

The villagers have voluntarily donated land for the command area and yet there is no progress. Being a major irrigation project, it becomes the responsibility of the Central Government to complete the project without any further delay. Without the project the area cannot thrive. I would, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Irrigation Minister to have the pace of work accelerated and have the entire project completed within a fixed time-frame.

(ix) Need to take Permanent, Preventive Measures to Save North Bihar from the fury of Floods Every Year

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Under Rule 377 I want to make a statement on the following matter of urgent public importance.

As the Chief Minister of Bihar has recently stated the recurring floods in North Bihar are primarily due to the fact that quite a few rivers originate in Nepal and there is no barrage or reservoir in that country to check the flow of water into North Bihar.

A few years ago, at the initiative of the Union Government, an expert Committee on flood protection was set up which had recommended that among other measures, it was necessary to set up reservoir projects on Kamla, Kankal, Kosi and Bagmati in Nepal. It would protect both Nepal and North Bihar from the furies of recurring floods.

Sometime back the executive director of the United Nations environment programme, had suggested afforestation in the Himalayan region of Nepal to check soil erosion and severity of floods both in Nepal and North Bihar.

The main tributaries of Ganga in Bihar are Sogra, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Kosi, Bagmati and Mahananda. The Ganga is in the water drain in the State. Usually it remains in high spate in the monsoon and blocks the drainages of tributaries. Since 85 per cent of the catchment area of Ganga and its tributaries in North Bihar is outside the

States the flood control measures within the State cannot provide full protection to Bihar. For this the Union Government should take initiative so that there is inter-State regulation of rivers and an understanding is reached with Nepal to control these rivers at the point of their origin.

15.52 hrs.

EMPLOYMENT OF CHILDREN
(AMENDMENT) BILL—CONTD.)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now we take of item 10—further consideration of the Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill.

Shri Yogeshwar Prasad Yogesh to countinue his speech.

[Translation]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Ghatra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I had mentioned in my inconclusive speech on Employment of Children (Amendment) Bill, 1985 introduced by the hon. Labour Minister that reputed poets have written in praise of the Children. Longfellow has said :

[English]

“You are loving than all ballads”

[Translation]

TUM SAMAST KAVYON SE BHI
SUBHAG HO

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to quote an instance regarding atrocities being perpetrated on such child labourers. In 1983 some child labourers were sent to Mirzapur from Palamau by the middle men. They were the artisan children, who possessed hereditary and traditional knowledge and were employed in the carpet making industries. The employers did not give them sufficient meals and they were forced to do the work. They were beaten up severely on committing some mistakes. They