

should be given to the persons found indulging in unlawful felling of trees.

- (5) With a view to restore the beauty of the Aravali ranges, seeds should be thrown in the hills from helicopters during rainy season so that denuding of the hills could be checked.

If the Central Government provides hundred percent aid for Aravali Development Board, then natural beauty of the hills would be restored and famine problem of Rajasthan could also be solved partially.

[English]

- (vii) Demand for railway facilities in North Bengal.

SHRI ANADA PATHAK (Darjeeling) : Problem of development of industrially backward North Bengal has agitated the minds of the people of that region and prominently figured in the press. As a prior condition for setting up of industries and develop the region, rail link and road communication should be strengthened. I therefore urge upon the Government to restore the withdrawn trains like Kunchanjunga Express, Vaisali Express etc., revive the Siliguri Junction Station, remove the level crossing from the heart of Siliguri town and divert it from Rangapani, expedite the work of putting double line from Malda to Jalpaiguri, probe new line between Malda and Balurghat via Hilli and Tapan, introduce a direct train from new Jalpaiguri to Delhi, modernise the Darjeeling Himalayan Rail running on the narrow gauge line from new Jalpaiguri to Darjeeling.

- (viii) Demand for an AIR Station at Perundurai in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : In Tamil Nadu State periyar District is completely depending on agriculture as their profession. The agriculturists of that district are not having any opportunity of hearing Radio News because there is no Radio station situated nearby. The Coimbatore All India Radio

Station is situated 100 kms. away from Erode, the capital of the District. Because of the low wave length and the lower power transmitters even the border area people of Coimbatore and Periyar Districts are unable to hear the Radio Programmes clearly. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting should take immediate steps to have an All-India Radio Station at Perundurai which is very near to Erode and is an elevated place which would be very helpful for broadcasting the programmes and the people may be able to hear them clearly.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS, 1987-88

Contd.

Ministry of Water Resources—*Contd.*

[English]

12.16 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will take up item number 7—Further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Water Resources.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am very sorry to say that a major part of India which should have been covered under irrigation facilities or should have been brought under Department of Water Resources, has not been brought under it so far. Though Government talks about green revolution, yet so far as green revolution in the entire country is concerned, the Government has totally failed in it. Except one or two states, a major part of the country is lagging behind in the matter of irrigation facilities and as a result thereof, the production in many states is far below than the All India average production per hectare. Bihar is one of them, the problems in the country are becoming very serious. The main reason for it is lack of irrigation facilities. Unless we

[Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav]

make progress in the field of irrigation and ensure irrigation facilities to every field, the solution of the problems in the country is not possible.

Today people talk of regional imbalance in the entire country and as a result, many anti-national forces are raising their ugly heads who are bringing great loss to the country. You can take the example of Bihar. We may view it from any angle or go through any figures, we find it very backward from all angles. So far as irrigation and floods are concerned, Uttar Pradesh has been allotted Rs. 2200 crores, Madhya Pradesh Rs. 1976.48 crores, Maharashtra Rs. 1890.61 crores, but Bihar has been allotted Rs. 1724 crores only. National Flood Commission has furnished the details regarding inter-district comparison of growth of production. The commission has accepted the fact that the growth of Bihar has either been negative or has been zero. These are the Government figures which I am quoting. What I am stating is based on these figures. The means of irrigation play an important role in this connection. The farmers of the country are prepared to work hard for increasing the agricultural production. In Bihar, there was a time when the farmer was considered lazy, but now the situation has changed and today the farmers and labourers of Bihar are going to Haryana, Punjab and other states are engaged in agricultural work. In our State, the load of the population is maximum on the land and means of irrigation are minimum. If we do not provide maximum irrigation facility whether it is in regard to underground water or surface water, things are not going to improve.

In both the cases Bihar State is being neglected utterly. In the year 1966-67 out of the funds released for major and medium projects, whereas Maharashtra was sanctioned Rs. 29,295 lakhs, Bihar got the sanction of Rs. 26,688 lakhs only. In the case of minor irrigation also, Bihar was sanctioned Rs. 4,211 lakhs, whereas Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra were sanctioned Rs. 8,000 lakhs and

Rs. 6,390 lakhs respectively. In terms of the population, the quality of the land and labour of the people, Bihar should get its due share. I do not ask for more. When funds are allotted under these items, due care should be taken of it. But just the opposite happens in these cases. After the Third Five Year Plan, the Government has been assuring that special attention will be paid to states which are backward. They will be given special assistance. But in spite of this, the Government announcement is being ignored. We are not aware as to what criteria are adopted at the time of disbursement of funds. The States, which are more developed are being given more funds. We do not oppose the allotment you are making to those States. But as compared to that; the backward States must get more allotment. But it is not being done these days.

There is no dearth of rivers in Bihar and also no dearth of underground water. There are a number of major schemes like the Kosi and the Gandak. There are schemes like the Sone scheme, Punpun scheme, Dagar Tilla yya scheme, Upper Sakari scheme and so on. But all these schemes are hanging fire.

The Tube-well Department is almost defunct. It has no money. It cannot make payment to the employees. Tube-wells are not working these days. In such a situation, if the Government thinks that this matter concerns the State Government, then it is sure that Bihar will continue to remain backward. I want to say that no area can be neglected and kept backward for a long time. It is only due to your policies that agitations are taking place. Terrorism and wrong tendencies emerging in several states are posing a threat to the unity and integrity of the country. If you improve your policies, such problems would not arise. In Bihar also some unwanted things are taking place which are not good for the country.

In Bihar, Nalanda is considered a drought prone district. Otherwise, its farmers are very industrious. There is shortage of electricity in that district. Minor irrigation schemes are there and tube-wells are also working but the minor

irrigations are not on that scale as they should have been. Maintenance of tubewells is not good and drains have not been connected with them.

Employees do not get salaries. The Government of Bihar should get assistance from the Centre so that system of minor irrigation is spread on a large scale and other means of irrigation are put to use. We have a concrete proposal. You have dug a canal from Ganga in U.P. and have brought it towards South. You can carry out this work in Bihar at several places. Because this causes a lot of harm to Bihar when the Ganga is flooded with water. While at one side water goes waste and flows down to the sea, on the other side there is drought in certain parts. That is the time for 'Hath a' star. At this stage, large quantities of water go waste and it causes losses to the nation. If you dig canals from Ganga at Patna, Fatwa and other adjoining places in order to take that water southward, it will be more beneficial. You can construct water reservoirs on the plains adjacent to the hills of Rajgir. It will also provide irrigation facilities.

Large sums of money have been spent on Upper Sakari Scheme in Bihar—and the work has not so far been completed. I am of the view that good irrigation facilities can be provided by completing these schemes. If you can complete this scheme, it will be more beneficial to Nalanda, Gaya, Jahanabad, Nivada and other districts. There is large quantities of water in North Bihar but it is not being utilised. If you utilise this water, green revolution can be brought in Bihar.

With these words I express my thanks to you.

SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI (Bhandara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Water Resources. The Ministry of Water Resource carries out a very good work in the country.

Just now, one of our colleague was saying that Maharashtra has been given

more funds by this Ministry—and as compared to that Bihar has been given less. I am of the view that there is no such thing like this and the money given to us is altogether a different thing. I am of the opinion that this Ministry should be provided more and more funds because every year the State of Maharashtra suffers from floods and drought. Due to this, both the people of Maharashtra and its farmers face difficulties. This Ministry has to spend large sums of money to provide reliefs to the people and the farmers. Keeping all these things in view, everyone will agree that this department should get more and more funds. If means of irrigation are available in each and every state, it will increase agricultural produce.

You know this very well that there was a time when we were not self reliant in foodgrains and we had to import them from other countries. Now due to facilities extended by the Government, our country has been producing 15 crore tonnes of foodgrains. Production should increase with the rise in the population. Therefore, until and unless irrigation schemes are fully implemented in the country, this shortage cannot be removed.

In the Annual Report of this Ministry for the current year, it has been stated that national Water Development Authority will connect Ganga and Cauvery. It is a very good scheme. Dr. K.L. Rao, the former Irrigation Minister had submitted this scheme. This scheme should be implemented at the earliest because with passage of time the cost of the scheme goes on escalating. Until and unless we implement these schemes, we cannot bring greenery in the country. It has been observed that small quantities of water become available through minor schemes and irrigation is not done fully. Therefore, unless we come forward with major schemes, we will not be able to provide water to the entire country.

To-day when on the one hand the water of Ganga flows down into the sea, on the other side, South suffers from drought due to shortage of water. From this point of view also attention should be paid

Shri Keshaorao Pardhi]

towards it. Secondly, the schemes of the States coming for sanction should be sanctioned at the earliest. We had forwarded a scheme from Maharashtra for the concurrence of the Ministry of Forest and Environment. But its concurrence has not so far been received. It is only today that the hon. Minister of Forest has said in reply to a question during the question hour that they issue the sanction within 30 days. But it is not so in practice. As many as 33 schemes have come here from Maharashtra for sanction, but they have not so far been cleared by the Central Government. Baavan-Thadi scheme is one of them. This scheme had come to you for sanction in the year 1974, but so far it has not been sanctioned. Due to this our areas become affected by drought every year. Baavan-Thadi, Gosi-Khurd, Dhapewada, Sajeheti, Rengefar, Sonekund, Kardi, Dongrel, Katangi, Sanavhini, Kharbanda Canal schemes in the Bhandara district have been pending sanction of the Ministry of Forest. Kasisroy Project has already been prepared but that too cannot be completed because of the Ministry of Forest. Baavanthadi scheme is a joint irrigation project of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra on which Rs. 22 crores have been spent. The work was started in 1974 but was discontinued due to the enactment of Forest Law in 1980. Seven years have elapsed since Baavanthadi Project had been started. The canals have been constructed and the work on the dam has started. The cost of the project which was Rs. 37 to Rs. 38 crores has reached more than Rs. 100 crores. *The more the time is taken to give clearance to the schemes, the more the cost will go on increasing.* The collector of the region and the State Government have assured to release some other land in place of the forest land taken for Baavanthadi project. Provision of funds has been made for releasing land and for tree plantation. *The sooner this scheme is granted clearance by the Central Government, better it will be.* In this connection the action from the Water Resources Ministry and the Forest Ministry is urgently required.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, although some States are having Inter-State Water disputes but Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have no dispute between themselves. The Chief Ministers and the Ministers of both the States decide the matters after having negotiations among themselves. Both the States send schemes unanimously for clearance. So such schemes should be given clearance as early as possible. The whole area to be watered from the Baavanthadi project is a paddy area. Therefore, from the view of the rice crops, its irrigation is very necessary. Rivers like Baavanthadi and Banganga are perennial rivers. After the rainfall, their waters flow into the sea and it is not available to the farmers to irrigate their land. An hon. Member has said about Gosikhurd project a day before yesterday. Under this project water will be supplied to Bhandara, Chanderpur, Gadakirodi districts etc. It was said earlier that this area contains manganese and gold. When we are able to exploit many things from the sea, we should pay attention to these things also. The water flows into the sea without its being put to any use. The Banganga river emanates from Madhya Pradesh and flowing via Maharashtra joins Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. The tribunal has also given its verdict that by 2000 A.D. its water should be used. Otherwise a great crisis of water will arise. This needs immediate consideration.

Sir, as many as 33 projects of Maharashtra are pending with the Central Government for clearance. I would like to request the hon. Minister to grant clearance to these projects without delay. *More the funds are spent on the irrigation, more the benefit it will give.* In the 20-Point Programme, emphasis has been laid on irrigation but we find that we have been able to bring 67.5 million hectares of land under the Sixth plan and in the Seventh Plan 4.55 million hectares of land have been brought under irrigation in the past two months whereas 12.9 million hectares is the land area. If this is the progress, I don't think that you would be able to bring green revolution in the whole country. In view of this, the

Government should release maximum funds for this purpose. You have to provide assistance to the farmers during drought. By releasing funds for irrigation you will be able to reduce the expenditure to be incurred to check floods and this can be spent to provide more means for irrigation and thus the production of foodgrains will increase.

With these words, I convey my thanks to you and supporting the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources, I conclude.

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT (Barabanki): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Barabanki, Sitapur and Bahraich are having problem of seepage due to Sharda Sahayak Canal. Rai Barielly also comes under it, problem of seepage has arisen on the both sides of the route from which this canal is passing. Earlier the farmers were quite affluent but now due to this seepage they are starving. I would suggest that if drains are constructed on both sides of the canal, water will flow down from them and the problem of seepage will be solved. The production of foodgrains will also increase as before.

The water of these big canals is diverted to the small drains and rivulets of that region. As a result thereof this problem has arisen on the areas which are near the banks. They get affected from the floods also. Similarly in the whole country, and particularly in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, water gets accumulated at different places and turn into lakes. Thousands of acres of land have submerged in those lakes. If the water of these lakes is released in some big river by constructing drains, that water can be used for irrigation and the production of foodgrains will thus increase.

Our Government had sunk a number of tubewells but the farmers do not get electricity their tubewells. Sometimes they remain out of operation due to the technical snag and sometimes due to some other reasons. This causes loss to the crops and the farmers are groaning. The Government tubewells that have been sunk should be repaired so that the new paddy crops of

this season may be irrigated.

Tubewells should be installed at those places also where there is no facility of irrigation at present. There the farmers should be provided maximum concessions so that they may be able to irrigate their land by installing small pumps.

Our Government has set up Central Water Commission, Flood Commission, Irrigation Commission, River Commission and a number of other commissions, but we have been able to utilise only 20 per cent the total water available to us and have not been able to utilise the entire water properly. If we utilise the water properly the problem of power shortage can be solved and the means of irrigation will also increase. We have given slogan of Green Revolution and we feel that we have achieved self-sufficiency in the matter of foodgrains but we can further increase the production of foodgrains. Although rain has proved a boon for us but it also brings floods, soil erosion, cyclone and natural calamities along with it. We will have to prepare ourselves to face such eventualities in advance. I represent the constituency where there was devastating floods last time and the Prime Minister had visited that area. The entire population of Barabanki was rendered homeless. Floods occur there oftenly because on one side there is Ghagra river and on the other is Gomati river. Due to this, a large area gets submerged and a small island emerges there. Kalyani and Reth rivers flow in that region. They overflow during rainy season and submerge all the routes. The Government should pay attention to this problem and complete arrangements should be made before the floods occur.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI M.R. SAIKIA (Nowgong): I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Our country is primarily and agricultural country. About 80 per cent of the people depend on agriculture and this is

[Shri M.R. Saikia]

the most important occupation of the people of India. But this primary occupation of the Indian people suffers from floods, drought, soil erosion on the Ganga basin, the Brahmaputra and Barrak basins and on the basins of other big rivers of the country. For months together every year we find millions of hectares of lands are submerged under the sheet of water which completely eliminate the possibility of monsoon kharif crops. In most of the areas, poor irrigation system is largely responsible for prolonged inundation of the area. Water stays in the areas because it has nowhere to go. Thus we find that this primary occupation, namely, agriculture, suffers from flood, soil erosion and drought. The floods inflict deep wounds on the human memories, topography and on the local economy. Water vacates these areas only when winter *rabi* crops are grown in some other areas. These areas can be cultivated only for four months of December to March. In the months of April and May, it becomes too dry and from May onwards it becomes too wet. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister for Water Resources to take up some effective programmes for exploration of water for the benefit of the people. We have seen that some projects have been taken up, such as, construction of dams, embankments and *bundhs* here and there, but even then I find that the gap between the irrigation potential and its utilisation has been widening because of poor irrigation system, because of absence of adequate number of canals and because of the inadequate communication system. Therefore, I urge upon the Minister to look into these aspects to have adequate number of canals, to improve the irrigation system and also to improve the communication system so that this gap between the irrigation potential and its utilisation can be narrowed down.

What we find is that even in the case of some known wildest rivers in some countries, such as, Egypt, Tanzania and China, they have been tamed for the benefit of the people. Therefore, the people of India find it very difficult to digest why

similar projects cannot be taken up by the Government of India for the benefit of the people of the country. In this connection, I would like to mention about my State, Assam. Assam suffers every year from the fury of floods causing huge damages to the standing crops, both agricultural and commercial, and also damaging dwelling houses, school buildings, hospitals, roads, bridges, forests and fisheries. People are compelled to shift to the higher places. Last year's heavy floods caused damage to the extent of Rs. 400 crores. Water resources in the eastern part of the country have high prospects for taking up anti-erosion measures in Brahmaputra and Barak valleys, which gives scope for development of power, and development of power will decidedly attract more industries, thereby raising the level of economy of the region. For that purpose perhaps, the Government of India, in 1981, constituted the Brahmaputra Board to prepare a Master Plan to control floods and erosion caused by Brahmaputra and Barak rivers. After several years of survey and investigation and research work, they prepared a multi-purpose project known as Subansiri Project. This project will be one of the finest projects in the Himalayan region and it will be a major step towards harnessing the waters of Brahmaputra and its tributaries, for the benefit of the people. This will provide scope for exploration of water for irrigation, flood control, prevention of erosion, generation of power and other associated benefits such as development of tourism, development of pisciculture, and development of navigation, etc.

In regard to flood control there will be substantial benefits. In Subansiri Basin the average flood moderation will be of the order of 1.5 metres. In the Brahmaputra Basin it will be of the order of 0.5 metres in normal flood and 0.2 metres in higher flood. In addition, due to tapping of excess silt, it would be possible to take up effective anti-erosion measures in Brahmaputra Subansiri Basin. The cost of the project would be around Rs. 3068 crores. The Project will have a hydro-power installed capacity of 4800 MW. The cost

of the installed capacity would be only Rs. 65 lakhs per MW and cost of generation of power will be 21 paise per unit. If this project is completed then it will definitely provide scope for the development of large number of small, medium and large scale industries in the North Eastern Region.

After meeting the local needs this project will be able to transmit power to the neighbouring regions. In addition it will provide employment to 10,000 people. During the last forty years of independence, people of North Eastern Region could not obtain minimum standard of living. Frustration and anger is hovering on the region. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to look into that aspect and kindly to approve the schemes and take steps for early implementation of these projects. This will go a long way in the development of the economy of the entire region.

Lastly I want to draw attention of the hon. Minister about prediction of earth quake in Dhemajii of North Lakhimpur district. This cannot be ignored. It is the most scientific prediction and people have been perturbed and tension is prevailing in the minds of the people of the area. Therefore, while giving reply to the debate on this subject I think you will enlighten the House about the steps he proposes to take to meet any emergency.

With these words I conclude.

DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai) : I stand to support the demands of the water resources.

Water is one of the sources of life for all living beings. But, unfortunately, the country does not have any water policy. Water is one of the most valuable resources among the natural resources. We are not in a position to utilise water resources properly. So, efforts should be made to utilise all available water resources to the fullest extent possible. If it is done, we can have assured water supply for irrigation and drinking. There are many areas which are chronically drought

prone. These areas must get top priority and then not only drought disappears but also the entire country prospers. Providing drinking water is most important point. Another important point which we should bear in mind is to give priority to agriculture.

We see many controversies arising between states with regard to water, irrigation, etc. Here I would like to say that there is dispute between different states. But we should not forget that rivers start from mountain and go to the sea. Sir, it flows from one State to another. I would request the hon. Minister to consider why the rivers should not be nationalised. Why should it be said that it is in this State or that State? It should be considered and treated that it is for the whole country.

Coming to the irrigation, Sir, it is one of the major points of the 20-Point Programme in the Plan sector. It must be given the first priority. I would request the Government of India again to nationalise all our rivers in the country. As far back as in 1962, the Irrigation Commission suggested that there should be an overall plan for the development of the water resources. As far as I know, nothing has been done so far. There is a lack of an integrated approach. The irrigation potential has to be integrated in the crop pattern and land development on the one hand and the credit that is needed by the farmers on the other hand. The plan should contain not only the big irrigation projects and canals. It is good that we have big irrigation projects. But what about the small and medium irrigation schemes? Unless we have small and medium irrigation facilities all over the country, our country will never prosper.

Sir, we should have deep tube-wells, shallow tube-wells and river lift irrigation can also be done. Here, I would like to say that we do take steps to instal tube-well pump-sets, undertake lift irrigation schemes, etc. But what happens is that after a few months or even after a year or so, they do not work. There is no arrangement for repairs and that is the

[Dr. Phulrenu Guha]

trouble. I would request the hon. Minister to see that solar energy becomes popular in the village side, we should try to use solar energy for the irrigation purposes. I would like to say that the land in Midnapore is very fertile, but we do not have water there. That is why we could not make much contribution to the development of the country. Sir, in my constituency, Contai, there are so many villages where we do not get drinking water. It is painful to see that even now there is no drinking water in some of the villages and the people have to go for a long distance to fetch drinking water. The farmers in the villages will be in a position to get themselves involved in various irrigation schemes if they are also involved in planning and management of the irrigation schemes. Otherwise, we will not be able to get the programmes implemented for the villages. The engineers are authorised to look after the irrigation and I am sorry to say that many of them do not know what is to be done in regard to irrigation. They should be trained properly. That is my request.

Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that in many areas of Midnapur and Contai people are facing acute drought and flood situation every year and the Government should take immediate steps to ameliorate the condition of the people in the drought and flood affected areas. I would like to mention that the hon. Minister of Water Resources has important role to play in the field of optimum and effective development of water resource in our country. There is the necessity for evolving and implementing a National Policy for effective development of management of water resources but in our country unfortunately there is no National Water Policy. I repeat this again and again. The development of irrigation facilities in our country still remains very much neglected. The fact remains that no Five Year Plan had achieved the target for irrigation facilities. Sir, our country has got plenty of water. The main problem is how to use it scientifically. Delay in

the execution of projects caused enormous loss to the country on account of cost escalation. The on-going projects should therefore be completed on priority basis. It should never be delayed.

Sir, our country is subjected to twin calamities of drought and flood. While one area is suffering from acute drought situation, the other part of the country is faced with flood situation. I am very sorry to say that the problem of flood arises because of lack of scientific management. As I have already stated, there is inter-State dispute about the river water use and we should unanimously agree with one voice that there should be no conflict between the States because of river water distribution. Otherwise, the people of the country will suffer.

I would like to say that India is surrounded by sea. Why should we not use the sea water for irrigation and drinking purpose after treating the water scientifically? The Government has not yet thought of using sea water for drinking purposes. Sir, it is the aim of the country to increase food production and bring more and more area under irrigation with the provision of water for the fields. It is not the farmers' responsibility as well as the State Government alone to do what all they could for increasing the food production. But the centre should also see that proper irrigation facilities are provided to them by implementing various schemes. I do not want to go into the details.

Now, coming to another point, I would say that enough number of trees are not grown throughout the country. Though there are rules to this effect, they are not being followed. On the other hand, there is reckless cutting of trees in many areas and therefore soil erosion takes place. That is why there is ecological imbalance in the country.

Lastly I would like to mention that there was a scheme namely Bhagavanpur Nandi Gram Master Plan which was approved. It has been pending for the last eight years. This scheme has already been approved by the Planning Commis-

sion. But I am sorry to state that up-till-now the scheme has not been taken up for implementation and the result is that the people are suffering. We demand that the scheme should be implemented as soon as possible because people have been agitating for immediate implementation of this scheme.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grant of the Ministry of Water Resources. Sir, the principle consumptive use of water has been for irrigation. Nearly 85% of the use of water has so far been for agriculture. The irrigation potential created in the country through different sources increased from 19.5 million hectares at the time of the independence to about 60 million hectares at the end of the Sixth Plan and it is expected to reach 113 million hectares by the turn of the century. Sir, I must say that there is a large regional variation in percentage of cultivable areas brought under irrigation. There are some States like Orissa in which the percentage of cultivable area irrigated is not much below the national average but also the potential water resources has been under-utilised to a large extent.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik, you may continue your speech when we meet again after Lunch.

13.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at four minutes past Fourteen of the Clock

[**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER** *in the Chair*].

DEMAND FOR GRANTS, 1987-88—
CONTD.

Ministry of Water Resources—*Contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik may continue.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack) : Sir, there are four river valley projects of Orissa—Rengali, Kolab, Subarnrekha and Upper Indravati. The irrigation benefits envisaged from these projects will not be availed of except to a very limited extent without the provision of funds for the distribution system. The head-work of the projects will be completed without the construction of the distribution system. So, there will be work of water and it will go down the sea. It is beyond the means of the State Government to mobilise financial resources of such magnitudes on its own. The Central Government must come to the aid of the State Government liberally and provide funds for the construction, development of the distribution system of these multipurpose projects and for the optimum utilisation of created reservoir capacity.

Secondly, I would like to mention with regard to the maintenance of the existing projects. I would like to give an instance at this stage. The lands lying near the tail-end of the canal do not get water. They should be properly maintained. The maintenance problem of major irrigation projects is aggravated mainly due to excessive silting and as a result of indiscriminate deforestation for which a large-scale plantation is the only answer. Integrated Soil Conservation measures are also very much necessary in the catchment areas of flood-prone rivers. Orissa is one of the States through which four Inter-State Major rivers viz. Mahanadi, Brahmani, Subarnarekha and Manikgundi with their network of tributaries or branches flow. The basins of these rivers are very much subject to frequent flood hazards. So, there is the necessity of Central Assistance for taking up Integrated Water Management in the Catchment areas of these rivers in a large scale. It is believed that the Central Government has taken up such schemes for the Indo-Gangetic Basin covering 7 States and one Union Territory. Such a scheme also, as mentioned above, should be taken up because soil erosion problem is a very serious and severe problem. 100 Per cent Central Assistance should be made for the

[Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik]

soil conservation measures, which are necessarily to be taken up in catchment areas of these rivers.

For the optimum utilisation of scarce water resource available from different irrigation projects, water management in the ayacut of major and medium irrigation projects should be done more extensively through Command Area Development Authority. In Orissa, there are 4 Command Area Development Authorities providing the Command Areas of Mahanadi, Salandi and Hirakud projects. There is necessity for extending such activities to the ayacut of medium irrigation projects. It should be extended. One of the important points here is the drainage problem. Drainage congestion is a major problem faced in the deltaic belt of Orissa where irrigation system is more than a century old. This drainage congestion occurs partly due to the excessive silting and partly due to the encroachment of the natural drainage system. As a result of this, it gives rise to excessive flooding during the rainy season and also it gives rise to water-logging in the irrigated areas. A drainage master-plan for Mahanadi delta Command Area and a comprehensive Delta Development Plan are being prepared by the State Government and it is believed that there is a proposal to sponsor this project for the World Bank assistance and the Central Government should support this venture.

There is a need for proper project management and timely allocation of funds for completion of large irrigation projects in time. The Seventh Plan envisages concentration of on-going projects and does not provide for new schemes except in case of minor and medium irrigation schemes in drought-prone areas, backward areas and tribal areas. So, we do not want to say against this principle. We are very much within this principle but it should be liberally interpreted particularly for the State like Orissa which has achieved 26 per cent of irrigation coverage as against the national coverage of 47 per cent. There should be determined effort to bring such States on par

with the national average. It is also warranted by the strategy for the improvement of the cultivation of rice in the eastern region. While this may be the approach for sanctioning new projects, the management of projects should be taken up strictly as per schedule so that there is no time over-run leading to best escalation.

Another important thing is this. One of the reasons for delay in execution of irrigation projects is the delay in giving clearance under the Forest Conservation Act. This should be looked into because there are some projects in Orissa which have not been cleared because of this.

Construction of water harvesting structures should be an integral part of management of micro water sheds because they have been very popular, they are very cost effective and the gestation period is less. These projects should be taken up extensively.

In the coastal areas there are a number of creeks which can be bonded with lesser cost to provide irrigation as well as drinking water in such areas which are mostly saline. Such projects are taken up under RLEGP, but the Government of India should develop a comprehensive policy framework for exploiting creek irrigation potential.

I now come to ground water resources. Out of the potential of 42 million hectare meters, only 24 per cent is utilised at present. Concerted efforts must be made for the utilisation of the balance resource potential. We should go in for this because the burden of public investment is comparatively less, the gestation period is less and it does not involve large scale depression or submerging valuable agricultural land or displacement of human population, and so on.

While emphasis should be given on construction of lift irrigation projects in a large scale to utilise the ground water, this should be done in a planned manner to ensure that the ground water drawn

from different areas is recharged sufficiently. This can be done by checking the run-off of rain water by suitable soil conservation measures.

Besides this, there should be an expansion in the network of rural electrification. Also there should be reliability of available electricity without voltage fluctuations.

Field channels should be provided for the ground-water potential and financing institutions like the NABARD should come in a big way to finance these projects.

Water is a basic human need. We are very happy to see that our Prime Minister has taken the initiative to formulate the National Water Policy with a view to assessing the overall resource availability of surface and ground water, projecting the demand for water resources for domestic, municipal, agricultural, industrial, navigational and recreational requirement and devising a strategy for demand and supply management and resource conservation.

Faithful implementation of this policy should involve a multi-disciplinary approach covering the entire gamut from the catchment area treatment to command area development with due regard to all aspects like engineering, agricultural, environmental, ecological, water management and distribution. This reorganisation of the erstwhile Irrigation Ministry into the present Ministry of Water Resources Development is in line with this approach.

Other navigational points should be looked into. Recreational points should be looked into. In Orissa the Chilka lake is also there. All these things should be looked into in a comprehensive way.

We have seen that there was some proposal to form a National Water Grid to divert water from surplus areas to areas which have not been endowed with adequate water resources. This idea has to be pursued in the context of national

development. However, the requirement of the States within a particular river basin should be fully considered before working out the actual surplus to be transferred to other regions.

With these words, I support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Water Resources.

DR. A.K. PATEL (Mehsana) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. Even after four decades of independence, we are not self-sufficient in water. Water is required for drinking purpose as well as for irrigation purpose. Today in India there are a number of villages where people do not get hygienic water for drinking purpose. They have to depend either on ponds or wells for irrigation and that is why a lot of land is kept unirrigated.

Our Indian economy is agro-based economy. If we pay more attention to irrigation, I think our national economy will be very good. Even after four decades of independence, sufficient attention is not paid for irrigation. City areas are developed whereas proportionately villages are not developed. Farmers are getting frustrated, their farming has become unremunerative and that is why today so many farmers of different states are on agitation only because they cannot afford farming. For Punjab farmers the cost of production is cheaper whereas for Rajasthan or Gujarat farmers, the cost of production is three or four times more. For this reason farmers should be given facilities of irrigation.

We should take note that countries like Israel is quite independent even though resources of water are much less there. They produce better varieties of fruits, vegetables and they utilise every inch of the land. Whereas in our country we have got sufficient land, sufficient water and if we make use of this water properly there would not be any problem.

For the last so many years inter-linking of the rivers is talked of ; but it is not

[Dr. A.K. Patel]

seriously thought of. I think it will help overcome two things; it will prevent drought and in case of flood also it will help very much.

I will restrict my speech to Gujarat only. Gujarat is having drought for the last three consecutive years and today the position is the worst there. Out of 22000 villages, 18000 villages are affected by drought. The only solution for Gujarat is the Narmada Project. About 35 years back the stone for this project was laid by the late Hon. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and today the stone is lost! Award was given three or four years back; but there is no further progress in this case. I request the Hon. Minister to look into this matter, especially the Narmada Project of Gujarat which is the only life-saving thing for the people of Gujarat, as early as possible and give these facilities to the people of Gujarat.

At present irrigation in Gujarat is mainly based on tube-wells and the sub-strata water is getting depleted day by day. Today tube-wells are non-remunerative and it has become very difficult to extract water from such deep strata. That is why the only solution is the Narmada Project. I once again request the Hon. Minister to give priority for the Narmada Project's early implementation.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDISH AWASTHI (Bilhaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Minister of Water Resources through you. The hon Minister has run the affairs of his Ministry very well. I would like to avail of this opportunity to submit a few points.

Our country is facing the problems of floods and droughts for a long time. This Ministry is responsible for looking after these problems. Every year floods occur in our country. A number of schemes are formulated to check these floods but these schemes are not accorded much importance. Every year when floods occur we think of formulating new

schemes for future so that the country is saved from the floods and droughts. I would request the hon. Minister to formulate comprehensive schemes to meet the problem of floods and droughts and implement them.

The Government has provided canals, tubewells, pumping sets for the benefit of the farmers but these have become obsolete. Every year the area required for irrigation increases but the number of canals remains the same. You might have seen that where canals have been constructed and where 'Kulabe' have been installed, these have become outmoded. The farmers do not get the required quantity of water for irrigation. Most of the tubewells that have been sunk in Bilhaur are lying out of order. The Central Government had sent a Survey Committee for investigating the situation. Their report has been received and it has been proved that tubewells have been sunk without surveying the area. Therefore, the Government should instruct the State Governments that in future wherever tubewells are to be installed, they should carry out the survey of the underground water whether the water is brackish or sweet. Only after carrying out survey of the area, tubewells should be sunk there. In this way we can avoid wastage of funds.

There is acute problem of drinking water in the rural areas. The State Governments have installed handpumps in place of wells in the Harijan colonies. The cost of installing a handpump comes about as much as Rs. 10 to 15 thousands. But it has come to notice that there is no provision of their maintenance. As a result thereof, the handpumps get out of order. I would like to request you that wells should be sunk in those backward places where handpumps are proposed to be provided so that the rural people could get water permanently.

Besides, there is a problem of drinking water in the big cities also. I have raised the issue of Kanpur metropolitan city in this House a number of times and have submitted that the Kanpur is one of the big cities of North India and people

there are facing problem of drinking water. The people of that city pine for drinking water. In 1982 the Central Government had sent a team to locate the site for constructing the Ganga Barrage. The report was sent to the State Government in 1982-83 but no problem has been solved uptill now. I would like to request the hon. Minister to pay attention towards this serious problem of Kanpur and instruct the State Government to send the report to the Centre soon which it has sent for review so that the work on the Ganga Barrage Programme is started.

In the rural areas where floods occur, it causes vast devastation to the crops. You should pay attention towards water drainage. I would like to request you that a survey should be conducted of those places where water gets accumulated and which causes damage to the crops of the farmers. At such places drainage should be provided so that farming could be done properly and water could also be utilised. During the rainy season, water gets accumulated in the villages and it causes loss of agricultural production. I would like that the hon. Minister should pay his attention to the problem of submersion of land in rural areas of the country.

I would like to make one more submission about the metropolitan city of Kanpur. Dirty water gets mixed with clean drinking water and people of the city are forced to drink this dirty water. I want that you should pay attention towards this problem. You are going to clean Ganga. The mainstream of river Ganga has gone four kms. away from Kanpur. The people of Kanpur are supplied water from Ganga. You should, therefore, pay attention towards this so that people of Kanpur could get drinking water. I would also like to submit to you that the canals have become very old and water cannot be supplied through them. I want that a survey of the command area should be conducted and Government tubewells should be drilled in the areas which cannot be irrigated through canal system. If you do not make such

an arrangement, how would the farmer be able to irrigate his land. I would like to submit to you once again that this problem should be solved by conducting a survey in this regard.

'Semi-Baha' law is in force since British rule. When the rain water mixes up with canal water that rain water is considered to be canal water and irrigation tax is levied on the farmers. This is a very old law. I have written to the State Government many a times in this regard, but no action has been taken so far. I would request you to pay attention towards this. I want that rain water should not be considered canal water and hence tax on this account should not be levied on farmers. Tax being levied by the Government is a great injustice to the farmers. Therefore, it should be amended accordingly.

I would also like to submit to you that if the problem of Ganga barrage is not solved, it would definitely create difficulties to the people of Kanpur. 25 years have passed when this project was formulated, but no action has so far been taken. I would, therefore, request you to pay attention towards this.

With these words, I conclude and support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Water Resources.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the demands for grants for the Ministry of Water Resources.

Basically I wanted to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that constraint of resources need not be a problem for this Ministry because the entire technology involved in the construction of projects for utilising the water resources of this country is only indigenous. We have not only water, but also the manpower and enough number of technologists and the required technology in this country. So, it is only to find some resources considering it as a loan either from any institution

[Shri K.S. Rao]

or from the Budget. It can be repaid very comfortably and very easily back by creating assets or wealth to the nation as well as regular income for the people in the country. If the Government does not find adequate resources, it can find out other ways. I just wanted once again the hon'ble Minister to hear it. When the agriculturists are interested in getting the groundwater, the Government is only lending money and getting it back with interest may be soft loan. But when it comes to the construction of major projects, thousands of crores of rupees are being given either by the Government of India or the State Government without keeping any direct burden on the farming community. In fact, by construction of the major projects or minor projects, every farmer is being benefited by virtue of increase in the value of his land which is not otherwise being utilised all the time. The value of the property is going up, and by virtue of the project, his ability to raise the crop and get income is also going up. I do not mean that the Government of India must put levy on them or burden on them in an excessive manner, but in case they do not find resources, I think, with the consent of the farmers, they can think of taking up any number of projects; the farmers will share the burden of the cost of the project to be repaid in a span of ten to fifteen years. In such a case, there need not be any difference of opinion between the States and the Centre. They can always clear any number of projects put forward by any State. And, when it comes to distribution of water in the inter-State rivers, an immediate decision is required to be taken by the States and the Union Government.

There was an uproar from the Government of Andhra Pradesh on several occasions in regard to the clearance of various projects, namely Telugu Ganga, Polavaram and Ichhampalli.

SHRI H.A. DORA (Srikakulam) : And Vamsadhara also.

SHRI K.S. RAO : That has already been cleared. The Union Minister had called the two Chief Ministers; your Chief Minister was reluctant to come. The Union Minister was able to convince them and in the interest of the people of the State the project has already been cleared and the matter is over. There is no more discussion in regard to that.

The importance of Polavaram Project is not only to cultivate 7.25 lakhs of acres of land but also generation of 750 megawatts of power. As is known, the cost of generation of 750 megawatts of power is more than Rs. 750 crores, besides 7.25 lakhs of acres of land to be cultivated within the cost of Rs. 500 crores. As against this, the proposed cost of the project is Rs. 1284 crores. In view of this, the Government must jump and clear that project.

Not only that, 70 TMCFT of water can be diverted from Godavari to Krishna which will also solve the problem of availability of water in Krishna for clearing Telugu Ganga. There also need not be any dispute or misunderstanding between the various States in which river Krishna is flowing and where the water has to be shared. If a cool thinking was to be given by the Chief Ministers of the three States as well as the Union Minister, this problem can be sorted out very easily without any controversy and the project cleared.

In regard to Ichhampalli, the problem is between three States. This can also be cleared in the same method. This would also not give any opportunity to the State Government to criticise that the Government of India is not taking initiative to clear the projects. The burden will fall on the State Government to find out resources for completing the projects at an early date. In that case, the Central Government can find fault with them instead of their finding fault with the Government of India. I wish the Union Minister to take this attitude and let not the employees of the Central Government be found fault with.

If the water resources are developed in any State, it is a wealth of the nation and not wealth of the State concerned alone. By constructing these projects, not only assets are found, but so many other evils like price escalation, unemployment foreign exchange etc. can be solved. This would help create better understanding between the States and the Centre. So many other things can be sorted out by early clearance of these projects.

I request the Union Minister to take initiative even when certain Chief Ministers are reluctant by virtue of their sheer ego, because of which crores of people are made to suffer and inconvenienced. Let not the ego of any politician hamper the way of the welfare of the people.

In case certain Chief Minister has made it an issue of personnel ego let the Union Minister come forward. No ego should come in their way. The Union Minister can always take initiative and involve Chief Minister and clear this project. It is for you to decide in time.

SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM : I think you are referring to the ego of the Centre.

SHRI K. S. RAO : It is for you to decide which Chief Minister has got more ego and is spoiling the future of the people of the State.

Sir, the question of resources also is well known and I understand about 186 projects which have been started in 1951, are still on-going. It is a pathetic situation. Sir, these resources have to be distributed only on remunerative projects and these projects should be completed in time-bound way. The diversion of these meagre resources in various projects is costing the nation very heavily. The States should be advised that they should not go in for new projects until the on-going projects are completed first so that the thousands of crores of rupees which are being invested on the on-going projects give dividend at the earliest.

The other day, the Hon. Chief Minister

of Madhya Pradesh was telling, 7,000 crores are invested on the on-going projects which are there in Madhya Pradesh alone and on which 80 to 85 per cent work has been completed and only 10 to 15 per cent is still remaining and in case if this 85 per cent of the 7,000 crores was to be kept idle for decades, the losses to the nation must be understood by everyone. So, Government should take immediate steps to rectify the situation.

In this context, acquisition of land by the Revenue Authority and permission from the Government of India in regard to clearing that land which is under forest or which is in the guise of the forest also must be cleared early. Sir, very peculiar circumstances are there. Here, I would like to refer to the completion of the balance work of the Nizam Sagar Left Canal. 160 acres of forest land only are to be cleared and these 160 acres do not cost anything and it is not going to affect the ecology of the system and this is affecting Rs. 20 crores worth of project which is not to be completed earlier and the loss to the nation is too much. So, I urge upon the Hon. Minister to think in terms of giving a free hand to the States where the land involved is only a little. The Government of India can insist that if in case the State Governments require clearance for construction of the projects or the digging of canals or for other purposes which are essential, for which people cannot wait or the project cannot be delayed, such permission can be given rapidly and if it is in hundred or thousand of acres or where the displacement of the tribals is involved, then the Government of India can take all the details and then clear the project. But, in small cases let it be cleared very quickly and let not the State Government be troubled or the project delayed for the mistakes committed by the Officers. The mistakes committed by officers should not come in the way of giving clearance.

Sir, the success of these projects depend entirely on the recycling of the funds, which is not being done very fast. A thousand crore project, if it is completed in 5 years or 6 years instead of 15 years

[Shri K.S. Rao]

or 20 years, the recycling is done very fast and it is more easy, economical and dividends are also more. Not only that, the Government must also take into account thousands of crores which have been spent by them for the floods, for the droughts; the same amount if it is dispersed earlier for construction of projects, if the water resources are regulated, they can avoid the floods, the havoc, not only to the property but also to the livestock and men. So, all these things will create a better impression, good economy and bring lot of results to the people of this country. So, I wish to tell the Hon. Minister that in case some of the States are to be rigid in regard to sharing of water, let the water be treated as national wealth and let the Government of India take it as a national project and then collect the revenue or certain other taxes from the State Governments to cover up the investment. When they are giving subsidy in terms of thousands of crores to various programmes, they can also think in terms of giving to the projects which increase the means of living for the poor people also.

