

7. Hon. Members would be happy to know that in addition to these measures, it has been decided that the ration card holders will not have any restriction on the quantities of wheat they can draw from Fair Price Shops from now till 31st March 1986.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now adjourn for lunch to meet at 14.15 hrs.

13.13 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
Lunch till fifteen minutes past
Fourteen of the clock.

(The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch
at Nineteen Minutes past
Fourteen of the Clock.)

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DISCUSSION *Re* : SITUATION ARISING
OUT OF FLOODS, DROUGHTS AND
OTHER NATURAL CALAMITIES
IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE
COUNTRY—Contd.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up further discussion on the situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, first of all let me express our gratitude to the hon. Speaker and to you, Sir, personally for having given this opportunity to this august House to discuss the situations created in the whole country by the natural calamities like floods, drought and cyclone. It was in the fitness of things that, on the first day of the Session, the House devoted its attention to the most serious problems affecting the lives of our people in the most difficult areas on the coast, in the interior and in the deserts.

Naturally, Sir, every Hon. Member who participated in the debate had his own story full of miseries and hardships to the people who suffered during these havocs. Sir, our

hearts go out in sympathy to those who suffered as a result of these calamities and those who were killed as a result of floods cyclones. Our sympathies are also with the bereaved families who are left without earning hands.

I cannot express better than what you did when you asked the Government of India from the Chair to take special efforts in mitigating the situations, the problems of our people suffering under these conditions.

As you know, scarcity, famines and calamities are a thing of the past. They are in our history from time immemorial. They have been hitting our country. In the ancient times also there has been a mention in the Mahabharata and in our literatures about long drawn droughts, famines plagues, floods, cyclones and things like that.

Sir, the thing is that now we are moving in a century when the science has developed to an extent that if we cannot stop all these calamities, we can at least reduce the impact on the human life through the scientific knowledge that is available.

Even before our country became independent these things used to be with us. As a matter of fact, they started right from the day the human beings started wrestling with nature in search of subsistence and the story is rich, full of incidents in which the man sometimes conquered the nature and the nature repelled and reacted in a very very sharp manner. The consequence was that a few lakhs of lives were lost. Before the country become independent, the attitude of the Government was casual. At the best, they used to write off the revenue for a particular period.

But soon after we become independent, our Government our national leaders started paying more attention to this very serious problem and they started tackling it in a scientific manner. If you look at the expenditure of the Government from the day we achieved independence and especially with the coming in of our five year plans, it runs into thousands of crores. It looks as if the whole money was available at a given point of time and we could have really stopped all these famines and floods, but as the time went on the resources at our disposal became short compared to demands of States. Every

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year we spent certain amount which almost goes a waste because it is either washed away by the floods or the famine consumes it and the net result is that the same situation continues.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Dagaji, when the Minister is replying, what are you doing there?

AN. HON. MEMBER : He has no amendments to this Sir!

S. BUTA SINGH : Dagaji is concerned with amendments only!

(Interruptions)

Sir, a rough calculation from the year 1965 onwards shows that our country has spent something to the tune of Rs. 5488 crores on meeting situations like this and look at the impact!

Sir, as I said, earlier the Government used to organise some relief camps and write off the revenues. That was all. But Government started giving a more systematic and more scientific attention to the problems of our people who suffered from these natural calamities. As a matter of fact, the natural calamities are by nature so harsh that they do not discriminate between people belonging to one party or the other. I was a little sad yesterday when I heard some of my friends hurling some political slogans even on issues like this while trying to meet the situation created by floods or famine. These are human problems and no government worth the name will have any other consideration than meeting the situations created by these natural calamities...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : Parties are not natural calamities.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : The parties are not humane.

S. BUTA SINGH : The thing is that in this part of the world there are only two classes of people—one the rich and the other, the poor, that is, the haves and the have-nots. It has been beautifully described by the Great Guru Nanak :

[Translation]

The people are either rich or poor—*Dhanwantah aur nirdhan manai*. Further, he goes on to say that this calamity spares none. It is a great leveller. It kills the king and the pauper alike. The calamity does not discriminate.

[English]

So, Sir, whether it is the Telugu Desam party or the Congress Party or some other Party, when it visits, it visits and finishes everybody. Therefore, while attending to these problems, no government will give any consideration to such things... (Interruptions)

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : But your government has not taken adequate steps.

S. BUTA SINGH : Therefore, I urge upon the hon. Members not to belittle our efforts. I can also bring some facts and figures and show that some State Government has failed but that we would not like to do...

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Please do that.

S. BUTA SINGH : Because this is a situation in which human lives are involved. Therefore, our attitude has to be that the whole country is a big family—whether we belong to one Party or the other Party and whether we come from one State or the other State, the whole country is a big family and we have to attend to the problems of every one who is affected by these natural calamities. Therefore, my appeal to the hon. Members is not to discriminate on political considerations because we in the Government of India have so far never discriminated like that. If it was something serious in one part of the country, we attach the same importance whether it is West Bengal or Kerala or Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh. Our hon. Prime Minister has been visiting most parts of the country whether they are under drought or under floods without any consideration whatsoever on the party lines. Therefore, the assistance which we have provided is based purely on humane considerations.

Now, Sir, as I was mentioning, since Independence government assistance for natural calamities, whether they were droughts or floods or cyclones, they were based on

broader considerations. The Government, whenever there is a drought, give immediate relief not only for rehabilitation of the affected people but we take certain measures like restoration and reconstruction of the damaged public properties. In the case of drought, the first and foremost priority is the supply of drinking water and fodder. How keen and impatient was our hon. Lady Member from Karnataka to know what we are doing for the supply of fodder. The fodder situation in the country is getting rather serious and I want to remind our farmers through this august House what is happening in the country. Fodder is the victim. Fodder crops are diminishing every day because our farmers are now more and more commercially oriented and as we go on increasing the irrigation facilities, fodder crops are getting eliminated. It is the fodders crops, it is the pulses, it is the coarse grains, the food of the poor which are going out of the list of the farmers...

