

15.01 hrs.

**DISCUSSION RE:NATURAL CALAMITIES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY**

[English]

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Now we shall take up item No. 8 - discussion under Rule 193. I request Prof K.V. Thomas to initiate the discussion.

**PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam) :** Sir, first of all, I thank the Hon. Deputy Speaker for allowing me to have a discussion on the recent natural calamities. Our nation has not seen such unprecedented floods, landslides and sea erosion in the last ten or fifteen years as we have seen during the last two months. No state or region was spared from the assault of the South-West monsoon. Starting from Assam, Punjab and coming to Kerala, all the States have suffered a lot. In Punjab alone, the death toll has risen to 55. In Jalandhar city alone, 2000 families were marooned and 100 houses collapsed. In Bihar, Kosi river, which known as the sorrow of Bihar, is flowing 100 to 130 cms. above the danger level. In Uttar Pradesh, major rivers are rising up, and similar is the situation in West Bengal.

15.03 hrs.

[SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN  
*in the Chair*]

Coming to State, Kerala. It is for the first time during the last sixty years that our State is facing such unprecedented floods, landslides and sea erosion. Last year, Kerala had faced a very serious drought which was the first a period of hundred years, and now this year we are facing the unprecedented floods. Geographically, on the western side of Kerala we have the Arabian Sea and on the eastern side, we have the Western Ghats. Usually, Arabian Sea is calm but this year when the monsoon started, say by the middle of May, everything was smooth and moderate, but at the end of June, monsoon turned violent and the Arabian Sea took a monstrous shape and huge waves to the height of a two-storeyed

building were flashing on the sea shore eating away the land, washing away the houses and uprooting thousands and thousands of coconut trees. The damage is irreparable.

On the other side on the Eastern sector, the hills were coming down and rocks were rolling down, causing heavy damage to plantations, agriculture, causing breaches to the roads and killing people. And on the mainland, the entire place was flooded. In Alleppey, which is the constituency of the Chairman and which is called the granary of Kerala, the full region was submerged and instead of green paddy fields only an ocean could be seen.

I am not going into the details of the losses caused, but I am trying to bring out only some important points. The total number of deaths till today is 102 the total number of injured is 7,400; total population affected is 146 lakhs, which is about 52 per cent of the total population of Kerala.

In the case of agriculture; the loss calculated is Rs. 93.36 crore. When we think about the loss in agriculture, it has to be viewed from two aspects. One is the short-term loss and another is the long-term loss. In Kerala, we have got seasonal crops like that of paddy and banana. Damage to these crops is a short-term loss. But there are cash crop plantations like those of coconut, rubber, cardamom, where the loss is a long-time process. Once a coconut tree is lost, it takes five to ten years for the new tree to grow and to have an fruit. So, when the Government of India thinks of helping our farmers, these two aspects have to be considered. Moreover, our farmers are those people who have got small land-holdings - one acre, two acres or three acres. So, this aspect has to be considered also.

There is a heavy loss to the houses. The total number of houses damaged is 4.78 lakhs. Of this, 1.2 lakhs of houses have to be given relocation; 0.5 lakhs of houses are completely damaged and 2.08 lakhs of houses are partially damaged. Even the school children have been affected. About 20 lakhs of school children have lost their books, clothing, uniforms etc.

Another sector where there is heavy damage is the roads. The damage calculated

[ Prof. K.V. Thomas ]

for the roads is about 178 lakhs. Similarly, the loss caused to fishery products is Rs. 16.13 crores.

Another major area to which the Central Government has to give attention is the coastal line of Kerala. Kerala has got a total coastline of 560 KMs. It is estimated that there are 320 KMs. of vulnerable coastal line. Out of 320 KMs. of vulnerable coastal line we have put sea walls for 290 KMs. After the present flood and heavy rain, 110 KMs. of coastal line was affected. A total of 140 KMs. of the coastal line has to be given protection.

Now, here, I would like to bring an important point to your notice. We have got a total population of 254 lakhs out of which 35 lakhs of people are residing in the coastal line. In the whole world our coastal area is the most thickly populated place. Now during this calamity itself, 50 to 100 metres of land was eroded. The construction cost of a sea wall per kilometre is 5 to 6 lakhs of rupees. So, at this rate, for 140 KMs. the amount to be found is Rs. 840 lakhs. Here I want to specify one point. The Central aid for the construction of sea wall is 2:1 For repair, it is 1:1. My submission is this. We are spending crores and crores of rupees for the defence of the nation. Here is Sea, which has to be considered as an external aggressor. My request is this : The Central Government should bear the entire expenditure in this respect. A State like Kerala which is facing acute financial problems, cannot spare a single naya paisa for construction of sea walls.

In this connection I would like to congratulate the Government of India and our beloved Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the timely and effective help given to our State. The State had to face very heavy monsoon and heavy flood in the beginning of July this year. Our Chief Minister Shri Karunakaran came to Delhi on the 5th of July and met the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister, and told them about our problems and they were satisfied. On the 8th we got the first instalment of Rs. 10 crores. That

is why I am telling you that it is 'timely' and 'effective' help. On the 11th our own Member and representative in the Cabinet Mr. Narayanan, came to Kerala and visited our State. On 13th and 14th, our own friend close relative, Mr. Buta Singh ji, came to Cochin and visited Kuttanadu, Idukki and other districts. And he was there for two days.

Sir, both Buta Singh ji and the Central officers headed by Shri Sikdar have come to understand the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Kerala which says that the total damage is to the tune of Rs. 743.36 crores. It is an actual fact that has been given. One point that I have to specify is usually when the Central aid is given for the relief work, 75 per cent is given as grant and the rest of the 25 per cent is the amount which the States have to find out. I am again repeating that a State like Kerala which is under heavy financial constraint cannot find out this 25 per cent. So, my repeated request is that the Centre has to give 100 per cent aid and the Centre can do it when there are extreme and acute conditions.

Sir, these natural calamities, even though they are not in such an acute stage as this year, are occurring every year. We have to take some long-term measures. I will point out only a few factors. One is roads. In Kerala every year we are facing heavy rain in monsoon, we have to repair the roads. Now, the technology that is being used now has to be changed. What is used is chipping carpet process. Instead of the chipping carpet process, another process called spray grouting process, which is 5 times costlier than the chipping carpet process but 20 times more efficient can be used. So, that has to be used and the Government of India should give ample help.

