मचारी चाहे वे केन्द्रीय सरकार के हों, चाहे राज्य सरकारों के हों, पीड़ित हैं। जब जब भी ऐसी बाढ़ या सुखाड़ की स्थिति आई है सरकार ने ऐसे कर्मचारियों को बाढ़ का भत्ता दिया है। तो मैं निवेदन करना चाहूँगा पंत जी से कि वे वित्त मंत्री से बात करके सरकारी कर्मचारियों को जो बाढ़ अथवा सुखाड़ के इलाके के हैं, उनको बाढ़ का भत्ता दिलवाने की कोशिश कीजिये ताकि वे अपने परिवार को बचा सकें इस संकट की घड़ी में।

आखिर एक बात मैं नहीं कहता लेकिन बान सागर की चर्चा उठाई गई। मध्य प्रदेश के माननीय सदस्य बोल रहे थे तो बान सागर से जो फायदा हुआ उसकी चर्चा उन्होंने की। उनको फायदा हुआ है उससे हम को जलन नहीं है, अच्छा है, हम खुश हैं कि उनको फायदा हुआ है। देश का वह भी हिस्सा है। लेकिन बिहार को जो नुकसान हुआ है खास तौर से जो सोन के इलाके के लोग हैं, मुझे शंका है और शंका क्या यह वास्तविकता है कि लाखों लोगों उजड़ जायेंगे, उन्हें जो अभी पानी मिला है सिंचाई के लिए वह पानी नहीं मिलेगा। इसलिए जो इसके लिए समझौता किया गया है, वह वहाँ की जनता की मर्जी के खिलाफ है। उस समझौते का उन क्षेत्र के विधायकों, संसद सदस्यों और तमाम लोगों ने विरोध किया है। उन लोगों ने कहा कि यह समझौता मत कीजिये। ऐसा इंतजाम होना चाहिए जिसमें उनको भी फायदा हो और हमारे राज्य को भी फायदा हो या कम से कम नुकसान न हो, लेकिन बिहार सरकार ने ध्यान नहीं दिया। डा० के० एल० राव साहब भी मौजूद हैं और पंत जी भी मौजूद हैं, इनके मंत्रालय ने जो समझौता किया है उस समझौते से बिहार के और खास तौर से सोन के इलाके के लोगों को बहुत ही नुकसान हुआ है।

श्री कृष्ण चन्द पंत : बिहार के लिए हम ने दस्तखत नहीं किये।

श्री रामावतार शास्त्री : आप ने नहीं किये हैं पर आपकी मौजूदगी में और आपकी रजामंदी से यह समझौता हुआ है। उसकी वजह से लोग असंतुष्ट हैं। इसलिए मैं चाहूँगा कि बान-सागर के बारे में फिर से विचार किया जाय। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं फिर निवेदन करूँगा कि सरकार पूरी मदद बिहार की 70 लाख जनता को करे ताकि वहाँ कोई भूख से न भरने पावे और जो दक्षिण पंथी शक्तियाँ हैं जो गलत तरीके से आन्दोलन कर रही हैं उनको मौका नहीं मिले बिहार की

5-6 करोड़ जनता को गलत रास्ते पर ले जाने का।

MR. CHAIRMAN: We are now close to 6 P.M. There are still many members to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH): I have consulted our members as well as Leaders of the Opposition and the Minister. I suggest that we sit till 7 P. M. today since there are a large members who want to participate. Since still there will be a large number of members left to speak, the debate will not conclude today; we will continue it on another day which we will decide later. But today we may sit till 7 P. M.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is that the pleasure of the House? Some hon. Members: Yes.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We will sit till 7 P. M.

DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA (Kutch): I am thankful to Shri Shinde for expressing his sympathy for the people of Kutch which for four consecutive years has been suffering from drought. But let not this sympathy remain only in words. It should be translated into action.

Shri Maurya has taken care to settle the issue with a neighbouring State as far as grass is concerned. Shri Qureshi is not here. But I would like to request him through you to see that the railways carry the grass over there.

As far as Gujarat is concerned, we have both problems, floods and drought. But fortunately, the remedy is only one. If that is adopted, floods, as well as drought can be tackled. That lies in the Narmada. On the south of Narmada, generally there are always floods. On the north side, gradually as you go, there is always drought. So far as Narmada is concerned, there

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is the Navagam dam project. I know the issue is with the tribunal. So I do not want to say anything about it. But I would make one request to Government through you. Today there is President's rule in Gujarat. When the decision is taken, it will take ten more years to be completed. But, Sir, when there is drought in so many districts over there, why should we not start digging of the canal so that more time may not be wasted and people may not have to suffer.

18.00 hrs.

The main reason why so many Members are inquisitive and they are taking part in this debate is because Government have recently accepted the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission. This is the main reason. There is fear about it and there is anxiety about it. People who are suffering and who have been affected by drought and floods worry about it; people fear that there would not be any sufficient relief this year. This is the main reason. Sir, in the report of the Sixth Finance Commission, it has been said that money has been misused. I would ask the Government, who has misused the money? It is the State Government over there; it is the fault of the State Government. If they cannot plan properly; if they cannot manage properly, why should the people be punished? Here is something fundamentally wrong. By accepting the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission, Government is going to punish the people, those who are already under misery. On the contrary, they should have seen to it that the money that was allotted, had been properly utilised. Therefore, I suggest that meaningful and purposeful relief work should be started immediately here in Gujarat. Here, I would say Narmada canal is the first thing which should be taken up and completed. You should start this immediately, just now, so that people may get relief. Sir, a figure was given

