

[Shri R. Jeevarathinam]

years during our Freedom Struggle. You may wonder why I am referring to this. Today, the General Budget of Central Government led by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, is waging a war against poverty. I am happy to join today this QUIT POVERTY MOVEMENT being led by the grandson of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who got us political independence and whose grandson is getting us economic independence.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Jeevarathinam, you may continue tomorrow.

18.00 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Twenty-first Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) I beg to present the Twenty-first report of the Business Advisory Committee.

RE HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) I submit that if the House agrees, we may postpone the Half-an-Hour discussion to some other convenient date.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I hope the House agrees to postpone this.

MANY HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Discussion on this is postponed to some other date.

18.01 hrs.

**DISCUSSION RE : SITUATION ARISING
OUT OF DROUGHT AND OTHER
NATURAL CALAMITIES IN
VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY—CONTD**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the

situation arising out of drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country.

Shri Makwana.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, last Thursday, the discussion on drought and natural calamities Continued from about 6 P.M. upto 10.30 P.M. and the debate went on for nearly four and a half hours. It was postponed to be replied today only because there were no Members. Hardly, there were ten and they too from this side. We wanted that the Members should be present to hear the reply to all the points which they had raised. Unfortunately, it has become a tradition in this House as also the other House that after speaking the Members leave the House.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : I beg your pardon. It is not the tradition. You can say that some Members are in the habit of leaving after speaking, but you cannot generalise.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Where is the mover and the first speaker after him ? You are unnecessarily agitated.

The mover, Shri Janga Reddy, raised a number of points particularly about Andhra Pradesh, but he is not here now. I wanted to tell him what the Government has done for Andhra Pradesh and other States which are suffering from droughts etc.

However, let me begin by what the Finance Commission has said. The Finance Commission has mentioned in its report :

“The financing of relief expenditure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments and has been accepted as almost axiomatic by earlier Commissions. Notwithstanding this, successive Finance Commissions have been recommending schemes of Central assistance for meeting relief expenditure.”

They obviously realised that on occasions the magnitude of expenditure required to be

incurred may well be beyond the means of the State Government.

This is the reason why the Finance Commission has asked the Government of India to help the State Governments in their hour of crisis. The Government of India is very much concerned about it.

We want that there should be no floods, no droughts, and no natural calamities in this country, but it is beyond the human capacity. Nature can be happy sometimes, nature can be angry also sometimes and when it becomes angry, we have to face the natural calamities and we have to find ways and means to meet the challenges of nature. We have to devise methods and create situations so that if there is a natural calamity, the effect would be less. This has been the attitude of the Government of India. Right from the beginning, the Government of India has always tried to see that the effects of the natural calamities are reduced and minimised so that the sufferings, particularly of the poor people, are reduced. Whenever there are droughts, floods or other natural calamities, the sufferers are the poor people, not the rich people, and their sufferings should be minimised. That is the intention of the Government of India. A number of programmes have been devised by the Government of India for this purpose.

The Government of India, in order to reduce the intensity of drought and to eliminate it completely from affecting the poor people, has devised a number of schemes like the Drought-Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Soil and Water Conservation Programme, Dryland Farming, Crop Insurance, Afforestation, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, ARWSP, MNP, IDP, Small and Marginal Farmers Assistance Programme, Development of Drought Resistant Varieties of Seeds, etc. A good allocation is also made for all these schemes. In spite of all this, guidelines are also issued to the State Governments from time to time and we impress upon the State Governments that whenever money is given by the Central Government, the State

Governments should undertake long term measures and they should be of such a nature that they prove to be preventive measures for drought and other calamities.

The Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi also stressed the same in his correspondence to the State Governments through the Ministry of Agriculture and I would like to quote from his letter dated 14 August 1985:

“The whole idea of assistance for drought was create capital assets which would reduce substantially if not eliminate, the vulnerability of population to the ill effects of drought. If we have not succeeded in our objective it is not time to examine closely the kinds of projects on which money given for drought assistance is spent? Unless we have a well-thought out programme in which small scale and medium irrigation projects, structures for facilitating dryland farming such as tanks, bunds, water harvesting, water conservation devices are integrated, we shall go on spending colossal amounts of money without any tangible returns.”

This is what the Prime Minister has observed and this is what we are impressing upon the State Governments. But instead of that, the State Governments are constructing roads and as soon as the monsoon set in, the roads will vanish.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN
(Barmer) : No, Sir.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have visited many States and this is the attitude of the State Governments. They are not creating permanent assets which can help them to eliminate the effects of drought.

