

working, is lying closed for the last two years.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : It is irrelevant. Nothing to be done here. It is irrelevant. It is out of order.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down now. Nothing goes on record. I am not allowing.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the way. If you do not sit down, I will name you, Mr. Ramswroop Ram.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down now. I am going to name you now. Please sit down. Take your seat.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Where is the Parliamentary Affairs Minister ?

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Sit down. This is not the way. What you are speaking is irrelevant. This is not proper. Please sit down. Please take your seat.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Take your seat now. I am asking you to take your seat. I implore you to take your seat.

[Translation]

I request you to take your seat.

(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, I am going to name him. He does not behave.

(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER : Not a single word goes on record.

Now, Calling Attention.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE

[Translation]

Situation arising out of acute shortage of drinking water in various parts of the Country.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I call the attention of hon. Minister of Works and Housing to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"Situation arising out of acute shortage of drinking water in various parts of the country and the action taken by Government in this regard."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, Due to scanty rainfall and the erratic behaviour of monsoon during 1984, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh reported drought conditions and submitted to the Government of India Memoranda seeking Central assistance for drought relief. My colleague, Shri Buta Singh, Minister for Agriculture and Rural Development made a statement in

the Lok Sabha on 2nd April, 1985 in response to a Calling Attention Motion moved by Shri Narain Chand Prashar and others, outlining the drought relief assistance given to these States and the short term and long-term measures proposed to be taken by the Government to meet the situation. On the basis of the reports of the Central teams which visited the drought affected areas and on the recommendation of the High Level Committee on Relief, a total ceiling of Central assistance to the tune of Rs.200.66 crores was sanctioned. This included assistance for making arrangements for drinking water in drought affected areas to the tune of Rs. 39.31 crores during 84-85 and Rs. 14.71 crores during 85-86. The Government of Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka submitted supplementary Memoranda for Central assistance during 1985-86 which are under consideration of the Ministry of Agriculture. A Central team has visited the drought affected areas in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka and their reports have been submitted to the Ministry of Agriculture. Government would take suitable decisions for further assistance including assistance for drinking water supply in these states on the basis of the recommendations of the High Level Committee. Haryana Government have recently submitted a memorandum for assistance under drought relief.

2. Prior to the onset of the summer, a meeting was held with the drought affected States to review the nature and extent of the problem expected to arise in the current summer, the measures required to meet the crisis, the adequacy of the machinery and technical assistance required from the Government of India. The States indicated that they were gearing up their machinery to meet the crisis and they were taking action on the following lines :—

- (a) digging of borewells in the affected villages and installation of handpumps;

- (b) adequate arrangements for operation and maintenance of hand-pumps ;
- (c) repairs/recommissioning of hand-pumps which had broken down;
- (d) replacement of inferior quality handpumps by Superior India Mark II handpumps ;

3. At the instance of the Govt. of India, the UNICEF is making arrangements to provide additional rigs, special attachments to existing rigs, quality India Mark II handpumps and maintenance vehicles to the affected States. The Central Ground Water Board has also expressed its readiness to render assistance to the State Governments for construction of water supply wells by deploying its fleet of rigs if the State Governments are able to prepare a firm programme and forward the same to the Board.

4. Apart from the drought relief provided by the Government of India and the special measures being taken to meet the crisis, the Government of India has given a very high priority to drinking water. Out of 230784 problem villages, about 1.92 lakh villages are reported to have been covered by March 1985. Keeping in view the importance of rural water supply, it has been included in the Minimum Needs Programme of the States and the States were expected to incur an expenditure of Rs. 1511 crores during the Sixth Plan. During 1984-85 the anticipated expenditure under M.N.P. was Rs. 372.17 crores.

5. Under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, the Centre provided grants to the States to the tune of about Rs. 919.71 crores during the Sixth Five Year Plan. During 1984-85 Central grants totalling of about Rs. 287 crores were provided to the States for covering problem villages. During the current year, a provision of about Rs. 298 crores has been made under ARP for allocation among the States.

The amount will be allocated to the States and the first instalment released after the Budget is passed by Parliament.

6. As a result of the measures taken by the Centre and the States, the coverage of population in respect of rural drinking water has gone up from 31.0% at the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan to 53.0% at the end of the Sixth Five Year Plan.

7. So far as urban water supply is concerned, States have to make provision in the State budget. This Ministry however, endeavours to secure World Bank assistance for urban water supply if viable schemes are forthcoming. So far World Bank credit has been made available for 9 urban water supply schemes in the states of Maharashtra, U.P., Punjab, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. The projects cover urban water supply in about 145 towns.

12.20 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*Translation*]

12.22 hrs.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the statement of the hon. Minister, it is clear that the drinking water crisis has arisen due to the drought conditions prevailing in different parts of the country and this crisis has arisen in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. When drought conditions arise, the State Government seek assistance from the Central Government by submitting a representation to the Central Government to provide timely assistance. The question arises that it is now nearly 38 years since we attained Independence, but we have not been able to find a lasting and

proper solution to this drinking water problem. This is a big challenge before us and in order to face this challenge, we have to think by what time we shall be able to solve this drinking water problem permanently and in a proper manner and by what time we shall be able to make arrangement for drinking water in all villages and cities. In the Sixth Five Year Plan, we had decided that we shall be able to provide drinking water to each and every village and as per the information given by the Home Minister just now, out of 2.31 lakh problem villages, the drinking water problem of 1.92 lakh villages has been solved. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister the fact that he may have the satisfaction of providing drinking water to 1.92 lakh villages, but I want humbly to submit to him that even in the villages where he has commissioned the drinking water supply schemes the condition of those schemes is very unsatisfactory water does not reach several of the villages covered under these schemes. They are the villages where drinking water schemes have been commissioned, and this is the condition with regard to water there. Then, what is the advantage of there being a "Commissioned village"?

This is the condition of those villages. In the event of drought, the problem becomes all the more severe. Therefore, my submission is that we should seriously think over it as to what type of schemes should be formulated and how they should be implemented.

When the State Government seek assistance for those "Commissioned villages" it comes the reply that since they are "Commissioned villages" no assistance can be given to them. No arrangement to provide them with assistance is made, whereas the population is increasing. You have prepared this scheme on the basis of the 1971 census. This scheme should be revised on the basis of the 1981 census and be made an augmentation scheme.

When we exerted pressure for our district and our desert areas, the scheme was sanctioned. If you do not revise your schemes and if their augmentation is not done, water will never reach the villages which you have commissioned. Neither the Central Government nor the State Government provide assistance for such villages. My submission is that a committee may be constituted for the villages where drinking water schemes have been commissioned. The committee so constituted should go and make an on the spot enquiry whether the benefit is reaching the commissioned villages or not. This is most essential.

The schemes which were prepared for our desert areas were prepared on the basis of 40 litre per head. These schemes had a provision of drinking water for the human beings. We had submitted that you were making a provision for 40 litres on the basis of the human population only and that the livestock population was not included in it the livestock population in that area out numbers the human population. You should also make provision for them.

When this question was taken up with the Central Government, they paid some attention to it and their officers made on the spot studies on the basis of the studies made, the basis which was earlier fixed at 40 litres per head was refined at 70 litres per head so as to make water available to the cattle also.

But the question is that the cattle population is quite high in the Jaisalmer and Barmer districts. Keeping in view the cattle population in those desert areas, water to the humans and cattle will be available only if you revise the scheme from 40 litres per head to 100 litres per head. It needs to be given an urgent consideration.