SHRI D. B. PATIL : What about the land use pattern ?

S. BUTA SINGH : I am coming to that also. But I am telling about the fodder at the moment. So, what happens ? As soon as we extend the irrigation facilities to new areas, the farmers are tempted to grow crops which give them a better return. They go in for sugarcane, paddy, wheat and things like that and try to eliminate fodder, coarse grains and the pulses. That is perhaps the big reason why our country has not been able to have a major breakthrough in all these crops.

There used to be what we call 'gochar' in every village. Now those 'gochars' have either been taken over by the panchayats or they are auctioned and given on hire. The thing is that there is hardly any place left for being used as grazing yards or for raising the fodder. This is the biggest problem that our country is facing.

During famine we are able to supply drinking water to the people. The House will be happy to know that Government of India has increased the allocation in the drinking water sector not only for human beings but also for the cattle from 40 litres to 70 litres so that when we provide drinking water to the human being the cattle needs

are also taken into consideration. But unfortunately fodder is a thing which is getting scarce and I want to remind the farmers that they should give due importance to the cultivation of fodder. We on our part are thinking of having national garzing yards.

Sir I come from Rajasthan. There was a continuous drought. We could rush food-grains and also water by way of tankers but the fodder was the major problem. We were not getting fodder. Therefore, I had to issue instructions to the Central and State farms to rush whatever fodder was available with them. I approached the State governments of Haryana and Punjab. They were very kind. They responded immediately. But this problem is going to stay with us. Therefore, I want to highlight that the farmers of India must make a provision of raising the fodder crops and also sparing some land to be covered by green grass not only to restore health to the land but also provide fodder to the cattle which is finding it difficult.

Yesterday, hon. Members from Rajasthan and Saurashtra were mentioning that their cattle are finding it difficult because of continuous drought. Earlier they used to go to Malwa belt of Madhya Pradesh. Unfortunately, the situation in Madhya Pradesh is also getting difficult. Therefore, cattle has been sold at a distress price and they are also being put to death because there is no fodder. This is a very very serious situation which I would like the Indian farmers to take note of and provide for raising of fodder crops.

The second item of priority in the drought relief is the agricultural inputs. We provide better seeds, fertilisers at the subsidised rate and also the farmers are given employment in the affected areas. Care is taken for public health, special nutrition to the children and lactating mothers and pregnant women.

Sir, we were quite pleased to listen to the statement made by the Finance Minister at the lunch time today about the measures that the Government of India have taken. That will go a long way especially in helping the people who are suffering for the past three drought years in Saurashtra, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and other parts of the country and especially the tribal belts because in tribal belts the agriculture pattern is different

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from that of the plain agriculture pattern. There it is mostly terrace agriculture which leaves hardly any margin to the farmer to look forward to in the rainy days and whenever there is drought the farmer is pushed to a very difficult situation. I agree with Shri Mool Chand Daga that the tribals have to live a sub-human life. The measures announced today by the hon. Finance Minister will take care of the next year also so that the impact of three years' drought is reduced considerably and he is in a position to buy his food. This shows the sympathy that our hon. Prime Minister has for the poor and the have-nots of the country. We were faced with the problem of surplus foodgrains and it could have been very easy to dispose them off. We could have exported them and sold them. But the hon. Prime Minister insisted that so long as the people of India, especially the tribals and the weaker sections of the people are not able to get two square meals, he would be the last person to export foodgrains even if they are surplus in this country. It was for this reason that he instructed all the Ministries whether it was the Food Ministry or the Finance Ministry or any other Ministry that even if we have to go in for high expenditure, if the country has to bear a little more burden, we will do that and we will not let our poor people suffer for want of foodgrains.

SHRI AMAL DATTA (Diamond Harbour) : You have accumulated 30 million tonnes of foodgrains and it is going to be 40 million tonnes.

S. BUTA SINGH : Well, it is in the range of 28 million tonnes and another 9 to 10 million tonnes will be added.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You are saying that about 40 million tonnes will be accumulated. But do you mean to say let the poor people suffer for want of foodgrains and still you are accumulating the stock of foodgrains ?

S. BUTA SINGH : We have to preserve what is called buffer stocks and about 10 million tonnes will be added. Another about 5 million tonnes is going to take care of this and about 5 million tonnes will be added next year. So, this comes to 20 million tonnes. It is a simple arithmetic.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It is not of that simple.

S. BUTA SINGH : If you want me to spell out or if you want me to sell the foodgrains, it will go against the interests of the country because the international market is so competitive and our prices are so high that it will go against our interest.

SHRI AMAL DATA : Then you give it to the poor people of our country.

S. BUTA SINGH : That is what we are doing.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You mean that this covers 50 million people.

S. BUTA SINGH : You know that we have first to bring in the institution which will handle the foodgrains. It is no use of squandering the stock of foodgrains unless there is organisational set up which will reach the foodgrains to the poor people to the tribals. Therefore, we have to build a system. Earlier public distribution system was mostly confined to the township.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You can give it to the West Bengal State and we will do it. You give it to us and we will show the way to other States.

