

independent because they act as per the wishes of the Minister. I am not finding fault with the officials. If a particular officer does not oblige, he will be shifted to some other place. I would therefore request the hon. Members of this House to support my resolution so that the TV and the A. I. R. can function impartially and independently without any interference from the Government side. If they are autonomous bodies, they can be impartial and independent, not under the Ministry, under the Minister, under the Party to which he belongs. My Resolution is for converting the TV and the A. I. R. into autonomous bodies.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr Moolchand Daga, are you withdrawing your amendment ?

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Yes, Sir. I withdraw my amendment.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House to allow Mr. Mool Chand Daga to withdraw his amendment ?

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

(The amendment was by leave withdrawn)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

"This House resolves that the All India Radio and Doordarshan be converted into autonomous corporations to ensure objectivity, impartiality and independence of the mass media."

The motion was negatived.

16.55 hrs.

RESOLUTION RE : RELIEF TO
FARMERS AFFECTED BY
DROUGHT

[English]

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu) :
I beg to move :

"That this House recommends to the Government to give adequate relief to farmers affected by drought in various parts of the country this year, particularly those in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and ensure regular supply of water for irrigation and drinking purposes."

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House has to allot time for this resolution. We have to take up Half-an-Hour discussion at 5.30 today. That is the time available to us. Therefore, we can proceed with the discussion upto that time. I would request the hon. Members to be very brief.

Shri Gupta may continue.

[Translation]

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to the vagaries of nature, every year our country faces floods, droughts, storms and cyclones in different parts which cause a heavy loss in the entire country. A loss of about Rs. 2,000 crores is suffered due to drought every year whereas the annual loss suffered due to floods is to the tune of about Rs. 1200 crores. There are no two opinions that our Government at once depute special teams for survey of the affected areas and the quantum of loss suffered is assessed by the Central as well as State Governments through different agencies and they provide a lot of relief on the recommendations of such agencies. Government spend about Rs. 200 crores annually on this account.

Some areas, some States of the country are such that they have suffered heavy damage due to drought this year. These are Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and many other States . . .

AN HON. MEMBER : Uttar Pradesh is also one of them.

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA : Yes Sir. Uttar Pradesh is also one of them. But, in my Resolution, I have specifically

mentioned Jammu and Kashmir, because first I come from that State and secondly you know this country is like a human body. When any part of the body is heavy pain.

16-58 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER in the Chair]

The entire body feels the pain. Our Jammu and Kashmir State is a very backward and hilly State. The people of the "Kandi".

17.00 hrs.

Area of the State mainly depend on such crop as cannot be grown without rain. Canal or "Koohl" water cannot reach there. Most of the people depend on tourism. The State has a few plains on the border, but the canal water does not reach there, on account of which the people cannot raise crops. They also depend mainly on rain. You go to any hilly area, viz., Poonch, Bhadarwa, Rajauri, Kishatwad or Doda, the people have to walk up to 10 kilometres downhill to get 10 kilograms of wheat or maize. There are some areas where neither horse nor any other mode of transport is available. They carry foodgrains on their back or on sheep or goats.

17.00 hrs.

But as ill luck would have it, there is drought all around due to snowfall deficits rainfall so much so that there are areas where the people do not have anything to eat. It is true that the Central Government assist by sending a fairly good amount of foodgrains which do reach there. Nobody dies due to non-availability of goodgrains. The foodgrains are carried on sheep or through some other means. The problem which we are facing today is that first, there has been no crop in the State and secondly, there is no hope of increase in foodgrains production in the near future, whether it be Kashmir, Jammu or Ladakh. You might have read in the newspapers that our State Government have

issued directions telling the people to sow seedlings of paddy at their own risk as there is shortage of water in the paddy season also. It is in this context that I am referring to irrigation. Irrigation is necessary for agriculture. If there is no water for irrigation, I think, it is very difficult for the farmer to produce foodgrains. As far as I know, there is still about 70 per cent of land in the country which is un-irrigated. The problem is particularly acute in Jammu and Kashmir, where the sources of water are not many. Only the rivers are there and the canals from the rivers serve only the plains. Through you, I want to bring to the notice of Government one thing to drive my point home. The Ranbir Canal that originates from the Chenali irrigates plain areas. Generally during this season, that canal has enough water. Its capacity is 1000 cusecs of water. But these days, it has not more than 400 or 500 cusecs of water. Recently, one of our experts teams surveyed the hills through helicopter to have an assessment of our snow reserves and the period for which we can get water from there in future. The report of the team says that if there is not immediate snow fall, there are not enough snow reserves there to give us enough water in the coming days. Therefore, I want to say that Government should pay more attention to it and should take some steps to supply water to the areas which face scarcity of water. As long as we do not install tube wells, as long as we do not provide the latest type of rigs, as long as we do not construct small ponds in the hilly and "Kandi" areas for storage of water, or do not formulate schemes for lift irrigation or do not take other similar measures, in my view, in the coming days I am afraid the people of these areas will be facing a lot of difficulties.