Another point is regarding land-slides. The land-slide is due to deforestation and cultivation near the catchment area. The Government of India should enact a law so that we can prevent deforestation. Flood is an usual occurrence. To prevent floods the present canals and waterways have to be deepened. More dams have to be constructed. In a special way I request

that when help is given to the State of Kerala, three cities should be helped separately, viz, Trivandrum, Cochin and Calicut. Cochin is a city which is below the sea level. Every year when there is a single rain, the entire city is flooded. So, we have given a separate Memorandum to the Prime Minister and to the Agriculture Minister that they should give financial help of Rs. 5.21 crores to the Cochin city alone for finding out a permanent solution by way of constructing roads and constructing bridges.

Before I conclude, I would like to say a word of congratulation to the Government of Kerala under the able and efficient leadership of Mr. Karunakaran.

Sir, in the first week of July when this unprecedented flood occurred, our Assembly had adjourned. M.L.As. went to their constituencies. Ministers were asked to take charge of each district and relief measures started.

It was not a simple thing. Look at the relief measures taken. 120 lakhs of people were to be given free ration. Pregnant women and children were to be given milk and the total amount that has been spent on this account alone is Rs. 23.45 crores. 1,922 relief centres and gruel centres have to be started and the expenditure required was Rs. 7 crores. The cost of medical help and relief was Rs. 8 crores. Then, clothing and vessels that were to be given to the camps cost Rs. 6 crores. Repair to water supply installations and provision of water to epidemic prone areas alone cost Rs. 6.1 crores.

The Government of Kerala has taken such an effective step that there was not a single complaint. Our Union Ministers Shri Buta Singhji and Shri K.R. Narayanan visited the place. The Central team also visited all the places. There was no complaint because the State Government had taken effective steps. Before I conclude, I once again thank the Government of India, Shri Rajivji and our own friends, Shri Buta Singhji and Shri Narayanan for the effective steps taken.

I request once again that we have to take long-term measures to prevent the natural calamities.

**SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, natural calamities can be broadly divided into three categories. The first and foremost is drought. Second is flood and third is cyclone. Of course there are other calamities like landslide which occur in the mountainous region of India.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI:** Gas disaster.

**SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY:** It is a man-made disaster. There are a number of man-made disasters.

These are the three major calamities which India faces. The Government of India has already identified the drought prone areas. It has been from time to time introducing programmes and schemes for drought prone areas. But unfortunately, none of these schemes has been effective. They have been only of a temporary nature and have given only temporary relief. No permanent measures probably have been thought about to fight drought.

Indian economy depends mainly upon the vagaries of monsoon. We have yet to master the technology of correctly predicting the monsoon far in advance and instruct and educate our farming community to adopt themselves to the vagaries of monsoon. It has not yet been done. I understand that the Russian scientists have offered their technological knowledge to predict the monsoon in India. So, drought is a natural calamity. I come from an area, namely, Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh which has been described as chronic drought prone area. We have been suggesting from the very beginning that there must be a permanent revolving fund of not less than Rs. 1,000 crores. To meet these natural calamities wherever they occur and a Scheme must be evolved so that this fund is always available whether it is Union's contribution or the State's contribution or some other method or types must be found so that this revolving permanent fund is available for the purpose.

Yet another suggestion which I want to make is we must try to convert these natural calamities into natural advantages. Dry climate is considered to be very essential for the manufacture of certain goods and certain

[Shri E. Ayyapu Reddy]

items. Therefore, in drought-prone areas where dry climate prevails, we must identify the industries which can easily be located or the small scale industries which can be located and which can be effectively implemented. For instance, in a drought-prone area, it is not difficult to maintain poultry. After all, poultry does not require any watering or anything like that. Dry climate will help poultry also. So, we must identify the drought prone areas and also have a research done to find out the occupations, trade and industries which can usefully be taken up in these drought-prone areas.

Drinking water is a major problem in all the drought-prone areas. We have been trying to solve this problem of drinking water for men and for cattle also. We have not been able to solve the problem of drinking water. Underground water is being explored and exploited. But unfortunately even the table of underground water is going down. So, we have to explore certain other methods of supplementing and complementing this underground water.

ICRISAT is trying to find out which are the dry crops which can usefully be cultivated for these drought-prone areas. This research in dry crops which can be taken up in drought-prone areas must be intensified. Some new crops have been found which can grow up very easily even with little or scanty rains. In fact, afforestation can be taken up. There are certain species of forests with very scanty rainfall. They can withstand the drought and still give fruit. Such scientific aspects of forestry must also be investigated so that we are able to fight this drought.

With regard to floods, they will, according to me, create a number of problems. One of these problems is again drinking water. "Water, water everywhere but no drinking water." That will be the condition where floods hit a particular area. Floods, according to me, are not a natural calamity but they can be converted into a boon provided we have got the technological capacity to put heavy rains to use. We have to identify those areas which are usually affected by floods and we must find ways and means of diverting these floods to drought-prone areas or to other areas. A number of balancing reservoirs are essential to impound

this flood water to be taken to drought-prone areas or to areas where irrigation facilities are lacking. I submit Sir, that enough research has not been conducted on this aspect. For instance, we hear every year that Brahmaputra is in floods. Ganga is in floods and overflowing. I have been wondering whether Brahmaputra cannot be diverted to other areas also and that floods cannot be converted into a life giving water resource for other areas of India.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Reddy, have you at any time seen the Brahmaputra ?

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : No Sir, That is why I have been wondering why cannot it be diverted to other areas.