While we certainly have to think in terms of a national grid, States should also be encouraged to go ahead with regional grids, connecting Cauvery and Krishna and Godavari and Krishna and certain other rivers like that. The hon. Minister should think in a pragmatic way and he should not allow any State Government to behave in a rigid fashion and misuse their position thereby allowing precious water resources to be drained into the sea and wasted.

[Translation]

SHRI BHISHMA DEO DUBE (Banda):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants for the Ministry of Water Resources. We have been supplied the annual Report for 1986-87. I would like to quote from the first page of the statement of hon. Prime Minister:—

[English]

“We have to make a plan for

using our water which cuts across the various artificial barriers that we have built, State boundaries, other boundaries and see what is best for the whole country. It is important that no State which has water goes without water; it is equally important that those States that do not have water also have access to water.”

[Translation]

This statement of hon. Prime Minister would be a basis for the proposed National Water Policy. It has also been stated in this Annual Report that:—

[English]

“All rivers belong to the nation. Water is a National asset.”

[Translation]

If National Policy is formulated on the basis of this principle, then those areas would definitely be benefited which have remained deprived of irrigational facilities so far. I represent an area which is a backward one. Banda in Bundelkhand region of U.P. is a hilly area and is covered by forests. Boring is not easy task there and it requires very deep boring. A random survey has been undertaken there for Underground water. The report states that there is huge quantity of underground water there. If that underground water is brought higher, then there would not be any lack of irrigation facilities. This region is predominantly an agricultural area and there are no industries. People depend only on agriculture. If irrigation facilities are made available to them, then the people of the area could be benefited. When demands for grants of Ministry of Water Resources were discussed last time, I had raised this matter and I am again raising it that a project sponsored by U.N.D.P. is pending for clearance before the Central Government and this scheme was forwarded to the Central Government by U.P. Government Vide its letter No. 6.1/150/38-4-81 dated 1st December, 1981. I would like to draw the attention

of the Government towards this. This scheme is a foreign aided scheme. This scheme has been approved by the Governing Body of U.N.D.P. The Irrigation Department of U.P. has sent this alongwith its report to the Central Government. This scheme should have been included in the Sixth Five Year Plan, but it is very surprising that Sixth Five Year Plan has already ended and now Seventh Five Year Plan has also started, and even now this project has not been included in this Plan. This project is not confined to Banda district alone, it is meant for all the five districts of Vindhya region in Bundelkhand. Areas of Allahabad, Varanasi and Mirzapur fall under it. Under this scheme, deep boring will be undertaken in the area by foreign specialists with the help of foreign machinery. Some time back, a survey was undertaken in Bundelkhand and Vindhya ranges, in which it was found that there are huge reserves of underground water under the rocks. If water is brought on the surface through some Underground Channel, Oxbo lake or Artisen well and is made available for irrigation purposes, we could be benefited very much. Huge reserves of underground water are available in the area and water from these reserves is adequate to meet the irrigation needs of the area. But I am sorry to say that attention is not being paid on that scheme. I would request the Government that it should grant its approval to this project on a priority basis and get it implemented. After completion of this Project, not only Bundelkhand, but three other districts—Varanasi, Allahabad and Mirzapur would also be benefited.

In Bundelkhand region and specially in my district, farmers are dependent on those rivers and canals which come from Madhya Pradesh. All the canals in my region have their source in the dams constructed on rivers in Madhya Pradesh and there is generally a dispute between these two States over distribution of water. Many disputes are pending with the Central Government for clearance, but there seems to be no progress for their clearance. Through you, Sir, I would

like to draw attention towards Kane multi-purpose project which has been pending before the Central Water Commission since 1982. This dispute relates to Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh regarding the distribution of water between the two States. Our region had been affected by severe drought and famine last year. As a result, there has been huge loss which cannot be described in words. Only a person who has seen the condition of drought and famine can very well understand the condition of severe drought and famine. As dispute between U.P. and Madhya Pradesh has not been solved, we are not getting adequate quantity of water and as a result of this also our problem is aggravating. I would like to submit on the basis of the statement of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the policy which I have referred to earlier, that if all the water resources of the country are nationalised, all the disputes would be solved automatically. When all the wealth and all the rivers belong to the nation, I fail to understand as to why should there be a dispute between various States.

Sir, in our country only 14 to 15 per cent of land has been brought under irrigation. The water of canals does not reach the tail-end areas of the canals. Not only this, the maintenance of canal is in such a bad condition that one feels ashamed to describe it. I would like to submit that till the water resources are nationalised by the Central Government, it should direct the State Governments to undertake the maintenance work of the canals properly so that irrigation facilities could be made available to the people to the maximum extent. Land is irrigated in our area through lift irrigation system also, but this system is also very defective. Big schemes of Lift irrigation have been formulated, but as there are ravines on the sides of the rivers, the plain area beyond ravines is irrigated and thus, the area having ravines being near the river remains unirrigated. All the areas by the banks of the rivers remain unirrigated. Therefore, the schemes of 25 cusecs capacity are not suitable for our area. Schemes of 5-10 or 15 cusec capacity should be for-

[Shri Bhisma Deo Dube]

mulated so that the area just near the banks of the rivers, and which is very fertile, could also be irrigated and agricultural production could increase.

I have said earlier also regarding tube-wells that if tube-wells are used in larger number then our area could be benefited more. Smaller chak dams could be constructed there. If priority is given to 'chak' dams, then even smaller areas could be brought under irrigation.

Bundelkhand area falls in both the States—Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Thus this region is divided in two States. If Bundelkhand region of both the States is taken together, one would find that the problems at both the places are similar. Keeping in view geographical situation, climatic conditions and prevailing problems, common schemes could be formulated for the region. One of our scheme is Rajghat Dam Project, having its office in Jhansi. This Project also finds mention in the annual report at page 53 and I quote :

[English]

"Progress has been slow on account of constraints of ability of funds."

[Translation]

In this regard I have to say that if ambitious scheme like Rajghat Project and drought affected area of Bundelkhand are not taken care of, how the progress of that area will be possible? Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to pay special attention towards it.

I would like to say one more thing before I conclude. The drinking water problem in my constituency has become very serious. Patha area, about which I have just mentioned is in my constituency where people pine for even a sip of water. There is no well, tank or canal in that area. There are small pools of water in the valleys. The ladies have to walk several miles to bring drinking water. You can yourself understand as to what

difficulties they are facing in fetching drinking water from far away places.

Sir, I will conclude with a submission. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards this problem of drinking water and would like to request him to solve this problem. If the hon. Minister accompanies me, I can allow him that the people of that area will be happy to offer something to eat but they will feel difficulty in offering drinking water. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak and I once again request the hon. Minister to look into UNDP Programme and must pay attention towards the scheme formulated for Jhansi area.

*SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views on the demands for grants pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resource Development. It is a matter of great regret that thousands of people in Assam become homeless every year as a result of devastating floods. The historical city of Kundil Nagar where Rukmini was born is being destroyed by the Mighty Brahmaputra. The present name of Kundil Nagar is Sadiya. The people of Sadiya sub-division have been compelled to migrate from their native place because of large scale soil erosion in the sub-division. I want to draw the kind attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that Majuli, the biggest river island in the world, is almost ruined as a result of soil erosion by the river Brahmaputra. Thousands of people from Majuli are migrating to other places of Assam as the river island is being eroded year after year. Some of them are even occupying Govt. land for their shelter.

The problem of flood in Assam are not similar to those in other States in India. To my mind, the problem of flood in Assam is not only a natural calamity, but it is a regular phenomenon. In Assam, floods occur so many times in a year. As soon as one round of flood is over, the next round begins. This is the common feature in Assam. It is a well known to all in Assam as to the time the fury of

*The speech was originally delivered in Assamese.

flood will begin and till how long they will continue. It is not that they occur all on a sudden. Therefore, the flood in Assam is a routine matter. My submission is that both the Central Govt. and the State Govt. should chalk out some programmes, in a scientific manner, to control the floods, so that the people of Assam are not harassed every year. Crops and property worth crores of rupees are lost in flood. Timely action in this direction can save this huge loss of crops and property. Joint efforts should be made both by the Central Govt. and the State Govt. in this regard.

It is a matter of great regret that the Gerukamukh Project of the Lakhimpur district has not been taken up for implementation. I do not know that there might be some political reason or there may be some boundary dispute regarding this. Whatever may be the reason, the work of that Project has not yet been started. If this Project is implemented, 4800-MW electricity could have been generated for the development of the State. The estimated cost of this Project is Rs. 3068 crores.

Another point I want to make is that is reported in the press that a severe earthquake is going to occur in and around Dhemaj in the district of Lakhimpur. If there is such an earthquake, in that case, the people of that area will be affected very much. It is quite likely that the course of the rivers also may be changed. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister kindly to appoint an expert team to study the possibility of such an earthquake, so that warning signals may be given well in time. The people of my district are panicky after hearing the news of the earthquake. I hope and trust that the Hon'ble Minister will take necessary steps in this regard. With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to take part in this debate.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur): This Ministry of Water Resources, in my opinion, is a very important Ministry, because water is not only the source of all

life on earth, but water resources can also be utilized for the speedier economic development of the country. But I have no time to go into the question of water resources for the whole country; I will confine myself only to the problems to which my hon. friend Mr. Saikia has just referred. Whatever he has said I shall not repeat; I will add to them.

This river Brahmaputra has caused tremendous suffering to the people of Assam for a long time—not only suffering to the people, but also caused national loss. It is unfortunate that this very great source of water, a natural resource, has remained unutilized for such a long time for the benefit of the people and of the nation.

In 1950 we had the second greatest earthquake in Assam. After that, the river bed came up; and thereafter, a series of floods and erosions have continued. We demanded that these should be controlled by a Board with experts. After a long struggle of the people of Assam and the Members of Parliament here, the Brahmaputra Board has come into being. This law, i.e. the Act came into being in 1980. The Act was passed in 1980, but the Board was constituted in 1982. Two years were taken for that. But even today, I am told that the Board is headless—I do not know. I want a confirmation from the Minister. Whether it is headless or topless, if such a Board continues, how can the Board function? I do not know; I do not understand. In 1982, the act was passed. Now we are in 1987. No doubt, that Board must consist of technologists, because the whole question is technical. That I agree; that I concede. But the wisdom grown out of long experience of people residing on both sides of the river also should be taken into account; and that experience should not be thrown away. They also know something. They have gone through it.

14.59 hrs.

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

If you do not mind my saying it, my own family, my father, my grandfather,

[Shri Bipin Pal Das]

my forefathers were all born on the banks of this river. Similarly, hundreds of others. Their experience, their knowledge, their wisdom, must also be taken into account by the Board while discussing this question.

I do not claim to have any technical knowledge; and therefore, I shall not go into the technical question. But I know this much, that to control Brahmaputra, you will have to take recourse to hydel projects, retention dams, dredging, rivetment, guide banks and so on. No single technique will be able to control this river, about which the American experts told Indira Gandhi: "This is not a river; This is a sea." The American experts were invited long ago by Mrs. Gandhi to be advised on how to control this river. They have written a report and in that report they have said that they know how to tame and control a river but they have not learnt the technique of controlling sea. It is not a river; it is sea. Therefore, one single technique will not solve the problem of this river; all possible technique must be applied.

15.00 hrs.

It is said that a master plan has been prepared. Some idea has been given in that report, but the full picture has not been given as to what is this master plan. It is not our right to know what this master plan is or how it has been framed, what are the proposals and what are the programmes? I hope the hon. Minister will kindly let us know more about this master plan. In 1972 or 1973, the then Minister of Irrigation Dr. Rao said that if the Planning Commission gave him Rs. 500 crores, he would be able to control this river. Later Shri K.C. Pant took over and said that he wanted Rs. 800 crores. Some time later somebody said that he wanted Rs. 1000 crores. Why talk in terms of Rs. 500 crores or Rs. 1,000 crores or Rs. 800 crores? Whatever is the amount is required, you are not going to spend it in one year; you are not going to spend it in one five year plan. So, I suggested at that time that let us

have a long term plan—twenty year plan or twenty-five year plan—and draw up a programmes where to start, how to begin, how to proceed. Then it may take about four or five plans to complete the whole project; and I think in four or five plans even Rs. 2000 crores will not be much. Therefore, the basic point is that we must have a long term plan. But I very much like to see what is the master plan drawn up by the Board? To begin with, I emphasise this point to the Minister. I have also written to him on the subject.

More than floods, erosion is causing havoc. Floods come and go, destroy crops, destroy human dwellings and cause sufferings to the people. But the erosion is eating away our land; half of the Dibrugarh town has been eaten away. My own village and about 30-35 surrounding villages are under water. Another town Palesburi has completely disappeared. The river island Mijute is being attacked. I have pointed out two burning cases in my constituency to the hon. Minister. What is happening in Gamenghat and Lohitmukh? This erosion problem has become much worse than annual floods that come and go. Therefore, they must be attacked first. It is not that our engineers cannot stop this. I have written to the hon. Minister; I have seen with my own eyes how many impossible things have been made possible by the engineers. There were a series of erosions taking place on the southern point of the new Brahmaputra bridge. When half of the bridge was completed, engineers thought that the project might have to be given up. They raised their hands in helplessness. At that time, I happened to visit that area. Engineers collected around me and said, this is a helpless case; the bridge may have to be given up. I said, nothing doing; so much of money has already been spent on this project; this project is raising high hopes of the people of Assam no question of giving it up; apply your mind and I am sure that you are capable enough to find out a solution to the problem. Then the railway engineers and the local engineers put their heads together and found put a beautiful solution.

I went there the following year and saw it myself. The whole erosion was stopped completely and now the bridge is complete. I am not a technical expert. But some technique might perhaps be applied in arresting erosion at all the vulnerable points, not all along the river; as I said, at all vulnerable points erosion must be stopped by applying an appropriate technique.

What has happened to Dhansiri and Champawati Projects—two major irrigation projects, irrigation-cum-power projects? It is more than 15 years now that these projects are lying idle and no progress is being made, and major irrigation projects are part of the Ministry's programmes. I would like to know what is the reason, why these projects have not been completed.

Then there are Dibang and Subansiri Hydel projects. It was proposed to construct two dams, one on Dibang and the other on Subansiri. But unfortunately Arunachal Pradesh has raised some objections. What objections? That a large number of people will be displaced. I would like to tell the Arunachal Pradesh Government, and I hope that the hon. Minister will also try to persuade them that the problems of those people can be settled if they are re-settled properly and compensation given to them. This is one.

Secondly, if these two dams come up, Arunachal Pradesh alone will earn a revenue of Rs. 30 crores annually. And these two projects will also generate power which can be supplied to Assam, West Bengal, the North East and also to Arunachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh can develop its industries. I hope that the hon. Minister will succeed in persuading the Arunachal Pradesh Government to go ahead with these two dams.

Then, I would like to know, what has happened to the Farakka issue? The report does not say anything, except that you have written to the Nepal Government for some hydrological data. Because of this Farakka issue is not yet solved. Have you got any reply?

What is the result of the talks you had with the Bangla Desh Government. I would like to know what is the present stage of this problem.

Then what about the proposal of Ganga-Brahmaputra canal? There was a proposal of our Government, to connect Ganga and Brahmaputra, what has happened to it? I see nothing in the report and I want to know it from the hon. Minister.

And, finally, it was proposed some time back, some years ago, that we would have a National Water Grid, and the report says nothing about that National Water Grid. Have you given up the ideas? The National Water Grid concept was a very good concept, and the idea was to connect all the major rivers of this country. It will help in navigation, and it will also help in utilising the resources for development all round. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has given up the idea or whether the proposal is still there, and if so what are they doing about it?

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak on the Demands for Grants of an important Ministry. I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources.

In this short time I shall talk in three parts. First part will relate to the problems of national level, second part will relate to State level problems and third part will relate to the problems of my constituency. At the outset I would invite the hon. Minister of Water Resources to visit Chambal Dam constructed in my constituency i.e. Mandsaur and stay there at least for one day so that we may discuss our problems in detail. I would like to draw the attention of the House through you and join other hon. Members who expressed their concern that till now we could not give All India shape to our rivers. We could not give national character to our water resources and they

[Shri Balkavi Bairagi]

are still the property of particular districts and States. In train running from Jammu to Trivandrum one can travel upto any place enroute with one railway ticket but in case of rivers, they have become the property of one State or the other. Till now they could not become our national property. Even today if we think over it and as we have promised, we declare all the rivers of the country as national property, we will be able to control the flood and drought and in addition to it, I think about one third transportation can be done through rivers and it will reduce the burden on our surface transport to great extent. In this regard I will talk when I speak about the State level problem. In this House, we have the representatives of different States, but the representatives of Madhya Pradesh have peculiar position and probably all Members are well acquainted with it. Madhya Pradesh is the only State which has common boundary with seven States. Mr. Chairman Sir, whenever a question of a river water, construction of dam, irrigation project or utilisation of water arises, Madhya Pradesh gets involved in a conflict or dispute with some or the other border States. Just now Shri Bhishma Deo Dube was saying that Madhya Pradesh did not agree to their proposal. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of Madhya Pradesh are modest, Saint Tulsī was born at Banda and we completely follow his words. We never involve ourselves in any dispute. *(Interruptions)* Our position is contrary. I would request the Minister of Water Resources to open his office at Bhopal for a certain period, say for two or five years so that he may settle the disputes of seven States from there. Our Chief Minister has to rush to you day in and day out. We do not have any confrontation with any State and we are peace loving people but some time we face some difficulty in regard to the water. You will see that :

'Maharashtra, Gujarat, Orissa, U.P.
Rajasthan, Bihar,

Andhra Sahit karte hain, hum par
tarha-tarha se roz Prahar'

You have to think about it ...*(Interruptions)*... You say here and we agree to that but we have experienced it. That is why I want to make a special request to Shri Shankaranand ...*(Interruptions)* You can see here itself that Members from Bihar State have surrounded me and are tormenting me. Taking the advantage of this forum I would like to say to Shri Shankaranand that we have been trapped here like Abhimanyu :—

'Saptdwar ke chakravayuh main phansa
hua hai Madhya Pradesh

Jayati Shankaranand dijiye hum par
thoda dhayan vishesh''.

We want your special kindness and attention. You have so many officers. If you open an office with a big officers at Bhopal, he will be able to settle the disputes easily from there. I want that water should be utilised at the earliest. Crores of tonnes of water are becoming saline in the sea but we have not been able to utilise it in our fields. Every river has to pass through Madhya Pradesh but every river is against Madhya Pradesh.

Now I would talk about my own area. You have constructed Chambal Dam as a result of which 250 villages sank and 25 thousands people were displaced from there. Our temples, mosques, worship places, fields, houses, shops etc. sank in it and people died but inspite of all this till now, not a single drop of water has been given from it to our fields which has caused disappointment to our new generation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would request that four to five small schemes formulated for that area may please be sanctioned. These schemes are Indergarh (Bhanpura), Chamleshwar, Amarpura, Patiyar, Retam (Jharda) etc. If these are accorded sanctioned we would get water. If you allow us to use one foot of water out of the level of 1312 feet water in Chambal Dam, it will irrigate 5 to 7 thousand acres of land in Mandasaur district. I would request you to pay attention towards it. It is the biggest man-made lake in the world and we are sitting on the shore of this lake.

I would like to make a submission to you. It is the biggest dam which has been constructed in our district but we are not getting any benefit out of it. As against thousands of MW power in Madhya Pradesh, only 212 MW power is generated from Gandhi Sagar. We have surplus power and this 212 MW power is a small fraction of it. We thank you and are grateful to our Chief Minister.

I would like to submit some minor demands. I support the Demands for Grants and welcome them. I have already given you an invitation. So long as you do not visit the area from Kota to Anushakti Nagar and from Anushakti Nagar to Chambal, you will not be able to understand our problems. I would like to remind you that when Dam was constructed and our area got submerged under it, it was promised that roads, schools, hospitals and canals would be provided in that area. I would like to request you that if a bridge between Sitamahu and Choumahalla is constructed, we shall be obliged to you. It is our due from you which we are asking. We have to beg for it whereas it is our due from you and you should repay it. You had promised it and Dr. Katju had promised it. We demand that you should fulfill your promise under Head 532.

Not only this, I would like to draw your attention towards some more minor problems. The western region is spread from Malwa, Nimad region to Mandsaur, Ujjain, Ratlam, Jhabua and Khandwa. There are three main rivers Mahi river, Narmada and Chambal in that region. If you think about these three rivers, maximum problems can be solved. You may ask your official as to why the clearance of Mahi river project has been kept in abeyance. This matter is being delayed. Officers keep on coming and going from both the places. This Mahi river project is lying in abeyance for want of merely a letter. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has assured that the clearance of the projects of Adivasi areas will not be delayed but your Department is not giving clearance to this project. About 75 per cent Adivasi people

will be benefited from it but even then it is being kept in abeyance. The survey work has been completed and the Agriculture Department has already spent Rs. 18 lakhs on it but it has not yet been cleared. You are requested kindly to clear this project because Adivasi people will get benefited from it.

In the catchment area of Chambal region the shortage of rainy water is continuously increasing. We have come very close to the desert of Rajasthan. The average availability of water has reduced there considerably. Therefore, the Government should reconsider the issue. In this regard I would like to know as to whether you will include the programme to bring Narmada water flowing from Panchmari to Amar Kantak to Malwa area via Vindhyaachal in the 21st century or not? For this purpose if you have to supply water through lifts, you should do that and we should also get the benefit of scientific development. It will increase our power generation capacity and you will also earn good name.