During the regime of late Prime Minister Indiraji, she also issued a 12 Point Programme for drought management. The first point of this 12-Point Programme, on which she laid a great emphasis was that districts likely to be most seriously affected by scarcity of food, employment and drink-

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

ing water should be identified and full-time Relief Officers should be appointed immediately to assist the district officers. The district and relief officers should be handpicked and proven for their devotion to work and the and to the cause of the suffering poor. She also stressed that adequate incentives might be given to them and the relief operations should involve all the departments. In spite of these instructions and the correspondence from the Ministry of Agriculture, in spite of a number of conferences in which we also emphasised about the relief officers, a number of States have not appointed the relief officers. They create temporary structures and as soon as the year is over, they scrap them and again the same thing is repeated.

So Sir, what we wanted to convey through you to the hon. members of the House and to the State Governments is that permanent action should be taken in this matter.

Now I would like to quote some figures which are with me here. So far as the minimum needs programme is concerned, it is meant specially for providing drinking water to the villages. There is another programme called accelerated rural water supply programme. Now, both these programmes are for providing drinking water facilities to the villages.

In this programme (MNP), when I look to the statement given by my office, I see that there is a substantial decline in the allocation by the State Governments, that is, in the Minimum Needs Programme which they have to implement from their funds. There is a substantial decrease in the allocation, and expenditure also, whereas the amount which we have given is also not sufficiently spent.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour): Do you give only a matching grant?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Let me complete; and if anything remains, you can ask me questions later.

The allocation by State Governments is decreasing day by day: In Andhra Pradesh it was ..(Interruptions) Let me tell you in percentage terms, instead of reading these figures: Andhra Pradesh has reduced by 61% i.e. the expenditure on the Minimum Needs Programme. Gujarat and Bihar by 53%. Everywhere there is a reduction. (Interruptions) It is one and the same. You have to provide drinking water to the villagers. And the Minimum Needs Programme is for creating drinking water facilities.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH): The combination of the two should be in the ratio of 2 : 1. If Rs. 2 are provided by State Governments, the Centre is to provide Re. 1/-. But here, what my hon. colleague is trying to emphasize is that the State Governments are deliberately reducing the allocations under MNP which is a direct approach to reduce the impact of drought in these villages. That is the thrust, viz. that the State Governments ..

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Who reduced it first? You reduce it first; then we reduce.

S. BUTA SINGH: Why should I reduce it? You produce Rs. 2; then I will give you Re. 1. Why should I reduce it? Try to understand the formula. In certain cases we have gone beyond the norm. We have given even on a 50 : 50 basis. In certain cases we have given more. We are not here to win points. What my colleague is trying to emphasize in his approach is that the States should be asked not to reduce the Minimum Needs Programme allocations, because this is at the core of alleviating poverty and decreasing the impact of drought.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: rose.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Let the Minister reply. Then you can ask. I do not want any discussion now.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: There is a flood control programme. It is

done annually. Here are the figures for MNP Production. It is in crores. In Andhra Pradesh for 1980-81 it was Rs. 11.35 crores; then it came to Rs. 13.19 crores, then Rs. 16.49 crores and then to Rs. 27.33 crores. Then again it comes down to Rs. 17 crores. (*Interruptions*) I am talking about MNP.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : *rose.*

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I do not yield. If you need any clarification, you can ask later. You raise it later. Hear me first. (*Interruptions*) I am giving the figures : In Andhra Pradesh, for the Minimum Needs Programme that is for drinking water, it was Rs. 27.73 crores in 1983-84; then it is reduced to Rs. 17.60 crores, and then again reduced to Rs. 17 crores in 1985-86. Same is the case with Karnataka : Rs. 37.36 crores, reduced to Rs. 21.72 crores, and then reduced to Rs. 19.52 crores. Rajasthan Rs. 18.81 crores, then reduced to Rs. 10.95 crores, and then increased again to Rs. 19.47 crores. For Madhya Pradesh, it was Rs. 25.65 crores; it was reduced to Rs. 21 crores. Then again they had increased it. So, like that, U.P. also reduced and increased it. But this is the trend.