S. BUTA SINGH . If we can divert Brahmaputra, we can stop the rains.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : If we try to do that, we will be diverted

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY : Lastly Sir, cyclones. Sir, Andhra has got 6000 Kms. of area under cyclones and we have been facing devastating cyclones. In fact, I would urge the Minister to locate a number of wind mills along the coast to draw power and energy. This is an area which is found to be most suitable for converting wind into energy. All the coastal areas can be converted into wind mill converting energy resource provided we have got the technological resources as well as the equipment for doing that. Sir, as I have already submitted, I urge the Government to set up a permanent relief fund of not less than Rs. 1000 crores for meeting this natural calamity. Thank you.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Prof. P.J. Kurien, A number of persons are to speak. You are allotted only five minutes.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN (Idukki) : Thank you Sir for calling me. Once again this country has been plunged into devastating floods and torrential rains. A number of persons have died. In Punjab and Himachal Pradesh it has been reported that more than 55 lives have been lost. In

Kerala alone 102 persons died. That is the latest report we have received and even now we have not recovered from this shocking havoc.

Sir, it is a pity that even after six five year plans, we are not able to successfully control the floods. In every plan we are allotting a huge amount for the control of floods. But it is seen that year after year the damage and havoc due to floods and natural calamities are on the increase. Sir, national policy on floods formulated in 1954 has laid down a time bound programme for eliminating the floods. They have said that within a period of 12 years we should be able to contain this havoc. But unfortunately during the last 12 years its devastating effects only increased. Sir, according to the available figures the loss due to floods in 1956 was only to the tune of Rs. 523 crores; whereas it has increased to Rs. 2459 crores in the last year. This shows that every year the loss due to floods is on increase. Now whenever there are floods or natural calamities, we think of some relief measures, some ad-hoc or interim measures. We are not actually having permanent measures by which flood can be controlled. So, I would suggest that the Government of India should think of having some permanent major scheme by which floods can be controlled.

**SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSI :** (Howrah) : There is the Flood Control Commission.

**PROF. P. J. KURIEN :** There is the Commission, but no action.

Some time back there was a proposal to connect all the major rivers in India from north onwareds to the South. I know it is a very ambition scheme and requires crores of rupees, say, about Rs. 10,000 crores. But assistance may be availed from World Bank which we can be available of. We should have to think of such steps as to control the havoc of floods once and for all. I am very happy that this time as soon as the calamities occurred and as soon as the news spread, the Government of India acted very quickly. Coming to my State of Kerala, I am very happy that as soon as the matter was reported to the

Prime Minister he released funds from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and also the Government of India sanctioned Rs. 10 crores immediately and within a couple of days another Rs. 15 crores was sanctioned to my State. Not only that, as it is said by Prof. Thomas, hon. Minister Sardar Buta Singh visited, Mr. K. R. Narayanan visited our State and the Government of India has shown all sympathy to the State of Kerala. But for this assistance from the Government of India and but for the timely action taken by the Government of Kerala, I submit the loss would have been much more, especially the loss to human lives would have been much more.

Coming to the problem of the State of Kerala, the State has three different types of regions. One is the hilly region, then there are the lowlands and the sea-coast. It is unfortunate that all these areas are vulnerable to one or the other type calamity. The hill areas are vulnerable to landslides. I am coming from the constituency of Idukki which is full of hill areas and a number of landslides occur and due to landslides 28 persons died and four families were completely wiped out. Then there are the lowlands. Then the sea-coast is completely prone to sea-erosion which is a phenomenon not seen in many other States. (*Interruptions*) It is in Bengal. I know. It is in Andhra Pradesh. But it is not in Utter Pradesh or Madhya Pradesh because they do not have sea. Due to these floods and landslides 102 persons died, 78 000 persons were injured and 900 villages were affected. 4 lakhs houses have been totally damaged in the Alleppey district and 80,000 families were rendered homeless. Such is the devastating damage which and I cannot go into more details for want of time.

Only on the agricultural front I want to say something. There is heavy damage to the annual crops and also to the perennial crops like pepper, banana, ginger and other crops....

**MR. CHAIRMAN :** Please come to Idukki and finish your speech.

**PROF. P. J. KURIEN :** I am coming to Idukki because Alleppey, I know, is your constituency. I will stick to Idukki.

[ Prof. P.J. Kurien ]

So coming to cash crops which are mostly grown in my constituency, 5000 hectares of pepper have been totally damaged and another 5000 hectares have been partially damaged. Then coming to cardamom, 4500 hectares of cardamom were totally damaged and another 4000 to 5000 hectares partially damaged. Like-wise there is damage to rubber, ginger and other cash crops. Ginger is an export-earner. 4800 hectares of ginger crops have been damaged. In Idukki district alone, which produces the cash crops the total loss is estimated to be more than Rs. 50 crores. But one thing is to be specially noted. The effect of this loss will be spread over many years. If there is loss in paddy or in some other yearly crops, the effect is for one year only and within a period of one year you can recover the loss. But in the case of rubber, if a rubber plant is damaged, it takes seven years for a replanted rubber tree to give yield.

If a coconut tree is lost it again requires seven to eight years. Therefore, the loss is going to be spread over a period of seven years. This will result in heavy drain on our foreign exchange earnings. I request that this aspect should be taken note of when the Government of India is providing assistance.

Coming to sea erosion, it is a special phenomenon in certain States. Like the defence expenditure, the expenditure on sea erosion should also be made on a national basis.

Sir, the Government of India is sanctioning assistance to the States in respect of natural calamities under certain norms. Under these norms 75 per cent is given as grant and 25 per cent as loan. There are some States which are very economically weak and, as such, cannot generate funds to be used for these relief measures. Kerala is one such State. I do not want to say that the award of the Eighth Finance Commission to Kerala is discriminatory. The norms were such that we were not at an advantageous position. So, we are not having sufficient funds to generate and provide as relief. So I request the Hon. Minister to give 100 per cent assistance to the State of Kerala

and also to Punjab and Himachal Pradesh which are all suffering due to the floods and natural calamities.

**SHRI DIGVIJAYA SINGH (Rajgarh) :**  
Sir, the most illustrative examples of vagaries of nature we have in the country today. There are floods in the North and South and severe drought in Central India. We have one of the most severest droughts in the western part of Madhya Pradesh. There is acute shortage of water and fodder. I would like to mention in this august House that 20 per cent of the cattle wealth of the area has died because of lack of fodder and people have left their cattle just to die because they have no fodder and no water for their cattle.

