

[Shri P.A. Sangma]

8. The Handmade Carpet Industry in Jammu and Kashmir.
9. The Slate Industry in Markapur in Andhra Pradesh.
10. The Slate Industry in Mandasaur in Madhya Pradesh

The following action will be taken in each of these areas

- (i) Stepping up the enforcement of the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986, the Factories Act, 1948, the Mines Act, 1948, and such other Acts within the Project area. If necessary, special enforcement staff will be created for the purpose
- (ii) Coverage of families of child labour under the income/employment generating programmes under the overall aegis of anti-poverty programmes.
- (iii) Formal and non-formal education of child labour and stepping up programmes of adult education of the parents of the working children
- (iv) Setting up of special schools for the child workers where provisions of education vocational training, supplementary nutrition, health care, etc. will be made. If necessary, stipends will be given to children taken out from the forbidden employments, to compensate their loss in earnings
- (v) Creation of awareness through social activist groups and by other means, so as to educate and convince people regarding the undesirable aspects of child labour

Certain infrastructure will be created for the Projects with a Chief Executive Officer in Charge of each project. There will be a Child Labour Project Board for each project, with the local Collector as its Chairman, and with officials, non-officials and representatives of the voluntary organisations as members, to ensure coordination of the inputs by various Departments. There will also be a high-level Monitoring Committee to set up at the Central level with representatives of the concerned Ministries/Departments and State Governments on it

Each project will be carefully drawn up in consultation with the State Governments and the Central Ministries concerned to ensure proper coverage and intermeshing of programmes of the Central and the State Governments. In the first phase, the ten projects are together expected to cover upto 30,000 child workers. The likely expenditure on the Projects is expected to be of the order of Rs. 11 crores annually

13.52 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE: DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—Contd

[English]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi) Madam, in the advanced age of science and technology when we are dreaming of marching towards the Twenty-first Century we cannot advance the excuse of inclemency of weather and the whim of nature and we cannot afford to ignore the struggle of our fellow-beings for their basic human need. That is why, instead of calling it fully a natural calamity, I want to call it a man-made calamity because of the denudation of forest and the disturbance of the ecological balance that the human beings are making; modernisation has actually become destruction of nature

'Agricultural drought' is being defined as

one which occurs when soil moisture and rainfall are inadequate during the growing season to support healthy growth to maturity and cause extreme crop 'stress and wilt', especially in the middle of May and in the middle of October. The meteorological report that has been given is a clear indication that most parts of the country are now under the grip of natural calamity. But it is unfortunate that Orissa, which should have figured as one among the few worst drought-affected States, has not been properly looked into. As per the Government report, in the initial stage when the report of the Government was submitted, only five districts were under serious drought conditions, that is, Kalahandi, Bolangir, Phulbani, Koraput and Ganjam, but now with the latest review, the Government has also submitted a memorandum that the entire State is under the grip of severe drought. So, keeping this in view, Orissa should be looked into and immediately a Central Team should be sent and the entire Central assistance, as desired by the State Government, should be given.

I belong to the constituency which has become a national event because of the poverty and drought, that is, Kalahandi. There, I have my own experience; in the last 20 years I have watched it as a student, as a volunteer, as a Minister and now as a Parliamentarian. So far as Kalahandi to which I belong is concerned, I have some experience and out of that experience I want to make some suggestions.

The drought period should be declared for the whole of the year and not merely from the cessation of the rainfall to the normal spring time. Secondly, there should be assured work and assured wages. The essential commodities should be subsidised and there should be a proper distribution system. All economic activities outside the government apparatus should be banned. Agricultural loans upto a certain limit for the small and marginal farmers should be waived. Without these, you cannot, even with the best of intentions, solve the problems of the poor,

the poorest of the poor. Simultaneously we should take all care for dry farming and drought relief. Crop insurance scheme should be implemented forthwith. Water sources should be tapped and there should be parity of allocation of funds for rural development from the Centre to the critical areas and reorientation of the States' Plan to complete the scheme in the worst affected area. These are some of the experiences which I have gathered working in the midst of the severe drought affected areas.

The DPAP and the DRDA programmes should be reviewed and the entire State and especially the district like Kalahandi and Bolangir all the blocks should be included in the DPAP programme. At present, 615 blocks are included in the whole of the country. There should not be any distinction between drought and flood while giving central assistance and the states which have been affected for more than 4 or 5 successive years, the entire assistance should be considered as 100% non-Plan grant as in the case of Orissa.

Madam, I fully agree with the suggestions given by Shri Indrajit Gupta that in this calamity when the whole humanity is suffering, there should not be any difference, all parties, all voluntary organisations should come together to implement our relief work. Here I want to draw your attention that while dealing with the human problems there should not be any political motivation.

Madam, Kalahandi has become a national event now. I need not go to the history, the social causes for which the poverty has become the epidemic in Kalahandi. In 1949, in a report it has been mentioned that it was the most backward, economically exploited State. It was a feudal state and now with the dawn of Independence and with the visit of our Prime Minister work has started so that long term drought and other poverty problems can be solved. There is poverty. There is drought condition. People are scared. They need self-respect, they need

[Shri Jagannath Patnaik]

dignity and they should be treated as human beings. There are statements made, there is some news that people are taking human flesh, they are taking poison insect, they are selling away their children and their wives. These are all without any authentic information, without proper assessment of the situation. If these types of things go on, it will not solve the problem, it will not serve the cause of the problem rather it will have a demoralising effect. While dealing with the human problem we should be very careful, we should be cautious there should not be any political motivation

Madam, in the general planning, we cannot improve the lot of the people who are in the middle stages, until and unless there is micro level, district level planning with adequate central assistance liberal technical assistance. There should be Special Development Board with adequate central financial assistance Parity should be given to districts to tap all the water resources, then only those districts can come up because of socialist planning. The main concept of planning is to eradicate regional imbalance and eradicate poverty. For that we have to draw a strategy. For that, Madam, a National Drought Policy should be evolved aiming at providing drinking water, fodder, job, restoring ecological balance, intensifying social forestry, power conservation, efficient water management.

Drought conditions of our country will affect agriculture and industrial production, which means price rise, which may lead to inflation. There will be need for diesel, petrol so that we can have import of it.

14.00 hrs.

There may be unhealthy and unhygienic conditions due to lack of water. We have to give electricity at subsidised rates for agricultural purposes. For the present we have to adopt some methods like cutting down all the luxury expenditure. We should be

more careful in using petrol, diesel and electricity. The consumption of petrol, diesel and electricity for luxury purposes should be cut down and diverted towards agricultural purposes. Apart from that we have to think of other plans and programmes so as to divert the money towards the drought affected people.

I am grateful that the Prime Minister himself and the Government of India have taken it as a challenge. He has created a sense of confidence in the midst of misery and in the hearts and minds of the people that the Government of India and the whole Parliament is aware of their human problem. So, there is a sense of confidence and that is why I want to congratulate the Prime Minister and the Government of India.

Lastly I want to urge that there should be a National Drought Programme for the present. For the permanent solution of the problem, more emphasis should be given towards the people who are the poorest among the poor and towards the areas which are more critical. Accordingly we have to draw out a plan so that for the present we can face the situation and for the future we can solve the problem permanently. There should be no excuse for us that in this advanced stage of science and technology people suffer on account of intensity of weather and natural calamities.

[*Translation*]

PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT (Chittorgarh): Madam Chairman, the country is passing through a nation-wide crisis because if we cast a glance on the chart of rains, we will find that there has been no rain in more than half of the country and acute famine is round the corner in these States. If we fail to formulate long term planning in time, the country will suffer a great loss of cattle heads and human lives. A number of cattle heads and human lives will perish in the

famine. The nature has made a cruel joke with us. Whereas in the month of Sravana, there is rains and greenery everywhere; now dusty wind is blowing. Not only this, the drinking water problem has become very acute in a number of States. Madam, we should see how the Westerly winds are affecting monsoons. We will have to find out scientific cause of this phenomenon. What is the reason that monsoon is playing hide and seek with us for the last ten years?

We discuss about drought in many States occasionally in this House. But have we ever thought what is the scientific reason of this and why such thing is happening during the last ten years? The Meteorological department can make forecast of only 24 hours in advance and not of longer period.

Yesterday, while taking part in the discussion, hon. Members have said that the Meteorological Department was not competent. I would like to say that our Meteorological Department is not incompetent, but it lacks resources. We have no equipments to evaluate the reasons for the change of weather. The Meteorological department should have such modern equipments. We had a proposal to buy super computer from America so as to make our Meteorological department more effective but due to some political reasons we would not get that. Therefore, the situation has become very precarious and a number of states are in the grip of severest famine. I come from Rajasthan. It is not easy to describe the condition of Rajasthan in word. It can be imagined only by seeing it how the worst conditions are prevailing there. No living being in Rajasthan has seen such an acute drought in the State. There are a number of persons over 100 years of age who have not seen such a condition there.

Sowing has not taken place in Rajasthan. Kharif has not been sown there. Due to absence of underground water, cracks have appeared on the earth. The problem of drinking water has become so acute that people have to trudge long

distances to fetch water. Even in those places where water was available particularly in my constituency Chittorgarh, which is hilly area, this time people are facing acute shortage of drinking water. Therefore, the Central Government will no doubt send a study team there but they should not wait for its report. If the Government wait for its report, a number of cattle and men would die of starvation and thirst. The Government should, therefore provide adhoc grant to Rajasthan immediately

Today, our economy is in the doldrums particularly our rural economy but there are hoarders and blackmarketeers in the urban areas who have created artificial scarcity of essential goods. As a result, prices have gone up sharply, of eatable items. You can imagine the plight of a housewife and being a housewife, I am pleading their case.

If a person with a monthly income of Rs 600 or Rs. 700 has to purchase edible oil at the rate of Rs. 30/- or Rs. 35/- per Kg. and costly pulses, then it is very difficult for him to make with ends meet in these days of price rise and he is half fed. Therefore, during this time of famine, you should first of all raid the premises of the hoarders and made such an arrangement whereunder all the food items are easily available to all. Not only this, our industries and the entire economy is in doldrums.

Rural areas are facing acute unemployment, starvation and epidemic conditions. A few days back I had gone to my constituency on the occasion of last Rakhi festival and I had gone to my constituency with happiness, but when I went there, I found that cattle were lying dead at various places and there was foul smell all around. I would, therefore, like to submit that keeping in view the situation in Rajasthan, special assistance should be provided to the States. Though, there is drought in other States also, yet the situation in Rajasthan needs special consideration because it has been facing continuous drought for the last 5 years.

Prof. Nirmala Kumari Shaktawat]

Certain famine relief works were undertaken in 1986-87 and an amount of Rs. 82 crores is still to be paid by the State Government on this account. If you do not provide financial assistance, Rajasthan Government would not be able to do anything else except clearing this arrear of Rs. 52 crores. How will it start relief works? Therefore, *ad hoc* grant should be given immediately.

At present, you have a stock of 2 crores and 30 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. If this stock of foodgrains is not sufficient, you should import it from abroad so that the foodgrains could be made available to the persons who are facing starvation.

Last time you had promised to supply 3.5 lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Rajasthan free of cost, but it has not been supplied so far. You should release it immediately besides supplying 3 lakh tonnes of additional foodgrains. Only then would you be able to save the hungry tribals and the landless farmers. There is an urgent need of fodder for the cattle. You should make efforts to save the cattle wealth of Rajasthan.

I would like to submit that the present water shortage is very severe and we always speak of the famine. Why do we not undertake long term planning to deal with such a situation? How long would we depend on the mercy of the nature? Our country is an agricultural country, but we have not been able to make full arrangements for the irrigation. All the water is flowing in the ocean without being utilised. All the schemes which have been formulated by various States should be cleared immediately.

There is acute shortage of power these days. Due to shortage of electricity, people are not able to take advantage of the water which is available in the wells. Due to shortage of water, the cattle are dying. Therefore, arrangements for supply of

electricity should be made wherever it is possible.

One of the reasons for scanty rains is the denudation of the forests. A large number of trees have been felled in the forests in Rajasthan and are being felled even now. The dams for providing irrigation are silted, because all the forests in the neighbourhood have been cleared. As a result, the irrigation capacity of such dams is going down. Therefore, felling of trees in the forests must be checked and also issuing of new licences to the wood industries must be stopped.

Now I would like to give some suggestions to face the national crisis. My first suggestion is that there should be some economy in all kinds of Government expenditures. Secondly, the transportation charges on fodder and foodgrains should be borne by the Centre. Rig machines are urgently required for ensuring supply of drinking water. Therefore, high pressure rig machines should be sent to Rajasthan. If you like, you may curtail the amount of assistance to be given to the State, but high pressure rig machines should be made available to the State so that water could be extracted easily.

In the end, I would like to urge that sufficient quantity of foodgrains and adequate funds should be made available for various programmes like N.R.E.P., I.R.D.P. and food-for-work programme. We would be able to tackle this acute famine only when all of us face it unitedly. Also, there must be co-ordination among all the departments.

I hope, you would pay your special attention to Rajasthan. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur): Madam Chairman, all the hon'ble colleagues in this House are seriously expressing their views over the

grave situation due to drought which has become a challenge to the nation now. Mr. Rangarajan, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, has estimated that one per cent fall in agricultural production leads to two per cent fall in industrial production. The impact on industry could be quite severe. We are not only facing the shortfall in agricultural output and problem in agricultural sector but there will be a severe industrial crisis also in the future. All my learned friends have well placed their views before the Hon'ble Minister through you. They have well narrated the grave situation which has emerged due to drought.

I am not going to take too much time. Punjab, Haryana and some parts of western U.P contribute a lot towards the foodgrains pool of the country. The situation due to drought has brought Punjab, Haryana and other areas to such an unenviable situation. Already in Punjab, due to heavy rains in May, there was a shortfall of 20 lakh tonnes of wheat in Rabi season. At present, there are five lakh tubewells in Punjab which are expected to irrigate 19 lakh hectares of paddy fields. But due to drought and water level going down, only five lakh hectares of paddy fields have been ploughed. It will reduce the production of rice from sixty lakh tonnes to forty to forty-five lakh tonnes. Fifteen lakh tonnes of rice will be less produced this time. Similarly, the cotton and sugarcane crops in Punjab are getting dried up due to dry spell. Due to shortfall of rain, twenty-five per cent area has not been brought under paddy due to drought and yield has gone down by fifteen per cent. It means that the Punjab and Haryana farmers have been hit in their income by forty per cent. It is a very sad situation indeed.