in the Press that 90,000 people are engaged in relief work in Gujarat. But, I can tell you, in Kutch, there are 1,30,000 people. Famine has been a continuing feature; it is not that it has newly developed. In the district of Kutch, there are 35,000 people according to Government and in the whole of Gujarat 90,000 people are engaged in relief work; do you call this relief? Sir, in these areas, famine has not been declared; scarcity has not been declared. Famine has been continuing in Kutch in three or four talukas. In nearly 638 villages, relief work goes on and nowhere else. You can imagine their sad plight. Here, I must agree that in 1971-72 and in 1972-73, there was some nicely arranged relief work. But, I will have to support Shri P. M. Mehta, even though he is in opposition. There is no planning in this rule. These bureaucrats never care for the people. There is no actual planning by giving relief to the people. Let me tell you, what happened last year. Sir, it is a fundamental rule of the Famine Code that where there is less than 5 inches rains, scarcity should be declared. But, unfortunately, the officers who were ordered to go there, declared more than 4 annas, 6 annas and all the relief work, all the DPAP work was stopped in that area, resulting in tremendous hardship to the people. You can just imagine the condition of the people. When there is continuous famine; continuous drought, the economic condition of the people deteriorates. At the top of it, Government sits over it to save money and they give different arguments. It has happened this time also. Where is the question of waiting now? Let us say, it rains in Gujarat now. Will it be useful for the purpose? Will it yield any crops? Why don't we declare scarcity just now? In all these areas, in Sourashtra, in Navnagar, Jamnagar, Amreli, Bhavnagar etc., scarcity should be declared. Drought has been continuing; famine has been continuing for the three years. But, the authorities are going against the fundamental rules of the Famine Code, which is the oldest one; it is as old as

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the British Rule. We do not catch up with the very spirit of the rules. Last time, when we fixed Rs. 3 as the minimum wage, we were taking pride of it. But, I would ask the Government, taking into account the price rise and the rules of the Famine Code, whether the people are supplied grains in actual quantity and not the money part of it? Today, in paper, they are getting Rs. 3, nobody is getting Rs. 3. But, is it possible for a person to maintain himself in Rs. 3? I would ask this question and I would ask Mr. Pant, to ask this question himself, in his heart of hearts.

Actually it is the value of the grains that should be paid. If they work for 7 days, they are marked absent for two days and paid only Rs. 15. I request that this amount of Rs. 3 should be increased to Rs. 5 which should be the minimum. If there is so much economic crisis, I suggest that the minimum should be Rs. 3 but if they put in more work, they should be paid Rs. 5.

Immediately without waiting for a day, I request the hon. Minister to declare scarcity in Saurashtra and Kutch area. It is the President's rule. The officers are waiting for order from you. Tomorrow it should be declared scarcity area. If it is not declared scarcity area, even grass is not supplied. In my district, a minimum of 3000 cattle are dying daily and cattle from the backbone of the economy of the area. Before partition, people from that area used to cross over to Lower Suddar Barraz in Sind. Essential commodities like wheat used to come from Sind and in exchange, we used to give brassware silverware, a *frak*, etc. After partition, the economy of these artisans has been completely ruined. They cannot go to Sind and they are not provided with any alternative. Have you ever thought of the impact of the famine on this area after partition? You have thought of giving aid to every refugee from Pakistan. But here is a part of our land which is totally ruined. If I give a complete picture, tears will come. The people there are living in such miserable conditions, with only

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skins and bones. Today people are developing night blindness. Mr. Tiwary said that famine is better than flood. I am prepared to exchange my constituency with anybody. Let them come and see the pangs and miseries and the pitiable conditions of the people there. They do not even get a drop of drinking water. We are talking of DPAP. All the green trees have been chopped off and the charcoal has been manufactured and exported to Dubai. Not a single tree is there in Kutch. The result is there is coal shortage and even kerosene is not available in the market. For the fault of the Government servants, the poor labourers are punished. They have no alternative fuel. Do you think DPAP can be implemented like this?

To whom are they accountable? In this context I support Shri Vasant Sathe who rightly said that people from the public should be associated with that.

This is a very serious problem and it cannot be solved by bureaucratic rule. Only a popular rule could appreciate the urges and feelings of the people. There was an officer who said that the solution of the cattle problem in Kutch is to destroy all the cattle! This is adding insult to injury. That officer was saying that "every year you are having drought; so, what is the harm if you destroy all the cattle". So, this is the attitude of the officials.

Let me tell you that the patience of the people has exhausted. It has reached the breaking point. The blood of the poor people is turning into tears. When their blood dries up and they do not have tear in their eyes, then their eyes will get red. Let me warn the Minister and the Government that it will mean the *Trilochan* of Shiva.

We do not want violence in India. At the same time, we are nourishing violent. Suppose somebody has become an opportunity to everyone to become violent, Suppose somebody has caught hold of my throat. I have to slay him to save myself. If the Government do

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not hear the grievances of the people and remedy them, if they pay only lip sympathy naturally the people will become violent.

The two basic principles of life are propagation of life and protection of life. They are the basic principles of life the whole world. So, I would request the Government to pay attention to the protection of life.

I know that the Minister belongs to Uttar Pradesh. Shri Bibuthi Mishra was saying that Pantji has not gone to Bihar. I would request the Ministers, any Minister, to visit my area and see the plight of the people there. Now that President's Rule is there the responsibility on the Centre is great. As Shri Satarwala, the Adviser to the Governor, has said "when I see the pitiable condition of the people, tears come to my eyes; but I am an officer; I cannot do much."

He can give only sympathy and tears because of the rigidity of the rules and regulations. I hope something will be done to ameliorate the condition of the people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sure he will go to Gujarat.

SHRI NIMBALKAR (Kolhapur): Mr. Chairman, today's subject revolves round two aspects; one is giving immediate relief to those suffering from drought and floods; the other is the short-term and long-term measures that must be taken progressively, gradually and ultimately to completely overcome those areas which are flood-prone and drought-prone.