The Hon. Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister have very kindly give us some funds for drought relief but in spite of that our State Government is facing problem and, as such, additional funds may be provided to the State of Madhya Pradesh. Our State Government had imported some fodder from the neighbouring States, especially Gujarat, but now I am told that Gujarat Government has put a ban on the import of fodder from their State. The consequences of such an eventuality are very apparent. Farmers are in an extremely bad stage and some of these districts mainly Rajgarh and Shahjapur which are cattle breeding districts, there the very bread and butter of the farmers is being snatched away. I sincerely appeal to the Agriculture Minister to consider some kind of payment of compensation for the cattle wealth to the farmers of these districts.

Sir, in these districts drought has become a regular feature. The first step of desertification has started in these districts. The forest wealth has been finished off. Erosion is taking place at a very high rate. Although six districts were selected in Madhya Pradesh long back in 1963-64 under the drought prone area programme, unfortunately the districts which were essentially included under drought prone area, were left out and unfortunately those districts which were not drought affected districts were included.

I would therefore request the State Minister in the Department of Rural

Development, Shri Chandulal Chandrakar, kindly to consider earlier districts which were to be included, under the drought prone area programmes, specially Rajgarh district, and see that these districts are included in this programme. They are really drought affected areas and the programme should be taken up immediately in those districts.

Sir, because of the ground water table going low, the potable water has become absolutely scarce in those districts and because of lack of potable water, the guinea-worms which have affected the population most severely in these districts exist in potable water. The potable water carry those germs. About 750 villages in my constituency have been affected by guinea-worms. But unfortunately there have been no programmes undertaken either by the State Government or by the Government of India to eradicate this menace and solve this problem. Some kind of scheme has to be taken up by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Agriculture to recharge the ground water table in those areas.

The Works and Housing Ministry had sanctioned funds and hand-pumps were installed in those districts. But they have gone dry because the water level has gone so low that the people are not able to get water from the sub-soil water level. One of my earlier speakers had mentioned about the linkage of the Ganga-Kaveri Canals. I welcome his suggestion and I plead with the Hon. Minister that the linkage of Dastuts Project of Ganga-Kaveri Canal should be given in thought. Something must be done about this because every year our country faces calamity, that is, either there is an acute drought in many areas or there is a devastating flood in other parts of our country. There has to be some integrated programme for water resource development so that such situations can be avoided.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, India is a very big country. Whereas some places witness drought, the others witness floods due to which heavy losses are suffered. You might remember that I had raised a discussion on drought conditions in the country during the

last session and detailed discussion had taken place on it, and it may be discussed in this session also. At that time also rains failed and there was no snowfall. Many States had witnessed drought conditions and had suffered a lot due to that. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and many other States had suffered heavily. At present I shall like to say about my constituency. The entire State of Jammu and Kashmir witnessed drought conditions last year to failure of rains and absence of snow-fall. People did not get any relief uptil now. The people had not reconceed from that sad experience when the floods occurred due to heavy rains this year. Other States have also suffered heavily. Punjab, Bihar and other States have also suffered, but Jammu and Kashmir particularly my constituency in the State has suffered heavy losses to due to floods in River Chanab. You might have read in the news papers that at least 50 persons have lost their lives and about 300 to 400 families have been rendered homeless. Similarly, Panjab has suffered heavy losses. I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister that last time when the State had witnessed drought conditions, the State got 4000 tonnes of foodgrains every months in addition to the fixed quota of 12,000 tonnes and we were able to provide foodgrains to the people living in far flung hilly areas. In this way we had been able to overcome the difficulties being faced due to failure of crop and provide relief to people.

Since you have rung the bell, I would like to offer one or two suggestions. My first suggestion is that a team of experts should be sent there to asses the losses suffered and suggest the action to be taken to face the problem in future. I remember that about 5-7 years back, when such a situation had arisen there, an expert-Mr. Uppal was sent there. He visited the place where floods used to occur and losses suffered. He managed in such a way that no floods have again occurred there. I under stand that our bureaucratic machinery does not act in time and they visit the place only after the loss has been suffered. People, who have suffered losses, must be given more and more relief and another team of experts may be sent

[ Shri Janak Raj Gupta ]

there and more funds should be provided to avoid such situation in future.

With your permission, Sir, I would like to bring one thing to the notice of Government. The poor people living in jhuggi-jhonpri and Kacha houses always suffer in the event of drought or floods. People used to say that Punjab problem can never be solved. But our leader and hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has made achieved what was considered to be impossible. By his wisdom and statesmanship he established India's supremacy in the world and has proved that India can lead the world. While we could perform such a miracle why can't we solve the problem of jhuggi dwellers, whose houses are washed away every year when the rivers are in spate. The poor people are rendered homeless. Some arrangements should be made for them also. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am extremely thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to say a few words about the difficulties of my people. I represent Trivandrum, which is the capital of Kerala has a peculiar geographical position. There is a coastal belt of about 40 kms on one side and about 20 kms east, there is the hilly region of Schiyadar. On one side is the sea, on the other side is the hilly area. This leads to sea erosion on one side and on the other side are the land slides.

Actually the people are between the devil and the deep sea. The coastal belt is the most affected area of the Kerala State. There is a road parallel to the coastal area and several lakhs of people are confined in this narrow belt which is roughly between 50 to 200 feet in width. In 1981 Census, it is stated that Karimkulam, one of the places in this narrow coastal belt, is the most densely populated area of the whole of this country and you will understand the inhuman conditions under which these people live. I am not going to deal at length with the miseries and difficulties

these people face because I want to point out some constructive proposals to redress their difficulties.

The first thing is to have a sea wall in a phased programme. That only can help these people from further encroachment of the sea.

Housing is another important factor which has not been mentioned by any of the previous speakers. Because of the present sea erosion, several thousands of huts have been totally washed away along with the land and as a result they have lost their houses and the house sites. The only way to rehabilitate them is to have multi-storeyed flats, so that they may be permanently rehabilitated. As you know, they are now living in Gruel Centres and Anti-disaster Centres. People cannot be planted like trees and they cannot be uprooted. They have to be permanently rehabilitated. So, I would plead with the Minister to see the possibility of providing a few multi-storeyed flats there.

Another factor is providing employment opportunities to these people. They have lost every thing that they had. They have lost their homes. The fishermen folk have lost their nets and boats. The coir workers have lost their husk and all their belongings. So, employment opportunities should be provided for them.