I have drawn your attention towards the western region of western Madhya Pradesh. I support your sentiments. I would like to make a submission also that if we try to lift the Narmada water near Vindhyaachal, we can generate 50 per cent power by reversible turbine. Then it will require less money and we will get cheap electricity. There are countries in the world which construct Dam at their own expenditure and provide water to the farmers free of cost and on the other hand we in India have to resort to firing then only we get water in our canals.

I would request you that if there are any shortcomings our designs, we should correct them. With these words I thank you. I congratulate you and support your Demands for Grants. I hope that you will spare time at least to visit that area and yourself see its problems and will underline them.

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi);
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to

[Shri Raj Kumar Rai]

you for providing me an opportunity to express my support to the of the Ministry Demands for Grants of Water Resources. I wholeheartedly support these demands.

This Department is concerned with the lives of crores of people of this country. It would not be an exaggeration if we say that this Department is the most important Department of the country. Today entire country is affected by floods, drought, land erosion or water logging in one form or the other. Today what is required is that the hon. Minister of Water Resources should take such measures that our vast population gets some relief. The Government had said long back that a national grid would be formed in the country. I want that hon. Minister should reply to this point and tell us whether the Government has such an intention or not? I am of the view, and I think the entire House would agree with me that formation of national grid is very essential for national integration as it would strengthen it. We should be able to control the situation effectively. Whenever there is drought, Government is not able to do anything. Only discussions are held, but no effective measures are taken to deal with drought. In this way droughts come and go. At that time problem of water is not solved. There is water neither for drinking, nor for irrigation. I would, therefore, request the Central Government to issue directions to the State Governments—thought this subject comes under the State List—that they should take comprehensive measures in time to deal with the problem of drought, floods, land erosion and water logging. My constituency consists of areas from Ghosi, Azamgarh and Ballia. There is an acute problem of floods, land erosion and accumulation of water in neighbouring areas also and the State Government has not been able to solve these problems. There is large area where farmers want to undertake agricultural operations, but rain water gets accumulated in that area and as a result thereof crops are damaged and new sowing cannot be undertaken. The Government should make immediate

arrangements for drainage and cleaning of drains. Uttar Pradesh Government should have undertaken this work, but we are sorry to say that nothing is being done. The Central Government should, therefore, take special notice of it and should take the officers and staff of the Department to task. On 6.2.82 a scheme worth 2 crores of rupees was sanctioned for our area for cleaning the drains, but no action was taken on it and as a result the crops of the farmers could not be saved from submersion and the farmers are facing great difficulty due to it. This problem should be solved immediately. In our areas, Dohrihat Lift Canal Scheme is the biggest scheme in Asia, which has been providing irrigational facilities to Azamgarh and Ballia for quite a long time, but as sand has been filled in the pumps, there has been less irrigation and wheat crops in many thousand acres of land got damaged. When I had tried earlier, orders were issued to supply electricity continuously for 15 days, but as the pumps got choked with sand continuous supply of electricity did not yield any fruitful results. This canal should be cleaned immediately, because hundreds of crores of rupees have been invested in it. Ballia and Azamgarh are fertile areas. There are no industries there and people are dependent only on agriculture, but in the absence of irrigational facilities, crops are damaged and people are rendered supportless. Those officers and staff who become careless should be punished for their carelessness. The Government should formulate a special plan so that problems of water logging, land erosion, floods and drought may be solved.

Second point relates to protection of land. In comparison to other states of the country, in U.P. a very large portion of Budget is being spent on protection of land. The plan of the Government was to utilise each and every drop of water through Sharda Sahayak Canal and by way of protection of land and it was thought that no damage would be allowed to be done to the fields of farmers, but we are very sorry to say that the Department is not doing anything in this

direction and there is a lot of corruption in it. A large area is situated on the banks of river Ghaghara and a large number of cities from Faizabad district to Azamgarh and Deoria and upto Bihar are situated for centuries where river waters used to be the means of transport and trade. The transportation of goods through boats and ships is no more in vogue nowadays. In 1973-74, a survey was undertaken by Government of India which stated that if ships are operated from Patna to Bahaj, Dobrighat, Varhaganj and upto Faizabad, people of the area would get some relief, all this is pending. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards this. I have raised this matter under Rule 377 through a special mention. If more attention is paid to this, then there would be less erosion of land and people would also get some relief. 13 or 14 years have passed but survey report is gathering dust and no action has been taken in this regard. If boats and ships are operated, then pressure on trains, buses and taxis for communication and transportation of goods would be reduced and cheaper means of transport would be available to the people of the area. Otherwise also, there is very shortage of trains and other means of transport in our area. In this area, boatmen used to carry men and material on their boats as it was their traditional profession and this way their mean of livelihood. Now all this has stopped. The Government should pay attention towards this.

With these words, I express my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Demands for Grants of this important Ministry and I support the Demands of this Ministry.

*SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY (Nandyal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, water resources are very important to us. Management of our water resources deserve attention of every one. Lord Shanker, in order to make the entire country green had to part with his spouse Ganga. While Lord Shankara tried to solve our problems, the present day Shankara who happens to be in charge of water resources Ministry had

not solved even a single problem during the last two years. Not even a single State has benefitted during his tenure. If Shri Shankaranand personally goes to Rayalaseema, he will come to know about the innumerable difficulties of the people due to the acute scarcity of drinking water. He will not be able to understand the plight of the people sitting here in Delhi. I earnestly appeal to him to tour the four districts of Rayalaseema area in A.P. Then I am sure, he will come to know about the acute scarcity of water there. It is not proper for him either to confine to Delhi and judge the problems of people elsewhere in the country or to think that hon. Members who are participating in the discussion on the demands are simply repeating the facts again and again. Sir, in order to ease the acute drinking water problem, many borewells were dug. The water table was about 150 feet deep then. This year the water table has gone further down by 5 feet. As a result, all the bore wells have become useless. Not even a single well is in a position to provide drinking water any more unless the Govt. takes the steps to import rigs from USA which can drill upto 2000 to 3000 feet. I don't think we will be in a position to solve the problem. The present rigs cannot go down to that level. Leave alone providing water for irrigation purposes, at least we should ensure that people got sufficient drinking water.

Sir, clearing of Telugu Ganga is a very minor problem. It is strange that the clearance for Telugu Ganga has been withheld on the pretext that it runs through the reserved forest area. It is not proper. Dr. K.L. Rao an eminent engineer had dreamt of linking Ganga with Cauvery river in the South. He prepared a plan also to link these two rivers to provide water to the areas where there is no water. All his labour has gone waste. Well, I am not speaking about that gigantic Ganga-Cauvery link now. What I want to say is that if the Govt. is not in a position to provide funds for such gigantic scheme, it can at least think of linking various canals and rivers and thus harness our water resources for the benefit of the

*The speech was originally delivered in Telugu.

[Shri M. Subba Reddy]

people. At least such projects at States level can be taken up. But this Government has not taken any initiative in this direction. Telugu Ganga is one such important project which should be executed as early as possible. Effort have not been made to assess the water requirements of each region and chalk out plans accordingly. At least now the Govt. should start thinking on those lines.

Sir, water is essential for the very survival of mankind. But in this budget, sufficient allocation has not been made for water resources. I am sorry to say that amount earmarked for our irrigation projects is too meagre to achieve any results. I am afraid, the hon. Minister has not tried his best to get more money for his Ministry, Sir barring those projects which were constructed during the days of Nehru, there is hardly any project worth mentioning which has been completed during the past twenty years. Drinking water is one of the basic needs of man. Population in the country is increasing very rapidly. We may not be able to provide them with every thing, but at least we can provide them water to drink. How can the people survive, if there is no water to drink. Neither we are able to control our population the way the Chinese have done, nor we could provide water to quench the thirst of people. We are nowhere. We could succeed neither way.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is blessed with plenty of water resources. There are several prestigious projects like Itchampally and Polavaram. Even 10% of Godavari river are not being harnessed. I am unable to understand the dispute about Krishna river waters. Why and what for and for whose benefit is this dispute? Telugu Ganga is a prestigious project. Since the Govt. is refusing clearance for the past 2 years on the pretext that it runs through the reserved forest land, the Andhra Pradesh Govt came forward to provide land in lieu of forest land so that a better forest can be developed. Yet no clearance has been given so far. Even during the days of British it was surveyed

and considered to be most beneficial. It is strange to note that ignoring its importance, the Central Govt is still dragging its feet to accord clearance. Andhra Pradesh is suffering from the twin problems of drought and flood. Natural calamity in one form or the other are effecting the State for quite some time. Much has been spent for drought relief and flood relief. It is necessary to find out a permanent solution to recurring flood and drought damages. Diverting Krishna waters to Rayalaseema is one such solution which can provide relief from drought permanently. There is a hitch in getting world Bank loan for the construction of right canal. Already one precious year has been wasted. For the very clearance of Telugu Ganga to utilise the Krishna water the Govt. at the Centre is creating hurdles by raising the bogey of reserved forest land. There is no forest whatsoever in that area. Leave alone trees, there are not even shrubs in that area. The State Govt. have submitted a detailed report on the subject to the Centre. It is simply a waste land through which this canal is supposed to flow. Experts had already cleared the position. Then why this extraordinary delay in clearing the project. It appears that the Centre is withholding clearance just because the party which is ruling at the State is different. Sir, to bring party politics in such an important issue as this, is not a correct policy. This project serves the needs of the people.

By constructing the Polavaram project, the Godavari waters can be better utilised. This project too has not been cleared so far. Itchampally project is yet another important project through which 3 States can stand benefitted. Sir, it is a well known fact that there is acute power shortage in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. By executing the Itchampally project early, enough power can be generated so as to wipe out the shortage of power in these two States. It will also solve the water problem in Andhra. These are some of very important projects which should be taken up for construction immediately. The cost of construction is going up year after year. The estimated cost of Polavaram Project was Rs. 1200 crores and

now according to the present day calculations, it may cost us Rs. 2000 crores. Had more money been allocated in this budget, we could have completed many projects earlier. Since the allocation is not sufficient enough, we are only allowing the cost of construction to go up enormously.

Sir, priority has not been accorded to the projects, which are most important. The policy which is being pursued is defective. Projects which are not so important are being preferred to the projects which are very important. There is a saying in Telugu which says that not to complete the work which is most important in scheduled time and to complete early which is none too important is quite wrong. Hence fixing up priorities is quite essential. We hear the story of Ravana, who was in a hurry to do something which should not have been done. He was too powerful a king. He took away Sita to Lanka as though he was in a hurry. The repercussions are well known to every body. He was ruined for doing something which he should have avoided. Hence we must know what are our priorities and which one are to be attempted first and which can be taken up later as well. At present the Govt. is doing many things which it should not have done. The Govt. is not attempting to do any thing which is of utmost important to the people. There are many inter-state water disputes. They need be solved urgently. Yet the Govt. had not shown any urgency in solving them.

There is plenty of water in reservoirs. It will help in accumulation of water underground. When there is plenty of water underground, we can very easily tap it. The underground water level is getting depleted very fast. It has already gone down by 14 feet. Already the water table is much lower than the tubewell level. Hence the construction of the projects is essential. The reservoirs will help in percolation of water. It will also help in getting more rains. It is high time to begin constructing projects where there is plenty of water resource. Let us take the case of Punjab. Had the Bhakra Nangal Project was not constructed during the

days of Nehru, one can well imagine the condition in Punjab today. All most all the projects in the country which were completed earlier are now providing water to grow three crops in an year. In order to meet the threat of growing population, it is necessary to increase the irrigation potential in the country. Already people have begun to feel the scarcity of water both for cultivation and drinking. People cannot wait any longer now. It is better not to play with the patience of the people any more. It is too serious a matter and needs an urgent solution. It neglected, it can create troubles to the Govt.

Sir, the shortage of drinking water has become very acute since the last 4 years. People are not getting drinking water though they are prepared to pay Rs. 2 per pot. This is the condition today in Rayalaseema. The hon. Minister will realise the difficulty of the people if he visits the area once. Now, carts are being engaged to fetch drinking water from distant places. Diverting Krishna water to Rayalaseema will provide immense relief to the people from acute shortage of drinking water. It is not proper on the part of Karnataka to raise objection if Andhra utilises its share of Krishna water. It is not good. Hon. Minister Shri Shankaranand hails from Karnataka. I hope and trust that he will prevail upon Karnataka Govt. and solve the dispute at once. If the dispute is solved amicably and early, the Telugu Ganga project can be completed soon. Because of this dispute, even the Tamil Nadu Govt is withholding its share of cost, thus jeopardising early completion. Thus the people in Madras are also being deprived of drinking water. Hence the dispute should be solved in the interests of one and all. Not only Telugu Ganga, other important projects in Andhra like Vansadhare, Polavaram etc. should be cleared as early possible. There is no major obstacle in clearing these projects. Hence clearance should be accorded immediately. Not only clearing the projects, the Central Govt. should also take up the responsibility of executing these projects. By doing so, the Govt can hope to solve the water problem in the country to

[Shri M. Subba Reddy]

a great extent. Efforts should be made to get more money for development of water resources so that important projects can be taken up and completed early. There will no more be any shortage of water either for drinking or for irrigation. At present the rainfall is quite erratic in the country. In some parts there is excess rainfall and in some other areas it is quite scanty. Country has suffered enough due to the erratic rainfall.

Sir Polavaram is an important project. There is no major obstacle to clear the projects. At present only 10% of Godavari water is being utilised and the remaining 90% is flowing into the sea. Godavari water can be diverted to Krishna for better utilisation. Due to the step motherly treatment meted out to Andhra Pradesh by the Centre, all the major projects in the State are still awaiting the clearance. At least now, I hope, the Central Govt. would accord permission to the major projects like Polavaram and Telugu Ganga. Thousands of unemployed labourers would get jobs. The scarcity of drinking water can be wiped out. Once again I repeat that it is not a correct policy to withhold clearance to Telugu Ganga on the pretext that it runs through the reserved forest land. Sir, influential people are mercilessly felling the most precious trees like Sandalwood and teak. No body is concerned about it. But Telugu Ganga, which confers bounty on the people, is being subjected to all sorts of rules and regulations. There is no forest whatsoever in that so called reserved forest. The delay in according clearance is inardonable. Srivardaraja swamy project in my constituency has been cleared recently by the Prime Minister. After 20 years of protracted negotiations and correspondence, this project has now been cleared. I am happy about it. People in my constituency are extremely happy that the project has been approved. There is acute shortage of drinking water in my area. Life is miserable there. In spite of all these reasons, the clearance for Varadaraja Swamy Project was kept pending in the name of a Tiger project which was supposed to be a reserved forest. I hope and trust

that Telugu Ganga project will not be subjected to the same fate. I earnestly appeal to clear the Telugu-Ganga project as early as possible. If it is cleared, the Tamil Nadu Govt. will no more drag its feet to share the cost of construction. People in Madras can have a sigh of relief. Pending clearance, the Tamil Nadu Govt. is having doubts about the project. Hence clearance of Telugu-Ganga will solve all problems. Both Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Govts. will join hands in completing the project. If permission is accorded immediately, the project can be completed in two years and drinking water can be taken to doorsteps of the people in Madras. Sir, our Puranas say that Shankara released Ganga to make the entire country green. This Shankara who is now presiding over the water resources Ministry is requested to release the Telugu-Ganga to save the people. I hope, he will be generous enough to release Telugu Ganga by according clearance to the project. I expect that he will not hesitate any more for the early clearance.

Sir, I conclude my speech thanking you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI KUNWAR RAM (Nawada) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present a discussion is going on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. Water is most essential for every living being and nobody can survive without water. We are very happy that our Government is making continuous efforts that this gift of the nature, which is most essential for living beings as also for their development should be made available at all cost. We have set great objectives in our Twenty Points Programme so that country may be taken towards continuous development with in a specified period, we may achieve self sufficiency in the matter of all the resources and our condition may become satisfactory and this is the reason that we have included irrigation at the first point. Our country is predominantly an agricultural country and most of the people whether they are farmers, labourers or other persons are dependent on agriculture or agro-industries. If there is good crop in the villages, the farmers, become happy, they get good food and do

all their works with satisfaction. If in any particular year, there is not a good crop or crops are damaged due to any reason and if they receive a setback in the matter of agriculture, then such a situation is very painful for our farmers. Such a situation is also very painful for the Government, because people face starvation and they migrate from the villages and they do not look back to the villages till time for next crop arrives. The reason for it is that our farmer is dependent mainly on monsoon or rain water. Though there are irrigational facilities, but these are very negligible. The farmer is not able to derive any benefit out of them. Famine, floods or other natural calamities cause great loss to the farmers. Keeping in view all these things, our Government has given top place to irrigational facilities in Twenty Points Programme. Secondly, when we see the situation of irrigation projects in our country, we are very much pained. You may look to any project, you would find that whichever project has been undertaken by Government has not been completed so far. On the one hand, our Government considers irrigation an important item and on the other hand, no project has been completed so far. I would like to tell the hon. Minister that the work on the Kosi Project had started long back but despite the work on it starting so early, it has not been completed so far. Then there is a big project named Gandak project. Work on it had also started, but it has not been completed so far. No project has been completed so far. Though we achieved independence forty years back, not even a single project has been completed so far.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, Upper Sakari, Tilaiya Dhagar etc. are such projects, for which foundation stones have been laid and of rupees have been spent, but the projects have not been completed. In respect of Tilaiya Dhagar project, an amount of Rs. 50 crores has been spent on construction of staff quarters alone but the main project has not been touched at all. Mr. Chairman, Sir now you, as well as the Government, can understand as to what development we can make. Our country is predominantly an agricultural coun-

try—The condition of our labourer is not improving. We extend help to him through 20-Point Programme so that his economic condition may improve. But when his economic condition would not improve, how would he work? The main base of our economy is agriculture. When farming would not be done properly, how could his condition improve? You construct houses for them. You say that wages are being increased by Rs. 5 to Rs. 10, but wherefrom he, the labourer will get the work? When there are no irrigational facilities and no production in the fields, how could all this happen? There are certain areas where adequate irrigational facilities have not been provided. Just now one of our colleagues referred to Nalanda area in Bihar, specially the South areas where there are not adequate irrigational facilities.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if there is some rain in the areas which have been declared drought prone areas, then it is all right and there could be some production of foodgrains. But if there is no rain, it may create difficulties for the Government. We had said even during the time of late Prime Minister, Smt. Indira Gandhi that if some work is going on an any irrigation project in a drought prone area, it must be completed first.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is acute shortage of drinking water. The Government should make arrangement for it. We give assurance through Five Year Plans that drinking water will be provided in every village of the country but although the Sixth Five Year Plan has ended, drinking water facilities have not be provided to each and every village. This is very shameful thing. All the hon. Members who have expressed their views here have narrated the problem of drinking water in their respective constituencies. It is hoped that during the Seventh Five Year Plan a large number of villages will be supplied drinking water. I would like to submit that even now there are many such villages where women have to walk down 6 to 7 miles for fetching drinking water. It is a matter of surprise that

[Shri Kunwar Ram]

though forty years have passed since the country got independence, the women have still to go to long distance to fetch water. We have made progress in every field. We claim before other countries of the world that we have made progress, but we have not been able to supply drinking water to all the villages of the country.

Sir, I would like to say a few points more. When the First Five Year Plan started, we rarely heard during those days about the problem of floods, particularly some area suffering from floods every year. We might have heard once in ten years that some area had been affected by floods. But we never came across the news that a particular area was affected from floods every year. Now we hear every year about the ravages of floods. What is the reason for it? We will have to find out the reasons. The Government has constructed dams on big rivers for generating electricity and some other purpose. I think it is the reason for the recurrence of floods. Due to this, the natural slope or flow of the rivers has been obstructed by these dams in such a way that floods occur every year. The floods occur in Patna and Bhojpur.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in the drought prone areas where there is no rainfall, floods never occurred as canals, rivers and rivulets did not have water but now floods occur there also. Survey should be conducted there to know the damages done. In the areas where during the last 500 years floods never occurred, floods have occurred in those drought prone areas also. There is definitely some defect in the planning. You will have to pay attention towards it. During the British rule, repair of rivulets, ponds and wells used to be undertaken but now there is no arrangement for their repair. As a result thereof the people of our area are facing acute shortage of drinking water. Sir, through you I would like to request the hon. Minister that till you provide facility for irrigation, you should at least repair the old canals, wells etc. so that we

may get some relief. If you cannot construct barrages on the Upper Kakri, Tilayya Dabar, at least that system of canals etc. should be restored which sustained our villages and which provided us water with which we used to meet the needs of our area and on which our life depended. Due to the wrong schemes of the Government, dams, wells and canals get damaged. You can save them. Due to the wrong schemes, all the roads including the new ones get damaged causing national loss. Have you ever examined the figures to know as to why even the new roads get damaged due to the floods? Why the roads did not get damaged previously and why the floods did not occur? Why it is happening nowadays? You will have to examine it because it is a national loss. On the one hand you are presenting these Demands and on the other hand, you are making all these schemes good for nothing by adopting wrong planning. With these words, I conclude. I am grateful to you for allotting me some more time to speak.

SHRI BIRBAL (Ganganagar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. There is a Gang canal in my constituency which is 60 years old. This canal has been completely damaged on the Punjab side. Although the capacity of the canal is 2750 cusecs of water, it is carrying sometimes only 1800 cusecs, and sometimes 1900 cusecs of water for the last 15 years. Two to three years ago a scheme of link channel was envisaged to make up for the water and work on it was also started. It is proposed to construct a link canal from R.D. Purad of Indira canal to First Head Sadhuwall of Gang canal. Some portion of canal comes in Haryana. The Rajasthan Government was to give Rs. 2.30 crore to Haryana but it has released an instalment only of negligible amount. It has not released full amount. You should pay attention to this issue and write to the State Government so that the construction of the link channel is completed without delay.

Indira canal and Gang Canal both

emanate from Harika barrage. Till the Gang canal on the side of Punjab is completely constructed, it is proposed to release water of Gang canal into the Indira canal and supply it from the link channel to the farmers of the Gang canal. I request that State Government should be asked to do the needful and you should get the work done at the earliest.

I would like to draw your attention to the new canals. Two canals namely Singmukh and Naura pass through my constituency. Two tehsils, Bhadra and Naura, and Darnagar and Shardulpur of the Chura district are covered by these two rivers and these can irrigate about 8 lakh acres of land. At present 200 villages of Ganganagar district and the whole Churu district are in the grip of famine. However, the Government wants to create permanent assets with the funds meant for famine relief so that the people may get permanent source of livelihood. This can be achieved through the canal only. I would like to request the hon. Minister to include both the canals in the joint plan.

Now I would like to draw your attention towards Indira canal area. Pucca water courses have been constructed for irrigation purposes in the Indira canal area. A time schedule for constructing water courses was fixed and it was decided to hand them over to the farmers within one and an half year. This was the condition in the agreement. But water courses had not been constructed for as many as nine years and also a number of departmental scandals had taken place. The States of Punjab and Haryana Pradesh adjoin our State. The Governments of those states wrote off loans granted to the farmers in connection with the water courses and remitted even land revenues. This is unbelievable for the farmers of our State. They are agitated and they are preparing to launch a big agitation. The Banks have issued notices of attachment of property of the farmers. I would like to show that notice to you. You can see how the banks have issued notices of attachment? You should do something so that the farmers may get

relief. This is a serious matter. I have raised this matter a number of times in the House.

There is another problem on our State. These farmers who had got their uneven land levelled in the first phase of Indira Canal after 1975 and got water from the Indira Canal are now not getting water on permanent basis. Their crops are being forcibly harvested. I would request that water should be supplied to them on permanent basis.

With these words I conclude. I thank you a lot for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI KALICHARAN SAKARGAYEN (Khandwa) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I express my thanks to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources and through you I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards South West districts of Madhya Pradesh. These are the districts through which west flowing rivers Narmada and Tapti pass. It is ironical that these are the districts, especially Khandawa, Khargaon, Dhar and Betul which always fall victim of drought. Drought situation prevailed in Khandwa for 5 years out of 10 years. We had to spend lakhs of rupees on relief work. It is ironical because in Khandwa district on southern side river Tapti flows which divides Burhanpur Tehsil into two parts and flow into Maharashtra. Similarly, Narmada river flows in its northern part. There is a large reservoir of water in it. But it is of no use, especially to Khandwa, Khargaon and Dhar.

16.00 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN *in the Chair*]

We have been listening for the last 20 years that a scheme has been prepared to construct a dam on Narmada river, called Narmada Sagar Dam near Punasa. Many aspects of the scheme were discussed there. Narmada Nagar was also established.

[Shri Kalaicharan Sakargayen]

Lakhs of rupees were spent on it. Different kinds of research was undertaken. At last, our Hon. Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi laid the foundation stone near Punase in Khandwa district on 23.10.1984. She blessed that its benefits will be made available to farmers of western part, eastern Narmar and Dhar districts to irrigate more than 3 lakh acres of land and the benefits of about 2000 mw electricity, which will be generated from it will also be made available to the people of the area. Thereafter this became disputed. Discussions have been carried in the name of environment and forests and now the people have started apprehending that perhaps the dam may not be constructed. I belong to the area where about 180 villages are being affected due to Narmada Sagar. 62 villages will be totally submerged in the water. Harsood town is also getting submerged. Despite all these, we hope that the dam which will be constructed in the public interest, will be beneficial to the entire nation. Now the construction work of the dam has been stalled in the name of environment or some other thing. I want to say that one third area of our district is covered with forests. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has submitted a detailed note about the problem of the area. It is still under consideration of the Department of Environment. Therefore, I would like to submit that the development of this district has been stalled for the last 20 years due to apprehensions connected with this dam. Now prompt action should be taken to solve these problems. A lot of time has been consumed in getting this point cleared by the Government of Madhya Pradesh from the Narmada tribunal that Narmada river is their life line and they have every right to utilise it fully. Now that the tribunal has given its verdict concerning Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh, I do not understand as to what other thing is coming in its way. Under these circumstances, I would like to make a submission that this plan should be accorded approval in the earliest possible time and work on it should be started. It is our duty to give shape to the blessings that Shrimati

Indira Gandhi had given at the time of laying the foundation stone. I appeal that this work should be done in the national interest.

My second submission is that one third area of my district comes under the plains of Tapti. About 5 to 6 years back the Chief Ministers of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh had laid the foundation stone for Upper Tapti Dam, which is called the Naptha Dam also, but no work has been undertaken on it so far. This district and adjoining Khargaon district remain affected by drought all the time. If any work for providing water resources is to be carried out in these two districts, then dams will have to be constructed on these two rivers. It is especially necessary to construct Narmada Sagar dam, Onkareswar dam and Maherwar dam on river Narmada immediately. Without constructing them, the water level of this area cannot improve and no improvement can be effected in the present irrigation position. Presently irrigation average in Madhya Pradesh is less than the national average. You will be surprised to know that farming is done in about 4 to 4½ lakh hectares of land whereas irrigation is done only in about 36,000 hectare land. This irrigation is also done from the water of wells. Several small schemes have been proposed but are not being implemented. I am surprised to note that whereas some districts have been provided about 10 minor irrigation projects out of the U.S. aid programme given to Madhya Pradesh, not a single project has been provided to my area, especially Khandwa which is a drought-prone area, though all the schemes have been placed before the Government of Madhya Pradesh. Therefore, I want to submit that it was pinpointed in the survey conducted in the year 1985 about these schemes—the minor schemes and lift irrigation schemes—that sanction should be accorded to these schemes so that the problems created due to effect of drought, shortage of drinking water and the water level going down in villages could be solved. I would like to submit that crops of cotton, pulses, oil seeds, groundnut, soyabean, black gram etc. are raised in the districts of Khandwa, Khar-

gaon etc. The main problem that is being faced in this district is that the water level is going down. It is my request to you that in the absence of percolation tanks, top dams or such other schemes, no solution can be found to check the water level going down and means of present irrigation getting exhausted. Large quantities of banana is produced in the Burhanpur area of district Khandwa in Madhya Pradesh but water level of the open drains has also gone down 125 to 150 feet below. Due to fall in the water level the above crop is also on the verge of getting destroyed.

I would, therefore, like to request the Minister that he may come to the site of Narmada Sagar and see for himself the position prevailing there. I have already invited him for this. While repeating it once again, I would like to say that he may especially reconsider the problems of the western districts of Madhya Pradesh and extend his full co-operation and assistance to solve them.

With these words I support the Demands for Grants presented.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MISRA (Darbhanga) : Sir, I want to express my views on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. Several of our hon. Members have expressed their opinions and have highlighted the irrigation schemes of their respective states. It is evident that development works are going on in the field of irrigation in all the States. Therefore, I do not want to say anything about it.

I also belong to Bihar State and irrigation level has gone far below in Bihar. Lower Bihar is dependent on agriculture even to-day. As has been said by all the hon. Members, the work of the Irrigation Department is very very important and very necessary. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that the schemes which are sent by this Department to State Governments, should be finalised after discussing them with the M. Ps. I do not want to say more about the way the money given to States by the Central Government is

misutilised because everybody knows about it. So far I know, when the Kosi canal project in the Mithila region, was started, its estimated cost was Rs. 13 crores and by now Rs. 283 crores have already been spent on it and keeping in view the pace at which the work is being carried on and the attention that is being paid by the State Government towards it, I doubt if the work will be completed even after spending Rs. 500 crores. Similarly, the work on western Kosi Canal, which is linked with Nepal, has also been running for several years and it has not been completed. When the question of completion comes, the State Government replies that water will be made available next year. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to evaluate the work done with the help of funds sent by Central Government, specially in the case of Bihar. It should also see the progress of the work. It is unfortunate that the Irrigation Department of Bihar does not work to provide water to the farmers. Rather it works to collect funds for your political party and leaders, like the Industry Department. It is not a secret for you as to how the money sent there is being looted? I would, therefore, request that attention should be paid towards this.

The most essential thing is that the national policy and plan framed by you are quite good. All the rivers and rivulets should be brought under a monitoring cell which should be set up at the Central level. You have the scheme for training and you want to impart training about the manner in which the water is to be utilised. You can impart training to the Engineers who are working under you. They need training as to how they should do the work.

I also want to say that a lot of money of the Central Government has been invested on western Kosi canal project. Apart from this, work on Bagmati, where Central funds have been invested, has also not been completed. Adwad dam is situated in the Darbhanga area. Floods can be checked in the districts of Darbhanga, Sitamarhi and Samastipur. But that scheme has also been pending with you despite

[Shri Vijay Kumar Mishra]

several requests from the Government of Bihar and work on Adhawada part 1 and 2 has also been stalled. If the above work is completed, then I am fully confident that crores of people can be saved from floods. The schemes of western Bihar have also been pending with you. As I have already said, if part 1 and 2 of Adhawada scheme are completed, farmers of Sitamarhi, Darbhanga etc. can be saved from floods. If it is not being completed for some reason, the people of the area may please be called for at the State Government level and action may be taken to remove their difficulties so that this scheme can be completed without delay. Otherwise, the people of the area will face great difficulties.

Several hon. Members have spoken about minor irrigation. I would like to urge upon you to pay full attention towards lift irrigation in Bihar. Then only it will serve the purpose. Lift irrigation system has been taken up in other states. But in Bihar the work done is not that much as has been shown in papers. If you ask for the figures from the State Government, it will furnish the figures that so many acres of land has been irrigated by lift irrigation. But if you go to the spot, you will come to know that most of the work has been done on papers only.

I would request you to reconsider about the lift irrigation as to how we can provide water to the adivasi belt of Bihar through lift irrigation. It is a good thing that there is a provision to get loan from World Bank. Bihar State is lagging behind in this matter also. Therefore, it is your responsibility to see as to how the State Government is working. A huge amount from World Bank has been given to Andhra Pradesh and similarly two to three hundred crore rupees are being given to Bihar State for the repairs of tubewells. I want that you should monitor the work at your own level so that the money is not misused and it is spent on the work for which it has been allocated. It should be ensured that the farmer gets its benefits. The scheme has been formulated with zeal and our Chief Minister has also given stress on it. I would also like to say to

you that north Bihar is facing the problem of water logging. Bihar Government has earmarked Rs.200 crores for this purpose in its plan for the current year and you are also allocating huge amount for this purpose. In this regard I would like to request you to conduct a detailed survey of north Bihar and send a team of officers and Engineers to formulate a comprehensive scheme to solve the problem of water logging. Water logging is the problem of entire Bihar State. Therefore, [the Central Government should take up this work at its own level because if it is left to the State Government, the progress is not possible. Therefore, I want that you should pay attention towards the problem of water logging in Bihar State so agricultural production can be increased. The estimated cost of Kosi Canal Project at the time of formulation was Rs 13 crores but till now Rs. 283 crores have been spent on it. The way this work is going on, it cannot be completed. The main problem is that the water of this river is full of sand which causes damage to the near by fields. Therefore, schemes should be formulated to clear sand of this river so that sandy water may not damage the fields. Silting brings much difficulty to the farmers. Water level is high there and as a result of that farmers do not cultivate their field due to the constant fear of overflowing of water and thereby in undating their fields. I want that the Centre should itself look after the work of all command areas which were formed in 1974-75 for irrigation purpose and efforts should be made to make improvement in it. Some Canal Project in South Bihar was formulated during British regime and the State Government had also spent huge amount on this project. During British time it was cleansed once or twice a year but after independence it has not been cleansed. Therefore, the Centre or the State Government should make arrangement to clean it so that irrigation work may run smoothly. With these words I conclude.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bihar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources and would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards

the drought affected areas of Rajasthan. The State faces famine every year and Government has to spend crores of rupees on famine relief programmes. Our Government wants to take measures to check famine from that area completely and provide employment to the people. The Central Government gives such assurances but when the question of funds arises, it does not implement them. I want to tell you that total land in Rajasthan is 84.5 million acres out of which 66.2 million acres of land is cultivable. Out of this cultivable land only 23 per cent i.e. 12.5 million acres is irrigated land in which certain parts get water once and certain parts are provided water twice but regular supply of water is not maintained there. Sometimes water is supplied for Rabi crops because there is only one canal from where water for irrigation is supplied. Therefore, only 23 per cent agricultural land of Rajasthan has been brought under irrigation. If the entire land of Rajasthan is brought under irrigation, the vast area of Rajasthan will not only feed India but will be able to supply foodgrains to the other countries also. Our vast land is lying useless. Therefore, you should do something for it. You have completed the first phase of Indira Gandhi canal upto Jaisalmer but its outlay and other arrangements have not been made. It requires an amount of Rs. 1200 crores but Central Government is giving Rs. 50 crores every year. Rajasthan canal outlay, minor canal and lift irrigation on project and supply of drinking water to different areas of Rajasthan cannot be completed even in next 50 years. Therefore, we have been repeatedly requesting you that the State Government is not in a position to complete it early. Why do not you declare it a national project and take it in your hand so that the long parched land of Rajasthan may also get water and irrigation facility may be provided to the farmers? We have been saying this for the last seven years but you have not paid any attention towards it. Sometimes Rs. 40 crores and some times Rs. 50 crores are given for this project which are not sufficient. This entire money goes into the pockets of Engineers. You also know about the bungling of Rs. 200 crores in

the case of Rajasthan Canal Project. No action has been taken against Executive Engineer, Superintending Engineer etc. whereas Junior Engineer and Assistant Engineer have been suspended. Can these lower cadre engineers have the courage to misappropriate Rs. 200 crores? Bigger Engineers have been saved and action has been taken against the small Engineers. You should take action against these big officers and they should be hanged but you are giving promotion to them by making some as Chief Engineer and the other as Chairman. Therefore you should take up this project in your own hands so that it can be completed as early as possible and particularly the western areas of Rajasthan, where drinking water is not available, may get benefit of it. Our second suggestion is that Ganga and Yamuna waters should be provided to 5 districts of Rajasthan.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Varanasi): But where is the water in Ganga?

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: Why are you interrupting. We are not getting water from your share, but we want to utilise the surplus water which goes waste into the sea. I would like to tell you that 36.70 million cubic metre water of Ganga-Yamuna is going waste into the sea. Where as this Ganga water can be utilised in Alwar and Bharatpur and Yamuna water can be utilised in Sikar, Jhunjhunu, Nagour and Churu districts which are drought prone districts. These areas of Rajasthan face famine problem every year. Therefore, when the water of these rivers goes waste into the sea, why we should not make use of it? We have to pay for water of the Yamuna Canal of Haryana which passes by the side of Jhunjhunu district and is also close to Bharatpur. Therefore, when the water of Ganga and Yamuna goes waste into the sea, why this surplus water cannot be utilised in Rajasthan to irrigate land? Our 4 to 5 districts are drought affected. Water, therefore, can be given to them also. Similar is situation of Narmada Project about which several hon. Members have spoken but no where they uttered the name of Rajasthan though

[Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas]

four States, namely, Maharashtra, Gujarat Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan have their share in Narmada Project. Therefore, the work of Narmada Project should also be started immediately so that Badmer, Sirohi, Jalour and Pali districts may get water from it. It is also a desert area. Similarly, first phase of Mahi Project has been completed from which various districts are getting water but due to the non-completion of the second phase, water could not be supplied to various other districts. After the completion of second phase some famine affected areas such as Dungarpur, Udaipur etc. can get water from it and they can also become green. Therefore, second phase should also be completed so that farmer of that area may also get irrigation facility. That entire area is a drought affected area and it is very important to make water arrangement in that area also.

Similarly, I would like to request that there are some big rivers like Kali, Sindhu Parwali etc. which flow in Jhalawar and Kota districts.

Proposals for construction of dams over these rivers were sent to the Centre by the Rajasthan Government long ago, but clearance has not been given so far. I request that you should clear those projects immediately so that the areas like Kota, Jhalawar, Bundi which are deprived of irrigation facilities, could be brought under irrigation and Rajasthan could be fully irrigated and could enhance its food-grain production to the extent of being able to provide for the entire country.

Till now I have spoken in a general way about Rajasthan. Now I come to my own constituency. In my area, several dams have been constructed but there is always water shortage in them. If by God's grace, there is rainfall, then some water is stored in the reservoirs. Otherwise there remains water shortage. There has been no progress so far in the development of command areas. Though the Meja dam, Khari dam and the Alwar medium project and the Kothari project

have already been constructed each of which can irrigate about 1 lakh acres of land; no progress has been made in the direction of the development of the command areas as yet. Neither the Rajasthan Government nor the Central Government have paid any attention to them. Hence, I request you to arrange for the development of the command areas of these 4 projects. It will increase the area of land under irrigation and the yield will also be more. No dam has yet been constructed on the Banas river which flows through my area. This river meets Chambal in its later course. If a dam is constructed over this river, in the district of Bhilwara, then a considerable portion of my constituency will get irrigation facility. I want to submit that the Government should take effective action in this direction so that our farmers are benefited.

Similarly, I want to submit about underground water as well. A survey has been conducted and it has been found that the water level is very low. The Government should formulate some scheme to make potable water available for irrigation and implement it on a priority basis. Either by boring of tubewells or by some other method, that underground water should be brought above so that our farmers may be benefited. They should get irrigation facilities. With these words I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources.

*SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am glad to welcome and support the demands for grants of the Ministry of Water Resources.

We are not in a position to utilise our water resources to the full extent even after 40 years of attaining our independence. In some parts of the country there are floods and in some other parts, we find a severe drought situation.

Dastur Committee gave its report long ago in which it has been recommended to link Ganges with Kaveri river. Of course, the Minister is very keen in setting up such projects but some engineers and

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

other bureaucrats are not cooperating with the Govt. Every time they say that the project is not viable. We are living in a sputnik age today and therefore it should not be difficult for our Govt. to link Ganga with Kaveri. The hon. Minister is son of a farmer and he is very eager to serve the farmers of our country. Sir, M. Viswesvaraiyah's dedicated service to the man kind is known all over the world. We are expecting such a service from our Govt. I am sure that our hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the Minister for Water Resources Shri Shankaranand will lead our country to a new era of progress and prosperity.

The complaints regarding drought and flood situations are coming from various States like Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and others. However, the basic problem is only one i.e. proper planning for the optimum utilisation of water resources. We have several policies like economic policy, education policy, agricultural policy but strangely there is no irrigation policy. Hence I urge upon the hon. Minister to provide water facilities to the farmers.

There are several inter-State disputes regarding sharing of river water. These disputes have to be solved to avoid wastage of water running into the sea.

In Karnataka about 18 districts are facing acute water shortage. Therefore it becomes very essential for the Centre to help Karnataka to complete the projects like Tunga Bhadra project, Upper Krishna project, Hemavati project etc.

Before 1947, Karnataka was a princely State. The British regime had done great injustice to the old Mysore State. The agreement of 1924 is in favour of Tamil Nadu. My State is utilising very little quantity of water from the rivers like Krishna, Kaveri etc. For example, Kaveri river flows for about 70% of its way in Karnataka State. But the utilisation of Kaveri water by Karnataka State is only 12%.

Poor people do not know how to get

the maximum benefit of water resources. Hence the State Govt. and the Centre should guide them in this regard. About 30 to 35% of river water is being misused. During time of our Maharaja of Mysore some engineers from Tanjavur were invited to look into the matter of utilisation of Kaveri water. Unfortunately they all decided in favour of Tamil Nadu. In fact, my constituency should also get Kaveri water. We want at least 395 TMC of water from Kaveri. The rest of the water can be taken by Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : You are taking 395 TMC.

SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU : No, no, you are hiding the exact figure of water resources.

In Tanjavur if regeneration work is taken up about 6 lakh acres can come under irrigation.

In Andhra Pradesh Telugu Ganga project is being planned. It appears that Telugu Ganga project is the manifesto of the ruling party in Andhra Pradesh. Let them to ahead with their project but at the same time we have to utilise 735 TMC from Krishna river. Centre should help Karnataka to get help from World Bank for completion of Upper Krishna project. Bhadra project is also very vital for my State as several lakh acres can come under irrigation. Upper Bhadra project can provide water to about 16 lakh acres of land for irrigation. Bachawat Committee has given its report. However, Parliament is supreme and it has decided finally keeping in view the fact of equal distribution of water resources. We do not want to come in the way of Telugu Ganga project but we should get our due share. From Telugu Ganga project about 5 TMC water is supposed to go to Madras. I am afraid that this plan may not materialise even after 15 years.

Diversification of Netravati is a must for Karnataka State. By this, we get sufficient water and about 5 lakh acres would come under irrigation. Barepole project is pending for a very long time.