I want to put forth a few suggestions. Firstly, all of us represent the people and everybody here says that money should be distributed, or foodgrains should be distributed among the affected people, but I am of the opinion that if we, the representatives of the people, the Planning

Commission and the other concerned Ministries had thought to do something to face the drought situation, over the years money would have been spent in a wise manner, during these days we would not have to face such a grave danger. I earnestly urge upon the Government, specially the Minister for Agriculture, Makwana Ji, that we should put all our efforts to adopt sprinkling irrigation. Sprinkling irrigation saves about fifty-five per cent of water. In the present situation, the use of sprinkling irrigation would have reduced our misery.

Secondly, there is a lot of seepage of water. The Government should liberally adopt measures to stop the seepage. We can stop this seepage if the water courses, brinks of water courses and canals are all made pucca and brick lining is done.

Thirdly, the Government should seriously take steps to complete the on-going irrigation projects in the country. If the completion of the on-going projects in the country is expedited, it will help in the generation of electricity and water supply.

Further, I will also suggest that the fertilizer and other crop loans which have been given to the farmers up to Rs. ten thousand should be waived. The postponement of repayment of these loans will not effectively help the farmers and small producers.

I would also request the hon. Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Makwana, to consult the experts. It is usually said that the Eucalyptus is destroying the water supply. Eucalyptus sucks too much water which ultimately gets evaporated. This in turn affects the ground water table. Even then all the State Governments and Central Government are preaching to grow more and more Eucalyptus trees. If Eucalyptus is dangerous for the ground water level, my question is; can't we find any substitute for this?

Then, I would request the Government, through you, to have a fresh look at our attitude towards peasantry and farmers. Some farmers in Punjab and Haryana have

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoolwalia]

good clothes and good houses which gives the impression that they are quite rich. I tell you 90 per cent farmers, in Punjab, Haryana, U.P. and other areas of the country, are under heavy debt. So, we should change our attitude with regard to the economic situation of the farmers.

With these few words, without taking much of your time as I promised at the beginning of my speech, I conclude my speech and I am very thankful to you Madam for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA (Mirzapur). Madam Chairman, it is very unfortunate that we are attending monsoon session without any monsoon... (*Interruptions*)... The sinners are sitting there, When we came from our constituency, we found that there is acute drought conditions right from Himalayas to Kanya Kumari. There is possibility of famine. Elderly people in our village tell us that such a famine situation had occurred in the year of 1904. We call it 'takshali'. People of 100 years of age tell us that this 'takshali' has occurred now after 1904. When we started from our constituencies, we had thought that as there is serious drought, there would be a discussion in Parliament. We would give our suggestions and immediate action would be taken on our suggestions. But the members of the opposition who are sinners, have wasted one week's time by creating disorder in the House ...(*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: The people of India openly say who is the sinner (*Interruptions*)

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA: The people of the community are in trouble these days and they are facing natural calamity. We were thinking that there would be discussion on this crisis, but these people

have wasted one week's time of Lok Sabha. The people of the country will not forgive them. The people are very much angry with them. What have they done in the second week. With a view to create confusion among the people and to take political advantage by indulging in character assassination, they raised baseless issues (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: No interference. Please don't, interrupt him, let him continue ... (*Interruptions*)...

[*Translation*]

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA: Elections would be held in 1990. It would not be held before that. Don't worry... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why do you disturb him? Please listen to him. Don't disturb him. You can speak when your turn comes. Even if it is relevant, you cannot speak in between

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA: Madam Chairman, 'Papi' word is not unparliamentary. 'Papi' means sinner. A person who does injustice to the people is a sinner. 'Papi' word is not unparliamentary. You have indulged in the sin, therefore, I have called you sinner (*Interruptions*) So much of time has been wasted in Bofors deals (*Interruptions*)

Madam Chairman, I am referring to the drought. 15 days of the session have passed and now the discussion on drought has started. It is a matter of shame for these people. The people have condemned them very much. The people are saying that the Members of the opposition are great sinners, because they did not allow the discussion on drought to be held.

These people are raising the discussion on the defence deals instead of raising the discussion on sorrows and sufferings of the people. The people of the country will never forgive the members of the opposition. These people are never going to come to power. (*Interruptions*)...

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Mishra, why don't you come to the point? You are unnecessarily wasting your time. You are given only 10 minutes time. Please come to the point.

[*Translation*]

SHRI UMAKANT MISHRA: Madam Chairman, the situation of drought is very serious from Himalayas to Kanyakumari. This situation may lead to famine I am happy that the Hon. Prime Minister has felt the sorrows and sufferings of crores of people and a committee has been formed under his Chairmanship and this Committee is looking after all these things. Our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi is sympathetic to the sorrows and sufferings of the people. These people do not have any sympathy for the people as they are living in an imaginary world.

Madam Chairman, I would like to give certain suggestions to deal with this situation of drought. I would not take much of your time, because I have to undo the sin which has been committed My suggestions in this regard are as follows:-

1. Uttar Pradesh is a very big State. Leaving a few districts, there is drought in almost all the districts of the State. Maximum assistance should be given to it and to other drought hit States.
2. Recovery of all sorts of dues and loans etc., should be stopped in the drought hit areas and taqavi should be disbursed and students should be exempted from payment of fees.
3. Maximum works should be undertaken in rural areas under N.R.E.P., R.L.E.G.P. and P A P.
4. In every Gramsabha and every village, a relief Centre should be opened and works like digging ponds etc. should be undertaken immediately so that the poor could get some job.
5. Under every Nyaya Panchayat, atleast four or five Fair Price Shops should be opened.
6. Arrangements should be made to provide food to the aged, the handicapped and the disabled who are not capable of doing any work.
7. A hand pump should be installed for each group of 300 people, because there is a serious problem of drinking water.
8. Electricity should be supplied for maximum duration for tubewells, lift canals and pump sets. It is a matter of happiness that Central Government has taken a decision that electricity would be supplied to the farmers by imposing a power cut on industries.
9. Arrangements should be made to provide fodder to the Cattle and Fodder depots should be opened.
10. This drought and famine conditions may cause epidemics. Therefore, preparations should be made to check the epidemics.
11. Famine may give rise to crimes and the law and order situation may worsen. Steps should be taken to maintain the law and order.
12. The Government should appeal to the private and voluntary

[Shri Umakant Mishra]

organisations to work in the drought affected areas.

13. Monitoring groups should be formed to check the misuse of the funds earmarked for drought relief works.

At the time of some natural calamity, the unscrupulous people start surrounding the people to fleece and exploit them like vultures which hovering over the dead body. To check this, monitoring committees should be set up at Block, Panchayat and state levels. In conclusion, I would like to draw through you, the attention of the hon. Minister to the Famine Code of this country which is very old and obsolete and which was formulated by the Britishers. It is difficult to tackle drought problems by following this code. I request that the word 'immediate' should be substituted by the words 'at the earliest' so that this acute famine can be dealt with. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI M.Y. GHORPADE (Raichur): Madam, Chairperson, we all know that the country is today passing through a crisis which has been unprecedented in the last one hundred years. But what is really more alarming is the fact that drought has been a phenomenon which has been increasing in both intensity and frequency. This is a matter which we have to make note of.

Another thing which is causing alarm is that it is not so much the quantity of water but the pattern of rainfall which has been seriously affected by the interference in environment. We all know that due to environmental interference, there has been a drastic reduction in forest cover. It has come down from 30 per cent to 10 per cent. We have only 40 million hectares of forests and still every year we are

destroying more than 1.5 million hectares of forests. The result is that incalculable harm is being done to the country by washing away the top soil of this country. The top soil for agriculture which is the future of the country is being washed away resulting in silting up of streams and rivers and it has increased therefore the frequency of both drought and floods. This is broadly the picture.

Now, what I wish to say is that, it is not merely a question of money, I know money is wanted, several Finance Commissions in the past have tried, but let us admit that they have not been able to find any comprehensive, successful, financial solutions to this problem.

I would also like even the Government to admit that the planning process has not been able to give adequate priority and has not been able to build an anti-drought programme sufficiently into its development pattern. For instance, we have all been talking for years that a shelf of projects has to be kept ready, whenever there is drought, it has to be switched on so that the people go immediately to work and whenever the drought disappears, it has to be switched off so that they can go back to agriculture. But has this happened, I am asking? It has not happened. Therefore this is a matter of highest importance. It is not a matter of just politics. It is not a matter of just Centre-State relations. I would like to say that this habit of States' thinking that their effort in drought is limited only to what comes from the Centre is I am afraid not correct. So also the thinking of the Centre that largely it is the States' responsibility. So what is it that the Centre can do? I can say it from what little experience I had of drought, specially in Karnataka, in 1972, when we had to face one of the most serious droughts those days. In Karnataka, we were able to employ more than one million people, in all types of work. More soil conservation work was done in Karnataka in the years 1972-74 (i.e. during drought years) than ever before in its history. Minor irrigation tanks, medium irrigation projects, roads and all

types of agricultural infrastructure could be build in those days.

We did not have grain. This was a major bottleneck. We used to search for grains and we also realised that the purchasing power of cities and towns was sucking away whatever grain was there in the rural areas. This was a very serious thing. In 1972, we did not have rigs. I remember we sent officers from Karnataka to all over the country just to get a few rigs in those days. So far as fodder was concerned, we knew that we could not grow fodder all at once because of the 'Gomal' (pastures) land had been utilized by the cultivators for cultivation.

I wish to say that this is not the situation in the country today. After 15 years, the potential of the country to face drought has increased considerably. We have 23 million tonnes of foodstock. On this basis, I would like to make some concrete suggestions to the hon. Minister that, in his reply on behalf of the Government, he should come out with a clear cut national strategy to face drought because drought is a persistent thing; it is really a part of the national situation. 70 per cent of the land in this country is rain fed and every year for 3 to 4 months people starve. They have to migrate to away from some rain fed areas irrigated areas. Therefore, my suggestion would be that nothing prevents the Government of India from making a firm national commitment for full employment in all the drought affected areas. They should say clearly that whoever is not able to find work and if he does not have the purchasing power to buy essential commodities including food, it is the first commitment of the nation to provide him work. Money is not the problem because we have grain; we can have food-for-work programme on a massive scale. I had been to Rajasthan some time ago. There 7 kg of wheat/grain was being given to women for one full day work; they were quite happy with it. When there is no dearth of food, I don't see why they should not make such a commitment and say clearly that this is

what the Centre is going to do, this is what the State Government should do and this is what should happen at the local level so that the people know exactly what the commitment is and who is at fault. The whole democratic process, the pressure of the public opinion should be brought to bear on successfully fighting drought. These are two major suggestions.

Then so far as drinking water is concerned, where water rigs are required, they should be sent there. I also wish to say that in various places even rigs will not solve the problem and water will have to be transported. So far as fodder is concerned, unfortunately, even in Punjab and Haryana there is drought and the fodder cannot be grown all at once. But the wasteland Programme of the Prime Minister—5 million hectares per annum—today should be fully utilized to fight drought. Areas should be clearly earmarked where fuel and fodder can be grown so that at least in the coming months, we do not suffer from such a frightening lack of fuel and fodder.

I heartily welcome the steps the Prime Minister has taken to form a high power Cabinet Committee with himself as its head. But I wish to say that unless a clear cut commitment is made by the government specially regarding employment, specially regarding unlimited supply of food and distribution system which takes essential commodities within the purchasing power of the people by opening distribution centres almost in all the villages, we will not be able to meet the requirement.

Therefore, I would once again in conclusion repeat that the time has come for the Central Government to make a national commitment not in terms of generalisation but a national commitment specifically spelling out what the Centre should do, what the States should do and what should happen at the local level. It is only then that the Cabinet Committee of which the Prime Minister is head, their thinking of what to do can percolate to the grass-root level. Unless it percolates to the

[Shri M.Y. Ghorpade]

grass-root level it will not succeed, it can only percolate to the grass-root level if there is a national coordination between the Centre and the States and the Panchayat Raj institutions.

I think the drought, however, depressing and frightening it may be, is an opportunity to the nation to initiate a new style of functioning for all sections of the people of the States and people at all levels, all parties irrespective of political differences to cooperate and demonstrate to ourselves that the nation today has the capacity to fight drought not only in the short run but also in the long run by making it a part of the planning process and the basis of our Plans, this and the next Eighth and the Ninth Plans.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Ram Narain Singh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH (Bhiwani): Madam Chairman, it is unfortunate for the country that this time Punjab and Haryana are also facing the worst drought of the century. There are very few instances of drought in these states. But the drought is so acute this time that, of the twelve districts of Haryana, there has not been rains even in a single district. The result is that kharif crops have not been sown there at all. To say that there will be some improvement in the kharif crop is not correct because the crop has not been sown even.

There has been no rains at all in the districts like Hissar, Mahendargarh, Bhiwani, Gurgaon etc. bordering Rajasthan and these areas have been facing June-like hot-winds. Therefore, no hope for improvement in the kharif crops is left now.

Punjab and Haryana are the two states which produce the maximum foodgrains in the country but due to lack of rains the situation in the two states is pitiable. The

paddy crop in Punjab will be just 30% of the normal production. In Haryana it is likely to be only 20% because the paddy crop sown has been damaged totally in the absence of water. All the tubewells have been lying idle because ground water level has gone down considerably. In addition, there is shortage of power also. In Haryana there is not much of canal water. Till SYL canal, which originates from Punjab, is completed, we do not have any ray of hope. For Haryana, that is lifeline. Of course, the Government says that it will be completed very soon. Haryana has already invested crores of rupees on this project but it has not been constructed so far. Due to this reason also, Haryana is losing heavily.

In Haryana power generation is also very less. If the Central Government assures power to Haryana from the Central pool, it can produce fodder and foodgrains next to Punjab. What is worrying us the most at present is that people in the districts like Hissar, Bhiwani, Mahendargarh, Gurgaon, etc. which are adjacent to Rajasthan are migrating with their cattleheads with the result that their mortality rate is increasing. If the Agriculture Minister delays action any further, cattleheads in these four districts will die in great number. In Rajasthan, they are already dying. As compared to certain other parts, the water scarcity in those areas of Haryana is more which are contiguous to Rajasthan border. That is why people from Haryana are taking fodder to Rajasthan and are selling the same at the rate of one per kg or Rs. 40 per maund. This is the rate prevailing today. People of Rajasthan seeing that their cattle will die, load them in trucks and unload them in Haryana. Recently, many truck-loads of cattle were left in Haryana of which some have died and some others of good breed have been taken away by the people.