The second question pertaining to our area is regarding the decision which you took in the Sixth Five Year Plan under

which you issued directives that water be supplied to a village at one point only. We have in our area villages which are spread in an area ranging for 25 square kilometres to even 100 square kilometers. If you provide water only at one point in a village, the villages will have to walk as much as 10 to 15 kilometres to fetch water. Therefore, we have given this suggestion and you have accepted it in principle that a drinking water point should be provided for a population of 250 to 300. The drinking water problem can be solved only when a population of 250 to 300—which constitutes a cluster of hamlets (Dhanis)—is taken as the basis for providing drinking water.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please be brief. Others have also to participate.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Since the problem is very important these details will have to be given. However, I am trying to be very brief. The guidelines which you have adopted that nobody need walk more than 1.6 kilometers to fetch water, and schemes based thereon are also being formulated, does not hold good in Rajasthan, because the people there have to cover a distance of 10 to 15 kilometers for fetching water. As the villages in our desert areas are scattered over a large area provision of water should, therefore, be made for each block of population of 250-300 which should be treated as a unit. Therefore, a provision for this should be made in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The State Government have also sent suggestions to the effect that the provision of drinking water should be made by treating a cluster of hamlets Dhani as a unit.

Now the question arises that some tubewells have also been installed in the desert areas which have proved a success.

But at many places, in spite of their success, the water in tubewells is brackish or the quantity of water is very small, which can not be helpful for drinking up schemes. Even if the scheme is drawn up, it can serve only one village and not 4, 5 or 6 villages. Such is the situation. Now when under ground water is not available, a lasting and prominent solution can only be the Rajasthan canal which is now known as Indra Gandhi canal. As the cabinet has taken a decision in this regard, it is necessary for the implementation of such a decision that a Master Plan be prepared for the rural areas for a lasting solution to the drinking water problem in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The Master Plan prepared by the Government of Rajasthan should be implemented as early as possible and a provision for this purpose made in the Seventh Five Year Plan. The chief Minister of our State had drawn attention to this recently at a meeting in the Planning Commission. Therefore, what I mean to say is that all drinking water schemes should be solved by drawing water from the Rajasthan canal and through the lift canals. The lasting solution to this problem lies in the drawing up of schemes based on the lift canals. There can not be any other permanent solution. Therefore, provision for this should be made in the Seventh Five Year Plan and Government should pay attention to it.

One thing more, which I want to say in particular is that the average age of tubewell dug by the Exploratory Tubewells Organisation which is a Ground Water Organisation of the Central Government is 20 years, whereas the tubewells being sunk in our States, for which we are providing assistance under various schemes, is only 2 years. An amount of Rs. 2.5 lakhs is spent on a tubewell under the A. R. P. schemes and its life is only two years. Therefore, my request is that an inquiry should be conducted into the working of tubewell organisations working under the Government of Rajasthan. I had also raised this question before the government of

Rajasthan that we could not tolerate it. When the average age of a tubewell dug by the Exploratory Tubewell Organisation which is a Central Government Organisation is 20 years and the tubewell dug to this working wells dry up within one and a half or two year, which is an unbearable situation. Therefore it is necessary to inquire into its working. If they need training, arrangement for that should be made. If they are not equipped with the exploratory techniques. They should be given extensive training in this field.

Besides, so long as water from the Rajasthan Canal does not reach the rural areas, emphasis should be laid on wells. Apart from this, the people in the rural areas in our State have constructed tanks which need cement. The farmers who are financially well off, have constructed tanks, but others cannot afford it. A provision should be made for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, the small farmers and the weaker sections to enable them to get fifty per cent subsidy for constructing tanks. By collecting brackish water and rain water and then by mixing them together, it would be possible to use it as potable water. There is a Defence Laboratory in Jodhpur which is working on the project of converting brackish water into potable water. This work should be augmented so that brackish water is converted into potable water. In this regard we are taking the help of ear-rigs. The Rajasthan Government have also made a request in this matter. In this connection there is need to extend all possible assistance. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that his officers have provided assistance to our desert area. He should also visit those areas and provide the needed help. I would also like to draw attention towards the drinking water problem in Delhi. The people are feeling distressed on account of this problem. In spite of the water scheme for the Urban areas, the people are not getting water. A revised scheme should be formulated for providing

water so that the water reaches the villages also. The shortage of electricity in the rural areas is also a cause of the water crisis there. I want that arrangement for diesel sets should be made. If no alternative arrangement is made, the scheme for drinking water will not succeed. In the absence of electricity, neither can water be supplied nor can it be pumped out. So, provision for diesel sets should be made. Provision for diesel sets of three to four megawatts should be made in the district and the divisional headquarters. Supply of Electricity and water for consumers should receive priority over industry and agriculture. With these words I conclude.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : I have a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is your point of order ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH : In the Calling Attention Motion regarding drinking water, Bihar should also be clubbed because one and a half crores of people of Bihar are facing water problem.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no point of order. You can give it in writing and after it is allowed, you can mention about it. Now how can he mention about it ?

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Under rule 377, he can mention this point.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghazipur) : The hon. Minister himself belongs to Bihar.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I have replied to all the points raised by Shri Jain through this Calling Attention Notice. You know that if this type of situation arises in any State in the country—he has mentioned about a number of states—the Centre gives assistance to the State Government immediately and whatever is possible is done. Sometimes natural calamity befalls and causes distress to the people. Efforts are made to provide relief to the people affected by the calamity. You have mentioned all the points in that regard. We have sent our officers to every state. They are looking into it. I have mentioned in my reply that UNICEF has also stated that they are prepared to give assistance to India to meet the crisis there. Besides this, we are ready to supply whatever rigs are required. The Central Water Board has asked the states to chalk out programmes according to their needs and they will despatch rigs to the States to carry out the work. Apart from this, some of the States have intimated us about the work they are doing. It is a matter for happiness. So, whatever points you have raised, work on them is already going on and some more work will be undertaken after the receipt of the report.

So far as the problem of drinking water is concerned, whatever you have mentioned about it, is correct. You might be remembering that when our Speaker Sahib was in the Chair the other day, he told me that he would give me an award if I could solve this problem in Rajasthan. In U.P., Bengal and in my State, a village with a population of 200 or 300 or 500 or upto 1,000 persons or a little more is treated as a unit, but in Rajasthan, the definition of village is different. Although I have not seen that area but when I was reading the statement regarding the problem villages, I thought that your villages would also be covered under it. I was under the impression that your villages might be like the villages in my State, in U.P., in Bengal and in other

States. But the villages of your State are different from the villages of other States. I agree with the points raised by you. How can a village with a population of 300 to 400 persons scattered over an area of 15 miles be treated as a unit village? I cannot understand it. If such a thing is there then all those villages, where even 150 persons are living, will come under the category of problem villages. We are engaged in removing the difficulty of the problem villages of the country. Moreover, you should be grateful to us for providing assistance in spite of the fact that the responsibility to solve the problem of drinking water rests on the State Governments. Not only this, they are given incentives which are in proportion to the work done by a State.

Besides this, I have mentioned earlier that according to the figures we have received, there are about 2.31 lakh problem villages, out of which about 1.91 lakh villages have been covered and a few are left. We shall try to cover them in the Seventh Five Year Plan. Our intention is to solve the problem at the earliest so that there is no problem of drinking water in the country. While drawing attention to some important points, you admitted that when some officers from the Centre visited your place, the quantum of water per unit was increased to 70 litres from 40 litres. It means that their visit was helpful. As regards your suggestion that a cluster of hamlets be treated as villages, we are seriously thinking of including it in the Seventh Five Year Plan. You have mentioned a new point which was not in my mind earlier. May be, it is in the knowledge of other persons. I once visited Rajasthan, but my visit was confined to a few cities and may be to one or two villages. But at that time I did not notice it. I thought that the condition was the same in your State as it was in other States. But as revealed by you, I agree that your problem is more complicated than that on other States.