Now, so far as flood control programme is concerned, the allocation in the central sector is the Sixth Plan outlay was Rs. 175 crores out of the total Rs. 1045.10 crores; in all; and in the State sector, it was Rs. 827.40 crores. If you look to the expenditure side of the Sixth Plan you will find that it is Rs. 559.89 crores. So, there is much deduction. In other words, whereas in the case of Central Government, expenditure is, Rs 162.83 crores against provision of Rs. 175.00 crores, in the case of States it is Rs. 559.89 crores against Provision of Rs. 827.40 crores. In the Seventh Plan, the allocation for States is Rs. 726.38 crores; and for 1985-86, it is Rs. 109.71 crores. There are also instances of diversion of funds. They diverted fund from MNP to other areas, which are not connected with the drinking water. So, Madhya Pradesh has also diverted fund. Rajasthan has also diverted fund.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : If you make a road, it serves two purposes. Not only the *bandh* is there, but you do afforestation also. So, all that money comes out of the flood. Is it diversion ?

S. BUTA SINGH : There is always a justification for what you want to do. But the ear-marked money has to be spent on the specific job. If you do not spend it, then you have the flood or have the drought. Either you have the industry or the flood. The choice is left with the State.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : In one State, we suggested more allocation for flood, but the allocation was even less than Rs. 1 crore. There was flood and we had to give more than what we had suggested earlier. So, this is the difficulty with the State Government. We understand their resource constraint, but that does not mean the vital area should be left out for allocation; for want of money, it should not suffer. That is the main point which I wanted to make before the hon. member through you.

Let me explain to the points raised by the hon. member, Shri Janga Reddy. He made 4-5 points. (1) Inadequate relief assistance. (2) Ideological difference. What he says is that it is because of the ideological difference that the Government of India is not giving help; that is not correct; it is absolutely baseless and I flatly deny it because the Government of India never consider any ideology in this when people are suffering, when they are in difficulty. I myself contacted the Jammu and Kashmir Government when their memorandum was not here. My senior colleague contacted to Karnataka Government and we managed drinking water for Tamil Nadu. We requested the Chief Minister of Karnataka to please provide drinking water. I went to Bangalore and met the Chief Minister and told him if he wanted help to give me a memorandum. But he said that they had sufficient margin money and they did not need money. So, we do not consider whether there is a government of the opposition or the Con-

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

gress I in a particular state; that is not the criterion; the criterion is to help the poor people, suffering people and to minimise the effect of drought or natural calamities. That is the attitude of the Government of India.

The Prime Minister is very positive on this aspect. He has given us clear cut instructions that no politics should be brought in whenever there is a question of natural calamity. In spite of that, wild allegations are made by the Members of the Telugu Desam which are unfortunate and un-called for also. But they are in the habit of making them. What can we do? Then he mentioned, 'Policy regarding immediate relief for various types of calamities' ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : How much has been given ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : He also mentioned, 'National level machinery for relief works, increase of irrigation facilities, ...*(Interruption)*

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : What is the percentage ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : and also about 'Modification of Famine Code'.

The States have developed a tendency to inflate their demands. Particularly, for example, Andhra Pradesh asked for Rs. 1,000 crores of Central Assistance for drought in 1985-86 against the Annual Plan Outlay of Rs. 810 crores. Their Annual Plan Outlay is Rs. 810 crores and they want Rs. 1,000 crores. Central Assistance is given as per the recommendation of the Eighth Finance Commission and the norms fixed for different items under drought and flood. The items to be covered by the Central Assistance under different calamities are well defined. The irrigation facilities have been increased from 22.7 million hectares in 1950-51 to 62.9 million hectares in 1984-85. During the Seventh Plan period it is proposed to increase to 75

million hectares. About Rs. 10,899 crores is the estimated investment during the Sixth Five Year Plan period. In addition, Rs: 3.5 lakhs was sanctioned for minor irrigation to small and marginal farmers in each block of the country during 1983-84.

There is a component of mini kit also in this. There is a component for growing of fruits and fuel trees in this. Very few States have utilised these amount fully.

Then, my friend was talking about the Famine Code. Famine Code, which normally is known as Relief Manual has been up-dated by some of the States as per the guidelines issued by this Ministry. The remaining States are in the process of updating. We issued them guidelines, we have issued them model manuals also, and now we are planning to prepare Model Memorandum for drought, flood, etc. as decided in the Revenue Ministers' Conference, which we called here. After that we decided to circulate them the model memorandum, so that there will not be any difficulty on the part of the State Government to send correct memorandum because, most of them do not know about the norms, basis, etc. Sometime they ask for money for things which they are not entitled to and they do not ask for items which they are entitled to. Therefore difficulty was expressed in the Revenue Ministers Conference and we have appointed a working group to prepare a model memorandum for drought and for circulating it to the State Governments.

