

districts of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur of Rajasthan has assumed an alarming proportion. This problem continues every year due to the lack of rainfall. The State Government has tried to solve this problem of drinking water in hundreds of villages to a great extent by installing tube-wells in the last seven years with their means and with the cooperation of the Central Government but the quantity of water in the tube-wells is not enough for all the towns, villages and hamlets.

For this, the Indira Gandhi Canal is the only proper and permanent solution. The Indira Gandhi Canal has reached Nachna Mohangarh in the Jaisalmer district and Falaudi in Jodhpur district. Work on the Sagar Mal Gopa Branch is going on from Mohangarh to Gadra Road. Schemes for providing drinking water to the cities and rural areas of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan, from the Pokharan lift Canal, the Falaudi Kolayat lift canal and the Sagar Mal Gopa Branch Canal, which is a flow canal and which is to be extended upto Gadra Road, should be drawn and included in the Eighth Five Year Plan. This is the only permanent solution of drinking water problem in the desert districts. The Central Government should provide a special assistance of Rs. 500 crores for this purpose so that the water of the Indira Gandhi Canal could reach the Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts of Rajasthan in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

[English]

**(viii) Need to inspire people to donate body organs, particularly kidneys**

SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA (Vaishali): Every other day, we have pathetic letters in newspapers requesting for donation of kidney for a patient who has lost the functions of both his or her kidneys. Similar appeals for hearts and other transplantable organs are fewer, but still do exist. Even normally, those patients who lost the functioning of both their kidneys have to be put on a costly dialysis for long periods, which most common people cannot afford. The

practice of kidney or organ donations has not caught up in this country. Partly, this is because of lack of information, and also due to fears and obsessions. This has, on the other hand, led to clandestine sale of organs, particularly kidneys which is arranged by unscrupulous people. The poor are often the unwitting victims of this racketeering. The Government should make use of the television media to inform the people about organ donation, particularly of the dead. That thereby, even in death one could be of some help to some suffering human being, should be propagated. A Foundation could be created to receive and store organs in specified hospitals for free transfer to those who need it. If Government creates infrastructure, organ donation could be expected to catch up, helped by a little publicity.

12.27 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—*Contd.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up further discussion on the statement made by the Minister of Agriculture in the House on the 30th July, 1987 regarding drought situation in the country.

Now Mr. Makwana.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Sir, the other day, i.e. on Friday, I gave an account of the rainfall in this country, the situation created due to the sparse rain in many parts of the country, and the position of the crops—i.e. what the position of the crop is. That I gave. Today, I will deal with some of the points raised by some of the hon. Members in this House.

The first speaker, Shri Indrajit Gupta—I was not here, but I have gone through his speech—has said that Government is not

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

serious. The seriousness of the Government can be seen, not only from the statement of the Prime Minister, but the action which he has taken immediately after we noticed that the rain was less, and that it would create a problem. Right from April 1987, we had started taking action. In the latter part of my speech, I will give an account, as to how we had started, and what we have done so far. So, it is wrong to say on the part of the hon. Member that the Government is not serious on this issue.

One issue which we had raised, is that 2 million people in Rajasthan have not got the wages for two months. I tried to contact the State Government in the morning, because I read his statement only last night. I could not get information in detail. But the reason given is that we have provided them wheat; and instead of paying the wages in cash, they are fully paying wages in terms of wheat, i.e. in kind. The State Government has requested...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is inadequate.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: They have requested for more wheat also. As soon as I get the information from the State Government in detail, I will pass it on to the hon. Member for his information.

He wanted to know how many States have requested this time. Nearly ten States have already requested us for relief. Many are preparing their memoranda; but the Prime Minister has given an instruction to send teams of officers to assess the situation, and the teams have already left, and are there in some States. They are there.

One more thing which the hon. Member mentioned is very important; and it is only because of lack of information on the part of the hon. Member that he had asked what action had been taken by Government to enlist the cooperation of the public workers, organizations etc. The Prime Min-

ister has recently written a letter to all the Chief Ministers, to Governors and Lt. Governors of Union Territories, and asked them to appoint a committee at the State level under the Chairmanship of the Chief Ministers, and another committee under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretaries. Then he has also said that all public workers and organizations also should be accommodated in this Committee.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Has it been done anyway?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: This is a letter written by the Prime Minister recently. The Prime Minister wrote a letter on the 14th of August. Instead of that, this is a 12-Point Programme for drought management by the Prime Minister. This 12-Point Programme has been listed and how it should be done. It is mentioned that a full-time relief officer should be appointed. The Prime Minister had said about it long time back. Apart from this, in this paper, he has said, we should associate volunteer agencies and social workers; social workers include Members of Parliament, MLAs, member of the Panchayat, etc., with as many drought relief operations as possible. This is only to monitor the programme because there is a widespread complaint from Members of Parliament that the implementation is very tardy; it is not properly done. Therefore, the Prime Minister has impressed upon the State Administration, the Chief Ministers that they should appoint such a committee so that this committee can watch the situation. I was speaking about Prime Minister's 12-Point Programme for drought management. This programme was given by the late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi; in that programme, she had specifically mentioned that a full-time relief officer should be appointed by the State Government. Then about monitoring, she had mentioned about the monitoring machinery, how foodgrains movement should be regularised, how it can be stocked and how it should be made available to the vulnerable sections of the society.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Just now you mentioned that many hon. members complained about non-implementation of the programme. Now, you are reading from the direction given by the late Prime Minister. What does it lead to? You should tell us whether each of those points has been implemented anyway.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I just wanted to bring to the notice of the hon. members that it is not because that he has said about its implementation that we are doing it. It is a programme of the government and the programme of the government is to be implemented by the State Government. I was talking about a committee. *(Interruptions)* No running commentary. I am not going to yield to anybody. When I was telling about a committee, it is only because recently the Members of Parliament has said that they should be associated in the implementation of the programme; they can monitor the work. Therefore, the Prime Minister has given a direction to the State Governments to appoint such a committee and to associate them. So, this is what action government has taken. Otherwise, I don't want to enumerate all those points. *(Interruptions)*.

One hon. member has said that loan advanced to the farmers should be waived. We are generally in such a situation where the government is converting the loan: the short-term loan given to the farmers is converted into a long-term loan; and by converting it, the farmers have to pay it after 2-3 years; and in a good year, they have to pay it. Therefore, the conversion process is going on. In 1987-88, Rs. 99 crores converted into a long-term loan; in 1986-87, Rs. 20.15 crores converted into a long-term loan. *(Interruptions)*

Regarding ecological imbalances, due to indiscriminate cutting of forests, the cover of the forests has depleted; and that is the reason why government has enacted. The Forests Conservation Act 1982. It is obligatory on the part of the State

Governments—even if they want to put some irrigation schemes under the forest areas—to come to the Government of India for approval. In this programme, a massive afforestation programme is under NREP and other programmes. But in spite of this, the forest cover is inadequate; it should be 33.33 per cent, according to the Agricultural Commission, but it is not to that extent. It is nearly 80 per cent at present and much requires to be done in this direction.

My hon. senior colleague and earlier Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Rao Birendra Singh mentioned about the norms, particularly the relief given for drought, relief given for flood, etc., should be on the same pattern. At present, it is not on the same pattern. He wanted that it should be on the same pattern. But as I said earlier, we are governed by the Eighth Finance Commission report. Because under the Constitution the Government of India appoints this Commission and the Government is to be guided by this Commission's report and in this Commission's report they have stated that the pattern of assistance which was there in the Seventh Finance Commission was adopted in the Eighth Finance Commission in the course of the lengthy arguments. They have given the arguments by the State Governments and by the different Ministries of the Government of India.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): I am on a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I do not allow. I cannot allow you to make a statement. What is the rule under which you are raising a point of order?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Under Rule 376.

As we understood it before, the hon. Minister was intervening in the debate. We expected him to mention something which will facilitate the other Members to initiate some other points which we wish to raise. Secondly, I feel after intervention the

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

debate will continue and the hon. Agriculture Minister will finally reply to some of the points which the hon. Minister of State in his intervention does not reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. It is left to the Minister. There is no point of order.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: I want an assurance that the points.....

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: In my intervention in the debate, if there is anything left out or if there is some mistake, then my senior colleague the hon. Minister will make good in his reply. Whatever points I can reply to, I will reply, and the other points will be replied to my colleague.

I was mentioning about the relief expenditure...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON): May I say one thing? Intervention means....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: May I request the members to take their seats? If you go on wasting time like this we cannot proceed. I want to give time to the others also.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: May I inform Mr. Mushran that what is meant by intervention is that the Minister of State will reply to some of the points and I will reply finally to all the other remaining points.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Everything in this debate is historic. As I said in the beginning my Ministry got not more than two days for discussion of the Demand for Grants, that is why we have got this six days' debate now. Therefore, I have intervened, ...*(Interruptions)*

I was informing the hon. Members about the norms of relief mentioned in the report of the Eighth Finance Commission. It is said there that this pattern in that report is the same which was there in the Seventh

Finance Commission's report. It can be adopted by the Ninth Finance Commission also.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH (Mahendragarh): That is what I suggested, that the Ministry should write to the Ninth Finance Commission and change the pattern.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Not only Rao Birendra Singh, but there are other hon. Members who had also wanted the norms to be revised. Therefore, I had to reply. There is a provision that if there is a drought of rare severity then the Government of India is to assist the State to the full extent and if ceiling of expenditure exceeds five per cent of the total annual plan outlay, the assistance has to be given half as grant and half as loan and it is not adjustable against the Plan assistance of the State. So, there is an in-built provision in this Finance Commission report itself. But even then if there is any change required, then it can be done by the Ninth Finance Commission only. I can understand what the hon. Member Shri Rao Birendra Singh has said that the Ministry can represent to the Finance Commission, that I have taken note of.

Sir, in this letter of the Prime Minister, he has given a number of check points for the State Governments so that they can chat on various points and make arrangements for fodder, for drinking water and for food-grain also. There is a provision as I said that we are providing relief to the State Governments not only by way of cash but by way of foodgrain, that is in kind also.

Sir, one hon. Member mentioned that we have to harness all our water resources, small streams, rivers, etc. The hon. Member Rao Birendra Singh wanted to know how far we have done in this regard. We have identified eleven thousand micro water sheds and the allocation made for 1987-88 for National Watershed Development Programme for Rainfed Agriculture is Rs. Fifty three crores—fifty per cent State and fifty per cent Centre. So far the work proposed in this regard—Land

Development 538.452 thousand hectares; Distribution of seeds cum Fertiliser 15,965; Distribution of improved agriculture implements 2,33,400. Then the distribution of improved seeds in quintals 4988 thousand and area to be covered outside the water shed 14,454 thousand hectares.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The point is that this is a very small amount. About Rs. 230 crores or Rs. 239 crores only has been provided for water and soil conservation programme in the whole Plan. So, the request is that you should ask for more because this is very important.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I agree with the hon. Member. Right from his time, we are requesting the Planning Commission for increase in the allocation and the allocation made by the Planning Commission for this is definitely less. We will again request the Planning Commission to give some more amount for this work.

There was a mention about the water grid project—that all the rivers should join with each other. The hon. Member Shri Shyam Lal Yadav mentioned that there is no water in the Ganges itself. Even if you join Ganga with Cauvery, it will be of no use. So, this is not the only point, but resource constraint is the major problem. The Government of India and the State Government also are feeling some difficulty so far as the resources are concerned because priorities had to be fixed. For this what priority should be given, that has to be decided by the State and Centre. We have accorded the highest priority. As I mentioned earlier, for irrigation we have increased the Plan allocation in the Seventh Plan than the First Plan period.

Then, one hon. Member mentioned that the farmers should be compensated for the loss due to no rain or less rain. There is no provision for compensating the farmers. There is only a provision to help the State Governments to mitigate the difficulties faced by the farmers. We help the farmers in providing employment. Because of no

rain or less rain, the farmer has nothing to do in his field and he is free. Therefore, he requires some employment. That is provided by the Government of India. We give money to the State Governments to generate employment for the weaker sections and for small and marginal farmers, who are really in need of it. We give money to the State Governments for generating employment for 25 days in a month.

I have already touched upon irrigation. Apart from irrigation, there are other programmes like the Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Augmented Resources of Water Supply programme, etc. All these programmes are meant for reducing the intensity of drought conditions because of less rains or no rains.

One hon. Member made a request that the crop insurance cover should be expanded and there should be more crops covered under the crop insurance scheme. The Government is examining this scheme. This is a new scheme which covers only those farmers who have taken loans. In kharif 8512 States have accepted this scheme. 23,25,649 farmers are covered under this scheme. And the area covered is 41,80,931. So there is a protection to the farmers by way of insurance though its scope is limited. This scheme requires some revision. A committee to go into that, has been appointed under the chairmanship of an Addl. Secretary.

Before I conclude my speech, I would like to tell the hon. Members how we started planning for this calamity. We started planning right from April, 1986-1987 i.e. before the onset of the monsoon which sets in round about 15th of May. We called the kharif conference of all the State Governments to discuss about the coming monsoon and we planned for it. In a kharif conference of the State Governments, we decide about the position of inputs, etc. Also we set up a crop weather watch group in my Ministry with IMD, Ministry of Water Resources and ICAR as members. This

[Shri Yogendra Makwana]

group initially was meeting every week. Now they meet every third day in Krishi Bhavan and make assessment of the rainfall and the monsoon situation and prepares crop plans and the contingent crop plans including mid-course corrections of crop plans to suit the aberrant weather conditions and to inform the States to take suitable steps to supply required quantity of seed also. On 29th June 1987 we had a meeting of all the Relief Commissioners of State Governments. In this meeting, we discussed the delayed monsoon and how to plan for the future contingency. Finally, we discussed, in detail the contingency plans which were prepared for each State, in the conference of Commissioners of Agriculture Production on 28th July, 1987. Now, we have set up a task force consisting of representatives of the Department of Agriculture, Ministry of Water Resources and Indian Meteorological Department for monitoring the utilisation of available irrigation potential i.e. minor, medium and major in the country so as to ensure economy in the use of water for kharif and rabi crops and plan for meeting the seed requirements of next kharif i.e. 1988-89. A Crisis Management Group has also been set up in the Ministry just to handle the situation on war-footing. This Group consists of senior officers of the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Department of Rural Development and Ministry of Environment and Forest and has been set up for attending to the daily problems faced by the State Governments in providing relief. Over and above this, we have set up a Central Control Room in the Ministry of Agriculture and we have requested all the State Governments to set up control rooms at the State headquarters and at the district headquarter so that they can provide the information and tell us about the situation to enable us to take the corrective measures. After the Control Room has been set up, we have not received any information from the State Governments but we have already requested the State

Governments to set up such control rooms at the district and the State levels.

So far as relief is concerned, I have the figures but I do not want to give the figures again and again because all the hon. Members know the extent to which the Government of India has helped the State Governments.

I would once again like to thank you for allowing me to intervene in this debate.

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH (Mathura): Sir, I am on a point of order.