Some of our States have taken assistance from the World Bank and some have taken from Germany. They are prepared to give assistance. Your States should also utilise this assistance. I think the people of your State are making efforts in this direction. Taking into account all these requirements, I assure you that the problem of Rajasthan falls in a special category in comparison with other States. There water is not easily available to human beings and cattle. Moreover, keeping in mind the distance factor, I agree that the condition prevailing there is not found in U.P., Bihar and in other States.

On our side we are not putting you in a special category. We shall recommend the tax of your State. You know our hon. Finance Minister is sitting here. He controls the purse strings not only in regard to water but in regard to everything. He is listening to all these things. You have mentioned about some regions which will receive special attention.

I have referred to Rajasthan because you will be surprised to know that there the people with buckets on their heads cover a distance of 7 to 8 miles from their homes to fetch water. This type of situation is not prevalent in Bihar, U.P....(Interruptions)...

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : No, no, this type of situation is prevalent in U.P. It may not be in Bihar.

SHRI DALCHANDER JAIN (Damoh) : This type of situation is prevalent in Madhya Pradesh also.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : In our hill areas also people cover a distance of as much as 5 kilometres to fetch water to their homes by negotiating steep ascents.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Other States are also concerned.

SHRI H.A. DORA (Srikakulam) : As far as drinking water is concerned. All the States should be treated equally. That problem is there in Andhra Pradesh also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I am saying about all the States. I mentioned about Rajasthan particularly because the Hon. Speaker had made a reference to it.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is not there only in one state there may be a greater problem in Rajasthan. But the problem may be there in other States also. Therefore, every Member is agitated when the Minister speaks about Rajasthan alone. I have suggested to the Minister that he should consider other States also.

SHRI H. A. DORA : There are villages in Andhra Pradesh, where there is mass migration, just for drinking water, i.e., migration for upto Kms. or 40 Kms. They are leaving their homes. It is there in Andhra Pradesh also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I have dealt with the problem of Rajasthan at greater length because at the time of discussion on the water scarcity in Delhi Hon. Speaker had raised this problem about Rajasthan. He is not in the Chair but I am mentioning about his constituency because there is acute water scarcity in his constituency. So I mentioned about his State, Rajasthan. As far as other States are concerned, we shall attend to their problems also.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : In the constituency of the hon. Finance Minister, people have to traverse a distance of as much as 4 to 5 kilometers to fetch drinking water.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Mention has been made about the drought conditions prevailing in other States and I have given information about them in detail and also said that a Central team has to go to that State. It is taking stock of the whole situation and its report is awaited. But if the situation worsens further then the Central Government will provide assistance to the drought affected States as much as they can.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now Mr. Jai Parkash Agarwal. You can include other States also in your speech. Do not restrict yourself to Delhi. You can speak on behalf of other Members also.

SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, one feels sorry that even after 38 years of independence, we are discussing in the capital of India the problems of supplying drinking water to the public and that too in a country where the rivers overflow and inundate thousands of villages. It clearly shows that somewhere there is a big fault in our planning because of which we are neither able to provide water for irrigation nor provide water for drinking.

I want to draw your attention towards Delhi where there are places where the people have to be discussed from the fourth or the sixth floor and then walk for a mile to fetch water and then ascend all those floors again to bring water to their houses. At certain places people have to pay as much Rs. 5 per bucket of drinking water. It is a very sad state of affairs. If you go around Delhi and listen to the woes of the people, you will come to know the difficulties being faced by them to get drinking water.

If you go to the walled city, you will find that the pipes which were laid some 50 to 60 years back for supply of water are now in damaged condition but are

still in use and the sewer water enters up them. The mixed up water is supplied for toilet as well as for drinking purposes and it has a such a foul smell that one cannot even bring it close to the mouth.

In the resettlement colonies, people have to walk for miles for bringing water because there is no arrangement in these colonies. One third population of the trans-Yamuna Delhi resides in an area where the streets are full of dirty water and mosquitoes but they do not have drinking water.

In many parts of Delhi, pipeline for water supply has not been laid as a result of which the people have to face much inconvenience. The reason is that we did not keep an eye on the increasing population of Delhi or we can say that we did not check the increasing population of Delhi although we were not in a position to provide water and power to them.

Whenever water is supplied for a while, may be for an hour or two, the electricity goes off and the people are again put to inconvenience. Water is supplied between 4 to 6 o' clock in the morning. People have to wake up from their sleep to store water. If at that time electricity goes off, they cannot get that water also.

Should we take it that in Delhi, the capital of India, people will always have to face the problem of drinking water and they will have to engage people on wages to fetch water ?

If an application is made to the Delhi Municipal Corporation for water connection, it is not sanctioned for months together. One has to make 10 to 20 rounds to the authorities before the water meter is sanctioned and for that too, people have to kneel before the officers.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the condition prevailing in Delhi. The people are experiencing difficulty in getting water. There are slums and katras in Delhi where 300 to 500 people live in one place and there are only 2 hydrants for these 500 people. The people there have to wait in a queue for hours, which leads to frayed tempers and scuffles.

When it is our policy that we shall supply water to the slums and 'Katras', it is not proper that people should stand in a queue for as long as hours for a bucket of water, which leads to scuffles and police cases and harassment to the people.

After all, why is it that we have not bothered to know about the problems of the citizens of Delhi and how we can provide water to them ?

You go round the Jhuggi-Jhoupri colonies, resettlement colonies and katras, you will find that the entire family has only one bucket of drinking water at its disposal and that too by paying Rs. 2 or Rs. 5 for the bucket.

In the trans Yamuna area, there are places where the Ganga water is being supplied. You go and see there the condition of the pipelines which is damaged and disjointed. The water which leaks out of these pipes as collects into small pools and becomes a breeding place for mosquitoes which leads to spread of diseases. The people living in those places lead a miserable life but there is no one to pay heed to their problems.

We do want to provide water in case it is available but the pipes should be laid in such a way that those may not cause inconvenience to the people. If we cannot supply drinking water to the people, we should at least ensure that water does not collect in pools.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the increasing

population of Delhi. Presently the population of Delhi is 71 lakhs and we require 472 million gallon water daily but our present capacity is only 344 mg/d. In 1990, the population of Delhi will be 87 lakhs and our requirement of water would be 574 million gallons per day. In 1995, the population will be 104 lakhs and the requirement of water would be 692 mg/d. In 2001, for a population of 128 lakhs the requirement of water would be 1024 mg/d but now no source has been left untapped for supplying water to Delhi. You have utilised the Yamuna water, you have already brought here the Ganga water. Which source has now been left untapped for supplying water to Delhi? The only outcome would be that the people of Delhi will die of thirst, the taps will go dry and the people will wait for drops of water from the taps.

M.P.s too are waiting for water.

I want to ask two questions of the hon. Minister. First, what has happened to the proposed scheme for constructing dams on the rivers surrounding Delhi for supplying water to Delhi? Why has that scheme not been completed?

Secondly, what is the number of persons who have applied for water connections but have not been provided with water connections. As per my information, their number is 50,000.