There is another thing also. We took another decision also in the same Conference to appoint another working group on communication during disaster. Then there is a facility of INSAT-I B which is providing us useful information and it provides it well in advance.

In the case of the Tamil Nadu cyclone, I myself and my officers were on telephone, I was on the telephone and wanted to speak to the Chief Minister, but I was told that he was sleeping, at 9 p.m. And his P.A. said, "I am his P.A. You can talk to me. My Chief Minister cannot be disturbed." I

told the P.A. to the Chief Minister that this is a question of cyclone and you must inform the lower formations, and therefore, I want to talk to your Chief Minister." Then I talked to my officers and asked them to tell the State Government that they should pass on instructions to the Collectors of the concerned districts so that they can take action. So, this is the attitude of the Central Government. My senior colleague went to Karnataka, I went to a number of States and we met the Chief Ministers, the MLAs and MPs, met some farmers also and we moved in the field. We verified whether they were being paid the money meant for them. So, all these actions were taken by the Government of India. In spite of that there are allegations and these allegations are to be replied here.

Shri Ajay Mushran, my friend from Madhya Pradesh, made two points. One is 'Minimum amount to be given to the States for natural calamities on a long term basis', and the second is, "Setting up of a corporation/organisation in the Agriculture Ministry for State subsidy on agricultural inputs." So far as these suggestions are concerned, there is a system of margin money which is available with each State in each year. This has been increased from Rs. 100.55 crores to Rs. 240.75 crores. If in any year no natural calamity takes place in a State, the amount of margin money is carried forward to the next year and the margin money for the next year with the spill-over could be utilised in the next year. The subsidy on agricultural inputs is already available under Central assistance for both flood, hail-storm and drought. The provision of norms of Central assistance for agricultural inputs subsidy is under consideration. The Madhya Pradesh Government are opening as many relief works as possible under different schemes and Central assistance for drought, flood; etc. The Central teams go into the interior of each State to assess the situation and also discuss the matter with available local MPs; MLAs, officials, etc. The recent team on hailstorm visited six districts in Madhya Pradesh including Bhopal. The State Government have issued orders for postponing the recovery of bank loan taken by the farmers affected by the hailstorm.

Shri Raghuma Reddy made three or four points. Regarding long terms measures, a number of long term measures for drought proofing like DPAP, NREP, RLEGP, etc. are there. But the amount is not properly spent. For flood proofing measures, like construction of embankments, raising villages, construction of reservoirs, etc. have been going on as part of plan schemes. In some of the schemes like NREP, RLEGP DPAP, the Andhra Pradesh Government have not utilised the full amount and there has been carry over in every year during the Sixth Plan. Regarding pending projects the State Government may take up the matter in Andhra Pradesh with the concerned Ministry. Some hon. Members Particularly Mr. Reddy, complained that the Central Teams are going and staying in five star hotels. I do not think any Central team ever stayed in any five star hotel. Whenever they go, they stay in the State Guest Houses. They are available in all the States and it is not necessary to stay in a hotel. If the State Government have booked the guest house for the occupation of their officers, then they make their reservation somewhere else.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : We have not said that. If anybody from my party has said that, I am sorry for that.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Since the allegation has been made on the floor of the House, in order to put the record straight, we must reply to that.

The other thing pointed out was about the late visit of the central teams. This time 14 States and Union territories suffered from drought, 26 States/Union Territories from flood cyclone, and nearly three States suffered from hail-storm. All these State Governments have submitted their memoranda. We have to go through them. We have to verify, assess and then prepare the report. Where are the officers? My Ministry has a limited number of officers. I have to send the officers with the rank of Joint Secretary. So, I have to take officers from other Ministries. The other Ministries also have their work. So it is not always possible for them to immediately draft officers as and when we

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

want. That is why, in some cases, it so happens that the Central teams sometimes visit a little late, sometimes the reports comes late because they are pre-occupied with other work. It is because of this unprecedented situation this time due to natural calamities that the central teams in some cases visited late and in some cases, submitted their reports late and the delay took place. But there is a provision for margin money. Hailstorm is a part of(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I am not talking about drought and floods, I am talking about hailstorm (Interruption).

