

Act, 1978, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"The clause 2 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** The question is :

"That clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title stand part of the Bil."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Minister may now move that the Bill be passed.

**SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :** I beg move :

"That the Bill be passed."

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.10 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : SITUATION ARISING OUT OF NATURAL CALAMITIES, WITH PARTICULAR REFERENCE TO DROUGHT, FLOODS AND CYCLONE—

*Contd.*

[*English*]

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** We will go to next item, i.e. Further Discussion on

the situation arising out of the Natural Calamities, with particular reference to drought, floods and cyclone, raised by Shri Dinesh Goswami on the 24th November, 1987.

Shri Vijay Kumar Yadav, you can continue.

**SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI :** When is the Minister going to reply ? We have some Committee meetings.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Around 5-30 p.m., the Minister may reply. I request the Members to the very brief taking 5 minutes each.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir this year the severity of floods and drought has broken all previous records. There have been floods and drought in large parts of the country which have adversely affected the economy of the whole country. It is very difficult to calculate the damage caused by it. The floods in Bihar and Assam have caused considerable damage and this damage has relegated the country far behind in the matter of development.

15.11 hrs.

[**SHRI ZAINUL BASHER** *in the Chair*]

Whatever schemes the Government had announced in regard to the agriculture and economic achievements have all now gone away. The situation which has arisen due to the floods and drought the point that the claims made by the Government in this regard were hollow, since the floods and the drought that are prevailing in the country for the last one year have compelled the Government to import foodgrains from other countries whereas the Government used to claim that the stocks of foodgrains in the country was sufficient. That is a separate thing that the Government still claims that it will not let a single person die of hunger. The floods and drought for the last one year have posed a big problem before the Government in the matter of taking up new schemes. Now it is being said that new schemes will

not be taken up and a number of schemes out of the on going schemes will have to be shelved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the floods and drought have not occurred this year only. There are some regions where floods occur every year and the problem of drought remains in one part or the other of the country. Had the Government been serious in this matter before, evidently the loss, that has taken place, would not have been there and we could have successfully tackled the problem of drought. We could have reduced the loss to a great extent, irrespective of it being a loss of human lives, cattle, crops or any other loss. We should have taken up long term or short term programmes. But generally the Government has not taken up any of the two types of schemes seriously in the whole country. As a result of it the country is facing such problems.

It is strange that one part of the country is ravaged by floods whereas the other part is caught in the grip of drought. Of course, it is submitted in the Parliament that one region or the country where there is a problem of water should be linked with another region where there is abundance of water through a canal. Water from such region where there is abundance of water should be taken to such region where the availability of water is less or which is drought prone.

The Hon. Chairman has rung the bell so I will not speak on other points. Now I will speak on some points in regard to Bihar. Mr. Chairman, Sir, this time the northern part of Bihar has come under the grip of devastating floods and if drought had not occurred in U.P., I think the economy of the whole of northern Bihar would have been severely hit. Although there has been considerable loss there but this loss would have been manifold in our area. I do not say that there should be drought in U.P. but the Government should keep this situation in mind while making schemes in future. There are a number of schemes pending in our area and in some cases the schemes have not been executed, be it Gandak scheme or Kosi scheme. We have been continuously making demand in the Parliament that

talks with Nepal Government should be held and in collaboration with the Nepal Government, such schemes should be formulated as may help us to combat the menace of floods that Bihar has to face.

The water of the Ganga river should be taken to the south from the north through drains, canals and by other means so that water could be provided to those area which are drought prone areas. My own constituency and district Nalanda have never come in the grip of floods the way they have come this time. There is need to know its reason. It is said that the water was diverted to save Patna and it affected Nalanda and other districts. Of course Patna should be saved from the fury of floods because it is a capital but not at the cost of other regions. The Government should think over it and take up such schemes as to save Bihar from the danger of floods. A number of other schemes have been recommended to be taken up and this matter was raised in the Parliament also. With the execution of these schemes, power can be generated and the flood waters can also be checked and arrangement of irrigation can also be made.

With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH**  
(Jaunpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the problem of drought and floods.

The drought situation in the whole country is very acute and our district has also been severely hit by the drought. In our constituency there is acute shortage of water. People are not getting drinking water. Maniyan tehsil is one such tehsil about which I have referred to without fail, whenever discussion on drought or floods have been held in the House. There the level of water has gone so low that if we put a bucket in the well to draw water, only mud comes out instead of water. The Government is installing hand pumps to provide water to the people but their number is not sufficient. These are not being installed on the basis of population and the requirement of water in the water scarcity areas is not being met. India

mark second hand pumps should be installed where there is a shortage of water. In Uttar Pradesh, water used to be provided in the villages through pipe lines after constructing water tanks. At present this system has been discontinued. I want that tanks should again be constructed to provide water to the people.

The whole of the district is reeling under drought. The situation in regard to the tube wells is such that at least 80 per cent tubewells are laying out of order in my district and in my constituency. You can well imagine that if 80 per cent tubewells are lying out of order, how for the farmers can be benefited. I would like to say to the hon. Minister that if tubewells function in a proper way, we will definitely be able to cope with the drought. Drinking water for cattle has become a serious problem. If the tubewells were in operation, the ponds and tanks would have been full of water, thereby enabling the cattle to quench their thirst. Non-availability of fodder has further worsened the situation. The Government should therefore take immediate steps to provide fodder and drinking water for cattle.

Besides drought, flood is also creating alarming situation. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are aware as to how severely Jaunpur district is flooded which results in inundation of the entire city and the adjoining rural areas. The crops are destroyed and there is heavy loss of property. To prevent this loss the Government has approved a scheme to construct an embankment at a cost of Rs. 22.50 crores. It should be immediately taken up so that the entire area is saved from the fury of floods. I am confident that the hon. Minister will pay attention in this direction and save the people of Jaunpur district from the vagaries of weather including drought and floods. This would benefit the poor farmers and 'girijans' of the area to a great extent. With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI** (Simpur)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

There is serious drought in the entire country and acute shortage of fodder,

particularly in Himachal Pradesh, Kashmir and hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh. As against it, at many places crops have been destroyed because of heavy rain fall. This has caused deep frustration among the people of the area. Recently, I had gone to Uttar Pradesh in connection with the inauguration of a bridge. The Union Petroleum Minister and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh were also present on the occasion. We came to know that there is no proper rationing arrangement in that tribal area. Ration should be made available to them on subsidised rates. There is no transport facility in the area and that too should be provided to them. I urge the Central Government to issue instructions to Uttar Pradesh Government to provide ration at subsidised rates in the tribal area of Dehradun and Jaunsar, besides providing transport facility at the earliest.

Much has been said about irrigation projects. Here, I would like to submit in connection with Himachal Pradesh. Without power nothing can be done in our state. Power gives the necessary boost to the progress of the State. A large number of people have been displaced because of Bhakra and Pong dams and they have not been provided adequate compensation. Immediate attention should be paid in this direction so that these people may earn their livelihood. Similarly, there has been a long standing demand for a bridge on Alikhud, where the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi had once given an assurance to that effect, but the bridge has not been constructed so far. The construction of the bridge should be undertaken at the earliest. Similarly, the irrigation projects in our state have not been completed so far. This is because adequate funds are not provided. Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi came to our rescue and released 27,000 tonnes of food grains worth about Rs. 7 crores. He gave this assistance when he visited Kulu and Shimla and saw the condition there. The Minister of Agriculture gave compensation to the farmers of Punjab whose crops were destroyed. Similar compensation was provided to the farmers of Kashmir but the farmers of Himachal Pradesh were left in the lurch. I am highly obliged to the hon. Agriculture Minister for

Providing small reliefs to the farmers when he toured the State. There are remote areas in our country like Ladakh—to which Shri Namgyal belongs—Lahaul—Spiti, Kinnaur, and Bharmaur in Himachal Pradesh, where foodgrains are carried on goats back to cater to the needs of the people of the area (*Interruptions*) Let me speak. I speak occasionally and speak very little. I would like to submit that the Central team which went to assess the situation in Himachal, recommended Rs. 36 crores to be given as drought relief but we get only Rs. 18 crores. If all the States have got full relief, Himachal Pradesh should also be given Rs. 36 crores—its due. Our State is adjoining Haryana, Punjab and Kashmir. There is little likelihood of the situation improving in the near future. Therefore, I would urge the Government to provide as much funds as possible. The Hon. Prime Minister too wants that Himachal should be provided maximum assistance. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to provide assistance to Himachal Pradesh according to the recommendations of the Central team that was sent there.

With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) :** Respected Chairman, Sir, in each and every session, this House is hosted to discuss about some sort of natural calamity. In the last session, for three days, we discussed about the drought situation in our country and again in this session, we are discussing about it because the suffering of the people due to natural calamities continue as before.

Sir, the floods and drought are an annual ordeal for millions of people of this country. This destroys crops worth crores of rupees. A study by the United Nations' Environment Programme assesses India as one of the worst affected countries due to natural calamities and the study says that about three-fourths victims of natural calamities all over the world belong to our country. This is the sorry state of affairs. All over the country there is a severe shortage of drinking water, especially in Gujarat and Rajasthan. Even members from the other side will admit that cattles

are dying and there is a severe shortage of fodder and already prices are rising sky-high. It is estimated that we are heading for a two-digit inflation. Even the Minister the other day has agreed that such a situation may come.

The success of the Government in facing this drought situation should be assessed by whether the Government has succeeded in providing drinking water to the people affected by drought, whether the Government has succeeded in providing fodder to the cattles affected by drought and whether the Government has succeeded in arresting the prices of essential commodities going sky-high. For all these things the answer is big no. That is why we are forced to discuss it again here in this House. And reports from all over the country also show this.

Prices of all essential commodities are rising day by day. I would like to know what measures the Government intends to take to tackle this sort of a situation. The public distribution system has failed completely. The Government should take immediate steps to provide essential commodities to the people through fair price shops at least in the drought affected areas.

Worst of all, I am sorry to say that the Central Government is trying to politicalise the whole issue. Whether it is Mr. Poojary going to Karnataka and accusing the Government there of mishandling the funds allotted to that State for drought, or it is Mr. Arunachalam who is supposed to be the coordinator of the drought relief work in southern state coming to Kerala and accusing the Government of Kerala for mis-utilising the funds, we can see a general pattern in this. And none other than the Prime Minister of the country had the temerity to go to West Bengal and accuse the Government of West Bengal of not utilising the funds allotted for flood relief properly.

The actual fact is that the West Bengal Government was allotted only Rs. 44 crores for flood relief work. Of this, Rs. 11.75 crores was the margin money and Rs. 10 crores was provided as advance loan. So, the actual amount given to West Bengal



Government for flood relief work comes to Rs. 22 crores only. The West Bengal Government has given the expenditure account to the Central Government. Even the Central Team assessed, as far as my understanding goes, that the Government of West Bengal should be given at least Rs. 70 crores as immediate interim relief and the Central Government has not given that amount. And the Prime Minister goes to West Bengal and makes a statement that the Government of West Bengal has not utilised these funds properly!