Another major factor is the problem of drinking water. In the coastal area there is a great scarcity of water. Water has to be brought from some other resources to this coastal area. So, special provision should be made for providing water to this coastal area.

Almost in the whole area, the roads are now completely dilapidated. So, I would request that special provision should be made for repairing these roads.

I am sorry, with the limited time at my disposal, I am not able to do full justice to my people. Anyway, I am thankful to the Chairman. And I am also thankful to our Hon. Prime Minister for coming in a big way even at the beginning. I am happy that the Prime Minister has abundant grace to do

the right thing at the right moment. I am also thankful to Shri Buta Singhji, who has graciously visited the whole area. The people there were facing calamity and they are in a chaos and agony. I am happy that his visit has given a sense of belonging and a sense of security to them. I congratulate the Minister and I plead that he may have top priority for this area for rehabilitating the people.

**SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) :** We are discussing here a very serious problem - national calamities. Sometimes we face disastrous floods and sometimes we face acute drought and other calamities like land slides in hilly areas, etc. Every year, we have to face either of these calamities. Such calamities destroy life and property of the people, damage crops and create famine conditions and difficulties for the people, specially to those who reside in the rural areas of our country.

According to the report of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power for 1984-85, the total value of damage caused by floods and cyclone during the season of floods was of the order of Rs. 1,651 crores in 1984 and it was Rs. 2,460 crores in 1983.

Cyclones and heavy rains in November, 1984 affected many parts of Andhra Pradesh causing considerable damage to property and loss of human life.

16.00 hrs.

Sir, at the same period, 16 districts of Tamil Nadu were adversely affected by rains and flood. Sir, floods of varying intensity occurred in different parts of the States ranging from Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Tripura and other places causing tremendous damage to human lives and properties.

Similarly, drought has affected many states causing enormous loss to the lives and properties of the people.

Himachal Pradesh has been suffering from the loss of nine crops since 1980, due to successive drought situation in recent years. This has made the condition of the

people pitiable. Who is mainly suffering? The marginal, small and tribal farmers are worst sufferers. They lost about Rs. 1500 per head due to drought.

Sir, in Orissa also villagers of Kalabandi district have seriously been affected by drought for the last two decades. Distressed and jobless people are starving, and some of them are selling their children at Rs. 30 to Rs. 50 for want of food for the last 20 years, and it is going on. Then a lengthy list of such woeful and miserable people could be cited. Sir, I do not want to take much time. Sir, by mentioning all these examples would not help. But the question is, even after 37 years of independence, why do our people have to suffer due to such calamities? I should say that we have no realistic plan to contain it. That is the faulty plan. That is why every year we have to lose so much money human life and property. Sir, nature has bestowed on us so many things for the well-being of the people, but our *Bhagya Bidhatas* have totally failed to utilise them. When such calamities occur a handful of persons at the helm of affairs, amass huge money at the cost of the people. No relief and rehabilitation works are done. Neither sufficient funds are allotted nor proper distribution of allotted funds is there. That is my allegation.

Recently a serious allegation of malpractices and defalcation of relief money at Mithilanchal in Bihar has appeared in the press. Sir, We find the peoples' cooperation are never sought in relief operation. But Sir, I can cite you an example. In West Bengal when there was unprecedented flood havoc in 1978, the entire relief work was entrusted to newly elected Panchayat bodies. They did commendable service in rescue and relief operation which was highly appreciated throughout the country and abroad. Not a single person had to leave the village. They were provided food, cloth and shelter. Sir, the whole Panchayat bodies rose to the occasion and provided relief and rehabilitation to the suffering people. Therefore, I should say, there should be proper scientific planning and for implementing this planning, peoples' cooperation should be sought.

**DR. K. G. ADIYODI (Calicut) :** Sir, I thank the Hon. Speaker for allowing three

[ Dr. K. G. Adiyodi ]

hours to discuss the flood situation in Kerala and other part of the country, and also Shri Buta Singh Ji for visiting Kerala in this hour of distress, and for seeing with his own eyes all the possible areas i.e. Indukki and other places, where a majority of people belonging to weaker sections live near the sea shore, people who have lost their houses and are living in rescue homes, getting their rations, medical aid and all such facilities.

Floods and natural calamities are not new to us. Every year we are facing them, and in a haphazard way we render aid to the victims without taking all possible steps to prevent them. Of course, it is impossible to prevent natural calamities, but we should try to do whatever is possible. Science and technology are with us

A lot of norms are prescribed for helping the needy during natural calamities. The hard lines drawn viz that 75% expenses should be given as grant, and 25% is to be borne by the States, while rendering assistance, are totally unacceptable during these days.

Especially in Kerala, the topography of the land is peculiar. We have the mid-land, the high land and the sea coast. We have the hill tops which are 5,000 ft. above sea level, We are always facing cyclone-like winds. Even grass does not grow there. Due to land hunger, people disturb land for their livelihood. As a result, land is eroded. It falls into the sea and into the rivers. The river beds are raised. When there is rainfall in the Western Ghats, within 5 or 6 hours water reaches the sea. Except for the water contained in a few reservoirs meant for hydro-electricity and irrigation, the rest of it flows into the sea through the rivers.

The legend of Kerala is this : once Lord Parasurama got wild while seeing the rough sea. He threw his axe, to reclaim land. The axe fell into the deep sea. He thus reclaimed about 100 miles of land from the sea.

I think this year, the sea is very cruel to Kerala sea walls. We are facing an unprecedented distress this year. About 60 years ago, i.e. in Malayalam Era-90, there was such a flood, and resultant distress.

The pattern of assistance should be such that 100% grant is given to Kerala and other places. Even now rainfall is torrentially falling over its Punjab, Assam and other places. They are facing a lot of problems. Unless we have a scientific approach to prevent this distress, as far as possible, we will not be able to prevent this from happening...every year.

My request is that we should de-silt the river mouths to avoid floods, and also construct sea-walls on war footing basis in areas where the National highway runs parallel to the sea coast like Allopy, Ernakulam. Mahe, Tellichery etc.

There is an inland waterway from Kasargode to Trivendrum which is flooded with sand; and whatever water is there, flows towards the east, and not towards the west into the sea which adds to the flooding.