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : You can talk later on. But there is a provision (Interruptions). There is a provision of margin money. Hailstorm is covered by margin money ...(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I am not talking about floods, I am only talking about hailstorms.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Hailstorm is a recent event ... (Interruptions) There were only two States which were affected by hailstorms.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : Not two, there are three or four States ... (Interruptions). When I had met the Agriculture Minister, he had agreed that they will send a team to Jabalpur. So, I am only requesting for the team to go to Jabalpur and have a look at the extent of the damage ... (Interruptions).

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have said about the drought and floods. Tamil Nadu Pondicherry, Orissa and West Bengal experienced cyclones causing heavy damage. Similarly, heavy floods took place in U.P., Punjab, Kerala, etc. as a result of cloud burst over a short period. Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Jammu and Kashmir suffered from hailstorm also. Avalanche hit Jammu and Kashmir and sub-zero temperature con-

tinued for 22 days. Fire has been reported by Tamil Nadu, U.P. and Assam. Assam also reported earthquake.

These are the natural calamities occurred in different States. But what I was discussing was that there is a provision for margin money. Once it is exhausted, then there is a provision for ways and means advance. If the State Governments exhaust their margin money which has been increased, which has been doubled now—I have already said that the Seventh Finance Commission recommended Rs. 100.55 crores, which has been increased to Rs. 240.75 crores and if they have no resources, they can come to the Government of India for ways and means advance, and it is considered in the case of almost all the States. Ways and means advances were given to the State Governments pending final sanction of the Central Assistance. So, there are provisions. It is not that they are suffering without any finance because there is a provision.

Mr. Bairagi made two or three points. The main point which is very common, which almost all the Members from this side and the other side have made, is about a permanent solution to the natural calamities. I have already discussed about the permanent solution. For drought proofing a number of schemes are there. For flood proofing there are number of schemes for embankments, dams, etc, but for hailstorm there is no solution, there is no proofing because it comes suddenly and when it comes, it damages. It damages the crops, it damages the property, it damages the human lives also sometimes. So, for that we immediately rush to the help of the State Government. In Madhya Pradesh it did take place and a Central team had gone there. The report of that team is awaited ... (Interruptions).

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : They have not gone to Jabalpur ... (Interruptions).

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Jabalpur is not the only place, there are other places also ... (Interruptions).

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : I had requested the hon. Agriculture Minister

and he had agreed to send a team to Jabalpur also.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : That we agreed only on Friday. So, it will go tomorrow or ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : When the hailstorm took place, he was kind enough to have agreed three weeks before that he will send someone there ... (*Interruptions*).

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Let me give the details. Let me tell you about cyclones and floods. In respect of Andhra Pradesh, the memorandum was received on 30th December 1985 and the Central team visited from 16th to 19th February, 1986. The report of that team is awaited. Regarding Assam, the memoranda were received on 16.8.85 and 30.8.85 and the team visited from 16th to 21st September 1985. The meeting also has taken place and the sanction has been given.

Then I come to Bihar. The receipt of the Memorandum is on 25th February, 1986 and it is under processing.

Then I come to Haryana. The date of receipt of the Memorandum is 18.9.85. The team visited on 23-25 December, 1985.

Then, regarding Himachal Pradesh, the date of receipt of Memorandum is 18.10.85. The team visited on 3.12.85 to 7.12.85.

Regarding Jammu and Kashmir, I myself visited. I informed the State Government and I visited on 18th and 19th February, 1986.

Then I come to Kerala. This is about Flood, Landslides, etc. The date of receipt of Memorandum is 6.7.85. The team visited on 16th to 19th of July, 1985.

Then I come to Maharashtra. This is regarding the Floods (Bombay). The

date of receipt of Memorandum is 29.7.85. The team visited on 16-17 August, 1985.

Then regarding Manipur flood, we received the Memorandum on 25.6.85. The team visited on 31.7.85. The amount is sanctioned. Regarding Meghalaya also the amount is sanctioned.