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

[*Translation*]

SHRI MANVENDRA SINGH: I would like to tell the hon. Minister that a high level team of officers visited my district Mathura in a helicopter and they came back after surveying a village, without meeting any representatives of the people and the Gram Pradhan, whereas they should have talked to them.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give it in writing.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. I am not allowing him.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing on drought for the last six days and the hon. Minister has also intervened in this discussion. Drought has become a permanent feature and it has

taken the form of a monster and is causing a huge loss of human lives. Drought is not a new feature in our country and now it has engulfed all the parts of our country. Every year we face this problem in one or the other part of the country which adversely affects our economy and results in inflation and price rise. We discuss this problem every year in the House but this is not going to serve any purpose. It is true that we are prepared to give relief amounting to billions of rupees. The hon. Prime Minister has chalked out a 12 Point Programme for initiating relief measures but full attention has never been paid to check it permanently. Relief measures are helpful to the people to some extent but not in preventing drought. Even after spending such a large sum, people are not getting the benefit which they should have. The reason is that corruption has entered into the highest quarters. When such things take place, the interests of the people are compromised due to the corruption. Every Member who has been elected to this House should feel ashamed that discussion is taking place on drought for the last many years but even then we have not been able to check it permanently. The countries who got independence after our country have put to end this monster of drought. Why not we adopt their technique and programme to check the drought permanently. I would like to remind you that at the time of transfer of power on the night of 14-15 August 1947 when Bapuji was trying to pacify the communal frenzy at Bali-ghat in Calcutta, he cautioned the Cabinet of the West Bengal saying that they were sitting on the thorns of power and they should save themselves from the irony of power because power corrupts but they were in the power to serve the poor in the country. But what Bapuji had thought at that time is no more now. Today the plight of the farmer is going on worsening day by day. They are losing interest in the agriculture because it is no more profitable. The people doing other jobs get compensation in case they suffer any loss but the farmer has never got any compensation for the loss he has suffered so far. He does not get any compensation for the loss he

suffers due to natural calamities and other things. Therefore, the farmer is losing interest in the agriculture.

Drought and corruption have flourished in this country. This has given rise to terrorism, extremism and lawlessness in the country. We do not feel any pleasure in discussing on drought for so many days. We will have to find ways to put an end to this monster of drought for ever so that the farmer of this country constituting a majority of the population may be able to improve his lot. We will have to think over it seriously as how to ameliorate the condition of the poor and the farmer in the villages so that they need not migrate to cities. In short, I would like to say that we should formulate a scheme to prevent the recurrence of drought in this country for ever.

At present, oil is selling at Rs. 34 a kilo. Prices of vegetables are as high as Rs. 8 to Rs. 10 a kilo. Prices of all the commodities have doubled and trebled. The people are not getting essential items and their life has become very hard. We will have to see all these things. Otherwise the country will have to face a more serious crisis. We have to save the country from this crisis.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA (Shajapur) :  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion has been going on the drought for the last 6 to 7 days. A number of hon. Members have expressed their views on it.

Sir, we will have to keep in mind five points while discussing on drought. The first is the problem of drinking water, second is foodgrain problem, third is the problem of farmers, fourth is the problem of agricultural labourers and fifth is the problem of cattle feed. So far as the problem of drinking water is concerned, it is very serious in Madhya Pradesh. The water level has gone so low that tube-wells and handpumps have become useless. Therefore, I would like that such tube-wells and handpumps should be installed

[Shri Bapulal Malviya]

which are suitable for drawing water from the depth. There is a Government scheme to install at least one handpump in every village but sometimes that handpump goes out of order, I would request that if one handpump goes out of order another handpump should be installed and if that also stops working, a third one should be installed. The scheme to install a handpump in each village should be completed.

It has been seen that if water is not available in a village, the people of that village have to fetch water from another village. Therefore, such provision should be made that water is easily available to all. I would suggest that a Drinking Water Bank should be established in villages so that the villagers may get water without any difficulty.

So far as the farmers are concerned, their condition is really pitiable. Continuous hailstorms in my area Shajapur and Dewas have made the life of the people miserable. A good crop was expected but that has been destroyed by the hailstorms. This is what happened last year also. The farmers there are in distress. Fortunately when 40 M.Ps. belonging to Madhya Pradesh met Rajiv Gandhi and requested for financial help, he readily agreed and granted financial help and it produced good result.

There are two districts Shajapur and Dewas in my constituency. But only in one district 160 stop-dams were constructed for which 60 thousands labourers worked on daily wages. That provided work to the people and they got relief. Has there been rainfall this year, a number of farmers would have got the facility of water. A very good scheme i.e. insurance scheme has been formulated for the farmers, but the priority given by the Government is wrong which should be changed. Insurance cover has been provided to those people who have taken loan from Co-operative Banks. All other persons have been left out and in this way the scheme has failed and it has not benefited anybody. The reason for

this is that our Government has treated district level and tehsil level as one unit. I would like to suggest that instead of Tehsil level and District level, village Panchayat should be taken as a Unit so that farmers could get the benefit of the insurance. Therefore, there is a need to bring about a change in the present method of insurance.

So far as the question of agricultural labour is concerned, when farmers have good crop, the agricultural labour get good wages. I would like to suggest that with a view to ensure employment to the agricultural labourers, a large number of relief works should be undertaken so that the workers do not have to face starvation and migration to other places and they are able to feed their children and other members of their families. Therefore, it is very essential to pay attention towards them.

At present, cattle are facing two difficulties. The human beings may drink water at any place or may ask for water from any house, but the cattle cannot get water. Availability of water must be ensured for them. In addition to water, arrangements should be made to ensure availability of grass and fodder. Earlier the farmer used to give wheat straw free of cost, but now wheat straw is being sold at a rate of Rs 100 per quintal and one small bundle of grass is sold for one rupee each. As a result many farmers have left their cattle in the forests and a large number of cattle are dying and nobody is paying any attention. You know that if the cattle die, from where the milk will come. It will not be available. Therefore, the cattle should be taken care of and arrangements should be made to provide grass and fodder for them. Many factories are there to produce animal feed. I would like to suggest that the Government should ask these factories to supply animal feed in the villages. It would also help in saving the cattle to a great extent. Arrangement of animal fodder is very essential for the cattle.



In our area, there has been only 5 per cent rainfall against a normal rainfall of 25 per cent as a result of which Shajapur and Dewas are very badly affected by the drought. I would, therefore, request the Government that maximum funds should be provided for Shajapur and Dewas so that farmers, labourers and the cattle could be saved.

With these words, I would like to express my thanks to you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I want to inform the House that Lunch Hour has been dispensed with for the current week from today. The House will sit late till 7 p.m. to finish discussions on drought and flood situation. If necessary, it will go to the extent further also because today we want to finish discussions on drought and flood situations. The Ministers are going to reply for both the discussions.

Now Shri I. Rama Rai.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasargode): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am really grateful to you for allowing me to participate in this marathon debate which is taking place for the last 5 days. The problem really is of national one but it mainly confines to the farmers of this country. The late Shri Krishna Menon once said: India is a rich country but inhabited by poor people. That is what we understand by this. The drought situation, we are not able to face it very boldly but we are confident of tiding over this problem because we have a buffer-stock of about 27 million tonnes in the godowns. That is enough to tide over this crisis. But the question is, when virtually no returns are expected this year, what will the farmers do next year? They have to face the problem next year also. This mighty problem is fully understood by the Government. The formation of a Cabinet sub-committee headed by the Prime Minister himself shows the seriousness of the

problem. There is again a task force formed to consider the problems. The problems are divided into 4 groups to be tackled with. One is damage to crops; second is employment generation in rural areas; third is, food for the poor; and fourth is, drinking water and fodder.

I have a special problem in Kerala which is 'entirely depending on plantations. (*Interruptions*).

My humble submission is that this country may be one but there are different States. But if you take district-wise or constituency-wise, we have different problems in different constituencies. For example, especially in my constituency, I am telling you the problem of the growers of arecanut. The hon. Members might have heard arecanut but they may not be knowing how it is grown in the Northern most end of the Kerala State. This particular crop will be completely wiped out due to the present drought which is prevailing. Even the previous droughts have affected very badly the arecanut growers. I want to point out the difficulties of these growers to the Agriculture Minister. Unfortunately both the Ministers are not here. Only the Rural Development Minister is here. Any way, I want to point out the difficulties of the arecanut growers in my constituency. Again there are plantations like coconut, arecanut, pepper, ginger and everything. All these plants will be affected by this drought. The question is, the affected cultivators will lose not only this year crop, but they will lose the entire plantation for another 4 or 5 years, as their plantations would be affected. For five years, he has to look after himself. He has to develop the garden. He has to do all the things regarding his livelihood and development. That aspect must be considered especially for the drought-affected area of Kerala.

My State is a State which depends for electricity entirely on hydro-electric projects. In a normal year, the rivers of Kerala discharge about 72,000 million cubic metres of water. But only 5% of that water is used for hydro-electric projects and for

[Shri I. Rama Rai]

agricultural purposes. The rest of the water is simply let off to the sea. The present Government there have a programme of having small dams, about 600 in number, a series of small anicuts across rivers one or two metres high to retain sufficient water in the valleys after the monsoon. Already some Members have said that the rivers are filled up with silt in Kerala especially the water is drained out underground. The silt is there and sand is there. We cannot get water in the bed of the river. We have dams to prevent the under water flow. This aspect must be studied and proper encouragement, if necessary, must be given to any State Government to prevent this under water flow.

Especially during this monsoon season, we are supposed to have full water in the reservoirs of hydro-electric project. But this year, you can understand our problem. Current is cut off for two to three hours a day. Load shedding is there to the tune of 40%. It is already announced. Just imagine what will be our fate after the monsoon season. All these problems are man-made problems.

Because of the indiscriminate cutting of trees by people greedy after money with the connivance of departmental officials and of even politicians, forests are wiped out in Kerala, especially in the valleys, usually green valleys where the gardens are raised and arecanut gardens, coconut gardens and plantains and everything are grown. These valleys are now without any forest. They are almost dry. That is the problem. We have to go in detail into the causes of the denudation of forests and trees.

As regards the land problem, there are many Boards and many development activities of agriculture are to be taken up but the farmers are not taken into confidence. Neither the farmers advice is taken nor the farmers' involvement is made. I am also one of the Members. But I see the Chairman is a retired army man or a retired

IFS man. This Chairman and the Members are not at all connected with agriculture. How can they guide the farmers of this country? I heard about the Wasteland Development Board. Recently the Chairman has gone abroad to study the problems of farmers! It is common knowledge that there are multitudes of poor people in this country to be fed and to be employed. There are poverty alleviation schemes. These lands can be given for lease for 20-25 years. Then, they can raise forest plantations etc. Instead, it seems that the lands under the control of these Boards are going to be given to Tatas and Birlas for industrial purposes and industrial development etc. This is the sad plight of the farmers of this country. I do not want to take much time of the House because the opening speakers themselves have covered almost all the points which have to be answered. But why we are insisting on our participation is that we must show that we have sympathy for our brothers, for our voters and for the people of our constituency. That is why we are insisting on our participation. We are also trying to highlight the problems of our constituency. I think the hon. Minister will try to understand my problems. I would request the Minister to try to understand the problems of the farmers of this country. Finally, I would like to give one example i.e. if you ask as to what is labour pain, all of us and all male labourers can explain. But actually, it will be explained only by a woman who has given birth to children. That is the thing, what I am telling here. Only, farmers can highlight the present problems and the future problems.

DR CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad) What do you mean by labour pain here? Will you please explain what is the labour pain is it that is being realised by a pregnant lady?

SHRI I. RAMA RAI: That pain will be explained only by mothers. I am not attacking any member. But the point is that the farm members ought to be given the first chance to explain their difficulties. Any-

way, I thank you again for having given me this chance.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the present drought has affected even those States and the areas which have never been affected by drought, in the past. The hon. Minister has stated that 280 districts are affected by drought, I would like to urge that the State Governments should be asked once again whether some more districts have not been affected by drought. Uttar Pradesh Government has reported that 50 districts in the State are affected by drought. It has been observed that out of the districts left out by the State Government, one or two districts are such where there has not been any rainfall in the last week of July or in the beginning of August. These two districts are Almora and Pithoragarh which are facing a serious drought and which have not been included in the list of drought affected districts by the State Government of U.P. I would request the hon. Minister that he may kindly convey our feelings to the U.P. Government so that these districts may be treated as drought-affected districts.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, all of us are very grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for announcing, while addressing the nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort, that the Government would make all efforts to deal with the situation and no person would be allowed to suffer due to drought. These words of the hon. Prime Minister has created a sense of satisfaction in the nation and in all the people. Now there is a challenge which is to be met by the Ministry of Agriculture by activating itself. Because when a slogan of green revolution was raised in the country, the Ministry of Agriculture and the people connected with it had done a lot of good work and had raised the honour of the country. But now it appears that so much dedication and awakening is not there in the Ministry of Agriculture. The hon. Minister of Agriculture and his Ministry would have to give same slogan once again to awaken the

Departments under their control, because the drought which has occurred this time, is likely to have its effect on the ensuing crops also. It has become very difficult to depend on the weather due to its uncertainty. The weather has failed us at the time of Kharif crop. If such a situation continues at the time of two or three more crops, we will not be able to bear that misfortune. I would like to submit that the Ministry of Agriculture should prepare a comprehensive credit Policy of this purpose. Besides, a programme should also be formulated under which maximum number of crops could be grown in Punjab and Haryana where facilities of irrigation exist. In Punjab, the farmers are going in for cash crops which are more beneficial and they are not paying that much attention to the production of wheat and rice. We will have to check such a tendency. The present buffer stock of foodgrains appears to create a sense of satisfaction and it is an effective method to check inflation, but if the buffer stock continues to deplete, then it would have adverse effect on the situation of inflation and our difficulty can increase. I would, therefore, request the hon. Agriculture Minister that more facilities should be provided to the farmers of Punjab in regard to production of wheat and rice. Water should be provided in the areas where irrigation facilities are not available through better water management. Apart from that, such good quality seeds should be provided to farmers which require less water. Such information and other means should be made available to them.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, these days people are gradually migrating to the cities after deserting the villages, because job opportunities are not available in the villages. The migration of population from villages to cities would add to the problems in cities. Therefore, I would urge the hon. Agriculture Minister that he should make a declaration that every unemployed person in the villages would be provided employment there itself and for this purpose, one or the other construction work would remain under execution continu-

[Shri Harish Rawat]

ously for a period of six months so that every person could get a job there. Unless such a declaration is made and necessary arrangements for this purpose are made, we would not be able to check the migration of population to the cities.

At present, the farmers are compelled to buy fodder at a rate of Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 per quintal. Fodder banks should be opened at Block level and fodder should be made available to fodder centres like Fair Price Shops, otherwise the poor farmers would be compelled to sell their cattle at half the price. The sources of water have dried up at various places specially in hilly areas. The situation there is that there are no rivers and whatever rivers are there, they flow through deep valleys and water is available from very small sources which have also dried up. Therefore, special arrangements should be made to provide drinking water there. The State Governments should provide special help to such areas so that the people in these areas could face the situation.

Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir the drought has adversely affected Kharif crop and it is also likely to affect the Rabi crop also. I would like to request the hon. Minister to take steps in advance to ensure a good Rabi crop. Such seeds should be provided which may yield good production, because Kharif crop has already been destroyed and Rabi crop is also likely to be destroyed. Therefore good quality seeds and necessary funds should be made available to the farmers from now itself. The condition of farmer is very pitiable. Therefore, unless relief is provided to them in the payment of Government loans it is not going to serve the purpose. The moratorium in the repayment of State Government loans is not going to improve their condition. What is required today is that interest on loans given by co-operative societies or that on loans given by Banks under I.R.D.P. for at least one year should be borne by the Central Government.

At present, wheat and rice are supplied to the consumers through the Fair Price Shops, but keeping in view the drought situation, the prices of edible oils and pulses are likely to go up, therefore, with a view to check the hoarding on such occasions, all essential commodities of daily use should be supplied through the Fair Price Shops. You may please chalk out a strategy for this purpose alongwith the Minister for Civil Supplies.

