

[Translation]

First they should settle scores then I shall speak. Has the matter been settled?

(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Are you satisfied now? If you are happy, I am happy.

[Translation]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is unfortunate that the talks on the boundary dispute being held between China and our country in Beijing have ended without arriving at any conclusion. But it has been reported in the yesterday's 'Tribune' that China has intruded into 'No Man's Land' in the Ladakh area and has set up check posts. In this connection....

MR. SPEAKER : You do not attend the Parliament. Am I to be blamed for this?

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : We would like to know about the fate of the negotiations being held there.

MR. SPEAKER : I would like to tell you that we have already taken a decision that there would be discussion on this issue.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Government should make a statement on it because this is a very serious issue. They have established check posts in Ladakh.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : If you go on creating disturbances, I cannot do anything. If you do not attend Parliament, I am not at fault. Had you been here, you would have known that we have already decided that there will be discussion on it. There is no dispute about it. There is no need for you to say all these things. I have said that there will be discussion on it. Should I say this from the house top or top of Qutub Minar? When you do not hear me, I am not at fault.

[English]

You attend to your Parliamentary duties. When a very nice discussion goes on, only fifteen Members are present here.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT : We wanted to further strengthen your will.

MR. SPEAKER : But when it comes to creating disturbance, the attendance is very good.

SHRI PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA : I would like to draw your attention towards the eastern region of Madhya Pradesh....

MR. SPEAKER : You give in writing. This will not do.

12 16 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

[Translation]

Situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :—

“Situation arising out of floods, drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard”.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON : Sir, I share the concern of the House on the sufferings of the people due to long spells of the drought in certain parts of the country. During 1985-86

260 districts in 14 States/Union Territories involving 1490 lakh population, 436 lakh hectares of cropped area and 1129 lakh cattle population were affected due to drought. During pre monsoon season, in the current financial year 1986-87, 106 districts in 7 States involving 740 lakh population, 190 lakh hectares cropped area and 645 lakh cattle population were affected by drought. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh have continued to be affected by drought during pre-monsoon period of 1986-87 also. In the year 1986, certain parts of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, and Chandigarh have been affected by hailstorm causing damages to crops and dwelling units. Certain areas of Assam and Tripura suffered due to fire. Jammu & Kashmir has been affected by heavy snow fall and flood this year. People of Kangra, Chamba and Mandi districts of Himachal Pradesh suffered due to earth quake.

A severe thunder squall with a speed of about 136 km/hour followed by hail-storm hit the Naddi Tehsil of Bharatpur district in Rajasthan and cyclone hit Dholpur district and industrial areas of Bhiwadi in Alwar district which caused extensive damage spread over nearly 100 villages.

The States of Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have been affected by heavy rains floods of varying intensity, during the current year. I am, however, glad to inform the House that the pressure on account of drought has abated due to reasonably good rains during the current monsoon in the country, except in a few pockets.

Even though the responsibility of carrying out the relief and rehabilitation activities is primarily that of the State Governments, Government of India is fully alive to the situation arising out of natural calamities and maintains close liaison with the State Governments, rendering all possible help and Central assistance with a view to mitigating the distress of the affected people.

12.25 hrs.

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

As the Members are aware, the financing of relief expenditure is based on the recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission and Government decisions thereon. The margin money with the States has been increased from Rs. 100.55 crores to Rs. 240.75 crores on the recommendations of the 8th Finance Commission from the year 1985-86. This will enable the States to take immediate action for providing relief. The Commission have also expressed the view that with the enlargement of Margin Money, in ordinary course, it should be possible for the State to cope with a natural calamity without having to seek any further assistance. Whenever necessary, on the request of the concerned State Government, Ways & Means advances are sanctioned pending the issue of sanction of Central assistance. Thus, by way of margin money and Ways & Means advances, the Central Government ensure that the relief operations are not delayed due to paucity of funds.

Immediately on receipt of the first signal of the disaster, Agriculture Ministry reacts by getting in touch with State Governments to have detailed information about the prevailing situation and the measures undertaken by the concerned State Governments to combat the situation. Reconnaissance Teams are also deputed at times on receipt of report of the occurrence of the calamity. The Prime Minister himself has already visited some of the affected States for getting first hand information of the prevailing situation and action taken by the State Government for mitigating the hardships of the people.