Regarding Orissa, we received the Memorandum on 25.10.85. Supplementary Memorandum was received on 10.2.86. The team visited on 2nd to 5th November and 12th to 15th March, 1986. We have received another Supplementary Memorandum.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Even the team goes after one or two months.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So, this is about Orissa. Now, regarding Rajasthan, they wanted to know this information. Regarding Rajasthan, the Memorandum was received on 24.2.86 and it is under consideration. (*Interruptions*) We have given money, The amount is sanctioned. But they have given Supplementary Memorandum.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : What is the demand? How much you will give? That we want to know.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : If you want, I can place it on the Table of the house.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : What is the demand that the State has made? What was given?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : A Instead of giving it here, I will place it on the Table of the House. I will give the date of the receipt of the Memorandum in case of flood, drought, etc; the visit of the Central Team; and the amount sanctioned. These there things I will place before the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is going to place all these things on the Table of the House.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Then, Shri Ajay Mushran was very much agitated over Jabalpur. He wants that the team should visit Jabalpur. But the programme is made by the State Government and not by the Central Government. When our team goes to the State, the State Government prepares the programme. In that programme there was no Jabalpur. They never mentioned Jabalpur. But, because he is very particular about Jabalpur, my senior colleague has already said that he will send the team for Jabalpur alone if it satisfies the Member.

Then Mr. Sharad Dighe made number of points. The number of relief works depends upon the State. They are to open the relief works. While sanctioning the employment generation, all existing employment generation schemes are taken into consideration. It is for the State Government to open relief works. They can ask for the money. They can ask for the foodgrains. We provide them. Whenever some scheme is going on, naturally, the State Government will not open a relief work there. But they will open it elsewhere. Norms of assistance are there. These are common points which they have raised. In all these points, there is one point which is very common, and that is, for having a permanent solution to these problems. Now, so far as permanent solution is concerned, as I said earlier, number of schemes are there. But why not our friends prevail upon the State Governments to utilise funds? Why not they insist that this money should be utilised properly?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Why not the Centre monitor these things? I will tell you one thing. You give them the money; you give assistance. But the Centre does not monitor. That is the problem. You do not say what you are doing.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The Centre is monitoring, but there is a limit because there are a number of schemes going on, there are a number of States and for each State it is not possible, but it should be done by us also. As represen-

tatives of the people we are also duty bound to see that the work is carried out by Government and if it is not, then we can raise the question in the Assembly also as to why it is neglected, why money is not spent. All these figures are given in Parliament and if the hon. Members are very keen, they can raise it through some M.L.A. in the State Assembly or write a letter to the Chief Minister as to why they are not spending. We are now having a monitoring cell in the Ministry which will monitor about the spending of the funds which are given to the State Governments. However, it all depends upon the State Governments because in a number of cases, as for instance, about forests, we have enacted a law, there is a provision under the law that the State has to contribute to the Central Government before deforestation, before using the forest land for some other purpose. Even then, a number of States are there who have not even taken the permission of the Central Government particularly, Madhya Pradesh where they have put two big schemes, reservoirs, and they cut thousands and thousands of trees. Now, this has changed the ecology of the State, it has made imbalance in the ecology and because of this, soil erosion, less rainfall and drought situation are there.

Every year 5,334 million tonnes of soil are getting lost from the original sites. Why? It is because the soil is not conserved. How it can be conserved? It is by forest. Forest is the media which conserves the soil. but because the forest is cut, the water flow is very heavy, it lost the soil and after millions and millions of years this soil is created and it is lost. 1,572 million tonnes of soil are washed into the sea every year and 480 million tonnes of soil are getting deposited in reservoirs. So, this is the main problem and the problem is created by human beings, we have created it because we have denuded the forest, we have cut the trees and there is less plantation of trees in spite of a number of schemes—under the Forest Ministry also there are a number of schemes for fruit and fuel trees. In the scheme for small and marginal farmers there is a component of

fruit and fuel trees also, but they are not doing it properly and they are not planting the trees. Why can't we insist on the State Governments and we motivate our own people? As people's representatives we should motivate the people to grow more trees in the country and to see that forests are preserved. But that is not being done and that is why the natural calamities have become a routine every year.

Sir, recently we have a workshop in Anand on the disaster management and in that a number of good papers are received, some officers have presented good papers. One of the officers from the Meteorological Department proved it through slides, maps etc. He has collected the data of 150 years and he tried to prove that up to 1990-92 there will be scarcity of rain, there will be less rain—that is what he has said in the Seminar. He said that he has collected the data of 150 years and will show it through slides. I am going to bring him here also so that he can educate our Members.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : He is not correct. We will not agree.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We are correct, scientists are not correct and that is why this is happening ?