Similarly, electricity and diesel should be made available to the farmers after effecting a cut in the quota of industrial sector. This is a huge task and for providing employment and cheap essential commodities, it is certain that funds will be required for this work. We know that the Government is facing financial constraints, but there are certain jobs like organising cultural fairs and conferences by various departments, Ministries, the expenditure on which may be considered necessary under normal circumstances, but at a time when the country is facing severe drought, when the whole country is about to face famine, when the country is facing an adverse situation, then cuts should be made in such expenses and the funds should be made available to combat natural calamities. This will arouse a feeling amongst the farmers that the Government is with them not only in words but also in deeds. Until and unless we take long term measures to fight drought, we will not be able to get rid of famine. It is, therefore, necessary that meaningful changes may please be effected in our forest policy. The manner in which our forest policy is being pursued, the manner in which the Waste Land Development Board is functioning and also the manner in which Social Forestry Programmes are being implemented by State Governments, we are only doing paper work which is not going to serve the purpose. We do not plant trees with broad leaves which can be utilized as fodder, but we plant such trees which soak underground water. For example, a large number of eucalyptus and gum trees have been or are being planted in our area which do not

create condition favourable for rainfall. It is my submission that under the forest policy we may plant trees with broad leaves so that they may maintain dampness in the earth and also attract the clouds. An ordinary farmer understands this thing very well, but the Scientists and Experts of the department are not trying to understand it. Therefore, I would like to state that we are spending crores of rupees on forestry programmes, but we are not getting matching benefit therefrom because the amount is not being utilised properly. In order to ensure its proper use for the country, we will have to think deeply. The reason for this is that where there can be plantation in a natural way, we are wasting money there and where there is an actual need to implement forestry schemes and priority is required to be given for afforestation, no attention is being paid towards it. This is also my complaint.

Seventy per cent of the total cultivable land in our country is unirrigated land. Efforts should be made to bring this land under irrigation for which schemes should be formulated. It is, therefore, necessary that instead of laying much stress on construction of big dams, which take longer time, we should undertake small irrigation schemes on priority basis. On several occasions rain water is accumulated and preserved in pits in our villages and later put to use in producing vegetables. Attention of our agricultural scientists does not go to that side. Our State Governments, who are responsible to execute minor and medium irrigation projects, also do not pay attention towards it. I would like to urge that directions may be issued to the State Governments asking them to fix a target for bringing certain area of unirrigated land under irrigation. We will have to consider over it seriously right from now.

Lastly, in short, I would like to submit that our various Ministries perform only one type of work whereas, all the Ministries should have a collective strategy. All the Ministries should sit together and chalk out a strategy so that the people may feel that at a time when the country is facing drought all over and the people are terrified, the Government have come forward

to their help and to share their distress. For this purpose the Ministry of Agriculture will have to do some concrete works and show to the nation that they stand beside the poor villagers and drought stricken farmers not only in words but also in deeds.

\*SHRI SHRIHARI RAO (Rajahmundry):  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir at the outset I thank you for giving me an opportunity to take part in this important discussion.

Sir, it is our good fortune that the nature has conferred a bounty on us. Geographically speaking, there are few countries on the earth which can match us in the natural resources. Many of our rivers are perennial rivers. There is plenty of water in our rivers throughout the year. I am not able to understand why we have failed to utilise the perennial rivers for our benefit. I am posing the question to the Govt. as to why no effort has been made so far to utilise our water resources. Many countries which have become independent much after us, have made enormous progress though they have fewer resources when compared to us. It speaks volumes for their capable planning. The main reason why those newly independent countries are far ahead of us is that they have succeeded in harnessing their resources with remarkable efficiency. But how about us? The country has had already 40 years of independence. Even after these 40 years of independence, we have failed miserably to provide drinking water either to our villages or the towns and cities in the country. This is one achievement! In such circumstances can we call ourselves independent? What are our achievements for which we can take pride? Mere political independence will not do. The real independence lies in our economic independence. Mere political independence has no meaning if we are not independent economically. Economic independence is the real independence. We have failed miserably in attaining economic freedom. Our defective planning has let us down in becoming economically independent. Though we

\*The speech was originally delivered in Telegu.

[Shri Srihari Rao]

can boast of plenty of resources, it is the defective planning which is responsible for our poor development. Newly emerged nations have perfectly planned their economy. Hence they are much ahead of us and are in the forefront of developed nations. We, on the other hand planned miserably and failed miserably. We too have a Planning Commission. But our Planning Commission has no clear perspective of priorities to be accorded. Our Planning Commission does not know which should be accorded priority. The Planning Commission has no grasp of the prevailing situation and of the items to be taken up priority basis. This is one reason why our country could not develop as much as we desired. Hence the Planning Commission should take responsibility for the poor progress the country made so far.

Sir, droughts and floods are the bane of our economy. Bad planning is responsible to a great extent for this sad state of affairs. Every year thousands of crores of rupees are being spent on the relief measures during the drought and floods. It shows that the Govt. and Planning Commission are interested only in the remedial measures rather than the preventive measures. It is like digging a well when the house is already on fire. When the situation assumes uncontrollable proportion, the Govt. comes forward to spend thousands of crores of rupees on relief measures. It shows that the Planning Commission are lacking foresight. They cannot anticipate the situation that the nation may have to face in the future. If they had the vision, they could have foreseen the droughts and floods and prepared several schemes to avert them. But they lack the vision. Had they spent a part of the amount that has already been spent on short term measures and relief measures, perhaps there would not have been any drought in the country today.

Sir, irrigation Ministry is an important Ministry. Only those who have the grasp and thorough knowledge of the subject

must be in charge of this Ministry. But it is misfortune that all along, this important Ministry has been in the hands of the persons who did not have any basic knowledge of this portfolio, Irrigation Ministers should always be very competent persons who can deliver the goods. Sir, our irrigation Ministers should know which are the perennial rivers and have excess of water that can be diverted to other rivers which go dry during the lean months. They should know which rivers have to be connected so that certain areas can be saved from floods while other areas starving for water can be saved from drought. But the successive Ministers incharge of irrigation have not thought on these lines so far. The rivers which have excess water should be linked with the rivers with lesser flow. All the important rivers from Ganga upto Kavery in the extreme South should be linked with one another. 65% of the cultivable land can be brought under irrigation if these rivers are connected. In this connection one has to recall the invaluable services of Dr. K.L. Rao rendered to the country. He was a genius and internationally known expert on the subject. He prepared a Plan to link Ganga with Kavery after a thorough study. Ganga-Kavery link is the answer to droughts and floods in many areas of the country. But, it is most unfortunate to hear from the present Minister for water Resources that this Plan is not viable. I do not see how it is nonviable. Everyone in this country is interested in development of our country. During the past 40 years man thousands of crores of rupees were spent on combating drought and flood. Even then, we could not solve the problem permanently. Droughts and floods are regular features. Sir, out of the 40 years, the Congress had been in power for 38 years. Hence it has to take all responsibility for this kind of lopsided planning. Had a part of amount that has been spent on short term measures been spent on project like Ganga-Kavery link, we could have got rid of drought permanently. If we link Ganga with Mahanadi, Mahanadi with Godavari, Godavari with Krishna and finally Krishna with Kavery droughts and floods can be averted. It is gigantic task no

doubt but certainly not non-viable. We can avert both floods and droughts in many parts of the country. Irrigation facility can be provided to millions of acres of cultivable land. You can control both floods as well as drought. The necessity to spend thousands of crores of rupees every year won't arise. Who should be held responsible for ignoring such kind of important projects? Is it not our lopsided planning? Is not our **Planning Commission** responsible for not taking up such vital projects? Is it not the Congress rule at whose behest the Planning Commission decides priorities responsible and for neglecting such projects? The Congress Govt. should have **self introspection**. This kind of lopsided Planning should be done away with if the country has to progress and prosper.

As far as our State Andhra Pradesh is concerned, the Central Govt. must admit that it is singularly neglecting us right from the beginning. There are as many as 15 projects pending before the Central Govt. for clearance. Not even a single project has been cleared so far. Neither the Central Govt. **takes up the execution of the projects nor allow the State Govt. to execute them**. What is the reason? There is a saying in Telugu. It is like the mother who neither provides food nor **allows to beg**. Similarly, neither the Central Govt. takes up these projects as national projects nor allows the State to take them up. If the Centre permits, we will construct the projects on our own. Projects like Polavaram and Telugu Ganga are very important projects. We could have completed all these projects in time and even supplied drinking water to our Tamilian brothers in Madras, **had you only cleared these projects**. The entire area would have been prosperous by now. Rayalaseema would have been saved from the drought. Polavaram project **would have benefited a long stretch of land from my district, East Godavari upto Srikakulam**. We could have provided water to the prestigious steel plant at Vizag. But nothing has taken place so far. Reason? Neither the Central Govt. has taken up this project nor allowed the State to construct it by according clearance early. Who is

responsible for this kind of dilly dallying, in taking important decisions? The Central Govt. must hold itself responsible for this unhappy situation.

Sir, 19 out of 23 districts are reeling under acute drought. At a recently held meeting, the Charimen of Zilla Parishads had requested the State Govt. for an assistance of Rs. 193 crores and 95 lakhs. In addition of this amount, nearly Rs. 90 crores are needed exclusively for providing drinking water. Such is the magnitude of the situation. The State Govt. has already spent Rs. 63 crores on the relief measures. But when our Chief Minister N.T. Rama Rao has requested to the Prime Minister when he was on the tour of the State recently, for an assistance of Rs. 50 crores, the Prime Minister turned down the plea by saying that there are other States **which require the money more urgently**. It is most unfortunate to hear the Prime Minister to say so. Sir, the situation in Andhra Pradesh is very grim and hence I appeal to this Govt. to release immediately the required amount. I hope and trust the required money of Rs. 50 crores will be released immediately.

Sir, all along you have been **concentrating only on short term measures to tackle droughts**. There is adrought almost every year. It is a stupendous task to provide relief to the affected people. Hence I suggest that there should be an autonomous body exclusively devoted to monitor the relief measures undertaken in various parts of the country. This should be a permanent body. Wherever there is any drought or any other natural calamity, the Members of the Committee can visit the area immediately and can take necessary steps to help them without any loss of time. This body would ensure prompt relief to affected people. Now there is an inordinate **delay in providing relief**. **Oftentimes, the Govt. blames the State Govts. for the delay in sending the report**. If this body is set up, time will not be wasted as the Committee itself monitors the situation. The Committee should have the dual responsibility to find necessary funds required for relief

[Shri Srihari Rao]

operations and also to forecaste droughts either due to late arrival or failure of monsoon in different States of the country. Sir, there were floods in my State last year. There was a heavy loss of both life and property. Farmers had to face many difficulties. Standing crop worth crores of rupees has been lost. But the crop insurance claims have not so far been settled. Already one year is over. Not even a single farmer insurance claim in my constituency in East Godavari district has been settled so far. I want to know why the crop insurance claims of our farmers have not been settled so far and when are they going to be settled.

Sir, 40 years ago we became independent. We could not achieve much in these years of planning. I want to cite an example just to show how faulty our planning system is. In Delhi, the very Capital city of India there is an acute shortage of drinking water. In our MPs flats the supply of water is very restricted. We get water upto 9 O' clock in the morning and then after 5 in evening. Similarly, there is a power cut during the afternoon hours. Essential commodities are in short supply. The prices of all the commodities have shot up. If this is the psition in Delhi, one can well imagine the psition of the poor people in remote areas of this country. Who are going to take care of their needs? Where did we fault in our earlier plan? The entire functioning of the planning calls for a thorough revision. Sir, an autonomous body with all the powers should be set up to monitor the work taken up during the droughts and floods, on a permanent basis. It should also be provided with necessary funds in order to effectively discharge its functions.

Sir, the river Godavari flows through my district but it is a tragedy that there is a drought in Burugupudi and Kadiyam assembly constituencies which come under my parliamentary constituency.

There is an acute shortage of water in that area. There is no water even for the live stock. It is a tragedy that an area which is quite closer to river Godavari suffers from an acute shortage of drinking water. Polavaram project is the remedy for these ills. The situation will improve only when the Polavaram project comes up. During the last 40 years not even a single project from Andhra Pradesh has been taken up as a national project. I want to know why? At least now, for heavens sake, clear the Polavaram project. If you do not take up the project on your own, at least accord sanction to the project. Please clear Polavaram project early. We will execute it on our own and make our State prosperous. We will tackle the drought situation in our State on our own and work for the wiping out drought once and for all. Sir, I thank you once again for giving me an opportunity to speak.

\*SHRI U.H. PATEL (Bulsar): Mr Speaker, Sir, in my speech I shall narrate the plight of my area stricken by drought and give some suggestions.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a poem in our Gujarati literature which depicts the plight of the world if rain fails. I also remember a few lines of this poem which are as follow

*Nadi Nala Sukai Chalyan,  
Gavlati deshe Shaap,  
Novyo Dharati No Dhanu Mahulre.*

(It means that rivers and rivulets have dried up, distressed will utter curse, still the emperor of the earth, the rain has not come so far.)

Exactly the same situation we are facing today

During the course of the discussion, several hon Members have expressed their concern over the drought and given their suggestions. Therefore, in order to avoid repetition and discussion on the same

---

\* The speech was originally delivered in Gujarati



points, I would, simply like to say that I fully support their points.

I would like to express my gratitude to the hon. Prime Minister for giving an assurance to the people of the country from the rampart of the historical Red Fort to the effect that nobody in the country would be allowed to starve due to drought. This assurance of the Prime Minister will arouse a new consciousness among the people to combat the drought.

The condition of Gujarat is several times more serious than that of other parts of the country hit by drought. The Chief Minister of Gujarat has said that 80% of the crops in Gujarat has been destroyed due to drought. Keeping in view the above condition, the State of Gujarat may also be given cent per cent assistance as has been extended to other States to deal with the drought situation. The Government of Gujarat have demanded an amount of Rs. 187 crores which may please be generously granted fully.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the problem of drinking water is very grave especially in the Saurashtra region for which it is very essential to find a permanent solution. Our hon. Prime Minister has done a very commendable job by according his sanction to the Narmada Project by means of which the problem of drinking water in the Saurashtra and Kuch regions of Gujarat can be solved permanently. I would, therefore, like to submit to the Government that concrete and effective steps may please be taken to complete this project as early as possible.

Southern Gujarat known as the land of Parasuram is a drought prone area but this time it has come under the grip of this alarming drought, seriousness of which cannot be imagined unless one sees it.

During one of my visits to my constituency, I heard a distress call by a seventy year old lady which violently disturbs my mind. She told me, "Son, we do not want

food dishonestly without putting any labour. We want that work and foodgrains should continuously be made available to us to keep body and soul together. We expect this thing from you, please try to provide work and foodgrains to us." Even if some one is poor, he has a high sentiment of honesty in him. Though the situation is so adverse, they only want work to meet the same, they do not want help in the form of donations. They want to earn bread by dint of hard work. This sort of distress call reminds us our duties. That is why the Prime Minister have assured the people of the country on the Independence Day that every possible step would be taken to meet the situation. I also submit to the rich people of this country to donate liberally to meet this grave problem being faced by the country. At the same time one and all should try to fulfil their responsibilities wherever they are and whatever posts they hold.

In order to help the poor people of our country, we will have to implement all the drought relief works on a war footing. We will have to make our administration more vigilant so that we are able to meet this calamity. If any fault or inertia is found in our administration, we will have to take the most stringent steps to eradicate the same. People indulging in corruption, hoarding and black marketing may take undue advantage of such a situation. We will have to deal with these evils by remaining vigilant towards them.