S. BUTA SINGH : Again I would not like to enter into the area where I will have to come into conflict. I will show how much was given to West Bengal, how much was lifted by the State and how much has been utilised by the State.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : If people themselves are producing why should they go and ask for allocation of foodgrains ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Then you are cutting your own feet. We will send it to the areas where they want. The food that has been given by the hon. Finance Minister is so nominal that it will reach the poorest sections of the people. Therefore, we will have to build infrastructure and by the time we are able to build infrastructure, we will be able to distribute our surplus foodgrains.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Our cost of production is high and the ruling prices are also high. How are you going to distribute them ?

S. BUTA SINGH : If you like, I am prepared to give foodgrains as much as the West Bengal Government would like to take.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You give food for work.

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes, you can come and take as much foodgrains as you can.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : That is what we have been clamouring for the last so many years.

S. BUTA SINGH : So long as you are able to distribute them, we have no objection. Mr. Deputy Speaker, I was saying that there would not have been better occasion than today for this announcement which the hon. Finance Minister has made because it happens to be the birth anniversary of our late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi who was instrumental for attaining surplus in foodgrains in the country. If you recall you would know her tremendous efforts that she had put in after she came back to power in 1980. Her 20-Point programme which is known all over the world was specially devised for the poor people... (*interruptions*).

I can discuss with the hon. Member later on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Datta, you may please note down the points and ask for clarifications, if necessary, later.

S. BUTA SINGH : In 1980, our great leader, late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, while introducing the 20-Point programme for alleviating the people from below the poverty line, made a special effort in the drought-management programme. She said that we must give top priority to the full time relief officers, monitoring, availability of foodgrains, increase in the number of fair price shops, measures against anti-social elements, national rural employment programme, afforestation, nutrition programme, contingency plan for supply of water, public health measures, rigs for boring drinking wells, cattle camps and relief camps. These are the 12 cardinal points given by that leader for alleviating the people from below the poverty line, and meeting special situations created by droughts.

I congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for taking this very very dynamic step on the appropriate occasion, the birth anniversary of the great leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi. We are reminded of her because it was her gift to the farmers of the country and they are in a position to share their surplus food with the people not only in India, but outside India also. Our Prime Minister has donated 100,000 tonnes of foodgrains to our brothers and sisters who are dying in African continent. That relief has gone as a token of sympathy from the farmers of India to the people of Africa.

I was trying to highlight the various points which the Government of India takes into consideration while meeting the drought situation. Our hon. Members have spoken about floods. As I said, special care is taken in flood situation also. When the floods are reported from any part of the country, the first thing is to evacuate the affected people, then distribution of free ration, opening of relief camps, distribution of cloths and utensils, reconstruction and repairing of the damaged houses—here also, we give top priority to the weaker sections, those who have been rendered homeless. Then restoration and reconstruction of the public properties including roads and embankments, installation of electricity poles, public health, agricultural inputs for the affected small and marginal farmers. These are the various high priority items that are looked into by the Government of India while giving assistance to the States.

Hon. Members were rightly keen to know as to why we are not able to meet the demands of the States. Unfortunately, the State Governments have developed a tendency; through these calamities, they want to cover all the deficiencies in the rural areas. It is impossible. At the same time, I want to remind them, through the Department of Rural Development—it is an on-going scheme under the 20-Point Programme—we are already helping the States through various schemes like IRDP, NREP, Drought-Prone Area Scheme, Desert Development Scheme. These are the specially designed schemes and under these schemes, we are releasing to the State Governments huge sums every year. If you want me,

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I can give you the break-up for the past five years. Under these schemes, the States have been given substantial amounts. This money is meet for meeting situations in the affected areas so that the impact of drought or flood can be reduced. Unfortunately, in our country we rise to the occasion only when these calamities visit us and as soon as these calamities over, we tend to slide back. This is the attitude of our Governments including everybody. I am not asking only the Government headed by a particular party. We should be ever vigilant.

An hon. member yesterday asked about the various methods that are used in forewarning the people and about the equipment that are being used for tackling the calamities like floods and droughts. Today, we are using the latest technology for cyclone warning system and for flood warning system. We are using Inset I-B, for continuous monitoring and tracking of the cyclone. It provides cloud pictures every hour to half an hour, all day and night during the cyclones. All Cyclone Warning Centres are provided with Insat I-B bulletins and cloud photographs in real terms. But how many people are taking care of such things ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : They are not able to interpret the pictures.

S. BUTA SINGH : The hon. member says that they are not able to interpret the pictures. We interpret for them. The Meteorological Department interpret them and send the reports to all the State Governments. Unfortunately, you do not check with your State Governments. If I were to remind you, information about the cyclones that have visited Orissa, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh was given in very clear terms by the Meteorological Department to all those States. But unfortunately, they take it so casually and so lightly. We do not depend on Meteorological Department alone. As soon as we hear from the Meteorological Department that this thing is going to happen in a particular State, my colleague and myself get in touch with the hon. Chief Minister of that State. I spoke to your Chief Minister the other day before the cyclone took place.

(Interruptions).

I cannot have a wordy dual with the hon. member. If he wants to have another bout, I am ready to yield and let him make a speech.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am not going to allow it. You please go on.

S. BUTA SINGH : I was saying that I got in touch with your hon. Chief Minister. He was very kind and he shared his views with me. But for the measures that the West Bengal Government was able to take, the loss of life would have been many times more.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Then, credit goes to the Government of West Bengal.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am very happy. Give some credit to Andhra Pradesh also.