So, it is felt that heavy rains and water are doing a lot of damage. They should adopt some scientific approach and funding should be scientifically managed so that the weaker sections of the people, fishermen and adivasis can get the maximum help out of this for their future

**PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR** (Hamirpur) : This recurrence of floods as part of the natural calamities is very well known to this House and there had been discussions on this topic even earlier. This year, what has happened is that an unprecedented drought has been followed by unprecedented floods. I was in Pooana District of Himachal Pradesh when very heavy rain started on 19th of July; and within hours, the Hoshiarpur-Jalandhar road in Punjab and that part of Himachal Pradesh lying on the border was flooded. Consequently, many lives were lost. And when we were coming by road, we saw cattle lying dead on the road. It is only a distance of 38 kms from Hoshiarpur to Jalandhar and the road is quite high; it is not subject to flood, but the very picture can be imagined that on eight points on the road there was gushing water which was about 6-8 feet deep and all vehicular traffic was stopped. A part of the bridge was washed away; a road was also washed away and about six persons

lost their lives; and the Deputy Commissioner is still assessing the situation. I am happy that our Minister for Agriculture, Shri Buta Singh had an aerial view of the devastation caused by the floods in the Punjab. He must have also a glance of what has happened in the Una District. Therefore, while it is very good that he has immediately rushed help to the Punjab; Rs. 10 crores has been given. I would request him to rush immediate help to the Government of Himachal Pradesh and sanction Rs. 5 crores more for Himachal Pradesh so that various works can be taken up immediately. If rain continues, then more damage can be done; more roads can be breached; even part of the railway line between Pathankot and Jalandhar has been breached and the railway traffic has been diverted via Amritsar. So, people in Jalandhar told me that ever since 1955 this has been the record for the rain and 88 mms of rain has been recorded within 12 hours in that area resulting in the breach of a canal, flooding two or three districts: Kapurthala, Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar in addition to part of Himachal Pradesh and Una District.

What is more important on the occasion is that the Government of India should set up a permanent mechanism. The floods are recurring; even drought is coming every year. So, why should we have a need and why should we wait for a team to go from Delhi? Sometimes a team is constituted; it takes time and officials have their own programmes. So, generally, it is a question of about a couple of weeks or sometimes even a couple of months before a team reaches on the spot.

Now, you have so much liaison with the State Government. You have various officers to coordinate their activities with the P&T, with the railways, with transport and many other things. Why don't you have one office there permanently in each State Capital so as to take up the idea of the relief, the project for relief immediately, as soon as a natural calamity comes. I would plead with the Hon. Minister that he should evolve some mechanism by which every Deputy Commissioner or a District Magistrate should have some fund at his disposal so that he can rush relief immediately. Sometimes a bandh has to be cons-

tructed overnight. Now, if the money is to be sought from the State Government or from the Central Government, then it would take a long time. So, I would plead for a permanent mechanism to help all natural calamities, whether it is drought or flood. There should be some provisions at at the district level so that they can be managed without further loss of time and similar other things can be managed; some road can be provided, some other thing at every district level so that they can be pressed into service and they have not to wait for the army or some other agency to come forward to their help.

16.15 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM *in the Chair*]

Sir, one other idea that is worthy of note is that we had a big commission, the National Flood Commission, which gave a big report. But the reports are forgotten as soon as they are submitted and the result is that action is not taken. What is urgent is not a commission, not a committee; it is the urgent nature of action that can help people. I would plead in this hour of crisis that immediate help should be rendered to the Himachal Pradesh Government, and the districts which have been worst affected should be provided with the necessary funds so that roads which are washed away can be constructed, bridges which have been removed by the vagaries of nature can be re-installed and also the necessary funds and other things should be provided.

Sir, whether far South or North or East or West a calamity is a calamity. The Central Government should come forward with help and funds. We can say that whereas floods have brought misery to the people, but something good can be brought out of it, if some permanent mechanism can emerge out of the problem, so that in future human lives can be saved, and help can be rendered to the affected people.

With these words I request the Hon. Minister to help the Himachal Pradesh State Government in the relief and rescue

[ Prof. Narain Chand Parashar ]

operations immediately as it is in dire need of funds.

[Translation]

DR. G. S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, thousands of years ago Lord Buddha had told his disciple Anand about Patliputra which is now called Patna that that city shall always be in the grip of floods, arson and mutual rift.....

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI ABDUL GHAFOOR) : All these three things still exist there...

DR. G. S. RAJHANS ; Patna stands for the entire Bihar. I am not aware of arson and mutual rift there Mr. Ghafoor might be aware of it. I know something about floods.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER : It appears in his newspaper only.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Whatever you say is published in the newspapers.

Even after 30 years of independence Bihar has been facing the problem of floods as it had faced earlier. One of my friends had said a very good thing. He had said that he would tell me about a radio news. You will not be able to tell whether this news pertains to July, August, 1947, or 1950 or 1965 or 1970 or 1982 or 1984. The news says that Bihar has witnessed devastating floods and thousands of persons have been rendered homeless. I would like to say that if people die of cold or heat any where in the country, it happens in Bihar only. When people die in floods, it also happens in Bihar. No doubt that natural calamities are there, but man-made calamities outnumber them. Crores of rupees have been spent on measures to control floods in Bihar after independence. Everybody knows where this money has gone. I mean to say that Bihar is rained by floods either in Kosi, Kamala, Gandak, Bagmati or Mahananda.

Floods have caused heavy losses there. I would like to say that if all the M. Ps coming from North Bihar get an opportunity

to bring and show here video tapes about the condition prevailing in their respective constituencies, it will open your eyes and you will come to know about the state of affairs prevailing in the country. It is a matter of shame for us.

If the people of a country have to live on trees or boats for a period of 4 to 6 months in a year, then will you call it a civilised way of living ? For which fault of theirs they have to suffer from floods every year ? You have spent so much money for this purpose. Have you ever tried to ascertain where this huge money has gone ?

Flood affected people suffer heavily. Their crops are damaged. They suffer from diseases like. Malaria, Kala-a-zar, cholera, etc. People used to call it Janak's Mithila in older times, but now it is called the Mithila of hell.