Today prices of essential commodities are going on rising as a result of which the poor people are finding it difficult to keep body and soul together. Therefore, it is very essential to exercise some control over prices. For this, I would like to suggest to the Government that required foodgrains and other essential commodities may please be kept in the fair price shops and supplied to the needy people ensuring their proper distribution. In order to ensure that the relief committees constituted at the district level and also the district administration discharge their responsibilities fully, both the Central and

[Shri U. H. Patel]

State Government may keep full vigil over them

It is requested that we all should play our role in the campaign launched on war footing by the Government.

Several saints, sanyasis and holy people live in this country. In such a situation in the country, they used to please the rain God by performing Yajnas. They may also come forward to perform such acts with due reverence and pray to God to be benighted to us to make rain in this grave situation.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the drought problem being faced by us is the biggest problem of this century and it should be viewed with human outlook. I was very much distressed when the hon. Members of opposition charged us the other day that we wanted to take political advantage of this drought situation. Our hon. Members have gone to the extent of saying that Bofors issue has not been given any priority over the drought issue. It is my request to you that this human problem may be viewed with a collective outlook instead of a political outlook and measures be taken to meet this situation unitedly by our volunteer institutions, political parties and the Government by rising above party politics. We have been discussing on drought in this House for the last few days and our Prime Minister has taken this grave problem seriously but the Agriculture Minister is not present in this House. Shri Yadav, hon. Minister of Rural Development is sitting here. Whether Minister of Petroleum, Minister of Energy, Minister of Power or Minister of Finance is present, this grave problem should be solved collectively...

AN HON. MEMBER: The Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation is sitting.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: May be that there may arise a need to drop food

by aircraft, our Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation is present here..... (*Interruptions*).... He has made efforts. Therefore, I have already told that this should not be viewed with a political outlook..... (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to suggest that both long term and short term measures should be taken for dealing with the drought situation. The short term measures should deal with ways and means to tackle the droughts and to save the Kharif and Rabi crops. This time the Kharif crop has almost been destroyed. The long term measures should deal with deforestation, environment, use of water resources. Even the water available in abundance in coal mines should also be lifted for irrigation purposes.

13. 50 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

Small dams should be constructed at the earliest to provide water for cattle and to maintain the water level. We regret that we have been raising this issue since many years but the Government is not viewing the situation with required seriousness and it is due to this reason that to-day the country is facing the worst drought. Until all the Ministers holding charge of Irrigation, Forests, Agriculture, Energy, Environment, Food and Petroleum sit together and discuss the situation and also consider the suggestions given by the hon. Members in this regard, this problem cannot be tackled. Along with it, relief works should be monitored by the Government to ensure that the right people get the benefits of the programmes.

Flood water should be controlled and diverted to the drought prone areas. In addition, small hydel plants should be set up to generate power, and the water of these plants should be properly utilised.

The biggest problem arising out of this drought situation will be that of migration of labour and cattle. This is a complicated situation and requires special attention

Another essential point to be considered is that of our food stocks and availability of raw material. If raw material is in short supply then it will become more expensive. Under such circumstances, land revenue and irrigation tax should be waived. There are some areas like our Chhattisgarh in Madhya Pradesh where the farmers have not been able to pay irrigation tax for the last 20 years. How can they pay the taxes when they are not getting water for their fields? I want that fresh loans should be given after waiving the irrigation tax. If the farmer is a defaulter he cannot get the benefits of the new credit policies of the Government. (*Interruptions*) You are talking of ceiling. I want to say that all farmers are farmers regardless of whether they are big or small. However no attention should be paid towards those farmers who own farm houses.

In this context, I want to draw your attention specially to dry farming. We have been talking about dry farming since long but so far no one is conversant with it. (*Interruptions*)

There is an acute shortage of water today. It is going to become more acute in the days to come. This might lead to an outbreak of all sorts of diseases in an epidemic form. I want to draw the attention of the Government towards it and asks them to be ready to counter this challenge in advance. The Central Government should set up cells at the Central, State, District and Block levels to monitor the situation.

I want to submit one more point. In order to initiate relief measures, Central Government is giving ad-hoc grants to the States. The Centre should inform the States as to how much amounts are going to be sanctioned so that the State Governments can plan accordingly. Today you give Rs. 5 crores, tomorrow you give Rs. 10 crores and then again you give Rs. 5 crores. This results in misuse of funds. Due to the lack of proper planning, the amounts are not utilised properly. The amount of ad-hoc grants proposed to be given to the State Governments should be decided right now

so that the States can prepare definite programmes to deal with the drought situation effectively.

So far as providing employment to the agricultural labour is concerned, labour is required for desilting our old reservoirs so that their capacities for holding water increase and the farmers are able to get water for their fields.

It is very difficult for the Government to deal with natural calamities all alone, it is therefore necessary that the services of the private sector should also be involved in this field. The amount of subsidy now being given for setting up tube-wells should be increased. Deep tube-wells should be sunk for collective use in the cooperative sector. Regarding those small and poor farmers who cannot afford to buy diesel pump sets, should be supplied with the same free of cost. The old pumpsets should also be got repaired wherever necessary. Until the Private Sector is encouraged to contribute in this work, you will not be able to deal with the drought situation effectively.

Finally, I would like to quote an old poet,

*"Rahiman pani rakhiye, pani bin sab soon.*

*Pani gaye na ubaro moti manas choon."*

We should take the water crisis seriously and save every drop of water. We should not view it from a political perspective. Thanks.

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhour):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are expressing our concern over the prevailing drought situation in the country and truly speaking, we have never seen a drought of this magnitude in the past. It is being said that the present drought is the severest in this century. However, natural calamities like floods and droughts are regular features of our country. In my opinion and also in the opinion of several other hon. Members, the Government should consider the situation seriously and take con-

[Shri Jagdish Awasthi]

crete measures to meet the drought situation effectively and provide relief assistance to the farmers and landless labourers. The flood waters should be stored and utilised for irrigation purposes and in this way both droughts and floods can be controlled. Such schemes should be prepared simultaneously. I want to request the hon. Minister that in order to tackle the drought situation both short term and long term schemes should be formulated and implemented.

The entire Northern India is in the grip of drought. The Government tubewells installed in the country are not in working order and the water level of the private tubewells has gone down very much. I want to tell the hon. Minister that the Government tube-wells are being misused. These are lying idle due to mechanical defects or due to power shortage. In rural areas of Kanpur District alone 70 per cent of the Government tube-wells are lying idle. Even the private tube-wells are also lying idle because the water level has gone down. There are no arrangements for irrigation. The same is the condition of canals. Water does not reach the tail end in the canals and Kanpur city is situated at the tail end. There are several huddants there but water does not reach there. It is the Government's duty to see that water is made available wherever canal water is not available for irrigation. Until we take measures on war-footing we will fail to deal with the situation. Again, as we see that water is not available for irrigation, similarly, there is an acute shortage of drinking water in rural and urban areas. Kanpur city is facing an acute shortage of potable water. The water level of the 30 or 35 tube-wells owned by the Government has gone down sharply and adequate quantity of water is not available there. The river Ganga has receded very far and efforts are being made over the years to implement the Ganga Dam Project but we have not been able to implement it so far. I want to request the hon. Minister to leave aside this project at present and make efforts to

construct a 15 to 20 km. long canal near Bithur from where the main stream of the Ganga goes to Unnao. In this way we will be able to bring water near the Ghats and this will solve the problem of drinking water permanently in Kanpur and also the pilgrims and the local people will be able to take bath at the Ghats. I want that the Government should pay attention to this aspect. The hon. Minister of Water Resources is not present here now and I want to see him to formulate such a scheme.

Man can express his problems somehow but the cattle are mute and cannot express themselves. Today there is neither fodder nor water for them and they are dying for want of the same. I want to request that relief should be provided to them as well. Fodder should be made available for them as foodgrains are made available for the people. Buffer stocks of fodder should be maintained in the country so that it can be supplied during an hour of crisis. Today we find that the cattle in Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and in all other regions are dying due to drought. It is hoped that appropriate arrangements will be made for them. The relief works under execution at present are inadequate

14.00 hrs.

In order to provide employment to the landless workers, a scheme should be formulated at least under every Nyaya Panchayat. Landless workers are spread all over the country and you should provide employment to all these people so that they are able to earn their livelihood as they have no source of income. The Central Government should provide necessary assistance to complete and expedite the works lying pending in those areas. The rules about granting relief were framed during the British period and have become obsolete, which now should be changed. The present drought is unprecedented and the Government should pay special attention to it. The State Governments should be directed to observe financial discipline. It has been seen that funds are not utilised for the purpose for which they are allo-

cated with the result the programmes remain incomplete. I want to request the Opposition Governments in the States to observe financial discipline. The Centre should be vigilant about State Governments which are not utilising the funds properly. It is necessary for both the Central and the State Governments to observe financial discipline. This money belongs to the country and every paisa should be spent on the welfare of the people.

Committees should be constituted at the constituency level for the implementation of relief programmes and the M.P., M.L.As and Block heads should be associated with them. All relief works should be monitored through the representatives of the people. It will not only ensure involvement of the representatives of people but also help in exercising control over those officials who do not pay adequate attention towards implementation of the relief works. Today almost the entire country is affected by drought. The State Governments should be directed to ensure that tuition fee of the wards of people affected by droughts is remitted. If the outstanding loans cannot be written off, at least then recovery should be postponed for a minimum period of 2 to 3 years. The farmers in my area had taken loans to install pumpsets 15 years ago but they are only paying the interest the rate of which is very high. A scheme should be framed in consultation with the commercial banks whereby those farmers who have not so far repaid the loans, should be exempted from payment of interest on the loans given for buying pumpsets.

Like other hon. Members, I want that the schemes relating to drinking water supply and other relief measures should be prepared with a view to meet such natural calamities effectively in future.

SHRI ASHKARAN SANKHAWAR (Ghatampur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is a difference between the roles of politics and nature in dealing with the drought in the country. Under the present political set up

if we take right decision at this hour of drought, it would be a good thing. The Government should provide electricity to the rural areas at least 15 hours daily. The Government has provided means of irrigation through canals, tube-wells but about 70 per cent tube-wells are lying out of order. When the Officers in charge of tube-wells are contacted, they give the plea that there is a shortage of power and when the power department is contacted, they say that as the motor is old so it is not able to take the load. These are lame excuses. In this hour of drought I would request that the officials of the Power Department and the Irrigation Department should jointly formulate a programme to combat the drought situation successfully. If possible, the local M.L.As and M.Ps can be associated with it. They should check tube-wells in a week or in 4 days wherever they are found out of order and get them repaired immediately. Water of three divisions namely Etawah, Fatehpur and Kanpur reaches rural areas in Kanpur but as Kanpur is situated at the tail end, so only 15 to 20 per cent water of the three divisions is used for irrigation purposes. Besides this, the irrigation department releases water during summer for hardly two to three months in the canals that pass through villages. Also there are at least 2 thousand breaches through which the people are able to steal water from the canals. I would request that the officers concerned should be asked whether they are aware of these breaches through which water is being stolen by the people and if so, whether they have ever reported this matter to the police station. What I mean to say is that although they know that there are breaches and water is being drawn from the canals in an unauthorised manner yet they do not report the matter to the Police Station. I would request that the report should be called for and arrangement should be made to check this theft of water.

Another thing is that the canals are not desilted as long as 2 years as a result of which there is siltation as high as 3 feet and the water flows only one or two feet above.

[Shri Ashkaran Sankhwar]

In spite of this it is said that canals are running with full capacity and this is shown in the papers. I would request that all the canals should be got desilted in Kanpur so that more water flow there and water is available to the farmers for irrigation purposes.

Most of the tube-wells in our area are lying out of order. Water from the Ganga, the Yamuna and other rivers should be lifted for irrigation purposes. For example, there is a Amarhut Pump Canal in the Rajpur State Assembly Constituency which has been built this year at a cost of Rs. 12 crore. Similarly, a pump canal should also be constructed at Gureyan, survey of which had been conducted in 1962. A fresh survey in this regard should be conducted and a canal constructed there immediately. In the absence of canals in the Ghatampur Parliamentary constituency, there is no irrigation facility available there of which need is being felt for a long time. If the canal is constructed in that area, the irrigation problem of the farmers can be solved to a great extent.

In this hour of crisis when the poor landless workers are unemployed in a very large number, the funds which are made available by the Central Government and the State Governments for roads, education, canals, tube-wells etc., should be utilised in such a way that every agricultural labourer, unemployed and famine hit person may get relief because after the month of April the foodgrains dwindle in the stock of the farmers. Works on the Indira Awas Colonies should be undertaken. We feel that the funds allocated by the Government for different schemes are not being utilised properly and it is usually pocketed by some officers. In every assembly and parliamentary constituency, a committee consisting of MLAs, M.Ps and Block Heads should be formed to look into the problem relating to roads, irrigation etc. and to monitor the relief works. Only then something can be done for the welfare of the people.

In the end, I would like to say that there is a complicated problem of fodder, which should be solved in the interest of the cattle.

With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI MOTILAL SINGH (Sidhi):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion has been going on the situation of drought for the last many days. Any natural and man-made calamity affect the lower and middle class mostly. The impact of the present drought in the country will be greatly felt by the poor and the farmer. There has not been any rainfall in Madhya Pradesh and a drought situation is prevailing in the whole state due to which farmers and labourers are perturbed. Providing relief to the people is the responsibility of either the State Governments or the Central Government. At present, there is need for providing drinking water to the rural areas on priority basis. There is neither any reservoir nor any river from where water can be provided to the people.

Water can be provided only through tubewells and hand pumps there. But today the situation is such that assistance given by the Central Government is not sufficient as to make arrangement of drinking water in the whole of Madhya Pradesh.

There are 45 districts in Madhya Pradesh covering a very large area. There are dry areas where the irrigation facility is totally negligible. With these things in view there is need to provide more funds to Madhya Pradesh so as to enable the State Government to deal with the drought effectively. The farmers and the labourers are sitting idle and they have no work. The condition of their cattle is more miserable for whom water and fodder are required. A man can work anywhere and make arrangement for water and food but this is not the case with the cattle. So there is need to pay attention towards this aspect. There is a danger that the cattle may die in this drought situation and in future when there is rainfall, the farmer may not get oxen to plough the land and he may have to face a great difficulty.

Attention should be paid towards the relief measures being initiated in villages. The labourers should be provided wages in time otherwise their condition can worsen. You provide rice or wheat to the worker but do not provide that thing which he requires the most. The officers should be asked to ensure that no such a situation is created where workers have to starve and the people may not get an opportunity to say that workers are dying of hunger under the reign of this Government. There are large quantities of foodgrains in our country, there is no shortage of foodgrains, only it needs to be utilised properly. The foodgrains should be utilised properly so that no labourer may die of starvation.

So far as the problems of the farmers are concerned, I would like to submit that wherever water is available, the farmers should get electricity in time and wherever tubewells could be set up, immediate arrangements should be made to do the needful. There is need to provide more and more funds to the Government of Madhya Pradesh for this purpose. In the matter of natural resources, Madhya Pradesh is much ahead of the rest of the States. Besides coal and gold, diamond is also available there. Taking all these aspects into account, there is a need to pay more attention towards Madhya Pradesh. Like other States, Madhya Pradesh should also be provided with funds. You should not have an outlook that there is no special need to provide funds to Madhya Pradesh. Just as you are providing funds to Rajasthan for providing drinking water, Madhya Pradesh should also be provided funds to make provision for drinking water, because the condition of Madhya Pradesh is also serious. It is my submission to you that until and unless you pay a special attention towards the villages, the famine-like situation which has developed there will become more grave. Therefore, the people should not be given a chance to say that this Government is incompetent to meet the situation caused by drought and famine. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he should pay a

special attention towards Madhya Pradesh and provide funds even more than demanded by that State Government for carrying out relief works there so that the State Government is able to meet the drought situation effectively.

**SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been a long discussion on drought. You can well imagine from this that how all the hon. Members in this House are concerned about it, otherwise on rare occasions such long discussions take place. I am grateful to the hon. Minister of Agriculture for giving his consent to let the hon. Members express their sentiments and views and agreeing to give his reply after listening to all the Members.

Our country, India is mainly an agricultural country where 80 to 82 per cent people live in villages. To-day the drought situation has made everybody uneasy. The farmer, the labourer, whoever it may be, when he looks at the sky, what does he see in the blue sky? He sees poverty, starvation and destruction. A ray of disappointment is seen on his face. My father-in-law's house is in Karautha village in district Roh-tak. Choudhary Albel Singh, a resident of that village is 98 year old, the same age as of Badshah Khan. You know that at the age of 12, a person starts understanding everything. He said that he has never seen such a situation so far in his life. Drought and famine come hand in hand. If there is drought, there will be famine also. Now there has been no rain with the result that there is not at all any water in the reservoirs. I would like to tell you that amongst the dams, Pong dam is worst-hit. There is only 1.5 thousand million cubic meter water in Pong dam against its capacity of 7.12 thousand million cubic meters. You can well imagine the seriousness of the situation. The Govind Sagar reservoir behind Bhakhra provides irrigation facilities to Haryana and Punjab. Its position is somewhat better because there is 4.10 thousand million cubic meter water against its present capacity of 7.17 thou-

[Shri Chiranjil Lal Sharma]

sand million cubic meter. Similarly there is 1/6th water of its capacity in Nagarjuna-sagar, 1/4th in Tungbhadra, 1/10th in Met-tur. 1/12th in Krishnaraja Sagar, 1/4th in Hirakud, 1/12th in Balimala and 1/14th in Ramganga. Now you can imagine the condition of these reservoirs where electricity is generated and water is stored, but to-day, there is neither water in these reservoirs and no electricity can be generated there. This has made us uneasy. It is said "*Ram teri maya, Kahin dhoop, kahin chhaya.*" In Bengal, Bihar and Tripura, floods have played havoc whereas in the remaining parts drought has made the life miserable. There used to be plenty of rainfall during the months of Shravana and Bhadra, but to-day even birds are suffering for want of rains. Dr. Tripathi says that peacocks used to dance at this time and the villagers used to enjoy this dance, but to-day peacocks are not seen....  
(Interruptions).....

Now I want to refer to some figures of deficit rainfall during the first week of August. In Madhya Pradesh there has been 44 per cent downfall. There has been 636 mm. rainfall against 1124 mm. Similarly, in Gujarat, Assam, Dadra-Nagar Haveli there has been 49 per cent downfall and in Punjab it is 67 per cent downfall. If you look at the other side, you will find that there has been 215 mm. rainfall in place of 134 mm. in Arunachal Pradesh. In the gangetic West Bengal, there has been 100mm rainfall in place of 76 mm. In the sub-Himalayan West Bengal there has been 238 mm. rainfall in place of 117 mm. There has been 147 mm. rainfall in Bihar in place of 73 mm. You can see from the above statement that on the one side this is the situation and on the other, there is drought. Alongwith it as I have submitted that drought and famine go together. The country had faced drought and famine during the Mughal period relief camps were opened for the people. During the British regime, Bengal faced famine in 1770, the South faced famine in 1889. The-

After Bengal again faced famine in 1943 which was not due to drought but due to the paddy crop being destroyed by insects. Then 30 to 50 lakh people lost their lives because the British Government was careless about it. But to-day Shri Rajiv Gandhi says that if anybody dies of starvation in the country, it will be a slur on the name of India.

While unfurling the tri-colour flag at the Red Fort, he promised that we will help and protect all the people in all respects.

Even after independence the country is facing drought. It may be recalled that there was drought from 1965 to 67 during which we had to import 18 million tonnes of wheat from U.S.A. It was that red wheat which was not fit for human consumption. Again the country faced drought in the year 1972-73. Mr. Chairman, Sir, at that time I happened to be the Revenue Minister of Haryana. I was assigned the duty to ascertain the requirements of the farmers after actually visiting them. Especially fodder for the cattle was a point for consideration. I used to go to the rural areas and ask them if they wanted cash or fodder. They would ask for fodder. We supplied fodder on subsidised rates and the people still recall this thing to-day. Therefore, we should chalk out programmes for supply of fodder. We have got 23.5 million tonnes of foodgrains in our godowns. It is good for the country that the Government is ours and not of the Britishers.

When fodder is not available in Rajasthan, Haryana has to face a difficulty when the cattle in lakhs from Rajasthan come to Haryana and Punjab. But to-day there is nothing in Haryana. I may tell you that there used to be 40 crores cattle heads in the country, their number might now have reached 70 to 80 crores which is equal to 50 per cent of human population. They require 130 million tonnes of fodder whereas there is a provision for only 40 million tonnes of fodder. In the month of January this year 12,000 cattle from the drought affected areas of Western Rajasthan entered the wild life



sanctuary of Ramgarh and destroyed the grass grown on 125 hectares of land. There is a saying 'Marata kiya na karata.' Starvation forces man to commit all kinds of atrocities. Earlier to this, the people of Bharatpur had set ablaze the National park there and turned the grass on 108 hectare of land into ash. We should take some lesson from such incidents. If this is not checked, its result will not be good.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if I say that if there is drought in the villages, the cities will also not remain unaffected. The purchasing power of the people living in cities is also lost and they cannot afford to have *khas khas* and airconditioners and even light in the electric bulbs. In case there is no production in villages, nothing will come into cities and there will be recession all round. There is a saying: "*Gehon ke saath ghun bhi pis jata hai*" and "*Kath ke saath loha bhi tar jata hai.*" If the crops are bumper, then the poor people like Harijans, Girijans and labourers are able to earn their livelihood alongwith the farmers. But when the famine strikes, all suffer along with the one... (*Interruptions*).....

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have every respect for your bell. But keeping in view my feelings on the subject please give me two minutes more. We have been given time in the end, but the Members in the beginning have been allowed 40 minutes each.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in two third of my area, underground water is saline and brackish and there is very serious situation of drinking water in Mahendragarh area. Straw and hay is being sold at Rs. 100/- per quintal in our area and if this situation is allowed to continue, how would the cattle and the human beings survive? Camels used to eat leaves of trees, but due to failure of monsoon, even the leaves are not there are there is no fodder for the Camel. In our area no arrangement has been made to provide fodder for the Camel. There is a saying: *Bagula to pani Aayi Marya toon kyon mari bater.*" The hon. Prime Minister has spoken a lot about our duties in such circumstances. I

would conclude by raising two or three points.

First, the Food for work Programme should be started again and relief works for the poor and the downtrodden should also be initiated.

The ponds which have gone dry should be filled with the canal water again. Like foodgrains, fodder should be stored and made available to the farmers on subsidised rates. In villages, sugar, edible oil and many other consumer items are made available to the people through Fair Price Shops, but the shopkeepers sell them in the cities from where these commodities are supplied. Some suitable action should be taken in this regard. The loans which have been given to the farmers should either be remitted or their recovery be postponed for at least two years and exemption be allowed on interest for two years.

I wanted to say a lot of things but as the bell has already been rung many times, I am compelled to conclude. Our Sardar G.S. Dhillon is a very old freedom fighter and he belongs to the countryside.

[*English*]

He should have his fingers on the pulse of the farmer.

[*Translation*]

With these words, I conclude. Thanks.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful to you for giving me time to speak.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is the most backward state of the country and 44 districts out of 45 are in the grip of drought. In my area, farmers and labourers have no work to do and they remain busy in reciting Ramayana, etc. Under such circumstances, I would request the Govern-

[Shri Kammodilal Jatav]

ment to sanction maximum funds to the State Government of M.P. which is a backward area. In Chambal division, tubewells were installed some six or seven years back at Porva, Ambah and Ater etc., electric supply is there, water is also available, but the Government has not commissioned those tubewells so far. If those tubewells are started, at least drinking water could be made available to the people. In my area, Morena, there are at least 20 rivers which have abundant water. But the water from the river Chambal flows into the Yamuna and from the Yamuna into the Ganga and from the Ganga into the sea. The canal, which has been constructed to draw water from the Gandhi Sagar Dam, is at a distance of two or three kilometres from these rivers. If water is lifted from the Parvati the Kunwai and the Chambal in my area and discharged in this canal, water can be supplied for irrigation purposes in Bhind and Morena area.

The labourers from Madhya Pradesh, who used to go to Punjab and Haryana in search of work can neither go there as these States are also facing drought and nor get any work here due to serious drought in our area. Therefore, relief works should be undertaken there immediately and Fair Price Shops should be opened so that workers could get the work and also the foodgrains. The farmers in my area have let off their cows by putting a turmeric mark on their foreheads. Several thousands of cattle have met their untimely death in my area. If you ensure the supply of fodder, the remaining cattle could survive there. I once again express my thanks to you for giving me time to express my views.

**SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Simla):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I would like to congratulate the hon Agriculture Minister, Sardar Dhillon for providing 27,000 tonnes of foodgrains to Himachal Pradesh. It was an effort to overcome the effects of the loss caused by the recent floods, but now a great problem which we are facing is that

of the drought. Earlier there used to be a lot of rainfall in Himachal Pradesh, but now in the absence of rain, all the rivers and dams have gone dry and the crops of maize, potato and fodder in the villages have withered. I would like to submit to you that the rivers and drains flow at a great depth there. In the hilly areas, the people have to keep their cattle at a great height. The residences in the villages are scattered. Keeping in view this situation, foodgrains as also fodder for the cattle should be supplied by the Government of India, because there is acute shortage of them. I would like to suggest that water tanks should be constructed to store rain water so that it could be utilised in future. For this purpose, the Central Government should provide help to the State Government. There are a large number of gardens in Himachal Pradesh and it is also called a State of Gardens. The apple crop in Himachal Pradesh has been affected by a disease called 'Safeb'. The poor are not able to purchase the medicine because they do not have the money to buy it. There is a great problem of sprinkling the medicine. Apple worth lakhs of rupees would have to be destroyed. It needs special attention that the apples afflicted by disease should be purchased at a rate of at least Rs. 300/- per quintal and destroyed. Only then the gardener would be able to survive there. If this is not done, it will have adverse effect on the economy of the gardeners of Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir and their economic conditions would be shattered.

It is a matter of great pleasure that the hon. Prime Minister has constituted a sub-committee for the purpose and has declared in his address to the nation on the independence day that all out effort would be made to deal with the situation of drought. I would like to assure him that all the congress workers including ourselves are there to assist him and to extend our full co-operation to him in this task. Our Government has constituted a sub-committee under the chairmanship of the hon. Agriculture Minister which is looking after this department. You would have to implement this programme in villages in a

very organised manner so that the common man could get the benefit.

A mention was made here about the loans. In our neighbourhood, the previous Haryana Government had given loans to the people, but the new Haryana Government has taken a very astonishing step announcing remission of loans amounting to Rs. 273 crores. As a result a wrong feeling has been created among the poor in our State and the people are saying that as the loans of the farmers and the poor have been remitted in our neighbouring State Haryana, similarly our loans should also be remitted and the people are not inclined to repay their loans. The creation of such a feeling among the people could not be termed to be in the interest of anyone. Because many people had taken loans and had started the transport business with the help of the loan and some other started the gardening business. Should the loans of all such people be remitted? From one point of view it is correct also that when Haryana Government has remitted the loans of 7 lakh beneficiaries, their loans should also be remitted. But this has created a very complex situation before us. It is for the Government to decide as to what has to be done in this regard but it is a fact that after assumption of power by the new Government in Haryana, not only Haryana, a leading State in the production of foodgrains has been affected by the drought, but alongwith it Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and even Maharashtra have also been affected by serious drought. Our Government should give a serious thought to it and find out the adverse effects this step of Haryana Government would have on the Government Banks, Co-operative Banks etc. in order to take suitable steps to remedy this situation. It might be that the people who have been given loans, must have been given loans from one or the other funds, but loans of all such people have been remitted. Steps should be taken to check such wrong steps. Government should think seriously about it. But it is most essential that since the crops of potato and apple have been destroyed in Himachal

Pradesh and Kashmir and with a view to provide help to the people, an amount of at least Rs. 80 crores must be given to the Government of Himachal Pradesh so that the economic condition of the gardener and the farmer could be strengthened. No doubt, the drought has caused extensive damage in Kashmir State. There is almost uniform situation in the entire country, but relief works should be undertaken in such a manner that all the needy persons are benefited. Some hon. Members have referred to the drought condition in Rajasthan. Several camps have also been organised there. Affluent persons should be persuaded to help the people and the Government in such a difficult situation being faced by the country so that all of us could face the drought situation successfully. However, Himachal Government should be given full help.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura): Sir, I rise just to keep the record straight. Although the northern part of Bengal is reeling under floods the whole of South Bengal is already being threatened with a serious drought condition. I would like the Minister to remember that. So the name of West Bengal may also be added in this drought list because the southern part is not able to do the sowing operation without water. This is my submission. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the existing drought situation is being discussed today. I hail from Rajasthan and the drought there this year is unprecedented. The magnitude of drought is such that we are getting news of cattle dying from every part of that State perhaps we may get news of human deaths in future. We will have to accord serious consideration to the situation as otherwise it might get out of control.

I think that there must be some reason behind the occurrence of this natural calamity. On the whole, I will blame the

[Shri Shanti Dhariwal]

Meteorological Department for it because it never informed or warned the Government that there will be little rainfall on account of which such severe drought will have to be faced by the country in the coming years.

Roughly speaking the reason for the failure of monsoons this year is that adequate pressure was not formed in the Pacific Ocean. The reason given for it is the nuclear tests and explosions conducted by U.S.A. and France in the Pacific Ocean. These nuclear tests have disturbed the ecological balance over the Pacific which has resulted in scanty rainfall in our country. I want to request you that this point needs to be discussed seriously. You should not let it go by saying that this unprecedented drought has occurred due to the failure of monsoons and that it will be dealt with by providing relief measures. It is essential to look into it seriously.

I want to request the hon Minister of Agriculture that this point should be got raised in the U.N.O. through the Ministry of External Affairs so that the Pacific Ocean is made free of all nuclear tests because they tend to disturb the ecological balance which results in severe drought conditions in our country. Such condition may take a worse turn in future in which thousands of people may die of hunger and the people may be forced to sell their land, house, property and even their wives for want of employment. It seems that it is a well planned conspiracy.

It is not one but there are many things which are being said against our country abroad. It is their well thought out plan to put us in an embarrassing position by shattering our economy so that we are compelled to start begging again as we had been doing under PL-480 in the past. It is essential to look into this point.

I do not want to mention those points which are being repeated unhesitatingly

by some 7 or 8 of our colleagues everyday. I only want to request the Government through you that it is a well planned conspiracy which should be unveiled after conducting necessary investigations. We should ensure that such atomic tests are not conducted in the ocean in future as these tests destroy our economic balance and result in delayed monsoons. We should make sure that there is adequate rainfall in the country.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You should conclude now.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have just started. If you ring the bell like this, I will have to withdraw whatever I have already submitted and sit down. I have got an opportunity to speak after 15 days and I am not speaking anything irrelevant. You have not pointed out to me that I am talking irrelevant. I am speaking to the point.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Should we clap?

