

had seen people there who were in a state of extreme distress. They are not getting food. Sir, I would like to request you to direct the Leader of the House to make a statement in this regard.

**Mr. Speaker :** Every hon. Member is adding to my work.

**Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly take this matter seriously.

**Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav (Azamgarh) :** My submission also relates to it.

**Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri :** A painful situation is prevailing. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav and all other hon. Members had made similar submissions. Serious concern has been expressed. I would urge upon you to direct him to say something in the House as to what would be done here.

[English]

**Shrimati Vasundhara Raje (Jhalawar) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister for Environment has been made very very laudable comments in the newspapers for the last two weeks. He says that he and his Ministry do not want to stand in the way of appropriate projects. He says that development and ecology must go hand in hand. But at the same time, action speaks louder than his words. There are very very wide disparities between his action and his words.

At this very moment of time, there are over forty-nine hydro and thermal projects having a capacity of over 15,000 m.w. lying on various shelves gathering dust. A case in point is, Dholpur Thermal Plant which is going on for the last twelve years. Various clarifications are asked repeatedly and sent back to the State Government despite the clarifications are provided by the State Government. Would you believe it, the project has

been stalled due to supposed crocodile sanctuary where no crocodile exists? But the hon. Minister and his Ministry have stalled this very very prestigious project. Rajasthan is dying for power.

Rajasthan is short of power and we are waiting for this project.

I call it whimsical on the part of the Government. It is a failure on the part of the Environment Ministry to allow the project to be pending in this manner.

Therefore, I seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. I would ask you to please direct the hon. Minister to make a statement in this regard. (Interruptions).

**The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) :** The hon. Member has observed that this Project is pending for the last 12 years. I have just been here for last one month. I do accept that there are a large number of projects. But we must be conscious of one fact. (Interruptions).

Please listen to me if you want to know the facts.

Unless and until these projects are environmentally compatible and unless and until they comply with the various stipulations of environmental and pollution laws, they cannot be cleared.

But I assure the hon. Member that I shall certainly have a look at the Dholpur Project not only with open eyes but with open mind.

[Translation]

**Shri Guman Mal Lodha (Pali) :** Mr. Speaker, Sir, our hon. colleagues have drawn attention to the serious problems of Rajasthan, I would like to make a submission especially regarding severe drought in Western Rajasthan as it is such a desert area where

there is drought in every two or three years and rain is scant. The whole of Western Rajasthan and its people always suffer from scarcity of water, electricity and irrigation facilities. I would like to request that the construction of Indira Gandhi Canal Project has not been completed so far. Its construction should be completed with special grants from the office of the Prime Minister because by doing so the construction work of the Rajasthan Canal and the water from Jawai Dam could be supplied to the people of my district Pali, irrigation could be possible at other places and drinking water could be made available to the people. Sir, my submission is that we should rise above party-politics and regional lines. I would like to request to the hon. Ministers, who hail from Rajasthan particularly to Shri Ashok Gehlot from Western Rajasthan and to other hon. Ministers who have said again and again that the problems of Rajasthan should be sorted out by obtaining special grants from the office of the Prime Minister. Therefore, I would like its early completion with special grants.

[English]

**Shri T. J. Anjalose (Alleppey) :** Sir, the State of Kerala is facing acute power shortage. For more than a decade, no new Project has been started in this State. More than 15 Projects are pending clearance by the Central Government.

Kayankulam Thermal Station is the only one Power project which got clearance by the Centre. But, environment clearance for this Project has not yet been given.

I urge upon the Government to take urgent steps for giving environmental clearance without further delay.

**Shri Pala K. M. Mathew (Idukki) :** Communal violence and killings have been going on unabated in all the States, especially during the last two weeks and there are plenty of

newspaper reports that these happenings are going on every day. The unfortunate fact is that as it goes on unabated, the sense of urgency that is required for solving this problem is not there in the Government. The communal killings are happening these days mostly in U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar.

I would request the Government to take immediate steps to put an end to this violence so that the country may not be put to more difficulties than we are put to at present. This has been going on for the last two years. We have been witnessing a very terrible phenomenon these two years. We have to put an immediate stop to this. The Government must come with a programme to be completed within a time-bound framework.

[Translation]

**Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav :** Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri has just raised an issue about serious situation in this context. I would like to mention that 30 crore of people have been affected by severe drought. The whole of Uttar Pradesh, the whole of Bihar.....

**Shri Shiv Charan Mathur (Bhilwara) :** Not 30 crore but 3 crore.

**Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav :** I am saying, it is 30 crore. 12 crore to 13 crore drought-affected people are there in Uttar Pradesh alone. Likewise, the whole of Bihar is also suffering. Shri Buta Singhji was present here just now. Western Rajasthan and a major part of the country are drought-affected at present.

Sir, the situation there due to monsoon being late by one month. Today farmers are worried not only over the problem of their food, over their economic crisis alone but they are worried because their cattle are on the verge of dying due to non-availability of fodder.