

(vii) Need for providing adequate financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for taking relief measures to meet the drought situation in the State

SHRI N DENNIS (Nagercoil) The acute drought situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu has to be tackled immediately before the deterioration of the situation. Due to deficient rainfall there is acute water scarcity for drinking and crops. The tanks, dams, water courses and rivers have dried up. Sowing of crops has not been done in several places and where there is cultivation, the crops dried up and withered away. As a consequence of it, people are driven to unemployment and poverty. There is shortage of foodgrains and fodder for cattle. Water scarcity both for drinking and crops has to be immediately tackled. Foodgrains have to be distributed quickly and fodder for cattle should also be supplied. Implementation of labour oriented schemes should be accelerated. Relief measures such as remission of land revenue, water cess and local cess and postponement of collection of arrears of land revenue and Government loans have to be done in all affected areas. This situation has to be tackled without isolation, omission and discrimination of any affected area from the southern most district of Kanyakumari, where the people are severely affected by drought and faced with all these problems. So the Government may be pleased to take speedy steps to assist the State Government by giving grants and subsidies to tackle the natural calamity facing the State.

(viii) Need to take steps to revive natural harbour at Cuddalore OT in South Arcot district, Tamil Nadu

SHRI P R S VENKATESAN (Cuddalore) Sir, in my constituency, Cuddalore Old Town in South Arcot District, there is a natural harbour. It is one of the oldest harbours constructed during the British period when Sir Robert Clive was the Governor of India. The activities of loading and unloading of goods in the Cuddalore Port were in full swing until some years ago.

Now the activities in the said port have dwindled to such an extent that there is a lurking doubt in the minds of the medium and small businessmen, dock workers and also the people of the area that this natural harbour in Cuddalore might become obsolete.

Sir, I would like to point out that the Cuddalore Harbour will be most useful because of its nearness to Neyveli Lignite Corporation, a big public sector undertaking which is about thirty kilometres away. Moreover, when there is congestion in the Madras Harbour, the port facilities available at Cuddalore come handy for loading and unloading of goods. In view of the importance and the necessity for development of transport system, the historical rivers, namely, Cuddalore River and Pennaiar which flow to the sea just adjoining the Cuddalore Harbour, should be deepened and desilted so that greater facilities are created for the ships at the Harbour and easier loading and unloading work is done.

It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government may please take immediate steps for reviving this natural harbour at Cuddalore Old Town and arrange to send a team of technical experts for survey and feasibility report so that port activities can continue in full swing as before, in this historic harbour.

FINANCE BILL, 1987— *Contd.*

12.22 hrs.

[*English*]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER Now we will go to the next item—Further consideration of the following motion moved by Shri Rajiv Gandhi, on the 29th April, 1987, namely.—

“That the Bill to give effect to the financial proposals of the Central Government for the financial year 1987-88, be taken into consideration.”

Shri Ram Samujhawan.