The Government should give grants to the farmers liberally and all kinds of loans should be suspended because the people are not in a position to pay them. Haryana gives good jawans and if recruitment is

made in the Armed Forces and the Police Department, then the youngmen will get employment. Earlier, a good number of youngmen used to be recruited from Haryana in the Armed Forces but now for the last 5 to 7 years the rules have been made such that the recruitment is made on the basis of population. Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan have been the sufferers because of these rules. People from the backward areas used to get recruited in the Police and Military but now neither there has been rains nor recruitment with the result that they are passing through very difficult times. I, therefore, request that the Government may take effective steps in this regard. I also suggest that the Government should make provision for fodder. Otherwise, it will be difficult for the cattle to survive.

Madam Chairperson, there is misunderstanding in the minds of the people that Punjab and Haryana farmers are very rich. When I was in service I got a survey conducted in the capacity of the Deputy Commissioner, to know as to how much loan is due from the Haryana farmers. I came to know that 85 percent farmers were still indebted. A second survey showed this percentage as 95. In Punjab 90 percent farmers are under debt. It is true that they maintain jeeps and tractors but it is because they know how to enjoy life. Shri Dhillon knows this. I have been in his district Amritsar for three and a half years. It is also true that some of their relatives have gone to USA, Canada or England. It is not that they are very rich. Rich persons may be living in Delhi or other big cities. In these states some people, of course, are in Police Force or in Military or have gone to Canada etc. from certain villages. That is why you call them rich. Otherwise there is nothing of this sort.

In Haryana, certain loans have been written off but certain bank loans are still there. That is why I say that recovery of all types of loans should be remitted and arrangement for fodder be made.

Then there is the case of Sutlej Beas Link Canal. This should now be completed. Its completion will bring prosperity to Haryana.

With these words I thank you and Conclude.

[English]

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur): Madam, The country is facing a very serious situation. This year's drought is an unprecedented one in the last one hundred years. The failure of rain has really caused great concern in the minds of the people of this country. There is an impression that perhaps Jammu and Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh are not having drought. However, it is not a fact. The drought is severe in ten districts of Himachal and in most parts of Jammu also. I have recently visited my constituency and I found that more than seventy per cent of the crops have already destroyed. It is an irony of fate that earlier this year, in the months of April and May, crops were destroyed on account of excessive rains and some where because of snow. The succeeding crop, i.e. the Kharif crop has failed to come up. It has been destroyed because of the prolonged onslaught of drought.

The Meteorological department has divided the country into 35 sub-divisions. This year it has been reported that as on 22nd of July, 1987 most of these sub-divisions did not have satisfactory rainfall. The latest is, as on 5th of August, 9 sub-divisions are having rains and 26 are without any rains. This is an unprecedented situation which has resulted in extreme shortage of fodder and drinking water. And irrigation facilities are also going dry. The Govindsagar lake which surrounds the Bhakra Dam, is a part of my constituency. Recently I went there and found that the water level is 15 feet below the level at which it used to be at this time. That can present the correct picture about irrigation facilities in Punjab and

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

Haryana and also about availability of less quantity of water for Himachal

The drinking water problem is more serious than any other thing. The fodder problem is also most acute. In the hills of H.P. the fodder is generally taken from Punjab and supplied to the cattle. When the people do not find drinking water for the cattle and for themselves, then they migrate to the river side. Most of the people from Bilaspur and Una come down to the River Sutlej and people from Kangra come down to the River Beas. This results in dislocation of the people and dislocation for the cattle. Unfortunately, the State Government does not have sufficient resources. I am referring to one question which was answered by the Minister of Agriculture day before yesterday, (Unstarred Question No. 2061) on 10.8.1987 regarding relief operations for various natural calamities. In Himachal we found that the people were complaining that though the people in Punjab got individual compensation in the form of cash and other things, people in Himachal did not get this amount. The Central Government provided Rs. 9 crores as upper ceiling for H.P. I had a word with the Minister of Agriculture, Dhillon Sahib. He told me that Punjab Government gave it from its own resources. Punjab is a rich State. If Punjab Government can give from its own resources, Himachal deserves equally its own share of relief and compensation. So, I would request the hon. Minister to enhance the compensation this time. Whatever is happening to other States in the matter of compensation and relief, the people in Himachal expect the same. People should not be under the impression that Himachal is an apple producing State and, therefore, all over Himachal, there are apple crops and cash crops as if there is no Kharif or Rabi crop. In fact, a major portion of Himachal i.e. 9 districts, have only foodgrain crops - wheat, rice and maize - which have been destroyed - wheat by the

excessive rains and maize and rice by the prolonged drought.

I would suggest one or two points. One is that there should be a permanent relief machinery for providing relief at the time of natural calamities, in all the State capitals because drought has become a recurring phenomenon and so also floods and rains. So instead of sending teams and awaiting the outcome of these towns and then providing relief, please set up a permanent relief machinery. Actually by this measure, people become frustrated and get disenchanted with the various measures that we take. So, the most important thing would be to take to planning and compensation should become a natural part of the planning in the case of natural calamities.

Secondly, the Ninth Finance Commission which was set up on 17th of June 1987 should also pay immediate attention to it. The relief manual and Famine codes should be revised. They should be more liberalised. Old days have gone. Now people require immediate relief, quick relief and relief to their satisfaction.

For the cattle, fodder tanks should be established immediately. If cattle are not allowed to get the fodder, then they will perish. Though in Himachal perishing has not started, it will start very soon. So, establishing of fodder tanks should also be there.

I would also suggest that we have small and medium irrigation facilities. The canals should be properly maintained. Drinking water should be rushed in order to satisfy the demand of the people.

One more point which I would like to bring the notice of the hon. Minister. There should be close cooperation with the representatives of the people by the State and Central Governments. What happens is that the Central Government sends teams. They go to the States and talk to the State officials without bothering about the

representatives of the people—MPs and MLAs. With the result, MPs come and bother the Minister here. If there is a proper coordination at the proper level, I think, most of the problem can be solved quickly and without any kind of irritation to any party concerned. Our Prime Minister has done well. He has set up a committee of the Cabinet and he himself is the Chairman. That shows the seriousness with which he is tackling the situation. But this is a national problem. Drought has become a threat all over the country and is the most important problem facing our country today. So, I request the Minister for Agriculture to rise to the occasion and strengthen the hands of the Prime Minister and take all sections of the representatives of the people into confidence and start the relief operations on war-footing. Whichever State requires help, that should be given and there should be close cooperation among the States, M.Ps. and the Government officers of the Centre and the States.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh): Madam, Chairperson, we are facing the drought of the century and when my friend Mishra Ji alleged that the Opposition Parties are interested only in non-issues and in creating confusion and rumour mongering throughout the country, he was very correct. They are not interested in drought. (*Interruptions*). The hon. speaker had very rightly said that. Thank God, they are well represented today. I share the views of the hon. Speaker that the concern of the hon. Prime Minister and of our Government is there and by the right policies of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Shrimati Indira Gandhi, we have been able to provide a huge buffer stock by which we will be able to tackle this acute drought in the country.

Madam, I shudder at the thought that had we not created this buffer stock, what would have happened to us because of this drought.

14.57 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair]

It is very surprising that although the meteorologists of the world had predicted that this year would be the year of "El Niño" phenomenon which occurs every 30 to 40 years, but unfortunately, our Indian weathermen said that there will be a regular monsoon and there is nothing to worry about it. Here we are in the middle of August and there is an acute drought all over the country. Till now I feel that almost a fire-brigade approach has been taken as far as the drought is concerned. Whenever there is drought, we rush to send supplies, whether it is in the form of relief, drinking water, fodder or whatever it may be. I feel that it is an age-old practice that the Government used to plan for drought. The Government of India must come out with a concrete proposal. I would suggest that the Government of India should form a national commission to fight droughts. It should find out what are the reasons for the drought, how it can be tackled, and should have a permanent machinery at the district level to investigate every watershed for water conservation measures and for soil conservation measures, so that we have a shelf of projects. My colleague hon. Ghorpade was very correct in saying that we have to have a mechanism which we switch on when the drought relief work starts and switch off when the drought relief work finishes. So, we have to look into it.

We have to take very concrete decisions and very hard decisions. We are in the middle of the 8th Five-year Plan. To fight the drought, we must divert the funds from such projects which have utilised only less than 50 per cent of their funds. It may be any Ministry, but we must take a conscientious view. We must take a decision that all funds of all the projects which have not used more than 50 per cent of their projected funds, should be diverted to fight the drought. My immediate suggestions are :

It is said that this country faces the famine for work. It does not have famine for foodgrain. Now we have to find work for the people and, unfortunately, we do not

[Shri Digvijay Singh]

have a plan how to spend this money. It has been a common occurrence. In fact, it has been my experience also that the money is squandered at the Block and District levels. BDO and District Collectors spend wherever they think fit. There has to be a concrete plan. My suggestions are: you should pin point that water conservation measures have to be taken. Water conservation tanks have to be constructed. Structures necessary for dry farming, for soil conservation have to be provided for. Usually the farmer has to pay for it. In the event of any difficulty you should take up. Soil conservation should be at Government cost so that soil is conserved.

Drinking water is a problem in a State like Madhya Pradesh - 80% of land is on a plateau. Normal rigs do not function. You must send combination rigs to the State. In whatever form you want, I would suggest that you should involve the educated unemployed. You should give them grants, give them loans. But you give them combination rigs, drilling rigs so that they can find employment and at the same time take up Government work.

Fodder is another factor which must be looked into. The State like Madhya Pradesh has acute drought. Fodder has to be transported from other areas. Fodder transport subsidy must be given to them.

We have a large number of sanctuaries and National Park. Although Forest Minister is not here we have to conserve that. You must allow fodder and grass to be out. You have game sanctuary and National Park. In the event of drought you have to provide fodder to the cattle. Fodder from game sanctuaries and National Park should be collected.

Grazing must be regulated. There has been a lot of cattle death in my Constituency in Rajgarh in Madhya Pradesh. You must provide for compensation, for cattle loss to the poor farmer.

Government should come out with the scheme of making hay of the fodder which is available. Land use should be diverted. Wherever there is irrigation, land use should be diverted from producing food-grains to green fodder so that fodder could be made available.

Ground water has to be exploited. Ground water level or table is receding but whatever ground water is, you have to go in for a major programme for ground water exploitation in this drought year.

Electricity has to be diverted from industry to agriculture. Essential commodities have to be provided for. We are in for a very high level of inflation. We must go in for effective public distribution system.

Hoarding of foodgrains and essential commodities have to be very seriously checked and I would also suggest pulses which is one of the most important diet in the Indian family, you have to provide some kind of subsidy and provide pulses through the public distribution system.

As regards edible oil, greater allocation has to be made for public distribution system. Food and Civil Supplies Minister is not here. Edible Oil which is given to Vanaspati industry should be given to the public distribution system. Vanaspati industry is getting cheap edible oil. But they have not reduced price of vanaspati ghee. That is the crux of the matter. Why are you giving this profit to the vanaspati manufacturer. It should go to the public distribution system and should directly come to the consumer.

Loan to the farmer has to be waived. There is no doubt about it. Even the loan to the IRD beneficiaries had to be staggered. This is a calamity. This is a serious emergency in which Government has to respond favourably.

Prof. Parashar while expressing his views said you must come out with the scarcity manual which was made earlier. You must come out with this.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Scarcity Relief Manual.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH: Yes, Scarcity Relief Manual. You must form a National Commission to go into the specific details and then come out with specific proposals. Sir, Madhya Pradesh, as I have already stressed, is in a severe condition of drought specially Rajgarh, Shajapur, Mandsaure, Dhar and Jhabua Districts and the North Western Districts, namely, Bundelkhand and Baghelkhand are facing very severe drought. I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to consider these drought affected districts very sympathetically. Sir, you have given one lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Rajasthan as grant. But you have given one lakh tonnes of foodgrains to Madhya Pradesh as loan. I would request the hon. Minister that this loan should be converted into a grant because Madhya Pradesh, as it is, is in a very difficult financial position.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON): The request has not come from the State.

SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH: As Members of Parliament, we will take it up with the Chief Minister so that the State Government can come up with a proposal requesting the Centre that the loan which has been given to the State should be converted into a grant. Sir, in this context, I would also request the hon. Minister for greater allocation of funds for provision of drinking water facilities, for foodgrains, essential commodities and fodder and also transport subsidy for fodder. Sir, there is a discrimination shown against Madhya Pradesh. Fodder subsidies are being given to Rajasthan and Gujarat, but not to Madhya Pradesh. It should be given to Madhya Pradesh also. These are my views on this subject and I am very grateful to you, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakonam): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to participate in the discussion on drought situation under Rule 193.

Severe drought conditions are prevailing all over the country. Nearly 20 States are affected by severe drought conditions. Tamil Nadu is worst affected. Rains have failed in Tamil Nadu. According to a meteorological report, Tamil Nadu has registered a 30 to 60 per cent reduction in the usual rain fall. Water is not available for agricultural purposes.

A Central team was constituted and it visited Tamil Nadu, 5 months have passed since then. Details of their recommendations and the quantum of actual relief in terms of money and material by the Central Govt. are not available.

Newspapers reports say that nearly Rs. 30 crores have been disbursed as relief. However, the State Govt. have projected a demand of Rs. 340 crores as relief for drought affected areas in Tamil Nadu. Look at the wide gap between the relief asked for and those actually provided. Whether the projection of the State Govt in regard to relief money is wrong or whether the recommendations of the Central team is faulty. This I would like to know from the Minister.

I hail from a drought prone area. I had toured all the villages in my constituency along with the Drought Relief Commissioner. Water is not available even at 200 feet below the surface.

Hon. Minister has laid emphasis that fall in food production during prevalence of drought can be compensated by resorting to dry land farming and by raising short-term crops.

We are ready to raise short term crops. But even for that, there is no adequate

*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri R. Jeevarathinam]

water. If we cannot get a drop of water for drinking purpose, where to get water for cultivation.