Water flows from Nepal. There is no body to construct dams etc. to check this flow of water. Hundreds of persons and cattle are washed away. Crops get damaged. People are rained. This is the state of affairs in Bihar.

At present about 6 lakh persons, who have been displaced, live in Delhi, Ghazia-bad, Fraidabad and other adjacent towns. They belonged to rich families, but their condition became worse due to floods year after year. They became poorer and their condition became worst. People may rise above poverty line elsewhere but in North Bihar, in Mithila they are going below the poverty line. The proof is those labourers, whom you call Poorvi Bhaiyas or Biharis, and at whom you laugh. All these people have come here under compulsion. They have not come here willingly.

Some permanent flood control measures should be adopted in Bihar. Such a situation should not be allowed to continue there that people suffer from floods and diseases every year. Unfortunately, people suffer heavily in Bihar, particularly North Bihar and same thing is repeated there every year. Very little help is provided by Centre as well as the State Government. But no permanent solution has been found yet.

At the instance of Shri Lalit Narain Mishra Pt. Nehru had got Kosi Project prepared, but now there is nobody to take such initiative. Is it not possible to construct dams on Kamla, Gundak, Bagmati or Mahananda? Are the people of North Bihar destined to suffer all the miseries?

Leave aside North Bihar, the people of Bhagalpur etc. will also be affected as level of Ganga is likely to rise considerably. The state affairs in South Bihar and North Bihar is worst. Timely measures should be taken to remedy the situation.

\*SHRI A.C SHANMUGAM (Vellore): Hon. Mr. Chairman, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to say a few words about the recurring natural calamities and in support of the Resolution that has been moved by my Hon. friend Shri Thomas. Nature's fury has been unleashed on many parts of our country. As has been pointed out by Hon Members from Kerala, about 146 lakhs of people have been afflicted by ravaging floods; thousands and thousands of tenements have been washed away. The State Government of Kerala has sought Central financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 700 crores. Though the Central Government may not be in a position to give Rs. 700 crores; but at least a sum of Rs. 400 crores should be given to the State of Kerala to undertake flood work. On behalf of southern States I demand that the sum of Rs. 400 crores should given forthwith to the State of Kerala.

Sir, you will find the monotonous repetition about the flood havoc in the Annual Reports of the Ministry of Irrigation. On an average the annual loss due to floods has been estimated to be of the order of Rs. 800 crores. On account of unprecedented floods this year, the damage may go to the extent of Rs. 1800 crores. Shri Thomas and Shri Reddy pointed out that there must be a long-term solution to the recurring floods. They have stressed the need for a perspective planning also to tackle the recurring floods. Year after year we in the House discuss about floods and drought in the country. The Ministers also assure that adequate steps

\*The speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

are being taken to minimise the flood havoc and drought affliction. But natural calamities like floods and drought have become a part of national life. This year we see that the people of Kerala, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Assam are reeling under the roaring floods. While North is suffering from floods, the southern States are afflicted by drought. This has been the recurring phenomenon in our country.

It has been acknowledged that only 30% of cultivable land is served by irrigation facilities and the remaining 70% of cultivable land depends upon rain. Shri Reddy referred to the unfortunate fact of waters of Brahmaputra, Ganga, Yamuna and Narmada going waste into the sea. In other words, we are wasting the national asset of water. We have not formulated any affective plan for utilising all the available waters for irrigation. The Hon. Member from Madhya Pradesh referred to Ganga-Cauvery link up scheme, which is the lasting solution for the recurring floods in the North. The people of southern States have been demanding for decades that this scheme should be taken up, as it will yield twin benefits - save the northern States from flood havoc and serve the Southern States with water for tackling perennial drought. The question huge investment running to thousands of crores should not stand in the way of implementing this scheme. The Government of India should not hesitate to solicit financial assistance from the World Bank to implement this scheme, which will alone save the nation from nature's fury.

Recently the flood warnings have been issued in the States of Bihar and Orissa. Here, we have not so far paid any attention to the de-silting of perennial rivers. If we deepen the rivers by removing the silt and mud, the flood havoc can be minimised. I suggest that there should be a well-drawn out de-silting plan for the national rivers.

The Irrigation Commission of 1972 in its report has declared certain districts in southern parts of Tamil Nadu as perennially drought afflicted. They have specifically mentioned by name certain taluks also in southern districts of Tamil Nadu in this respect. If the districts of Madurai, Ceimbatore, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli are to become pastures of green, then the

[Shri A. C. Shanmugam ]

only solution is east-ward diversion of waters of west flowing rivers which go waste into Arabian sea through Kerala causing inundation all the way. The Irrigation Commission has referred to this. The Technical Committees appointed later by the Irrigation Ministry and the Planning Commission have also recommended this. I demand that this project should be taken up for giving relief to the people of southern districts of Tamil Nadu, who are perennially the victims of drought.

Sir, the Metturu Dam in Tamil Nadu, which is the only major Dam in Tamil Nadu, gets water for 8 months in a year. The water supply in the river Cauvery has got depleted because of construction of dams on the tributaries of Cauvery by the Government of Karnataka outside the Five Year Plan with an investment of Rs. 250 crores under non-Plan head. The district of Thanjavur, which is known as the Granary of Tamil Nadu, will become an arid zone, if Cauvery water is denied. I appeal to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Central Government that they should take initiative in resolving the long pending Cauvery water dispute. If this is delayed any further, then the entire Tamil Nadu will become a desert. The Hon. Members who preceded me were referring to several inter-state river water disputes. As our inimitable leader Dr. M.G.R. has been repeatedly stressing, all the rivers should be nationalised; they should be declared as national assets. Presently the inter-State river water disputes are hampering and impeding the implementation of irrigation projects. In other words, the people are denied drinking water and water for irrigation. There is presently the classic instance of Karnataka Government objecting to the execution of Telugu Ganga scheme. Such hurdles can be removed only by declaring the rivers as national assets.