So, Sir, the picture is not very good unless we rise to the occasion, unless we take care of our forests, unless we take care of our ecological balance. So, I would like to request, through you, all the Members of Parliament and the people at large to see that our forests are maintained. We should see that the soil is conserved.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is not the projects alone. There are so many illegal things going on. We have to control them also.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This is for the State Governments to control them. But this is in short, that I wanted to say. If there is any clarification, hon. Members may ask and I will reply.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South) : The hon. Minister has not uttered a word about Karnataka. Of course, he made general observations today. Why we are discussing this is, what is the Government going to do to see that salinity stays on and what steps is the Government going to take now. That is important. Those are of general remarks which the minister said just now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He said that the senior Minister went to Karnataka and met the Chief Minister also.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, what is the demand of the State Government and how far the Centre will come to the rescue of the State Government.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Karnataka is a State where only 20% land is under irrigation and the drought situation is there as a result of less rain and less irrigation facilities. In Karnataka, there is severe drought situation this time. Since the last three years, there is the drought situation and scarcity situation. Therefore, we are considering the case of Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan on a special footing to relax the norms and to give them more funds. So far a ceiling of Rs. 53.31 crores has been sanctioned to the State Government of Karnataka. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I cannot call all the Members because you have already raised so many points. It would become a practice then.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Out of this, Rs. 43.16 crores are released to the State Government. May I ask the hon. Member, through you, why is the State Government not submitting the bills? It is because they do not want money. If they want money, they should submit the bills.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : Unless you ask, how will they do ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Asking is not the way. They have to submit the bills. The procedure is that we have sanctioned Rs. 53.31 crores. They should utilise it and then they should come to the Government of India stating that they have utilised it and that kindly give us more. That Bill should be submitted. They have not submitted it. How can the rest of the amount be given to them ?

Now, my senior colleague has visited the State. He visited Bangalore, Tumkur, Chitradurga and Kolar. He also visited the relief work and cattle camps, particularly Gudi Bunder in Kolar district. He visited some of the relief works also. After the visit, we said to the State Government, "If there is any difficulty, we will be at your beck and call". After his visit, we decided to consider the case of the State Government on a special footing and, therefore, we have taken up the matter with the Finance Ministry. We hope that it will be agreed by them and we will be able to help the State Government of Rajasthan, Karnataka and Maharashtra on a special footing.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Sir, the hon. Member was blaming the States for lower allocations on various schemes such as minimum needs programme etc. I want to put the record straight.

I want to know from the Minister, what is the budget procedure of the Central Government and the State Government. The actual procedure which is being followed by the Centre and the State is that you indicate the figure before the budgeting is done. And that is included in the Budget, if the Budget of the State Government is presented earlier. If it is presented later, it does not matter. But before the Central Budget is presented, if the State Budget is presented, they have to give you some figures and for that, they ask you how much they have to allocate for such and such schemes. Because in all these schemes, there is a matching grant. There is no point in the States putting the figures which are not realistic. Unless the Centre indicates a particular figure, no State can include a

figure on their own and if that is not correct, please ask your Department and come to the House and tell us correctly what actually the procedure is.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I have already said the correct position. What you exactly want to know, please tell me. I will reply, because you do not know anything about your State. You do not know what your State is doing. You please go to the State Government and ask them. They will submit the figures. You ask me anything. I will reply about your State.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I am telling the procedure which is being followed here and in other States. You indicate the procedure.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The procedure which we follow is designed by the Finance Commission and when the Finance Commission visits all States, they sit in Delhi also and the State Government makes representation. After that, they submit their report and on the basis of that report, the procedure is laid down. All procedures are laid down by the Eighth Finance Commission. I would advise the hon. Member to go through the Report of the Eighth Finance Commission.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : I am referring to the general procedures. I am referring to the procedure of budgeting.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The procedure of budgeting is also well-set. There is a special procedure about the Budgeting of State and Centre and for these calamities, it is laid down by the Eighth Finance Commission.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Thank you all the people.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : I am citing the report of the Eighth Finance Commission para 11.14 p. 70 :

".....in the existing criteria governing Central assistance for various kinds of natural calamities; except that in the

case of States which have had droughts for more than four of five successive years, the entire assistance should be considered for being given as a grant."

[Translation]

The problem is that out of 10 years, we have remained famine affected continuously for 8 years. Therefore, there should be provision to give us assistance as a grant. Another thing I want to say is that the cattle are the base of our economy. For them, only Rs. 3.69 crores have been given which are quite insufficient. Therefore, this amount should be increased because fodder is so important that without it cattle cannot live. We have demanded Rs. 580 crores for it. Therefore, it should be increased to Rs. 580 crores.

