

13.26 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—  
*Contd.*

**Casualties from the excessive floods  
in the Wardha river in Maharashtra  
and in the Upper Indravathi river in  
Orissa**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): According to the reports received from Government of Maharashtra, there were excessive rains in the catchment of the Wardha river falling in the districts of Betul and Chindwara in Madhya Pradesh and also heavy rains in Nagpur and Wardha districts of Maharashtra. The rainfall in Betul was 400 mm in 24 hours upto the morning of 30th July, 1991. Rainfall in the Narkheda tehsil of Nagpur district was 350 mm in the 24 hours. This resulted in excessive floods in the Wardha river on the night of 29th July, 1991. The flood waters entered the town of Mohad situated on the banks of Wardha river near the confluence of its tributary, Kolar. The village protection embankment constructed for the village along the banks of the Wardha river gave way and flood waters rushed into the village by 4.30 early in the morning on 30th July, 1991.

Because of the excessive rains in the region the road communication has been disrupted. Establishing immediate contacts with the villages has become difficult. The preliminary reports received from Mohad and other 4 affected villages of the Narkheda tehsil of District Nagpur (namely, Jalalkheda, Khairgaon, Bhugaon and Madana) indicate the number of missing or dead persons to be about 119 in Nagpur district. In addition, in Amaravati District, 21 persons are reported to be missing or dead from the 22 villages which have been affected by the floods. About 5000 houses are

reported to have collapsed by the impact of the floods and about 750 cattle heads are also reported to have been washed away.

There have been some reports in the press that the Tank at Nakthan on the tributary of Wardha river has breached. But, the Irrigation Department of Maharashtra has confirmed that the Minor Dam at Nakthan is intact and has not added to the rush of waters that affected the Mohad village.

The District Collectors and other Senior Officers of the Government of Maharashtra have reached the affected areas and have started immediate relief operations. Army has been called in for rescuing the marooned population of Mohad Town and they have commenced their work.

According to the reports received from the Orissa State Government, due to heavy rainfall of about 900 mm in catchment area of the River Indravathi, there have been heavy floods in the river. The Upper Indravathi Project located in the district Kalahandi is under construction. The Cofferdam built for protecting the construction worksite was over topped due to which waters rushed into the headrace tunnel under construction for the power house.

In the tunnel, work was being carried out by about 27 workers, according to the preliminary report of the additional District Magistrate. The District authorities immediately started rescue operations on the 29th July and 7 dead bodies of the workers are reported to have been recovered by 30th July, 1991. The Minister of State, PWD and the State Engineer-in-Chief have gone to the site on 30th July, 1991 and are organising rescue and relief operations.

**SHRI RAM NAIK** (Bombay-North): Mr. Speaker, Sir, in the morning you have said that we can have a Calling Attention Motion. We should have a separate Calling Attention Motion on the flood situation in Maharashtra.

**MR. SPEAKER:** In the Calling Attention only four Members can ask clarifications. We are having a discussion on the drought and flood situation under rule 193 and when we are discussing under rule 193, many Members can speak.

Now, the House stands adjourned for Lunch to meet at 2.30 p.m. today.

**13.31 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Thirty minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

**14.35 hrs.**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirty five minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

[**SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA** in the Chair]

**GENERAL BUDGET, 1991-92—  
GENERAL DISCUSSION—Contd.**

[*English*]

**MR. CHAIRMAN:** Now the House will take up further discussion on the General Budget. Shri Sukh Ram to continue.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI SUKH RAM** (Mandi): Madam Chairman, yesterday I had referred to the Public Sector in my speech and later on Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee delivered a long and exhaustive speech on the subject, which lasted for more than one hour. He seems to be an academician and Shri Manmohan Singh will reply to the views

he had expressed regarding the public and Private sectors. I would like to say only this much that so far about 99 lakh crore Rupees have been invested in the Public sector and the income it contributes towards the Public exchequer is Rupees 2,502 crore. The Government on its part patronised the Public Sector and provided it with all incentives to forge ahead and the Public Sector too played a vital role in increasing the productivity and in taking the country forward. However, today the need of the hour is to make the Public Sector more efficient and the proposal to offload an equity of Rupees 2,500 crore should be viewed as an endeavour to bring about more efficiency in the Public Sector, rather than an attempt to do away with the Public sector. Therefore, I wholeheartedly support the proposals made by the hon. Minister of Finance in this regard. Now, somebody mentioned here that this Government doesn't protect the interests of the workers. The Government took over about 102 sick textile units and formed the National Textiles Corporation (N.T.C.) to protect the interests of the workers and the Government is operating these units, unmindful of the fact that even today these units are suffering heavy losses. Therefore, it is wrong to say that the Government is not concerned about the interests of the workers. It was also mentioned here that the hon. Minister of Finance made a reference to the Congress election manifesto, during the course of his Budget speech. I would like to remind here that the hon. Minister of Finance belongs to the Congress Party and for us the Manifesto is of great significance. Our approach is different from that of the Bhartiya Janata Party, which preaches something in its manifesto and practices something else. In their last election Manifesto, the Bharatiya Janata Party had stated that it stood for the implementation of the recommendations of the Mandal Commission. Now, the B.J.P. Government in Himachal Pradesh is not opposed to the recommendations made by the Mandal Commission, but at the national level, the party has approached the Supreme