Thirdly, what has happened to your talks with Haryana for providing raw water to Delhi? When will this scheme start functioning?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : In every point he has raised, he has said that so many years have passed since India got Independence. When we got freedom, we also used to study geography and we had learnt that India's population was 35 crores. With the passage of time, the population of India has increased and so also its problems.

When we were slaves, minor incidents as well as major disasters used to occur

but no one bothered about them. When we were in jail, many people died in Bengal. I saw a photograph in which people were throwing food from above and children and dogs used to eat that food together. That is why the aspirations and demands of the people have increased after Independence. But you should compare your present position with the position when we were slaves, and we remained slaves for thousand of years, Kindly think over it.

(Interruptions)

Your problem will be solved from some other source.... *(Interruptions)*

While presenting any grievance or problem we should take into consideration the progress we have made, the extent of work done by us.

Today Delhi is getting 344 mg/d as against the requirement of 472 mg/d. You have mentioned two or three things. Our efforts are to find out the requirement of water for Delhi by the end of this century so that we may be in a position to meet it. When the population touches the one crore mark, wherefrom shall we get water? We are seized of this problem. If the need arose, we shall take water from Bhakra. Talks are being held with Haryana, and U. P. These days Haryana itself has become a victim of drought.

So far as the problem of drinking water is concerned, the Central Government as well as the concerned State Governments are ready to help.

Now, look at Delhi. What happened in South Avenue and North Avenue? I was not present here on that day. I had gone outside Delhi with the permission of Hon. Speaker and had asked my colleague to reply on my behalf. When I returned to Delhi, I thought that there being a Calling Attention motion on that day, Delhi would be referred to specifically, and if the problem

persisted, what our answer would be the Officers were called and the matter was discussed as to how water stopped from 7 to 8 O clock all of sudden. You will be surprised to know that we could not find the reasons for the stoppage of water. After a while, again the matter was enquired into. I do not know how after some time water started coming. It was just like the tantrik story or a story of some ghost which we used to hear of in our childhood. The same thing happened in this case also. Thereafter there was uninterrupted supply of water . . . (Interruptions) I asked my officers to remain alert for the next 24 hours lest some ghost should appear again! When water does not come in taps at other places, nobody comes forward to raise the issue, but if you feel slight difficulty in getting water here, you start raising a hue and cry . . . (Interruptions) . . . Hence, we have asked our officers to keep vigilance over South Avenue, North Avenue and other places where M Ps' flats are located and attend to any complaint received from there . . . (Interruptions).

(English)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Did we ask only for ourselves? He should not have said this. This is really a great aspersion on us.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : You have said a very serious thing in a light manner. . . .

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR: . . . and the Madam has felt it a little. But if there is a delay of two minutes in the supply of water in her flat and there is great delay in supply of water in her state, she would not raise the matter so vehemently for the people of her state as for herself . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : What the Minister has said connotes that we are

concerned about ourselves and not about the people. I am sorry the Minister should not have said this.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I am more sorry than yourself.

[Translation]

All right, if you have felt hurt, I may reply to the other points . . . (Interruptions) . . . That is why I have asked the people of my department and the Delhi Administration, under whose jurisdiction the work of water supply falls, that in order to ensure that such a problem does not occur again, a separate telephone number may be earmarked where the Members can register their complaints and the same would be attended to immediately. If the problems of M. P. s. living in North Avenue, South Avenue, etc. are solved, then the problems of people living in the adjacent areas would automatically be solved. So, we have asked our officers to remain vigilant so that such things may not happen again in Delhi.

Shri Agarwal raised two or three questions. He might be aware that renovation work in Chandani Chowk is going on. The problem of Chandani Chowk is a peculiar one because of the innumerable narrow lanes there. According to the details received from our department, it may take to three years to complete this work. We can undertake this work very easily in other areas like Ashoka Road, Curzon Road, Race Course Road etc. But the Chandani Chowk problem is a different one. The work is in progress and has been completed to some extent. The work relating to its modernisation and the laying of water pipes there is going on. You are yourself aware of it . . . (Interruptions)
You are well aware of the things.

You have raised a question about Yamuna river. There are Ranny wells also. But you will be surprised to know that the horizontal and vertical resources of water have depleted . . . (Interruptions)

...Yes, the entire stock of water has been taken away by ghosts. When snowmelts in the mountains, our problem of drinking water or irrigation water is solved to some extent. It appears that this year ghosts have reached there also? We are doing all those things which are under the control of Government. We are trying to solve this problem in every possible way . . .

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai) : There is no water supply in M. P.'s flats . . .

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Water is being supplied in abundance in your area. Please go and see for yourself.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI : Why don't you accompany us and see for yourself?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Special arrangement are being made for you . . . (Interruptions) . . . that when you face any problem, you can dial a telephone number specially meant for this purpose and these people will attend to your problem.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sometimes the phone itself is a problem. For that you may have to bring another Call Attention Motion or something.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Talks are going on with the Governments of Haryana and U. P. and other authorities also. I would not like to refer to these talks, otherwise you may start asking about the result of these talks. We are making all efforts to solve your problem.

[English]

SHRI JAI PARKASH AGARWAL : Excuse me, Sir, my question was that there are about 50,000 applications for water connection

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : You are yourself the Chairman of the Committee. You know D. D. A. and Delhi Municipal Corporation etc. are also involved. Every thing is being done by you. So far as this question is concerned, I have no information with me at present. I will furnish the information later on.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many of my friends have drawn the attention of the hon. Minister towards this problem. Shri Nihal Singh, and the hon. Member from Agra and Shrimati Krishna Sahi along with many other friends have written notes just now while sitting in the House detailing problems of their respective areas and handed them over to me with the hope that I would draw that attention of the hon. Minister towards these problems. Irrespective of the claims being made by us, the reality is that we have not been able to provide drinking water to half of the population in the country. The hon. Minister has himself accepted this fact in his reply that 54 per cent problem villages, which were identified on the basis of the survey conducted in 1972, have been covered. I would like to know from the hon. Minister by what time Government will be able to provide potable water to the rest of the population. Every State had its reservation about the survey of 1972. But now the situation has changed. The sources of drinking water available at the time of the survey of 1972, have dried up and if they have not dried up the scheme itself has become very old. Under that scheme, drinking water cannot be supplied. I would, therefore, like to ask whether a fresh survey is proposed to be conducted, in order to identify the problem-villages throughout the country and to devise measures to provide drinking water to them?

Now, I would like to draw the attention of hon. Minister towards that area in Uttar Pradesh, in respect of which my hon. colleague had said that

water is fetched from a distance of 1 km. The hon. Minister has said that snow has stopped melting in the Himalayas. In the prevailing weather, snow will melt in abundance. But the question is how you will supply the water, released by the melting of snow in the Himalayas to those who are in dire need of it? You should not doubt the capacity of the Himalayas for providing water. You will have to increase your own capacity so that the people can get drinking water. You must prepare a plan for this. I would like to request that you should prepare a National Crash Programme to provide drinking water to the people. We have, however, made a declaration that we shall be able to provide drinking water to people during this decade, but as per the reply given by you and under the circumstances prevailing in the entire country particularly in some States of Northern India, it appears that during this decade you will not be able to provide drinking water to even half of our villages. I would like to say one thing more. The situation is very serious in the area from which I come. There are 103 villages in my area, which have either been deserted or are likely to be deserted by the people. There are about 200 villages whose residents have to cover a distance of 10 kms to 20 kms to fetch water from the river valley below. When I went to one of the villages of my constituency, the women there showed me their heads. There were no hairs on their heads. Such is the grave situation there. The hon. Minister has mentioned many steps in this connections and I know he has his own limitations because he has to depend on the States as he has no implementation machinery of his Ministry. He has, of course, told us about the steps he has taken but he has not informed us the benefit of these steps to the people. This problem has not arisen overnight. I have been drawing attention to this problem for the last two months, and many other hon. Members have also drawn attention to wards this before. My submission to the hon. Minister is that just as the

Agriculture Ministry sends its team to study drought affected areas, your Ministry should also send a team to study the problem so that the intensity of the problem in each State could be known and you may formulate your plan accordingly.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that an allocation of Rs. 1511 crores was made in this connection in the Sixth Five Year Plan. This amount was to be spent jointly by you and the State Governments but according to a report of the UNICEF, only Rs. 1100 crores have been spent on this account. Which are those States where the full amount has not been spent? The hon. Minister should give this information so that the Members of Parliament of all the States may put pressures on their respective State Governments and if there is any deficiency at their level, that may be removed and they may take action at their level.