Then we use the American Noah Satellite. IMD receives one in day-time and one in night-time cloud photos from advanced equipment with heavy regulations and we use cyclone detection radars. The hon. member was very keen to know about the kinds of radars that we are using. Our country also uses Cyclone Warning Centres that have been established at Calcutta, Madras and Bombay and cyclone warning centres at Bhubaneswar and Visakhapatnam for the use of State Government, AIR and other user agencies. Modern tele-communication facilities like telephones, teleprinters, telex, wireless and telegrams exist in these centres. Message-switching computers have been installed at IMD headquarters, New Delhi for expeditious exchange of meteorological data and forecastings. A scientific computer has also been installed at IMD headquarters, New Delhi for data processing and preparation of forecasts. Cyclone warnings are issued at two stages. The first stage cyclone alert is issued 36 to 48 hours before the expected commencement of the adverse weather. As a result of our forewarning, we were saved from a very very severe cyclone which was going to hit Kandla Port. The State Government took action and people were evacuated. The cyclone visited the area and not a single life was lost. This is possible only because of the latest technology that we are using in warning the people in time. The State Governments are also helping. Though the

system is not perfect—we are not very happy and we want to update the whole system—at the moment, it is quite adequate and I have no reason to disbelieve that the sufferings of the people have been reduced to a great extent.

Having said that, I come to certain points raised by the hon. members. For cyclones, the State Governments of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry have asked for some immediate relief and hon. Member was trying to belittle the gesture of hon. Prime Minister by quoting what the hon. Chief Minister of Karnataka has done. It was a symbolic gesture and the Government of India yesterday decided to send a Central team and I am also visiting Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry soon after, I am free from here. I am going to Tamil Nadu State and Pondicherry to see how the people of.....
(Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Will you be the captain of that team ?

S. BUTA SINGH : We have the leader of the team. How can I allow anybody else to be the captain when I am going myself ? So Sir, I am going to visit.....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. R. REDDY : If we wait for the report therh will be a lot of time lag. So, poor man does not get it at the proper time. After six months the report might come. Why don't you expedite it ?

S. BUTA SINGH : As soon as we get what is called the memorandum which is required in the statutes.....(Interruptions)

SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA REDDY : You amend the statute.

S. BUTA SINGH : It is your impression. As soon as we receive the memorandum from the States we take action. You change your Government also. Let them send the memorandum as soon as they are affected...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, it is now a month since a central team visited our State, but it has not submitted its report so far. What should we do in a situation like this ? The farmers are dying there;

the people are not getting drinking water there. Everybody is worried. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to request you...
(Interruptions)

[English]

S. BUTA SINGH : As soon as we receive the memorandum from the States, we immediately despatch the team.....

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : There seems to be a misunderstanding between the Centre and the State Government.....
(Interruptions)

[English]

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the team is composed of not only my Ministry...

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : The people are not getting drinking water...

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He will consider it. Mr. Janga Reddy, please sit down.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : It is now more than a month since the Central team visited Andhra Pradesh; why have they not submitted their report so far ? As a result of that, the difficulties of the people of the State are increasing; the people are suffering...

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. Please sit down. Mr. Janga Reddy, please take your seat...(Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the mechanism is that...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I can't allow you, please sit down. He is speaking, please hear him. Afterwards, you give your comments... (Interruptions)

[Mr. Speaker]

You speak afterwards. I will allow you. Now I can't allow you. Nothing will go on record. (Interruptions)**

You speak afterwards, I am allowing you. Please sit down... (Interruptions)

S. BUTA SINGH : So Sir, the mechanism is that as soon as we receive the memorandum, we despatch our team. And mind it Sir, the team is not from the Ministry of Agriculture alone... (Interruptions)

It is from other Ministries also, such as the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Planning, Ministry of Works and Housing and so many other Ministries which compose the team... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Dr. please take your seat... (Interruptions) I ma not allowing anyone. Take your seat. Please sit down. Nothing will go on record. (Interruptions)* Let the Minister reply, you can raise afterwards, I can allow you and not now. This is not the way. You take down the points. If you have got anything to say, you can raise it later on not now.

S. BUTA SINGH : Now, Sir Andhra Pradesh... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary) : I raise a point of order.

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

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI : The point of order is, let the hon. Minister reply now. Only after he finishes his reply, Members should ask questions.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is replying now. Your's is not a point of order.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : It is not for you, you please sit down.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Madam, please sit down. (Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please wait for some time. (Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Janga Reddy, please take your seat. (Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :. Nothing will go on record. The Minister is on his legs. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)**

S. BUTA SINGH : I was saying that the financing of the relief expenditure is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments. Notwithstanding this... (Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : May I request the hon. Members to listen to the Minister ? Listen to what the Minister is saying. Thereafter you can raise any questions you want.

S. BUTA SINGH : The successive Finance Commissions have been recommending schemes of Central assistance for relief expenditure; and the magnitude of expenditure in many cases might be beyond the means of the State Governments. The concept of margin money was recommended by the 2nd Finance Commission. In the 7th Finance Commission, the margin money was to the tune of Rs. 100.55 crores. The 8th Finance Commission increased it to Rs. 240.75 crores, and this recommendation was accepted by the Government, but 50% of the margin money is the share of the Central Government.

I was going to mention every State; but unfortunately hon. Members are getting so impatient.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : I want to seek a clarification.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot allow. Let the Minister finish. You can raise it afterwards.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The Minister has already promised....

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : When we raised it, you did not allow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the Minister yields, I can allow. When the Minister is not yielding, what can I do ?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The Minister has already promised yesterday that he will be announcing the names of the committee members. I request the Minister to announce the names of members.

S. BUTA SINGH : Always, officers are deputed from various Ministries; and one person is the leader of the team. As I said, I will be myself going and, therefore, I will see to it that most expeditiously the relief is given.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Within six months ? One month is already over.

S. BUTA SINGH : There are two kinds of relief. One is immediate relief, and the other is based on the team's report. The team's report is taken into account by the high level committee; and then they go to the Finance Ministry. But immediate relief is provided by our department, which I have promised. I have done it. In most of the cases, I have done it myself. (Interruptions) I am going to read it. Why don't you have some patience ?