When I was just hearing the speaker before me, I asked myself whether it is right for me to get up and speak if the matter is to be considered only constituency-wise. But the way I look at this problem, I think it is very essential that even I should rise at this time, even though my constituency is not affected by floods and

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is, really speaking, seldom affected even by droughts. (Interruptions) The point is this. If you start trying to milk a cow which does not have milk, then you should not blame others when they are not going to give you an opportunity to milk a cow though it has milk.

It is my contention that when you are going to develop 72 districts in this country which are drought-prone, the question that comes before you, in most of the districts, is as to where from you are going to get water to develop these districts? One is that you can get water from underground if there is enough water underground and the other is that water has to come through flow from somewhere else where there is rain. My constituency happens to be such a place where it rains. Right from my constituency, that is, from southern Maharashtra onwards, most of the northern belt of Karnataka and major part of Andhra Pradesh, all these areas, if they are to get water, you cannot develop these areas without water. Therefore, you have to milch the cow where there is milk.

This is what I have been trying to tell the Government for the last three years. I can assure you that the whole of the area that I have just mentioned could be turned into another Punjab, another granary of India if those dams which are to be built in Kolhapur district and which have been sanctioned by the Central Government, are completed. I cannot understand how it is that this Government or any State Government or even the Maharashtra Government cannot realise that after the Himalayas, the area which has the most amount of water is the Sahyandris, the Western Ghats. It is true that the Planning Commission has formed a committee for Western Ghats. It is under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra also. But unless you create a situation in the Sahyandris, the Western Ghats, where you can really take all the water that is there

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and use it for irrigation purposes, you will not succeed in solving the food problem of this country. The whole of the Deccan Plateau can be turned into a granary provided you develop the Western Ghats, the *Sahyandris*, as they are known here. There is so much of water here. If you can make use of all the water and not let it run down on the Konkon side into the sea, the whole of the Deccan Plateau can be converted into a granary for India.

For instance, there is one dam, Radhanagri dam, built by the Shahu Chhatrapati of Kolhapur who had the imagination to understand this and who built that dam in the twenties or thirties. That dam has given Kolhapur the largest jaggary market in the world. Just one dam has done it. These things are not realised. In this country, we have got so many resources. We do not seem to have the will; we do not seem to have imagination. I cannot understand it.

My hon. friend, Shri Siddheshwar Prasad who is here now has come to Kolhapur. Unfortunately, he stayed there not long enough. But if he had given me a chance to show him round, I can assure you that it would not have been difficult for me to convince anybody for that matter that this is the sort of areas you have to develop, not for the benefit of the area itself but for the benefit of other areas also. If you build a dam, for instance, some land behind the dam is taken away from the people. That is also a sacrifice. But here is a case where it is in your hands to develop this area and save this country from starvation. And you just do not do it. I cannot understand that. I think, I have had the luck and I have tried to convince the Planning Commission and the Minister to have a next meeting in Kolhapur so that I can show them all these things. These things must be looked into.

I can forgive a Minister; I can forgive a Government for not doing

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something because doing something, in fact, is also not to bring about anything. In this particular case, I can say that the whole of the Western Ghats area needs development in a correct way. If you are going to do that, you are going to have the vast granary that you can think of.

For example, if you take sugarcane, one Zila in Kolhapur, because of one dam, can house over 14 sugarcane factories. We have already got 7-8 sugar factories which is more than the sugar factories in any other district in the country. (Interruptions) I do not know how much sugar they produce but the quantity of sugar that we produce should also be compared. Dr. Rao had been there. He knows what I am speaking about. He surveyed the entire area in a helicopter and he often told me, 'Why don't you get the dam'. So, I sincerely believe that my constituency is really speaking a key to the solution of the problems of this country and I offer my constituency as the price to solve this problem and my constituency will give you what you want and will really feed the people.

Another thing I have to say is: perhaps the biggest problem for the Minister is: wherefrom the money will come? At the present stage wherefrom the money will come? I have already told the Finance Minister to reimpose the kind of tax which I had suggested during the time the refugees came over from Bangla Desh....

MR. CHAIRMAN: You need not worry about the money. The Minister will find it.

SHRI NIMBALKAR: I am afraid this time they will find it unless they take extraordinary measures. Whether you like it or not, I can tell you now that all their promise of keeping the deficit finance pegged down to Rs. 126 crores will not be kept. You can believe me on this. And the most important thing for this Ministry is that we must sug-

[Shri Nimal Kar]

gest new ways without hurting the poor people—this is very important—without hurting the poor people, to create resources, particularly, to get rid of the floods. I repeat again what I have said in this House before, that for every ear of corn that you lose on account of floods, you will have to go for two ears of corn somewhere-else and it is very difficult to do it. It is much easier to control or even eradicate floods. That is why I say again that the tax, the refugee tax—this time you may call it floods tax—should be reimposed unless all floods are completely controlled and eliminated and this tax should be for that purpose.

*SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN (Ponnani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while taking part in this discussion I would like to draw the attention of the House to the problems in Kerala. Dr. K. L. Rao and other hon. Members have referred to those problems. The problem of Kerala is not flood alone. About 400 kilometres of the coast-line of Kerala have been attacked by sea-erosion. Dr. K. L. Rao referred to the valuable land that is being eaten away by the sea. Similarly, Shri Stephen has spoken about the mineral wealth of the sea shore. Kerala has been confronting this problem all these years but no solution has yet been found to this problem so far.

Now the floods have devastated Kerala. Not only that, Kerala has faced another big problem and that is landslides. As a result of landslides a number of districts which produce cash crops that bring us foreign exchange have been destroyed. Idikki has an important hydro-electric project in our country. Therefore this Idikki District is very important. Similarly, Sir, Wayanad District is also important from the point of view of cash crops that earn foreign exchange for us.

These districts have been badly affected by landslides.

It is not only that valuable cash crops have been damaged but thousands of people have also been affected. They have lost their homes. Six panchayats of Idikki District have been completely wiped out by landslides. About one and a half lakhs of people have been affected. About 50 people have lost their lives in Idikki alone. In Quilon 4 people died and in Cannanore two people have lost their lives and in Kozhikode 12. Many people have sustained injuries.