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : The point which he has made is there in the report of the Eighth Finance Commission. But it was a suggestion made by the Planning Commission which was not accepted by the Finance Commission. The 100% grant criteria was not accepted by the Finance Commission. I have also got the report of the Finance Commission and it is not accepted. It was a suggestion made. All the State Governments make suggestions. Like that, Planning Commission also made suggestion and it was not accepted.

So far as the cattle wealth is concerned, in the State of Rajasthan, transport subsidy on procurement and sale of fodder for Panchayat Samitis etc., we have given the amount of Rs. 2 lakhs. The procurement and sale of fodder on Government Account is Rs. 5 lakhs. Total increased subsidy is Rs. 63 lakhs already given to the State Government. And Rs. 98.65 crores have already been sanctioned to the State Governments. Over and above... (Interruptions)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : What is the total demand ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Total demand is much more.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : What is much more ? Please give the total demand.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : I will give you the total demand.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : What was the Study Team report ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Rajasthan in a first memorandum dated 25-7-85, asked Rs. 70.17 crores and the amount sanctioned is Rs. 25.77 crores. In the second memorandum dt. 18-10-85 they requested Rs. 579.38 crores. The amount given to them is Rs. 72.88 crores....

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : What is the percentage you are giving ? A study team has been sent. And they have given this amount. Can Rajasthan survive ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Most of the State Governments are making inflated demands. Because of humanitarian grounds we have given 10 combined rigs...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Please listen to us first. We do not want to listen to you. We are the aggrieved party.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Out of the total allocation, how much amount has been provided in the advance plan.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : That is not the advance plan.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This is to be recovered in 5 years....

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has already replied to the Rule 193 discussion. If you go on discussing it, there will be no end. Other details he has already told that he will supply.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : This is a burning problem. You must give us time. What is the total population and the cattle affected ?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You please write to him. He will clarify everything.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We have already helped Rajasthan...

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : No, no.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : We have given 10 combination rigs. Now these 10 combination rigs are capital assets ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You kindly help Rajasthan. Otherwise you visit Rajasthan.

S. BUTA SINGH : May I ask a simple question from my two very distinguished colleagues from Rajasthan ? We sanctioned 10 combination rigs and 100 tankers to Rajasthan. Have you ever asked your Government why they have not purchased these ?

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Our Rajasthan Government has purchased the tankers.

SHRI BUTA SINGH : Not one—to our notice.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : They have purchased. We do not know about rigs.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Rigs they have not Purchased.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Rigs they are purchasing.

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : We have sanctioned Rs. 98 crores for Rajasthan. They have just-drawn Rs. 48 crores and they are insisting on relaxation in the norms.

[English]

This House knows pretty well that we are not competent to relax the norms. They are fixed by the Finance Commission which were read by my distinguished colleague. Those norms are fixed and the norms are that in case of drought the central assistance is given in the form of advance plan assistance not exceeding 5% of the State annual plan outlay over and above the margin money. Adjustment of advance plan assistance given is effected within 5 years following the end of the drought. Now the drought is still continuing, You do not have to give a paise back to the Government of India. But why are you not spending Rs. 98 crores which is so precious ?

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : We are spending.

S. BUTA SINGH : I want to ask him. Are you the Chief Minister ?

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : As a representative of my State.

S. BUTA SINGH : The answer is to come from the State Government. I agree with you that the assistance which Rajasthan has got is not adequate and it cannot be adequate because the situation is abnormal. For the past 100 years this kind of drought has never been there. That is why we are preparing....

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Therefore, we request the hon Minister to visit Rajasthan once again along with the hon Deputy Speaker so that he can understand the situation and see what is prevailing there.

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : Please listen to me first. (Interruptions)

19.00 hrs.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : You may kindly visit our area. Please see the things on the spot.

S. BUTA SINGH : Whenever I visit Rajasthan, I visit your area also.

(Interruptions)

[English]

My submission is this. My hon. colleague has already informed this august House that we are making a special effort

for Karnataka, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. We are very much in contact with the State Governments, and we are requesting the hon. Finance Minister. We hope that we shall be able to get something for meeting the situation which is an abnormal situation particularly in Rajasthan.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 a. m.

19.01 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday,
March 11, 1986 Phalguna
20, 1907 (SAKA).*