[Shri G. S. Basavaraju]

The Chief Minister of Karnataka has given a hint of dropping this project. If this project is completed it can irrigate 2½ lakh acres of land. There are many other important projects like Bealti river project, Aghinishni river project. These projects would help mainly Dhanwar and Bellary districts. In addition, bore wells and tube wells have to be set up in all parts of the State as the drought situation is prevailing throughout the State. About 10 to 20 crores of rupees have to be sanctioned to each district of Karnataka State for the proper utilisation of water resources.

Once upon a time our State was giving free electricity particularly to farmers. But the situation today is entirely different. Today there is no water in the State neither to produce electricity nor for irrigational purposes.

Our Prime Minister recently said about the excise duty concession given to the plastic tubes etc. I have drip irrigation in my land. I do not find any concession in this regard. The rates which were existing two months ago are prevailing even today.

Mahanadi diversion is very important project. From this we can get about 300 TMC water and at the same time flood can be controlled. The expenditure is estimated to be about 10 thousand crores. I request the hon. Minister to diversify the water of Mahanadi water. In fact this diversification will be a boon to the States of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

Nothing will happen if some housing construction or road construction is stopped. Many other works can be stopped for some time. But, the work with regard to irrigation should never stop in this country. Irrigation, electrification and education are the three very vital fields for the progress of our country. If these are looked into properly we can usher into a new era of prosperity.

Brahmaputra Kaveri-Ganga must be linked. There should be a national grid

and then only we can maintain balance in the matter of equi-distribution of water resources to States.

I am sure that our hon. Minister will look into all the points that I have raised and do his best for the optimum utilisation of water resources which are bountiful in our country.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and with these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRABHAWATI GUPTA (Motihari) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. Our National water policy has been formulated keeping in view the potential resources of water and it is a purposeful policy. Under this policy, co-ordination between every state has been established and all projects have been given equal priority.

On 30th October 1985, a meeting of the Water Resources Council was held under the Chairmanship of the Hon. Prime Minister. It was decided here that every Chief Minister will be consulted in this matter. Subsequently, a committee was formed. This committee held about 5 meetings. In these meetings, development oriented concrete irrigation projects were finalised and some very useful suggestions were given. We believe that whatever efforts have been made by this Ministry are laudable and will help in the development of the country. In addition, adequate irrigation facilities will be available in the whole country and it will lead to the greenery and prosperity of the country. I appreciate the efforts of the hon. Minister. However, no solid work has been done so far in the sphere of our National Water policy.

In my constituency, there are different command areas like the Gandak, Kosi and Swarna Rekha. I want to ask the hon. Minister in this connection as to whether the funds allocated for this purpose are utilised properly? If they are

properly utilised, then why there is the problem of droughts and floods all over the country? As soon as the month of June begins the eastern parts of India which include states like West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh etc. faces serious problems. If your Department had worked in a planned manner and in a proper direction then after so many years of independence we would have made considerable progress. It is a matter of great concern.

In our First Five Year plan 25 large projects were taken up but only one project was completed in five years. I have with me the report of the year 1987-88. The detailed position has been given here. In 1979-80, 205 big projects were taken up out of which only 29 have been completed. During the Sixth plan, 246 new projects were taken up and only 65 were completed. It proves that there are definitely certain shortcomings somewhere in the Department.

The Hon. Prime Minister and recently called a meeting in July of the Water Resources Council in connection with the National Water Policy. Chairing the meeting he had said that the situation is quite grim. The projects are never completed in time and as a result, there are adverse effects. Firstly, the farmers who are to be benefited from them get deprived of the prosperity which could have come to them. Secondly, as more time is taken for the completion of these projects, cost gets escalated correspondingly. There are schemes where the cost escalation has been 290 percent. There are many such projects where the cost escalation has been more than 500 percent as they have not been completed within the stipulated period. From this, we can guess the progress which has been made by your Ministry.

We believe and also hope that the manner in which our Economic Policy and our New Education Policy have been formulated, our new National Water Resources Policy will also be prepared and released. The draft of the New Education Policy has been considered and approved in September, 1986. We expect that the Ministry will look into all these

aspects and we will benefit more if all the projects are completed in time. Priority has been accorded to this work under the Seventh Five Year Plan. The small irrigation projects have been given priority and substantial amounts have been earmarked for this purpose. We have three kinds of irrigation schemes. Firstly, there are the large projects with cost of Rs.50 crores which we call major projects. There are some multipurpose projects which include the Kosi, Damodar and the Gandak projects. I want to tell that in the First Five Year Plan our irrigation capacity was 22.7 percent which increased to 67 percent by the end of the Sixth Five Year plan. By the end of this century our irrigation capacity will go up to 113 million hectares. These are all encouraging achievements and I congratulate the hon. Minister for it.

Now I will like to submit about Bihar. The Irrigation Department in Bihar is in a very bad shape. We have the Gandak Scheme. When I was the Member of the Legislative Council, we had got that scheme approved after considerable persuasion. That project has also not been completed within the stipulated period. Several projects in Champaran district are yet to be completed. In your report, you have mentioned that the Kosi and Gandak river projects have been completed but actually they have not been completed. There are 67 projects which are still pending. The Kosi and the Gandak river projects are also incomplete. Further, funds were allocated for irrigating areas like Maisi, Pakriyal, Motihari etc. under the Gandak Scheme and canals were also constructed but water has not yet been supplied to these areas. One point more that I want to submit is that you are going to grant Rs. 68 million dollars from the World Bank to Bihar. Jal Vikas Nigam has sunk 6000 tubewells but except two or three hundred tubewells, none of them are working. I request that you should direct the State Governments to set up a monitoring cell or a Control Board to find out whether work is actually being done or not?

Sikbrahana is a tributary of the Burhi Gandak river. Its right embankment, has

[Shrimati Prabhawati Gupta]

caved in and the area can be flooded any time. Severe floods occurred 4 or 5 years back which rendered the people of Dubarbana homeless. I request that the hon. Minister may instruct the State Government to lift up the embankment of this river. Again, if you look at its left embankment then you will get a shiver. It has not been completed even in 30 years. When floods came due to heavy rainfall some 5 or 6 years back, people of West Champaran were rendered homeless. You should pay attention in this direction also. I would also like to say about the Western Kosi Canal. That area is called Madhubani. It is a drought prone area. Early clearance should, therefore, be given for implementation of the Western Kosi Project. The Swarnrekha Project will benefit three states, namely West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa. That should be given early clearance for implementation.

Most of the time of the Bihar Government is consumed in the transfers and postings of its employees. Engineers keep on roaming in the corridors. They try to get themselves posted in those places where they can earn money by underhand dealings. Such a situation should be created that all these evils as well as the rampant corruption are rooted out. Only then the problem of irrigation in Bihar will be solved and the problem of drought and floods will be tackled. The land of Gautam Buddha and emperor Ashoka will only then become prosperous.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

[English]

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to support the demand for Grant under the control of the Ministry of Water Resources. At the same time, I want to point out with regard to Cauvery Water Dispute which is pending for the last—more than 15 years. The problem has yet to be solved by the Central Government. So many letters have already been written by the State Government to the Central Government. Here, I would like to trace

out the history of the river Cauvery so that it will be of much help to our friends from Karnataka because, they say, actually the Tamilnadu Government is using much of the water from Cauvery. But it is not correct. The river Cauvery actually rises in the Brahmagiri range of the Western Ghats in the Coorg District of Karnataka. The river Cauvery's tributaries are Harangi, Hemavathi, Shimsha, Arkavathi & Lakshmanathirtha and Swarnavathi. These are the main tributaries of the river Cauvery.

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA (Hassan) : What about Bhavani ?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I am coming to that.

Kabini is one of the tributaries which rises from the Eastern slopes of the Western Ghats in the North Malabar District of Kerala and it joins Cauvery. When Cauvery comes into inside Tamilnadu limits, the Bhavani, Amaravathi and Noyyal, all these tributaries join the Cauvery. Here, I want to mention with regard to the Agreements of 1892 and 1924. Both the Agreements are permanent in nature. After the agreements were signed, the Krishnaraja Sagar Dam was constructed; after the agreement was signed between Mysore and Madras, the Mettur Dam was constructed.

As far as the irrigation point is concerned, there is a Grand Anicut in Trichi District. That was constructed about 2000 years ago by the King Karigal Cholan. It is in the history. Nobody will dispute this. I think our friend Shri Nanje Gowda will not dispute with regard to the grand Anicut. Even from the point of view of irrigation also, I can tell...

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : I hope my only objection is that the 1924 Agreement never satisfies...

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Even with regard to the irrigation point of view, as far as Tamilnadu is concerned, from time immemorial—centuries ago—the

irrigation is being done through the Cauvery water. The Cauvery water is being utilised by the farmers of Tanjore and Trichy Districts which are the granaries as far as the Tamilnadu Government is concerned. If adequate water is made available for Tamil Nadu, we can supply foodgrains to the entire country. But we are unable to get water. Our dams are actually empty and there is no water at all. Even for drinking purposes there is scarcity of water in almost all the districts.

With regard to development of irrigation in the Cauvery basin, prior to 1928 when the first storage, that is, the Krishnarajasagar Dam, was constructed in Karnataka and when it came into operation, the total area in the basin was 19.80 lakh acres—both major and minor irrigation utilising 510 TMC of water by the Tamil Nadu State. Our friend, Mr. Basavaraju, was saying that they actually needed 395 TMC of water. If they take 395 TMC of water, there will not be any water at all in the Cauvery basin. I am asking Mr. Basavaraju and Mr. Nanje Gowda one question. What is the area they are irrigating under the Cauvery basin? I was Minister for Agriculture and Irrigation in Tamil Nadu, and I know better. When Mr. Urs was the Chief Minister...

(Interruptions)

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : One clarification I want to give.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : You can give the clarification at a later stage.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur) : Mr. Nanje Gowda was also Minister for Irrigation in Karnataka...

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : My basic question is this. Not even 100 TMC of water, they are utilising for irrigation...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS : Let us appoint a Parliamentary Committee to go into this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Not even 100 TMC of water, they are utilising for irrigation. But they are demanding 395 TMC of water for irrigation.

Subsequent to the 1924 Agreement, actually it is the Karnataka Government which is violating the terms of the Agreement. It is not the Tamil Nadu Government which is violating the terms of the Agreement. I want to put it specifically that the Karnataka Government is the only Government which violates the terms of the Agreement of 1924. They are constructing four dams in violation of the terms of the Agreement—they are constructing Harangi, Kalini, Hemavati and Swarnavati...

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : One minute...

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : He is not yielding. I cannot allow. I will have to protect him.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : All the four dams are being constructed in violation of the terms of the Agreement of 1924. Is it not proper for the Central Government to come to the rescue of the Tamil Nadu Government in order to safeguard the irrigational interests of the farmers in Tamil Nadu?

When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, in 1970-71, the then Chief Minister had written many letters to the then Prime Minister and at the request of the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, the filed suit was withdrawn from the Supreme Court. Even in 1971 when there was President's rule in Karnataka, the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi requested the Tamil Nadu Government not to press with regard to adjudication, not to press with regard to formation of a Tribunal. That is why we were not pleading for Tribunal. But afterwards, after 1972, upto 1986-87 we have been pressing the Central Government for forming a Tribunal,

[Shri P. Kolandaivelu]

Why has it not been done? In one of the newspapers in Tamil Nadu on 6-4-1987, it has been reported; it was stated by our hon. Minister for Irrigation, Shri Shankaranand, it was reported in Dinamani paper that there is no necessity at all to form a tribunal. The Minister might not have stated like this. But actually I found in the paper that our Irrigation Minister stated that there is no necessity for forming a tribunal for the Cauvery issue. I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is true.

17.00 hrs.

The Hon. Chief Minister Mr Ramakrishna Hegde made a wonderful statement recently that Tamil Nadu has to change its crop pattern and to go in for oil seeds instead of paddy. What a wonderful suggestion, that too made by Shri Ramakrishna Hegde! He wants to become a national leader. When he wants to become a national leader, he says that we have to change our crop pattern and go in for oil seeds instead of paddy.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : The Karnataka Chief Minister should not be misinterpreted. We are spending one TMC of water for 12000 acres whereas Tamil Nadu is using it for 3000 acres. So, their crop pattern has to be changed in the overall interest of the nation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : We need paddy. Why should we change our crop pattern?

(Interruptions)

With regard to Cauvery basin, the Cauvery Fact Finding Committee was appointed at the instance of the Chief Ministers of Kerala, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. These three Chief Ministers were there in order to form the Cauvery Fact Finding Committee. It went in detail into the question of utilisation of water for irrigation. They have found that there is no surplus water at all. But our friend Shri Nanje Gowda said the day before yesterday that about 340 TMC

of water is going waste. It is entirely a wrong statement, I criticize him.

SHRI H.N. NANJE GOWDA : The other day I only said that...

MR. CHAIRMAN : As per rules, Mr. Nanje Gowda, you can say something if only the speaker on the Floor yields. If he does not yield, then whatever you say will not form part of the record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing doing.. It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not permitting you.

(Interruptions)**

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I would suggest to the Hon. Minister that this is the high time to form a tribunal at once. Otherwise there will not be any water for Tamil Nadu in order to rise paddy crops or even for drinking purpose. I earnestly request the hon. Minister to form the tribunal immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to express my views before the House while supporting the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources. The country has not achieved the desired success in the matter of irrigation which it should otherwise have. A total of 21 percent area in the whole country is under irrigation while there is no provision of irrigation in the remaining 79 percent area. Very less irrigation facilities are available in my area i.e. Barmer, Jaisalmer and Shergarh. I would like to say about the Indira Gandhi Canal Scheme which had been formulated for bringing about improvement in the desert areas. The foundation stone of Indira Gandhi Canal, which was earlier called Rajasthan Canal, was laid on 31.3.58 by Shri Govind Ballabh Pant.

When this scheme was formulated, its cost was estimated at Rs. 66.46 crores and this was to be completed by 1968-69. But 29 years have elapsed, and the work on only a 650-kilometer stretch of the main canal has been completed. A sum of Rs 530.11 crores has been spent on it by the Rajasthan Government. We have brought an area of 5.6 lakh hectares of land under irrigation in the first stage and another 0.60 lakh hectares in the second stage. So far as the completion of this scheme is concerned, it has been stated in the Annual Report which we have just received and in reply to my question that the canal may be completed by the end of the 8th Five Year Plan.

17 05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

According to the estimates, it has been worked out that if we spend Rs. 1200 crore more, only then we can complete the Indira Gandhi Canal in the Eighth Five Year Plan. We have got information from its engineers that if we spend Rs. 150 crore every year, only then we can complete it in eight or ten years. But only a sum of Rs. 250 crore has been allocated in the plan for the Indira Gandhi Canal. Then how can we complete it in the Eighth Five Year Plan? This is an important question for us. The Central Government should extend assistance for this venture. It has given assistance. In the Annual Report it has been mentioned that in 1986-87, a sum of Rs. 126 crore had been allocated for Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal and a provision of Rs. 69.4 crore has been made for the year 1987-88 by the Central Government. When you can provide so much assistance for Sutlej-Yamuna Link Canal, you should also help for the completion of Indira Gandhi Canal so that the desert areas could develop. May I know why the Government is adopting such an indifferent attitude? The then Finance Minister and now Defence Minister had inaugurated the main canal in Mohangarh on 21 December, 1986 and had said that the Central Government was trying to obtain the assistance of the World Bank. We want that you should take assistance from

the World Bank but you should also provide special assistance so that the construction of Indira Gandhi Canal could be completed by the end of the Eighth Five Year Plan. This will increase the production of foodgrains and will solve permanently the problem of famine which occurs in the desert areas particularly in the Barmer and Jaisalmer districts and where the Government spends crores of rupees on the famine relief. The problem of drinking water will also be solved. Therefore, you should give priority to it.

No amount has been spent in the Seventh Five Year Plan in regard to the Narmada Scheme. This scheme pertains to Rajasthan, Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. Under this scheme, Sardar Sarovar Project was formulated and that should also be implemented. The exact amount which has yet not been earmarked should be allocated. The Government can take loan from the World Bank. But it should complete it by any means. This will ensure water in Barmer and Jalaur districts and the areas of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh will also get water. You should give it priority.

Eradi Commission was appointed to look into the sharing of waters of Ravi Beas rivers. It has submitted its report to the Government. I would like to take this opportunity to submit that the report of Eradi Commission is pending with the Government. A Bill in regard to the sharing of Ravi-Beas waters was presented in the House some time back and it had made a statement at that time. It should stick to its stand which it has taken in this regard. According to the verdict we are to get 8.6 million cubic feet water for irrigation. The water allocated to us should not be touched. Because on the one hand there is a problem of water-logging in Punjab and on the other, the people of our State are longing for few drops of drinking water. Under this situation it becomes your duty to safeguard the interests of the people of Rajasthan. Whatever the report of the Eradi Commission, the interests of the people of Rajasthan should be taken care

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

of. In this connection, the Prime Minister and yourself as well had given us assurance that the interests of Rajasthan would be safeguarded. I shall avail this opportunity to add that when the Bhakra Beas Management Board was constituted under the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, it was decided that Ferozepur, Ropar and Harike Headworks would be transferred to the Bhakra Management Board but due to our weakness, the Ferozepur, Ropar and Harike water works are still under Punjab. This has made our position deplorable. The sharing of water takes place in such a way that when our crops wither, water is not released from there and when our crops do not need water and are ready for harvesting, the water is released. The result is, our farmers suffer both ways. Their crops are damaged in this way. Once we have taken a stand through an Act in the Parliament that these headworks would be handed over to Bhakra Beas Management then now why vacillating attitude is being adopted. Due to this vacillation, the Act passed by Parliament is not being enforced.

All the hon. Members, who spoke here, have referred to the Inter-Dispute Act. Under the Inter Dispute Act, if there is a dispute between the two states, it is referred to the tribunal. Tribunal takes time as long as 10 to 15 years to dispose of these issues as a result which a situation of confrontation between the States continue. To avoid such situation a number of hon. Members have suggested that whenever the Central Government enacts legislation, it should assume wide powers under it. Unless the Central Government takes over the responsibility to solve this dispute, the problem will not be solved. What happens at present is that the Central Government convenes meeting and holds conference of Chief Ministers but due to the lack of powers, it cannot solve the problem by taking unanimous decision and those disputes continue to exist. Therefore, there is need that the Central Government should think over it seriously.

So far as the definition of small and marginal farmers is concerned, it applies to the whole country uniformly. In it no consideration has been given to the place, geographical situation and climate. A farming having 1.5 hectares of land has been regarded as a small farmer and a farmer having land measuring 3/4th of a hectare has been regarded as marginal farmer. This needs to be amended area-wise. The reason is that at some places the water comes out in the wells after a depth of 20 to 25 feet and at some places water is not available even at the depth of 150 feet. The places where the problem is acute include the desert areas of Rajasthan. So there is imperative need to change the definition. You have established a Technology Mission in Barmer and you are providing it help so that drinking water is made available to that area. The Central Water Board is helping it in its efforts. I appreciate the gesture. In our area, drinking water can be made available through the drilling machines only. Other techniques do not prove effective. I would request the Government to take active step in this direction. With these words I support the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I rise to support the Demands for Grants pertaining to the Ministry of Water Resources. Of all the precious things of the world, water is the most precious one. A large part of Rajasthan has been deprived of this precious wealth for thousands of years. The people of that state yearn for water. There thousands of kilometers of land is in the grip of drought where people do not get a single drop of water. If water is made available there, high quality of crops could be grown there which could feed not only Rajasthan but the whole country.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, work on the Indira Gandhi Canal Project is going on at a snail's pace. If the Government of India takes over that project, it can be completed only then. Otherwise it cannot be completed even in 60 or 70 years.

Corruption is prevailing among the employees there on large scale. Only one third of the work pertaining to that project has been completed and the rest two third work is yet to be completed. I would, therefore, appeal that the Rajasthan Canal Project should be taken over by the Centre.

Sir, I belong to the Jhunjhunu constituency of Rajasthan and the area of Jhunjhunu runs along Haryana's border and it is similar to that State. About an area of 150 kilometers of Haryana adjoins my constituency, Jhunjhunu. The canal runs upto the border of Haryana but the people of Jhunjhunu long for water. This is a great injustice to the people of that area. The Yamuna canal has been constructed upto Loharu but that water has not been supplied up to Jhunjhunu whereas Jhunjhunu comes immediately after Loharu. There the people are yearning for water whereas Loharu has large quantity of water. When you can supply water of Yamuna upto Loharu in Haryana then why it cannot be extended upto Jhunjhunu? From there it can also be supplied upto Sikar, Jaipur, Alwar and Bharatpur. Similarly the water of Ganga can also be supplied upto Bharatpur, Jaipur, Sikar and Jhunjhunu. But this has not been done and the people of that area are yearning for water for centuries.