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL: You do not even clap.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to request the Government through you that some or the other action should be taken against the Scientists of the Meteorological Department because they have failed in discharging their duties.

Secondly, a number of schemes like Soil and Water Conservation programme for which Rs. 196 crores have been earmarked under the Seventh Five Year Plan, Watershed Improvement Programme in Catchment areas of river valleys, reclamation plans for ravines etc. have been bitterly criticised for their unsatisfactory design and poor implementation resulting in considerable losses to the exchequer. The Government spends Rs. 600 or Rs. 700 crore on drought relief works but not even a small part of this amount is utilised to prevent and reduce the intensity of drought. We have to import vegetable oils

and pulses worth Rs. 2000 crores every year. So much of money is spent yet no arrangements are made for reducing the severity of the drought conditions. It is being repeatedly said by the Government that they have a stock of 23 million tonnes of food grains but it is not sufficient keeping in view our population.

In order to prevent this problem the Government should promptly clear all the small and medium irrigation projects. Several irrigation schemes concerning 50 rivers of Rajasthan are pending for approval either in the National Water Commission or in the Planning Commission. The reason given for non-clearance of the projects is resource constraint. If these small and medium irrigation schemes are approved in time, these schemes can be very useful for the farmers.

Keeping in view that there are still two and a half years left of the current Five Year Plan and only 50 per cent of the amount allocated for the current plan has been spent, I want to suggest that we can bring about improvement in the drought position by allocating more funds out of the remaining amount for implementation of irrigation and power schemes. Today many farmers are prepared to install tube-wells but they are not able to get power connections. If it is not possible to supply power to the farmers, we should at least provide generating sets at subsidised rates so that they are able to tap groundwater for irrigation purposes. In this connection, I would like to read out an extract of an article published in the 'Times of India.'

[English]

"But where the Government's role is positively malign is in its encouragement of well-drilling programmes and in granting farmers the freedom to draw as much groundwater as they like. Sinking more wells—sometimes borewells at the bottom of dug wells - and using scarce energy to pump out water is the farmer's kneejerk response to the drought. The Government has declared supply of power to pumpsets

as the highest priority item; it has also launched big well-drilling plans. And big farmers have been encouraged by a host of political leaders to demand power from the State electricity boards by gheraoing their offices, if necessary.

This big farmer pressure is certain to lead to a big draft on that ultra-scarce resource, groundwater. Groundwater is too precious for it to be allowed to be tapped at will. In a situation of hydrological drought or worse, there is no recharging of groundwater. It is simply lost with disastrous consequences for the ecosystem and the soil itself. Already, about a seventh of the country's 4526 blocks have been officially acknowledged to suffer from or be close to over-exploitation of groundwater."

[Translation]

The situation today is that groundnut is also not available. In such conditions when the level of groundwater is going on declining, what will happen if we go on giving permission for digging more wells? Therefore, there should be proper planning. Handpumps are installed at a depth of 50 to 60 feet and they become dry after a few days. In this situation handpumps should be installed at a depth of 200 feet. A rule should be framed making it compulsory that if water is not available at a depth of 60 ft. then drilling should be carried on upto the depth of 120 ft. Strong action should be taken against those officers who fail to observe this rule. I want to request that an appropriate law should be enacted in this regard. We see today that millions of rupees are being spent on installation of handpumps but almost all of them become dry after drawing out a small quantity of water. I hail from Rajasthan and I would like to submit that the Centre should supply the entire fodder requirements of Rajasthan. A fodder bank should be opened in the country. Rajasthan, especially its western parts are totally dependent on their cattle wealth and cattle-rearing is the main occupation in these areas. If they are not able to get fodder then their lives will become miserable. Moreover, at:

[Shri Shanti Dhariwal]

such time the Centre should release the remaining amount of Rs. 82 crores which it has to pay under the Material Component plan. In addition, the Central Government should release 3.5 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains free of cost as demanded by the Government of Rajasthan.

With these words, I thank you and conclude.

14.57 hrs.

[English]

SHRI G.L. DOGRA (Udhampur): Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have been waiting for the last ten days or so to speak and I straightway come to the subject.

The drought is unprecedented. The area covered by drought this time is unprecedented; and the misuse of the relief amount that has been given in the recent past for untimely rains, etc is also unprecedented.

Sir, we have talked a lot about drought, and about the gravity of the situation. But I do not think, we have so far found any solution. As far as the present as well as the future are concerned, we are not hitting at the right point. We should hit the nail on the head. Unless the State Governments become very serious to tackle this very grave problem, unless they are able to set right their own machinery to prevent corruption and unless the State ministers themselves, irrespective of the party to which they belong, try to become a symbol of ideal conduct and serve as a model to their public servants, the problem is not going to be solved properly.

The State Governments have to deal with the problem. Central Government can only assist the States, whereas the States

themselves have to initiate action to solve the problem. The role of the Centre is only a helping role. The role of the States is to take action initially. The States are primarily responsible for tackling problems such as drought. Our tendency is that we want to take as much money as possible from the Centre; but we are not asking the States to do what is required of them. We are not looking at the problem as a national problem. We are not thinking about this problem on national lines. It looks as though we are advancing the argument of a national calamity, just for the sake of having a debate.

15.00 hrs.

But if we are to be serious about it, we will have to behave in a different way. If you want to save the granaries of India, particularly of Punjab, Haryana and also Rajasthan to some extent, you will have to see the Forests of Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh which are ruined. I am just pointing out this for your information only. What a devastation has taken place? You have seen its consequences also.

You see the way in which the Forests of Madhya Pradesh have been mercilessly cut. You see the devastation also. The sources of rivers are from these places only. The sources of these rivers are in the mountains and the forests covered by the trees. The density of the forests is the guarantee to save you from the floods. It also guarantees you that underground water and overground water sources are not depleted. But what has happened? You just fly over the hilly areas or you just walk over them. I would like to ask you, what did you see? We are just playing with the future of humanity. Forests and hills have been rendered naked. Each and every tree has been cut. You know what is going to happen? There will be shortage of foodgrains. I agree with my young friend who spoke just now has said that whatever foodgrains we have stored are not adequate and they are hardly sufficient to meet the requirements upto the next crop season. I would like to ask you, as to what

is the guarantee that the next crop will be a bumper one? We must see to it that whatever we have got, we must keep it for the future also. But what is happening?

In Punjab, foodgrains were damaged due to rains. Even in my State also, it has so happened. Then what happened to the damaged foodgrains? The Government have refused to purchase it from the farmers.

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

The Food Corporation of India have said that they are unfit for human consumption. What has happened to that? The man who grew the foodgrains had been given a relief on very liberal scale. The people other than the actual farmer are still getting their relief. The same foodgrain is sold to the private traders and they are hoarding it or just grinding it and selling it in the market. So, those people have benefited from this natural calamity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please wind up.

SHRI G.L. DOGRA: It is not just a formality. It is not a school roll call. After all you must also allow us to speak. After all we have come here. People who have spoken for a long time do not represent more people.

You see first of all, how are they benefited and also go on saying that the Government is not purchasing their foodgrains. This you have to look into it. There will be not only a shortage of foodgrains but also there will be adulteration, high prices and also lack of drinking water both for human beings and also for cattle. You have to look into all these things more seriously.

In this connection, I would like to make some suggestions. The best relief will be to purchase even damaged foodgrains and use it as fodder.

The Administration of Agriculture and Forest will have to be integrated together. There may be two Ministries but their administration will have to be completely coordinated. Unless you look into the conservation of forest, its maintenance, its growth, you will not be able to tackle this problem.

I would like to say here that in the Agricultural Universities, agricultural research will have to be reoriented. What can be done in these conditions, where there is inadequate rainfall or there is no rain at all. The dry lands are the main base of agriculture. In my State the bulk of agriculture is on the rain fed land. Therefore, research should be reoriented to see what can be grown in a better way on such lands. Then you have to look to the trees, multi-purpose trees—trees which can give you fruits, trees which can give you timber and trees which can give you fodder—you will have to grow such trees. No research is being conducted on this. This will have to be done.

As far as rain-fed and hilly areas are concerned, attention will have to be paid there in respect of varied geo-physical and varied weather conditions. You will have to see what can be grown at various places. That will have to be done. That is not being done.

Border areas and hilly areas particularly have been neglected so far. If you go on neglecting them, it will result in two bad things: if border areas are neglected, there will be smuggling; if hilly areas are neglected, there will be further damage of the forests. People will have to do something. So, attention will have to be paid towards those areas.

I again say that the task of the Minister of Agriculture is very difficult. He has got to face the present difficulties. There is no guarantee that the times to come will be normal times, or that there will be bumper crops. We should always be prepared to face these difficulties. So, we should mobilize the help of experts.

[Shri G.L. Dogra]

Regarding inputs being given, they should not be put in, in a normal way. To decide what inputs are now required to be put in, under these changed circumstances, scientists should be put on the job. With their advice, further inputs should be distributed and made available to small farmers and marginal farmers particularly, because they are in distress; they are in a bad way. Their cattle is gone, their trees are gone, and their crops are gone. They are in a very bad way. Relief works i.e. the Food for Work programme should be intensively used; and whatever works can be done in a particular area, should be started.

These are my suggestions. I have finished; but please allow my successor at least to speak undisturbed.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the severest drought of the century that has visited our country this time. The committee constituted under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister will deal with the situation effectively. Today we find that people are starving and there is shortage of employment opportunities, fodder, drinking water and medicines. Sir, I would like to give a few suggestions in this respect.

My first suggestion is that as the level of water has gone much deep so drilling machines having capacity to draw out water from the depth of 1500 to 3000 ft. should be made available. In this way the people as well as the cattle will get water for drinking. Artificial fodder should be arranged for the cattle. There is sufficient stock of foodgrains in the godowns. The labourers should be provided foodgrains at the place of work.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I hail from Madhya Pradesh where all the Districts have been affected by drought. It is, therefore, neces-

sary to start relief works there immediately. Funds should be made available to the State Government as much as they require. At present, the important question is to sustain the people. Water should be released in the big dams and ponds in a phased manner so that we may have not to see such days in future. Construction of railway lines should be included in the relief works, undertaken at the time of famine and drought as was done during the British period. By doing so, on the one hand railway lines are laid and on the other people also get jobs. This work should be taken up on war footing.

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present the whole country is facing drought and as many as 262 districts are in the grip of drought as a result of which people are facing hardships. The Government is trying to ease the situation. The Prime Minister has formed a drought relief cell on behalf of the All India Congress (I) Committee and included therein all the people's representatives of all the States. Keeping in view the gravity of situation, the hon. Prime Minister has cancelled his foreign tour. It shows how much concerned he is towards the drought. Our hon. Agriculture Minister, who is a senior and experienced hand, is dealing with this situation effectively. I hope we will be able to control the situation in the drought affected areas. There was prosperity in my area Jammu and Poonch as in other States. I have just returned after visiting that area. The people are much perturbed due to the drought condition. Rabi crops could not be grown as there was not much rains. Ours is a hilly area where water is not available. Moreover it is a border area where thousand acres of land is irrigated with rain water but in the absence of rains, the crops have been damaged. The Government should mitigate the hardships of the people. Earlier, there had been much rains but this time there was no rainfall. In such a situation the people have to face difficulties which should be solved permanently by making water available for irrigation purposes. In case there is no rainfall, they



should be able to get water to irrigate their land for growing crops. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that cent per cent subsidy should be provided there so that the farmer may be able to install small pumps for lift irrigation. There are many people in the flood affected areas who have no land of their own but are solely dependent on the land for their needs. Such people should be provided free ration. It is true that the hon. Prime Minister had sent a team of high officials in my State which might have assessed the loss suffered by the people. But we have not received any funds so far. We are, however, getting some foodgrains. I would like that in view of the severe drought in the State, we should be provided maximum funds. That State should be declared as a drought affected area and relief works should be undertaken there so that the people may get some relief. I am grateful to the Prime Minister for providing us ration and for helping us in many ways.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI (Khalilabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, while expressing my views on the drought situation in the country, I would like to quote a couplet. I hope you would give me 5 minute's time and not ring the bell:

*"Wahe chal chuke hein, aa rahe hein, aa  
rahe honge,  
Shabe firaq guzar di hamne, intzar  
mein."*

Sir, drought is a natural phenomenon but as our hon. Members have said rightly that this year's drought has never occurred in the last 100 years. Our colleagues have drawn your attention towards many points which I would not like to repeat. But I would, however, like to say this much that I differ with the view expressed by many hon. Members that power should be made available to rural areas after exercising a cut in the quota of the industrial sector because it will eventually result in shortage of commodities of daily use and push up their prices. I would like to suggest that crores of units of power which is being wasted on princely living of a few people

and bureaucrats in our country, who maintain big lawns and keep dogs and buffalos should be saved and supplied to the villages.

It is true that the cost of production increases when diesel or electricity is used for irrigating the fields which is made available to the farmers free of cost and in that case if the procurement price is not increased accordingly, the farmer will have to dispose of his ornaments, houses, and to keep his body and soul together. The moot point is how this increase in the cost of production will be adjusted to enable the farmer to meet the situation easily.

It is also true that farmers have been provided crores of pumping sets against loans and grants, but does the hon. Minister know that the price of a pumping set is Rs. 4 thousand in the market. Whereas the same pumping set is being provided to the poor farmer by the Government institutions, banks or the Department or the Ministry at a cost of Rs. 6.5 thousand. He should be saved from such exploitation. When the Government is engaged in raising the standard of living of the farmer, it should also give attention towards such irregularities, corrupt practices, etc. which the farmer has to face. The hon. Minister should put a check on those who are amassing money by exploiting the farmers. Our Ministries and Departments are introducing new varieties of seeds in the name of development. Will the Department of Agriculture develop such varieties of seeds which can be grown without much water. Our water resources.....

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. Let the hon. Minister reply now.

[Translation]

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI: Sir, under the schemes which are framed for increasing purchasing power and for executing relief works, there is a principle in regard to man power that 50 per cent

[Shri Chandra Shekhar Tripathi]

amount should be spent on inputs and the remaining 50 per cent on the manpower. But we find that fictitious muster rolls are prepared while implementing programmes like NREP and the real beneficiary is not employed and in this way they are exploited

I wanted to speak on a number of more points but as you have interrupted me so, I conclude.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been waiting for quite a long time, but I have not been given an opportunity to speak.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on drought has been going on for many days I also want to speak

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to propose that the hon. Members who want to speak may do so before 3 45 P.M. The hon. Minister would speak at 3 45 P.M.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: We should get an opportunity

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Eighty Members have spoken by now

*(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: It has already taken 5 days.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: You are forgetting, it has taken 6 days

*[English]*

AN. HON. MEMBER: The Minister may speak tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: No, no. Hon. Minister will reply positively at 15.45 hours. It is for the Members to adjust. After his reply we have to take discussion under Rule 193 on floods.

*[Translation]*

SHRI MOHD MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion on drought has been going on in this House for many days. Many people have given their suggestions regarding drought, but what are the causes behind it? Why has the drought occurred?

I would like to submit that it depends on our deeds and nobody can help us. Even the Agriculture Minister would not be able to save us. Whether we dig a well or drill a tube-well, unless the nature is kind to us, we would not be able to do anything

What is the position so far as our deeds are concerned? We will have to analyse on deeds to find out the causes of drought. Dhillon Saheb would not be able to do anything unless nature is kind to us. All these things that the water level has gone down or this has happened or that has happened are irrelevant. Unless Almighty God is kind to us, nothing is going to happen. We should pray in mosques, perform yajnas in temples and do good deeds to appease the nature and our deeds are not good these days.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Mahfooz Ali Khanji, I would like to submit to you that we have done all this I had not disclosed this to the House I had gone to Jaipur to perform a yajna, but in vain.