During the 6th Plan, Andhra Pradesh was sanctioned Rs. 369.12 crores for tackling natural calamities.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : It was about the 6th Plan. What about the current requirements ? We are not bothered about the past.

S. BUTA SINGH : That is my problem : you are not bothered about what has been sanctioned already—whether it has been spent properly or not. You are not bothered about it. You are bothered only about pressing new claims.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : We want the present figures, not the past ones.

S. BUTA SINGH : Now I am going to place the picture before the House. Let the House know. In the 6th Plan, Andhra Pradesh is supposed to have spent Rs. 369.21 crores. Let me put it that way, because

there is no monitoring. Because we have to depend on the statistics of the State Governments, you are pretty happy. (Interruptions) Please bear with me. It is national money. It is not anybody's money. It is not any one party's money. It is the nation's money which must be spent properly, and every paisa of it has to be spent for the purpose for which it has been given.

During 1985-86—it is the current year; are you interested or not ? (Interruptions)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Are they clapping for not spending the money ?

S. BUTA SINGH : In the year 1985-86 they have been sanctioned Rs. 30.85 crores in June 1985. On 5th October, another memorandum came. The fresh memorandum has been received. The Central team has since submitted its report. It is being examined.

Another thing I want to add with regard to Andhra Pradesh. The Andhra Pradesh Government was given a medium term loan to the tune of Rs. 209 crores on the October 1985, i.e. very recently.

15.00 hrs.

The State Government has no liquidity problem. Therefore, they can do the relief work with this fund which is pending.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : No, no.

S. BUTA SINGH : That is the trust. They do not want to spend out of the resources of the State Government. (Interruptions) Therefore, if they have really that much sympathy and concern for the people, let them spend. Why don't they spend ? (Interruptions) Similarly is the case of Rajasthan. As I started saying we have no partisan attitude; we have an open mind, and the memorandum of the Andhra Pradesh Government is with us. The team's report has come. Within a very short time, we will be able to finalise and give financial assistance to the Andhra Pradesh Government.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : Is it a fact that the over-draft has been converted into loan for the purpose ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Well, that is a question for the Finance Minister to reply. I am here attending to the natural calamities. I have no quarrel with the over-draft; whether it is given. It is a very progressive step taken by the Finance Minister, because the State Governments have fallen into the tendency of overdrawing without caring what happens to the nation's economy. Therefore, that is a separate issue, but, we are here to help the State in the natural calamities.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : This is a very confusing picture. (*Interruptions*)

S. BUTA SINGH : That overdraft was not meant for meeting drought situation. Tell me any State which has spent money from the overdraft ? No.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : No money was given to any State.

S. BUTA SINGH : During the 6th Plan period, Rs. 332.61 crores were sanctioned as the central assistance to the State of Rajasthan. During 1985-86, Rs. 25.87 crores were sanctioned in September, 1985. On the 18th October, a fresh memorandum was received. The central team visited the State. I myself also visited the State. The hon. Prime Minister also visited the State. In the meanwhile, it has been decided to sanction purchase to 100 water tankers and 10 combination type drilling rigs because of the problem of Rajasthan. In some parts of Karnataka and Gujarat also the problem is that the water table underground has gone so deep that even for a farmer it is very difficult to re-bore the well to bring water. Therefore, the government also is trying to help the private farmer. Earlier on, it was only the public tubewells which were being bored through the drill. But, now, we have decided that even the private farmer's well will be bored by the rig so that the water table could be brought up, and this is a very difficult problem of water; whether it is mean for crop or for drinking. It will have to be available.

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV : By what time this will be available ?

S. BUTA SINGH : Already, we have allowed 10 rigs for Rajasthan. In West Bengal State, it was my hon. colleague, Shri

Makwana, who was the first to go from the Government of India to see the situation there. He had discussion with the Chief Minister and senior officers of the State, and the State Government has not raised any fresh memorandum asking for the assistance. Yesterday, Prof. Choubey raised a question of Sunderbans embankment. I checked up with the Irrigation Ministry. As soon as I get a reply, I will forward it to him. I have all the sympathy and we will see that this embankment is taken up on a permanent basis. In Madhya Pradesh, during the Sixth Plan, Rs. 133.6 crores were sanctioned for natural calamities as central assistance. During 1985-86, so far, Rs. 39.07 crores have been sanctioned. The State has submitted another memorandum and the central team has also visited. I was also able to go to Madhya Pradesh and see for myself the drought conditions in that State. In Tamilnadu, the State has asked for Rs. 91 crores as central assistance. The State Government has been requested to indicate the date by which they are in a position to receive the team. Already, we have taken a decision and the State Government's reply is awaited. The central share of the margin money of Rs. 4,375 is being released and liquidity position of the State is good, and as such no ways and means for advance are contemplated. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : The margin money is very meagre. They need more than Rs. 40 crores for Madras alone.

S. BUTA SINGH : Since I am going there, I will discuss it with the hon. Chief Minister.

(*Interruptions*)

Do you object to it ? Do you mean to say that we should hold up this money even ? I am going there day after tomorrow.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Very good.

S. BUTA SINGH : Will you be able to spend the money ? The State Governments are not able to spend the amounts given.

About Gujarat, the State Government have submitted the memorandum on the 30th October. The Central team has already

visited the State and their report is already there. A sum of Rs. 14.37 crores has been released. The difficulties of fodder and the problems of rural employment — all will be taken care of.

The proposal about desalination of the sea water will also be examined.