I would like to challenge those responsible in the Union Government to give at least one evidence against the State Government of mis-utilising the funds provided by the Central Government. As far as the Kerala is concerned the amount provided by the Union Government for drought relief work is Rs. 29.28 crores. But, Sir, the situation in Kerala is very peculiar. The implications of drought are carried over to some five-six years because our major crops are coconut, cardamom, pepper, etc. These are cash crops. If it is a paddy and there is a drought and then there is a rainy season you get a good harvest but in the case of coconut, cardamom, pepper, rubber, etc. its implications are felt over the next five-six years. The Kerala Government has assessed that 2.54 crore people have been affected by drought in Kerala.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What is the total population of Kerala

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I do not have that figure. Paddy has been effected to the extent of Rs. 125.17 crores and the damage to pepper is to the extent of Rs. 47.18 crores. The total loss as assessed by the Government of Kerala is Rs. 730.99 crores. Out of this the Government of Kerala has demanded Rs. 604.46 crores and the amount given by the Central Government is Rs. 29.28 crores. Two central teams have come to Kerala and I would request the Agriculture Minister to give us the details of the recommendations of these central teams. What exactly have these teams recommended? Representatives of all political parties in Kerala came over to Delhi and met the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister and asked for an

interim relief of Rs. 201 crores. Taking into consideration the special situation in Kerala and because of this large scale destruction of the cash-crops—these cash crops provided valuable foreign exchange for our country and as such, it affects the whole economy of our country—I would request the Government to provide immediately Central assistance of not only Rs. 29.28 crores but release further amount for tackling the drought situation of Kerala. As for relief measures drinking water was given to the people there on war footing and Government of Kerala has decided to take paddy at the rate of Rs. 225 per quintal. We are proud to say that the Government of Kerala has decided to procure paddy at the rate of Rs. 225 per quintal.

SHRI V S VIJAYARAGHAVAN : How many quintals have been procured?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : I don't have the figure with me. You can get them from the Government of Kerala.

I am proud to say that we have the most effective public distribution system. Considering all these factors, I request the Government again to provide sufficient funds for tackling the drought situation in our State. As pointed out by Hon'ble Members from all sides of this House, the Government should adopt long-term measures to face the drought situation. Of course, various State Governments have given their own assessments about the drought in their States and the consequent loss suffered by them. No doubt the Government has taken up some relief measures but considering the seriousness of the situation and the fact that our country is prone to natural calamities, the Government should adopt long-term effective measures immediately for tackling the situation.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY (Ballia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am obliged to you for having provided me with an opportunity to express my views on serious issues like drought and floods. It is unfortunate that this year the entire country has faced severe drought at a time and

consequently thousands of people have been ruined. Two or three States are such, where instead of drought there are unprecedented floods. The entire country is devastated by drought and floods. This is unfortunate indeed. But I am happy that the Government is providing relief to the drought and flood affected people on a war footing and it has achieved considerable success in it. But the plight of the people is miserable even today and therefore, there is need to pay serious attention to it.

I belong to Ballia district of Uttar Pradesh which is on the eastern end of the State. The district is sandwiched between two rivers namely Ganga and Ghaghra. Tons river also passes through the district. These three rivers bring devastation every year to Ballia. This year there was serious drought in the area and as a result, the crops withered away. The Tutipar canal is a small canal which is able to irrigate merely one fourth of the total area, three fourth remaining unirrigated. The tubewells in the area are not working. To irrigate three-fourth area of Ballia district the Uttar Pradesh Government formulated a scheme under which the work on Sharda Canal was started in 1976 but unfortunately even after 11 to 12 years the project has not been completed and consequently three fourth area is still unirrigated. I, therefore, request that work on this project be expedited. We have to fight the drought with all our might. In this connection I had requested the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to provide adequate funds for earth work so that the Sharda Canal is completed immediately. This would help not only in providing employment to workers but also expediting the work on Sharda Canal Project, thereby preventing drought in the area in future.

I would like the Government to advise the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh to release adequate funds from the drought relief fund so that the work on Sharda Canal is expedited and the people of the area are benefited in future. The Hon. Chief Minister deserves to be congratulated for having exempted the farmers from the payment of land revenue, but there is resentment among the students because they have not been exempted from paying fees. I would like that the students of Ballia district should be exempted from paying fees.

There are big ponds in Ballia district where water gets accumulated due to heavy rains. But as a result of severe drought throughout the year, the entire crop withered away. However there was some moisture in the ponds and paddy had been grown there, but even that crop was ruined due to heavy rains, at the end of the season. Thus the entire crop of Ballia district was ruined. In such a situation, I would like that the Government should pay special attention to the farmers, labourers and the students of Ballia district so that their welfare could be ensured.

As has been pointed out by one of my friends, all the tube wells in the area have gone out of order and cannot be utilised at this time of need whereas the Chief Minister has all along been issuing Statement to the effect that all the tubewells will be made operational, but if the tubewells are unable to provide at the time of need they would be of no use. Later on even if they are rectified they will not be utilised of much use.

I would like that proper arrangements should be made for drainage of rain water. It is good that the farmers have been exempted from paying land revenue but I would also like that they should be given subsidy on fertilisers for the Rabi crop—on which we are dependent—so that they could increase the Rabi production. Besides, I would appeal to the Government to encourage the farmers by providing them power and water at lower rates. I would like the Government to consider it seriously and work for the welfare of farmers. Ballia has received mere Rs. 50 lakhs in two instalments as relief to the drought affected people which is just like a drop in the ocean. What can be done for the betterment of workers of Ballia with a small amount of Rs. 50 lakh? If the Central Government really wants to help them and to work for the welfare of workers and farmers, it should release at least Rs. 5 crores for the drought affected people of Ballia.

I do not want to take much of your time because I know that the Government is aware of the problem of Ballia which is on the eastern end of Uttar Pradesh. It is sad that no Minister ever visits the place.

to assess the situation. I would like that for the welfare of workers and farmers of Ballia the Government should give subsidy in fertilisers, power and water besides providing at least Rs. 5 crores as relief.

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON) :** Is Ballia a town ?

**SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY :** Ballia is a district. The Hon. Minister has brought up the subject of welfare of farmers and labourers of Ballia district. In this context I would request him to send Rs. 5 crores in assistance so that people there are benefited.

The Hon. Minister is present here. I have been trying for the last three years that an Agriculture Science Institute may be opened in Ballia for the welfare of its farmers. You have assured me that Ballia is being given first priority. But I don't know when that No. 1 will come. I feel that the Government has not done this work due to lack of funds. I would request the Government to give you more funds for this work.

**DR. G.S. DHILLON :** When the entire quota has been finished, he is placing it at No. 1. Now he is waiting for funds to arrive from somewhere so that its turn can come at No. 1.

**SHRI JAGANNATH CHOUDHARY :** I am very grateful to you that you have given top priority to Ballia for opening an Agricultural University there. But I request the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to urge the Hon. Prime Minister to provide necessary funds to the Agriculture Department so that maximum benefits can be availed of from those funds.

With these words I express my deepest gratitude to you. I would like to thank you for letting me express my views on the critical situation arisen due to floods.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I welcome today's discussion in the House on floods and drought. There was a lot

of discussion on this topic in the last session also. The drought in our country this year has broken all past records. This time the drought has created a lot of problems for us. Our Respected Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has toured the flood-affected areas and seen whether relief supplies are reaching the affected people or not. He has also sent assistance in the form of loans and fodder for the cattle. Besides this, assistance has also been provided to farmers during sowing and growing time. I have got a copy of the G.R. It is mentioned there as to what assistance can be provided to the farmers under various rules. I do not want to go into its details. But I will only say that all general rules laid down under the auspices of NABARD and according to the notice issued by the Finance Ministry, should be followed. Whenever there is a drought or floods the farmer is not able to pay his debts. On failing to pay debts he becomes a defaulter. The system of re-scheduling after becoming a defaulter has been down. One who is not a defaulter avails of all such facilities. Through this the Government converts their debts from short-term to medium term and from medium-term to long-term. You have never tried to analyse how a farmer can fulfill his debt commitments in times of floods and drought.

Therefore, I request you to provide some relief to farmers who have defaulted due to drought or floods. This may be done by converting their short-term debts to medium-term and medium-term debts to long-term. This would prove beneficial to farmers.

Now I would like to say something about crop insurance. I have a book on this subject where everything has been explained in detail. But I do not want to go into its details. It has been seen that the results in this direction have not been good. The insurance money is given at different rates in different places. I have discussed a lot on this topic in the past. I suggest that all villages falling within the purview of one revenue circle should be grouped together and a uniform rate should be fixed for them. It has been seen that in some Tehshils 10% insurance

money is given while in others 20% is given. Even farmers who become bankrupt due to floods and drought get the same amount of insurance money. Hence, this position must be rectified. When we complain to the General Insurance Corporation, they tell us that all problems are born out of taking only one block or one Tehsil or one area.

As to the question of monitoring, the General Insurance Corporation does not do any monitoring. I think some Government agency is monitoring it. If the crop insurance scheme is implemented properly then it can work very well in drought affected areas. If you find some defect you may rectify it. Besides branch or tehsil, the area should be limited to the extent of the of the revenue circle.

My third suggestion is that due to drought conditions for the last three years it has not been possible to sow anything on 435.79 lakh hectares of land. Nothing could be cultivated on this land and due to total drought conditions income has declined the country. Due to drought we are incurring heavy losses and the farmers are suffering. I feel the number of bonded labourers is increasing, and the relief works going on are insufficient. In Maharashtra we run Employment Guarantee Programme there is no shortage of relief works but when I look at other States I find the number of bonded labourers increasing. Under these conditions what steps can we take in this direction, this we should see. So my third suggestion is where drought occurs for three years continuously, there the Government should waive interest on loans. We only request you to waive interest on loans not the principal money of the loan. Where drought is experienced for two years, 75% interest should be waived and where drought is experienced for one year interest upto 50% should be waived. In the regions which regularly come under the grip of drought, rate of interest should be low, it should not be more than 6 per cent. This will improve the condition to farmers.

We have been listening for the last 6 to 10 years, and it has also been discussed in the House several times, that the rate of

interest charged from small and other lower classes of farmers should be 4 or 6 per cent. For paddy sowing, some loan is given but the interest charged and the burden of loans both are increasing. You are requested to bring about changes in the loan structure.

Fourthly, I would say something about drought areas. In the drift irrigation system the question of water policy is involved. The subsidy on drift irrigation in the areas which often come under the grip of famine should be 100% and for other categories of farmers it should be up to 75 per cent. Otherwise the drift irrigation which is a new technology will not prove to be meaningful as only the rich farmers will benefit from it and the farmers suffering from drought will not be able to derive any benefit. Those who want to irrigate large areas of land with less water will find it difficult to do so. Therefore, I give two suggestions for improvement and conclude in few words. I request you to give me two or more minutes.

Regarding Land Development Bank, I would submit that its recovery norms have not still been suspended. As far as minor irrigation scheme is concerned until you suspend its recovery norms, particularly for this year, nothing will happen. Without actually suspending recovery norms, the announcements on Radio and Doordarshan regarding credit for digging wells, lift irrigation and other things will hardly prove useful. I have tried to understand the working of the Maharashtra Land Development Bank and I feel there is no way out except to suspend the norms.

Then, keeping in view the recurring droughts, it has become necessary for us to have a National Seed Policy.

[English]

This is a high time.

[Translation]

The coordination is lacking between Universities and State Governments in Research Institute, and whatever High Yielding Varieties we have developed require more water. Therefore, how can



we think that dryfarming is possible with less water. We must develop seeds which may be sowed in drought affected and lowmoisture areas. Otherwise National Seed Bank and Regional Seed Bank should be established. Due to the drought conditions sometimes 100% replacement of seeds has to be done. Farmers, then, find it very difficult and are not in a position to take any effective steps. I propose that a National Seed Policy should be formulated and greater coordination in research for the benefit of farmers suffering from famine, drought and floods should be established. It is essential lastly I would say that everything is done during drought. In Maharashtra under the Employment Guarantee Programme only the productive relief works are undertaken which are useful in irrigating land and construction of ponds and canals. Money can be saved by supplementing the plan expenditure with the money spent on relief works. This will bring some benefits to the people. The production capacity of land the farmers will go up. Farmers will keep on deriving more benefits and the output of the country will go up. I again request you to think over the question of suspending recovery regarding Land Development Bank and formulating of National Seed Policy.

16.00 hrs.

Government deserves congratulations for the dedication with which it has worked this year. With these words, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI D.L. BAITHA (Araria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for the opportunity you have provided me to speak. You are aware of the fact that in India all the states of, especially Eastern and Northern region are the worst sufferers of heavy floods. You are well aware that all the rivers of North India emerge from the Himalayas. These rivers prove to be boon for the States through which they flow as they can play a chief role in irrigation provided there are no floods, but you will see that for the last three-four years, especially, Bihar has been suffered from floods. This year, floods in all the big rivers in Bihar i.e. Ganga, Son, Kosi, Gandak and Mahananda have caused havoc

not only to the whole Bihar but Assam and Bengal too. This year flood is one that never witnessed in the history of Bihar. It is not possible to leave it to the State Government to keep control over the floods.

16.02 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM  
in the Chair]

In this connection my suggestion is that the Government of India set up a commission to suggest ways and means to control the floods. I understand this problem could be discussed with all the concerned countries such as Nepal and Bangladesh who too are equally affected by these floods, since these rivers after emerging from the Himalayas in Nepal pass through Bihar, Uttar Pradesh Bengal and Assam. Unless the Government of Nepal also helps you, you will not succeed in this task.

The soil that flows down the rivers keeps on getting deposited on the river bed. As a consequence, water holding capacity of the rivers gets on declining day after day. As a result thereof, rivers are flooded after rains because of their low water holding capacity and surrounding areas are submerged in flood water. There is no provision of cleaning the sedimentation in the rivers whereas all these provisions do exist abroad. You do construct embankments but after a few days it is again in same situation. You will have to see to the causes of these floods which cause a loss to crops, houses and roads, and people too face a lot of problems. Special attention needs to be paid to the such states which suffer heavily due to floods. The roads constructed under the N.R.E.P. which could provide relief to the people, have now totally been damaged. The State Governments are required to be given sufficient assistance by the Centre in order to fulfil all these tasks. Financial assistance is also required for the construction of damaged embankments and link roads constructed under the N.R.E.P. in the villages.

There is a drawback in the crop insurance scheme. It has been provided for



that the insurance benefit can not be given unless at least 50 per cent farmers of the block suffer losses. Therefore, there is a need to bring necessary changes in the rules. N.R.E.P. work should also be started without any further delay so that people get employment. Labourers who used to get work during the harvest season, have been rendered jobless because of there being no crops to harvest for sowing season is also running out fastly. Though seeds are available, it will also require water for irrigation. But that embankments have got broken and no repair has been done so far. Therefore my submission is that free electricity should be provided for the tubewells so that farmers can get the maximum yield from the crops sown by them. No matter how much aid you give, the farmer won't feel relieved until he gets a good harvest and reasonable profit therefrom. There is a need of speedy implementation of the provisions made by you.

In this connection I want to say one more point. A condition has been laid for giving fresh loan to the farmers that it will not be given to the persons against whom the amount of previous loans is outstanding. But in order to get the farmers overcome from such a serious situation, above condition must be waived.

I hope that hon. Minister will consider my suggestion so that people will be able to get some relief. Leaving it all on the mercy of State Government will not serve the purpose, arrangements should be made to provide help by the Central Government. In order to enable the State Governments to bring the serious situation under their control, they should at least be given the assistance which they have sought for. With these words, I thank you for the time you have given me.

**\*SHRI S. THANGARAJU (Perambalur):**  
On behalf of AIADMK Party I wish to say a few words while participating in this discussion on drought situation under rule 193.

**\*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.**

Drought and floods, starvation diseases arising out of these are not new to the Indian sub-continent. Indian sub-continent continues to be affected by floods and ravaged by drought. This is a peculiar natural phenomenon. Though this year, the damage due to floods is comparatively less, the damage caused by drought conditions prevailing on account of continuous failure of monsoons is extensive. Even the hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has called the present drought conditions as the one never witnessed in the recent history.

As I had already pointed out, though the present drought conditions have no parallel in history in terms of damages wrought, as far as Indian sub-continent is concerned, drought is a continuous and common occurrence. No body can deny this.

In 1960, the number of persons affected by drought in India stood at 15.5 M. This has registered a staggering rise of 191 M. last year. This points out to the severity and continuity of drought conditions in India. Statistics say that this year more than 14 States and 6 Union Territories have been severely affected by drought. Cultivation has been adversely affected in 75% of the cultivable lands. This has created a steep fall to the tune of 42% in the total food production in the country. The fall in food production has resulted in rise in prices of essential commodities. 14-15% of rise in consumer price of indices can, thus be attributed to this fall in food production due to drought. Unless a solution on permanent basis is found to the perennial problem of drought, I doubt we will be able to improve the economic conditions of the teeming million of this agrarian country in the coming few years.

No doubt, other States have also been affected by drought severely. But the severity of drought in Tamilnadu has further intensified by continuous failure of South West monsoons. The Cauveri delta areas and the areas irrigated by other rivers and rivulets used to have two harvests every year. But today, due to the severity of drought condition, the farmers could not even have a single harvest. The farmers

in these delta areas start sowing in the hope that at least by the time the plants take root rain would come. But their hopes go in vain since rains fail. Farmers as well as the landless agriculture labourers have been thrown out of employment. Nearly 6 lakhs of them in Trichy and Thanjavur districts have been rendered unemployed. Responsibility for rehabilitating these agriculture workers, though squarely lies with the State Government the Central Government cannot absolve its responsibility of providing financial assistance to the programmes of the State Govt. in this regard. These agriculture labourers are totally dependent on agriculture. These agricultural lands are entirely dependent on rains and rains have successively failed. These labourers are suffering from the pangs of penury. Alternative employment, therefore, to be provided to these unemployed landless labourers. Employment is, nevertheless, being provided to them under the NREP, IRDP and RLEGP programmes. The severity of the drought has constrained the State Government to demand an assistance from the Central Government to the tune of 391 crores so that relief measures could be expeditiously taken. The Central Government has provided only Rs. 28 crores.

The Central Drought Relief assessment Committee visits all the drought affected States. The respective State Government projects the factual figures and plead with the Committee to provide the necessary financial assistance. However, on return the Central Govt. under the conselling of the Committee releases only a paltry sum. This is the biggest tragedy of the drought relief measures. Whatever is asked for by the State Governments must be provided by the Centre considering the severity of the drought conditions prevailing.

Next is about the hydel power generation. If rains fail, hydel power generation declines. In Tamilnadu, this year, the hydel power generation will only 1370 M. units against a capacity of 4384 M. units due to scant rainfall. This means a 75% fall in hydel power generation. Power supply to industrial units has been gravely affected. Power supply for irrigation purpose has also been affected. Fresh electricity connections to motorpumps used in

irrigation could not be given due to fall in power generation.

As I said, drought is an annual visitation in the form of a disaster. A permanent solution should be found to this problem. Though we have urged in this august House several times before that Ganga with Cauvery be linked to find out a permanent solution, no progress has so far been made in this regard. The proposal is in cold storage. Immediate steps must be taken to evolve a plan for linking Ganga with Cauvery. Even many NRIs have come forward to finance this Ganga-Cauvery link project. I would like to know from the Minister whether this is true. If capital is forthcoming from NRIs for this scheme, then Government must examine NRI investments in the project.

The Central Government has recently levied a surcharge of 5% on all persons whose annual income exceeds Rs. 50,000. I welcome this step.

We must also pay attention to the damages caused by floods. The State Government has constructed many roads and bridges after labouring for many years. However, flashfloods cause huge damage to these roads and breach the bridges. The cost of reconstruction and repair of these roads and bridges is borne by the State Govt. as instantaneous repair the structures are essential for transportation of men and materials. This eats away nearly 3/4ths of the Scarce resources of the State Government. In such matters the Central Governments must immediately step in and provide the State Governments with adequate funds so as to tide over resource constraints. A reserve fund for these purposes must also be created for the purpose of managing the situation arising out of natural these calamities.

With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK** (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, drought in this country is not an isolated phenomenon. It is a part of the global worldwide change of atmosphere. Therefore, we have to view it from a global perspective. For that we have to take a total view of the issue and have a comprehensive well-integrated and

well thought out strategy to fight out the drought and I would appeal that all the efforts are needed to convert the present drought into an opportunity.

Because of this drought we are going to have a loss of food production, that is a shortfall of 10 to 12 million tonnes against our target and expectation of 135 to 140 million tonnes in 1987-88, which is a shortfall of 7.9 per cent. But we have a buffer stock of 23 million tonnes. I will give a boost to the Rabi and we provide all subsidies and fertilizer, a large amount of fertilizer, then this shortfall can be managed to a large extent. And also, there will be a shortage of edible oils and pulses. That is why there may be some shortage in power, and agriculture based raw materials and there is an apprehension or a tendency of a crisis arising. There will also be some strain on foreign exchange because we have to import edible oil, petrol, diesel and also some sophisticated rigs in order to provide drinking water.

There will also be an impact on the industry and, that will result in shortage of production also on some industries those manufacturing equipment like tubewells, fertilizers, etc. Replacing or digging wells should be encouraged. Especially export oriented industries have to be given special encouragement. I think we can create more employment in the process.

Sir, I must congratulate the Prime Minister and this House that because of this sincerity of purpose, because of his forthrightness, and because of the inherent strength acquired by the Indian economy and comparatively quicker response of the Government and Parliament to the drought conditions, it appears that this drought would not cause as much heavy dislocation of the economy as it was feared earlier.

Also, the Plan size has not been cut and allocation for irrigation has been increased to Rs. 260 crores. Also, because of the massive drought relief work it will lead to increased purchasing power of the rural people so that the recession in the industry can be minimised.

Here, I want to give some suggestions.

As per the Eighth Finance Commission's recommendations, the States which are in the grip of the drought should be given the entire Plan assistance as hundred per cent grant. Also, States like Orissa should be treated as special category States, unlike Assam, or Jammu and Kashmir. Otherwise the State of Orissa can never come forward in the national mainstream.

Simultaneously, there should be some assured wages and assured jobs.

Declaring the drought period for the whole year, not merely for the time when there are no rains or the normal period of crops will also be helpful.

Adequate supply of subsidised seeds, fertilizers, power etc. should be there. One most important aspect is also giving money, as an incentive or loan by some nationalised banks to those peasants who have been in the grip of a drought for the last five to ten years. For example, in my constituency Kalahandi the farmers are not able to repay the loans and that is why they are the defaulters, and they are also not able to take any financial help. So, keeping this aspect in view, we have to give them reasonable help in terms of giving liberal loans. Thus we have to provide them financial assistance and loans. Otherwise they can never improve and they can never come out of the difficult situation.

There should also be a curb of all luxury goods, and there should also be a ban on all luxury goods. Petrol, diesel and energy should be completely diverted for agricultural purposes.

There is a need for expansion both in terms of items and areas coverage so far as our public distribution system is concerned and we should give more thought to Food for Work Programme, NREP and RLEGP. We have taken the historical measures, that is Mobile Van and Hot Sale. We should give more importance to these measures and more allocation should be provided. In all the ITDC blocks, we are providing Rs. 1.85 for rice and Rs. 1.55 for wheat. There should be only ITDC block. Also, in the areas which were severely affected by drought, where low income and

middle income people resides, this scheme should be adopted.

Then, Crop Insurance Scheme should be implemented properly. All water sources should be tapped. In regard to dry farming, utilisation of modern technology should be given more importance. More allocation, should be given for dry farming, social moisture conservation, live stock development and more blocks should be included under DRDA and ICDS programmes. Simultaneously we should give more importance to fodder, if necessary we have to import also, because we are morally committed for that. All the efforts should be made for providing drinking water. There should not be any compromise on this aspect. Also there is one other aspect, that is land reforms. If we do not think of land reforms, then we cannot give justice to the poor people and we cannot meet the situation well.

I thank our Prime Minister for having created an agency to ensure that there is a financial discipline and proper financial management. I earnestly appeal to all the Members that in the name of natural calamities, there should not be any political motivation. We should have a dispassionate and humanitarian attitude on this matter.

Lastly, in areas which are most backward and where fifty percent of the people are living below poverty line, the districts like Kalahandi, national level and district level planning should be made. There

should be a special development board and both the State and the Central Government can should liberally finance to this board. I appeal to the Government that a National Drought Policy should be evolved aiming at for providing drinking water, fodder, jobs, restoring ecological balance intensifying social forestry, power conservation and efficient water management.

**SHRIMATI D.K. BHANDARI (Sikkim):** Today we are discussing with particular reference to drought, floods and cyclone. We are very much concerned about the situation which have arisen because of these calamities.

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the Government have any agency not only to study the causes and nature of these calamities but also to make the Government to face such calamities before hand and to save the people from undue suffering. Apart from drought and floods, we are having land slides and cyclone. Landslide is also an equally devastating natural calamity which play a havoc in the economy of the country in the hilly areas. The impact of monsoons is very heavy on the nontheastern States including Sikkim, but Sikkim is the most affected State by this menace. Though Cherrapunji in Meghalaya gets the highest rainfall, Sikkim is the worst affected by the land-slide menace because of its topography geological setting as geologists maintain that Sikkim mountains are very young and in the process of setting. Sometimes, almost one side of the hill comes down in a flash of a moment taking within its grip roads, villages and Government establishments. It also takes within its grip agricultural land which is a very costly commodity in hill areas. Road construction is a very difficult job in hill areas. But in a minute the whole stretch of road finishes in landslides causing of hardship to hill areas. This year, South Sikkim suffered very heavily and many parts of Sikkim remained cut off from the capital and the whole State was cut off from the rest of the country. I must say with regret that people in Delhi, particularly our planners, are not able to appreciate our problems caused by landslides. Recently, Mr. Pilot, Minister of Surface Transport, visited Sikkim and he had also faced the problems we are facing day by day. He was virtually on the road for 8½ hours. From Bagdogra to Sikkim it takes 3½ hours but due to landslides it took 9 hours for him to reach Sikkim. I hope, he must have told his experiences to the concerned Ministers here.

I would like to request the hon. Minister to institute some sort of research in Sikkim to study the causes of landslides, because the personnel who are working with the Border Roads Organisation and are doing a very commendable job, say that occurrence of very heavy landslides comes after five years. It that



is so, there should be some research made to study this claim as to why this is so and to find out some measures to prevent this.

More funds should be allocated to Sikkim for afforestation not only to prevent landslides but also to prevent floods in the plain areas.

Regarding the damage caused by the last monsoon rains, Sikkim Government had submitted a memorandum to the Central Government and it requested for a grant of Rs. 22 crores to restore roads and Government establishments which were damaged but only an amount of 4.5 crores was released. I request the hon. Minister to re-consider this and release more funds so as to help the State Government to restore its establishments and road communication.

With these words, I would like to thank you for giving me the time to speak.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : I have only two points to make. One is that I do not agree with my hon. friend from the CPI (Marxist) when he said that the Government had failed in meeting this challenge of prolonged drought and repeated floods. In any other country faced with such a crisis for such a long period, the achievement of our Government in preventing the repetition of the kind of hunger deaths that had taken place in 1943 in Calcutta would be termed as a ritual. Fortunately for us there have been no hunger deaths or large scale prolonged suffering on the part of the people who have come to be affected both by floods in certain areas and drought in certain other areas. For no fault of ours, for the fault if at all, anybody can be held responsible for the unseasonal and unexpected behaviour or failure of the monsoons, it must be those in charge of atomic power, nuclear arms and all the tests that they have been carrying on, which must have upset the atmosphere in the clouds and in the far away space high above. But otherwise, it is nature that has afflicted us, has been very unkind not for one year, but over a period of years. Floods we have had repeatedly, drought for such a prolonged period we have not had for a very long

time, but they have come, they have visited us. Had the Government tried to meet this challenge or not? I consider that the Government has tried its best and met this challenge more than half way and helped the State Governments and on its own also. It has carried on the programmes which were devised, which were fashioned after the *garibi hatao* campaign that was initiated by Indira Gandhi.

But at the same time, are our resources enough to meet this challenge satisfactorily and prevent the sufferings of our people? My answer is 'No', in the negative. And I have thought about it not only now, but for a very long time. As long ago as in 1972 I wrote to the United Nations and also to the Food and Agriculture Organisation and special Conferences which were convened at that time suggesting that there should be on a world scale a World Famine and Floods Insurance Fund to be built up by annual contributions from as many of these countries as possible especially those countries which have got some viable financial position, from time to time whenever such colossal natural disasters overtake any country or a number of countries, contributions could be expected from that Fund, but unfortunately at that time the world was not prepared to consider that, not even the United Nations, not even the FAO, not even the Government of India. There was my friend, Morarji Desai, who was the Prime Minister then, and he had a very confident Food and Agriculture Minister, a great friend of mine. Both of them said that they would not be able to take it up with the international authorities. Not only that. They even argued against it for fear that other countries might try to interfere in our internal affairs. But now the time has come when the Government has got to give serious consideration to this suggestion, and I am very glad the present Agriculture Minister, Sardar Dhillon, had the moral and political courage to go and plead before the international forum not so long ago, 568 for an organisation, on a world scale, such as Insurance Fund, I felt very happy indeed. At long last, a Minister of the Government of India had come forward to make this suggestion in an official manner a suggestion that has been made by me so long ago and supported by a number of



Kisan friends in our country. My friend, Mr. H.M. Patel does not happen to be here. At that time, when I was making this proposal, he was also a non-official Member like myself. With all his experience in the Government of India of a very high order, he associated himself whole heartedly with the suggestion. But unfortunately when he came to be a powerful Cabinet Minister, his own Cabinet at that time was not prepared to support this. I wish to congratulate our Government for having allowed our Minister for Agriculture, the Cabinet Minister and Senior Minister to make this proposal and place it before the international forum. Ways and means by which it has got to be organised, got to be financed and the finance to be utilised between different countries which have been afflicted by this natural disaster, and all such things are very important details but they have got to be discussed later in a serious manner in the international forum as well as in our own national forum. But the most important thing is for the Government to take up this proposal, to make this proposal once again, to put some flesh and blood into it through their own experts and then make a proposal more or less in a detailed fashion, before the F.A.O. as well as the World Bank and other authorities which may come to be interested in this vital matter. It would then give some chance for such big countries as India too to gain support in some fashion or the other but in an effective manner from other countries which are more fortunate at that time when any natural calamity afflicted them so that they can supplement their own resources with the resources that would be coming from other countries also.

I would like to add one or two points. One is in regard to what my friend, a friend of the Kisans, Mr. Patel has said. In regard to credit, you are also aware of it because you are also an agriculturist. Our farmers have borrowed money again and again over 3 years. All these debts have accumulated with penalty rates also. Now this problem has got to be solved. Some means have got to be found, some plan has got to be formulated quickly in order to lessen the burdens of the farmers from the accumulated

debt. In addition, the Government should be prepared to persuade the nationalised banks as well as the Reserve Banks of India to provide funds and advance them to our farmers in order to enable them to purchase fertilizers, other inputs and also finance their current agricultural operations and also for the next year. Unless quick enough steps are taken, big enough steps are taken in this direction, it would not be possible for us to prevent the failure of the quantum of production that we expect from our agriculture in the next one or two years. India cannot afford to be complacent in regard to this matter. God forbid, if in the next one or two years, similar catastrophe were to descend upon us, what would be the fate of our country? Would it be possible for our country to go on feeding our people in the manner in which we were doing in the rural areas as well as in the towns and preventing mass level starvation if such a calamity were to take place unless we go more than half-way, indeed unless we go fullstream in helping our kisans to stand on their own legs and finance their agriculture operations?

Finally, something has got to be done in regard to prices. So far as kisans are concerned, they have got to be protected as consumers as well as producers and as producers, inputs have got to be placed at their disposal at reasonable prices and I am glad Government is coming forward with supplementary Grant to the tune of hundred of crores of rupees by subsidising fertilizers upto Rs. 2,350 crores and similar steps will have to be taken in other directions also.

I hope the Government as a whole and the Planning Commission would have the foresight and the moral courage also and the rural-mindedness to stand by the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and help them in these directions.

[Translation]

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Mr. Chairman, the country is facing the worst drought of the century.

\*The speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

It has caused extensive damage to crops and serious shortage of drinking water. The hon. Prime Minister has taken a series of measures to provide immediate relief to the effected people, and I whole-heartedly welcome them. The Government has taken very important decisions to meet the drought situation by giving it top priority. An Ordinance was promulgated to raise Rs. 550 crores. This amount is to be spent on relief work. Similarly the expenditure of many departments including the Defence department has been cut down in order to provide quick relief to the suffering people.

Sir, according to statistics 265 districts are under drought and 28.54 crores of people are affected. Crops on 454.20 lakh hectares of land have been affected. Thus the loss is colossal and therefore we must tackle it on a war footing. The Government has fixed a ceiling on expenditure for 1987-88 at Rs. 820.046 crores. But with this amount you cannot solve the problem of drought. Therefore, I would request that the ceiling on expenditure on drought should be raised substantially.

The Government has been spending hundreds of crores of rupees every year to face the natural calamities. According to an estimate Rs. 2800 crores were spent during the 6th Plan for providing relief from drought. Similarly during the first two and half years of the 7th Plan more than Rs. 1300 crores have been spent on relief work. The economic experts say that by the end of the 7th Plan we will have spent as much as Rs. 4500 crores for providing relief to the drought effected people alone. You must remember that this whole amount was spent merely for providing temporary relief. The fact is that no permanent solution could be found so far. Therefore, I would request the Government to include in the Plan schemes which can provide permanent relief to the people affected by natural calamities.

Many hon. Members have spoken about the general aspects of drought and I do not want to go into any details about that. I take this opportunity to bring to the attention of the House certain problems being faced by my State Kerala. There are 14 districts in the State and all the 14 districts

are affected by drought. As many as 1450 villages in the State are affected. 2.54 crores of people are facing miseries due to drought in the State. According to the estimate prepared by the State Government loss of paddy crop is Rs. 125.17 crores. The loss of coconut is Rs. 266.53 crores and that of pepper vines is Rs. 47.18 crores. The total loss of crops is estimated to be Rs. 730.99 crores. The Government of Kerala has demanded Rs. 604.46 crores. On the basis of the report of the Central Study Team as well as the recommendations of the high-level Committee for relief the Government of India has fixed a ceiling of Rs. 29.28 for Kerala. Besides, an amount of Rs. 10.50 lakhs for increasing vegetable production and Rs. 2.75 crores for completing the on-going a irrigation projects has been released by the Centre. But I can't help saying that this amount is quite inadequate. With this amount effective relief cannot be provided to the people. Loss of crops and shortage of water are being felt in all the districts of Kerala. The condition of cash crop is quite alarming. Replantation of the cash crops is a time consuming work and it takes many years for these cash crops to grow and give yield. In the case of coconut and rubber the growers will have to wait for 6 to 7 years to get the yield. The farmers who lost these crops have lost their only means of livelihood and they will suffer for a long time. Therefore, the Government must pay special attention to their problems.

Sir, of the 14 districts of Kerala Palghat is the worst affected. Palghat is considered to be the granary of Kerala. But there is extensive loss of paddy crop in this district. This district has been facing severe drought conditions continuously for the last 3 or 4 years. In the beginning of this year 11 villages in Palghat district were declared as drought affected which went upto 131 later and now as many as 156 villages have been declared as drought affected. The drought condition is particularly severe in the Attapadi and Kozhinjampara areas of the district. Attapadi is the adivasi belt. The total loss to the drought in the district is Rs. 69 crores. In 1986 when the Prime Minister visited Kerala he was appraised of the special problems of Palghat. When he addressed a public

meeting at Trichur he had said that Palghat has some special problems and that they would be attended to by the Central Government. I hope the Government of India will carry out the assurance given by the Prime Minister. I do not want to inject politics into this discussion. But I can't help saying a few things about how the Government of Kerala is dealing with drought situation in the State. Sir, in Kerala we have Marxists led Government which is less interested in providing relief to the people and more in making political capital out of the miseries of the people by putting the blame on the Centre. They did not apprise the Central Study Team of the true facts about drought in the State. The Study Team was not given an opportunity to have discussions with the representatives of the people. Similarly the team was not taken to Palghat which is the worst affected villages in the district. What is the purpose behind it. The purpose was to send the Study Team back without letting them know the full facts. Then they would be able to put the blame on the Centre for not giving adequate assistance. Under the technology mission our Prime Minister sanctioned Rs. 4 crores for solving the perennial shortage of drinking water in Palghat. Even this amount could not be spent properly by the State Government. Shri Arunachalam, the Minister of State incharge of drought relief work in South has seen for himself the condition in Kerala when he visited the State and he effectively supervised relief work there. I agree that more money need to be given to the State for drought relief. At the same time I must say that the State Government is being less than honest when it does not spend the money given by the Centre and makes political capital out of the situation.

Sir, the farmers of Palghat are in great distress. They are not in a position to repay the loans. They have lost their chief means of livelihood and the life itself is a question mark before them. I therefore demand that the Central Government declare a moratorium on repayment of agricultural loan. Same is the condition of the agricultural labourers who have no work. They are virtually starving. The Government should provide them permanent work pending which they should be given

free ration. There are many cases of deaths due to Cholera due to the consumption of contaminated water in many parts of the district. Compensation should be paid to the families who have lost their members due to Cholera. Arrangements should be made on a permanent basis to provide drinking water. Shortage of drinking water is a perennial problem in this district. A must find a permanent solution to it. The Adivasis of Attapadi should be provided with permanent work and I would suggest in this connection that the khadi and village Industries Commission set up village industries for this purpose. Finally, I want to make another suggestion. The Central Government must set up monitoring cell to see whether the amount given by it is being spent properly by the States. It has been our experience that problems remain unsolved if they are left entirely to the States. Therefore, the Central Government itself should make suitable arrangement in this regard.

Before I conclude I must briefly refer to what my friend Shri Suresh Kurup said about the procurement of paddy. Sir, I want to tell the House that no procurement worth the name is taking place in Kerala. It is a big joke. The price fixed by the Kerala Government is so low that the farmers cannot sell paddy at this price. So the claim of the Kerala Government about procurement is not based on facts.

I request the hon. Minister to pay serious attention to the suggestions I made. Thank you.

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion has been going on since morning that a vast areas of the country are in the grip of drought and the economic condition of the people has deteriorated. The three districts of Haryana, bordering Rajasthan are the worst affected by drought. Forty years have passed since we got independence but we have not been able to find a permanent solution to this problem. A noted agriculture scientist Shri M.S. Randhawa, a retired ICS officer and who served as the Vice Chancellor of both the Punjab Agriculture University and the Haryana Agriculture University had once

said that we could get rid of the problem of floods & drought provided Government was serious in its efforts to solve the problems. Firstly, dams are required to be constructed on rivers to harness their water into canals for irrigation and secondly, for the fields where canal water cannot reach due to the high level of the ground, electricity is generated and provided to tube-wells. Drains are required to be constructed to drain out water from the low lying areas, where water gets accumulated. Had the Government taken the suggestion of Mr. Randhawa seriously, the problem of floods and drought would not have arisen. The Government has not been serious in its efforts and thousands of crores of rupees have been spent drought the last forty years on during and floods. Had SYL canal been completed in time, Haryana could not have suffered from drought. At present, eight-districts of Haryana are suffering from drought. Both Haryana and Punjab had started work on SYL canal together, whereas work in the areas falling under the jurisdiction of Haryana has already been fully completed ten years ago, but Punjab has not completed the construction of canal in its jurisdiction. The Punjab Government promises that it will be completed, But Chief Engineer Shri Gill had been making false promises. Last time, he was about to retire when the Akali Government came into power, who gave him extension in his service twice. As Punjab is, at present, under the President rule, the Punjab Administration be directed to retire him and post an energetic engineer in his place or the work be handed over to some central agency which complete the construction of SYL canal in time. It will help in the implementation of the Punjab accord in toto...(Interruptions)

D.R. G.S. DHILLON : You must have read in the newspaper today. The Punjab Government had said that they will complete the SYL canal by the end of March this year.

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH : This is not first time that I have read it, I read it earlier also. Last time it was said that it would be completed by 31st March, 1987. Now they say that the canal would be completed by 31st March 1988. The

Engineers, who are constructing Aquaduch on the Sarsa river, say that it will be completed by 31st March 1989...(Interruptions)

D.R. G.S. DHILLON : The old friend of Chaudhary Devi Lal is coming tomorrow ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH : If you get the canal constructed as early as possible, no one will seek assistance from you. As Prof. Ranga Sahib has rightly stated, that the small farmers, petty shopkeepers and artisans do not have repaying capacity so something should be done for them. Our beloved Chief Minister Chaudhary Devi Lal is kind enough to write off a loan amounting to Rs. 227 crore pertaining to the small farmers, poor labourers and petty shopkeepers. Now, they have heaved of sigh of relief. All this has been done with the fund of the Government. If the Government so desire, nothing is impossible. When you can write off loan amounting to Rs. 300 crore pertaining to those persons who cannot repay loan on the basis of back date, why loans cannot be written off in the case of small labourers and shopkeepers. That is why lakhs and crores of rupees have been spent in providing relief since independence. If dam had been constructed on Ravi-Beas rivers, Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana would have been benefitted from it. A plea is taken that the Government have no funds for it. But lakhs of rupees have been spent on organising festivals in France, U.S.S.R., America and England on cultural activities despite the fact the people of this poor country are starving and there is no fodder for the cattle. You surpassed over even the then Nawab of Lucknow in extravagancy on cultural activities. In view of the hardships being faced by the people and the prevailing situation of drought in the country, the Prime Minister should put a ban on such extravagant celebrations and there should be some curtailment in the Government expenditure. Elections are to be held after two years. With which face we will seek votes from them. What will happen, if cattle begin to starve in want of fodder ? It is, therefore, my request to Shri Dhillon Sahab to ensure that the work on the canal be completed by 31 March, 1988. It will benefit Haryana a lot.



Another point that I would like to mention is that the cost of production of farm produce is estimated to be Rs. 200 per acre. The farmers of Punjab and Haryana will not get a single pie from it. It will be better if you give them Rs. 100 as relief. They will be grateful to the Government for this. They are in great distress. You should provide central grants to them. The population of Haryana is 1 crore 40 lakhs. You have provided Rs. 36 crore to them. But the population of Nagaland is 8 lakhs and you have provided them more grant as compared to Haryana. Dhillon Sahib, I know you for the last twenty years and I hope that you will definitely help us.