Drought is a natural calamity. It is a challenge to mankind. Let us pray to the Almighty to give strength to meet the challenge. Let us also pray to the Almighty so that rains come as relief to people sweltering under heat. A Cabinet Committee under the Chairmanship of the M.P. has already been constituted to suggest ways and means to tackle the problem. I request the Committee to make extensive surveys and evolve a long term policy so that water is provided to all for drinking and agricultural purposes.

In our country where many States are reeling under the severity of drought, in some States, we have floods. We have to utilise the flood waters and water in other rivers which is flowing into the sea. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, the whole area is rainfed. If there are no rains in Kudagu the catchment area of river Cauvery, there will be no water for Tamil Nadu either for drinking or for agricultural purposes. All silted lakes and reservoirs in Tamil Nadu have to be repaired. It is not enough to provide relief money to the State Govt. It is not a viable proposition to entrust all drought relief measures to the State Govt. This is a crisis which has to be managed jointly by the State Govt. and the Central Govt. on war-footing.

In Tamil Nadu, many big lakes are dry. These have to be desilted and water tapped for consumption. Ordinary bulldozers are not suitable for such a job. In my constituency, Mamandur and Kaveri-Pakka are two big lakes. If both these lakes are repaired, you can have water for at least 2 years. Some decades back, a similar drought had visited the State. Babu Rajendra Prasad, the then Agricultural Minister visited the site in my constituency and ordered the repair of these two big lakes. It improved the situation and since

then the lakes. supplied water for further 20 years.

I urge upon the hon. Prime Minister to despatch immediately the hon. Minister for Agriculture to the drought affected sites in my State. The two lakes which I referred to earlier have to be repaired extensively. At present Tamil Nadu Govt. with the help of private contractors are digging deep water wells for provision of drinking water and water for agricultural purposes. One has to bore as deep as 200, 250 and even 300 feet. These private contractors lack of equipment and expertise for this job. I, therefore, stress upon the need for requisitioning the help of army in digging deep water wells.

Next is the plight of the small farmers. Small farmers in drought affected areas must be provided with 20 kilos of rice and adequate quantities of other essential food grains like maize, millets etc.

Further, water for agricultural purposes should be provided by digging more deep water wells to all small farmers owning 1, 2 or 3 acres of land.

As far as Madras city is concerned, there is acute shortage of drinking water. The Tamil Nadu Govt. propose to bring water by rail or by sea. But we are not sure. Surface water can be tapped by requisitioning the help of army and that is the need of the hour. That should be done on a war-footing.

I would also request the Govt. to suspend recovery of loans from farmers.

Lastly, I request that a Drought relief Monitoring Committee must be constituted district wise with MPs and MLAs as Members under the presidentship of District Collectors. The Committee must meet every 15 days and submit a report to the Govt. on relief measures undertaken and the progress made.

I conclude with thanks to you, Sir.

[English]

SHRI D. B. PATIL (Kolaba): Sir, the Minister for Agriculture has made the statement on 30th of July and since then, the situation instead of improving has deteriorated a lot. At that time the situation was worse and now it is worst. Since the fact has been admitted, I would not go into the details about the rainfall and other things.

I would like to point out that so far as the Government is concerned, the attitude of the Government till now is totally disappointing. So far as the long-term measures are concerned, Government has not acted upon it. The potential that has been created so far as irrigation is concerned is not being used properly. There is lot of unutilisation of the potential which has been created and that also affects the scarcity conditions of the country.

So far as the short-term measures are concerned, I fully agree with the sentiments expressed by the Agriculture Minister but still simply expressing sentiments is not enough because past experience of the Central Government so far as scarcity and drought is concerned, is not satisfactory. On the contrary, it is disappointing. I will quote the illustration of Maharashtra. In 1986-87, there were serious drought conditions. Government of Maharashtra had made a provision in the Budget to the extent of Rs. 206.15 crores. The expenditure incurred by the Government of Maharashtra to meet the drought conditions is Rs. 378.20 crores and the Central assistance sanctioned by the Central Government is only 23.90 lakhs. Taking into consideration the seriousness of drought conditions of Maharashtra, Maharashtra has spent in 1986-87 to the extent of Rs. 338 crores and the Central Government has sanctioned assistance to the extent of only Rs. 24 crores. It shows the attitude of the Central Government towards the State. It is said that it is the main responsibility of the States to handle the drought conditions. I

fully agree but it is also the duty of the Central Government. The margin money that is provided per year is Rs. 244 crores. If the Central Government limits this margin money to this extent only, then the situation created will be very grave and serious. The margin money provide for this should be increased. All these factors should be taken into consideration.

As far as short-term measures are concerned, I would like to suggest that water, wherever available, should be conserved. If we do not conserve water, it will be no use saying that we will provide fodder and vegetables and other things.

There is also the question of relief work. In places of drought, relief works should be provided for. Plans for creating works should be ready. My experience is that even though the plans are there but if the funds are not provided for, work is not provided for. Where is the work? If work is not provided for, there will be large-scale migration of people from villages to the towns and cities. Today I have read in the newspapers that from Rajasthan hundreds of families are migrating because work and drinking water are not provided for. Because of that, all those people are migrating to a large extent to cities. This should be stopped.

As regards drinking water, even though it is now rainy season in Maharashtra, water is being provided for to about 1,000 villages by tankers. The situation might worsen. Care should be taken to provide drinking water.

Another thing I would like to suggest is that water for irrigation for growing vegetables, water for irrigation for growing pulses and water for irrigation for growing some food-stuffs and foodgrains which require less quantity of water than some other crops, should be given on priority basis. The next important point that comes to my mind is regarding fodder for cattle. It is very important. It is common experience that fodder is not provided by the government, as is required by the farmers.

[Shri D.P. Patil]

In Maharashtra, we are now experiencing a peculiar situation. Due to shortage of fodder, farmers cannot maintain cattle because fodder is sold at very high prices. This situation has compelled the farmers to sell their cattle at very lower prices or to send them away so that the responsibility of maintaining the cattle is not with the farmers. They are free from maintaining them.

Further, though there is rainfall in some areas this year, there is shortage of cattle for agricultural operations because the farmers have sold their cattle on a large scale. Hence, there is shortage of cattle for agricultural operations. Therefore, adequate care should be taken to see that fodder is supplied at cheaper prices to the farmers and cattle camps should be started by the Central Government, State Governments and other agencies. Unless and until you start these cattle camps, it is not sufficient to pay taccavi loans to the agriculturists because taccavi loan is a burden on the agriculturists. When they have lost their crop, when they have lost their earning and income, if you are burdening the agriculturists and farmers with some sort of taccavi loans, then it is impossible for them to survive. So, instead of providing taccavi loans, the farmers and agriculturists should be provided with fodder for their cattle and also cattle camps should be started by the central Government, by the State Governments and by some other institutions, and they should be subsidised.

Sir, supply of foodgrains through public distribution system is very important because when there is a shortfall of rains, prices of essential commodities and essential goods start going higher and higher. I have got some figures, for your information. Foodgrain prices went up by 5.24 per cent against a fall of 2.24 per cent in the corresponding period of last year i.e. for the period of March to 11th July. That means, there is an increase in the prices since March to July at the rate of 7.48 per

cent. As far as the prices of pulses are concerned, it is very serious. Prices of pulses went up by 10.50 per cent against a fall of 9.77 per cent for the period of March to July during the last year. That means, the rise in prices in respect of pulses for this particular period from May to July 11, is 24.27 per cent. If we take into consideration the rise in prices at such a rate, then it will be impossible for the agriculturists and drought-affected persons to survive. The same problem will be faced by other people also. It would really be difficult to such people to survive unless and until the Government provides foodgrains, pulses, edible oils and other essential items, through public distribution system.

The next point I would like to make is regarding supply of electricity as also diesel. These two things are very important because the groundwater available at great depths has to be pumped out. Unless and until you supply electricity and diesel on priority basis, to the farmers, then again it will be difficult for them to pump out the underground water which is used for growing vegetables, pulses etc. Instead of giving these things to the industrialist at subsidised rates, if you are not going to give these things to the farmers, they will suffer very much.

Lastly, I would like to make one more point. Sir, minimum wages have been prescribed by the Central Government for the workers. Works in the drought-affected areas will have to be provided. I would like to suggest that this minimum wages atleast should be paid to the labourers who will be coming for working there. It is my knowledge that there are some Governments which are not agreeable to the increase in the minimum wages that have been prescribed by the Central Government. Maharashtra is one of them. The Maharashtra Government has complained that the increase in the minimum wages to Rs 11 per day is on the higher side. But we feel that it should be paid. This is the experience of every one that in the drought-affected areas the

persons who are working will not be getting sufficient wages and if they are not getting sufficient wages, they will have to starve because prices are rising. Even though the public distribution system will be strengthened, we are sure, from our past experience, that the requirements of the people will not be met fully, and if the requirements are not met fully, then they will have to buy from the market at higher rates. Since they will not be in a position to buy at higher rates, they cannot buy and there will be malnutrition and starvation.

For the cattle also, there should be provision for water...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI D. B. PATIL: Water is being provided only for human-beings and that also is not sufficient. Water for the cattle should be provided.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): Sir, drought and floods are natural calamities. For the last three years, the country has been facing severe drought and floods in various parts like Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra; and this year, the other States like U.P., Haryana and others are also having acute drought. The Government of India has allotted huge funds in the Seventh Plan for providing relief to the people. Out of these, substantial amounts have already been utilised for giving relief to the victims who were very much affected by floods. I do not want to go in detail. I wanted to give some data and make my suggestions for permanent measures and also suggestions for taking up immediate measures.

In this country, the average rainfall is 50 millimeters per day. Out of that, 400 million hectares of water is on the surface. Out of the 400 million hectares of water which is on the surface, 70 million hectares of water is evaporating. Storage at surface is only 115 million hectares of water. The

remaining 115 million hectares of water is getting dried. The total flow of water in the rivers in the country as on today is 180 million hectares. We are using only 70 million hectares of water from the rivers. The total area under irrigation as on today works out to only 20 percent. Ten per cent of the ground water is being explored.

So, what is to be done to use the rest of the water—that is a question mark—to see that permanent measures are worked out for giving relief to the drought-prone areas? I have got a few suggestions to make.

Number one is, Advisory Committees should be set up at the district, taluka and panchayat levels, consisting of MLAs and MPs and other local members and heads of voluntary institutions to review weekly performance of the relief works. Number two is, powers should be delegated to the district and taluka officers in the case of emergencies like spreading of epidemics, for transporting and supply of water to the problem villages and for purchase of fodder. Number three is, all land revenues should be waived. Short-term loans should be converted into medium-term loans. Taccavi loan should be sanctioned to the poor families for purchase of fodder. Relief work should be started immediately without waiting for sanctions and procedures.

Employment should be provided for women and children above the age of 10 or more because I have been seeing mostly women and children are not allowed to take relief work. Wherever relief works are scattered, contract works are being entrusted to the labourers. Such work should not be encouraged under any circumstances because whatever little food they have, they are not in a position to work on contract basis. This should be completely avoided.

Instead of starting road works, preference should be given for distilling of existing tanks, Nala-bandhas, soil conservation work. Pick up dams and

[Shrimati Basavarajeswari]

percolation tanks should be given up so as to give immediate relief for the drought affected people.

Goshalas should be located wherever there is perennial water and fodder should be stocked there and animals should be looked after by veterinary doctor and also feeds should be provided at Goshalas before these animals die out of starvation or they have been taken to slaughter houses. Such Goshalas are located in Karnataka. We have been very successful because cattle which belongs to the poor people have been taken and they are kept in Goshalas and one doctor is there to look after the animals. There is lot of fodder which they have stocked there and feeds also were provided for these animals. Those animals are looked after until the next rainy season.

Fodder should be asked to grow in the irrigated areas wherever it can be grown and that should be purchased by the Government. Wherever the grass is available in the hills and jungles must be cut and it should be stocked as early as possible.

PDS system should be strengthened. The system which we are having, the stocks which we are having are very much inadequate to supply foodgrains to the needy persons. Hence, I request more and more fair price shops should be opened immediately at the grassroot level and it is better to encourage institutions instead of individuals because when we encourage individuals to open such shops, there is every chance of misappropriation and also there may be some underhand dealings. Hence I request, as far as possible these fair price shops should be given to the institutions like cooperative societies, Panchayats and voluntary institutions and youth associations etc.

Labour wages as far as possible should be paid on 50:50 basis i.e. 50% wages should be paid in the form of grain and 50%

in the form of money. Cattle feed and grass should be provided for the poor families free of cost for the animals who give milk. Since we are facing shortage of milk, it is better to provide feeds and good grass for the milking animals. Seeds should be immediately procured for the next Kharif season wherever seeds are available in the State.

Mobile vans to repair bore wells must be immediately moved because there are number of bore wells which have not been attended properly and the villagers are facing acute shortage of drinking water and more and more bore wells should be dugged wherever there is a demand.

Power should be supplied immediately for all the irrigation pumps which are waiting for the supply of power and NRW scheme and Mini-Water Supply and many other schemes are completed but they have not been given power connection. They say there is lot of shortage of supply of material. This should be immediately looked after. There is likely that industries will be closed down due to power shortage in many States. Hence the Central Government should come forward to give power from the Central Pool.

An authority should be constituted for the droughtprone areas of Royalseema and areas like Bellary, Tumkur, Kolar and Chitradurga of Karnataka. That type of an authority is already working in Rajasthan. So, sufficient amount should be provided for an authority to take up all round development and explore the natural resources like water, mineral wealth and land. That should be given priority over all other schemes.

70 TMC of water is available which is now flowing into the sea from the Tungabhadra river. There is every possibility of irrigating more land in this area. Before the localisation was done, many lands have been left off and still there is scope to irrigate much more lands. Farmers are using the water because the water reaches their lands. Such lands,

even though they are in use, have been declared as unauthorised lands. It is high time that we should authorise these people to take water from the Tungabhadra river because there is a surplus of 70 TMC of water.

Drip irrigation and sprinkler irrigation should be encouraged so as to irrigate more land with lesser water. For the RLEGP, NREP, DPAP programmes, amount is allotted on the basis of population. Hereafter I would request the Government to allot funds on the basis of poverty and backwardness and not on the basis of population.

Various schemes have been worked out by eminent engineers for the permanent solution of Royalseema and Karnataka's drought prone areas like Upper Tunga, Netravati, and Mahanadi. If Mahanadi is connected to Godavari; Godavari to Krishna, there will be a surplus of 1400 TMC of water. With this, the Upper Krishna and Telugu Ganga and all other projects can be given more water. Hence, I would request that such constructive schemes which would give permanent relief should be taken up immediately.