Every year, detailed guidelines are sent to the Chief Secretaries of all the States and U.Ts. before the onset of monsoon, indicating the line of action required to be taken in advance so that adequate preparations are made to deal with floods and other natural calamities. This year, a letter was sent to all States on 29th May, 1986. A Conference of Revenue Ministers of the State Governments was held in Delhi this year and discussed the issue relating to Natural calamities. A conference of Relief Commissioners of all States and UTs is organised every year to discuss the status of prepared-

ness. This year, such a conference was organised on 30th June, 1986.

A ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 467.81 crores has been approved for utilisation in the year 1985-86 and Rs. 298.32 crores for utilisation in 1986-87 for drought relief to various States/UTs. We had sanctioned recently another Rs. 32.37 crores of Rajasthan, which I could not mention in the circulated statement. There is also another correction. Instead of Rs. 595.42 crores, it should be Rs. 558.31 crores. So, Rs. 558.31 crores have been approved for utilisation in 1985-86 and Rs. 66.93 crores for utilisation in 1986-87 so far for floods, cyclones etc. Sir, for this Rs. 20 crores, as I mentioned in the statement, it should be Rs. 66.93 crores. I am adding again to the statement that Rs. 1.17 crores was sanctioned yesterday for hail-storm relief to Rajasthan. An amount of Rs. 2.38 crores in 1985-86 and Rs. 0.096 crores in 1986-87 has been approved towards relief for fire damages. A ceiling of expenditure amounting to Rs. 1.43 crores was approved for Assam in the year 1985-86 for earthquake relief.

Government of India have decided last year -- last year means, by the end of the last financial year, i.e. this calendar year -- to allow the State Governments reimbursement to handling cost and subsidy on wheat and rice that may be supplied at subsidised rates to workers employed on relief works. Under this scheme, 55,000 tonnes of wheat were allocated to Maharashtra. The Government of India have also decided to meet the cost of transportation of fodder, both by rail and road during drought. The surplus States were requested to make available fodder to drought affected areas. Department of Railway have also issued orders for transportation of fodder on priority basis.

Certain other steps have also been taken recently to make the norms of Central assistance more realistic and to ensure that the Central assistance is utilised in a proper manner. The revised norms of Central assistance and additional guidelines to the State Governments have been circulated to the States and U.Ts for their information. The States have been requested to put adequate emphasis on the need for utilisation of Central assistance for creation of produc-

tive assets. In addition, a number of long-term measures like soil and water conservation programme, Drought Prone Area Programme, Programmes for expansion of irrigation facilities, National Rural Employment Programme, Rural Landless Employment Guarantee Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Dryland Farming, Afforestation schemes etc. have been taken by the Government for reducing the incidence and intensity of drought conditions.

A Working Group on communication for disaster management has been set up under the Chairmanship of Director-General, India Meteorological Department for reviewing the existing system and to suggest improvement therein. Action has also been initiated for preparation of a Centrally-sponsored Scheme on Disaster Preparedness, covering items like construction of Cyclone shelters, augmenting the existing forecasting, warning and communication system, purchase of equipments for rescue and relief operations. A total allocation of Rs. 12.00 crores during the Current Five Year Plan with Rs. 6.00 crores as Central share and the balance Rs. 6.00 crores as States' share has been provided in the Plan for this scheme.

Let us all pray to God Almighty that the current monsoon would bring long-awaited relief to all the people of our country. I would like to assure the House that Central Government will take all possible steps to supplement the efforts of the States in dealing with the natural calamities, wherever these occur.

Translation

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Mr. Deputy Speaker! Sir, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh were affected due to drought. I shall deal with the situation of Rajasthan in detail.

There has been famine in Rajasthan continuously for the last 4 years and in 1985-86 about 2.19 crore population and 3 crore heads of cattle were affected due to this.

According to the information I have got in Barmer the rainfall this year between June

to 22 July, which should have been 82.4 mm normally, was just 4.3 mm. Similarly, in Jaisalmer district instead of 48.4 mm it was just 9.1 mm, in Jodhpur district instead of the normal rainfall of 107.6 mm, it was only 9.5 mm. In Bhilwara the rainfall, which in normal course should have been 238.2 mm, was only 88.3 mm.

This year in the absence of rains, even sowing has not been done. Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur come under my constituency. Sowing has not been done in most of the areas there. In other areas where the rainfall has been scanty and there has been long gap between the two rainfalls, the remaining crop has also been damaged.