Sir, Kerala is facing a very serious crisis due to landslides and other natural calamities. The people there are facing great misery. The Government of Kerala has announced only Rs. 1 lakh for a district for relief work. When 1½ lakhs of people are facing difficulty in an important District like Idikki and the State Government have announced only Rs. 1 lakh for relief measures you can imagine that even one rupee will not be available for one man. The State Government has drawn the attention of the Central Government to this matter. I do not want to go into the details, but according to preliminary reports available so far, the total loss estimated is about Rs. 6 crores.

In the matter of food, Sir, Kerala is a deficit State and it has always to look to the aid of the Central Government. Kuttanad is the rice bowl of Kerala. About one lakh acres of paddy fields have been destroyed by floods and crops damaged. Hon. Members who participated in the discussion said that rice is selling at Rs. 3/- a kilogram and they were agitated over it. I have to inform the House that one kilogram of rice is selling at Rs. 7/- in Kerala. At Trivandrum, which is the capital of Kerala, I got one kilogram of rice

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for Rs. 5.25. When the price of rice is Rs. 5.25 a kilogram in Trivandrum you can imagine what the price will be when it reaches Cannanore. Because of the floods one lakh acres of paddy fields of the rice bowl of Kerala have been damaged. The entire crop of paddy has been destroyed. You can imagine what the fate of the people there will be during the days to come.

Sir, Kerala, as I said, is a deficit State. Almost all districts of Kerala are affected by floods and the people are in utter misery. The situation is such that this misery will increase in the near future. The State Government and the Central Government will have to consider this problem very seriously. Then only this situation can be tackled. The aid that the Central Government has announced is only Rs. 1 crore and that too as loan. The State owes Rs. 30 crores to the Central Government by overdrafts. The Central Government has now given only Rs. 1 crore by way of ways and means advance. Is it the way to help the people? You have not given this amount as aid or as assistance to the people; this has been given as a loan of ways and means advance.

Kerala deserves better help from the Central Government especially when our State is bringing foreign exchange to the tune of Rs. 125 crores from cash crops only. It is the responsibility of the Central Government to help the people whose cash crops have been damaged by floods and landslides. You have to give serious consideration to this matter. Cent per cent relief and compensation should be given to the people affected by floods, landslides and sea-erosion and that is to be met wholly by the Centre.

Anti sea-erosion measures will have to be taken on a big way. It was started but not completed. The State Government is not in a position to complete it. Therefore the entire work

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has been stopped. The Central Government has a responsibility to save the State in order to protect the valuable mineral resources.

So far as Kerala is concerned, although it is a small strip of land, there are 44 rivers in that State. During the rainy season there is misery throughout the State because of floods. These rivers if they are properly harnessed they can change the complexion of the State. The Communist Government which came to power in 1957 had prepared a Master Plan to harness these 44 rivers and use these rivers for the progress and prosperity of the State. In 1958 they submitted the scheme before the Central Government. But it has been put in cold storage and dust has accumulated on the files. If that plan had been implemented certainly Kerala could have been saved from the present miserable situation and we would have been in a position to prevent the floods there. I hope the Government would think about it and formulate certain schemes to implement that Master Plan. That is all what I have to submit.

PROF. S. L. SAKSENA (Maharajanj); Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, let me be permitted to quote from the report submitted by Shri G. L. Nanda, Minister of Planning and Irrigation and Power on Flood situation and the flood control programme in the year 1956. This is what he said:—

“The State Government consider that the detention reservoirs may be constructed on the river Rapti at a cost of Rs. 15 crores. Provision of such reservoirs has been made by the State in their proposals for inclusion in the Second Five Year Plan. Thirteen small detention reservoirs on the tributaries of the Rapti are also proposed to be constructed at a total cost of Rs. 4.8 crores. These proposals are under the consideration of the State and the Central Governments.

[Prof. S. L. Sakseha]

"A scheme has also been prepared for the construction of a multi-purpose dam on the Rapti at Jalkundi in Nepal. Besides controlling floods, the reservoir will be able to generate 27,000 k.w. of power and helps to irrigate 4.5 lakhs of acres of land in U.P. and Nepal. According to funds available for flood control work during 1956-57, the probable allocation to U.P. will be Rs. 1.5 crores which will form part of the Second Plan programme. A tentative allocation of funds to the State for flood control schemes in the Second Plan is Rs. 10 crores. Details of the schemes are being worked out."

This was in the year 1956. Since then 28 years have passed. I am sorry to say that not a single measure has been taken up and implemented although it was promised at that time. The result is that we have been seeing the recurring floods in Gorakhpur and Basti Districts. There were droughts and floods. In the month of June and upto 10th of July there was drought this year. Then came the floods the like of which we never had during the last one hundred years. I have been in this constituency for the last forty-five years or so and I can tell you that I have never seen such a devastating flood as this year. I toured this flooded area for ten days during the last month and I found that in many villages people there have lost everything. Flood waters entered their houses and they lost everything they had in them. They lost all their crops completely. Some human lives have also been lost and many cattle have been washed away. I am very sorry to say that none had been alerted. If this had been done, the people would have been prepared. Nobody went to their help. In Gorakhpur we never saw such a situation. Last time, the flood level was the highest 50 years back in 1925 when its level stood at 251.15 feet. But, this time it became 252.52 feet—about 1½ feet higher. Therefore, my request to you is this. My Chief Minister has

asked for Rs. 100 crores from Central Government for flood relief immediately. If the Central Government does not give this money for flood relief immediately to the U.P. Government for help to people affected by floods, there would be starvation deaths. I have seen myself the conditions—miserable conditions—of the people. Unless they are helped at this time, many will die of starvation. I have seen people going without food for days. If this thing continues, there would be large numbers of deaths. You must give them all help. You cannot keep people alive for ever by doling out charity. Utilise their manpower for constructing bunds to save the people from flood ravage and to provide them with work.