I have another suggestion to make with regard to irrigation. So far as our area is concerned, there are some states which have, perhaps, surplus water. If possible, we should make arrangements to supply water from the surplus states to the neighbouring states which face scarcity of water or are drought-prone.

Besides, I want to make another suggestion. If we take the country as a whole, if I am not wrong, the production of foodgrains is about 180 million tonnes. On the other hand, a State like ours which has a large area, produces only one per cent of the total production in the country. If irrigation facilities are provided to the farmers there and steps are taken to supply water and the farmers are able to use that water in the fields, I think a lot of foodgrains can be produced there because the farmers of that area all are quite hardworking and the uncultivated land can be brought under cultivation.

So far as the question of drinking water is concerned, we have many such areas like the "Kandi" area, if you go there, if you go to some areas in Sambha or Udhepur in Shri Dager's constituency, you will find that the people have to walk down up to 15 Kilometres to fetch drinking water. The women bring water from 15 Kilometres carrying 2 to 3 pots on their heads. But, we are grateful to the Central Government that they have taken many steps as a result of which we have received some water. The ground water level in these areas is so low that even wells cannot be dug there. Water is supplied there through tankers. Still, there are some places where fodder and water for cattle is not available, as there have been no rains. I request that such arrangements should be made there so that the people could live conveniently. Otherwise, Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of the "Kandi" area in the upper region who do not get water, come down hill and keep their cattle along the canal banks 20 to 30 kilometres away from their place of born. They make their cattle drink water from the canal. What happens as a result of it is that the banks of the canal are damaged, they are washed away at some places and consequently the canal water do not reach the farmers, thereby leading to a number of difficulties. Thus, the whole system collapses. Therefore, I would like to request that, as our great leader, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has also announced a relief of Rs. 200 crores for them—he has full sympathies with the

affected people who are now suffering—a team should be sent there soon to assess the loss suffered by different states, particularly Jammu and Kashmir which is a border and hilly state so that more and more relief is given to us. In addition to this, you know the situation existing there. Therefore, if a decision is not taken in this season itself, then we may have to face lot of hardships during the sowing of paddy crop, particularly in the Kashmir valley. Today I was reading that the Jammu and Kashmir Government had asked the people to sow some other crop instead of paddy. That is what I have read today. The State Government had asked its revenue staff, i.e., from Patwari to Tahsildar to advise the people to go in for some such crop which may require less water instead of the paddy crop. I think very few people will accept this. You know that the staple food of the Kashmir Valley is rice and in Jammu also most of the people are rice-eaters. Therefore, if water is not available, it will create difficulties. I think due to this season there will be demand for more rice from there and you will have to send rice from here. Therefore, there is still time to make some arrangement by way of sinking wells, constructing "Kooht" by lift irrigation etc, to supply water to the people there. I would submit that there is need to constitute a study team which may go to all the States, and study the situation particularly in the hill areas and find out the extent of damage or different places. I also suggest that the local M.L.A.s and M.P.'s of the area should be associated so that each and every place is visited and the damage assessed. Besides, a job oriented scheme should be implemented for unemployed landless farmers and agricultural labourers.

Lastly, I would submit through you that it is a temporary relief and we need source permanent solution so that arrangements to check the floods as also to give protection from floods are made. I feel that for this purpose a separate board should be constituted and other countries should be visited to find out what measures are taken there to check these calamities. Some way should be

found out to check coming floods and droughts. Though it is correct that these are natural calamities and one feels helpless against them but it is only duty to try to check them. While man reached even the moon, it does not look proper that we are not taken steps even to prevent these things. If we take such steps under the leadership of the Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) :
 I beg to move :

That in the resolution —

(i) after “farmers” insert

“and other economically weaker sections.”