When the situation is so acute and since June there has been no rains, the Centre should come forward to help. But it is a matter of regret that in the absence of timely help from the Central Government, the situation in Rajasthan has become alarming. Also, instead of 10 lakh labourers only 2 lakh labourers have been provided employment. In my Barmer area instead of one lakh labourers, only 14 thousand labourers, have been provided employment.

The cattle have started perishing. Their number of during cattle is in thousands. One of the reasons for their death is that the fodder is very costly and it is not being made available in time. So far as drinking water is concerned, the people have to cover a distance of 10 to 15 kms to fetch it. In the absence of rainfall, the water level has gone down. Water which used to be supplied through tankers does not reach its destination because all the routes have been blocked due to duststorms. Thus, the drinking water situation is very acute there.

Along with it, the number of relief centres have also been reduced. The main reason for this is that 5 lakh tonnes of wheat, assured by the Central Government, has not been supplied in full where as the Finance Minister and the agriculture Minister had given assurances that this much quantity of wheat would definitely be made available. Today, when I met Shrimati Grewal, Secretary to the Prime Minister, she also stated that 5 lakh tonnes of wheat should have been given. Due to non-supply of wheat, all

the relief works have come to nought. Our Government submitted a memorandum on May 21, 1986 and requested in it that Rs. 87.97 crores for employment, Rs. 59.51 crores for drinking water and Rs. 4.20 crores for fodder should be given. This memorandum was submitted on May 20, 1986. A study Team from here also reached there in the first week of June. No decision has so far been taken since its arrival. I read in the 'Hindustan Times' today that the matter has been decided finally. Even after the submission of the report of the Study Team, a period of one month or one and a half months has been taken and on account of this delay, the Central assistance was not provided on time. Even now the assistance proposed to be provided is quite insufficient. According to the information received, the Central Government is going to give Rs. 60.75 crores against the demand for Rs. 87.89 crores for employment. Similarly, our demand for drinking water was Rs. 60 crores but we are going to be provided with only Rs. 16.39 crores. This information also we got today from The Hindustan Times'.

Secondly, whatever help is given is under Advance Plan or as loan. If it is given under Advance Plan, it forms part of our plan and in case it is treated as a loan, it would mean increased loan burden on the State and the situation is that there has been drought for the last four or five years. I want to submit that it has been written on page 70 of the Report of the Eighth Finance Commission :—

[English]

"In the existing criteria governing the Central assistance for various kinds of natural calamities, except that in the case of States which have had droughts for more than 4 or 5 successive years, the entire assistance should be considered for being given as a grant."

[Translation]

All this amount should be given to us as grant. What happens is that when it is not given as grant or is given as Advance Plan, this amount is spent in an area which is drought stricken resulting in

hampering of the programmes relating to the areas which are not drought affected. That is why I have submitted that Central assistance should be in the shape of grant.

My other submission is that the assistance given to desert areas should be on the lines given for flood affected areas in which 75 per cent of the assistance is under non-plan category. The situation in desert areas is worse than those areas. Thousands of cattle heads perish, people die of starvation because they do not get employment. Only one crop grows. The Central Government should take this thing into consideration and should give 75 per cent of the funds as grant as is given in the case of flood affected States. Moreover, our margin money should also be increased. Rs. 16 crores have been fixed as margin money for the States whereas the natural calamities have become an annual feature. If the margin money is increased to Rs. 50 crores, the State will not be burdened subsequently. In this connection I have to say only this that it is a national calamity and the Central Government should extend all possible assistance. The number of labourers has come down to 2 lakhs. Therefore, more projects should be taken up and the number of labourers should be increased to 10 lakhs because the situation has worsened. Fodder should be made available for the cattle? Adequate arrangement for drinking water should be made. In this famine situation help in every way should be given.

With these words, I draw your attention to this serious problem and expect that the Central Government will provide full assistance. The situation in the State is that it is facing the worst famine of the century. In such a situation you should save the lives of the people and the cattle of Rajasthan and contribute to build its economy.

