

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : After these five Members have spoken, it will be converted into a discussion under Rule 193.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAJAN LAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the time should be fixed for the debate.

MR. SPEAKER : It will take its own time. We will see. Shri Bhajan Lal, you may take your seat.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : We are having a regular discussion.

12.12 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Floods in Various Parts of the Country

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH (Jaunpur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have just received a statement given by the hon. Minister of Agriculture. Sir, this is right that the problems of a number of people caused by the last year's drought have definitely been reduced due to the good monsoon this year. It is also correct to say that due to the good monsoons, we are getting good crops too. But I want to tell you that due to these rains, there are floods in a number of rivers.

12.13 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Sir, you have stated it in your statement also, that due to heavy rains loss of life and property in different measures has been reported from different parts of Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West

Bengal. In this connection, I would like to tell you and you have yourself affirmed it that according to the reports received from the State Governments till date, viz. 1.8.88, nearly 105 districts in 16 states have been affected by heavy rains. In certain areas of these districts, 69.26 lakh people and 6.68 hectare of crop area has been affected due to the floods. I want to tell you about my constituency, Jaunpur in Uttar Pradesh. The river Gomti flows right through the heart of the city Jaunpur and the devastating floods in this river result in immense loss of life and property. I wanted to submit here, and as I have been drawing the attention of the Government through questions to this issue that in order to save the Jaunpur town, a proposal for constructing an embankment or a strong wall was under the consideration with the Planning Commission. The cost of the Project was estimated to be Rs. 22.5 crores.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BHAJAN LAL) : At which place ?

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : It was to be constructed in Jaunpur, but nothing has been heard in this regard so far. I had given notice of a question also but that too has not replied so far. My submission is that if some permanent arrangements are not made to save Jaunpur, then the whole of city will get asked away. Because of the floods, hundreds of villages in the adjoining areas get submerged into the water there and military assistance has to be sought. The crops in many of the adjoining villages to Jannpur are also destroyed and the houses washed away. There are many such poor people whose huts are also washed away. I want to know whether in order to find out a permanent solution to this problem, any plan is being formulated so that there are no floods and the problem is solved ?

There are many villages in the area like Pilkicha, Rautpur, Ramnipur, Sutauli, Barsara, Siyaraiwasi, Gula, Muhammadpur, Shahpursani, Ahiyapur, Tiwari etc. which are affected by floods every year and the crops there are destroyed.

Similarly in Jaunpur, the river Gomti flows right through the heart of the city and affects the whole of the city and all the adjoining villages. Hon. Minister of Agri-

culture is sitting here. He should tell us as to what measures are being proposed to save the city, the villages, the crops, houses and the huts of poor people from the floods.

My constituency Jaunpur is a backward area. There are many rivers in Uttar Pradesh which cause floods in Gorakhpur, Bahraich, Mirzapur, Jaunpur and Varanasi. I want to submit that the hon. Minister should look into this problem and take steps to provide relief to the people.

I had given a notice of a question also and that has been admitted to be replied on 5th of August. I am unable to understand the difficulty in finding out a permanent solution to the problem.

I said it earlier and repeating the same today. May I know whether the Minister of Water Resources be pleased to refer to the reply given on 21 Nov., 1985 to unstarred question No. 822, regarding plan to protect Jaunpur from floods and state; whether by now the Planning Commission, to whom the Jaunpur City Protection Scheme was forwarded by the Technical Advisory Committee in March, 1985, has since discussed the matter and arrived at some decisions; if not, the reasons for not arriving at any decision all these years, and what are the details regarding the measures taken to check the flood situation in Jaunpur.

I also want to know as to what steps is the hon. Minister going to take in order to save Jaunpur from floods and why there is a delay in implementing the scheme costing Rs. 22.5 crores. Engineers as well as other staff and stenographers etc. were sent there but what are the reasons that all that staff has been withdrawn from there? Will you formulate a scheme for Jaunpur only when it is destroyed and washed away?

I want to say it specifically that Jaunpur is affected by floods every year and we have to seek military assistance for the relief. Because of the floods foodgrains and clothes worths crores of rupees have to be distributed among the flood affected people. If the Government finds out a permanent solution to check the floods then crores of rupees can be saved.

It is because of these floods that our poor people have to live a life like that of refugees. Floods result in heavy losses to life and property to them and their cattle also dies. Thousands of people come to the verge of starvation. In view of situation prevailing in Jaunpur city of Uttar Pradesh I would like to request you to make some permanent arrangement for checking the floods.

I hope that the hon. Minister in his reply will tell specifically that he is going to make some permanent arrangement for Jaunpur. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : This Calling Attention has been converted into discussion under rule 193. But as per agenda papers of today, the Finance Minister has to reply to the discussion that took place yesterday about Jyotsna Holding Co. May I make a submission to the House? Let the Finance Minister reply just now, then we will take up matters under rule 377 and later on we will continue with the present discussion.

PROF. MADHU DANAVATE (Rajapur) : Are you suggesting that the Finance Minister's statement be converted into a Calling Attention?

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI (Adilabad) : Your suggestion is belated. We have already started the discussion.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : Somehow in the great excitement it was lost sight of. Any how, I am making a submission to the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House has no objection, first we will take up matter under rule 377, then Finance Minister's reply and after that discussion under rule 193.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Yes.