[*English*]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA (Jaipur) : Sir, I beg to differ with you. I am not Nawal Kishori Sharma but I am Nawal Kishore Sharma

[*Translation*]

I rise to speak on the grave situation caused by the natural calamities in the country. Often and on, grips the country in the form of drought, famine and floods. But this year the severest drought of this century has been caused by the fury of nature. The Government should think over it seriously and take immediate steps. I am sorry to say that despite the persistent efforts of the Prime Minister, the Government machinery is working in the same old fashion and there has been no change in it. I would like to say a few points in regard to Rajasthan. Rajasthan is a backward state due to the geographical and historical reasons. Two third area of Rajasthan is in arid zone and remaining one third area is in semi arid zone. Rajasthan had been administered by the kings and jagirdars who ruled the state before independence. There has been no development work in the state before the independence. They did not pay attention to the work relating to development taken place there....The Congress Governments have undertaken a lot of development works after taking the reign of administration in Rajasthan. Rajasthan is fortunate on this count. But we cannot match Gujarat. Rajasthan has been suffering

continuously from drought for the last 4 years but this year, it is the severest one. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to his statement given in this House on 9th November in reply to a question asked by Shri Kamla Prasad Rawat, wherein data about "Crop Area Damaged" was given. According to that statement, standing crops on 108.53 lakh hectare of land have been damaged in Rajasthan which is the highest in the country, followed by Uttar Pradesh where standing crops on 102.28 lakh hectare have been damaged and, then comes the number of Gujarat where standing crops on 71.00 lakh hectares have been damaged. But on going through the pattern of assistance it is most unfortunate to find that there is no rationality in giving assistance to the States. I am again inviting your attention to the same statement of 9th November, that as against a sum of Rs. 434 crore demanded by Rajasthan Government, only Rs. 147 988 crore was provided to them last year. Rajasthan got Rs. 0.98 crore this year whereas Uttar Pradesh got Rs. 155.736 crore last year and Rs. 20.206 crore this year. I am not against this allocation to Uttar Pradesh because that state is the biggest state of our country which sends 85 elected Members to the House. Evidently, U.P. is politically more heavy weight as compared to Rajasthan which sends only 25 Members to the Lok Sabha.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA : What is the population of U.P. ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is not the question of population Rangaji.

[*English*]

You should understand that it is the crop area damaged that should be the guideline and not the population of in so far as drought assistance is concerned.

[*Translation*]

I was submitting that I failed to understand the rationality of the "pattern of



assistance". I could not understand on which basis the assistance was provided. On the one hand there is a state where rivers like Ganga and Yamuna flow and on the other there is a state which has to bear the burnt of drought year after year and which has been in the grip of severe drought for the last four years. What was the basis on which the central assistance was provided. May I know it.

I am thankful to the hon. Minister for visiting Rajasthan. He himself saw the condition of drought affected people and the severity of drought prevailing there. Some other Ministers were also kind enough to pay visits to the state. They gave assurance to the people of Rajasthan that they would provide them ample assistance. But what is the state of affairs at present? The second instalment of assistance has not yet been provided. Due to this, in Rajasthan, people are finding difficulty in getting work on daily wages. The financial position of the Rajasthan Government is not such as it may be able to provide assistance to the drought affected people from its own resources because its 90 per cent source of income is committed. The Rajasthan Government is driven to a situation where it has been compelled to stop all development work such as projects relating to school, hospital or other social welfare. Work on them has not yet been restarted. The State Government is quite unable to undertake the development work due to financial constraint. In order to save people from dying of starvation, Rajasthan Government diverted its resources to sustain the people instead of using it for the development work.

Hon. Minister, Sir, Shri Jagannath Pattnaik has just quoted saying that the states which are in the grip of the drought should be given entire plan assistance as hundred percent grant. I would like to read out the relevant portion of the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission :

[English]

"For expenditure on drought, the Seventh Finance Commission recommended that the State concerned should contribute from its Plan, the

contribution being subject to assessment by the Central teams and the High Level Committee on Relief. Such contribution is, however, not to exceed 5 per cent of the Annual Plan outlay, and is to be treated as an addition to the Plan outlay of the State in that year. To enable the State to make this contribution, the Centre provides assistance. If, however, the expenditure requirement as assessed by the Central Team and the high level committee on relief cannot be contained within 5 per cent of the plan outlay, the extra expenditure is to be taken as an indication of the special severity of the calamity, which would oblige the Central Government to assist the State to the full extent of the extra expenditure. This assistance is to be given half as grant and half as loan, is not adjustable against the plan assistance of the State."

[Translation]

The English Finance Commission has given these guidelines. There is also a circular of the Joint Secretary of the Finance Ministry with it. It has been stated in it:—

[English]

"Where a calamity is of rare severity, it may be necessary for the Central Government to extend assistance to the States concerned even beyond the mentioned schemes."

[Translation]

These are the instructions of the Central Government. The Government has issued circulars in this regard. The recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission are there. I would like to ask whether you will follow these instructions in favour of those States like Gujarat, Maharashtra and Orissa. We are here to help them and not to leave them to their fate.

The people have no purchasing power. It is a good thing that the Government is sending wheat for them. But how they can sustain themselves when they have no purchasing power. So need of the hour

is to generate employment and provide funds to generate employment. The Rajasthan Government has almost become bankrupt. I am not wrong if I say this. The condition is that the payment for work to the labourers in connection with the drought relief work pertaining to the last year was made this year. If such condition persists and the labourers engaged in the drought relief works do not get wages in time, there is no use of undertaking such relief work.

17.14 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Team visiting to the drought affected states have got lengthy procedure. To my mind, till to date, no decision has been taken on the report submitted by the team regarding the amount to be sanctioned for drought relief. The amount sanctioned earlier has been fully utilised.

Till now, no decision has been taken on the additional memorandum submitted by the Rajasthan Government. It is my humble request to reduce these bureaucratic delays to the extent possible. Greater co-ordination within the Ministry is required so as to ensure disposal of the cases granting relief to the people under one table.

According to the indications available till now, Central Government has made commitment for providing funds amounting to Rs. 1,111 crore for drought relief, out of which a provision of Rs. 650 crore has been made in the budget itself. Government will be spending another Rs. 500 crore in excess of the budget provisions. Against this, Government have decided to raise money amounting to Rs. 3,000 crore for drought relief.

An amount of Rs. 650 crore will be saved by way of curtailing expenditure. Government is going to mobilise Rs. 500 crore by way of additional taxation which I welcome. Some Foreign governments as well as the World Bank are also lending their help in this work. Government has received some aid from F.R.G., France And U.S.A. Japan is extending a loan of

Rs. 225 crore to the Government. Thus the Government has been able to mobilise to the extent of Rs. 3,000 crore. I fail to understand as to what is the hitch in providing relief to the states specially when funds are available and foreign governments and world banks are lending their helping hand. Finance Ministry is delaying sanctions.

I, therefore, request the hon'ble Minister to bring about changes in the procedures for the benefit of the people. The confidence of the people in democracy is shattered if they don't receive relief in time, because the relief received after the need is over is useless. Therefore it is requested that the adequate relief be provided without any further delay.

I would like to say one thing more. Unfortunately this year the practice of giving material component has been dropped. If material component is not given, only temporary work will be undertaken like construction of kuchha roads, etc. Irrigation projects cannot be undertaken without material component help. These will bring disgrace to the Government as well as to our people representatives because kuchha work is susceptible to corruption. In Rajasthan for the last 2-3 years, good work has been done in creating permanent assets, there ore you must reconsider to revive the practice of giving material component by allowing exception to the rules. At the All-India Conference, it was decided that the material component would not be given, but this need not be strictly applied in Rajasthan because of the unusual conditions prevailing there, otherwise corruption will become rampant and government will be blamed for not doing anything worthy. Therefore, I again request you to reconsider the question providing material component because in Rajasthan and Gujarat the possibilities of undertaking temporary work are negligible there the Government must grant permission for starting permanent work.

[*English*]

I am making a maiden speech in this session as a Member of Parliament. Therefore, please do not restrict me.

**[Translation]**

I was making submission that some minor and medium irrigation projects of Rajasthan have been pending clearance with the Government.

**DR. G.S. DHILLON** : Whether you want to say, say it frankly, you might become Minister.

**SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA** : I have nothing to comment about this except that I greatly value your opinion. I was saying that some minor and medium irrigation schemes of Rajasthan have been pending clearance with the Planning Commission for a long time. In order to solve the problem of drought in Rajasthan on permanent basis, it is imperative to give clearance to these minor and medium irrigation projects early so that work can be started immediately. The hon. Minister is requested to impress upon the Planning Commission to give clearance to these schemes early and get the work started on these schemes.

I hope that for the welfare of the people of Rajasthan early clearance will be given to these schemes, for which people of Rajasthan will be remain grateful to the Government. With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI D.P. JADEJA** (Jamnagar) : Sir, I am grateful for giving me this opportunity but I am sure the House will agree with me that the time that has been allotted to this important subject is much less than what we were expecting. We request for extension of time. I fully endorse the views expressed by my senior colleague, Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma. He has spoken not only on behalf of Rajasthan but I am sure he also means that the same situation is there in the neighbouring State of Gujarat.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another fact that even in the same State whether it is Rajasthan or Gujarat, on one side we have fresh green forests and on the other side, there are desert areas where no human beings can ever live. It is the part of

Saurashtra of Gujarat that I would like to mention now, i.e., the State from where I come. This is an area which was at one time a wooded forest area, plantation, and cattle were there in that area. We had cash crops like groundnut and cotton growing there. Sugarcane also used to grow. But now none of these crops are to be seen there. I do not want to blame anybody. Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma said that there is something wrong in the basic planning of these areas which require drinking water as well as water for irrigation. The result is that in my own home district, in my town, Jamnagar, the district headquarter, which has a population of 3 lakhs has one reservoir for drinking water. What has happened today ? That one reservoir is not enough; there are now four other reservoirs within an area of sixty to seventy miles and the water earlier used for irrigation purposes has been brought to the city for purposes of drinking water to the city people, whereby the agriculturists have been the sufferers. That is what I call faulty planning. But this year the situation is something different. As I said earlier, the areas in a State differ from place to place. Mine is an area on the coastal region. It is nowhere near a perennial river; it is nowhere near a lake from where you can get drinking water. It is a region where you cannot drill deep down in the soil to get sub-soil water because there is no sub-soil water. If you go deep, it is all brackish and saltish, What happens to an area like this ?

In my city, the municipality used to give us water for three hours a day every day. This was in normal years. Today the situation is that the city gets water for fifteen minutes on alternate days and that too, the Corporation has said and everybody agrees that by the end of January next year, the water sources in the city would dry up. Today, the city depends on wells and hand-pumps, but those have also been sealed by the Corporation. Now, there is no source of water. By the beginning of February, Jamnagar and all the taluka headquarters of the district will have no drinking water at all. This is an area where in normal years during the last few months of summer, water is brought by tankers. But this year, we will not be able to get water by tankers because the

tankers will have to go a few hundred miles to get drinking water. There is a scheme to bring water by pipeline for Jamnagar city and they say that up to August, 1988 Jamnagar will get drinking water by this pipeline. But is that a permanent solution? It is very costly. Is the pipeline going to solve the problem of these areas permanently?

I have been repeatedly requesting the Government that you should treat these areas in a separate way; you should not treat them as other parts of the State or the country. In such areas you must bring in modern technology and try to have desalination units. I know it is quite expensive. But there is no other alternative other than desalination by osmosis process. There is the only alternative for the regions of Saurashtra and Kutch. I am talking of the coastal towns and coastal villages which are more than a hundred and cover a population of almost fifteen lakhs of people.

I would like to know from the Government whether they have considered a separate scheme for this region only. I am not talking of the whole of Gujarat or the northern region of Gujarat; I am only talking of the coastal region of Saurashtra and Kutch. Do you have any special scheme to give them enough water this year? And what is the permanent solution for this?

I will take the liberty of only asking a few questions to the hon. Minister. The situation is very bad in that region and by February and March and before the Monsoon, there are going to be riots as far as drinking water is concerned. Nobody is going to be able to control that in spite of whatever the Government may say. I come from that area and I know what is happening there. From February, March onwards the people are going to snatch water from each other, they are going to steal water and there are going to be riots for water. This is the right time for the Government to consider and go in for a special scheme for that part of Saurashtra and Kutch. May I know from the Government if they will consider this? There are modern and latest technologies to bring water from the sub-soil, or to

convert the sea or brackish water into drinking water or even have a recycling system. Why does not the Government encourage the NRI, our friends who want to help our brothers in this country, and allow them to send these units. But the Government is insisting on the custom duty and excise duty. At such a time Government should consider such a proposal that if an equipment which is not available in India, such as equipment for drilling or for convert in fresh water, is imported from other country it should be exempted from the customs duty.

Another point which I would like to bring to the notice of the Government is about the cattle. Whatever the figures may say, whatever you may say, and as some authorities said that no cattle has died and that cattles are being looked after, but I would like to tell you that as far as district is concerned, 50 per cent of the cattles have perished. I do not know whether they have died, migrated or they are living in the cattle camps but 50 per cent of the cattles have disappeared from our region. Now what will be the result of this? For the next season there would be no bullock to plough the field. And if somehow the farmer does manage to plough the field he will not have enough money to buy seeds and fertilizer. So, I would like to know whether the Government is considering any special scheme for these drought affected areas to help the small and marginal farmers? With the Land Ceiling Act, I think every farmer has a small land of his own. So, I would like to know whether the Government is thinking of providing these farmers with seeds and fertilizers for their next season?

Then another point to which I would like to draw the attention of the House is about the Oil Mills. In one district alone in Jamnagar, there are about 130 oil mills which depend entirely on the groundnut crop. For the last two years they are not getting any raw material. These mills are about to be closed or in fact some of them have already been closed. I am not talking on behalf of the oil mills but think of the thousands of labourers who work in these mills owners alone. So, will the Government consider the proposal to

provide the mills with good variety of imported oil seeds at least to the oil industries situated in the drought affected area, be it in Jamnagar or Kutch or for that anywhere else.

Now, about the rural people. I am not talking of the people who can afford to walk 5 to 7 miles away from the village, but what about people who cannot leave their villages and go outside for work. Why does not the Khadi and village industries or the small scale industries come into the picture here? Why cannot they support or give some extra assistance to these people? For example in my district, there is a Khadi industry and a village industry. Now, at this point of time when these Government should have given more assistance to these drought affected areas, we find that they are not even providing the necessary raw material. We do not even go to them to collect whatever is being prepared by them in these small scale industries. I would like to draw the attention of the House to this point, though it is concerned with another Ministry, this can be used as one of the measures for providing the drought relief.

Sir, we find that in the villages several anti-social elements are raising their heads. People are being looted, cheated and exploited. So, is the Government thinking of having a voluntary force or a special police force to protect the life and property of these villagers?

Sir, I am very sure that the disease is going to spread in this winter. We have not realised it now but in the late February and March there will be the shortage of water and that is the time when disease will spread. What steps the Government is taking to tackle this problem? Here I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a scheme that has been prepared by which drinking water can be made available to every village and every town in the Saurashtra and Kutch regions. This Rs. 600 crores project which has already been prepared will solve the drinking water problem throughout Saurashtra and Kutch, and what is more important, not a single penny is to be spent by the State Government or the Central Government.

Why cannot be welcome this scheme and implement it in time? As Shri Nawal Kishore Sharma has stated just now, if we do not do it today, tomorrow it will be too late for us to do anything at all. Let the Government give a serious consideration to these suggestions and please bring in schemes with modern technology which are going to give real relief to the people of rural and urban areas especially those who live in drought prone areas and more so in the areas along the Coast of Saurashtra and Kutch.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are passing through a very severe drought and flood situation. And due to the Central Government's callous and apathetic attitude, famine is knocking at the door of the country. Can we deny it? Mr. Jadeja is telling just now that if not today, tomorrow there will be a riot for mere drinking water! You may very well imagine such a situation.

Sir, in the drought-prone areas, sub-soil water level has gone down. It has never happened in the last one hundred years. The South West monsoon which accounts for 80 per cent of the total rainfall is going to retreat without giving any rain. The water level of the reservoir, particularly in the South, has gone down to less than 50 per cent. The Khariff crop is more or less lost and you will agree with me, Mr. Minister that the prospects of the Rabi crop are also bleak. According to the observations of the Meteorological Observatory, out of 442 districts in India, 300 districts have been affected by rainfall-deficiency. The rest of the districts are badly affected by heavy rainfall which resulted in devastating floods. Due to these floods, there were huge losses of crop, property, loss and even lives. Again if there is going to be a failure of winter rains also, there is going to be panic-hoarding and profit-making hoarding of foodgrains. The entire country may well be turned into one big Kalahandi.

The Prime Minister may visit the country here and there and say some dry words and shed some crocodile tears. But can that really be any consolation for the suffering people?



I really wonder whether the Government is at all serious to tackle the problems of flood and drought. I say that the Central Government is not at all serious. Rather, they would like to live in great pomp and grandiosity and they are more interested in holding 'Apna Utsavs' and other such festivals. (*Interruptions*)

The Government cannot spend money for drinking water but they can spend crores of rupces on 'Apna Utsav'.

Also, I must say very loudly that the Central Government is politicising this issue of drought and floods. On 16th November 1987, our hon. Prime Minister has gone to Farakka and in a public meeting there, he made allegations against the West Bengal Government. He alleged that the West Bengal Government did not properly utilise the money and that they had misused the money for their party purposes. Sir, I challenge this statement of the Prime Minister. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am making it clear now in this House and through you and you have to explain the entire situation to the House. The hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal has condemned the attitude of the Prime Minister and said that all these were false allegations. In this regard, what are the true facts? Let me make the position clear. After the devastating floods in July and August, the West Bengal Government asked for Rs. 300 crores as aid to the flood victims, to provide for relief work, for housing, for drinking water, for agricultural implements, seeds and manure and to stop soil erosion and so on.

The Central Team after studying the flood affected areas of West Bengal made recommendations for Rs. 67 crores and 72 lakhs. Out of that, how much money you have given so far to the West Bengal Government? It is only Rs. 24 crores. How can the Prime Minister say that we have given Rs. 70 crores to West Bengal Government and they have misused the money? Regarding this, we have already got the papers/accounts as to how we have spent. How can you say all these things? If the Chief Minister says that the Prime Minister did not tell the truth, what is wrong in it. We have got plenty

of lands in the country but still we are the land of poverty. I would say, it is mainly due to your action; due to your activities—the Congress Government's activities—we are in this situation. In these long forty years of independence, we have made so many proposals but have you gone through any of these proposals? Have you ever thought over it? Did you think about the wastage of rain water—the waters of Himalayan rivers which are going merrily to the sea?

SHRI A CHARLES : What is your Government doing?

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : After all, the projects cannot be straightaway taken up by the State Government by merely going through it. Have you ever thought over rains of the river water? How much water is going to be utilized? Have you ever thought over the Ganga-Krishna-Cauveri river canal project which many Members have mentioned? Have you ever thought over the fate of Ganga-Brahmaputra Link Projects via North-Bengal and Assam? It was prepared in fifties. They will say, no. It cannot be taken up due to paucity of funds. We are astonished with the behaviour or the attitude of the Central Government towards the flood control and irrigation projects.

One project which I want to mention here is about the Teesta, which is meant for irrigation and protection from the floods. It was stated long back in the Man Singh Committee's Report that if the Teesta River flood protection and irrigation scheme is completed, 39,000 hectares of land will be irrigated. Six hundred Megawatt of hydel power will be available for Sikkim, North Bengal and North Bihar would be in a safe position from flood disaster. With so much financial constraints, the West Bengal Government had come forward to complete this project on time. They have already spent Rs. 210 crores for this project. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister Mr. Dhillon as to how much money they have spent for this project? The North Bengal is a backward area. This is the only river which is helping the people of that area. Out of this Rs. 210 crores, you have

spent only Rs. 5 crores. This is the attitude of the Central Government. Now, I think, it would not be possible. If it is possible, then I would be very grateful to our countrymen.

**SHRI A. CHARLES** : Are you making a political speech? I do not know what are you saying.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN** : These are the problems. Now, I would like to say one more thing and that is regarding Ganga-Cauveri project. Do you think that river Ganga is the paternal property of the U.P. Government? No. But what is the position? In the Ganga river, the total flow of water during the lean months is about two lakh and fifty five thousand cusecs. The Calcutta people require only 40,000 cusecs of water.

**DR. G.S. DHILLON** : I Just wanted to know, Mr. Pradhan, whether you want to bring Kaveri to Ganga, or Ganga to Kaveri.

**SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN** : Ganga to Kaveri; so many Members have spoken already on this project.

The Ganga river's flow during lean months is about 255,000 cusecs of water. Calcutta wants water from the Ganges only to the extent of 40,000 cusecs. But you are giving only 16,000 cusecs. Why? Out of these 255,000 cusecs of water, why are you not giving to the people of Calcutta and West Bengal water to the extent they want, viz. 40,000 cusecs? You are giving Ganga water only during monsoons, because of the flood-threat, and not for any other reasons. (*Interruptions*)

You are making it the paternal property of one State. Between the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal there should be coordination. Let there be a Commission. Let them decide it. That is the way to divide waters between the three States.

Thank you.

**DR. A.K. PATEL (Mehsana)** : Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this

opportunity to participate in the discussions on this important problem of the day.

Actually, this is not purely a question of natural calamities. My predecessor Mr. Nawal Kishore blamed the bureaucrats for this position. There is some limitation on him: he could not blame the ruling party and the one family which is ruling this country. If we had thought seriously about this problem earlier, the position would not have become so grave as it is today.

In our country, only 22% of the rain water is being utilized, whereas in Israel 95% of their rain water is utilized. We may not agree with them politically; but we should not feel shy or feel offended in taking their advice in respect of the technology needed for utilizing more of rain water.

I will not go much into details. My statement is not political, but a scientific one. This year's drought is the most severe one in this century. That everybody knows. I will speak particularly about my State, viz. Gujarat which is facing drought for the last four years. My predecessor Mr. Jadeja gave a vivid and correct picture of the position in Gujarat. The position in the 19 districts of Gujarat is worse. There is no drinking water for human beings and animals. In the coming days, as he predicted, there will be riots. I totally agree with him. If Government is not serious today, the coming days will be more worse for Gujarat. Government should take serious measures to meet this situation. They should take short-term and long-term measures. As a long term measures, as I said, the Ganga-Kaveri link is the correct or rather the only solution for the country. For my State, the Narmada Yojana is pending for the last so many years. It has been made totally a political issue. Even today, the Central and State Governments are not serious about it. If they had thought of this plan seriously, Gujarat's position would not be as worse as it is today. The surface water there in Gujarat has been exhausted totally, and the sub-strata water which was formerly 100 to 200 ft. deep, has gone down to 600 ft. Even that water

is not potable. It is not economical for irrigation purposes either.

There should be a check in the river so that it percolates and the surface water can come up.