The people will have no crops in the next nine months. The rabi crop will come in April next. You must give them work during these 8 months and it will be possible if you start repairing bunds, roads and start raising villages immediately otherwise there will be starvation deaths on large-scale. About 1000 villages have got marooned and there is water all around and these villages have to be raised. They are all very low and water enters in the houses during floods. Unless you raise these villages they will be flooded again and they will again lose their all in addition to crops. Therefore, the most urgent thing is that you must give them work on the repair of bunds, roads and raising of villages immediately. Further, you will have to give them rabi seeds in time for sowing rabi crop. Every year it comes after the sowing season is over.

The cattle are starving. Fodder has to be rushed and forests have to be thrown open for grazing. Something is being done by the District Magistrate who is doing all he can but he has no funds. The U.P. Government has no money to spare for flood relief work. The Chief Minister of U.P. has requested the Central Government for Rs. 100 crores to help him in relieving the flood distress. So, I request the Central Government to give Rs. 100

crores to the U.P. Government to meet this situation. Centre must also take up the Jalkundi scheme immediately which was formulated in 1956, and must construct the reservoirs envisaged on Rapti and its tributaries.

जी चन्द्रिका प्रसाद (बलिया) : 28 बरस के बाद भी हम देश को प्राकृतिक विपदाओं से बचाने का प्रबन्ध नहीं कर सके। बाढ़, कठान, सूखा, प्रतिवृष्टि, अनावृष्टि आदि से देश के बहुत बड़े भूभाग प्रतिवर्ष अर्धकर रूप से प्रभावित होते हैं। कुछ भागों के या प्रदेशों के पिछड़े रह जाने का यह भी एक बहुत बड़ा कारण है। जब तक देश के ये भूभाग पिछड़े रह जाएंगे हम गल्पे के मामले में आत्म निर्भर नहीं बन सकेंगे, जब तक इन विपदाओं ने इन भूभागों को हम बचाने की व्यवस्था नहीं करेंगे, आत्म निर्भरता के अपने लक्ष्य को हम प्राप्त नहीं कर सकेंगे। इसका एक मात्र उपाय के अपने लक्ष्य को हम प्राप्त यह है कि यह विषय सेंटर का होना चाहिये, राज्य सरकारों का नहीं। राज्य सरकारों के पास टेनीकल नो हूड नहीं है, पैसा नहीं है, इस समस्या का मुकालला करने की क्षमता नहीं है। आप देखें कि गंगा नदी या कोई भी दूसरी नदी देश के कितने ही भागों में हो कर बहती है और हर प्रदेश अपने इलाके को बचाने के लिए अपने ही तरीके से बांध आदि बना लेता है और उससे झगड़े खड़े होते हैं। मिसाल के तौर पर बक्सर कोयलर-बांध बनाया जा रहा है जोकि बलिया जनपद के दाहिने हाथ पर पड़ता है और इसका बलिया पर बहुत ही बुरा असर पड़ने जा रहा है, बलिया डूबने जा रहा है। केन्द्र के हाथ में यह विषय होता तो एक समन्वित योजना वह बनाता और सभी इलाकों के हिस्सों का ध्यान रखता। जो समन्वय होना चाहिये मौजूदा व्यवस्था में वह नहीं हो पा रहा है। इस बास्ते जब तक यह सारा विषय सेंटर का नहीं होगा तब तक ये झगड़े भी चलते रहेंगे और कुछ इलाके बुरा तरह से प्रभावित भी होते रहेंगे और साथ

ही साथ वे पिछड़े हुए भी रह जाएंगे और सारी चीज बिगड़ जाएगी। इस बास्ते इस पर आप विशेष ध्यान दें।

योजना मंत्रालय ने भी इस पर पूरा ध्यान नहीं दिया है। राहत कार्यों पर हर साल काफी पैसा खर्च किया जाता है। तकावी लोन आदि दिए जाते हैं। लेकिन यह समस्या का स्थायी हल नहीं है। हमारे देश में साठ सत्तर प्रतिशत लोग भूमिहीन हैं या एक डेढ़ बीघा के मालिक हैं। अब ऐसे समय में जो तकावी आदि दी जाती है या डिप्यूटिस लोन आदि दिए जाते हैं वे पटवारी लोग सबर्णों के दबाव में आ कर उनको ही दे देते हैं, उन्हीं को पैसा मिल जाता है। दूसरों को भी जो थोड़ा बहुत मिलता है उन्हीं भी उनको कोई विशेष लाभ नहीं होता है। आपको चाहिये था कि इस पर आप गम्भीरता से सोचते और जो राशि आप राहत कार्यों पर खर्च करते हैं उस पैसे से या थोड़ा बहुत किसानों से और लेकर आप उनकी फसलों का, मंशियों का मकानों का बीमा कर दें। इससे उनका काफी राहत मिल सकती थी। यह प्रॉडक्टिव काम होता। इसके लिए आप टैक्स भी लगा सकते थे। और भी किसी तरह से इस काम के लिए अगर आपको पैसा चाहिये था तो वह आपको मिल सकता था, कोई नुकसान वाली बात नहीं है। देश पैसा आपको दे सकता था। अगर देश को आत्म निर्भर बनाना है, तो इस और ध्यान देना पड़ेगा।

उत्तर प्रदेश हमारे देश का सबसे बड़ा प्रवेश है, लेकिन उस के साथ बड़ा अन्याय किया गया है और उस को उन्धे और पिछड़ा रखा गया है। तीन चार विधायता वाले क्षेत्र उस में हैं। उस की आबादी और आकार सब से बड़ा है। बैंकों, फाइनेंस कमीशन और अन्य फिनांस इस्टीमेशन में हमारे प्रदेश का जो पैसा लगा हुआ है, अगर वही हमें उपलब्ध कर दिया गया होता, तो आज हमारी यह स्थिति न होती। सरकार और प्लानिंग कमीशन ने हमारे प्रदेश की ओर ध्यान नहीं दिया है।