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, India is a big country with varied agro-climatical zones. We have been noticing floods and drought in various parts of the country. People are suffering from occurrences of hailstorms, snowfall and all these things. In fact, this

situation is not something new. We have been experiencing it for long. But unfortunately there has been no Plan allocation for this. Government has not reserved any fund, any revolving fund, to meet the situation. Unfortunately, whenever there is drought or any such occurrence, after three or four months they send the Central Team. And another two or three months are taken for issue of assistance. By that time, the drought season will be over and the rainy season will have come. The same thing happened in Andhra Pradesh. The Central Team visited in May, from 3rd to 7th, and after all the recommendations and persuasions, they could give only Rs. 40 crores recently, on 18th of this month. On the same day we received rains. The kharif monsoon started only on 18th of this month. I will give another example. My constituency, Nalgonda, is said to be a drought-prone district; there, normally the rainfall upto the end of June is 191 millimetres. Last year it was 141 millimetres. This year it is only 46 millimetres as on 1st July. I have got the figures. In Rayalaseema, it is less than 20 millimetres, specially in Anantapur area. This is the situation. This is not something new. I have with me figures of Central assistance sought in respect of the years 1979-80 to 1986-87. We have been asking for Central assistance and Central assistance is being given. It has become a general phenomenon. There should be a revolving fund to meet the situation immediately. The Central Government is giving only Rs. 30 or Rs. 20 crores. Whatever the State Government is asking for, they are not giving; they are giving a small amount. Whatever may be the amount they may be giving, why don't they give it in time? Why this delay?

Also whatever the Central Team is doing it is all a humbug. They visit only the road-side villages. I hail from Nalgonda which is near Hyderabad. When the Central Team comes to my constituency, they do not extend even this minimum courtesy of informing the local M.P. They do not inform the local M.P.s as to when they are coming and where they are going. They go to the Chief Secretary, they go to the Collector and other officers. They enjoy the dak bungalow and other facilities. Then they come back and give some report to the Central Govern-

ment. What sort of report will they give? They are visiting the field after 7 p.m. What will they see in the night in the rural areas? This is the fate of your Central Teams. I feel sorry to bring this to your notice.

Last time the Andhra Pradesh requested for Rs. 934 crores. You were kind enough to give only Rs. 40.05 crores. The other day in Hyderabad the Raita Maha Sabha, sponsored by all the political parties, demanded the Central Government at least to give Rs. 300 crores to meet this situation. It is a worsening situation and no body could cope up with this.

Now the entire Kharif season is lost. I know the situation as a scientist and as a farmer. If you sow during this month what will you get? The entire Kharif season is gone. There is no fodder. There is no hope of getting fodder even this year also. Cattle are coming to the slaughter house in Hyderabad and elsewhere. All the farmers are in miserable condition. Nobody is there to help them. Actually the State Government with their meagre resources are helping them.

Unfortunately, there are no rains in Andhra Pradesh. But there were rains in other parts of the country. They actually caused a breach to the Dhavaleswaram project over Godavari. We are requesting the Central Government to build a project at Polavaram.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Under Rule 193 we are going to discuss about the economic situation. At that time you can raise this point. Please wind up now.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : There is water in Godavari. The State Government is ready to take up this project. But the Central Government is not giving clearance. You must give the clearance immediately to take up this project.

I want to give one or two concrete suggestions to the Minister. Now we are having a crop insurance scheme. It is only a joke to the farmers. It is in no way helpful to the farmers. You are taking Taluk as a unit. There will be rains in one part of the Taluk whereas there will be no rains in

other parts of the same Taluk. So, it should be taken on an average. I am requesting now and I have been demanding this on the very same floor of this House that you have to take village as a single unit. Afforestation scheme, soil conservation or percolation tanks scheme should be taken up on a priority basis. If you want to build a project you have to spend Rs. 30000 to Rs. 40000 per acre. You are not giving anything to the dry-land farmers. You have to take up dry-land farming on priority basis and the dry-land farmers should be helped.

The State Government are requesting frequently the Central Government to establish the Disastrous Management Institute at Hyderabad. Andhra Pradesh is known for drought and flood. So, if this is located in Hyderabad you will get all the facts and figures. I am requesting the Central Government to extend this facility.

The State is under the grip of severe drought. As demanded by the Raita Maha Sabha, I am urging the Central Government at least to sanction—you have already sanctioned Rs. 40 crores—another Rs. 260 crores. The Raita Maha Sabha consists of important bodies, irrespective of political affiliation. It is a farmer's falum. Farmers have demanded this. So, you kindly see that Rs. 300 crores is given to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI PARAG CHALIHA (Jorhat) : I am sorry to find in the Minister's statement that nothing specific has been said about the ravages by floods and erosion in my part of the country. Mysterious one the ways of nature. While there is drought in one part of this big country there is flood in another. To make the matter still worse, in my own State Assam, which is a small State—we find drought in one part of the State and serious damages by floods in just another. I am sorry to state that Assam goes on suffering and seldom gets proper coverage in the national press and our woes are much less appreciated by the powers that be. Certainly, as always, the lack of proper media is responsible for much of this. As would be ascertained from the 1985 Report which was luckily for us not a bad year in respect of floods, the total loss came to about Rs. 10.81 crores, next only to Kerala which suffered a loss of Rs. 520 crores and Maharashtra about Rs. 70 crores.

It is not very much known that eighty per cent of the people of Assam are agriculturists, but then there is fragmentation of land and very acute deforestation. The hon. Members might be interested to know that row and rows of mountains have been totally denuded and that is why our State Government has come up with a ban totally prohibiting cutting or felling of trees recently. This has been going on only to fill the coffers of the business tycoons like Birlas, Tatas and all that. To add to this fragmentation of land and other woes is the erosion caused by the mighty Brahmaputra. Assam is a riverine State. It is not generally known what all the tributaries of the mighty Brahmaputra outnumber the tributaries of the country put together. We live in such a state. The great earthquake of 1950 ravaged the area to such an extent that after that embankments all along the Brahmaputra on both the sides were constructed thereby narrowing the big river and narrowing means siltage and siltage means rise in the bed of the Brahmaputra river and that has added to the erosion and overflowing of the banks on both sides of the river. Hundred of people and thousands of cattle die every year. This is a perennial problem going on in Assam. The extent of erosion is such that the important industrial town of Dibrugarh was almost facing total extinction. It has a population of more than one lakh; it was under six feet of Brahmaputra water level. The town was saved by warlike measures taken by the people of Dibrugarh. Not only that, so many blooming tea estates have already been eaten up. One-third of the world's biggest river island Majuli has already been eaten up causing total shifting of a number of monasteries. Only recently, we had floods in my district, the old Muslim shrine Ajan Pir Dargah is facing extinction; side by side there is a Hindu math, Ramkha Pith; that is also very much in trouble because the Government did not take adequate steps.

In Assam, there has been lack of proper data of the rivers. The Brahmaputra Flood Control Board was constituted a decade ago. They are yet to be supplied with a contour plan by the Survey of India. Because of that they have not been able to plan proper protection measures as they should have done earlier. Naturally, money has been the real constraint of the whole thing.

I am sorry to say that for the 7th Plan period, the Assam Government had asked for a grant of about Rs. 150 crores, but out of that only less than 50 per cent, i.e. only Rs. 70 crores have been allotted.

13.00 hrs.

That means, the Assam Government would not be able to take up even the normal flood protection works. That means, instead of Rs. 25 to 30 crores, they have been granted only Rs 13.5 crores which is inadequate to take up even a small flood control and irrigation project. I, therefore, would like to urge upon the Central Authorities that they should raise this central assistance. I also stress upon the Government that permanent measures should be taken up to control Brahmaputra, by taking up Dehang and Subansiri projects, if necessary by bringing about some settlement with Arunachal Pradesh, which is said to be creating certain hindrances in this regard. Then, projects like Nohing, Lohit and Dibang should also be taken up. Heed should be paid to the recommendations of the National Seminar on Soil Conservation and Water Saving, wherein systematic surveys have been planned. Efforts should also be made to enlist people's participation. In China, the Great Yellow River was fully controlled by utilising the services of lakhs and lakhs of people. In this way nature's challenge was totally met by the people of that country. Why not consider doing the same sort of thing here also? If necessary foreign collaboration should also be sought. The erstwhile Minister of Agriculture stressed the need for intense foreign collaboration in this regard. He said that with regard to flood hazards, particularly in the Indo-Gangetic plains, very close collaboration was necessary between India and Nepal and India and Bhutan for the river systems on the northern banks of Ganga and Brahmaputra. Integrated watershed management in these river systems will not only reduce floods in parts of UP, West Bengal and Assam, but will also check soil erosion and improve productivity in catchment areas in Nepal and Bhutan.

