

[Shrimati Usha Choudhary]
paisewari 50/60 paise or below.

Due to irregular and scanty rainfall during the monsoon of 1987, a large number of villages in Maharashtra State are expected to face drinking water scarcity during summer season of 1988. Though there has been some improvement in the situation as a result of rains received during November, December, 1987. It is estimated that 5,837 villages are likely to face acute drinking water scarcity during the coming summer.

The State Government has already approached the Government of India for providing adequate central assistance for undertaking various drought relief measures. The Government of India has so far sanctioned Rs. 104.19 crores. This is not enough to meet the situation. Union Government should review the position again and grant more central assistance.

- (iv) **Need to increase the quota for reservation all certain stations in Orissa on trains going towards Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi**

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI ((Sambalpur): The quota for reservation in second class, first class and air conditioned second class sleeper provided in some of the important trains is quite inadequate particularly at Jharauguda, Sambalpur, Bolangir, Belpahar, Brajraj Nagar, Bargarh, Bamra and Rourkela Stations in Orissa. The quota provided at these stations for travel towards Calcutta, Bombay and Delhi is thoroughly inadequate. Though railway administration has been requested by Government of Orissa and Members of Parliament from time to time to increase the quota in important trains like Gitanjali Express, Ahmedabad Express, Howrah-Bombay Mail, Howrah-Bombay Express and Utkal Express trains substantially to cater to the

needs, but nothing has been done so far.

In the interest of the railway passengers, it is necessary to increase the quota for reservation in second class, first class and A.C. sleeper. I request the Honourable Railway Minister to look into this matter and do the needful at the earliest.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I would like to inform the House that in the case of matter under rule 377, only approved texts already given by the hon. members will go on record. If any hon. member, while reading his text, deviates from the original text already given, and starts adding, then that added portion will not form part of the proceedings.

- (v) **Need to take quick remedial measures to avoid recurrence of devastating floods in North Bihar**

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur): Last year, the whole of North Bihar, Particularly the Mithila region, faced the worst type of floods in the living memory. The devastating floods were caused by the turbulent rivers which originate in Nepal.

It is gratifying to note that Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi not only visited the flood hit areas of North Bihar promptly and assuaged the feelings of the marooned people, but he also took up the matter with the Government of Nepal during the last SAARC meeting at Kathmandu.

On the initiative of the Prime Minister, it was resolved at Kathmandu to study the problem in depth to find a lasting solution to the menace of recurring floods. It was felt that if the rivers of Nepal are properly tamed, not only the problem of floods would be solved permanently but enormous electricity would be generated which would boost up the economic development of both Nepal and North Bihar.