

This is a human problem. I would urge the Government to give its urgent attention to the problem and to provide adequate medical and financial assistance to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to meet the situation and also to control the spread of the epidemic.

12.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

(vi) **Financial assistance to Tamil Nadu to meet the heavy losses caused by recent rains and to provide relief to the people**

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : The recent rains lashed Tamil Nadu in November 1985 causing heavy damages to properties and loss of hundreds of human lives. Tanjore and South Arcot are the paddy growing areas and Tanjore is the granary of Tamil Nadu. The paddy crops are submerged in water causing extensive loss to the agriculturists worth crores and crores of rupees. In Tamil Nadu more than 350 tanks were breached and many villages have been washed away. The second big tank in Tamil Nadu, Maduranthakam Tank, suffered a 45 metre breach resulting in the flooding of nearby villages. Maduranthakam has been cut off from adjoining areas due to damages to roads and railway bridges. The total loss is very very heavy because most of the channels and roads have been breached and school buildings, Government buildings were collapsed due to the recent floods.

The people of Tamil Nadu and the Government appreciate the action taken by the Prime Minister of India who also visited the rain affected areas and the assurance that an expert committee would be visiting Tamil Nadu immediately in order to assess the damages. The Tamil Nadu Government is taking every step to provide all relief to the people on a war footing. Government of India is requested to grant an aid of more than Rs. 120 crores.

(vii) **Need to stop further retrenchment of Indian employees of Chukha Hydel Project, Bhutan and rehabilitate the retrenched employees**

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) : About 2700 Indian nationals working in

Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan for the last 6 to 13 years are feeling insecurity of service since the recent abrupt and arbitrary termination of services of 90 employees without prior notice and without providing any compensation. The project was initially started by the CW and PC, Government of India during the period 1973-75 and the entire project was manned by the CW and PC of India. The first batch of employees numbering about 260 were appointed by the said commission. Subsequently an Authority consisting of the representatives of the Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan was constituted and named as Chukha Project Authority to administer the project. The Authority appointed a large number of Indian nationals in various categories of staff. They were deployed to work in a very remote area where there was no communication with any part of the country and they had to undertake arduous nature of works without commensurate and adequate remuneration. They have devoted a substantial part of their life for the successful completion of the project, but now they are being thrown out of employment when there is no opportunity for them to secure alternative employment at this stage.

I therefore, urge upon the Government to consider the plight of these retrenched Indian employees of Chukha Hydel Project and take necessary steps to stop further retrenchment of employees, rehabilitation of retrenched employees in any project in India or Bhutan, review the service conditions of these employees.

(viii) **Need to amend the Pension Rules by extending the facility of Central Government Pension to all freedom fighters irrespective of the period of imprisonment undergone by them**

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : It is noted that several genuine freedom fighters have not been able to obtain Central Government pension mainly because of the strict formalities to be fulfilled and also because the onus of proof lies heavily upon them to prove that they had undergone imprisonment for a minimum period of six months.

It is absolutely unfair to determine a person's eligibility to freedom fighters'

pension merely on the basis of six months imprisonment. Many great persons who had sincerely and actively participated in the freedom movement may not have undergone imprisonment for exactly six months. However, the significance of their participation ought not to be ignored. The least that the Government can do for these great men and women who have sacrificed their youth, their professions, their possessions and their family life for the cause of the nation, is to make their last days a little easier by making pension more easily available to them. Whatever may be their term of imprisonment, whether it be a couple of days or a couple of years, it is their participation that deserves recognition and it is only fair and just to extend pension facilities to them irrespective of the period served by them. Hence pension rules may be appropriately altered to cover also those who had undergone imprisonment even for a couple of days.

Since the generation of freedom fighters is fast vanishing—they being well advanced in age—it is imperative that benefits should be made available to them without further delay.

(ix) **Need to declare Patna University as a Central University for rapid development of education in Bihar**

SHRI C. P. THAKUR (Patna) : Bihar lags behind in the field of education and is listed among the backward States educationally. It is the second largest State. Keeping in view the rapid developments in the field of education and the introduction of new education policy, it is imperative that one of the universities of Bihar is declared as Central University. Patna is one of the oldest universities and is centrally situated in the capital. It should, therefore, be declared as a Central university to accelerate the pace of education in Bihar.

12.35 hrs.

**MOTION Re : THIRD AND FOURTH REPORTS OF COMMISSION FOR SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE  
 MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR.

RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : Sir, I beg to move the following :

“That this House do consider the Third and Fourth Reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82, laid on the Table of the House on 10th August, 1984 and 23rd January, 1985, respectively.”

As the hon. Members of this House are aware, these Reports were laid on the Table of the House on 10-8-1984 and 23-1-1985 respectively, but no discussion took place at that time. So, now we are here to discuss them. The Commission has made 78 recommendations in their Third Report and 20 recommendations in their Fourth Report. These Reports may now be taken into consideration for discussion by the hon. Members. I am sure, we will be immensely benefited by the suggestions that the hon. Members would be putting forth with reference to the recommendations made in these two Reports.

As you are aware, our Government is committed to the eradication of poverty, and as the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes population is at the lower rung of the economic condition of our country, therefore, the 20-Point Programme is there to accelerate the work so that the standard of living of these people is improved and poverty is eradicated from the country. But still we have to do a lot more. I will listen to the valuable suggestions of the hon. Members and then at the end of the debate, I will sum up the whole thing.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motion moved :

“That this House do consider the Third and Fourth Reports of the Commission for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82 laid on the Table of the House on 10th August, 1984 and 23rd January, 1985, respectively.”

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir,