

village in Krishna district on Muniyeru River on national highway No. 9 was damaged on 14th May, 1985 due to collapse of a span resulting in serious obstruction to the traffic. The traffic was diverted through Kanchikacherla-Madhira-Nandigama route which is 60 kms extra. Damaged structure was removed and the span is connected temporarily with daily bridge arrangement. It is such an important bridge that no an average daily four thousand vehicles used to pass over it out of which three thousand are commercial vehicles. Now only buses and cars are allowed while the trucks, tractors, truck-trailors etc. have to go over the alternative route mentioned above involving huge expenditure and waste of time. So, I request the Union Government to take immediate steps for construction of two lane bridge estimated to cost Rs. 4 crores to replace the old single lane bridge which is of national importance and an important link between North and South.

[*Translation*]

(viii) Drought and famine conditions in UP and need for Central help

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, famine situation conditions have developed due to severe drought in many parts of the country. Famine stricken Adivasis in some parts of Madhya Pradesh have resorted to lost and violent activities. Such a situation can arise in many parts of UP also. The Study Team sent by U P Government to study the drought condition has given comprehensive proposals to the Central Government to face drought and famine conditions. Some of these are short term proposals to deal with the situation immediately and some are long-term proposals. The State Government have asked for considerable funds for this purpose. It is generally seen that due to non availability of Central assistance in time, the people are unable to get timely relief.

I therefore, request the Union Agriculture Minister that financial assistance asked for by the U. P. Government to meet the drought and famine situation may be provided immediately.

12.18 hrs.

DEMAND FOR GRANTS (Punjab),  
1985-86 contd.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for the State of Punjab for 1985-86.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is a matter of happiness for all of us that this House will not have any need to discuss budget proposals of Punjab in future and for this we all would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and Akali leadership. Punjab had been passing through a very critical period for the last few years, which has affected the economic condition of not only Punjab but the entire country. Not only the economic condition of the country but the unity and integrity of the country also were jeopardised. Today that sad period has ended. We all are having a sigh of relief. Like an able political leader, the Hon. Prime Minister has not cared about his ego and political animosity and has crossed all the possible hurdles and has proved that in future Rajiv ji will be remembered as one of the greatest Prime Ministers of this country. This achievement is the result of the efforts of our Prime Minister. We never imagined that it will happen so soon. It is also a matter of happiness that the Opposition has also supported the step taken by the Hon. Prime Minister and the attitude shown by Akali Dal. The entire country has supported it. We all hope that the agreement reached yesterday, about which an announcement has been made in this House, will have a favourable effect in Punjab also. It is not known how the persons, about whom doubt still prevails, will react to it. We pray to God that good sense may prevail upon them so that they may welcome this agreement. We also hope that the President of the other Akali Dal, Shri Joginder Singh will support Shri Longowal. Akali Dal and some people of Punjab, who were campaigning that they were isolated, will now come into the mainstream of the nation. Punjab