I also want to point out that last year the amount provided for this item was about Rs. 40 crores, whereas this year i.e., 1985-86 when the problem has become more acute, you have allocated Rs. 14.71 crores. I would like to know from you whether, keeping in view the seriousness of the problem, you will provide more money for this item?

Some time back I had raised problem Under Rule 377. I had intimated that in U.P. two agencies had been entrusted this work. One agency formulates schemes for drinking water and the other agency does the maintenance work for those schemes. One is called 'Jal Nigam' which formulates schemes and the other is known as 'Jal Sansathan.' These two agencies are the parts of the same parent body but their engineers at lower level collude to sabotage the schemes. The hon. Finance Minister has been the Chief Minister of U. P. and has visited the

hill areas more than once. The people there have told him that what is happening is that 'Jal Nigam' leaves a scheme incomplete and hands it over to 'Jal Sansthan'. Water is supplied for a month and then the scheme is handed over to 'Jal Sansthan' and the supply of water stops. When we raise this problem and tell the 'Jal Nigam' authorities that water is not coming and that the scheme is faulty, their reply is that the scheme is under 'Jal Sannsthan'. When we go to the 'Jal Sasthan' authorities, they say the scheme has been formulated by 'Jal Nigam'. The tax is recovered from the villagers but water is not supplied to them. I can say this with authority and of my assertion is not proved right, I am ready to resign. Out of all the schemes formulated by Jal Nigam for my constituency in U. P., 75 per cent are laying closed. Under some of the schemes water has not been supplied for more than one month and there are schemes under which water was never supplied. The schemes were completed and handed over to Jal Sansthan and it was shown that water being supplied to the villages. But the fact is that the people are not getting water. You should talk to the U.P. officials and kindly ask the Government of U.P. to amalgamate Jal Nigam and Jal Sansthan into one. Their excuse is that due to certain conditions imposed by the World Bank, they cannot do this. If it is so, then you may discuss the matter with World Bank officials so that water can be supplied to the people.

One thing more. Some time back Rs. 124 crores were allocated to U.P. as grant for the water supply schemes under the Minimum Needs Programme. U.P. is a big State and even to date hundreds of U.P. villages have been shown as problem-villages and those have not yet been covered. Half of your problem villages are in U.P. You have allocated only Rs. 298 crores for U.P. This needs to be increased. Will you increase this amount ?

In addition, the water being supplied, particularly in Agra which is a famous tourist Centre of the Country is dirty and unhygienic. This has been reported in a newspaper which I am reading out :

"Due to their utter inaction loss of the people's faith in them, the Jal-Kal Sansthan has prepared itself to witness lakhs of people dying inch by inch of Agra dying a slow death because it is supplying dirty water to them."

The newspaper further reports that :
"According to one estimate, in one litre of water, 100 millilitres of moss can be seen."

This filthy water is being supplied by Jal Sansthan, particularly in Agra, Varanasi and in my area also. What steps are you taking to stop the supply of dirty and filthy water and start the supply of clean water ?

In your State, of Bihar also, there is one problem which has been raised by Shrimati Krishna Sahi. In 1967 during the famine, hand pumps were installed there but as soon as the famine condition were over, the handpumps which had not been fully installed were left incomplete and the handpumps which had been completed but required repair were not required. In this connection my submission is that you may not reply to this point immediately but you can call for a copy of my speech later on and discuss the matter with the Bihar Government so as to reassure Shrimati Krishna Sahi.

What steps are you going to take in connection with the problems I have raised ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I am sorry to say that we cannot do anything about the points raised by you. You have raised several matters on which the Centre cannot do anything.

Drinking water is not a Union subject, it is a State subject. You should take the help of your Chief Minister about the points you have raised.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : You can at least talk to the Chief Minister of our State when he comes here.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : Let me inform you that this is a matter which relates to the States. It is the responsibility of every State to identify their problem-villages. You have stated that we should send our officers all over India to identify the problem villages. In this connection we write to every State and we ask them to let us know the correct position. Some States send information very late and some send it in time. On that basis I am giving the figure of 2.31 lakh problem-villages.

Then Shri Jain has told a new thing. He is right and we have come to a new thing. But so far as U.P., Bihar and other States are concerned, when these States are unable to give information about their problem villages, then how do they expect our officers to go all over India to identify the problem-villages ?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : It is an acute problem. The problem of drinking water has become very acute. Whenever an area is affected by drought, the officers from the Centre are sent to talk to the State Government. Similarly, for drinking water also, officers should be sent from here and they should talk to the State Government.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : That I have already answered. Whenever the country faces some calamity like drought which is beyond the capacity of the States to cope with due to resource constraint, we come forward to help.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHIR : Do you not consider the problem of drinking water a calamity ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOR : I have already said this thing in the beginning. I knew that this Calling Attention Motion is about the drought condition in all the States. On these lines I gave my reply in the Statement. The mistake I made was that I did not talk to Shri Jain in private. People everywhere thought that this problem existed in every State. But it is not that the officers have not visited the affected areas to know about the problems and their magnitude.

I have not said that I have also received intimation from UNICEF that they are ready to help and that they would provide relief. In case of any such calamity, the Central Ground Water Board offers its rigs if the State Government prepare a programme and send it to them. Thereafter the officers go there and discuss the problem with the Chief Minister, Minister Incharge and the concerned officers. They also collect the report submitted by the collector. A draft report is prepared and submitted to us and then the Centre decides about the quantum of assistance. Action is being taken on all the points raised in the Calling Attention Motion but now the problem of drinking water has been included in it. Now if there is drought of such a dimension that the earth starts cracking, it is a different problem and if there is a crisis of natural water, drinking water, that problem is quite different. When we were children and India was a slave country, there was not a single tubewell in our village. We used to go to the well and draw water with bucket or 'lots' and used it for drinking purposes as well as for cattle. Once a year, people used to clean the well collectively, which was called 'Uran' in Bhojpuri which meant that after taking out the entire filth from the well, the water used to become potable. I think, you too who are living somewhere near that area might be knowing about it. But with the progress we have made, no one takes water from the well. There are pumps in every house. The hon. Member mentioned about the problem of Bihar. This