Finally, I would like to urge upon the Government that all necessary steps should

be taken so that the river Brahmaputra will not be a river of sorrow but it will be a river of joy and strength not only for Assam, but for the whole of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Dharam Pal Malik. Please conclude in five minutes only.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK : Sir, the others have spoken only with regard to their particular States. I have to speak about...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already told you that we would be going to discuss the economic situation, in which you can participate. You mention whatever points you want to raise in 5 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonepat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, India is a vast country but it is the misfortune of our country that every year its one or the other part is affected by drought or hailstorm or floods. 70 per cent of the population of the country is dependent on agriculture and you can understand that if the farmer of any country is prosperous then the entire country is prosperous. If there are tears in the farmer's eyes, it means the entire country weeps. At the moment I want to say that the two parts of India remain perennially affected by natural calamities. One is Western India which includes Rajasthan, Haryana, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. These States always remain drought affected and I would request the hon. Minister that if he deems it fit, he should get it looked into as to what are the causes of this continuous drought in the Western India. Similarly, the other part of India that is Eastern India is always reeling under the fury of floods. If the problems of floods and drought are solved jointly, I am confident that both these problems can be solved. But it is our illluck that even after 40 years of independence both these problems are sought to be resolved on an ad-hoc basis and no effort is made to solve them permanently. Funds are sanctioned for the people after they have

been affected by floods or after the rainy season sets in. The funds are misused for digging some drain or nullah.

I want to submit about Haryana State. You may ask for the figures relating to it. You will find that the funds are sanctioned and provided for controlling floods and drought after several persons have died, houses have been damaged and cattle heads perished. As regards drought, every year water table goes further down by 5 to 15 metres due to drought. On the other side you will see that water table is rising. If these two problems are jointly resolved, then I feel you will be able to control the situation properly.

Hail-storm, earthquakes, fires, cyclones etc. cannot be controlled through preventive action but one thing must be done and that is there should be no delay in providing relief in such areas. Several teams visit the areas but relief is provided after several people have died.

In India, 15 to 20 crore people always remain victim of one or the other natural calamity—be it hailstorm, flood or drought. Because of this, the condition of the affected areas remains miserable. I want to say that one third or one fourth of India's population remains constantly in the grip of calamities. Some permanent solution should be found to these problems.

I want to give certain suggestions. The hon. Minister has stated in his statement that it is a State subject but we cannot escape our responsibility by merely terming it as a State subject. Such problems are national problems and the entire nation suffers from them. We should control them at the central level.

The hon. Minister has in his statement given the names of the districts in the drought affected areas. He has mentioned the names of 7 States in it. The number has been given as 7 but the name of one State has been omitted. I think that State must be Haryana.

One and half month of the rainy season has lapsed but not a drop of rain has fallen. The cattles are dying for want of fodder. The

water in the wells has gone down and the ponds have dried up. The entire State is in great distress. My submission is that Haryana's name should be included in that list.

The hon. Minister has mentioned 8 States which have been affected by floods. These States are Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. The situation in Uttar Pradesh is so bad that an hon. Member, Shri Harish Rawat has told that in the hill areas of the State some 25 persons have already died. I do not know whether the Government has got the report about this or not. Hundreds of cattle heads have perished, the houses have been damaged but no relief work has been started there. The floods are so devastating that the roads have been damaged, railway lines and other means of communication have been affected and the entire rural population is in a pitiable condition. It is, therefore, requested that relief for them should be provided immediately.

The hon. Member, Shri Chaliha has given suggestion about trees and I support it. I would request the hon. Minister that he should tell in his reply as to what was the percentage of land covered by the trees in 1947 when India became free and also what was the total number of trees and now in 1986 what percentage of land is covered with trees and what is their total number? I understand that in 1947 around 26 per cent of land was covered with trees. Now we read daily that so many trees have been planted but the reality is that at present the trees are only on 9 per cent of the land. I want to give you an example. When I was a student, the head master of our primary school told us that in that year 20 crore trees had been planted in the country and the teacher of that school had sent a report to the Government that he had planted one thousand trees in his school whereas in reality no tree had been planted at all. What I mean to say is that if these trees remain on paper only then we are not going to gain anything. If trees are not actually planted, then half of country will be destroyed due to drought and the remaining half would be ravaged by floods. This can hamper the progress of the nation also.

Therefore, felling of trees should be stopped.

The water of rivers like Narmada Godavari, Ganga and Yamuna can be utilised in the drought affected areas. The water of these rivers falls in the Bay of Bengal and remains unutilised. If their water is used by constructing dams across these rivers, the problem can be solved. With this arrangement two problems will be solved simultaneously. One, the areas through which water of these rivers flows will not be affected by floods and secondly, that water will be used for the drought affected areas.

Presently in Japan, even artificial clouds have been created. They can have rains wherever they want. Indian Government should also think in this direction.