Netravati flows in the western ghat. There is every possibility of taking water from Netravati by lifting water and diverting it through tunnels to Shimoga and Chikmagalore districts, so that more and more areas can be irrigated.

One Mr. Paramashiviah, the Ex-Chief Engineer, has worked out a project on Upper Tunga and Upper Bhadra wherein 120 TMC of water can be made available at Lakwalli Dam. If these two projects are taken up, most of the drought prone areas of Tumkur, Kotur, Chitradurga, Bellary, will get sufficient water. I would request that at least during the 8th Plan all these projects should be taken up on priority.

As I said earlier, all the natural resources must be explored, I have been to many countries. I don't want to compare ourselves with western countries; I would

just like to compare ourselves with eastern countries like China, Korea and Japan where they have explored fully all the natural resources like land, water and mineral wealth. Then only they went to consumer industries. Therefore, in that way it is better to take all these into consideration and find a permanent solution for the drought prone areas of the entire country.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI S. G. GHOLAP (Thane): People are surprised to note that day by day more and more areas are coming under drought in Haryana and Punjab and in other areas also.

In Maharashtra, Konkan was never coming under drought. The usual rainfall in Konkan is near about 3000 mm. But this year there is a scarcity even in Konkan. Rains are so less that the crops like Nagali and Vasai have been spoiled in adivasi areas. People ask as to what is the reason for this scarcity, why it is spreading day by day and whether it is spreading all over India or all over the world. I request the Minister to kindly clarify the position and tell us the effect of the scarcity all over the world.

As regards the reasons for this scarcity, we generally say that the cutting of trees is the main reason. My constituency consists of rural areas as well as urban areas. Thane proper city is a municipal corporation. There are no hills or jungles. But even then the total rainfall uptill now is 1000 mm, while in the other part, that is the end of my constituency which is a rural area, the total rainfall uptill now is only 500 mm. In the same district there is vast variation, namely, 500 to 1000. Why so much difference should be there in the same areas? People say scarcity must be not because of cutting of trees but it must be because of explosions of nuclear bombs. So the Minister should clarify as to what is the position.

Sir, at the end of my constituency there is a hilly and adivasi area. It is just at the

[Shri S.G. Gholap]

bottom of the mountain but even then the rainfall is less than the city which is far away from the hilly and jungle area.

Now what is the way out for this? My request to the Forest Minister is that he should take care that the Forest Conservation Act of 1980 gets amended. Water wherever and whenever is available should be stored and the productive works have to be taken up in scarcity area. In our area when we take up scarcity works there is a ban that not an inch of forest land can be taken for any work without the sanction of the Central Government. Tanks, percolation tanks and minor irrigation works are the productive works but they are held up on account of this Forest Conservation Act, 1980. I would request the Minister to get that Act amended at least to the level of minor irrigation works.

Sir, we have to supply drinking water to the affected area. In my area in one adivasi village, namely, Patgaon there are nearly 1000 people living there. After a long time the Central Government sanctioned the scheme of drinking water and have spent Rs. 7 lakhs on the pipeline. Now everything is ready except the well. When they started to dig the well, in the forest area and only half an acre of land was required the work got stopped as the required land was not given. Chief Minister intervened and tried his best thing was allowed. They said that the matter will have to go to the Central Government and only then it will be cleared. So I request the Minister to take up this matter with the Forest Minister to get this Act amended.

I would like to know the policy in respect of grant which is being given. In 1985-86 Maharashtra spent Rs. 261 crores and in 1986-87 they spent Rs. 494 crores. So in two years Maharashtra Government has spent Rs. 755 crores whereas they got only Rs. 56 crores. This comes to only 7 per cent. Now this is not aid. It is only an advance grant which we are giving to the States today and

tomorrow we are going to cut it. So if only 7% is given then how can the States carry on their works. Further whatever we are giving should be given immediately.

Sir, many hon. Members have already said that instead of advance loan or advance grant it should be made aid just as it is being given for cyclone and floods. Then there is a provision which says that if it exceeds 5% of the total budget of the State then they are entitled for aid. Now in Maharashtra Rs. 2000 crores is the annual budget. 5% of it comes to Rs. 100 crores. It is never possible to spend Rs. 100 crores in a year. Then, Sir, the scarcity period is always divided into two years from October to March and April to June. So instead of 5% it should be limited to 2% in a year so that we can spend the amount and get that amount as aid.

As regards cheap foodgrains are supplying to the labourers under NREP I would like to say that in Maharashtra most of the workers are covered under Employment Guarantee Scheme. Even today 5.23 lakh workers are working under Employment Guarantee Scheme. The scheme should be made applicable to the workers who are working under the Employment Guarantee Scheme also so that the poor people get the benefit.

Now I come to crop insurance. Whenever there is scarcity in an area, it is to be declared by the Government. It is declared only after the crop yield is taken into consideration. If the output is below 50 per cent, then only a village is declared scarcity-affected. It has come to our knowledge that where people have insured their crops, they are not getting the insurance amount even though the village is declared by the Government as affected by scarcity. The people are told that unless a separate committee takes the yield of the area and declares that the area has been affected, then only crop insurance amount is made available. I request that whenever an area is declared as affected by scarcity, the insurance amount should be given to the agriculturists immediately and no

report should be asked for from the special committee.

Sir, there is a problem about drinking water in Kokan. This year only 50 per cent rainfall is there in Kokan. As such, there is an acute shortage of drinking water.

Now I talk about the crop failure of adivasis. As these crops are in the hilly areas and the rainfall is less, the crops have been spoiled. Therefore, I request that financial assistance should be extended to these people and more work should be provided to them.

Sir, the Government of Maharashtra has been given only Rs. 56 crores against their demand of about Rs. 800 crores. They have already spent that amount. So, I request the Central Government to extend more financial help as demanded by them.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda). Sir, this year the drought is said to be one of the worst in our country during the last hundred years. The people are in a miserable state. It is not a problem of one State. It is a problem of the nation. It should be looked into on a wider range and not as a simple one. Sir, there should be a permanent solution to the problem by taking long-term as well as short-term measures.

Sir, why are these droughts increasing day by day? Compared to the last year, it is severe this year. What will be the position next year? We cannot predict. Andhra has been affected by drought for the last five successive years. One part of that State is also affected by floods. Why these things are happening in our country? In some States, there is scarcity of water while in others, there are floods. These things have to be studied carefully. The entire planning machinery has to be geared up. We have to make in-depth studies. These things should be taken care of.

Sir, if the drought situation in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra, Karnataka, Maharashtra and even in Uttar Pradesh continues, how

are we going to produce the minimum required food? We are expecting food production level of 175 million tonnes by the end of this Plan but the present position is 151 million tonnes. I don't know how much they are going to get because of this drought situation. After all we are having our procured buffer stock level at 23.5 million tonnes. At the rate of 19-20 million tonnes per year through public distribution system, it will hardly be sufficient. Because of the drought, the offtake will be more this year. But how are we going to achieve for the next year? What will be the state? This is not the problem of Department of Agriculture only. We have to tackle this problem as a national issue. The Departments of Irrigation, Finance and Energy should tackle the problem of power shortage and water shortage. Water is there. Power is there. We are not giving much importance to the nuclear power and the thermal power. These resources have to be harnessed. We cannot depend only on the hydro-electric power. The nuclear and thermal power should be given due importance. Then only we can solve the problem of power shortage due to which most of the industries have been affected. Most of the people are thrust into the open streets jobless. These things should be taken care of.

We have got water, but what is the plan to utilize it? How are you going to regulate the water flow and make use of it properly? Every drop of water should be used and only then we can achieve good results. These things should be studied properly and in a big way. The entire planning machinery should be overhauled and the Planning Commission should be geared up to meet the requirements. Only then we can solve these problems.

Then, the rates of all the essential commodities need to be arrested. The rates are going up almost every day. When compared to last year, the inflationary pressures are already evident from the available data on wholesale prices. The latest wholesale price index shows that

[Shri M. Raghuma Reddy]

from the end of March to July this year, the index went up by 5.53 per cent against 5.15 per cent during the corresponding period last year. Then, the foodgrain prices went up by 5.24 per cent from the end of March to July this year as against a fall of 2.24 per cent in the corresponding period of last year. The rates of all the essential commodities are going up day by day. What will happen after three months or six months, we do not know. We are in the beginning of the year. How are you going to control these rates of essential commodities.

The entire Saurashtra is in drought conditions. What about the oil seeds? How are you going to meet the needs of the people and control the rates? You may resort to import as a temporary measures and you can distribute that through the public distribution system, but we should find a permanent solution. We should build as many projects as possible and wherever water is available, we should have them.

There has been a proposal for a long time to link Ganga to Kaveri, but we are not aware of its present status. The late Dr. K.L. Rao mooted this proposal and we used to hear about that proposal during our student days, but where is that proposal now? Is it buried or still alive? That needs to be considered seriously. The water of all rivers from Ganga to Kaveri should be made use of. The level of the ground water is going down day by day; the sub-soil water is going down. If it is 100 feet this year, next year it would be 150 feet and then 200 feet after two years. No borewell is working. Even after forty years of independence, the villages are suffering for want of drinking water. Who is responsible? This is because of the mismanagement and mis-planning of the Government of India. One has to blame them only. They should not shirk the responsibility and pass on the same to the States. The ruling party is responsible for all the miserable state of affairs.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: Here or in Andhra?

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Now, coming to Andhra Pradesh, a number of projects which have been recommended by the State Government have been pending with the centre for clearance. These have been pending for as long as fifteen years. We must take an overall view of the country and construct such projects not only in Andhra Pradesh, but wherever it is possible. You can give permission to the State Governments to go ahead. The Polavaram project, Ichhampali project, Srisailem Left Bank project, Pochampad project, and Telugu Ganga project have been held up by the Government of India for several years. These should be cleared without any delay.

The Central Government should come forward to help the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh has been in the grip of drought conditions for the last successive five years. On the 8th of this month, our hon. Prime Minister visited Andhra Pradesh. We do not know whether it was a pleasure trip. First, we thought he was going to Mahabubnagar, but he never visited the drought affected areas... (*Interruptions*).

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Telengana and Rayalseema have a very good rain. So far as coastal Andhra is concerned, there is deficient rain, but there is Godavari canal and it is an irrigated area

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: We do not know whether it was a pleasure trip of the Prime Minister.

I do not know from where you got this information.

Sir, we have been given to understand that the Prime Minister is visiting Mahabubnagar district of drought affected area. All of a sudden when we reached

the airport they said that this trip has been cancelled. I know they have sympathy towards the Andhra people that is why they cancelled the trip to the drought affected areas of Andhra Pradesh. Sir, the situation is that he wanted to exploit the political situation; he wanted to get some advantage.

The Andhra Chief Minister submitted a memorandum asking for relief but up-till now not a single relief measure has been given.

Lastly, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that many drinking water projects are pending with the Government of India. In my constituency of Nalgonda, about 14 to 15 per cent fluorine is there in the drinking water. There is no drinking water. File is pending....

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: I have got a report from the Andhra Pradesh Government and they confirmed that there is no drinking water problem at present.

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: From where you got this report?

[*English*]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY Sir, I am a farmer and I am coming from the village. In my constituency because of 14 to 15 per cent fluorine content in the water the area is facing acute drinking water shortage. The Hon. Minister is very generous and I hope that he will listen to our problem and will try to solve the problem of Andhra people. I would request the Hon. Minister not to take a political view and kindly clear all the irrigation projects that are pending with the Government of India.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing

drought conditions in the country. Yesterday also, we had discussed this topic. This problem of drought is becoming acute every year. In rural areas of Delhi also, there has been no rains this year. The farmers kept on waiting for the rains but it eluded them. The drought this year has been so acute that the farmers are in a quandary. Water in tubewells has also dried up. There is shortage of power also. Villages in Delhi do not get power which has resulted in damage to the crops. With rains, the ponds also get filled and fodder also becomes available. The cattle give milk at least two kgs. per day. In the absence of rains, their milk has dried up. The milk is also in short supply. We have to deal with this situation.

We know that the Government is considerate towards the farmers. The hon. Members too listen to their problems though some of them speak much and listen less. At present every one in the villages is in difficulty. The man who used to sell vegetables in the village is also facing difficulty and same is the plight of farmers too. With the farmers all others are also in difficulty because every one in the village is dependant on the farmers for his livelihood. The farmers' earning depends on the rains. It is rain that the vegetables grow which create means of livelihood for them.

You say that the farmers have become rich. It is not so. If he grows a good crop in some year, he can have a good living that year, can marry his children, can repay his loans and construct house for himself but if his crop is damaged he starts dying of starvation. If the farmer earns, the Harijans and backward people of the villages, vegetables growers, also make their livelihood. The measures that have been suggested for Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh should be adopted for the rural areas of Delhi also which are in the grip of drought.

16.00 hrs.

[SHRI ZAINUL BASHER *in the Chair*]

You should pay attention to those

[Shri Bharat Singh]

farmers who have suffered losses and whose crops have been damaged. All types of grants should be provided to them. The Delhi farmers should also be given grants as have given to the farmers of other states. Four feet high embankment on the drains should be erected so that the tubewell water does not go further deep and irrigation is done in better way. The water of Nazafgarh mullah goes waste in the Yamuna, it can also be utilised for irrigation. Arrangements should be made for this also. All the tubewells in the villages of Delhi should get power round the clock, I had submitted two or three days back also that one more thermal power station should be set up in Delhi so that the farmers may get full power. Delhi farmers should get grant for fodder. I am not asking for loan. They are already indebted neckdeep and they are feeling difficulty in repaying them. They should be given cash grant. The contractors provide them inferior quality of fodder which puts them in difficulty. Therefore, grant should be given to them. Alongwith it, seeds should also be arranged for them. The paddy seedlings have withered away. Therefore, the farmers are in difficulty. The land revenue due from him should not be recovered. The vegetable crops in the Delhi villages have withered away. You all must be aware that the prices of the vegetables have sky rocketed. The reason is that there has been very less production. When the produce is more the rates remain low. I want that all sorts of help should be provided to Delhi farmers. Landless labourers and other labourers should also be helped with grants. There is scarcity of milk now- a- days. Every effort should be made to provide green fodder to the milch cattle. This will help in more production of milk and its shortage in Delhi will be removed. I want that maximum efforts should be made in this regard. Our Government has done very good work keeping in view the earlier position. It is said that during British regime if in some parts there used to be famine, in other

parts there used to be good foodgrains crop but even then people used to die of starvation. Now it is not so. The Government has full resources at its command.