problem is not confined to Bihar, it afflicts many areas. I have information that the Government sent money for sinking a tubewell at a depth of 110 ft. but when water started coming at a depth of 35 ft. they sunk the well only upto that depth but charged for 110 ft. digging. Similarly, there are cases where a washer worth 8 annas became faulty, but the pump was not started till the Government Enquiry Officer went there to enquire, thereby spending Rs. 200. This is the tendency now which has to be changed. It has become a habit of all of us, be it the Panchayat, an MLA, M.P. or Minister, i.e. from the Centre to the lowest-level; we consider it the duty of Government only to do things. A washer may be costing 8 annas or Rs. 1.50 but people will go to the collector to rectify the valve or get that washer replaced. What is required is a change in our approach. This tendency is prevalent all over India. Leave aside the problem of drought. Take the case of drinking water and problem-villages. Earlier we did not even know the term 'problem-villages'. Earlier we were not even aware of the drinking water problem of the hill areas; it is now that we are hearing about it. All these things have come to light after Independence. As the needs increase, our experts make on the spot study and try to find out a solution. This is the position. We are thinking even if what will be needed in the 21st century and what the position will be and what the requirements will be at the end of the 20th century. Now, these things cannot be completed in a day. We have to make gradual progress. You may have noticed that calamities sometimes befall even the developed countries but they face them bravely. I think last time the hon. Minister in charge of Doordarshan informed us that 42 million people were killed in the First World War. Had it happened with us, we would not have been able to bear the shock. But the Germans made their country still better than what it was earlier within a period of four years. It is called national character. We shall have to develop our national character. There is a

couplet in Persian. I won't read it but will give you its meaning and that is—Maubir Sahib advised the people that one should not beg for something which one can accomplish oneself. Begging will mean losing one's self-respect. There is need to build national character. Do you think that the parties like CPM in Bengal, Telugu Desam in Andhra Pradesh and Janata Party in other States have been able to solve their problems? If they had a magic wand they might have succeeded. Funds have been given to them but still they are not implementing the projects. At many places they have surrendered the funds. Some of the States have done so much of work that they are left with a few crores of rupees and they approach us again for more funds. When I was a student in Aligarh, there was a student who belonged to the Frontier Province. He was good in mimicry. Whenever there were ten to twenty people around him, addressing me Ghafoor Bhai he would ask me, whether I knew the conditions prevailing in the country then. As if the Frontier Mail was running, he used to imitate the hawkers at the midway stations between Peshawar and Calcutta; at Peshawar station, he used to call in a serious tone *Paratha-kabab* at Delhi station *mutton-chapati* in low tone; "Groundnut" at Patna station and "*Rasagulla*" at Calcutta. He used to describe how much vigour the people of every State between '*Kabab-Paratha*' and '*Rasgulla*', had and in this exercise the people of Bihar and U.P. were laughed at most, because they did not stand anywhere . . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He has now forgotten about water.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFUOR : I mean that the States too have to contribute their mite. If we declare that the supply of water would hence forth be our responsibility, a great hue and cry

would be raised that the Centre is interfering. . . . (Interruptions). We can intervene in the Congress-ruled States. The hon. member is sitting there, kindly pay attention to her also. In spite of the funds being sanctioned, they are not able to utilise them. They flare up at the slightest provocation. If we tell Telugu Desam something they take offence. This is the reason why the State Governments have been made responsible for all these things, especially the problem of drinking water. The Centre has declared incentives to those States which are taking steps to improve the drinking water problem. We have provided incentives also.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Has it been given to Rajasthan ?

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Many States are simply doing nothing on this account. If funds are given, they are surrendered. Members who have spoken have referred to many things from Frontier Mail to Howrah station. So, I would request them who are going to speak to bear this aspect also in mind.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : Mr Deputy Speaker. Sir, we really enjoyed the hon. Minister's witty remarks just now. But in the same breath we should not forget those people who are crying for water. The hon. Minister has said that there is no need for the Centre's intervention as no calamity has befallen, such as drought or famine. What can be more important than water ? One can live for days together without food but one can not live even for a day without water. Ghafoor Sahib might be observing fast and might do so during this summer. He can very well realise its importance. Is there anything more important than water for life ? We have crores of people in this country to day who are pining for water. Therefore, this matter should not be taken lightly. It is a matter of grave concern. Reports are pouring in from Orissa that many people are dying due to scarcity of drinking

water. Similar reports are coming from Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh that people are migrating from their villages to other areas due to scarcity of water. My friend, Shri Rath, who belongs to Orissa, is sitting here and so are our friends from Andhra Pradesh. They did not get an opportunity to participate in the Calling Attention and so they have not been able to project the problems of their areas. But I would like to express their feelings before you. Shri Jain spoke at length about Rajasthan. It being a desert, the people there are used to thirst and some provision is being made for them. In Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and many other States the scarcity of drinking water is posing a grave threat, and continues to do so. Never before has so large an area been affected by water crisis as during this year. This crisis can be termed as a national crisis and the Central Government should provide relief as it does during famine, drought and floods. In no uncertain terms one can say that this crisis is not only of the same nature but rather more grave. If people do not get food for say 4, 5 or even 6 days, they can do without and wait or manage somehow, but it is difficult to survive for even one day without water. Half of the country's population is presently affected by the crisis of water, of course in varying degrees. At many places the people have to go as far away as 7 to 8 kilometres to fetch water while at other places two to four kilometres. But this problem of drinking water is there and it cannot be denied that everyone is affected by it. The hon. Minister must also be in the know of it, as he is an able Minister and knows a lot about his department. He has been the Chief Minister of a State like Bihar and has earned a good name. We have high hopes from him. I feel sorry that no Union Minister has visited Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar and other places where the drinking water crisis is posing a grave threat. He must be more well-informed than I. I am only speaking on the basis of news paper reports wherein we come across

such things. Many hon. Members have been drawing the attention of Government and the House to the grave drinking water crisis in the country, through special mention Under Rule 377 every day since the current session of the Lok Sabha began. All of them have mentioned about the problem of drinking water in their respective states. I have done it myself. I have been told—I cannot say about other areas because I do not know what is happening in other states—that in spite of the special mention, no special efforts have been made anywhere to solve this problem. I have asked many people in this connection, but no definite reply has been forthcoming. Not only this, we have not been informed till today about the action taken on the matters raised by us Under Rule 377. How can it then be believed that your Ministry is taking the matter very seriously. Are you waiting for the famine to strike before you will do something about it? Can there be a more deadly famine than that of water scarcity?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one more point. A list was made in 1972 in which villages were identified as 'Problem Villages'. On the basis of this list they are still treated as 'Problem Villages'. But 13 years have elapsed since 1972 and no enquiry has ever been made as to the number of villages that have been added to the list of 'Problem Villages' or the number of villages where water is no longer available. Besides, drinking water has not reached all those 'Problem Villages' that were identified in 1972. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to forget the past as also the bygone days when you used to clean the wells, because those wells must have dried up by now. Previously also, the scarcity of drinking water used to be there in a few villages but the present water crisis is due to the way the underground water is being utilised, and tube wells are being installed for irrigation and the speed with which underground water is being

drained. And it would affect more village in future also. In U. P., Allahabad and Varanasi-to. which our hon. Finance Minister belongs—had always been areas with problem-villages the where the problem of drinking water had been there for long. Mirzapur and some of the hill areas had also been affected by this problem. But today the whole of Uttar Pradesh is facing a grave crisis of drinking water. Similar is the situation in other parts of the country like Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa. Now all the states have been engulfed by this crisis. With regard to the problem-villages, as mentioned in the 1972 list, a circular of your Department States that necessary steps should be taken to provide drinking water only in those villages but they do not attend to those villages which are not mentioned in the list. Even hand-pumps are not installed in these villages and no drinking water schemes drawn up. They make an excuse by saying that you get the funds sanctioned by the district authorities and only then it will be implemented, as these villages are not covered by their scheme. How long will this 1972 list last? Why don't you make a new list and identify new problem villages? It is said that new villages will not be identified till the backlog is cleared; then why is there a delay in completing the schemes in hand? You have been trying to complete these schemes for the last eleven years but you have not been able to do so till now. The schemes have been introduced in about 1.92 lakh villages and about 60 to 65 per cent villages have been covered but still many villages have been left which may take a lot of time. I would, therefore, request that a new list should be drawn and drinking water should be made available to the villages that are not included in the 1972 list.