We have observed that the State Governments do not get the funds to the extent they demand for relief works. I, therefore, request that the State Government must be provided by the Central Government the amounts they demand. Otherwise a situation will come when the State Governments will start making false demands, If they are in need of Rs. 10 crores, they will demand Rs. 100 crores because they are aware that they will get less than what they are going to demand. A person submitted an application to the Deputy Commissioner for a licence for a cannon. The Deputy Commissioner replied that licence for the cannon cannot be issued to any private person. We can issue licence for a pistol. Then he said that last year he had applied for 5 cement bags but was issued only one bag. Therefore, he thought that if he applied for licence for a cannon, only then he will be able to get licence for the pistol. So, such things should not happen. Whatever money is required by the State Government must be provided by the Central Government. With these words I conclude. Lastly, I may say onething more that the hon. Minister may kindly reply as to what per capital relief is being given.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : This is enough. Please take your seat. If there is anything more, you can give it in writing.

Hon. Minister can reply now. I cannot allow.

(*Interruptions.*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record. Hon. Minister.

DR. G.S. DHILLON : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, half of them spoke in Hindi and half of them in English and therefore, I reply in English.

Sir, I have heard the hon. Members with rapt attention, not with the view that I should prepare some points just to contradict them. But I quite appreciate their problems and difficulties. We in the Ministry have to act within certain limitations, rules and regulations. But Mr. Mallick says about the big gun. If he applied for a big gun, I would certainly grant him a licence for that. But I do not have the gun, and the pistol too. I think, even if I have it, some others will come to snatch it.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Mr. Jain has mentioned a few points. He says, there are certain districts where the rain is deficient. We all know that there are very deficient rains almost nil in Western Rajasthan. Rajasthan not as a whole but at least in Western Rajasthan—it is rightly mentioned and I quite agree with him—there have been no rains or insufficient rains in some areas. But there have been and are programmes for such areas. So, for the deficit areas, we will not be found lacking to attend to them. Certainly we are very much concerned about the areas being abandoned by labourers. But we would certainly do something which we have mentioned in the case of capital requirements. We have revised the norms. Earlier, the norms were not quite enough. We have revised them and I will send a copy to you. We have sent them to all the States and even the Press, We are very liberal in increasing the amount of relief for cattle, cows and calves etc. We are very much concerned.

Mr. Jain mentioned about the demand of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat. You also mentioned about the advance plan. Advance plan assistance is given for drought relief. Whenever some calamity occurs, we do

expect that the State Governments will inform us, not only during the occurrence of the calamity but also immediately thereafter. And that must be taken up by an inter-Ministerial team. The inter-Ministerial team goes to the State, consults the Government and also the people's representatives. When they come with their report ready, consultations are held with the State Government and also with the representatives of the Secretariat. After the report comes, that is taken up by a high-level committee on relief with representatives of Ministry of Finance and Planning Commission.

In case of the demand of 5 lakh tonnes of wheat I think you are misinformed. We have allocated 5 lakh tonnes to Rajasthan on pre-payment basis and that is still lying there unutilised. It is not being lifted.

So far as the other programmes—supply of wheat as a part of the wages is concerned, that is a different programme under the rural development department. That is a different programme. But this was given as a part of relief. All ways and means advances were sanctioned by Government.

As I have also mentioned in my main reply, ways and means advances available to Rajasthan have so far not been availed of. Once we grant ways and means advance, it should be utilised.

The other part which you mentioned, the last one, was already submitted and approved by the high-level Committee. But as you mentioned, as far as pre-monsoon is concerned, we have got the report and that has been processed.

All other points, I think, I have noted them, but these are the essential points which I think I should reply.

Mr. Raghuma Reddy suggested that there should be a revolving fund. What type of fund is that? Whatever it is, our fund is already revolving throughout the country State by State. It does not revolve in Andhra Pradesh alone. It is already a revolving fund. But if you have any other conception as to what type of revolving fund we should consider, some details of that may

be given. That may be better.

You also mentioned about fodder. As far as allocation to Andhra Pradesh is concerned, I can mention to you one point that there is no discrimination at all. If at all there is discrimination, it is not against you, nor against any other sector.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : Prime Minister visited Andhra, and Maharashtra and Karnataka. On the same day, he announced some assistance to Karnataka and Maharashtra. But he has not uttered even a single word about Andhra. I am bringing that to your notice.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : You can ask your State Government. They are not utilising their funds.