*[English]*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla). Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was to speak on floods But one of my colleagues here drew my attention to the fact that we were discussing the drought situation in the country Even if I had started speaking on

floods, I would come to the subject of drought. I do not want to deliver a lengthy speech. There is no time. But I have to make one point, I want to put a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture as to whether he is prepared to understand the dimension of the problem, it may be floods or it may be drought. Sir, when the First Plan was formulated, we had visualised that agriculture was subject to vagaries of nature and therefore we paid more attention to agriculture. But what obtained in our country in 1950s has continued to be so in late 1980s. We found that it was a vast country, and in one part of the country there were floods and simultaneously there was drought in another part of the country. So, we gave utmost importance to agriculture in the First Plan. Then in the Second Plan, we said that the bias should be in favour of industry. Then when we formulated the Third Plan; we realised that we had committed the mistake and we had not solved the problem of agriculture. Now, in the Fourth Plan, again more stress was laid on agriculture and thereafter we have been paying more attention to this subject. But we feel that our development has been patchy. This is not the occasion for us to have a list of achievements and discuss them. Nobody will deny that we have great achievements to our credit. But we have not solved the problem of agriculture which is the backbone of our economy.

Now, you have no national grid for water resources. You have no national grid for power resources and the entire process of planning is in jeopardy. So, I want to put a question to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. When you have a lot of water in one part of the country, will you rise to the occasion to solve the problem of drought in the country? All this is due to mismanagement of our resources and that is because we have had a long spell of patchy development in this country. Shri Mohd. Mahfooz Ali Khan, while speaking, felt frustrated about the situation. But he made his point. So, Mr. Chairman, you may have discussion for another month. But unless

the Government changes the design of planning, they will not be able to solve the problem. Now since we have to discuss the situation arising out of floods, I will formulate my ideas about floods later and I will give examples about the flood situation that is obtaining in Jammu and Kashmir State. All I would say is that there should be qualitative change in the planning process and unless you do that, there will not be proper agricultural development in the country and we will not be able to find a solution either to drought or floods. Thank you.

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, many of my colleagues here have discussed the seriousness of drought situation that is prevailing in this country. The poor and erratic behaviour of monsoon is the main reason of the present drought. With less than 40% of the districts in the country receiving normal to excess rainfall against well over 50% in the previous year, the year 1987-88 is going to be the fourth successive year of the monsoon being below the average.

The rainfall statistics make depressing reading of 35 meteorological zones in the country, only 10 have received normal or excess rainfall, the rest being either deficient or scanty.

The worst hit States are Haryana and Punjab, the nation's granary, besides Rajasthan. The zones severely affected include other notably productive areas like West U.P., coastal Andhra Pradesh, Central Bihar, Saurashtra and Kutch. In Gujarat, there has been no sowing in 78 of the 182 talukas in the State. The crops like paddy, cotton, pulses, bajra and maize are totally lost with little or no chance of recovery, even if the monsoon revives now. The situation is hardly better in Madhya Pradesh. One-third of the total districts received between 10 and 30% of the normal rainfall, while the remaining have had less than half the average. But in Maha-

[Shri Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja Wadiyar]

rashtra, the situation is different. The seven districts of Marathwada afflicted with drought for the last three years have had good and uniform rain. But six other traditionally drought prone districts in Central Maharashtra and almost all of Vidarbha have been starved of rain, after an initial wet spell.

Of Kerala's 14 districts, only four, namely Alleppey, Ernakulam, Kottayam and Trichur have received rainfall. Whereas on the whole, the State has received 32% less rain than the average with Wynad district being the worst-hit with a deficit of 63%. For Tamil Nadu, the north-east monsoon, which sets in later in the year, is the main source of rainfall but whatever rainfall it has got so far this year has been less than satisfactory.

The Eastern States, in comparison, have had a good monsoon. Assam, Meghalaya, West Bengal, Sikkim, Orissa and the Bihar plains have had excess of normal rainfall. But the traditional drought prone Kalahandi, Phulbani, Balangir and Koraput districts in Orissa are reeling under the grip of unprecedented drought. Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura have had deficient or scanty rain but since the average is normally far in excess of the amount of rain required for the Kharif crops, the deficiency may not affect the output very much.

Now, I would like to say a few words about my State, Karnataka. Deficient rainfall in many parts of the State continues to hamper agricultural operations as well as the proper growth of the crops sown in the early Kharif, period in Karnataka. Of the 175 talukas in the State, 97 talukas are reeling under severe drought. Except in some parts of Shimoga, Dakshina Kannada, Uttara Kannada, Kodagu, Gulbarga, Raichur, Bidar and Belgaum districts, rainfall was scanty all over the State.

Early sown Kharif crops in the dry land of Bangalore and Tumkur districts have

again started withering due to insufficient rainfall in major parts. Sesame crop, especially is affected in Bangalore rural district. Transplantation of paddy and ragi crops in many parts of the State have also been hit for want of proper rainfall.

So, the State of Karnataka has been suffering from drought of varying intensity and it will find it difficult to provide drinking water for people as the water table has been receding. I request that the Central technical team, in conjunction with the State authorities should span out into the country-side and finalize a blue-print for action.

According to Karnataka's Minister for Rural Development, the State has kept aside Rs. 25 crore worth of wheat and rice for food for work programmes. But with this amount, the Food for Work Programme cannot be implemented fully in that State. So, Central Government should allocate additional fund for desilting of tanks and clearing of canals. The rural work force will get employment in the process. Over the last decade, agriculture has shown poor performance in Karnataka. Foodgrain production in the State which reached 72.99 lakh tonnes in 1977-78 has been stagnant since then. Indeed, in most years, foodgrain production has fallen well below this figure, dropping to an estimated 55.90 lakh tonnes in 1985-86. This picture is not confined to foodgrains alone. Sugar-cane production declined from 148.58 lakh tonnes in 1982-83 to an estimated 92.63 lakh tonnes in 1986-87.

Lastly, I would like to suggest that Government should give emphasis to compensate the farmers for the damage of crops, on employment generation in rural areas, on the provision of food for the poor, drinking water to villages and fodder for the cattle.

[Translation]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman & Nicobar Islands): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very happy that after the main

land, you have taken care of islands also. We have never heard of drought but this time our island has also been affected by this grave drought with the result that our entire paddy-crop has been destroyed. The people are very much perturbed. Even Government has not started any relief work there so far. I have just returned from the islands and I would like to tell the hon. Minister that no action has been taken on the proposals sent by the Administration to the Central Government and no study team has been sent there by the Central Government with a view to provide relief to the drought affected people.

Some people say that deforestation is responsible for scanty rains. But 86 per cent area in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is covered by the forest and only remaining 14 per cent area is being used for other purposes. Therefore, I am not prepared to accept the contention that deforestation is responsible for failure of monsoons.

Just now our friend said that there has been a change in monsoons due to ecological conditions. It is for the environment people to look into this aspect and for this purpose a scientific research should be undertaken so that our country has not to face such a difficult situation in future.

With these words, I express my thanks to you.

**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH (Pilibhit):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, one point is that all our resources in Uttar Pradesh like tube-wells and Canals are not functioning well. The Central Government should find out whether the funds provided by the World Bank or the financial assistance provided by the Central Government for installation of tube-wells are being utilised properly or not. It is very essential. I have raised this point, because in our State of U.P., 25,000 tube-wells have been installed and 15,000 tube-wells out of them are out of order. If these 15,000 tube-wells continue to remain out of order, how would 28 per cent of people would get the irrigation facilities? Secondly, there are certain Canals in

which water has not been released for the last seven years. We should find out what are the reasons behind it. In order to solve these problems, we should constitute an irrigation committee in every command area, in every village for giving suggestions and the Government should take prompt action on those suggestions after there receipt.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan has been facing a serious drought for the last 5 years and the assistance you have provided is quite inadequate to meet the requirement of the entire State. I would, therefore, like to suggest that the famine code of the British period should be revised wherein a daily wage of Rs. 2/- has been mentioned, whereas we have fixed Rs. 11/- as the minimum wage. How would it work then? I would, therefore, like to submit that the Agriculture Department should approach the Ninth Finance Commission in this regard and ask it to submit an interim report immediately on the norms to be adopted for extending assistance to the drought affected States. Against a demand of Rs. 700/- crores only Rs. 70 crores are provided. How can we carry on the work?

Secondly, in case of floods, 75 per cent grant is provided, whereas in case of drought the entire amount is advanced as a loan. During floods at least one crop is saved, whereas in case of drought both kharif and rabi crops are destroyed. I would, therefore, like to suggest that in case of drought, more funds should be sanctioned. This point should be looked into. As 70 per cent grant is provided in case of floods, cent per cent grant should be sanctioned in case of drought. (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising a very important matter. I would like to submit that Rajasthan is facing a grave situation and the Government should release the foodgrains and funds for making arrangements for drinking water as have been demanded by the State Government so that the cattle and human beings are

[Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas]

saved. Workers have not been paid wages for the last two months and an amount of Rs. 82 crores is due to them. Besides this amount, 3.5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and Rs. 112 crores for providing drinking water and the amount required for providing fodder should be released immediately so that the cattle and human beings could be saved and the workers could be paid wages.

SHRI VISHNU MODI (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one or two points. The hon. Minister is going to reply just now. He will most probably say that a study team will visit the area to conduct investigations, but the schemes prepared while sitting in air-conditioned cabins of the Agricultural Ministry for tackling this horrible and unprecedented drought are proving to be ineffective and are revealing their hollowness. The inefficiency of the Meteorological Department is also coming to light. Many of our States including Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan are facing drought condition and the schemes prepared in the air-conditioned rooms are not showing positive results due to which the people in Rajasthan and elsewhere are facing extreme hardships. Therefore, I want to request you to change the old norms and provide immediate relief and forget the clinches. In regard to my constituency, I want to submit that if water from the Yamuna or the Chambal is not supplied there, it will create an acute shortage of water there. In the adjoining areas also water is in short supply. Water can be supplied in these areas only by the Railways and it should be done before the Yamuna and Chambal rivers also dry up.

\*SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO (Amalapuram): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the country has attained freedom 40 years ago. But has achieved very little. As a result

we see many starvation deaths taking place every day in different parts of the country. It is most unfortunate, that the nation is still suffering from poverty and hunger. Sir, we have been discussing about the drought situation for the past 6 days in this House. Many things have been brought to the notice of the hon. Minister by the hon. Members. Since the hon. Minister has the first hand information through this discussion, he should not wait any more for the reports from the State Govts. or Committees deputed to various places for evaluating the situation. Actually, many State Govts have already sent such reports to the hon. Minister. If the Govt. is keen to rescue the farmers and others who are worst affected, grants should be released forthwith by the Central Govt. as sought the State Govts.

Sir, transplantations and seedlings have already withered away. Farmers are in a hopeless situation. The Govt. should come forward to supply seedlings to the farmers in the affected areas where there are chances of bring up another crop. Farmers are now too poor to repay the loans. The short term loans should be converted into long term loans. It is still better, if the Govt. writes off the loans taken by farmers. In view of the prevailing situation, I appeal to the hon. Minister to take these steps urgently.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is one of the worst drought affected areas in the country. The State Govt. has brought to the notice of the Central Govt. that it will require at least Rs. 230 crores to meet the situation on war footing. But, as usual, the Central Government has not taken any decision regarding the assistance to be given to Andhra Pradesh. Sir, it is surprising that the hon. Minister of State for Agriculture during his intervention in the debate, ignored Andhra Pradesh while announcing liberal grants to other States for providing drinking water. We are very sorry about it. Andhra Pradesh is one of the biggest States in the country. Telengana and Rayalaseema are chroni-

\* The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

cally drought affected areas. There is an acute shortage of drinking water in these areas. Hence I appeal to the hon. Minister to provide sufficient central assistance immediately for providing water in different parts of the State.

Sir, my constituency has suffered from flood in 1966. There was considerable loss of life and property. Standing crops have been washed out. The crop insurance claims have not been settled so far. It is already one year since the crops have been lost. Yet, there is an inordinate delay in settling the crop insurance claims of farmers in my area. I appeal to the hon. Minister to see that the claims are settled immediately. Various diseases affected sugarcane and coconut. Suitable research work should be taken to find out a suitable remedy for these crop diseases. It will help the farmers very much.

Sir, Polavaram is a prestigious project. If executed, this project can help avert the floods and drought in the region. Similarly Telugu Ganga is an important project. This project can help in rooting out drought from Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh can be the granary of the country. Hence these prestigious projects should be cleared and executed as national projects.

Sir, there is an acute shortage of fodder. The live stock is diminishing every day on account of non-availability of fodder. The Govt. should take steps to open more and more fodder banks in rural areas. Thus, the supply of fodder to the cattle can be ensured. Farmers depend on the cattle wealth and hence it should be looked after carefully. I hope the hon. Minister would take steps in this direction also immediately.

Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity and conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE  
(Dr. G.S. DHILLON): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it was a long discussion, rather a marathon

discussion. I have to attend to each and every point very carefully. First of all, I am very grateful to the hon. Members that they have completely reflected the views of the people and their problems in this House, and it is our duty on this side, particularly the Ministers, to listen to them and to attend to them.

We have established some records in the present set-up. We have had the longest and the toughest drought; this was the longest absence of our very beloved Lady Monsoon; she did not even wink at us; this was the longest discussion under rule 193; this was the longest trial of our stamina, and patience the longest miss-a-meal sittings because many a time lunch hours were almost dispensed with.

Sometimes when I looked back to see if any Minister was there to deputise for me so that I could go out even for a minute, there used to be nobody at my back!

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: It is a wonderful study!

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I was quite a bit disappointed about half-an-hour back because it was a very thin attendance. I am quite happy now that there is a reasonably good attendance at the fag end of the day.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: We want to hear you.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: So kind of you.

After hearing to the debate, many of the points were answered by my colleague, the Minister of State Mr. Yogendra Makwana. But there are many broad points which I thought I should refer to. The whole discussion covered a very wide field. I thought some points that are basic and require immediate attention are food and foodgrains for men, fodder for cattle, employment, drinking water for human consumption and also for cattle, and diseases—diseases not in general, but due to lack of purity of water from iron etc and

[Dr. G.S. Dhillon]

other chemicals water borne diseases like Cholera and guinea worms etc.

We have thought of some points about contingency plans. Contingency plans we had in many forms. When the monsoon failed during June, we had a contingency plan that instead of 120 days crop, we could come to 90 days crop. When monsoon again did not come, we had another contingency plan, let us hope, instead of 90 days crop, we could have other crops at least to make up for the fodder. Even now it is so much delayed that I am having again second thoughts about what to do next.

My main worry at present is to have enough of moisture for our Rabi crop sowing. If we have failed in all the three phases of Kharif, at least we could decide about the drinking water for cattle and for crops. If we could save enough or produce enough water to keep the moisture level for our Rabi crops, that is the main worry that we are facing now.

It has been a very interesting meteorological phenomenon. I have never heard of it. We mainly relied on our own meteorological sources and information from our own Department. But this time quite a number of weeks back, we had heard about another phenomenon which at least I heard for the first time—the misbehaviour of El-Nino phenomenon. It is a phenomenon which starts developing from November, December and goes on developing till the monsoon comes. We were informed that this time El-Nino starting west of Peru sea, the Pacific part of Peru, which heats up and then that keeps moving towards the West and the North West. They saw the abnormal behaviour of El-Nino phenomenon and we were sent this information by informal sources. But when our own Meteorological Department examined it, they examined from their own point of view and said that this may be so, but it is not so dismaying or disappointing.