I want that 4 feet high embankment should be erected on the sides of big drains and power generation should be increased so that the drought could be faced and even during the drought period we are able to irrigate the fields fully. With these words I thank you and conclude.

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu): Sir, I belong to Rajasthan. The entire Rajasthan has been in the grip of severe drought successively for the last 4 to 5 years. There are in all 27 districts in Rajasthan and 204 tehsils in those districts. Its population is 38,670 and there are 2071 villages in Rajasthan. Similarly, there are 308 lakh cattleheads in Rajasthan. The people there are reeling under starvation, epidemic and unemployment. Drinking water is the biggest problem in Rajasthan. My constituency, Jhunjhunu is situated at the far end of Haryana Rajasthan Border. A canal passes through Haryana, and Jhunjhunu remains deprived of the water of that canal. At this critical time, at least, the water of that canal should reach Jhunjhunu and Sikar so that people may make use of that water. If any drought relief work is to be undertaken, Ganga Yamuna canal project must be implemented to ensure supply of drinking water in the districts, Sikar and Jhunjhunu of Rajasthan. Indira Gandhi canal is a very big project. It originates from one end of Rajasthan. Water may also please be supplied to Jhunjhunu and Rajasthan from that canal also. I would appeal to you that the backlog of 305 lakh tonnes of foodgrains and Rs. 82 crores for Rajasthan may please be released at the earliest. The sum of Rs. 100 crores for drinking water may also please be released. More electricity may also be provided in such a critical time at the places where water is available at a great depth so that water could be provided to people by providing electricity there. The problem of water and fodder is very acute in our area. My district Jhunjhunu is partly a hilly area and the

water in the wells in this area has gone dry. Therefore, boring machines may please be sent there so that people may get water. At least one hand pump in each village must be ensured. Farmers may be given assistance to deepen their wells. Sowing has not been undertaken in that area and if at all it was done at some places, it has dried up. Therefore, the farmers who were granted loan of Rs. 10,000 should be exempted from repayment. In this critical period taccavi loans should also be given to the farmers so that the farmers and the poor may get some relief in this period. Fair price foodgrains shops should be opened in the villages. Electricity should also be provided there. Livestock is the biggest asset in Rajasthan and in order to save it, fodder depots should be opened in large number. Transport for this purpose should be made available free and it should be done at the earliest. Then only the livestock of Rajasthan can be saved. Otherwise, the plight of livestock is so bad in Rajasthan that it is perishing at places. The people are worried how their livestock would survive and how would they sustain themselves.

The recruitment for army from Jhunjhunu and Sikar region of Rajasthan is the highest. They defend the borders of the country. When these army personnel come to know about the situation of starvation, their peace of mind would be disturbed. More and more army personnel should be recruited from that area and the ban on the recruitment of Government employees should be lifted. People's representatives of our district may be associated in the relief work so that the relief centres are opened at the right places. The Government servants and people's Representatives should donate their one month's salary in this period of crisis. Expenditure incurred on our travelling should be stopped. Expenditure on our tours should be stopped. All kinds of public functions should be stopped so that we may be able to face this period of crisis. I hope that the hon. Minister Shri Dhillon will fulfil our demands of Rajasthan immediately in order to enable it to meet the situation. I hope that he will make

arrangements to fulfil our demands connected with Ganga-Yamuna canal in Jhunjhunu district and make arrangements for fodder for the live-stock.

SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAV (Mainpuri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I would like to thank you for providing me an opportunity to express my views on drought. Sir the nature has given us a lot and we are still dependant on it. It is sometimes bountiful and sometimes it wreaks destruction. Our country faces both floods and drought every year. But this year the nature has created a very peculiar situation for us. I am of the view that we hardly ever saw such a situation in our life time. People are of the view that never before has the condition of drought been so severe during the last 100 years as it is this year.

Sir, there are 415 districts in our country and out of them 280 districts are facing drought. In Uttar Pradesh there are 57 districts out of which 50 districts are in the grip of drought. Situation in the remaining 7 districts is not that happy and they have also suffered heavy losses. I had the opportunity to closely watch the damage caused by this natural calamity in various districts

This year Kharif sowing has been less than in Uttar Pradesh. Apart from my own constituency Mainpuri, I had also the opportunity of visiting the adjoining districts of Etah, Etawah, Farrukhabad, Agra etc. In all these areas one can see greenery either along the canals or at the places where irrigation is done through tubewells. Otherwise the entire Uttar Pradesh appears to have turned into a desert. The situation is very grave everywhere due to drought. The failure of rains has not only created the problem of irrigation but also of drinking water. The tubewells are also not working to their optimum capacity as the level of ground water has gone down. Due to shortage of water either the wells have dried up or their water level has gone down considerably. It

[Shri Mohd. Ayub Khan]

is a big challenge before all of us and we shall have to face it collectively.

Sir, even the ponds where the cattle used to get drinking water have gone dry. As a result, our cattle are perishing. Some farmers were undertaking fisheries in their ponds. But due to shortage of water fishers have also started perishing. Such a situation has been created. It is necessary to take very effective steps to meet this situation. Not only that, the farm labourers and poor people who were maintaining their livelihood by working in agricultural farms, are on the verge of starvation. They do not get any employment anywhere.

I express my thanks to the hon. Prime Ministry who has made available diesel to farmers for running their tubewells, pump-sets and tractors by making cut in the quota of diesel allotted to industries, with a view to meet this situation. This step taken by him is really commendable. I would like to express my thanks to him for this.

Sir, our colleagues have raised a number of points. I do not want to make a long speech. I would like to make some concrete suggestions to the Government. The hon. Minister is sitting here. I am of the view that if the Government acts upon these suggestions, we can meet this situation very effectively.

Sir, the Government should immediately implement the National Rural Employment Programme and other such programmes so that people may get employment. Electricity being supplied to industry should be partly diverted to the farmers for running their tubewells. The farmers should be supplied electricity at least for 18 hours. Then only the farmers will get some relief. Electricity may be taken from those States where it is surplus and supplied to States like Uttar Pradesh which have been surplus in foodgrains. Today we find that electricity is being consumed in Delhi and other cities on beautification. Only the tubelights essential for street lighting

should be used and the electricity so saved should be diverted to farmers.

Sir, water should be supplied to the dried up canals and tubewells so that water can be made available to cattle in the villages. Sir, ponds may be dug under N.R.E.P. in those villages where there are no ponds, so that water supply in the canals may be maintained continuously. The labourers and the marginal farmers may be provided essential commodities at cheap rates. The second most essential thing is that arrangements be so made so that whatever the relief and assistance you intend to send to villages, farmers and labourers is made available to the people of the villages without any hindrance and corruption.

Sir, fodder, straw and grass may be made available to wanting States at cheap rates from those States which are surplus in these items. The Government dues outstanding against all farmers and labourers may be written off. Today we feel that the farmers cannot repay the loan even in the next two years. It is, therefore, my request to the Government that the Government dues may be written off.

Sir, the tubewells lying out of order may be set right on war footing. The most important thing is that the prices of foodgrains have started rising with the drought. The hon. Minister is sitting here. It is my request to him that the rising prices of foodgrains may be checked so that foodgrains could be made available to poor people at cheap rates. As for the cattle, I would suggest that the cattle may be allowed to graze in the forests where it is prohibited so that the cattle can be saved from dying. With these words, I express thanks to you.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopergaon): Mr Chairman, Sir, a very important discussion is taking place in this august House on the national crisis in the country this year since day before yesterday. There are several states like Maharashtra in this country which have

been facing drought for the last 10 years to 15 years. Crops could not grow in these States due to failure of rains. We have to see carefully as to how to utilise the foodgrains which are lying in our godowns. Rather it is necessary to see that these foodgrains reach the poor people at reasonable rates.

When the country is passing through this national crisis, some hoarders want to take advantage of this situation. Now prices of all commodities have started rising. The foodgrains being supplied through ration shops are also not clean. The wheat is rotten and the rice is also not good.

If the supply of foodgrains which are being sent to states and ultimately reaching the shops is not done properly, the poor people and labourers will be deprived of these items and it may also create a situation of starvation. I do not think it to be an ordinary crisis. Everybody is concerned about this national crisis. All the States and all our colleagues are concerned about it. How to solve the problem of drinking water? Today only 15 to 30 per cent water has been left in our reservoirs. Sowing could not take place at places where kharif crops are grown because there has been only 20 to 30 per cent rainfall. Whatever sowing was undertaken, it dried up. In Maharashtra, there was 60 per cent rainfall only in one district. There has not been 100 per cent rainfall which is required for kharif crops. There has been only 20 to 30 per cent rainfall.

Therefore, I want to suggest that the new technologies of sprinkler and drift irrigation systems should be used. We should develop crop varieties which require less water. Our improved seeds are high yielding varieties which require plenty of water. During every onset of drought, we speak a lot about dry farming but we have not developed the right varieties necessary for it. All our improved varieties so far require large quantities of water. Therefore, we should take long-term measures for dry-farming.

You should spend more amount on sprinkler and drift irrigation systems. You incur huge expenditures for providing employment during drought conditions. I want to say that small farmers should be provided with sprinkler and drift irrigation system on 100 per cent subsidy basis. Today, the Government is spending Rs. 35,000 per hectare. Again, the farmers are facing difficulty in getting loans from the banks. Government should pay maximum attention in this regard. Then the farmers will be able to produce crops and have the source of income well.

The farmers are also in debt today. Maharashtra is facing drought conditions for the third successive year which has resulted in a famine like situation. Government of Maharashtra has by a conservative estimate spent Rs. 950 crores during the past three years. Rs. 495 crores have been spent last year alone. So, wherefrom can further loans be given? Drought conditions are prevailing since 1972. During these 15 years, we faced drought conditions at least for 10 years. In these 15 years the short term loans became medium term loans and medium term loans have become long term loans. As a result the small farmers and also other categories of farmers have become defaulters. I want that you should write-off their outstanding loans. If the Government does not take this step, the farmers will never be free from debt. I am not suggesting that if drought or famine conditions prevail only for 4 months you should remit their outstanding loans. The people in Maharashtra are reeling under near famine situation for the last 3 to 4 years. Keeping in view the situation in Maharashtra, I want to urge the hon. Minister to ensure that land reform programmes are implemented in this state without delay. Whether it involves the work of soil conservation, digging of canals, levelling of land, etc. all the land reform programmes will benefit the farmers and give them protection. You provide loans to the farmers and think that you have fulfilled your duty. The farmers become defaulters during famines and full amount of loans are not made available to

[Shri Bala Saheb Vibha Patil]

them as their old loans are also adjusted. Thus, the credit line gets choked. The farmers should not be made to contribute towards the expenditure incurred on implementing the land-reform programmes. The entire responsibility should devolve on the Government. I have suggested several times in the House that the agricultural policy should be changed radically. But so far you have not given it much consideration. The full amount of loans are not made available to the farmers as their old loans are also adjusted. Therefore, I want to request that the Government should exempt the farmers from the payment of their old loans.

The prices of essential commodities have gone up considerably and the black marketeers are taking undue advantage of this situation. If the shopkeepers should be made to display price-bags and available stocks, it will benefit everybody. They have a tendency to hoard goods. It has been seen that they refuse to sell kerosene etc. even if stocks are available with them. They want to hoard so that they can sell them at higher prices. Although the Hon. Prime Minister has cautioned everyone about that but the prices are still rising. We have to be vigilant about it. Stringent punishment should be awarded to the traders who indulge in hoarding and black-marketing and create difficulties for the consumers. Government should confiscate all their stocks.

In Maharashtra out of 40,000 villages, as many as 33,770 villages are in the grip of famine. At present 9-1/2 lakhs of workers are working there. 5,000 villages are supplied with drinking water by tankers etc. 2500 tankers have been pressed in service for this purpose. There are 15 thousand villages which are not getting drinking water supply. The farmers suffered losses to the tune of about Rs. 1200 crores last year due to the failure of the rabi crop. How will their losses be made good? Nearly 3 crores of people and at least 1.5 lakhs of cattle heads have been affected by

drought. Thousands of cattle have perished. The special team of officers sent by the Central Government does not make proper assessment of the situation. You will pardon me if I say that it is all bogus. Their recommendations are not accepted. Maharashtra Government had asked for Rs. 495 crores but Government provided only Rs. 57 crores. Similarly, Rs. 43 crores were asked for water but only 2.5 crores were sanctioned. If the Government does not provide necessary funds then how will the people be saved from the drought conditions?

The Crop Insurance Scheme and Credit Guarantee Scheme have been prepared. But these schemes are not benefiting the poor people. It is necessary to modify these schemes at the earliest. The insurance money should be made available by the end of June every year.

I do not know whether you have faith in your inspection team or not. But I would like that members of the inspection team must consult the M L As and M P s while touring the affected areas. When a team is sent for assessment of certain areas, it has to look at its various aspects like provision of work and financial assistance but it does not take more than an hour to inspect one district. I cannot understand how can a survey be completed in such a short time? God alone knows what decisions it can take regarding the various problems it wants to deal with.

One method of solving the problem of scarcity of water in the drought hit areas of Maharashtra will be to supply sea water by lifts system and tubewells. In my district, the ground water level was declined upto 300 to 400 feet. Open wells have all dried up. 7 out of 8 sugar mills have been closed because of water scarcity. The entire sugarcane crop has withered away. It is being used as animal fodder. There is also an acute shortage of milk in the country. The dairies can help the farmers a lot in solving the present crisis. The Centre should have talks with State Governments

in this regard. At the same time, Government should give protection to the farmers because they get a very low price for their produce. The prices of the vegetables and dairy products keep on increasing in the market but the farmers are getting a very low price. Today the tomatoes are selling at Rs. 16 per kg. but the farmers are getting only as 3 to 4 per kg. NAFED should provide assistance to the farmers and consumers of the drought hit areas. We have been facing drought in Maharashtra for the last 3 years. Therefore, we request that the farmers should be exempted from the payment of their outstanding loans.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the severe drought conditions are being discussed continuously in the House. The country has not witnessed the drought of this magnitude during the last 100 years. It is a saying in villages that death kills people suddenly but famine kills slowly. Fire destroys only a few villages but the famine has created a critical situation for the whole country. The month of July has passed yet it has not rained at all so far. The situation in Bihar is all the more worse because half of it is affected by drought and the other half by floods. If steps are not taken early to meet the situation then it may go out of hand. The situation in Bihar is such that wherever tubewells are available, electricity is not available, and at some places channels have also not been dug to carry the tubewell water to the fields. The Kanti Thermal Power Station was to be commissioned in 1986 but only one unit has been commissioned so far. The power situation is getting from bad to worse. If the resources are not made available to the farmers at this point of time then it will be difficult for you to deal with this dangerous situation.