श्री बन्धीका प्रसाद (बलिया)

धम में अपने क्षेत्र के सम्बन्ध में कुछ बातें कहना चाहता हूँ। गंगा नदी गायघाट के पास बलिया-बेरिया तटबंध को काट रही थी। अगर यह तटबंध कट जाता, तो पूरा जिला समाप्त हो जाता। स्टेट के इंजीनियरों की राय थी कि इस तटबंध को छोड़ कर एक दूसरा बांध पीछे हट कर बनाया जाये। ३०० के ० एल० राब वहाँ गये थे। उन्होंने कहा कि हम गंगा को यहीं पर रोकेंगे। उन्होंने वहाँ स्थायीस्पर बनाने का सुझाव दिया, जिस से वह तटबंध बच गया है और बलिया जिला सुरक्षित है।

चक्की चांद देरा, चांदपुर, बलवा और महाराजगंज को घाघरा काट रही है। इसके बटने से घाघरा अपना रास्ता बदल देगी, जिस से सम्पूर्ण जिला समाप्त हो जायेगा, विशेषकर दोआबा क्षेत्र घाघरा में विलीन हो जायेगा मैंने इस बारे में श्री पन्त और फ्लड कमीशन को पत्र लिखे, लेकिन आज तक उन्होंने कोई स्कीम नहीं बनाई है। आप का पता होगा कि बलिया शहर तीन बार गंगा में विलीन हो चुका है। यह चौथा बलिया है। यह भी बट रहा था, लेकिन स्थायी स्पर बनाने से वह बच गया है।

मैं कोई इंजीनियर या विशेषज्ञ नहीं हूँ, लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि घाघरा के कटाव को रोकने के लिए स्थायी स्पर बनाये जाने चाहिये। फ्लड कमीशन को इस बारे में जांच करनी चाहिए और एक योजना बनानी चाहिए। बलिया में जो दो फ्लड डिविजन हैं, वे गंगा फ्लड कमीशन पटना की राय से यह योजना बनायें। इस काम पर पैसा जरूर लगेगा, लेकिन जनता पैसा देने के लिए तैयार है। यदि आवश्यक हो, तो फ्लड के लिए टैंक्स लगाया जा सकता है।

त्रिवेदी आयोग के अनुसार बिहार के अस्सी गांव बलिया, ५० पी० में आए हैं।

उन में मुख्य गांव मुआव छपरा, शिवपुर नौरंगा, जम्ही का दिवागा, उमरपुर दिवाशा इत्यादि हैं। इस के आलावा शिवपुर विय पहले से बलिया में है। ये गांव गंगा की मुख्य धारा में पड़ते हैं। बक्सर-कोइलबर बांध के बनने से ये गांव डूब जायेंगे। इन गांवों को बचाने के लिए फ्लड कमीशन ने कोई योजना नहीं बनाई है और इन को भगवान के भरोसे छोड़ दिया गया है।

उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार ने बाढ़ के सम्बन्ध में जो सूचना दी है, उस के अनुसार जुलाई के अन्तिम सप्ताह से ले कर अगस्त के पहले पक्ष में बाढ़ से जो १ जिले प्रभावित हुए, उन में प्रभावित ग्रामों की संख्या लगभग ७ हजार और प्रभावित जनसंख्या लगभग २६ लाख है। लगभग १९ लाख एकड़ क्षेत्रफल प्रभावित हुआ है, जिस में से लगभग १३ लाख एकड़ कृषि क्षेत्रफल था और उस की फसल पूर्णतया नष्ट हो गई है? इस के अतिरिक्त लगभग ६३ हजार मकान क्षतिग्रस्त या ध्वस्त हो चुके हैं।

अन्त में मैं कुछ सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार आर्थिक कठिनाइयों के कारण सरकारी कर्मचारियों को तीन महीने से तन्ख्वाह नहीं दे पाई है। मेरा सुझाव है कि छः सात महीने तक टेस्ट वर्क और क्रेड प्रोग्राम चला कर गरीबों और भूमिहीन मजदूरों को काम दिया जाये, ताकि इस भीषण महंगाई में वे अपनी जीविका चला सकें और उन की परचेजिंग पावर कायम रह सके। जिन लोगों के पास पैसा है, उन के लिए राशन की दुकानें खोली जावें। बच्चों की फ्री माफ़ की जाये। गरीब किसानों को मुफ्त बीज दिये जाये। बी० एम० एफ० रेलवे और मिलिटरी आदि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के कर्मचारियों को तीन महीने की एडवांस तन्ख्वाह दी जाये? इसकी भर्ती बालिगों के लिये खोली जाय।

गंडक कैनल को बलिया में लाकर अप्रैल, मई और जून में पानी दिया जाये। इस प्रकार

जुलाई में फसल कटने पर बाढ़ से कोई वर्षावी नहीं होगी।

श्री बन्धू लाल चन्नाकर (दुर्ग) : समाप्ति महोदय, मध्य प्रदेश से मैं पहला ही सदस्य हूँ, जिसको बोलने का मौका मिला है। इसलिए मैं आशा करता हूँ कि आप मुझे अधिक समय देंगे।

सभापति महोदय : मुझे खेद है। आज यह सदन 7 बजे तक चलेगा। आपके बाद और दो सदस्यों को मौका देना है। इस लिए कृपया आप मेरी मदद करें।

श्री बन्धू लाल चन्नाकर : हमारे देश में कहीं भीषण बाढ़ है और कहीं भयंकर अकाल है। इन दोनों परिस्थितियों का सामना करने के लिए कई वर्षों से योजनाओं पर विचार होता रहा है। एक अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय टीम के आंकड़े हैं कि हमारे देश के 5,67,000 गांवों में से 80,000 गांवों में सिंचाई की व्यवस्था करना लगभग असम्भव है, जब कि शेष गांवों में नहर, लिफ्ट ईरिगेशन, पम्प या ट्यूबवैल से सिंचाई की व्यवस्था हो सकती है।