I enquired that if monsoon comes to us from South-West, how is it that El-Nino from other end affects us? This goes on developing till at the end it touches the North Western hemisphere. It develops into various depression circles and, I am told that unless this circle confronts the western monsoon the busting does not come down and if it so happens then instead of the western part it keeps on moving towards the eastern part. Later on it was confirmed that the rainfall in Assam, Bengal and Bihar may be due to this contact between El-Nino phenomenon and others. This is something very unusual that we had but somehow we believe that it is confirmed.

As Shri Mahfooz Ali said of prayers I tried..

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: He has already gone to the mosque.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: When you go to the mosque I expect you go for this purpose also. We are unfortunately prevented from going to our Gurdwaras.

Sir, as you know out of 35 meteorological sub-divisions upto 22nd July only in 10 sub divisions there was normal or excess rainfall. The latest information I got was that it has been reduced to 9 sub-divisions. This is in contrast to 23 sub-divisions in the corresponding period of 1986, 23 sub-divisions in 1985 and 26 sub-divisions in 1984. So we can safely say that it is one of the worst drought in regard to these meteorological sub-divisions. Except Assam, Orissa, West Bengal and parts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar and Karnataka the deficiency in rains in other parts of the country has been 20% or more compared to 'normal' rainfall.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): The rain was there not in whole of Bengal but in some parts of West Bengal.

DR G S. DHILLON: We have our own source of information. It is not so bad.



Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee mentioned it and I assured her of our full attention.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): As far as Orissa is concerned the Minister seems to be talking of the position as on 21st July. As on today all the 13 districts are short of rainfall.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Sir, 70% of our land—either rainfed or unirrigated—face this problem. Jawar, paddy, bajra, maize, pulses, groundnuts and soyabean are our important kharif crops. The Central Government had held a conference in April this year with the State Governments and discussed the preparation of contingency plans to meet aberrant weather conditions both in respect of drought prone and flood prone areas. I paid personal visits—the little bit of time I could spare at the week-ends—to some of the States. I visited Himachal Pradesh. I went to Andhra twice. I also went to Rajasthan twice. I went to Karnataka, Assam and Tamil Nadu. Of course, Punjab and Haryana are the normal districts we pass through or come from. We have two terms for the worst hit area, namely, 'deficient' or 'no rain'. The worst hit areas are Saurashtra, Kutch and parts of Madhya Pradesh, West U.P., Punjab and Haryana.

AN HON. MEMBER: Rajasthan also.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: The worst of worst hit is Rajasthan. Are you satisfied now?

16.00 hrs.

Then we pass on to western U.P., to Punjab and Haryana. Four districts of Haryana are very badly affected. We have been trying to develop our areas, research, agriculture and irrigation. But, in my view, we have missed one point. We want now to have some sort of agro-climatic division of the country so that we can define areas with more rain, floods, deficient or scarcity areas and then basing our crop patterns, our development patterns, our irrigation system, etc. on that basis. We are seriously occupied with this idea to consider it.

As you know, the rainfall normally comes at the beginning of June or a little earlier. It started well from Kerala. There was just a delay of one or two days. It started well and went right up to Bihar and other parts of Madhya Pradesh till the middle of June and then it slowed down. It revived again after some time and went right up to Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh but did not touch other parts like Rajasthan, Punjab, Haryana, Kutch or Saurashtra. It came to Delhi only on the 26th. That was, I am told, the longest spell of drought that we experienced.

16.01 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

Mr. Janaki Nath mentioned 207 districts. It is not 207 but 407. Out of 407 districts in the country, we had normal rainfall in 145, deficient rainfall in 110 districts, scanty to no-rain in 152 districts. 58 per cent of the total foodgrains and 55 per cent of our oilseeds are grown in the kharif season. You can imagine what a loss we will suffer because of this deficiency in rainfall.

I must share with you my concern that during the last year, the total foodgrains production was 83 million tonnes. I have now started assessing the production coming down by 10, then by 15 and then by 20 million tonnes and so on. But if the rainfall does not come within the next few days, the picture will be very disappointing and distressing.

Of course, as the House is aware, we had a debate number of times on NREP, RLEGP and various other programmes that we carry. Then, the Prime Minister pledged himself to do everything for drought on the Independence Day. He has written letters to the Chief Ministers who have formulated many plans and projects. He has categorically said that he stands committed to do and contribute every bit of our energy and finances for the drought problem.

[Dr. G.S. Dhillon]

Now, besides the Minimum Needs Programme (M.N.P.) and year after year Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP), half from the States and the rest half from ourselves have been implemented large number of schemes which we have been setting up water supply in problem areas, now have been additionally strengthened by the setting up of the new technology mission known as the Drinking Water Technology Mission. This Rs. 150 crores is an additionally to the centrally-sponsored schemes.

I have already mentioned the total outlay for ARSWP, NKP and for 50 mini-missions of drinking water Technology Mission which is Rs. 150 crores, is about Rs. 4,000 crores in all in Seventh Plan.

This technology mission is having fifty mini missions each entrusted with specific problem to deal with them separately. But now we find that in these emergency conditions, in these very urgent conditions, it still needs to be augmented with more funds and with more staff and better modes of working to overcome the operational problems. Normally, these funds, as you know, are released through the Department of Rural Development. The Rural Development Department has some sort of a priority allocation of funds for critical areas. When they allocate these funds, they have to identify which are the worst hit critical areas. They have to look into that. Then, there is the reorientation of the State Plans to complete schemes in worst affected areas by December, 1987 and reservation of water from the irrigation reservoirs in drought affected areas for drinking water. When I was in Rajasthan last week—that was my second visit, earlier I had visited Jodhpur, Udaipur and other desert areas—I was under the impression till then that the water problems are more acute in the western desert areas and less in eastern parts. But to my surprise, I found that the condition was not so bad in the western parts but it was the

worst in the eastern part. Another point which I observed was and on which I had detailed discussion with the officers and the Chief Minister about a week back, that the urban areas are worst hit. The problem of urban and rural water supply is so interconnected and integrated that once you increase supply to this side, it decreases to the other and if you decrease to the other side, it increases to this side. We have now decided to work under one system. There will be a body in Department of Rural Development which will work in a coordinated manner to keep the balance.

Another thing I found was that the water level has gone down. It has gone down in some other States also. What I suggested and they accepted it also was that we must have some sort of a legislation. I understand that there is some old legislation already there in Rajasthan, but not in other States. They should be very careful in allowing the drawal of water from the sub-soil level. It should never be allowed to go below a certain level as the hon. Members during the question hour put that point. If it goes below that level, then all the pumpsets and tubewells go out of operation. They become worthless. By some sort of land management, water management legislation, we have to keep the water level at a reasonably good level.

I assure the House that providing fodder and drinking water will be taken up on war footing. They will certainly see it within a couple of days that we are taking very strict and prompt measures.

Then, there is a very ticklish problem about *bhoosa*, fodder. It used to be available in Punjab and other places. The paper manufacturers, the industrialist are now buying it at more prices. Once we used to burn it and throw it away, now they are paying more for it than the grain itself. We shall have to pass some sort of a legislation that they would not be able to buy it when drought conditions are there at temporarily.

But I do not give an assurance. We will

nave to do it in consultation with the States. We badly need it. Earlier, Rajasthan used to send their cattle to Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra, but now they have also banned it. They now go to Gujarat where they have their own problems. But we will have to do something by some ordinance. This will have to be done on a war footing.

Now about employment. Some members from Rajasthan and Shri Vyas in particular wanted it free. I want to tell Vyasji that they had it already free while their neighbours did not have it. They had 3.00 lakhs at one time and 2 lakhs at another time. But still, I am ready to accommodate their request. With regard to the poverty alleviation programmes such as the Desert Development Programme, DPAP, etc. we have decided that besides having the normal routine programmes, we have to link them up with drought problem so that there can be some sort of help.

As regards *Goshalas*, I asked the people concerned whether they are in a position to look after cattle because people have just now started abandoning their cattle. I also told them that we would give subsidy for all the work that they could do for the cattle. They said that they would inform later on. This is the time to help the *Goshalas* and this is the time for *Goshalas* to look after the cattle. We have asked many voluntary organisations to come forward for this work. My dear friend Shri Indrajit Gupta asked for some sort of cooperation from Shri Makwana and Shri Makwana replied to it. Besides writing to the Chief Ministers and asking the voluntary agencies, if other people also come forward and share this work with us, I shall be extremely happy. Any sort of cooperation and mutual help that we can do to each other in this great task of looking after the drought victims is very welcome.

About buffer stocks, the impression is that we are very complacent about it. We are very liberal because we had enough grain in our buffer stocks. Then suddenly

we have been warned that if we are so liberal, the buffer stocks may not last long. Since four or five days, we are trying to assess the position about the level of our buffer stocks. I am told that they are not so bad. But they will not brook any further liberality or generosity to which we are used to in the past. We will be very careful in maintaining our buffer stocks.

About Meteorological Department, we had a discussion with them. I had to cancel my programme of going to Punjab and Uttar Pradesh twice, because it was mentioned on the previous night that there would be rain the next day. I cancelled the programme. What could I do if there was rain? But the rains did not come. This failure of the monsoon is defying everybody, human beings, cattle and the meteorological department even.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: The hon. Minister for Water Resources is going away. Is he there for floods or for drought?

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I have in fact, visited each and every type of calamity. I went to Bengal twice when there were floods. I went to Assam twice, last year and this time as well. And when I came back, there was another flood there. Now, in the case of Himachal Pradesh, it is a very interesting story. I have very limited time....

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): Shri Singh Deo was referring to Shri Shankaranand and not you Sir.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I am sorry, if he meant the Irrigation Minister.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): We want to know whether the flood has disappeared or the drought has disappeared?

DR. G.S. DHILLON: I am telling you that from last year, even upto now, we have got one memorandum from Himachal Pradesh regarding flood. After three months, I

[Dr. G.S. Dhillon]

received a memorandum regarding earthquake. After three months, I have got a memorandum on drought about a month back. The Chief Minister personally saw me and told me about hailstorm. When any Chief Minister asks me, 'Did you receive my memorandum? Then I have to ask him 'on drought or on flood or on what else'?

AN HON. MEMBER: But in Orissa, there is only drought.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: No, Sir. Regarding Orissa I cannot say. Now I will come to cropping. As I have told you, the future is not only for immediate relief but for some long range policy so that with the long range policy, we may not be facing the same intensity of problem as we do now.

On the matter of crops—on rice and on many other things—there is one type of rice which is good for preparing paddy, etc. It is grown in only one area and we are asking them to discontinue other crops and grow only this crop which will bring double the price.

In Punjab, now, they are again harping only on the old Green Revolution on paddy and wheat. Paddy and wheat are growing everywhere now. I have advised them to diversify their production now and don't grow much wheat and paddy; go to milk and Dairying production, go to horticulture; go to other patterns.

Similarly, we advised other States also where growing of wheat is not economical but pulses and oilseeds are more economical. We asked them why are you insisting on this? Why are you simply enamoured of growing paddy and wheat? It should not be done. We should grow food crops which will pay more for our region. Now Punjab has got 85 per cent of irrigation. Others have got 35 per cent. Some have got 25 per cent. So we must have the cropping pattern which may fit into the soil with water; irrigation and all that. So we are trying to bring about this now.

When we are so much occupied by these droughts, our only worry now is with a few days left with us if we grow fodder or if not fodder, then at least preserve that water for Rabi. Out of all the priorities, the greatest priority which is now needed is for seed production.

Rajasthan is on the border of my constituency—Ganganagar being only a few miles from there. Rajasthan people loaded their cattle in truck and unloaded them in the Agriculture Minister's constituency. What to do?

We talk about seed. We wasted seeds which did not germinate. Now it has run short. If we do not grow the seed now, with a little bit of moisture, we will be missing the future rabi crop also.

So we are dealing with seed production on a war footing.

Regarding live-stock, I would say here the problem is very acute. For a family, out of seven litres, we have demarcated something for cattle and something for human consumption. Even that is not available. In some areas the problem is so much that where this water is hardly sufficient even for human beings, it has to be shared with the cattle. The position has come to such a stage that in some areas, the poor cattle drink only the mired water today, in these conditions. We are seriously facing this problem. In a week's time, we will either bring it by tankers or pipes or by Railways so that we can save our cattle. That is a very-very serious problem.

Now in my constituency which is near Rajasthan—a few miles from Ganganagar—people come by trucks, loaded with cattle and then they leave them with the Agriculture Minister's constituency to look after them.

As I have already said, I had issued instructions that I do not want a single cow or bull die in my constituency because I will not be able to show my face to anybody

But this is going on everywhere. We have to produce fodder banks. Eighty per cent of our rural unemployment is located in drought prone areas, and preference has to be given to NREP and RLEGP to continue the benefits to the poor. We have to set up some sort of coordination or linkage between these various projects.

To Rajasthan, besides NREP and RLEGP we agreed to give foodgrains with which they could pay in kind for 10 lakh workers. Now, for what your Chief Minister did you accuse me, and not him. He went up to 16 lakhs and we had no foodgrains, and then he set you on me. *(Interruptions)*

When I went to Rajasthan last week, he told me: "I am asking for Rs. 6 crores...*(Interruptions)* Those people, your officers perhaps thought that perhaps I was the only guilty man." I said: "Sir, you got it from us. But you over-spent. Give us the over-spent money, because the Finance Minister and the Planning Commission are throttling us. They want that money to be paid back, because we paid it to you, and you do not know what the problem is. I thought this was the right time to tell you, and not earlier."

*(Interruptions)*

I will take only five more minutes, because Madam Minister of Parliamentary Affairs wants to take up the next item.

In 1984-85 crop year, drought affected only 12 States; in 1985-86 ten States, and in 1986-87 it is affecting 17 States. Flood also affected in 1984-85, 18 States, in 1985-86, 22 States and in 1986-87, 21 States.

Regarding relief also, I have got State-wise figures. If you want to have an idea, I can tell you; or otherwise, I will pass it on to you. The only assurance I give to Shrimati Geetaji is that she will never find us lacking, in what we do. Compared to other States i.e. to Congress-ruled States, we will perhaps do a little bit more for you, not to be accused by you. We will never discriminate.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: It is because Dr. Dhillon is there.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Dhillon is just a small linkage in such a big chain.

These tables will also bring out that five States were affected by drought for three years. There are some chronic areas which get drought every year. It was said that these two or three districts i.e. Jaisalmer and Barmer should not be counted as part of Rajasthan when counting their problems and allocating funds. I have put your proposal to proper authorities, and I wish that your Chief Minister does not object to it, because we know that there are some chronic districts in Rajasthan which need special attention, and other areas which need less funds. But I thought that it was up to your Government especially, and it is for you to make them accept it. *(Interruptions)*

There are so many other problems, and so many Members spoke on them. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: You have forgotten Andhra Pradesh. You did not mention Andhra Pradesh *(Interruptions)*.

DR. G.S. DHILLON. Your Chief Minister invited me to dinner. After serving me a delicious dinner, he put this question of Rs. 600 crores. I was so helpless; and I just got into the car and came to the rest house.

I am so thankful to you all, and I really appreciate the suggestions given by you.

16.25 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: DEVASTATING FLOODS IN ASSAM, BIHAR, WEST BENGAL AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up discussion under Rule 193—item No. 8. Shrimati Kishori Sinha.