It has been said earlier in the House also that whenever there are possibilities of war with Pakistan, big traders and businessmen tend to hoard goods in order to sell them at higher prices during the days of war. Similarly, today, the traders

are taking advantage of the drought situation and are hoarding goods in their godowns. Government should take care of them and ensure that no hoarding is done by the traders otherwise lakhs will die of hunger in spite of a large stock of foodgrains in the country. Those innocent people will die who are not able to shout slogans against inflation and cannot complain about their conditions.

You should immediately start your Food-for-Work Programme. Otherwise how the worker will get employment. Nation is facing dual problem of flood and drought. People are starving due to drought and famine. Incidence of Malaria and other diseases is very high and it is very difficult for them to make both ends meet. In view of this, I request that those farmers who are affected by flood, starvation and drought should not be charged revenue and they should also be exempted from repayment of loan. An announcement should be made in the House in this regard.

My constituency is Gopalganj, Bihar which is a border district of Nepal. The situation there is all the more worst because on one hand it is affected by drought and on the other hand by floods. Besides the police and Government officials also increase their sufferings. They are being arrested for non-payment of revenue and other dues. In this connection, I would like to say that the farmer will be in a position to repay his debt only if he gets water and power and inputs and produce foodgrains. In such appalling situation, the farmer has no option but to go on suffering.

With these words I will again request the Government to carry on the work on war footing to deal with this unprecedented situation, particularly in Bihar. The outstanding projects pending since long should be completed without any further delay in order to deal with this critical situation.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO (Machilipatnam): It is unfortunate that we have still to discuss drought and flood in the country. It is true that the incidence of flood and drought is going up year after year. It was said that in 1985 there had been drought in 12 States and 2 Union Territories and simultaneously flood in 14 States. Obviously, the entire country, every State, is suffering either from drought or flood every year. This obviously tells us the importance with which we have to tackle the situation. This obviously requires more attention and the investment than what is made in any other sector the reason being the investment made in industry or communication or transport, if it is not done, we only lose the benefit that we get out of it. But by the investment not made on checking this flood or drought or in the concerned projects, we are not only losing benefit that we get out of it but we are also incurring heavy loss, not only by way of wealth losing existing wealth and assets as well as devastation of human being, cattle and all that. Keeping these things in our mind, the Central Government must insist upon the State Governments not to go by their whims and fancies but to understand the priorities of investment and to take care of all these things to ensure that the flood and drought are controlled by investing more on taking up projects on a long term basis and not simply looking at the immediate remedy when the drought or flood comes.

I wish to say and it is also known to everybody that thousands of crores of rupees are being lost every year in spite of our investments in budgetary resources. Properties of the individuals worth crores of rupees are being lost, particularly of those people who are really poor and whose poverty is aggravating day by day and drought and floods are adding to their misery. So, Sir, this is to be given utmost attention, not discussion, and it requires total concentration in checking the serious situation. This is possible only when more number of irrigation projects are taken up.

If the Government does not find enough funds or resources for this purpose, it must even consider taking away the resources allocated for other sectors and utilise them for constructing the dams and major projects. In this aspect, the regional grid, if not the national grid, will help in a great degree and the State Government should be insisted upon to take up the regional grids.

In this connection, I wish to state that the issue should not be left to the whims and fancies of the State leader. Sir, coming to the State of Andhra Pradesh, it is known to people like us and not to the general public that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is not interested in getting clearance for various projects which are awaiting clearance from the Government of India. It is the publicity that he is interested in. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI V. TULSI RAM: What are you saying? What proof have you got?

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO: Mr. Chairman Sir, basically the extensive and undue publicity that has been given by the State leader that has created suspicion in the minds of the people of Karnataka and Maharashtra about Telugu-Ganga project. This has led to the controversy between the Chief Ministers. Even if there were to be misunderstanding between the Chief Minister of two States or three States it is the duty of the Chief Minister concerned to sit across the table, discuss the matter and sort out the problem and help the people by curbing the present drought situation or flood situation. But unfortunately the leader of Andhra Pradesh feels that he is the God and he cannot sit across the table with other Chief Ministers of neighbouring States. Unfortunately it is the ego of the Chief Minister that is causing havoc and immeasurable loss to the people of Andhra Pradesh. I would request my colleagues here representing

Karnataka and Maharashtra not to be carried away by the undue publicity that is being given by the Andhra Pradesh leader. I would also request the leaders of the States to look to the interests of the nation as a whole. It is not only the interests of Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh but it is the interest of everybody in the country. So, Sir, I wish and request the Members from Karnataka and Maharashtra to impress upon the Chief Ministers to sit across the table with Chief Minister of A.P. and sort this matter. This can be done more easily if the leader think that they are only the representatives of the people and not Gods. Sir, I would request through you, the Prime Minister to give early clearance to the various projects sent by the Andhra Pradesh Government. It should not be made a reason for the leader of Andhra Pradesh to make fuss and take it as a means of publicity for criticising the Government of India and rousing the feelings of Andhras. He is only interested in publicity and not interested in getting clearance to the various projects Sir, even if by chance the Chief Minister of any State is not in a position or not interested in providing all the technical details that are necessary for consideration by the Central Water Commission let not the people suffer because of the lapse on the part of the leaders of the State Governments. Let people not suffer because of their lapses. Let the Central Government come forward and send the concerned officers or the authorities to the State and get all the details and then solve the problems of the people by clearing the Project without any loss of time. In case both the State Governments and the Central Government sit idle and are not to clear the projects for the mistakes committed by them, then the people will be at loss. So, I request both the Irrigation Minister and also the Prime Minister to look into this aspect immediately.

The other aspect that I wish to clarify is that it is not only the Central Government that can check these things but also the State Government can check the

recurrence of drought and other things. Unfortunately some of the State Governments and some of their leaders are interested more in spending enormous amount, crores of rupees on extensive publicity to retain their position and not doing the real things that are required to be done like controlling the flood or taking up these projects. They are interested in getting publicity by constructing status on Tank Bunch etc. by spending crores of rupees. If they have understood the priorities of the projects today, which are in the interest of the nation, irrigation and such other projects should have been taken up and drought can be checked very easily.

MR CHAIRMAN: Please conclude. You have taken much time.

SHRI K.S. RAO: In this aspect, apart from the resources at the disposal of the State Government and the Central Government, I request that the Ministry and the Government should think of .

[*Translation*]

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Hon. Chairman, he may say anything. We just want to know as to how and on which item the Chief Minister has spent the money? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI K. S. RAO: Some of the private organisations or the farmers cooperatives can be encouraged with adequate loans with less rate of interest to construct as many dams as possible, whether it is minor, too small or even on the rivulets that are available in the vicinity and utilise the water. They can go for more and more reservoirs and more and more tanks to see that the water is stored and not allowed to join sea and become useless. This is a very important potential. This has to be taken care of.

I come to the last one, namely crop insurance. I say that crop insurance is a

[Shri K.S. Rao]

must and it helps particularly the farming community. The crop insurance must be effectively implemented. It should not be restricted to certain areas or with some stipulations or conditions by which the real sufferers are not getting the benefit. If necessary, an amendment to the circular has to be brought in to ensure that the real sufferers in the farming community are benefited by this crop insurance scheme.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI K. S. RAO: In regard to drinking water, fodder, power supply and all that, if adequate measures are taken in time, the situation would have been comfortable. Much of the funds are going into the hands of vested interests, while implementing the short-term, temporary measures and the funds are not being put into proper use. A long-term scheme must be drawn out.

[Translation]

SHRI KESHAORAO PARDHI (Bhandara): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the entire country is in the grip of serious drought. Sir, you know that the whole country barring Assam, Bihar and Bengal suffering from severe drought and these states are facing the problem of flood. Certain districts of Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra who have never faced drought and which are called kharif districts are also facing serious situation. This is the one of the worst droughts of the century. There are some districts of Maharashtra like Bhandara, Nagpur, Garhchirauli, Chandrapur and Wardha where paddy crops are sowed and that area never faced drought condition. Initially farmers sowed paddy but that has dried as there was no rain. It happened second time also. I want that Government should help the farmers for sowing rabi crops otherwise there may not be any rabi crop as well. The same is the situation of drinking water. People have to go far away to fetch water. Wells are dried up. There cannot be any kharif crops because not

even one percent sowing has taken place. Rabi crops depend on rains. The farmers of Bhandara, Garhchirauli, Chandrapur, Nagpur and Wardha should be provided with necessary inputs and if it rains only then we can hope for a good Rabi crop. More power should also be provided to them. Necessary arrangements for supply of fodder for cattle and drinking water for people should be made. Employment Guarantee Scheme has been started in Maharashtra, but the employment opportunities provided there are not adequate. NREP and RLGEF programmes should be expanded so that more and more people can be provided with employment. Fifty percent forest area has been protected in Bhandara, Chandrapur and Garhchirauli, even then the productive irrigation projects are lying pending for want of clearance. There are small irrigation schemes but there is no water available owing to lack of rain. Water level has gone down and it cannot come up without big irrigation projects. The Bavanthadi and Gosikhurd projects should be commissioned so as to provide employment to the people. I will also like to say about lift irrigation. Lift irrigation schemes should also be taken up to utilise the water of Vain Ganga and Bavanthadi rivers. These are the perennial rivers. Their entire water goes to the sea. It is realised at the time of famine that something should be done in this respect. 15 years ago the work on the projects mentioned by me was commenced but the same is still incomplete. Central Government should pay more attention to these schemes. In case the work does not commence even on the sanctioned projects, Central Government should provide relief to the farmers of that area. Certain projects are completed because of constant pressure. The water level cannot be raised unless big projects are taken up and water of the rivers will keep on flowing towards the sea. Bavanthadi project is lying pending since 1974 for clearance with the Central Water Commission. Rupees forty two crores have already been spent on this project. Such projects should be completed expeditiously in order to provide relief to

the farmers of drought pruned areas. More funds should be given for irrigation projects in order to deal with the drought situation. The foodgrains should be distributed on uniform basis. There should not be any disparity in this matter because it has been observed that the traders hoard foodgrains and other essential commodities in their godowns and sell them to hotels and in blackmarket. People are deprived of essential commodities and Government is blamed for inefficiency and shortcomings. Therefore tight vigil is to be kept on the hoarders and blackmarketeers. Farmers and labourers should get full payment. All the dues of farmers and fees of students should be exempted.

This is the worst drought in the last 100 years. Government should take all necessary steps on war footing to deal with the drought condition. We should forget our differences and cooperate in this task. I am thankful to the Prime Minister that he has formed a cabinet committee which will supervise relief works and arrange for more employment opportunities for the people. Maharashtra is facing the drought conditions for the last three years and the central help given to that state is not adequate. I request the Central Government to meet the demand of the State Government in full.

[English]

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor): Sir, like last year, this year also the country is facing severe drought. About 20 States and some Union Territories are in the grip of drought. There is no alternative to it. Everybody is concerned about the situation prevailing in the country. Unfortunately, my State is, of course, in the grip of floods and not in the grip of drought. But I am equally concerned with my colleagues in this House as well as the countrymen.

Sir, it is a natural phenomenon. For the last so many years we have been witnessing the situation of floods and

drought and other natural calamities. There is no remedy. We speak here so many things. The Government promises but the promises are futile exercises. People do not get anything out of it. The poor people, the workers, the commonmen do not get any benefit out of it. Last year, in my constituency, there was drought. Many teams visited there. The State Government has also requested for it. But till today, nothing has reached the people and again this time, the flood has come. The people are in the grip of floods. Houses have been washed away; cattle have been washed away; dwelling houses have been washed away; standing-crops have been damaged and several lakhs of people have been rendered homeless. There is no authority to look into this matter. That is what is happening in this country. Look at the States of Maharashtra, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan. What is happening there?

17.00 hrs.

Recently in Kalahandi many people died of starvation. Why? Because Government failed to take prompt steps in due time. Our exercise here is only a paper-exercise. The Government promise here and we also promise to the people, to the affected people; and the promises remain unfulfilled. Why have the Government failed to provide even drinking water to the people at places where drought has taken place? Many people do not get water even to drink, what to speak of irrigation for growing crops. The cattle and even wild animals are dying in the jungles for want of water. I have said time and again that the Government is committed to the service of the people in a Welfare State like ours. But people do not get even drinking water at places where drought has taken place, and the Government is not coming to the rescue of the people. Surprisingly enough, in places where floods have taken place, where drought has taken place, where such natural calamities have taken place, nobody is there to go to the rescue of the people. The Chief Minister of Assam has

[Shri Bhadreswar Tanti]

repeatedly written to the Prime Minister, about ten times, about the flood situation, but it has appeared in the press today that the Prime Minister has not received anything. The Central Government is silent on this. Whenever any natural calamity like drought or floods takes place.. (*Interruptions*) it is the duty of the Central Government to rush to the States and render all possible help. .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please try to conclude.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Please give me some more time, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Try to conclude in one minute.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): He does not seem to be interested in speaking about drought.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: I am telling about the way the Central Government is dealing with natural calamities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whether it is drought or floods, people are suffering. Let him speak.

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Surprisingly enough, the Government is very keen to rush to the help of the State if it is a Congress-I-ruled State but they do not go to the help of non-Congress-I-ruled States like Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh or Assam.. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): He want to emphasize on this point that Government of India do not provide assistance to those State Governments which are ruled by opposition parties. This is his grievance.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him speak. When your turn comes, you may rebut his statement, but let him speak now.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: When young persons like you make wrong statements, it does not behove.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Why are you wasting his time by interrupting him time and again?

[*English*]

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: By this, it is not that they are taking revenge on the non-Congress-I Governments, but they are actually taking revenge on the people. Is it the way to deal with situations in a democratic country, in a Welfare State, like ours? They are tarnishing the good name of a Welfare State, a democratic State. That is why, erosion has taken place. They must render all possible help to the States which are affected by drought or such natural calamities.