इस लिए यह आवश्यक है कि तीन किस्म के निगम बनाये जायें। छोटी सिंचाई योजना के लिए छोटी सिंचाई निगम, मध्यम सिंचाई योजनाओं के लिए मध्यम सिंचाई निगम और बड़ी बड़ी सिंचाई योजनाओं के लिए बड़ी सिंचाई निगम बनाये जायें। देश में जितने पब्लिक फिनांशियल इंस्टीट्यूशन हैं, वे सब मे अधिक पैसा सिंचाई योजनाओं में लगाये। मैं तो यहाँ तक सुझाव दंगा कि जो लोग काला धन इन निगमों में लगायें, उनको रीबेट और अन्य सहायित्व दे जायें, ताकि सिंचाई के लिए अधिक से अधिक पैसा आ सके।

उड़ीसा, मध्य प्रदेश, आन्ध्र, महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात आदि जितने धान पैदा करने वाले क्षेत्र हैं, उनमें काफी अकाल है। मध्य प्रदेश

का जो सब से अधिक चावल पैदा करने वाला क्षेत्र है—छत्तीसगढ़, वहाँ इस साल भयंकर अकाल है। वर्षा कुछ दिन पहले हुई है, लेकिन अब चाहे कितनी भी वर्षा हो, वहाँ पचास प्रतिशत से अधिक फसल नहीं हो सकती है। केन्द्रीय सरकार के कृषि मंत्री ने यह मांग की है कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार पचास हजार टन चावल केन्द्र के लिए दे। इस साल मध्य प्रदेश सरकार के पास भी चावल की बहुत कमी है। इसलिए मध्य प्रदेश सरकार से किसी तरह भी चावल मिलना मुश्किल है, बल्कि मैं समझता हूँ कि असम्भव है।

वास्तव में मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने केन्द्र से 30 हजार टन चावल की मांग की है। मेरा अनुरोध है कि केन्द्रीय कृषि मंत्री इस बात की और ध्यान दें और मध्य प्रदेश को अधिक चावल देने की कृपा करें।

कुछ समय पहले केन्द्रीय कृषि मंत्री, श्री शिन्दे, रायपुर गये थे। उन्होंने स्वीकार किया था कि मध्य प्रदेश के छत्तीसगढ़ क्षेत्र में चावल पैदा करने वाले क्षेत्र में, उत्पादन बढ़ाने की बहुत क्षमता है, लेकिन अभी उसको पूरे माधन उपलब्ध नहीं किये गये हैं। वह ऐसा क्षेत्र है, जहाँ कम पैसे से सब से अधिक उत्पादन हो सकता है। इन लिए कृषि मंत्रालय की तरफ से 100 करोड़ रुपये की योजना बनाने की बात तय हुई थी।

केन्द्र की ओर से मध्य प्रदेश के लिए जितनी भी योजनायें बनाई जाती हैं, चाहे वह काप्पर का प्लांट हो और चाहे एलुमिनियम का प्लांट हो, वे सब पहले तो मेरिट और इकॉनॉमिक प्रिंसिपलज के आधार पर स्वीकार कर ली जाती हैं, लेकिन बाद में कुछ अन्य कारणों से वे सब योजनायें वहाँ से हटा ली जाती हैं। मैंने सुना है कि छत्तीसगढ़ के सम्बन्ध में यह सो करोड़ रुपये की योजना भी इसी तरह समाप्त कर दी गई है।

इस वर्ष छत्तीसगढ़ के क्षेत्र में, जिसकी आबादी लगभग सवा करोड़ है, लगभग

[श्री जदू लाल चन्द्राकर]

पचास लाख की आबादी के क्षेत्र अकाल से भयंकर खस से पीड़ित हैं। मैं दावे के साथ कह सकता हूँ कि आज उस क्षेत्र में दस लाख ऐसे परिवार हैं, जिनको दाल, चावल या गेहूँ नहीं मिलता है, और जो पत्ते खा कर गुजारा करते हैं। जो कोदों होता है वह वे खा लेते हैं लेकिन उनको चावल या गेहूँ नहीं मिलता है और उनके पास ऋय शक्ति नहीं है। इसलिए मैं अनुरोध करता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार राहत कार्य के लिए इस इलाके को अधिक से अधिक पैसा दे और इस क्षेत्र में जैसे दुर्ग है, बिलासपुर है, यहाँ इस साल अधिक भयंकर अकाल है, बिलासपुर में तो कई सालों से लगातार अकाल पड़ता रहा है। कुछ वर्षों से और खाम तोर से इस वर्ष बिलासपुर के न जाने कितने लोग—कुछ लोगों का अन्दाज़ है कि 50-60 हजार लोग बाहर और शिवों में काम ढूँढने के लिये चले गये हैं। इस साल मध्य प्रदेश में जितने भी चावल के क्षेत्र हैं वहाँ भयंकर अकाल है और ऐसे समय पर आवश्यक है कि जो वहाँ मिनाई के बड़े बड़े साधन हैं—हमारी बांगी एक बहुत बड़ी मिनाई की योजना है, वह लम्बी नहीं की जा रही है, मेरा निवेदन है कि उसे लागू किया जाय।

यह योजना 77 करोड़ की है। लेकिन इसमें उस इलाके में न केवल बिजली पैदा होगी कम मूल्य पर, बल्कि साढ़े आठ लाख एकड़ में मिनाई भी हो सकती है। इसी तरह से बस्तर में एक बहुत बड़ी योजना है जिसे बोधघाट-योजना कहते हैं। वह योजना जब बनी थी पांच साल पहले तो 37 करोड़ की योजना थी। अब वह मंहगाई के कारण लगभग 110 करोड़ की योजना हो गई है। इस तरह से मिनाई और बिजली के वहाँ अच्छे साधन हैं। 45 प्रतिशत मध्य प्रदेश की बिजली की मांग को बोधघाट योजना पूरा कर सकते हैं।