About Orissa, Shri Brajamohan Mohanty and Shrimati Jayanti Patnaik have raised some points about the situation there. The State submitted a memorandum for help to the cyclone-hit areas, on the 25th October. The central team has also visited the State only in the first week of November, 1985. Their report is awaited. My colleague Shri Yogendra Makwana also visited the State. We are expending the report of the central team so that on receipt of that, assistance can be given. About Maharashtra, in the Sixth Five Year Plan for drought relief an amount of Rs. 141.29 crores has been released. In the current financial year an amount of Rs. 13.91 crores has been given for flood relief. About the drought situation the State Government has submitted a memorandum. The Central team has also visited the State.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : The Chief Minister has asked for more money.

S. BUTA SINGH : This is the situation, in general, in most of the States.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : What about Karnataka ?

S. BUTA SINGH : About Uttar Pradesh, I visited the State, the hon. Prime Minister went there and the Finance Minister also went. The memorandum was submitted by them and Rs. 128.27 crores was sanctioned.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : What about Karnataka ?

SHRI JAFFAR SHARIEF : The Prime minister has not visited Karnataka. Will you visit Karnataka, or will you ask your colleague Shri Yogendra Makwana to visit ?

S. BUTA SINGH : You have not extended an invitation. I was mentioning that these are the problems of immediate

nature. For the long term measures the Government of India have taken many steps. Irrigation has been increased from 22.6 million hectares in 1950-51 to 62.9 million hectares in 1984-85 and during the Seventh Plan the target is 75 million hectares.

Drought-prone area programme was introduced in 1970-71, the expenditure incurred on it is 337.42 crores during the Sixth Plan and Rs. 17.70 crores of mandays were created.

Desert Development Programme was introduced in 1977 and Rs. 73.75 crores has been spent.

Crop insurance has been introduced in 12 States and a Crop Insurance Fund will be created. The National Rural Employment Programme was started in 1982 with an objective of creating thirty to forty crore mandays per annum and during the Sixth Plan Rs. 519.14 crores were spent.

I have mentioned about these programmes which are long term measures taken up by the Government of India and these have reduced to a considerable extent the damage caused by the frequently visiting droughts.

Hon. Members of the House will be glad to know the long term measures on the scientific research side. I have with me our ICAR report. It has been devoting utmost attention to develop certain varieties of seeds of some crops which can be grown in drought conditions and the House will be happy to know that our scientists have been able to develop eighteen varieties of which can withstand the difficult drought conditions and grow well, and thirteen varieties of wheat.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : That is to say, do they grow without water ?

S. BUTA SINGH : With 'less water', I said. They can grow in drought conditions.

SHRI UMA KANT MISHRA : What about Uttar Pradesh ?

[Translation]

S. BUTA SINGH : In spite of such a serious drought there is no problem of food-grains this year.

[S. Buta Singh]

[English]

We have done so much.

That is what I have said already. And this is what I want you to realise that our scientists are developing certain varieties of seeds of foodgrains which can be grown in the drought-prone areas. These are drought resistant varieties which can withstand moisture content being less or where there have been no rains, and even in very very difficult drought-prone areas. Similarly, there are two varieties of maize, 11 varieties of sorghum, two varieties of bazra, 4 varieties of barley and a number of varieties of pulses. This is how our Agricultural Research Centres are trying to help the farmers, who are placed in a very very difficult position. Even today, 75 per cent of our cultivation is in the rainfed areas. Only 23 to 25 per cent of the area is under irrigated cultivation. You know that in the irrigated areas we are trying to experiment with the most high yielding varieties which require intensive irrigation, intensive doses of fertiliser and pesticides. We are happy to inform the House that we have been able to achieve a considerable success. But our success really lies in the dry land farming which is the occupation of the poorest of the poor, marginal farmers and farm labour. It is here the real test of the Ministry of Agriculture lies. Our new plan is to develop the agriculture which can grow better in the dry land farming and which can show result in the difficult areas of the east where there is the problem of plenty of water. We need certain varieties of rice which can grow in the deep water even. We have to have upland rice and low land rice. This is what the Ministry of Agriculture is trying to develop. We are happy to share with the House that our scientists are doing their best to see that our dry land farming also grows in the same way in which our irrigated farming has grown.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : What is the help you are giving in the form of remunerative prices ?

S. BUTA SINGH : A separate resolution is coming for the prices. I would like the Members to spare their guns for that.

In the drought prone areas we are distributing mini-kits—free seeds, fertilisers and

pesticides—on a large scale so that the poor and small farmers who are not in a position to buy better seeds and fertilisers, get them free of cost. Is it not a big measure ?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : How many millions ?

S. BUTA SINGH : In millions and millions we are distributing. The drought resistant varieties of seeds are available with the State Seeds Corporations and the National Seeds Corporation. Every State Government knows that. In case, hon. Members are interested, they can write to me and we can make the seeds available to various States.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : But the yield of gram has not shown any improvement.

S. BUTA SINGH : Six varieties of gram have been developed to grow in dry land farming. I agree that in hybrid varieties of gram we have not been able to achieve much success.

[Translation]

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore) : My question is whether it is confined to the laboratory or it has brought results anywhere ?

S. BUTA SINGH : It has brought results and the farmers are growing. You can go and see for yourself. In your own State, there has been a very good crop of both paddy and wheat.

[English]

Therefore, I would like the House to appreciate the work done by our scientists in helping the farmers to meet this kind of a situation under the dry land farming and difficult conditions.

An hon. Member wanted to know about UP. The UP Government has been given Rs. 128.27 crores... (Interruptions).

AN HON. MEMBER : What about Bihar ?

S. BUTA SINGH : From Bihar Government we have yet to receive any memo-

random. We have not received a memorandum from the Bihar Government. As soon as the Bihar Government sends a memorandum, we will examine it and take action.

