

deaf ear to the complaints made by them. Farmers are in great distress. Representatives are unable to reach their areas. For the last four months, payment of crores of rupees has been held up. Farmers of Meerut division depend on sugarcane for their livelihood. Through you, I would like to ask the reasons for holding up of payment for the last four months and since it has been held up in such huge amount, the areas should be paid with interest thereon. Uttar Pradesh is a sugarcane producing State and this is a serious problem because in absence of the payment how will the small farmers survive? It is my request to the Government that it should immediately issue directions for early payment with due interest thereon.

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): Mr. Speaker, Sir, FCI has not made any payment for sugarcane. It is creating great difficulty. You should direct the Central Minister to issue directions to make early payment. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMSAGAR (Barabanki): Mr. Speaker, Sir, inspired by the feeling of vengeance the Uttar Pradesh Government is hatching a conspiracy to do harm to the life and property of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, former Chief Minister and a State President of the Samajvadi Janata Party. Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all the Government of that State has withdrawn the security licence provided to his family and then his real brother was taken to civil police station on 26th April and they wanted to kill him.... (*Interruptions*) but, Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the local people came to know about it, nearly two thousand people gathered around the police station and saved him. (*Interruptions*)....

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH: When they kill people, the police will investigate the matter and arrest them and for that purpose matters are raised in the Lok Sabha. This matter had already been discussed in the Legislative Assembly and the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly had given his ruling and on the basis of that, action is being taken. Will all these matters be raised in the Lok Sabha? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMSAGAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to request that the matter of his security had already been raised here in the House and today his entire family is insecure. If the Central Government had not intervened, then he might not have been saved. I would like to make a demand that Government should own the full responsibility for his security as the State Government wants to do harm to his family under a conspiracy. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): In this connection, the hon. Home Minister, Shri S.B. Chavan has assured the House that proper protection will be given to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. That was an assurance given to this House.

Now the hon. Member has raised the point that his life is in danger and he is being victimised by the State Government. I would like to know from the Government of India, whether the life of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav will be protected and he will be given the security?

[*Translation*]

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, during the last few days many hon. Members made a demand for allocation of funds for the drought relief work to meet the severe drought situation in Maharashtra. But it is regretted that far from giving funds for drought relief, no central team has been sent there and the drought situation in Maharashtra especially in Marathwada and Vidharbha regions has assumed alarming proportion as also there is the problem of drinking water. Du to scanty rainfall during the last monsoon season, the underground water level has gone down and in Vidharbha region especially in 3 districts Bhandra, Chandrapur and Garhchirosi all wells and ponds have dried. In these districts, the need for water is 40 litres per person but with great difficulty only 3 or 4 litres of water is being made available. There are many villages where no arrangement of

drinking water has been made by the State administration as a result of which a crisis has developed'. Although the State Government has arranged for tankers at a few places, but that is not adequate. I, therefore, would like to request you to make an allocation of Rs. 10 crore for provision of drinking water.

Secondly, in 1972 at the time of the drought about 3 lakh people were given work, but today from the figures that are available, I can tell you about three districts that in Bhandara only 55,000 workers have been provided jobs and in Chandrapur 19,000 workers have been provided jobs and in Garhchiroli 3385 workers have been given work. Similarly, there is problem of drinking water also. Through you, I would like to state that the other day many members here described the drought situation in Maharashtra as grins. Keeping this in view, they made a demand for immediate allocation of funds. The hon. Minister gave an assurance but till now no team has gone there to assess the situation. I, therefore, request you that a central team should be sent there as soon as possible and before that on ad-hoc basis, the Government of Maharashtra should make arrangements for starting relief work there and necessary funds for providing drinking water should be made available.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Just now what the hon. Member said about the drought condition in Maharashtra is true. There is a very terrible and dreadful drought over there, after 72 years this kind of a drought has hit Maharashtra. Despite this grave situation, till now the centre has not provided any funds or started any relief work. The problem of drinking water is gravest in Vidarbha and Marathwada regions. That is why it is essential to open relief camps. Through you, I demand from the Government that it should take a decision as soon as possible and start relief work. It would be better for the hon. Minister to say something in the House about it because the situation is very alarming in Vedarbha, Marathawada and North Maharashtra, where ever you go, the situation is very terrible. Thousands of villages have

been hit by the drought.

[English]

SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH (Uluberia): Allow me to state that these nine States are suffering but there is no response from the Government.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KAPSE: The Government should respond, a statement should come and the Prime Minister should go there.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question which the hon. Members have raised here is very serious. The situation is bad not only in Maharashtra but there is a scarcity of drinking water in seven states. Unfortunately, meteorologists have made forecast that the next monsoon is not going to be very favourable for us. It may happen that in the next one or two months, people may begin to die of thirst because there is acute shortage of water which may cause spread of epidemics. Therefore, it is necessary to make some emergency plan to meet the situation. The question is not only of making a statement, if the situation is so grim in the month of May, then what will happen by the time June comes. No purpose will be served merely by arising the question here. The government should immediately direct specialists to make some emergency plan. It is not possible for the Government to give 10 crore rupees to each district but one such plan must be made to augment drinking water and attention should be given to prevent water borne diseases. This is a serious problem for the entire country. It can put the nation in a great jeopardy.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I gave you a notice to permit me to make a statement on this subject.

MR. SPEAKER: Sir, your 377 notice will be taken up after this.