Sir, my constituency Jhunjhunu is such an area where three types of persons live. They are jawans, farmers and businessmen. In spite of acute shortage of water—it is not available even at the depth of as much as 150 meters—the farmers draw water from the well to irrigate their land. Therefore, the small and the marginal farmers should be exempted from paying power charges in the Jhunjhunu area so that they may be able to earn their livelihood. If you exempt the farmers from paying power charges, they will be able to irrigate their land and in this way the production of foodgrains will increase.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some corrupt employees are employed there. No pro-

gress can take place in that area till they are there. There is an Executive Engineer in that area against whom CBI enquiry is going on and a case has already been filed against him. In spite of this, such people are holding high position. Corrupt officers can never develop their districts. They cannot draw out any scheme for the development of their districts. I hope the hon. Minister will pay attention towards this issue.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is acute shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan. The people of that area join army and keep vigil on the borders of the country to defend it from the enemies. They shed their blood for this cause. But their family members have to walk as much as 10 to 15 kilometers to fetch water. Earlier, it was proposed to supply drinking water to Jhunjhunu from the Rajasthan Canal. But now we have come to know that the proposed scheme is being cancelled. I would appeal to you that keeping in view the difficulties that are faced by the armymen, farmers and traders, this scheme should not be shelved. People of that area can shed their blood but it is very difficult to get water. Under these circumstances, I would request you to make water of this canal available for drinking and irrigation purposes.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, while making demand to make the water of the Indira Gandhi Canal available for Jhunjhunu, I would also like to say that a Wind Project and a Solar Energy project be set up there so that the people of those areas may get their facilities and they may be able to earn their livelihood without any difficulty.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARI (Madhubani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Minister of Water Resources as he wants to solve the biggest problem of the country. In my view whatever amount is allocated to this Ministry would not be sufficient. If we are able to solve the problem of irrigation, then the shortage of

[Shri Abdul Hannan Ansari]

foodgrains in the country as also the problem of unemployment in the country would be solved to a great extent.

Today 80 percent of our population is engaged in the agricultural work and they continue to face the problems. I would like to tell the situation in my area and especially in Northern Bihar. I have stated all these things in this House many a times and I have apprised the Hon. Prime Minister also through several letters that people in seven districts in North Bihar are always affected by floods during rainy season. It all happens because of the three main rivers—Kosi, Kamla Balan and Adhawara group of rivers—which keep the area submerged for 3 monts in a year.

Adhawara group of rivers have their source in the mountains and 11 of its branches sub-merge 4 districts of Bihar. The farmers of neighbouring areas, who sow their crops repeatedly are deprived of their crops. When attention was drawn repeatedly in this connection, then two years back it was told that the work in this regard would be completed in three phases, but no work has been started so far. It is a matter of regret. These smaller rivers are known by the name of Khirohi, Dhons, Kare and Kamla etc.

Kamla canal project has been formulated on the river Kamla Balan. On my election. I came to know that Nepal Government has constructed a dam on the main stream of the river and they open its gate during rainy season. But when there is need of water for irrigation, they close the gates of the dam and do not allow water to flow to our side. It was replied that a decision would be taken about distribution of water after holding talks with the Nepal Government, but it is a matter of regret that despite drawing the attention of the Government, no concrete steps has been taken in this regard.

Recently I had asked a question, in reply to which it was again repeated that talks would be held with the Nepal Government. I do not know whether

talks in this connection would be held after 1990 or in the 21st century. Full attention should be paid towards this issue. This is an issue which concerns the lives of one million people of the area, who are facing the difficulties. Can we not think about them ?

The third major river is known as Kosi. In 1952 late Dr. Rajendra Prasad had inaugurated Kosi Project and a barrage was constructed on it. When the question of construction of canal arose, the issue of Eastern and Western Canal came up. The construction of Hydro electric project was also envisaged, but that scheme too has not been completed so far. Through you, Sir I would ask the hon. Minister to look into all these things.

A sum of Rs. 500 crores was earmarked for the construction of this project, but now the estimated cost of the project has gone up to Rs. 5000 crores, but even then this project does not seem to be getting completed. There are continuous irregularities. Bungalows of the officers and staff are being constructed and canal is not being constructed at all. Does the Central Government not monitor the implementation of projects for which huge amounts are allocated to the State Governments by it ? The Central Government should at least supervise them and intervene to ensure proper utilisation of funds ? If we complete those projects, I can say with authority that the problem of starvation and unemployment being faced by the people of North Bihar would be solved and the Centre would be able to solve the problem of unemployment.

I hope that the hon. Minister would pay special attention towards this. These are the projects which have been approved by the Central Government. In the Kamla Project, a large quantity of sand has accumulated and water could not be supplied through it. Would you kindly make arrangements for clearing the sand ?

Drawing your attention to all these things, I support the Demands for Grants of this Ministry.

(English)

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) :
 Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to express my views about the irrigation available in India. As an agricultural country with erratic rains ; arid and semi-arid land, the importance of irrigation has increased a lot. From the beginning of our independence, we have been trying to take up major, medium and minor projects. I do not want to go into all the details but I want to suggest that there should be shift of policy in our irrigation approach. It has been seen that we always try to tackle the major irrigation projects. These major irrigation projects are economic and it gives us irrigation facilities at cheaper rates and also creates hydro-electric projects. But silting is the main problem that most of the major projects are facing today. We have also seen that major and medium projects take a very longer time and ultimately the estimate that was prepared in the beginning is doubled or trebled and in many cases it goes much beyond the imagination. The price escalation is there and the people for whom it is meant, the beneficiaries, don't get the benefit immediately. As such I would suggest that minor irrigation projects should be given preference all over the country. There are reasons why I say this. We have seen that silting problem is the main problem as far as the major projects are concerned. You will appreciate that if we have a small *bandhara* on a rivulet or a streamlet or on a tributary, we can certainly stop the silt going from this area to the major projects.

Secondly, these projects can be completed at an early date and the benefits can be accrued immediately. We have also seen when the Tungbhadra Project was completed, the people were reluctant to avail of the irrigation facilities. Ultimately Shri C.D. Deshmukh and Panditji had to go there and tell them, if they do not utilise the water, they will be shifted and some other people who will use the irrigation facilities will be given the lands. Here, the same was the case, when the Nizam Sagar Dam was taken up in Hyderabad State. The cultivators were

initially reluctant and people from Andhra came and purchased some of the lands, and started growing sugarcane. What I suggest if we have minor projects submergence of villages will be less and moreover the cost also will be less and the people will get the benefits immediately. With drought conditions prevailing throughout the South, Maharashtra and Gujarat, what we find is that there is scarcity of fodder ; there is scarcity of drinking water for as well as cattle. Sir, if we have small projects we can definitely give the benefit of drinking water to the people as well as the cattle living in that area. Sir, in this ancient country, we have seen that in small State like Manipur there are projects which are even today being managed by the people themselves. There is no Government authority. All the repairs, major, minor and even field channels, are down by the beneficiaries themselves. Same is the case in certain districts of Nasik and Thana in Maharashtra. Sir, why not we do that ? If it is a minor project, the beneficiaries themselves can look after it and settle the grievances. There won't be any corruption, there won't be an extra officer to take bribe and all that. So, I suggest that this particular thing should be introduced and it should be encouraged.

Sir, when Pochampari has Project was taken up, I remember, a local Congress MLA Mr. Gadanna came all the way here to convince the Government that before they start Pochampabad Project, we must see that all the small nalas, all the small nalas, all the small rivers are blocked so that the silt does not come to Pochampabad. Unfortunately, it could not be taken up. But, I wish it had been done. There are the things which I want to bring before you.

Sir, I have a small booklet which shows 25.5 million hectare was under major and medium Project and 32.9 million hectares was under minor projects. While the entire potential under minor schemes was used, only 85% of potential under the major and medium works was utilised. Sir, why do we waste our energy on these

[Shri Uttam Rathod]

projects ? Therefore, I would say that let us concentrate on minor projects. Today, I found AIDMK leader grumbling about water. I remember when I visited South, the Periyar River water was quietly used by Tamil Nadu State. Subsequently, the people of Kerala realised that they must use this water and that is how Edduki Project came.

Sir, in the State of Tamil Nadu, they have got the maximum number of wells, almost half the number of wells in India are situated in Tamil Nadu. They do not give water for 12 months. They give water for about 6 or 8 months and the water is spread on the extensive area so that well can have water for irrigation. We should have first gone and taken up the minor project. If we do that, the problems that were raised by Hon. Lady Member, Mrs. Gupta about the projects from Bihar, would not have cropped up. The beneficiaries also will get it soon and the cost of production also will be reduced.

[Translation]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanshpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to submit two or three points. I have gone through this Report many a times from the beginning to end, but I did not find anything objectionable in it. I would like to ask one or two questions to the hon. Minister. I want to know as to how long would it take to finalise the water policy ? You have written that many conferences and many meetings have been held and will again be held. I want to know as to how long would it take to finalise the policy ? You have written that the meeting which was held recently was attended by the Hon. Prime Minister also. I quote from the proceedings of the meeting held in July, 1986. It has been mentioned in it that :—

[English]

* The need for prioritisation of ongoing projects was stressed, and it was recommended that a review committee may be set up in each

State under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, to draw up priorities for the optimal allocation of limited resources."

[Translation]

If the work is to be done under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, then he will go by the advice of the bureaucrats. I would like to submit that the people's representatives, M.Ps. and M.L.As. should also be involved and they should be asked as to what are their views. If you give me time. I can explain to you in detail about the projects in Bihar, but I am afraid, you would not give me time. I want to submit two or three points.

It is written in this booklet that a major portion of work on Kosi Project has been completed. Sir, I would request you that a committee of four or five hon. Members of this House be constituted and it should be sent to Bihar to ascertain the progress of various projects there in which the centre invests the funds. The original estimated cost of Kosi Project was Rs. 13 crores, which has now gone up to Rs. 282 crores. If you see the situation there, you will be horrified to see the reality. Iron rods, cement, bricks worth lakhs of rupees have been dumped on the sides of the roads. It has not been done recently. This situation is continuing for many years. It would not be a surprise if the funds which are being wasted come to crores of rupees. I had raised this matter in the House earlier also. The Centre is providing the funds to the Kosi project and Nepal Government is interested in Kosi Project. The Centre and Bihar Government both are involved in it, but we shirk our responsibility by saying that the project has to be executed by the State Government. The Bihar Government says that it has assigned the work to the engineers. I have already said that loot is going on in Bihar. A saying is widely prevalent among the people—"L/4, Loot divided by Four". The funds earmarked for an irrigation project are divided among four categories of people—Engineers, contractors, bureaucrats and local politicians". There should be a

thorough enquiry to find out as to why the work on Central Project is not being done? Kosi Project is situated in my constituency. A sum of Rs. 55 lakhs in cash was recovered from the house of a bureaucrat and I can say with authority that even today if raids are conducted, a sum of Rs. 50 to Rs. 55 lakhs in cash should be recovered from the engineers' residences. Though all such things are being done before our eyes, yet we keep silent. I, therefore, request you to reconsider this matter.

It has been said in this booklet that work is merely co-ordinated by the Central Government. If you keep silent by saying that the Centre merely undertakes co-ordination or monitoring, and engineers as well as contractors are allowed to pocket public money, how could the work be done then? We are fighting here in Delhi for each single paisa and resources are raised with great difficulty. When there is deficit financing, it brings us bad name and it is demanded that taxes should not be levied. But at the same time, the public money is being pocketed by some individuals. A new class of people is coming up, which would not allow democracy to function in the country. You should pay attention to the things that are going on. I would like to request you to visit Bihar without any prior information to anyone and see for yourself as to what is being done on the Central Projects. You have written in this Report that work on minor irrigation has been included in the 20-Points Programme and that too is being monitored by the Central Government. But there too no work is being done. Our area North Bihar is very unfortunate. It has a gold mine but that is not being exploited. The rivers emerging from Nepal create havoc in our region. At present we have good relations with Nepal. If some arrangements are made to construct dams etc. on those rivers, there can be so much generation of power from the waters that the entire North India can be industrialised. If you pay some attention towards this, the whole of North India can be industrialised and Nepal too can be transformed into a new country but instead, we are

facing destruction from these rivers at present. Time has come when we should think seriously about this aspect.

I may tell you that when May and June come, the people of North Bihar start shivering with the apprehension as to what will happen to them. The rains bring untold miseries for the low lying areas. There is no system to intimate the people in advance. You have written in this booklet that you have made arrangements for advance intimation of floods but in North Bihar there is no such arrangement. The entire region remains submerged, not only in October and November but even in the month of February also. The sick cannot move out to the cities even for treatment. It is a very serious but it can be controlled. What is required is the will power. If this will power is shown, that will not only be beneficial for the North Bihar, the whole of North India will be benefited from it. The North Bihar as a result of this, will produce—both industrially and agriculturally—so much that the country's shape will be changed.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Janjgir): My Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands of the Ministry of Water Resources. 75 percent of our population is dependent on agriculture and when we talk of agriculture it becomes necessary to see that the water should be utilised purposefully and should be controlled properly. That is why our Government has given priority to irrigation and development of water resources in the 20 Point Programme. In this connection through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that when water is in excess—be it through rains or rivers—provision should be made that this water is controlled because uncontrolled water becomes destructive in many ways. Firstly it goes waste and secondly it causes soil erosion which results in loss of the fertility of the land. For this, as has been emphasised by the earlier speakers, preference should be given to small irrigation projects and it should be ensured that water is utilised by formulating low-cost, time-bound programmes.

[Dr. Prabhat Kumar Mishra]

This will solve the problem of water level going down because of which we are unable to utilise it fully. We will be able to maintain water table properly. In this connection I would like to emphasise that programmes must be time-bound otherwise they result in escalation of cost which, as the earlier hon. speaker has said, provides scope for corruption. It is surprising that whenever the topic of irrigation is discussed, it is taken for granted that corruption is part of the scheme, be it of the State level or of the Central level. It is said that the maximum of scope of corruption is in the Irrigation Department. It is a routine matter in that Department. As regards time-bound programmes, I would like to submit that there are several irrigation projects of Madhya Pradesh e.g. Bhainasajhar, Agarhah, Arva and construction of left embankment of Bango which have been lying undecided. When we take up the matter with the State Government it is said that these are pending with the Centre. When we contact the Centre, we are told that full details have not been sent by the State. Due to the absence of time-bound programmes, all these delays occur.

Bango dam is a very big project which is to be completed with the help of World Bank. Construction of the left embankment of the canal is also not being completed.

In the hill areas there are several water falls. If these are properly utilised then not only we will be using them as hydel resources, these can be used for irrigation purposes also. We will have to establish coordination between irrigation, power and soil conservation. Unless it is done we cannot use the water properly for irrigation.

As regards the repair of the old irrigation schemes I submit that for the dams constructed since 1927 you provide Rs. 50 to Rs. 75 per hectare for maintenance. It is quite inadequate and with this amount the repair work cannot be carried out. The silt has gathered in the old dams which has reduced their capacity.

This aspect should be paid special attention to.

CADA is doing very good work in the field of irrigation. But under this programme, priority is given in the head area. At the tail ends, schemes regarding construction of roads, plantation and other items should also be taken in hand.

The setting up of industries is resulting in pollution of rivers and the depth of the rivers is also reducing. This results in shortage of water resources in summer. This aspect should also be taken care of.

Under the irrigation schemes irrigation tax is increased but no guarantee is given at the time of increasing this tax that water will reach the farmers' fields for irrigation. This results in difficulty in recovery of irrigation tax. In spite of hike in irrigation tax water is not made available to the farmers for irrigation. This makes the farmers unable to pay taxes. In Madhya Pradesh authorities have not been able to recover irrigation tax for the last ten years. At the time of imposing irrigation tax, it should be ensured that the water will reach fields. The arrears should be written off.

In formulating the big schemes the problem of displacement of people comes. They have to be resettled. Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government that it should give priority to the small irrigation schemes. For example, difficulties are coming in the way of Bango dam which is a big project.

Tubewells are permanent source of irrigation. These are important for providing drinking water also. More facilities should be provided for sinking tubewells so that more and more people are attracted towards this programme.

In regard to lift irrigation, priority should be given to the hill areas where canal water does not reach. Water should be made available through this system to these areas.

More minor irrigation schemes should

be provided in the Adivasi areas. I would urge that such schemes should be considered for the Madhya Pradesh areas so that the economical condition of the Adivasi areas is improved.

Under the Minor Schemes you have provided for rectification of diesel pump sets. I want that those areas which are not covered under CADA, they should be brought under the 'Rectification of Diesel Pump Set' Programme. For example in Bilaspur area Hasdev-Maniari Command Area does not come under it. This area should also be provided this facility.

Under the present scheme in Katkora area which is an Adivasi area of Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh lift irrigation has been provided for the development. I want that lift irrigation should be promoted there under EEC or KFW Schemes which are being run with foreign assistance.

In the hill areas of Eastern Madhya Pradesh assistance is provided by the State Government for tubewells. The Central Government should provide assistance for rigs so that tubewells programme could be accelerated.

In addition, ground water scheme has been formulated for the tribal areas. Under this programme drilling work for the tubewells for irrigation should be done in the catchment area of Hasdev-Bango Major Irrigation Project so that the Adivasis of this area are benefited.

Under National Water Development Agency's Programme an inter-linking scheme of Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Pennar and Kaveri rivers has been formulated. You have said that 18500 million cubic water is to reach Godavari basin from Mahanadi basin. Before you do this, kindly have a survey of the Mahanadi Basin area whether it has this much surplus water to supply to Godavari. If it is available then a survey of the water capacity and water utilisation of Mahanadi Basin should be conducted and more water should be utilised for Eastern Madhya Pradesh, Western region of

Orissa and even Southern region of W. Bengal which is kharif crop area so that these areas may be benefited. An irrigation scheme on these lines should be formulated. With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI KAMMODI LAL JATAV (Morena): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands presented by the Minister of Water Resources for the year 1987-88. I also congratulate the Minister of Water Resources and the Prime Minister for buffer production of foodgrains. We were having inadequate resources of water earlier but the Government constructed Gandhi Sagar Dam, Indira Sagar Dam Bhakra Dam, Ban Sagar Dam, Krishna Sagar Dam etc. and made arrangements for irrigation by providing tubewells in every district. These steps have helped in enhancing the foodgrain production and now we do not have any problem regarding foodgrains. Even then some of the hon. Members have expressed concern. I have heard all the hon. Members and I also agree with their anxiety and submit certain points relating to my constituency Morena.

15 rivers flow near my constituency, Morena but through the canal which has been carved out of Gandhi Sagar, water is provided for irrigation to three districts, namely, Kota, Morena and Bhind. You can very well imagine as to how much water these three districts must be getting from a canal which is just 600 km. away. Near Morena constituency area, at least 15 rivers are flowing but in spite of this the area remains thirsty. Rivers are flowing nearby but water for the area is coming from a distance of 600 kms. How then the area can get water for irrigation? Therefore, I request the Minister of Water Resources that the lift irrigation scheme in regard to Esah village of Chambal River sent by the Madhya Pradesh Government should be sanctioned immediately so that the farmers there are able to get water. Similarly, lift irrigation schemes for different places on Sak and Seep rivers in my area should also be formulated. This will provide irrigation facilities to my area.

I want to make one more submission.

[Shri Kammodi Lal Jatav]

There are at least two such Development Blocks, Vijaypur and Karha, near my constituency, Morena where there is cent percent Harijan-Adivasi population. In this area, not to speak of irrigation, adequate arrangements for drinking water have not been made. Therefore, tanks etc. should be constructed so that the people there may be able to get drinking water as well as water for irrigation.

Lastly, I would submit something about the Morena district of Chambal area which has been a dacoit infested region. There are ravines in 400 kms which have been formed as a result of land erosion by the rivers. Rivers flow nearby. When I was a member of the Legislative Assembly in Madhya Pradesh I had appealed to the State Government for development of this 400 km area. Now here also I submit that Study Teams should be sent there to find out ways and means to provide water for this 400 km land which is lying uncultivated. In this way a large number of Harijans, the poor, educated youths etc. will be getting employment and will earn their livelihood.

With these words I conclude and thank you for giving me time to speak.

*SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikaballapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wholeheartedly welcome the demands for grants of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1987-88. I support the demands and put forward some important suggestions for the kind consideration of our hon. Minister.

We achieved our independence 40 years ago and more than 70% of our population is engaged in agriculture. In spite of this, the achievement in the field of agriculture looking to the number of people engaged in it is not satisfactory. There were days when we were importing foodgrains. Now we are standing on our own legs. Achievement of self sufficiency in food grains is not enough. We are in a position to supply food grains to the whole world as majority of our population is engaged in agriculture. This can happen only when

all the water resources in the country are utilised properly.

Severe drought is prevailing in some parts of the country. Our hon. Prime Minister visited our State recently. He came to Bagepalli in my constituency and with his own eyes the miserable condition of the people who are affected by drought. The rain fall in Kolar district is only 16 inches a year. Many people who are affected by the severe drought have already started migrating to the neighbouring States like Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. There is no water to drink even to a sparrow.

Under these difficult situations it is most unfortunate to note that there are imbalances in the utilisation of water resources. We are sons of the same mother Bharath Matha. Hence there should not be any imbalances. These days the principle of "might is right" is being practiced. Those who can speak more get the benefit and others who keep quiet are neglected completely.

On one hand, in Karnataka State the percentage of irrigated land is only 21% on the other hand in States like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu it is 48% and 46% respectively. It is better not to compare States like Haryana and Punjab where the percentage of irrigated land is more than 75%. Therefore, it is high time to remove imbalances with regard to utilisation of water resources.

The huge imbalance between northern and southern States is no secret. Some balance has to be maintained between northern and southern regions. Ganga has to be linked with Kaveri. This will enable the excess water to flow to the Southern regions.

Upper Krishna project has to be completed at the earliest. This will enable the people of Kolar, Tumkur, Chitradurga and Bellary districts to irrigate their lands. About 31 lakh acres of land will come under irrigation. Hence, I urge upon the hon. Minister to complete the Upper Krishna project on a top priority basis.