I wish to draw your attention, Sir, to the fact that the people of Assam are today suffering under the grip of sever floods. Properties have been lost. Standing crops have been destroyed. The cattle have been washed away. Dwelling houses have been washed away. Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless. But no steps have been taken by the Central Government to help the State Government. I humbly request the hon. Minister to take measures on a war-footing. . .

17.05 hrs.

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

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Sir, I have a point of order. (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the debate is on drought. He has not spoken a word on drought. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI: Where the drought was taken place, Government should provide drinking water to the

people of all the States irrespectives of whether it is Congress ruled or non-Congress ruled States particularly Assam, Madhya Pradesh, Haryana. This should be provided and all help should be rendered to the people towards agriculture.

With these words, I thank, you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to express my views on the discussion in respect of drought. Undoubtedly, the whole country and all the states are in the grip of drought, I want to speak for my own state. The drought in each and every district of Uttar Pradesh is so much horrible that even today the situation looks like that of May and June. Even these days, heat-waves are blowing and certainly the life has become very difficult there

Sir, the Kharif crop has been ruined, its sowing could not be done and paddy's sowing was also not done. Hence, there is no question of getting anything out of it but the most essential thing is, Sir, that the level of water has gone very low which has created crisis of drinking water and to some extent there is a famine-like condition. In my constituency, Jaunpur in four blocks Maniyahu, Barsathi, Rampur and Ramnagar, the drinking water was not available even before this drought. All the wells were muddy, there was not water at all. The Government is making efforts to provide drinking water by installing handpumps of India Mark-II, but I want to say that it will not solve the crisis of drinking water because these are not being installed on the basis of population but only a few i.e. two to four hand-pumps are being installed. The scarcity of water will remain the same. The construction of water-tanks has been stopped in Uttar Pradesh. It is not proper. Definitely, these water-tanks should be built so that the people could get drinking water and I also like to say that water-generators should be provided for those tube-wells which have been installed there because there is acute shortage of electricity due to which even

drinking water is not available in towns and villages, what to talk of water for irrigation.

Today, the position is such that all the ponds and tanks in the villages have gone dry. Therefore, all of them should be filled in and water should always be available in the canals and water should be supplied from them

Sir, so far as the condition of tube-wells in my constituency is concerned, I can emphatically say that today 95 per cent tube-wells are not in working condition. I have found it after paying visits in my constituency. Wherever I went, I found the tube-wells out of order. I want to say that these tube-wells should be repaired properly and fund should be provided for the same and if need be, more funds should be provided for their maintenance.

Our friend, Shri Mishra has stated that the students should not be charged any fees. Today, the condition of the students and their guardians is definitely pitiable. They should not be charged any fees and all kinds of Government recovery should be waived and if it is not possible, at least it should be suspended.

Public Distribution System should be streamlined. Today, there is black marketing everywhere. All commodities are not sold through Public Distribution System. Some persons are selling them in black market causing difficulties to the public. The Government should pay necessary attention towards it and these persons should be awarded deterrent punishment.

The wages being paid in connection with the relief work should be enhanced so that they can maintain their families properly.

Today, there are so many wells, in which there is no drinking water. you should get them cleaned so that water is made available. I have so many times spoken on the problem of drinking water. In Maniyahu tehsil in Jaunpur district, there

[Shri Kamla-Prasad Singh]

are four blocks of Maniyahu, Barsathi, Rampur and Ramnagar where drinking water is being supplied through tankers. In these circumstances, in all blocks, tehsils and districts drinking water should be arranged on war footing and funds should be allotted according to the requirement.

Our Uttar Pradesh is a very big state having very big population. The amount should be given to that state as per the requirement placed by its Chief Minister and the Government machinery.

Today, I want to congratulate our Prime Minister for the steps he has taken to run the relief operation on war-footing to fight the drought situation and has made efforts to give the assistance through the committees.

I also want to say that today the Kharif crop has been ruined and it seems that there will be no Rabi crop as well. If there will be no moisture of water, the field cannot be ploughed neither sowing can be done. Therefore, to make provision of the water, the condition of the tube-wells and the canals should be set right so that the farmers could get water properly and the farmers as well as public gets maximum relief at the time of this crisis.

With these words, I once again congratulate the Prime Minister and express thanks and request to make maximum allocations for our state of Uttar Pradesh. With these words, I conclude.

*SHRIMATI N. P. JHANSI LAKSHMI (Chittoor): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, when we are discussing drought situation in the country I thought the hon. Minister for Water Resources would be present in the House. But unfortunately he is not present in the House during this important discussion.

Sir, lakhs of TMCs of water is flowing

waste into the sea. No effort has been made to utilise this water. Dr. K.L. Rao suggested long ago linking Ganga with Kavery. Had his plan been implemented, we would have succeeded by now in saving the country from recurring droughts and floods. Govt. is spending hundreds and crores of rupees on contingency plans and relief measures every year. But no permanent solution was thought of till now. Had the Govt spent a part of the amount which it has spent on these relief measures, this project would, in all probability have been completed by now. But, better late than never. The Central Govt. should take up Ganga-Kavery link project prepared by Dr. K.L. Rao for immediate implementation.

Sir, Rayalaseema is a chronically drought hit area. It was a backward area during the British regime and to this day it continues to be backward. No effort whatsoever has been made to relieve Rayalaseema from its perennial drought. Sir, Polavaram project is an important project which will go a long way to serve the needs of Rayalaseema. By linking up Krishna with Godavari and by diverting waters of Krishna river to Rayalaseema as envisaged in the Polavaram project plan, the entire area can be relieved of drought conditions once and for all. Hence this Polavaram project assumes special significance in this context. By taking up Polavaram project Krishna waters can be diverted to Rayalaseema. I take this opportunity to request the Central Government to clear the Polavaram project as early as possible and take up its execution.

Sir, Rayalaseema is reeling under severe drought for the past 4 years. There is no rain whatsoever during these years. Even if there was any rain it was too inadequate for storage. People in this region are subjected to too many difficulties on this account. There is no food to eat. There is no water to drink. Live stock is perishing on account of acute scarcity of fodder.

Chittoor is fast coming up on the Dairy Map. About one and half lakh litres of milk is being procured every day. It is now being expanded and the capacity is going to touch 3 lakh litres a day. Hence I request that Chittoor in A.P. should be linked up with a national dairy grid. It will benefit the farmers, poor women and others. Sir, out of the 280 cooperative societies, 120 are being exclusively managed by women. If Chittoor is linked up with the national grid, all those who are now engaged in the dairy industry in this area would get more money for their produce. Needless to add that they will be saved from exploitation as well. Hence linking up Chittoor with national grid will go a long way in benefiting the small and marginal farmers and other poorer sections of the society. Sir, since milk is available a plenty in this area, an effort should be made to set up milk based industry here.

Sir, in country like Japan, cottage industries are being given prominence. In our country also, we must encourage cottage industry. People in the lower strata of society will be immensely benefited, especially during the time when there is a natural calamity like drought. They will have a regular and dependable income. Cottage industries save the poor people from starvation. Hence I hope the Government would at least now take the steps to encourage cottage industries. I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI A CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, our country is facing a very difficult period. As some of the hon. Members have said the present drought is unprecedented. Such a drought has never happened over the last one century.

Sir, ours is a vast country. In one part of the country there is drought and in another part there is flood. So we have to consider how we could face these two calamities so that in future these two calamities could be faced on a time-bound programme. We

have to chalk out some scheme to use the surplus water of one area to benefit the drought-prone area. As has already been suggested inter-linking of rivers will be an ideal project. There are various long-term and short-term schemes. If we could chalkout then that will ultimately benefit the country and in a few years time - say in the 8th or 9th Plan - we will be able to squarely face the situation.

In Kerala the present drought is really unprecedented. There is not even sufficient water for drinking. Scarcity of drinking water is experienced everywhere. I come from Trivandrum. The whole Trivandrum region is facing an acute scarcity of water. In my parliamentary constituency, there are three urban assembly constituencies and four rural constituencies. Two constituencies are in the coastal belt and the other two are on the hilly side. All the four constituencies are now affected by drought. There is not even a drop of water in certain areas. The people have to travel 4-5 kilometres to get even one pot of water and one pot of water costs more than Rs. 5. The State Government has completely failed to provide even the drinking water to this area. So, I would plead with the Central Government to come forward with a scheme to meet their minimum requirements of drinking water. There are possibilities for digging some tubewells. Wherever possible, it must be implemented.

Sir, the drought has affected production of electricity. Kerala is a problem State. Unemployment is the greatest problem that is facing our State. There is already 25 per cent cut in the supply of electricity to the industry. The State Government has declared that if the present situation continues, there will be hundred per cent cut in electricity supply. That means the whole economy of our State will be in ruins.

Fortunately for our country and unfortunately for our State, as you know, more than 70 per cent of the agricultural

[Shri A. Charles]

crops are cash crops. As a result, we have to depend on the neighbouring States for supply of rice, vegetables, fruits, fodder, etc. Unfortunately the neighbouring States, especially Tamil Nadu, have taken a very unfair stand. They have restricted the movement of these commodities to our State.

Sir, we are not able to rear the cattle. The production of milk has gone down. As a result, the price of milk has gone up. Three months back, I submitted a memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister to give some instructions to the Government of Tamil Nadu from where bulk of the fodder is being transported to our area. I got a reply that the said memorandum had been forwarded to the Ministry of Agriculture. Just a fortnight back, I again appealed to the present Minister of Agriculture. I would plead with him to consider the possibility of providing fodder to our State, especially the Trivandrum area, from the neighbouring area so that the cattle are not starved.

Another specific request I want to make is about the thermal plant. One proposal is to use diesel. If such a project is started, the whole thing will be completed in 1 1/2 years. I would plead that necessary instructions be given to the Ministry of Energy so that this project could be started immediately to benefit our State

[English]

I have tried to place the difficulties of our State. Unfortunately some of the hon. Members belonging to the Opposition have tried to take a political mileage out of the drought situation. One hon. Member even said that the ruling party is responsible for the flood situation. This is quite surprising. I would request all the Members of the House to work unitedly so that the present difficulties faced by the people could be solved.

SHRIMATI PATEL, RAMABEN
RAMJIBHAI MAVANI (Rajkot) · Mr. Deputy

Speaker, Sir, the country is passing through the severe drought situation. In such a situation it is appropriate to discuss this matter in the House. I am grateful to the Deputy Speaker and this House for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion.

This year, the whole country is facing an unprecedented calamity of famine. It is said that in 1857, there was a great famine. But present crisis is worst than any other famine in the past. This problem has many dimensions. Keeping in view the increased population and increased necessities of the country, the present crisis is, in fact unprecedented and in these circumstances, every section of the society should come together and make its contribution to fight this natural calamity. I make an appeal to the Members of the opposition and some members of the ruling party and their political followers in the States to extend all cooperation to the Government to fight this severe crisis of famine and everybody should rise above the parochial feelings of getting any political advantage.

Our economy is based on agriculture. We have two Finance Ministers in our country. One is in the Government and the other Finance Minister is the king of clouds i.e. Monsoon. This year our second Finance Minister is not happy with us. In some states, this is the second year of famine-like situation but this is fourth successive year in Saurashtra, Kutch and northern parts of Gujarat where not even a drop of rain has fallen during the past four years. In primary schools, when the children are asked about the names of three main seasons, the innocent children count them as the winter, the summer and the drought in place of the winter, the summer and the monsoon. Are we not responsible for this situation? We have completely destroyed the balance of ecology. Our negligence towards environment has invited this devastation. But I am not going to go into all these things. I will confine myself to the discussion on drought.

Due to the green revolution, our country has achieved more than its target during the last few years and there are chances to achieve more. Perhaps it will not be difficult for us to solve the problem of foodgrains in this drought situation due to the aforesaid achievements but there is a big challenge before us to save our livestock. Our cows, buffalows etc. go on roaming in search of grass and water but they find only desert and the mirage for miles. We cannot feel the pinch of such pitiable condition sitting in these buildings.

The challenge of drinking water has also wide dimensions. At present many towns are getting water just for half-an-hour a day just from the month of August and the women-folk in the villages have to walk for ten kilometers in search of drinking water. In a year it is more than 3500 kilometers. On one side there is such a crisis and on the other, crores of gallons of river-water falls in the sea daily and becomes saltish. The scientists have invented various methods by which we can utilize this water but we do not find sufficient time to come out of our parochial feeling and vested interests and think of difficulties faced by the common man

About ten months ago, the Chief Minister of Gujarat had been apprised of the methods to solve the crisis of drinking water in the whole Saurashtra and Kutch, which were cheap, instant result oriented and without investment. No encouraging response has been received so far. The period to implement the scheme of filling up the waters of Narmade in collapsible containers and sending it by sea to coastal belt of Saurashtra and Kutch had been given as two months and it has been stated that the expenditure on it will be just half in comparison to any other scheme for the purpose. The only lacunae of this scheme is that the officers are not going to get any advantage from this scheme. Drought is a season of bonus for them. This is the most unfortunate chapter of our democracy which is based on the narrow feelings of caste, creed and religion. The influence of the officers and the bureaucracy on

politics is increasing day by day. The officers behave in arbitrary manner and it affects important things like drinking water adversely. The influence of the bureaucracy on the basic necessities of common man should be reduced and the responsibility and the participation of the people should be increased and the people should be given an opportunity to find the solution of their problems.

I would like to express my thanks to you for listening to me calmly. In the end, I would like to submit to the Central Government and the State Governments that if anybody is affected most by the drought, it is the farmer. Therefore, the farmers should be provided all possible help so that the farmers—the sons of the soil—may maintain their morale high during this crisis.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER Now, we will take Half-an-hour Discussion.

17.30 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

Beedi Workers

[Translation]

SHRI DAL CHANDER JAIN (Damoh): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to express my thanks to you for allowing time for Half-an-Hour discussion in connection with Question No. 890 regarding Beedi workers. This time has been allowed keeping in view the serious condition of Beedi workers. In reply to the aforesaid question, it has been stated that 32,75,000 workers are engaged in Beedi manufacturing work and out of them 7,62,000 workers are members of Provident Fund Scheme.

In this connection, I would like to draw your attention specially to one thing. Beedi manufacturing work is undertaken in two ways. In Southern States, workers