SHRI CHANDRAJIT YADAV: You have

not accepted that but today I am going out of Delhi and that is why I would like to make a submission in a minute or so. I think that our hon. Members from Maharashtra have been continuously raising this question for the last two three weeks. Apart from Maharashtra such a situation prevails in Gujarat, Rajasthan Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and in some parts of Bihar, U.P. and Madhya Pradesh. In all these states this situation is assuming serious proportion towards which I would like to draw the attention of the House and the Government and I would like to say that as per our information stock of wheat is not adequate in our godowns. There is a shortage of wheat. The efforts are not being made for procurement of wheat in a way complete confusion has been created that who shall do it, how will it be done. There is coordination between the Central Government and State Governments. If you have seen the editorial of today's 'Times of India' which have dwelt on this subject. It has given a word of caution that if the Government of India does not take immediate steps to meet this national crisis, a serious situation will develop in the country. Starvation deaths may occur and animals are dying due to shortage of fodder the budget allocation for rural development has been reduced. The situation will go out of hand of the Government if timely action is not taken. The Central Government should call a meeting of the Chief Ministers of States and should make available adequate funds and what can be done should be done immediately.

The distribution of foodgrains under public distribution system has also been restricted to limited number of blocks, whereas prices of essential commodities are soaring high and getting beyond the reach of the people. Therefore, you please also give necessary directions to take immediate measures by treating this as a national problem.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR SAWANT (Rajapur): Sir, the situation of drought has been declared in some Districts in Maharashtra. But, in this,

two Districts-Ratnagiri and Sindhu Durg, where severe drought-condition exists today-have been left out. The reason for leaving these two Districts out is the norm followed for leaving these two Districts out is the norm followed for declaring the drought condition. I raised this issue in this House at least eight times saying that the anawari condition which is applied to declare the drought-condition is totally faulty. I would like to say that in these two Districts, drought-condition can never be declared even if the drought-condition really exists. That is why I request the Central Government to send a team immediately to assess the condition there.

Sir, I have gone there recently. I apprised the Chief Minister of the situation and requested him to declare these two Districts also as drought-affected and to take up the work in these two Districts.

SHRI ANNE JOSHI(Btne): I full endorse the views expressed by the hon. Members in regard to drought situation in Maharashtra. However, I would like to add one or two points more to it. First of all, I would like to submit that it is the severest drought Maharashtra has ever witnessed in the past. It has affected a large part of the State and the number of people affected by this drought is also very large. Therefore, the Central Government should extend some help to the State Government to provide work to the people. Secondly, during the course of discussion on the subject last week, the hon. Minister of Agriculture assured us that a Central team would visit the State to assess the situation. I, therefore, request that a Central of an expert team should be sent at once. Before the submission of report by the proposed team, some amount should be given to the State on *ad hoc* basis. This will help the State in solving the problem to some extent.

[English]

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): Mr. Speaker, Sir, You also come

from Maharashtra and I hope you realise the situation which is prevailing in different parts of the State. You will appreciate the problem which is prevailing there and the last few weeks have given an opportunity to raise this matter on the floor of the House. But it is very unfortunate that after repeatedly raising this matter on the floor of the House, the Government has not responded in a manner it should respond.

Sir, the drought situation in Maharashtra is so serious that it concerns the life and death of the people in the far-flung villages. The Government of Maharashtra has estimated that an amount of Rs.834 crores would have to be spent to meet this drought situation. But the Central Government has, upto now, given only an assistance of Rs.33 crores. Rs.500 crores have already been spent by 31st March. Much more amount is required to be spent in the coming days. So, keeping the seriousness of the situation in view, I request you that you may kindly direct the Government that a team should immediately be sent to Maharashtra to assess the situation and to give financial assistance and not to entangle the whole problem into rules and procedures laid down by the Finance Commission. As I said earlier, this is a matter of life and death and it should be looked into accordingly.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:Mr. Speaker, Sir, we had raised this issue on the 27th and the Hon. Minister had also replied. He left the House saying only that according to the report of the Ninth Finance Commission we provide help in four instalments and we have given the first instalment. But I think this matter is not limited to Maharashtra only. I have visited Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Gorakhpur and Sidharthnagar. That area has also been affected from drought. Nobody knows how usefull and serious will be the affect of drought this time. Thousands of cattle heads have lost their lives. Loss of human life is also being reported. There are long queues of people for getting petrol and

diesel. No arrangement has been made for supplying drinking water. On that day I said that human beings at least can make some arrangements for drinking water for their own use but animal are helpless, they must be provided drinking water. No arrangement has been made for them in this regard. On that day when the Hon. Minister was making a reference to the Ninth Finance Commission, I said that it was just a formality observed by the Government. I would like to urge upon the Government to do it immediately and provide more help to those states which are reeling under severe drought situation. Shri Arjun Singh and Shri Azad are sitting here, the Government should show more concern in this regard.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): I share the anxiety of the hon. Members and I shall bring this to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister today immediately after I go from here. And I am sure the Government is as concerned as anybody else to give relief and help to people who are suffering under drought situation-of course, that relief will have to be under certain parameter. But when the tragedy is so large and the ambit of this situation is so great, I am sure, it will have to be in that context also.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North West): Sir, I bring through you the attention of the Government to a very disquieting news which has appeared in the press today. India has applied for a soft currency interest free loan or long-term repayment from the Asian Development Bank. China also has made such application. It appears from the press that Japan and also Canada have got sympathetic support for India. But the United States is opposing the grant of soft currency interest loan to India an long-term payment. While Pakistan has been granted fifty percent of the assistance in soft currency long-term development loan, India's application is being opposed by US even though some of the members are in favour of India. This is a very serious move