* The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

The people of Karnataka do not come in the way of others. Therefore, let the Telugu Ganga project go ahead. Charity begins at home. Hence let us first utilise Krishna water before donating it to others where the irrigated land is more than double when compared to our State. Krishna river water has to be utilised by Karnataka according to the 'B' Scheme.

18.00 hrs.

I request the hon. Minister not to wait for the State Govt. to sent its plans. Many people in my State may die without drinking water. Hence it is not advisable for the Centre to wait for the plan estimation from Karnataka.

Temporary assistance should be provided to the people of Kolar district especially in Chikaballapur area where there is scarcity of drinking water. Bore wells have to be dug throughout the district when Shri K.L. Rao was the Minister in the Centre he did a lot to his State of Andhra Pradesh. Similarly I expect our hon. Minister Shri Shankaranand also to do great help for the State of Karnataka and to rescue the people from the jaws of severe drought.

I hope that the hon. Minister will definitely help my State to rise its percentage of irrigated land from 21 to 50% at least.

I urge upon the Minister to complete the diversification of Mahanadi immediately.

Sir, I thank for giving me this opportunity and with these words, I conclude my speech.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (Shrimati Sheila Dikshit) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I propose that the sitting of the House may be extended up to 6.30 p.m.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I hope the Members will accept it.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Banwari Lal Bairwa may speak.

[Translation]

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA (Tonk) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources, I know you will not allow me much time to speak. Hence I would like to put forth only some of my points before you. First of all, I express my gratitude to the hon. Minister for his according sanction to Bisalpur Dam project this year. Work has started on it. All the hon. Members from Rajasthan have said that Rajasthan is facing severe drought this year. Rajasthan's situation is different from that of other parts of India. Other States can afford their water go waste, but Rajasthan cannot afford a drop of its water to go waste. Therefore, you must prepare a definite scheme in this regard. I would like to speak only this much about the Indira Gandhi Canal that I approve the views expressed by our hon. Members in this regard, I want to submit one or two points.

First of all I want to submit that there are 12 main rivers in Kota district as has been told yesterday by one of hon. Member and all of them flow from Madhya Pradesh. Large quantities of water flow in them. You should prepare such schemes for them that the remaining parts of Rajasthan are benefited by them.

Secondly, I would like to submit that you have fixed a uniform definition for the small and marginal farmers of the whole country. But I suggest that keeping in view the geographical and other factors, you may bring a minor change in it. Rajasthan's situation is quite different from that of other States. In Rajasthan 5 to 7 bighas of land does not carry any meaning. It is so less. Because it is a desert area and its fertility is also very less. Therefore, you should reconsider your decision. It is so because in other parts 15 bighas of land is allotted, but in Rajasthan there are areas where 75 bighas of land is allotted. Therefore, you should consider your decisions and enhance land ceiling for small and marginal farmers.

[Shri Banwari Lal Bairwa]

Thirdly, the Government of Rajasthan is constructing major and medium projects by spending crores of rupees from which the farmers are getting benefits. On the other hand the small farmers make the irrigation facilities available to themselves by digging small wells with their own efforts. But you are collecting tax from them at the same rate on which you are collecting from those farmers who are availing of the advantage of the canals. There is wide difference between the farmers who make irrigation arrangements with their own efforts and those who avail the advantage of schemes run by the Government and you should levy taxes on them accordingly. In the absence of such arrangement the small farmer is getting crushed. The hon. Minister of Welfare is also present here. She visits Rajasthan oftenly and is fully aware of arrangements prevailing there. She has seen that the number of big projects are very less in Rajasthan and the small farmers have made irrigation arrangements by digging wells themselves. Keeping all these aspect in view, you should make such arrangements which may benefit the small farmers. The rates of the tax should not be the same for the small farmers as is being charged from those farmers who are getting irrigation facilities from Canals. The small and marginal farmers do not possess much land. They do not have much money. They do not earn much. Their children cannot pursue their studies. How can then they maintain their families? How can they repay your loans? It is my submission that you may please take appropriate decision in respect of small and marginal farmers keeping all these factors in view. If you provide non-refundable money to the small farmers, then they can dig wells and get more and more benefits. Harijans and Girijans will also come under this category. Their condition is very bad in this country, and they find it very difficult to repay the money. Therefore, you may please consider this aspect seriously.

You have undertaken work on all the big rivers in the country. It is because of this that we have been able to provide

irrigation facilities to 70 million hectares of land. We have the target of providing irrigation facilities to 113 million hectares of land. But with the pace we are proceeding, it will be difficult to achieve the target. For that it is very necessary that whatever projects we have prepared, should be so implemented that we may make maximum utilisation of them. Otherwise, it so happens that 'Kuchcha' canals break the embankments and their waters goes waste. Sometimes it spreads on roads and sometimes it falls in rivers and rivulets. The Government has spent crores of rupees on these projects. Therefore, we should take concrete steps to avail full benefits from them. Lastly, I want to draw the attention of the Government towards a very important point.

As dry land, requires water, similarly the people belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes need your sympathy and fellow-feeling. If I start reading the entire book provided by your Ministry, it will take a lot of time. Therefore, I want to say something about some particular institutions. There are total number of 55 posts in category 'A' in the Ministry of Water Resources, out of which 3 persons belong to Scheduled Castes and there is no one from Scheduled Tribes. There are 42 posts of Gazetted Officers, out of which 7 persons belong to Scheduled Castes and no one from Scheduled Tribes. Out of 81 posts of non-gazetted officers, 10 persons belong to Scheduled Castes and there is no one from Scheduled Tribes. As against 159 posts of employees under category 'C', 17 persons belong to Scheduled Castes and only one person belongs to Scheduled Tribes. In group 'D', which consists of labourers etc., only 4 persons belong to Scheduled Tribes. Similarly, there is no person belonging to these categories in Group 'B' and 'A' in Farakka Barrage Project, Onga Flood Control Project, Sone River Commission. The number of persons belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Mahi Corporation, Sardar Sarovar Construction Advisory Committee, Brahmaputra Board, Betwa River Board, Narmada Control Board is very less. It is my submission that you

may have sympathy towards Harijans and tribals and should take concrete steps to fill up their backlog and safeguard their interests. Since time is short, with these words I support the Demands of Grants of this Ministry. I also want that you should get more funds than the Demands you have made so that our people may receive more and more benefits.

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants in respect of the Ministry of Water Resources, but through you I want to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards some important points. Out of 45 districts in Madhya Pradesh, about 37 districts have come under the grip of drought this year and due to drought various difficulties have arisen. The percentage of irrigation is far less in Madhya Pradesh than other States. Therefore, first of all I want to put forth a demand that special programmes may be prepared in order to bring Madhya Pradesh at par with other States in the matter of percentage of irrigated areas.

Sir, I want to speak about eastern Madhya Pradesh, specially about the schemes of Bundelkhand, Panna and Damoh districts. I specially want to draw the attention towards the Pancham Nagar Irrigation Scheme in Damoh district which has been pending for several years. When I enquired about this from the Central Government, I was told that some information has been called for from the Government of Madhya Pradesh and for quite a long time, the Government of Madhya Pradesh has not furnished the required information. I am of view that our responsibility does not end after calling for the information. If the requisite information has not been received from there, the Central Government should make special efforts to call for the information and special attention should be paid toward its implementation. The second scheme is the Kane Irrigation Project in Panna district. This Project is also stuck up in files. I request the hon. Minister to clear this scheme also.

Sir, I also want to say that the entire water of all the small rivers and rivulets goes waste. Anicut type schemes should also be prepared for them so that the small farmers, villages, townships, and backward areas may avail of the benefits of this water. It is a matter of pride that we have become self-dependent in foodgrains. But we have not become self-dependent in pulses and oil. We still import pulses worth crores of rupees. We should pay special attention towards it. I want to say that as Madhya Pradesh exports pulses, efforts should be made that, there is more production of pulses in Madhya Pradesh. It will be possible only when its incomplete irrigation Projects are completed.

Sir, through you, I submit to the hon. Minister to get completed the incomplete irrigation schemes of the eastern region of Madhya Pradesh, specially of Bundelkhand. I am sure that when he replies to this, we will feel that attention has been paid towards the points put forth by us.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. I want to draw your attention specially towards Delhi. There is acute shortage of water for the growing population of Delhi. If you go 10 kms. from here to Tughlakabad, you will find that women form queues during night or early in the morning to fetch water from small water tanks dug 3 feet deep by the side of the roads. Earthen pots are put in que there. They are facing great hardship.

Similar is the case of rehabilitation colonies. In the countryside, there are two villages called Karala and Grewara. There has been shortage of water in these villages too. 100 million gallons of water comes from Haryana to Haiderpur plant. It is treated there and supplies to public in the villages and the city. Similarly, the second plant in Delhi has been set up in Sahdara and the water of Ganga reaches there from U.P. This water is also treated and supplied to the public. Though this water has been available for

[Shri Bharat Singh]

last several years but the population is growing day by day. Today the population has increased 4 times and the water shortage continues to increase. I want that the hon. Minister may pay attention towards it. The water quota for Delhi from U.P. and Haryana may be increased. As it is, the Government has set up tube-wells and has also made a lot of efforts in this regard. Pure air and pure water are very essential for human beings.

Delhi is the capital of India. When it faces water shortage, we face considerable difficulties. The water quota from Haryana and Delhi may be increased so that we are able to set up one more plant to supply water to the growing population in rehabilitation colonies, villages and flats constructed by the D.D.A.

I want to draw your attention towards agriculture. You will find that the land of Delhi is being acquired daily and land for agriculture is gradually reducing. The farmers require more irrigation facilities. For this purpose water is being supplied from tube-wells at some places and at some places it is supplied from 'nullah'. But canal water is not available to-day. There is shortage of water in canals. The canal banks, whom we call 'Patarias' have broken. As a result of this, water spills over at places and goes waste. There is no rain these days and there is shortage of fodder for cattle. Earlier, ponds were got filled with water and the animals used to drink water from these ponds. But this also has become difficult these days. Therefore, there is a greater need of water in Delhi so that more and more areas are irrigated. Water has been supplied from 'nullah' to 10 to 12 villages. There are 20 to 25 more villages and they should also get water. You are going to spend Rs. 12 crores this year. I want that this scheme may be started as early as possible so that means of irrigation are increased to yield better crops of the farmers.

You know that major portion of Delhi's population consists of people who have come from outside. They want to

live in Delhi more comfortably. We want that more and more areas in villages are irrigated. The water level in the tube-wells has gone down these days. Why has it gone down? Because flood has done a good job and the drains have been cleaned. When there is no water in the drains, the water-level in the tube-wells goes down. 3 feet high wall may be constructed on the banks of all the drains so that the drains may remain filled with 3 feet water all the time and the level of tube-well water does not go down and more and more land is irrigated. I hope that the hon. Minister will pay attention towards Delhi, its villages and the colonies. I fear that there may not be so much shortage of water for the increasing population, that we may have to supply water through ration cards. This is the apprehension. Therefore, I want that the hon. Minister should pay more and more attention. You can visit my area and see for yourself as to how women form queues for water. You must pay attention towards it.

With these words I thank you and conclude.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. The Demands of the Ministry of Water Resources are being discussed. These are discussed every year but I would like to say to the hon. Minister that the present situation, as we observe daily, is causing great concern and only your Department can do something to remove this situation.

Ours is an agricultural country and 60 to 70 per cent people of our country are engaged in this occupation. But today, agriculture is becoming unprofitable. One reason for it is that no effort is made to find out some permanent solution for the problem. The situation is worsening day by day and lakhs of people are becoming jobless. People are migrating to the cities and they are not taking interest in agriculture. I want to say that you should take some concrete steps in this regard and the people should get full benefits of the schemes undertaken by the Government.

Secondly, we face floods and drought problems which effect lakhs of people every year. You cannot get away from these problems as long as you do not find their permanent solution. We have so many rivers but we do not make proper use of them and that is why some parts of our country face flood problem and other parts face drought problem. In our country, a major part of agriculture depends on rain Gods. If our Ministry of Water Resources does its duty seriously, the prevailing chaos in the rural areas can be removed. The main benefit of it will be that people will take interest in agriculture and they will consider it as an industry.

Now I want to say something about my own constituency. There are such rivers in our area which damage our land every year. The per acre production of that land is 150 mound of peddy and 75 mound of wheat. You will find that the land of about 50 villages in that area has become desert and has 3 to 4 feet high layer of sand. The fields in some villages, such as Doulatpur, Arheet, Govindpur, Wadhuganj, Koroma, Madhopur etc. have become sandy because they are situated on the banks of rivers. The Central Government should formulate a plan to clear the sand because, farmers in that area have become landless and they have become labourers.

There is a Muhana Dam Project for our area which has been pending with the Central Water Commission for the last 11 years but it has not yet been cleared. Same is the condition of Dardha-Pun Pun Project. If you clear both these projects they will greatly benefit the areas of Aurangabad, Gaya, Jahanabad, Masoudi and Dhanrua and these areas can be saved from calamity of floods and drought. Therefore, you should clear these projects at your earliest.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Water Resources. Ours is a agricultural country. After independence, we have mobilised our various irrigation resources, as a result of which today our country has record production of foodgrains.

I would like to say one or two points to the hon. Minister. We can irrigate lakhs of acres of land in our country with our big irrigation projects like Narmada Sagar Project and Ban Ganga Project and we can also generate power from them. But the cost of these projects is accelerating day by day. The project which could have been completed with Rs. 10 crores will now cost Rs. 100 crores. The Water of our national rivers goes waste into the sea. Why should, therefore, we not make use of this Water ?

You may complete the project in 10 years or in 20 years but you have to formulate such schemes to utilise the water which goes waste into the sea. If such projects are not undertaken by you it will be difficult to construct dams on these rivers after 15 or 20 years. Our National water is either being utilised by other people or it is going waste into the sea. I would ask the hon. Minister as to why the construction work of Narmada Project is not being taken up immediately. It would benefits a large number of people and electricity will also be generated from it Gujarat has already spent Rs. 400 crores on Sarada Sarowar without the permission of the Centre and work on it is going on speedily. Madhya Pradesh areas will be submerged under it. The foundation stone of Indira Sarowar was laid by our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi on 23rd Oct., 1984 but it has not been given clearance till now. Whether it is Bargi Diversion plan, Narmada Sagar, Onkareshwar, Maheeshwar, Maan or Jobet scheme, all rivers connected with them pass through Madhya Pradesh but other States are benefiting from them. Our colleagues from Gujarat Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh who are sitting here, are taking the benefits of the water of Madhya Pradesh. Why are you treating the people of Madhya Pradesh like this ? I would request the hon. Minister to take up these projects immediately. The people of Madhya Pradesh are poor. The farmers of Madhya Pradesh are poor. Therefore, you should make arrangements to provide water to their fields. But these projects can only be taken up if you provide funds for them.

[Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria]

I would like to say one more thing that why are you expecting help from the World Bank. The cost of these projects get increased due to this and multi national companies also get themselves involved in it. (*Interruptions*) I am concluding in a minute or two. Instead of depending on others, you should take up the works of these projects at your own level because these programmes directly relate to the farmers and they will bring prosperity in our country. Therefore, instead of the World Bank, the Central Government should provide funds for these projects in the Seventh Five Year Plan so that these can be completed.

Similarly, there is one Mahi Project which has been pending for last 10 years. At that time its cost was Rs. 26 crores but now it has increased to Rs. 76 crores. The State Government has already spent a sum of Rs. 10 crores on it. For the projects, for which you have sanctioned administrative cost, employees have been posted there and they are getting their salaries. In this way crores of rupees are going waste. You should complete these projects in a planned manner.

With these words I thank you and support the Demand for Grants.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Members are telling about the difficulties of their own areas due to the shortage of water resources. There are six rivers in Murshidabad district which are causing heavy erosion. These are Ganga, Padma and Bhairav rivers. They are all causing heavy erosion and they affect about 120 kms area. Mrs. Bajpai went there during elections and addressed meeting at Dhermtara in Farrakha and she knows as to what had happened to that area. There is heavy erosion in 120 kms area. Just below the Jangipur area, the distance between Ganga and Bhagirathi is less than one km and if both rivers merge there, the entire area upto Shantipur will disappear from the map of India. The Bhagwandayoli area which is on upper side of the Ganga is adjacent to

Bangladesh. The Murshida district area is also contiguous to Bangladesh from where this river passes. If you could not check this erosion it will create much difficulty. Therefore, you should pay attention towards it. This issue was discussed earlier also in the House. I hope hon. State Minister Shri P. R. Das Munsi has told you about the erosion problem in my district and you might have received an application from our State. It is not possible for the State Government to check erosion of as long an area as 120 kms. Therefore, I am repeatedly requesting you in this regard.

I have already said about Rajasthan. Water resources are not properly utilised there. You should pay attention towards the construction of canal. At present the condition in the State is very bad.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, two big rivers flow in Andhra Pradesh. Telugu Ganga is much in the news. The work is going on an Telugu Ganga without your sanction and till now Rs. 200 crores have been spent on it by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Similarly if an upper dam is also constructed by the Karnataka Government on this river, there will be no water for the Telugu Ganga project so it is not understood as to what will happen to the investment of Rs. 800 crores. Why the distance between the Central and State Governments is widening? You should call the State Government representatives and find out a solution to this problem. Otherwise they will continue their work without your permission. I would request you kindly get this work stopped under the law. The Andhra Pradesh Government has started the construction work of the dam without your permission and if Karnataka Government also constructs dam, from where the water will come in Krishna river for two years. I request you to pay attention towards it.

I want that as you have constituted Authorities for big rivers such as Ganga Authority, you should also set up Krishna

River Authority and Cauvery Valley Authority on the same line. No Government has the capacity to utilise 2000 TMCFT Water from Godavari. Andhra Pradesh has no water. The Andhra Pradesh Government is pining for water and electricity. There is neither water nor electricity available there. Hyderabad is facing acute shortage of water. People there are dying for want of water. If this condition continues, water will be distributed there on ration cards and Government of Andhra Pradesh is going to do that. Such is the situation there. Therefore, I want that the proposed projects in that area should be given clearance immediately. 660 MW of power is generated from Inchchampalli Dam and Ilakberakad is getting water from it. Besides, water can also be supplied to Hyderabad from this Dam. 1000 MW of power can be generated if a dam is constructed at Bhopalpatnam. This project should be given clearance immediately by you. In this way, by constructing these two dams, flow of water can be controlled. In the absence of these dams, three districts are getting flooded every year. This year floods have caused heavy damage worth Rs. 1000 crores. This could have been saved and water could have been supplied to the drought affected area. Only Polwaram Segorawari water cannot be controlled by them. Therefore, I want that a plan at the national level should be formulated. These big rivers should be under your control. Just now one of our colleagues was telling about Pochampad Project. He said the correct thing. 5 TMC earth was estimated by 1987 in Pochampad Project but till now 8 TMC earth has come in it. It will reduce its life span. Earlier its life span was 100 years but now it will be filled with the earth in 25 to 50 years time. Due to less depth, the water spills over and goes waste in to the sea. To utilise this water, the construction of high level canal and digging of flood channels are must. The proposal has come to the Central Government and it is very essential to give clearance to it at the earliest. In addition, it is also necessary to provide adequate fund so that this dam can be fully utilised. It is very necessary for the Central Govern-

ment to provide funds for the constructions of high level canal at the earliest. Such assurance was given by late Shrimati Indira Gandhi in her last speech in Oct., 1984 in a public meeting held at Jangaon.

I would like to say one thing more. This year, 1.75 lakh acres of land have been brought under irrigation from Pochampad Project but due to the less water the peddy crop has withered in that area. When the Maharashtra Government was requested to supply water for this project from its dam, it refused and as a result of that peddy crop in 1.75 lakh acres of land withered away. With this neither Maharashtra Government nor Andhra Government lost any thing. It caused loss worth lakhs of rupees only to the farmers.

I would like to say one thing more also. As we have national grid in regard to electricity, we should form a national grid of water also from where water can be provided to the withering crops so that crops may be saved. To make the use of Krishna-Godavari water, National Godavari Valley Authority and Krishna Valley Authority should be formed at national level. If any State constructs a dam without the permission of the Centre, efforts should be made to stop them and a law should be enacted for this purpose. If a project has no water it is of no crores use whether it is constructed with a cost of Rs. 200 crores or Rs. 800 crores. It will be a great loss of our national wealth. Therefore, you should take stern action to check such practice. Tamil Nadu may pay or not for it but Telagu Ganga will be completed. But if water is not there, what can be done for that? Your permission is must in such cases. If any one starts work without your permission, you should take stern action against that State. You are afraid that if you take action, you will lose votes. That is why you do not take action but it will cause great loss to the country. 13 lakh acres of land will be brought under irrigation with Pochampad Project but 15 years have passed and only 3 lakhs acres of land could be brought under irrigation. How and when the rest 10 lakhs acres of land will be

brought under irrigation? You have taken loan of Rs. 775 crores from the World Bank in the name of modernisation of Krishna Barrage. What does it mean? Some one does not have even a single glass of water whereas the other is drinking two glasses of water and you are spending such a huge amount to stabilise it, what sort of natural justice is this?

With these words I conclude.

(English)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Minister will reply tomorrow. The House now stands adjourned to meet tomorrow at 11 a.m.

18.38 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday, April 9, 1987
Chaitra 19, 1909 (Saka)*