(ii) after “year” insert

“as well as those who may be affected in future”

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO (Siddipet) : I rise to support this Resolution. There are acute drought conditions both in the north and south and a large part of the State of Andhra Pradesh is affected.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time has not been allotted for this item.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Two hours may be allotted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Two hours are enough. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : There seems to be some misunderstanding. Forty-five minutes have already been allotted.

DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : In Andhra Pradesh the State received a deficit rainfall during the South-West monsoon of 1984-85 in all the districts. The rainfall was also erratic with long dry spells and caused considerable

damage to the crops sown. The total failure of rains in August 1984 in all the districts resulted in wholesale failure of crops, causing undue misery and distress not only to small and marginal farmers. Because of the uneven, scanty gappy and deficit rainfall received during the season most of the minor irrigation sources did not receive any supplies. Owing to the continuous dry spell and withering of crops, agricultural labourers were thrown out of employment. On account of the wholesale failure of crops the rural economy received a great set back during 1984-85. Purchasing capacity of the weaker sections of the community has registered a steep decline and there was all round distress in the affected areas of the State.

Taking into consideration all the relevant factors like rainfall, the periods of dry spell, and crop conditions in various parts of the State, the Government of Andhra Pradesh notified in all, 201 taluks—171 taluks in full and 30 taluks in parts—in 1^o districts of the State as drought affected and relief operations were started.

During November 1984 almost all the districts in the State excepting Nellore and Chittoor which received heavy cyclonic rains from 12th to 17th, received deficit rainfall ranging from 12 per cent to 100 per cent over the normal. Regionwise the Coastal Andhra region registered a deficit of 16 per cent, the Rayalaseema region 26 per cent and the Telangana region 57 per cent over the normal. The State as a whole registered a deficit of 22 per cent over the normal.

The December month registered a deficit of 8 per cent for the State as a whole as against the normal rainfall of only 12 mms. The deficit rainfall received during the season was also characterised by prolonged dry spells, the number of rainy days being few. During October 1984 the periods between 1st to 4th, 12th to 22nd and 25th to 31st were the dry spells almost throughout the State. During November

and December the rainy days were still fewer and period between 5th to the 31st of the month was almost dry.

Due to deficit rainfall received during the north-east monsoon period the minor irrigation sources did not receive further supplies and the available water was not adequate for raising Rabi paddy. Due to near failure of north-east monsoon, dry weather is prevailing from December, 1984 onwards.

Transplantation of Rabi paddy was taken up under major and also medium irrigation sources. Under major irrigation sources, however, transplantation took place to the extent water was available. The State Government sought for the assistance of the Government of India, for an amount of Rs. 365.90 crores for relief measures and an amount of Rs. 50.68 crores towards loan assistance, the total being Rs. 416.58 crores, for combating the present drought in all the 22 affected districts of State, till the end of March, 1984. Government of India sanctioned an assistance of Rs. 54.42 crores including Rs. 7.84 crores towards loan assistance. The State Government released the amount to various implementing agencies, for undertaking the drought relief operations including provision of drinking water, fodder for cattle and contingency agricultural production programme, etc.

As on 31.3.1985 the State Government have spent an amount of Rs. 53.795 crores on drought relief works. As the works are showing brisk progress, the balance amount has also been incurred by now on works.

The relief measures already undertaken for providing employment to the unemployed agricultural labourers, small and marginal farmers, have further to be intensified during the ensuing months of April to June, 1985 as they are normally lean months, when agricultural labour will have no employment of any sort even in a normal season. This year both the kharif and

rabi seasons not being normal, the situation has worsened as compared to what was obtaining at the time of presentation of first memorandum on account of poor precipitation during October and November, 1984 and almost negligible rainfall during December, 1984 the hot weather period covered by January and February, 1985 not being significant at all. The distress among the people has further got aggravated during the months of April to June, 1985 till the onset of the next monsoon, as they are going through the harrowing experience of a continuous drought and are subsisting only on the employment provided through execution of relief works. The position will be very acute both in rural and urban areas with the advance of summer. Equally grave will be the position of availability of fodder to the cattle in the scarcity areas.

Government of Andhra Pradesh has, therefore, decided that the relief measures undertaken should be continued without any interruption and the tempo of execution of relief works should be maintained to arrest the likely migration of rural population in search of employment.