13.37 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASVARAJESWARI *in the Chair*]

It has been decided by you that the population of the village shall be the

basis for installation of hand-pumps. Just now Jain Sahib pointed out, to the astonishment of the hon. Minister, that a village in Rajasthan may be spread over an area which may vary from five kilometres to two hundred kilometres. But our villages are not scattered over such a large area. In the case of our village, there are hamlets of the same village at a distance of 5 to 7 miles. Those hamlets may be at a distance of 20 yards to 4 kilometres from one another. Water is not available in those hamlets. Hand-pumps are installed in the main village, but in the near about hamlets where about 50 families of Harijans or Adivasis or people of weaker sections stay, no arrangements have been made for drinking water. The people are told that as the population is less than 1200, they should feel obliged if a hand-pump is installed in the area. As a matter of fact the population of 1,200 is spread over an area of two to five kilometres and, therefore, there is need to pay attention to these hamlets and provide them with drinking water.

Madam Chairman, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to another point. All these different States have different types of problems. In some States, the drinking water schemes have not been successful and in others the hand-pumps have not been successful. In our State the hand pumps are not successful while the drinking water schemes are. It seems that your department has taken a policy decision not to formulate drinking water schemes but instead instal only handpumps. In this connection I would like to ask you the number of seasons they are likely to last and their depth? As the level of the water table is fast going down, these hand pumps dry up in three months or six month or with in a span of a year or two and there is no one to instal them again. These schemes are implemented somehow but there after there is no one to look after their maintenance work. Who would look after them after all, whose baby is this? No one knows.

Wherever relief works have been undertaken, whether it is construction of roads or provision of drinking water, nobody knows which authority would look after the maintenance work. You are not at fault for this. The State Governments are at fault. Nobody there knows whether the District council, or the Water Corporation or Block Administration or or Village Panchayat will look after it. Just now, an hon. Member pointed out that if one of its screws is broken, it becomes out of order. It lies idle for want of an expenditure of Re. 1 or Rs. 1.50 and children break it and render it useless.

I am not aware of the position prevailing in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh, but I can say in respect of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar that drinking water schemes can prove a success there. Please try to provide drinking water under this scheme. You can provide immediate relief through hand-pumps but it is for a short duration only. Hand-pump cannot meet the permanent requirements of people. You will have to depend on drinking water schemes for its permanent solution, I would urge the hon. Minister to reconsider seriously the decision of the Technical Committee that drinking water schemes will not be taken up but instead hand-pumps will be set up throughout the country. A scheme for a particular area should be formulated keeping in view the situation prevailing there.

Mr. Chairman, steps should be taken to provide immediate relief because this problem is for two months i.e., May and June. After that the rainy season would set in. If the hon. Minister is waiting for rains, it is a different thing. After rains, there will be no problem. Members will leave Delhi on 17th May. They will not be seen here after that. If the hon. Minister is waiting for that, it is a different matter. Now, we are going to our respective constituencies. The issue pertaining to water will be raised before us. The hon. Minister is not going to visit the affec-

ted areas. It is we who shall have to go there. So, immediate arrangements should be made during these two months. The arrangements should be made on war-footing.

In Orissa, people are dying for want of water. In Madhya Pradesh people are migrating from their villages as there is no water there. The same is position in Andhra Pradesh. People are migrating to other places. But in our State such a situation has not yet developed where people here to migrate. The river Ganga flows through our State. People trudge a distance of 5 to 7 kms in night in order to fetch water. Small children and women have to fetch water from very long distances.

The drinking water problem is a national problem and many hon. Members have not been able to express their views on it. I could not say anything specifically about my constituency. All the wells in my constituency have dried up. Wells have dried up in the adjacent area of Buxar. But the river Ganga has not yet dried up. It is a very fortunate thing. But the water of the Ganga has also been polluted. It is very dangerous to drink its water now. You can understand it very well. But we are feeling compelled to drink that water. People have to fetch water at night from the river.

I am very much pained to point out that our State Governments, irrespective of the fact whether it is the Government of West Bengal or the Government of Andhra Pradesh or the Government of any other State, are not discharging their duty properly. People are crying for water. Government can at least provide funds for this. I request the hon. Minister to accept our suggestion for sending a study team to the States immediately, as has been suggested by Shri Rawat, which should submit a report to you so that you may be able to make arrangements on a war-footing to provide water there.

According to the suggestions given, you are making arrangements on a war-footing to provide water, but immediate arrangements will have to be made by you for providing drinking water during these two months. If more funds are needed for this purpose, I think the hon. Finance Minister will happily provide the necessary funds and I hope the entire House would support me.

[English]

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Kurmool Madam, we were the first to give Calling Attention notice on this subject, but we were not lucky in the ballot. Unfortunately, water scarcity in Andhra Pradesh is so acute that the State Government has to distribute Rs. 6 crores for the purpose of meeting the acute shortage of water. The hon. Member from UP, Shri Zainul Basher, in th his speech was referring to Andhra Pradesh and I think he was also asking the hon. Minister to go and see the acute water scarcity faced in Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : (Shrimati Basava Rajeswari) : I would request hon. Minister to take Andhra Pradesh also into account while replying to the points raised by Shri Zainul Basher.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : The situation is so acute in Orissa also. It should be considered.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The motion regarding acute shortage of drinking water covers various parts of the country and therefore the hon. Minister would take into consideration all parts of the country while replying to the points raised in this House.

[Translation]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : All the hon. members have expressed their learned views on the Calling Attention

Motion. The number of Ministers present today is the highest ever present in the House.

(Interruptions)

I was very much impressed by the scholarly speech made by my friend Shri Zainul Basher. I will try my best to implement his suggestions. So far as the problem for these two months is concerned, if it rains during this period, it will be very good. I pray to God that rains may fall tomorrow itself so that your problems and my problems may be solved. This will give relief to both of us.

(Interruptions)

He has referred to problem villages. We are not concerned with the fact whether these were identified in 1971 or in 1980. We are also of the view that every State has its own problems. They should know what has been done and what is yet to be done, how far they can go and what their capacity is. It should not be left to the Centre to visit every place and identify the various problems there such as drinking water supply problem, education problem, defence problem, irrigation problem, agriculture problem etc. If you expect the Centre to take up the cultivation work themselves, and when you need lectures for universities, to provide them also, then this is not possible.

My friends Shri Zainul Basher has tried to put words in my mouth. He said that the present problem was more serious in the drought affected States. In reply to various questions raised here, I had said at the outset that in the event of any complaint from a state about the occurrence of floods or drought is there sometimes floods and drought occur simultaneously at many places—the Centre provides assistance for tackling both types of problems. I had stated that a Central team visits all the places and after holding talks with the state

Government concerned submits its report. On the basis of that report, the Central Government provides assistance to the maximum possible extent. I had also stated that certain funds have already been sanctioned. Our other agencies are also ready to help; only the State Governments have to submit their demand. UNICEF is also prepared to provide rigs.