The position of Kutch Bhuj is worse as also my District Mehsana. For Kuch Bhuj, an immediate solution can be found out by getting water from Sindh. This can be done only if we have negotiations with Pakistan on humanitarian grounds. If water does not come from the nearby area, then the position of the 15 per cent animals of the Kutch will become worse. 75 per cent animals have gone out of the State, and several animals are dead.

About implementation of the various schemes of Gujarat, I would like to comment. Very recently, the Collector of Junagarh told about the recent relief measures. There is a lot of mismanagement about the relief measures which are going on there. The names of about 20 per cent persons were found wrong. Those persons who were not working there were paid for that. In that way, it was badly affected. In one cattle camp which is organised by GPC, on record 82,000 animals are there, but while calculating only 35,000 animals are found. This is how the money is being misused when allotted for animals; and that is being done by the leading people of Gujarat Especially in my District, Mehsana there is the no irrigational scheme. Kadana is an old project which is kept aside. If that project is implemented, then only my State can have water. Narmada Project should be given the top priority. Government is just struggling for money, but the people of Gujarat are prepared to buy debentures and help the government, if it is implemented earlier. For that, if the government demands money from the farmers, the farmers are prepared to give advance even though their economic position is not good. This is the fourth year of drought in Gujarat. The position of farmers is worse; they are not able to repay the loan of cooperative societies and banks. For that, government should think seriously. Last year, the money which was allotted was not adequate; and that money was also not totally utilised; Rs. 20,000 crores were

lying idle. For this the persons who is responsible is the Chief Minister of the State; he should be held responsible for this; and he is answerable for that.

Ahmedabad city is a big city of Gujarat. The River Sabarmati is totally dried up. Formerly, Ahmedabad was getting water from a reservoir because of drought and because of scanty rain. That reservoir is not sufficient for Ahmedabad and the coming days for Ahmedabad are worse; and for that the nearest canal is at Nadiad, which is 50 kms away from that place. If these measures are not taken in time then the position for Ahmedabad people will become worse.

I request through you to the Central Government to allot more money to my State to enable them to implement the scheme of Narmada so that the position for getting water for my State may be good.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI R. JLLVARATHINAM (Arakkonam) . Hon. Dy. Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my views on the drought situation in India being discussed under rule 193.

Every session, we discuss this matter. This has almost become a ritual. We discuss it very frequently but nothing comes out. Details of action taken in pursuance of these discussions are also not made available.

Severe drought conditions are prevailing in Tamil Nadu. The Hon. Prime Minister has extensively toured Tamil Nadu. He had seen with his own eyes the plight of the people. As luck would have it, immediately after his visit, Tamil Nadu experienced spreaded rainfall. This, however, has brought no relief. The south-west monsoons have failed this year. It at all rains come it should have come by this time.

Failure of rains has caused acute drinking water shortage. I had learnt from

\*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

news papers that the Tamil Nadu Government has sent a detailed report on the drought situation after consulting the respective district commissioners in Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government is reported to have asked for Rs. 500 crores as assistance from the Central Government. I had also learnt from newspapers that the Central Government had so far provided some Rs. 50 crores in two or three instalments in response thereto. The State Government has asked for Rs. 500 crores and Central Government has only provided Rs. 50 crores. Our people in the Tamil Nadu Government are a bit hesitant, hesitant even in asking for drought relief assistance. Perhaps, they were traditionally prosperous. Only when there was no other go, they have asked the Central Government for this assistance. But even the Central Government, while playing their part, do not seem to have provided at least any meaningful proportion of what had been asked for.

After the prorogation of last session, I undertook an extensive tour of my constituency. Collectors accompanied me. My purpose was to oversee the drought relief measures being undertaken in my constituency. Do you know how much these authorities has spent on these relief measures? Rs. 5000, Rs. 10000, Rs. 20000. While the relief works require a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs, 10 lakhs and 20 lakhs, these authorities have spent only this petty sums. Will this really provide relief? I told the authorities that they need not have spent Rs. 5000, Rs. 10000 and Rs. 20000 on works which require a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs, Rs. 10 lakhs and Rs. 20 lakhs. Investment below the cost will not bring out any desired result. Then why spend at all? They were helpless. They stated that the State Government had earmarked certain amounts for every village, taluk and district and no penny over and above this ceiling could be spent. I doubt whether this is going to provide any relief to the drought affected people.

Even during the last session, I made a reference to the urgent need of desilting the Kaveripakkam lake in my Arakkonam constituency. The lake which has a capacity of irrigating 10000 acres of land is dry for the past 3 years. I had invited the Hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Dhillon to visit

the lake and see the situation for himself. He graciously agreed to visit the lake provided the State Government formally invites him. I had conveyed this to the State Government. I told the State Government that unless the lake is desilted by the centre or by the State Government purely from their respective funds or by the Cooperative efforts of the Centre and the State Government, the drinking water problem in my constituency could not be solved. Still I am not aware whether the State Government have included this demand for desilting the Kaveripakkam lake in their report submitted to the Central Government.

Not only this lake, there are many other big lakes which require desilting. Mamandur lake which is situated between two hills is big lake. Likewise, Perunkuttur and Veeranam lakes are also big lakes.

*(Interruptions)*

Sir, kindly forgive me. Give me 5 more minutes. I had been waiting for the past 3 years.

There are certain big lakes which are dry today but which can irrigate 10000 to 15000 acres of land.

Even the Dharmapuri district wherefrom the Hon. Dy. Speaker haild is a more backward area than my constituency. Dharmapuri has also been affected severely by drought. There is no rainfall in South Arcot district. There is no drinking water in Madras. We Tamilians are suffering a lot due to drought.

I hope the Hon. Agriculture Minister will, with compassion, listen to me and do the needful.

Even the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi has also constituted a Drought Relief Monitoring Committee. I hope that Committee will also take expeditious steps in dispensing justice to a large number of persons affected by drought in my Constituency. Many acres of cultiviable lands in my constituency have gone dry.

While I was on tour to my constituency, in a particular village, I had to meet more



than 1000 women who come in a procession with pots on their heads who begged water from us. They pathetically demanded that they wanted only water and nothing else. That particular village comes under Solingapuram assembly constituency. Water is not available in the village even at a depth of 200 ft.

Last time, when I spoke on the same matter, I urged upon the Government to employ army for digging bore wells at 300 ft. and 400 ft. level, and to provide drinking water to the parched throats on immediate basis. I spoke in Parliament. My speech was published in newspapers. But nothing concrete has come out of those discussions. That is why I had been waiting here to convey to this august House my anguish at the tardy implementation of the drought relief measures.

Drought conditions are prevailing in Tamil Nadu all through the year and year after year. We are spending the huge amounts ranging from 80 to 90 lakhs on many other projects. We must permanently allocate a fund for drought relief and for flood relief operations. This is also my appeal to the Hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, I can now with certainty say that there will not be any rain during the coming 8 months. If at all it comes, it should have come by this time. Even drinking water will not be available. In such a difficult situation, the opposition will try to fish in troubled waters.

You cannot bring water from Ganga. It is not just possible for the present. It is also not possible right now to convert sea water into drinking water. The Government must therefore augment water supply in the existing water resources in all 4 districts *viz.* Dharmapuri, North Arcot, Madras and South Arcot which have been very severally affected by drought. Hon. Minister may kindly take note of this fact. He must liaise with the State Government in taking immediate steps in this regard.

18.00 hrs.

The KR Sagar area of Karnataka receives heavy rainfall for 4 to 6 months and they store the rain waters in the KR

Sagar dam. If they release water from the dam during the rainy season at least for the one month, then this would augment water supply in Cauveri river. This would in turn fill small tanks and ponds and we Tamilians are going to benefit by this.

Next is about the river Palar. This river also originates from Mysore. They have built the Beththamangalam lake at the source of the river. If they release water from the Beththamangalam lake at last for one month during the rainy season, it would greatly help the people of Tamil Nadu. Hon. Minister may kindly take note of this. Hon. Minister may also be aware that North Arcot district comes next to Tanjore district in rice production in Tamil Nadu. But the whole district is laid barren by drought. We have sowed maize, millet and Ragi. At least these crops should be saved. Hon. Minister may please take necessary steps.

Lastly, Sir, I would like to make an appeal. It is about the Telugu Ganga Project. The waters of Krishna should somehow come to Tamil Nadu. Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra, Shri NTR was a resident of Madras. He spent much of his film career in Madras. He earned a lot of wealth in Madras only. He is also large-hearted. He himself declared that even if the Central Government does not give clearance to the project, he would execute the project, the project by all means. He must fulfil his vow even spending from his pocket. The Krishna water must flow through Cuddapah, Karnool, Madana palli, Palamaneri, Gudiyattam, Vaniambadi and then may be let into Palar river. If this is done, NTR would go down in history as the most renowned personality.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is now 6.50 p.m.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SARIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I would like to propose that we extend the sitting of the House by half-an-hour so that all the speakers can speak.

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : I would like to tell the hon. Members that two hours were allotted for this debate and we have already taken over 5 hours. The Speaker in BAC had said that unless we restrict five to ten minutes per speaker, we will not be able to finish the business. Tomorrow the hon. Minister will give the reply.

SARI UTTAM RATHOD : Is it not a fact that this is the severest drought ? So more time should be given for discussing this drought.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : In the last session we had a discussions on this subject for almost 12 hours. But it is upto the House to take any decision.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : To tell at 6 o'clock that the House should be extended by half-an-hour is not fair. We are not prepare for that.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : I have gone on the assumption that we will be able to finish the debate today itself. I could not visualise at 4.30 that this would be the situation. Anyhow, it is upto the House to decide. If you donot want to sit today, then tomorrow you will have to forego the lunch hour.

DR. G.S. DHILLON : I have a problem. There was a marathon debate in Rajya Sabha on this subject for 4 days and then it was started here and now you are extending it for tomorrow. I had to cancel three programmes. I thought I would be free at the earliest. Now you are asking to extend it tomorrow also. I hope, this will be the final extension. If you are made to listen for hours together, then you will realise my position. Kindly finish it tomorrow itself.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : But you had the experience of listening as you were the Speaker.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : You will have to skip over Lunch Hour tomorrow.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM : The difficulty is that the Deputy Speaker is also not ready.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I am ready to sit even up to ten O'clock. No problem...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House of wants, I am ready to sit even up to mid night.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : Then Sir, we do agree that the hon. Minister will reply to the debate at two p.m. tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right. But before that everything has to be over. Then no demand should be made afterwards that this is a very serious matter and you want to discuss it further. Whatever is decided now, we have to stick to that tomorrow.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT : By 12.30 p.m. we shall finish off matters under rule 377, depending on the Zero Hour. By 12.30 p.m., we shall start the debate again, Sir. It will be the first item on the agenda tomorrow after the Question Hour and after matters under rule 377.

18.10 hrs.

#### BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

##### Forty-fifth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SARIMHTI SHEILA DIKSHIT): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-fifth Report of Business Advisory Committee.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House now stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11 A.M.

18.11 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, December 2, 1987/Agrahayana 11, 1909 (Saka).*