As per the norms adopted during the year 1984-85 it was considered reasonable to pay at least Rs. 10/- per day per labourer for 25 days in a month during the period April to June, 1985. In all 109.41 lakh affected labourers including small and marginal farmers need to be provided employment for 75 days at a total of Rs. 273.525 crores.

In the areas identified as drought affected in the State, a sum of Rs. 30 crores would be available as labour component under on going plan and non-plan schemes for 1985-86 for generating employment. Taking into account the labour component under plan and non-plan schemes that would be available for providing works to the affected labourers, a sum of Rs. 243 crores would be needed for taking up employment generating schemes.

Lastly, I feel that it is a very bad situation in the country. The Government should immediately come forward and take drought relief programmes in the country particularly in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Resolution moved by Shri Janak Raj Gupta. The drought conditions today are not confined to Jammu and Kashmir, these conditions prevail in Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Orissa, Maharashtra and U.P. as well. Every year efforts are made to fight the drought conditions. Every year one or the other place is affected by drought and the Central Government sends a Study Team to study the situation. The Study Team submits its report and the Central Government after taking a decision provides relief. My submission is that there are two different norms for giving relief in case of drought and flood. In the case of floods 75 per cent of the damage caused is compensated but in the matter of drought some ceiling is fixed. For example, Rajasthan Government had demanded Rs. 150 crores as drought relief but the amount provided is Rs. 25 crores only. I want to submit that drought relief should be provided on the same lines as flood relief. The damage caused by floods should surely be compensated and the provision of 75 per cent compensation is quite reasonable. The remaining 25 per cent is compensated for by the State Government. But a similar provision should be made in the case of drought also.

Today in Rajasthan, thousands of villages are in the grip of famine but Government are short of funds to fight it. Such a situation has arisen that the relief works which should have been opened in December have not been opened even upon February not to speak of December. If relief works are not spend in time upto what time will the poor have to go on starving. They shift to other States like Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab etc. Consequently, they do not get any relief. Presently, the situation in Rajasthan is

that the works to fight drought were started on 15th April and then too in a very small number because the State Government do not have sufficient resource. This creates problems for the poor and he has to abandon his work and shift to other places with the cattle. I have been repeatedly pressing here that drought relief should be provided in the same manner as is provided in flood relief. In the case of floods, loss occurs once and some times next crop grows very well but in the case of famine, such things do not happen. The farmers become destitute, people die of diseases, the cattle also die. In the 1967-68 famine, the number of cattle in Barmer, Jaisalmer districts was reduced to one-third and one-fourth respectively. For this relief, it is necessary to find out some permanent measures to fight the famine.

In this connection I want to submit that the construction of the Rajasthan Canal was started in 1957 but till now it has not been completed. If we really want to provide relief to them and want to find out some permanent solution, then the permanent solution in this desert area is the Rajasthan Canal which is now known as the Indira Canal. On our request on addition an amount of Rs. 200 crores has been provided in the Seventh Five Year Plan for Rajasthan Canal. We thank the Central Government for this. The type of work which is required for the Rajasthan Canal needs Rs. 1,500 crores. The work can be completed with this much amount. The Rajasthan Government do not have that much of responses to spend. I have repeatedly raised this question. The Central Government should get this work completed in the Seventh Five Year Plan by providing 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan under the Desert Development Programme. First we should complete those works which we have already taken in hand. We take in hand many irrigation schemes or other schemes and allocate just Rs. 1 crore for one year but the works remain incomplete. Our Prime Minister has also emphasised that there is need to change this policy. Those schemes, which are considered important should be taken in hand and

completed during the Seventh Five Year Plan. After completing these schemes only we can find a proper solution for the problem of famine. During famine, there remains acute crisis of drinking water. To solve this crisis, water is being supplied through tankers in the Barmer, Jodhpur and Pali districts. The tankers too are in a bad condition because of which the full requirements of water are not met. Earlier also we had requested and the Central Government had sent military tankers there. They had arranged for water for our border areas also. We had got some relief from this arrangement. Even today the situation remains the same. Now once or twice water is supplied by tankers and some time even that is not done. Ten gallons of water per person should be provided but even one gallon per person is not being made available. This is the situation. My submission is that unless you make some permanent arrangement for drinking water