In such circumstances, we are ready to provide help to States. The Centre has sanctioned funds to States and has despatched certain equipments also. But sometimes at the time of sowing paddy, the rains fail and a hue and cry is made. An S.O.S. call is given. Paddy will be sown in a particular month and after a period of 4 months it will be harvested. It is understandable if they give an S.O.S. call in the event of failure of crop. It has become a psychology. We should cry after 4 months only when the crops have failed.....

(Interruptions)

“Whether they cry or you cry is unparliamentary”....

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : “Cry” is not unparliamentary.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : You are not to decide it. It is for the Hon. speaker to decide it. If we say that they are telling a lie, then it becomes unparliamentary. But if they say we are not saying the truth, then it is not unparliamentary. (Interruptions)

Mr. Speaker may simply ask one member to sit down and to another one he may say : “Hon Member may refuse his seat.” There are different ways to express different things.

I am referring to all these things because some work has been entrusted to States and after receiving report from

them, we shall do our part of the work. The States should discharge their duties and we shall discharge our duties. The hon. Member should also discharge his duties. Every body discharges his duty in his own way. But sometimes it so happens... (*Interruptions*) Perhaps you have come just now. Had you come earlier, you would have enjoyed much. You had deprived yourself of the enjoyment by remaining about.

[*English*]

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : (Visakhapatnam) This is not the way to reply on such a grave matter. You are laughing here while people are weeping for water.

[*English*]

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Perhaps you thought that I was not speaking seriously. My contention is this, that some hon. Members from this side and that side have spoken such things, which will go against you; and I am defending you indirectly. Because you were absent...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : What is the Minister speaking? I am rising on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Here is a point of order. Let me hear it. What is your point of order, Mr. Bhattam?

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : His name is not in the list.

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : I am rising on a point of order. How does it go against us? What is he going to attribute to us? Is this the way in which a Minister should behave while giving a reply on a serious matter like this? I take a very strong objection to this. Let him confine his remarks to what he has done, and what he proposes to do, and not indulge in all

sorts of things against various political parties ruling in other States.

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. Let me hear from the hon. Minister what steps he is going to take.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : Some of the hon. Members had suggested that I should take control of drinking water etc. from the States. I am not going to oblige them. There are some subjects which belongs to the States. I think you belong to Andhra Pradesh. I am not going to curtail anything which your Chief Minister is entitled to do in his own State. Some of my Members suggested that I should do it. Why should I do it?

SHRI S.M. BHATTAM : You give your reply.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I have given that reply. You were not present. You did not hear. Sometimes, the reply is good, in a sense....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the Minister reply. Don't interfere. I do not allow any interruption while the Minister speaks.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : We enjoyed the hon. Minister's speech very much, but nothing has been said about solving the water problem.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The last speech was made by Shri Zainul Basher. We have noted all his points, but we are afraid that we shall not be able to take this measure as Tewariji would be annoyed with us ...

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : No, he would not be annoyed.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : I was telling about it. You are asking me to deprive him of his powers.

SHRI JAINUL BASHER : I am not asking you to deprive him of his powers. You should help him. I am asking you to extend your help to him.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : He meant the same thing which you have understood.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : What I am saying is that every State should identify its problem-villages. You know that every State gets assistance from the Centre according to its accelerated rural water supply programme. This assistance is provided to solve much problems. In addition, we even go to this extent that we pay more attention to a State which works more in this direction. Our hon. Member belongs to the Telugu Desham Party. We are happy that more work has been done in that State. I would like to congratulate the Government of that State.

Our friends had referred to Orissa. Ten days back, a question had been listed for being asked in this House. Due to shortage of time, it could not be replied to in the House. You would be surprised to know what I told him about Orissa. I told him that his question had not come up for reply, though I was very eager to reply it. I read the reply to him. He said that it was good that the reply was not given on the floor of the House.

The maximum assistance is provided to this State by the Centre. At certain places the amount has been refunded, and at other, the funds have lapsed but our friends are saying that the people are dying. People in Orissa are dying for want of drinking water. The Centre is providing funds to every State, but the money is not being spent. The funds are diverted to other works and

then a demand is made for more funds...

PROF. K.K. TEWARI (Buxar) : The funds are diverted to other items, but funds are not spent for making provision for supply of drinking water. If funds had been spent for supply of drinking water, this situation would not have arisen.

14.00 hrs.

SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR : The funds are diverted to other works and funds are spent on this item also. Leave all that aside. If all such things have to be mentioned, I would publish a booklet and the booklet would expose many persons. The Housing construction activities are going on at a very fast pace in one State while work relating to provision of drinking water schemes is at a fast pace in another State. Both the activities are very fast in yet another State and there is slackness in both the activities in some other State. Do I not know what is going on in my State and what is happening in other States? All these things are there, but we are prepared to undertake all the work which we can do. We have done not only that—you please listen to me attentively, but we provide more incentives to the States which work more. We say that the States should put in their best-efforts and then they should approach us for more funds. They do not do their part of the work but ask the Centre to do work for them. *(Interruptions)*... You have not followed me. I was replying to him but the other Member has got annoyed. I was defending them. I was defending the C.P.M. and I was saying that such types of questions should not be raised, otherwise we shall have to face more problems while we are already in troubled waters; but they do not pay any heed. They think that it is better if the facts are revealed. We are aware of all these things. Our Finance Minister is also aware of these things. They also are

aware of these things and we all are aware of such things and the calamity has not yet come before us into full intensity....(Interruptions)....

14.02 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (H.K.L. BHAGAT):

Sir, with your permission, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing Monday, the 13th May, 1985 will consist of :

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.
2. Further discussion on the 32nd and 33rd Reports of the Union Public Service Commission.
3. Consideration and passing of the following Bills :
 - (i) The Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (Amendment) Bill, 1985.
 - (ii) The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (iii) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.
 - (iv) The Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Amendment Bill, 1985 as passed by Rajya Sabha.

4. Discussion on the Resolution seeking approval in the increase of export duty on black pepper.

SHRI ABDUL RASHID KABULI (Srinagar) : The energy crisis in Jammu and Kashmir has deepened as a result of shortfall of snow in the higher reaches of the mountains this winter, which has affected flow in channels feeding hydroelectric projects. This development repeated this summer also is playing havoc with the tourism and small scale industry including handicrafts industry. Towards this end, the Centre should meet its commitment to provide electricity to summer and, Kashmir in winter and also in scarcity period from the Northern Grid. The Government of India should also apply its mind to the vast resources and tremendous potential of J & K State in electricity which is potential harnessed can give a tremendous boost to this essential commodity. Work on hydroelectric projects like Uri Salal, Dool Hasti, Sooru (Kargil) etc. needs speedy implementation by the Centre. With these few projects, the State can generate enough electricity which shall not only suffice the needs of the State, but can be exported to the neighbouring States, these projects have the capacity of 10,000 Megawatts if completed under the 7th Five Year Plan.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : About 600 black bucks are found moving freely in the rural area of Buguda, Ramunda and Bhetnoi of Ganjam district, Orissa. They are confined in 20 surrounding villages having 30 square miles geographical limit. They eat grass and cereal crops comprised within 3000 hectare cultivable and hilly lands and 300 hectare Government waste land. They are seen in herds in 20 to 30. Their average life span is 12 years. Their horns measure nearly 6 ft. They can gallop very fast to the extent of 60 m.p.h. Their gallop in herds presents a unique sight.

The villages of Buguda, Ramunda and Bhetnoi are the most ardent conserva-