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER : The debate was initiated by a Member from Karnataka. Five hours have passed but not a word about Karnataka has been said. I want to know what is the Government going to do about Karnataka.

S. BUTA SINGH : The hon. Members were very keen that the Government should review the manuals. My hon. colleague mentioned while replying to a question and I want to repeat that in 1980 the State Governments were requested to revise the relief manuals and the Central Government issued guidelines for this purpose. We had sent a model Bill to all the State Governments for flood prone areas but only one State Government has responded, and that is Manipur. I would like the hon. Members to use their influence on their respective State Government. We want the State to have a model Bill. The Bill has already been sent to the State Governments. Let them apply their minds and let us know their reaction.

The memorandum from Karnataka was received on the 30th of March and the money that was sanctioned in the month of May was Rs. 22.16 crores and ways and means was Rs. 10 crores. At our level we are trying with the same anxiety, with the same concern that the hon. Members have at their hearts. We try to rush as quickly as possible and even try to go out of the way.

The hon. Members from Kerala were yesterday rightly worked up about the coconut crop. I myself went to Kerala not only to see the fury of the cyclone but I saw for myself the plantations also. We try to help the State Government but unfortunately this time the crop has been so good—I say unfortunately because the prices have fallen down—that it became difficult for us. The middleman is trying to play with the *kisan*, the grower. We did come to the rescue of the State Government. We told them that they should intervene in the market and we will help them. They did so and the result was that the prices sustained. Therefore, we at our level are trying to do as best as

possible to see that the impact of these natural calamities is reduced to the extent possible. I started my observation by saying that look at the huge amount that we have spent during the year in spite of our resource constraint. Unfortunately every time a drought comes or a flood comes, we are certainly awakened. My submission is that the two mighty rivers of the country, namely, Brahmaputra and Ganges, are mainly responsible for floods. But I am told that now the Department of Irrigation has prepared some master plans for these areas which fall under their course, where the floods are taking place. A very very ambitious plan is being prepared to see that the fury of the floods is reduced.

I want to make a correction about Karnataka. I said Rs. 22.16 crores have been sanctioned. But on the 10th of October, another Rs. 31.15 crores have been sanctioned. So, the amount sanctioned so far in this year is Rs. 53.31 crores.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : How much has been released out of this ?

S. BUTA SINGH : This is all that has been released.

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY : Karnataka Government has requested for the release of more funds.

S. BUTA SINGH : The last memorandum of the State Government has already been examined by the Central Government.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : You should say this amount has been released. You have said sanctioned.

S. BUTA SINGH : This is what I have mentioned. So, I was mentioning that as regards these two mighty rivers Brahmaputra and Ganga, there can be only two ways out. One is that we should provide sufficient storage at a certain height where the rivers could be properly tackled and the surplus waters do not flow down to the place. Unfortunately, in the case of Ganges, it is not within our jurisdiction because it lies in some neighbouring countries and we have taken up at the highest level to see that the fury of these floods from the Ganges is reduced. Brahmaputra, I am told, is a river

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which is very much prone to seismic factors. Therefore, perhaps, not much could be done. Of course, we are trying to evolve a plan which can regulate the flow of water from Bramhaputra and reduce the fury of floods. But these are very very massive measures which the country will need and these are also highly capital intensive. Therefore, this shows, a care is being taken to see that calamities' impact can be reduced, but here we have to have the full cooperation of all the State Governments and all the political parties, including the hon. Members sitting here. We have to be ever vigilant. We cannot allow any kind of laxity in tackling a situation like this.

Here I may point out that it is quite usual that every year after the floods, the State Governments allow the same people to reconstruct their houses in the same course which have been visited by the floods and every year their houses are washed away. This kind of phenomena must be attended to. State Governments must study the reports. A number of reports are available. They are in hundreds. These reports are available with the State Governments and with us. They should locate the site for habitation at places which are generally not visited by floods. I think I have tackled with the question of floods quite extensively. And as I said in the beginning, Finance Minister's today's announcement will go a long way in mitigating the light of the people who have suffered for the past three to five years. In Rajasthan, they have suffered for more than five years.

I may again assure that we will be coming to the rescue and assistance of the State Governments, but at the same time I would urge upon the hon. Members to see that their State Governments utilise properly the money that is sanctioned to them. From our side there is no politics whatsoever. Our approach is humane and we will continue to be so.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad): Sir, I would like to seek a clarification.

The hon. Minister was kind enough to inform us that five months ago Rs. 200 crores were sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh and said that there was no need for giving further amount to the State. Actually, he

was trying to confuse. I would like to know whether he knows that this type of amount has been sanctioned to all the States only to meet the overdraft situation now that the overdrafts have been closed. I may inform him that in regard to meeting the situation caused by drought, not a single paisa has been sanctioned to Andhra Pradesh in spite of the fact that the State Government has been asking for Rs. 400 crores for help. I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is going to sanction this amount to meet the situation caused by drought there.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, I have already said that this year during 1985...

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Not this year, I am talking about this season.

S. BUTA SINGH : Now, they have started asking about this season. Then he will say this week. Sir, it is very difficult. Anyhow, I may inform the hon. Member that this year Rs. 30.85 was sanctioned to the Andhra Pradesh Government, and, as I said, there is a fresh memorandum with us. A team has already visited the State and its report is with us. It will take some time, but I promise that we will not make any delay. We are not interested in delay and there is no point in making delay.

SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO : Sir, how does the hon. Minister say that five to six months' time is not sufficient? You want to give us the amount after five to six months.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not all at one time.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : Sir, we asked for the amount during this agricultural season to meet the drought conditions. I would like to know what the hon. Minister has given for that and when he will release the amount?