[*Interruption*]

only in a very few pockets, under-ground water has been found and with that only a few villages will be covered. The problem should be solved permanently by according priority to the supply of drinking water through the lift canal rather than to irrigation from the Rajasthan Canal. One crore of rupees had been sanctioned for Jodhpur city but this amount has not been spent so far. If arrangement is made at this tardy speed, the way the population of Jodhpur is increasing, the situation will become explosive after some time. Even otherwise also, the water crisis in Jodhpur has already started. What I mean to say is that even in those places where there never used to be water crisis, there also water crisis has arisen because due to scanty rains during the last three to four years the water level of the wells has gone down. Therefore, to solve the drinking water problem of Rajasthan there is need to formulate a plan utilising the Rajasthan Canal. The Rajasthan Government have actually formulated a plan. I want that it should be executed at the earliest. I have already requested the Central Government that the Desert Deve-

lopment Programme should be equated with the Hill Area Programme and assistance should be provided with 90 per cent grant and 10 per cent loan. Only then the drinking water problem can be solved there. In addition, the Programme of irrigation through the Rajasthan Canal should be expanded further and implemented. With these words I support the Resolution.

[*English*]

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, I support this Resolution which has been moved by Mr. Gupta.

Sir, this problem of drought has now become a serious problem and almost 8 States in this country have been affected including my State, Orissa. From the report it appears that a total crop area of 320.84 lakh hectares and a total population of 991.28 lakhs and a total cattle population of 308.15 lakhs have been affected in the 8 States by this drought.

Sir, to meet this problem of drought in different States, every year the Centre by way of relief is advancing an average Rs. 500 crores to various States. Recently in Orissa, added to these drought conditions, a cyclone has taken place where about 5 districts have been affected. They are Sambalpur, Keonjhar, Cuttack, Balasore and parts of Puri. So, the drought condition was very serious and now the cyclone has also affected about 5 districts in Orissa and more than three lakhs of people have been affected and thousands of houses have been completely devastated and immediate relief is required, though the Central Government is also doing something.

We are grateful to the Central Government for meeting the drought conditions in Orissa. They have sanctioned about Rs. 85.9 crores. We have requested the Government to at least sanction Rs. 200 crores. In two-thirds of my State, Orissa, out of 314 blocks, almost 200 blocks have been affected. I would request

the hon. Minister that if they reconstruct them, it will be better.

The immediate problem before Orissa today is drinking water. Though the Central Government has sanctioned thousands of tubewells for providing drinking water in the villages, yet it so happens that perhaps the tubewells were not dug to the depth that was required or the water level has gone down to such an extent that almost 40 per cent of the tubewells are defunct because the water resources have gone down, though the Central Government has spent crores of rupees for providing drinking water. I hope immediately some solution will be found for meeting the drinking water crisis in Orissa. Added to this, there is shortage of power and it has so happened that perhaps 75 per cent power-cut is there in industries, villages and towns. So, a very serious situation is developing in our State. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that there was thinking on the part of the Central Government to have some long-term measures to assist the State Government in facing the natural calamities. Every year they are spending Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores. I hope the Central Government is seriously thinking to have a kind of permanent measures to avoid this kind of natural calamities every year, for which the Central Government is spending about Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores.

I request the hon. Minister that permanent assets should be created for the programmes like NREP and RLECP that the Central Government is funding because crores of rupees have been spent by the Central Government. We create permanent productive assets so that these natural calamities like drought and floods are prevented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will continue next time. Shri Janardhana Poojary to make a statement.

17.41 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. D. A. OF
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES FOR PURPOSES
OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : While presenting the Budget for 1985-86 I had stated that the entire dearness allowance sanctioned upto the average consumer price index level of 568 would be treated as pay for the purpose of retirement benefit for employees retiring on or after 31st March 1985. Certain doubts have been raised regarding the operation of this concession in terms of the orders that have been issued. Before the announcement of this concession in the Budget speech, dearness allowance upto the average consumer price index level of 320 was taken into account as pay for purposes of retirement benefit. Clarifications are being issued to enable the dearness allowance sanctioned upto consumer price index level of 568 to be taken into account for the purpose of retirement benefit for all employees retiring on or after 31st March 1985 with effect from the dates on which they have drawn such dearness allowance. This will be a one-time concession given to the retiring employees and no past cases of employees who had retired prior to 31st March 1985 will be reopened on the basis of this decision.

17.43 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

Streamlining of Gramin Banks

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpu.) : Sir, in answer to the Started Question No. 509 on 19th April, 1985 the hon. Minister of State for Finance Shri Poojary gave some information regarding the functioning of rural banks and stated therein