SHRI G. S. DHILLON : About fodder, as I have told you, we have decided to bear all the expenditure on fodder. We have also approached railways that they should give priority to the fodder transportation. I have mentioned in my speech that we have also contacted the fodder-producing States like Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and other States and urged them that they should spare fodder and supply it to the deficient States who need it. It is up to all the State Governments to cooperate.

Shri Parag Chaliha is not here. He raised many points which perhaps related to the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Resources. But anyway, he wanted some reply on those points from me also. All I can say that I will forward those points to the hon. Minister for Water Resources and Irrigation. But we, in our own way, are also very much concerned and for the Department of Agriculture, water supply is our very basic need.

He talked about floods. He talked about deforestation. He talked about cattle. We will give our first priority. But so far we did not receive any memorandum from their State. Only 3 days back the Minister of Irrigation called on me and he said that they are planning to send it. He gave a brief memorandum and it is only to-day that I sent him another letter that this

memorandum does not fit in with the details that we require. We have informed them to immediately send their memorandum and if we are found lacking to do anything on these points, then you can come after that but not before submitting the memorandum. Their representative here in Assam has mentioned and I was surprised what document he was quoting when they have not sent any memorandum to us. Cattle and afforestation is part of our rural development programme. That is our priority—to develop our dry land, develop forestry and to improve the forests. That is a part of our rural development programme which we are taking up quite separately from flood relief and we are more committed to that programme as already mentioned by my friend, Sardar Buta Singh sometime ago.

Assam asked for Rs. 150 crores and he says that it has got only Rs. 70 crores. I cannot exhaust the patience of the few members who are here. It is lunch hour. Already so many are impatient and have left without listening to me. But those who are here—I should not exhaust their patience. For relief to the States we go by the report of the central assessment team. There is no discrimination. Mr. Malik was telling that perhaps if they exaggerate the demand, they may get more. That is only a wishful thinking. There are certain guidelines norms and standards and the central team takes account those guidelines and standards for the determination of the aid and then they give their report. If you exaggerate the figures, we are not bound to go by that. We will go by the report of the central team. He raised many points. He mentioned desalination. He raised creating artificial rain. They are all costly affairs nor are they part of our programme. I have seen this process of desalination in Kuwait and some other countries. It is very costly. But we will not mind if the Ministries concerned take it up. But living in Haryana he is thinking in terms of sea shore. As far as Haryana is concerned, he spoke about deficiency in rain, dry land, etc. As soon as we get any report about the loss due to deficiency of rain or about dry areas, we will certainly go ahead with the relief. As far as the reservoirs suggested by Mr. Malik...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Every Member is speaking. We have to link all the rivers.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : This should be discussed under Rule 193.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. We are going to discuss the economic situation under Rule 193.

Therefore, you are going to discuss this matter also. It has already been accepted.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When you are speaking on the Economic situation, you very well speak on this matter also.

DR. G.S. DHILLON : I have replied to the main points.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It includes price rise and everything will come under it.

DR. G.S. DHILLON : One of my hon. friends sitting there is giving me good suggestions. We will be very happy to discuss it in this House. This is a very important subject. It needs a thorough discussion. I thank you very much for it.

13.31 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

[English]

Committee on public Undertakings

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate a member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Miss Saroj Khaparde ceased to be a member of the Committee on her appointment as a Minister of

State and do communicate to this House the name of the Member so nominated by Rajya Sabha.”

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The question is :

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to nominate a member from Rajya Sabha to associate with the Committee on Public Undertakings of this House for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee *vice* Miss Saroj Khaparde ceased to be a member of the Committee on her appointment as a Minister of State and do communicate to this House the name of the member so nominated by Rajya Sabha.”

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House stands adjourned for lunch to meet again at 1430 hrs.

13.32 hrs.

The Lok Sabha Then Adjourned for Lunch Till Thirty Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock

The Lok Sabha Reassembled After Lunch at Thirty Four Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

[English]

(1) Need to upgrade Jamia Millia Islamia to a full-fledged University

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna) : Sir, today when dark and evil forces of right reaction are trying to destroy the very base of our secular, democratic and socialist objective, institutions like Jamia Millia Islamia should be given every kind of patronage and material help. It was this great institution which faced the onslaught of Muslim communalism and kept the banner of secularism aloft. People like Col. B. H. Zaidi Ex. M.P. and former vice chancellor of