(Interruptions)

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Sir, I would like to know what amount has been sanctioned for the State of Bihar to meet the situation caused by floods there.

S. BUTA SINGH : Sir, the hon. member wants to know about Bihar, but I may inform him that there has been no memorandum from Bihar in this regard. Therefore, I cannot tell.

SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Sir, Bihar is regularly affected by floods. If the State Government has not asked for anything on its own, the Central Government should do something on its own so that the loss caused to the people of the State by the perpetual visiting of floods in Bihar is mitigated. This is not only the responsibility of the State, it is that of the Centre also.

DR. A. KALANIDHI (Madras Central) : Whenever the Central team is going on a visit to the respective State for seeing the drought situation there and the flood affected areas, they should take the concerned MPs and the Members of the Legislative Assembly. The Ministry of finance has issued a note to the Members attached to the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Finance that the Central team should take the MPs and MLAs along with them while visiting the affected areas. I request the hon. Minister at least in future to follow this procedure.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It has already been raised. I think in the last session some Members raised it. I think Daga ji has already raised this matter.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI : We are very anxious about those things. We have already raised these points. We are not satisfied with his reply. There is on other way but to walk out. We are walking out.

(Shri C. Madhav Reddi and some other hon. Members then left the House)

SHRI AMAL DATTA : I am also walking out.

(Shri Amal Datta and some other hon. Members then left the House)

(Interruptions)

DR. A. KALANIDHI : The hon. Minister is going to visit Tamil Nadu

tomorrow. He should take the MPs and MLAs along with him.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Daga ji has already this matter last time. Other Members also raised it. A team is going. They want the MPs to be invited.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am sorry I forgot to say. We always announce whenever any team goes. We always make announcement about it... (Interruption)

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Just listen to me... (Interruptions) The Andhra Pradesh Government had sought a grant of Rs. 400 crores and only a grant of Rs. 31 crores was released to it whereas. The Government of Karnataka had sought a grant of Rs. 151 crores, but they were released a grant of only Rs. 51 crores. It smacks of discrimination. Therefore, I am also staging a walk out... (Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He is answering to all the Members. Mr. Janga Reddy, I will not allow it. It will not go on record.

(Interruptions)**

(Shri C. Janga Reddy and some other hon. Members then left the House)

S. BUTA SINGH : Whenever a Central team goes to the State, announcement is made out it. All the hon. Members are free to meet them and offer their view-points. It is most unfortunate that some hon. Members opposite are trying to politicalise the matter. It is a human problem; it is suffering of the people. We should not politicalise it...

DR. A. KALANIDHI : Not at all.

S. BUTA SINGH : Instead of helping the Government in the matter, they are just politicalising it. They are making political capital out of it. This is most unkind on their part. Our approach is human. It is a

[S. Buta Singh]

humanitarian approach which we are taking. Their approach should also be humanitarian. I am sorry to say, they are not taking a humanitarian approach. They are politicalising it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This discussion is over. We pass on to the next item. Shri Jagdish Tytler.

15.30 hrs.

NATIONAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY BILL

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority for the management of aerodromes and civil enclaves whereat domestic air transport services are operated or are intended to be operated and of all communication stations and for matters connected therewith be taken into consideration."

Sir, I submit that there has been a remarkable increase in civil aviation activity during the post-independence period, particularly after the formation of the two air corporations, *v/z.* Indian Airlines and Air India. The introduction of sophisticated jet aircraft, required improvement of infrastructural facilities at aerodromes; Very High Frequency Telephony (VHF/RT), Radio Navigational Aids, such as Non Directional Beacons (NDBs), Radio Range, Short-wave Radars etc. The responsibility for construction and maintenance of domestic aerodromes, procurement, installation and maintenance of navigational aids, provision of telecommunication, navigational and air control services and regulatory functions such as licensing, training, airworthiness and air safety control, rests with the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. More than 65 aerodromes, through which scheduled air transport operations take place, are being maintained by this Directorate, which discharges its functions through 15 specialised units at its headquarters and its field offices throughout the country.

The dynamic aviation industry today often requires almost immediate augmentation of facilities and work has to be carried out with great speed and meticulousness. It has been our experience that the D.G.C.A. has, during recent years, found it increasingly difficult function efficiently to the level expected of it because of certain constraints. This is mainly due to system of execution of civil works through the CPWD, purchases through the DGS and D and recruitment through the UPSC. The procedures of these steps involved in getting clearances from these organisations entail considerable delay, which is particularly deleterious for an organisation catering to the needs of an industry like civil aviation. Certain institutional reorganisations were, therefore, considered imperative if the organisation was to function to the level of the efficiency required of it.

A Committee of experts was set up to examine this issue which recommended that a statutory Civil Aviation Authority with necessary flexibility and autonomy in functioning should be set up, and that the duties and responsibilities presently being performed by the DGCA should devolve on this Authority. The recommendations of the committee were examined and discussed and we came to the conclusion that there was need for setting up a statutory Authority which would be responsible for construction, maintenance and development of aerodromes and installation of facilities. Bilateral matters, investigation of accidents, licensing, airworthiness control, research and development, and other economic and regulatory functions would, however, continue to remain with the Civil Aviation Department. There would, thus, be a clear division of functions, the Authority being responsible for development and maintenance of aerodromes and the facilities to be provided in such aerodromes, while the Civil Aviation Department would discharge regulatory functions. The setting up of this Authority would ensure that construction and maintenance of domestic aerodromes and the installation of equipment required would be carried out efficiently and expeditiously. The experience of the International Airports Authority of India set up in 1971 has been a happy one. I have every reason, therefore, to believe that this progressive piece of legislation will help develop our domestic