मेरा निवेदन है कि कुछ ऐसी योजनाओं को अब तत्काल मध्य प्रदेश में चालू नहीं करेंगे

तब तक जब बहुत पिछड़ा हुआ ग्रामीण विकास नहीं कर सकेगा। इसकी निरन्तर उपेक्षा अब तक होती रही है, इसकी हालत अच्छी नहीं हो सकेगी।

एक बात और कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस वर्ष उस क्षेत्र में कम वर्षा हुई है। लेकिन उनके बाद थोड़ी बहुत जो फसल बोने का प्रयत्न किया जा रहा है तो उनमें कीड़े अर्थात् से लग रहे हैं। उनके लिए कीटनाशक औषधियाँ मध्य प्रदेश सरकार की ओर से मांगी गई हैं। लेकिन उनकी व्यवस्था नहीं हो पाई है। मैं अनुरोध करता हूँ कि केन्द्रीय सरकार से कि वह कीटनाशक औषधियों की व्यवस्था करे।

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to say something on the alarming situation, especially the scarcity conditions, about which there is the Government report, which we have also received. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the scarcity conditions due to drought. The result is, ultimately, starvation conditions are emerging. This is Government report. But, according to my own report, from my own source, starvation deaths have already started. I need not give a detailed picture about that. But, with maximum and terrible type of floods in northern Orissa side by side with drought conditions in the southern District of Orissa, the situation has become quite alarming. The Prime Minister has been apprised of the situation by the Chief Minister of Orissa. Therefore, I want that the hon. Minister should realise this aspect while thinking of any help or financial assistance for the State. Now, the question is, out of 15 districts, 13 districts have been affected. With regard to this drought situation and scarcity conditions, I have to make one suggestion.

Now, there is a reversal in Orissa Government's food policy. This has come out in today's *Patriot*, the Cabinet has taken a decision. I want that

the Central Government should intervene and see that procurement is not allowed to private agencies about which a decision has been taken yesterday. This should be put an end to and the policy which is going to be followed should be reversed; at least, the old policy should continue. Now, the hoarders who are taking advantage of these scarcity conditions, these rich kulaks and big landlords, they have all combined today and are taking the help of bureaucrats as well as police.

Wherever there is dehoarding campaign, they have started cases against them and indiscriminately started arresting them, as happened in Ganjam district. We should not allow a single person to die of starvation. That is possible only if the Centre gives proper assistance. As per the old prescription of the sixth Finance Commission, we are to get only Rs. 1.5 crores from the Centre and the State will have to give Rs. 1.5 crores. But the conditions are so alarming that we require a minimum of Rs. 20 crores. That is what the State Government has demanded to save the starving people. Now even starvation deaths have started.

At least some multipurpose irrigation projects which has been promised long ago like Rengali project and Bhimkund project should be taken up and completed. For the last 17 years, in Ganjam district several projects have been taken up but the full money is not forthcoming and they are being postponed. These spill-over project have to be given preference and full amount should be allotted for completing them, so that the poorlandless people who are going to face death can be saved by giving them employment.

*SHRI M. M. JOSEPH (Peermade):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, India has always been facing two problems—floods and drought. However much science has progressed so far we have not been able to prevent floods or drought. It is really unfortunate. This is a very

very serious situation. Many States in our country are faced with floods and drought simultaneously. In Kerala, especially, we are faced with annual floods. This year we have been faced with heavy floods. My hon. friend Shri Krishnan has dealt with it.

Sir, Kerala is a very beautiful State. The entire complexion of the State has changed due to floods and landslides. Paddy fields have been completely damaged and submerged in water. The coastal area has been washed away by the sea. So far as Idikki is concerned there is no sign of such constituency. Things have changed very much in that area. Two months ago the hon. Minister Shri Pant visited Idikki and he was very much attracted by the beauty of nature there. Today if he goes there, Sir, he will be moved to tears seeing the miserable condition of the people of that area. Landslides and floods have taken the lives of many people there. Cash crops have been destroyed. Our State earns Rs. 125 crores of foreign exchange from cash crops. Today the position is much that the entire cash crops have been damaged.

I have read in the papers that Shri Pant is in favour of giving assistance for replanting the cash crops. Assistance should be given for replanting the cash crops. Short term and long-term measures will have to be taken to help the people. The Central Government has given only Rs. 1 crore and that too by way of ways and means advance. Our State is deficit in food. 80 per cent of the paddy fields of Kuttanad has been affected by floods. Therefore the Central Government should take special care to see that foodgrains are rushed to Kerala. Unless and until the Central Government gives financial assistance to Kerala the misery of the people there will increase.

Sir, we have been treated in a bad way. The figures show that in 1967-68 out of the total allotment of Rs. 8,000 lakhs Kerala got only Rs. 9 lakhs and in 1971-72 out of a total allotment of

[Shri M. M. Joseph]

Rs. 21,000 lakhs Kerala got only Rs. 125 lakhs. This shows that the Central Government has given us a stepmotherly treatment. Vellathuval and Mannankadham in Idikki area have been destroyed. The people in that area will have to be rehabilitated. For constructing buildings for them and for replanting cash crops the Central Government will have to give massive aids. So far as the State Government is concerned it has become bankrupt. The annual Plan outlay has been reduced from Rs. 73 crores to Rs. 53 crores. So they are

not in a position to give any sort of relief to the people who have suffered due to floods and landslides. Therefore, Sir, we expect that massive central aids will be forthcoming. If we do not get it our position will be very very bad.

19.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Monday,
August 26, 1974/Bhadra 5,
1896 (Saka).*