Before I conclude, I would refer to the inexplicable method of functioning by the Central Government. The financial assistance to flood relief is treated as grant, while the money given for drought relief is treated as advance Plan money. This is wrong. Both are natural calamities and

there should be no discrimination in central assistance to flood relief as also to drought relief. Shri Reddy stressed the need for an exclusive annual allocation of Rs. 1000 crores for drought and flood. If the planning Commission allocates 1% of the Five Year Plan allocation, it will come to Rs. 800 crores. There should be no delay in the matter of extending financial assistance for flood relief as it is a question of human misery. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari, whichever part is afflicted by flood or drought, immediate financial assistance should flow from the Centre to that part. I need not elaborate on the non-elastic sources of revenue for the States to undertake flood relief works. At the same time, the State Government is the nearest organ for the suffering people to render assistance. Sir thus it becomes the imperative necessity for the Centre to rush financial assistance to the States afflicted by floods or drought. The Centre should formulate such a scheme of financial assistance to ameliorate the misery of masses reeling under flood or drought.

With these words I conclude my speech.

[English]

**SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN** (Alleppey) : Sir, it is quite unfortunate that unprecedented flood in some of the States have created much havoc in this country. The South West Monsoon in Kerala caused heavy rainfall in most of the Parts of the State for about two weeks resulting in floods, landslides and sea-erosion. In North India also, in U.P., Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Assam etc. the flood situation assumed alarming proportion causing death to so many persons.

Regarding the Kerala flood situation, my friend Mr. Thomas has given a true picture of its gravity and seriousness. As he has said it affected 146 lakhs people i.e. 52 per cent of the total population in my State.

The total number of deaths comes to 120 and the total number of injured is 7,400.

The entire economy of the State has been disrupted on account of severe loss to agriculture and fisheries.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the Kerala Government for taking immediate relief measures like giving food, clothing, medical care and shelter to the affected people. 1,922 gruel centres and relief camps were opened. Free ration was given to 120 lakh persons. The total loss calculated by the Government comes to Rs. 743.36 crores. My constituency, Alleppey, is the worst affected place in the State. Nearly 60 000 persons were taken to the gruel centres from my constituency alone. Many other people also became homeless, but they went to the houses of their relative and friends.

Kuttanad, which is the 'Rice bowl of Kerala' is completely under water, causing heavy damage to the paddy crops. Nearly one and a half lakh acres of paddy fields are affected by the flood in Kuttanad alone. The Hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Buta Singhji was kind enough to come to Kerala to see the situation. He has flown over Kuttanad and seen the places under water. Our Hon. Minister Chandrakarji has also visited this area before and studies the peculiarities of the place. The entire Kuttanad area is below the sea-level protected by bunds. All the bunds are broken and the entire area is now under water. Thousands of people live in huts constructed on the bunds and they are all now homeless and live in gruel centres or houses of their friends or relatives.

The conditions of these poor people are pathetic even in normal times. They do not have even pure water to drink. The same water in the Canal which is used for answering the calls of nature is used for drinking and bathing. The pesticides used for crop protection is mixed with the water they pump out into the Canal. The living conditions of the people in that area are so miserable that it was a big surprise to the members of the Central Team who visited that locality very recently. Even Chandrakarji was surprised how the people are living there in such a miserable condition.

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI BUTA SINGH) :** They don't drink water;

they are fond of 'arrack' which they locally brew !

**SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:** Sir, the State Government has requested for the aid of Rs. 25 crores for strengthening and raising of the water bunds in Kuttanad. My request is that this amount may be sanctioned to save these poor farmers who always fight with nature, because, the whole area is below the sea-level.

In Kuttanad alone, more than 40,000 persons were taken to the gruel centres. The need for the development of that area is felt now by all. It is a long-standing demand by the people of Kuttanad to form a Kuttanad Development Authority for the overall development of that area. Now I understand that the Kerala Government is inclined to take some steps for the same. I request the Central Government also to take necessary steps in this direction.

In my State we have the mountain in the East where people are killed by landslides. In the west, we have the sea where the sea-erosion is terrible and people are made homeless. Their properties and coconut trees are being eaten away by the sea. In between the sea and the hills, there is serious flood havoc. As far as I am concerned, nearly half of my constituency is under water.

If we want to properly rehabilitate these poor people, we require the assistance of the Central Government and that too in a big way, immediately.

I am indeed thankful to the Central Government for immediately coming to our rescue and for sanctioning Rs. 25 crores as advance for relief work. But it is only a small amount when compared to the gravity of our debacle.

In conclude, I request the Central Government, on behalf of the Members of Parliament from Kerala and on behalf of the people of my State, kindly to help us in a big way, when we are really helpless due to the unprecedented floods, landslides and sea erosion. With these words I conclude.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera) :** Mr. Chairman, Sir, floods and

[ Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan ]

drought have become the permanent feature in our North Bihar. The floods are also accompanied with natural calamities like deficient and excessive rains and drought. These have become a regular phenomena. I must thank the people of that area who continue to live there by taking these big calamities in stride.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you are, perhaps, aware that the floods in North Bihar have become a regular feature and the people of that part of the state suffer on this account every year. It affects our industry, agriculture and transport. Human beings face three kinds of sufferings—hunger, bodily suffering and domestic sufferings. The houses of the poor people collapse, standing crop is washed away and they face starvation. The people are exposed to posten flood diseases which take epidemic form. Apart from loss of life and property, they also lose their cattle heads. No solution to this problem has so far been found. The Government spend billions of rupees to control these calamities, but no permanent solution is in sight.

Recently, the hon. Minister had said while replying to my question that billions of rupees have been given as grants and there are four or five schemes also for this purpose. If these schemes are completed certainly, the human beings which fall victims to the natural calamities will be protected, but the officials are playing with the lives of the people. Flood is curse for one and boon for the others. On the one hand the people are reeling under the flood and on the other the officials raise their palatial buildings from the relief fund, thus cheating the people. Government funds to the tune of crores of rupees are spent in the name of relief, but it never reaches the affected people. Now, relief is not meant for the people, it goes into the pockets of the local officials. The embankments constructed under these schemes do not provide protection. The embankment work, when started, is not completed and is abandoned midway instead. The Kamla-Balan embankment has been abandoned at Kothram, which otherwise, should have been constructed upto Fuhaiya.

Last year, you might have heard that Eastern Kosi embankment was breached as a result of which thousands of houses were washed away overnight. Many people suffered loss of life and property. Engineers also visited there and orders from Government were also issued that the breaches in the embankment should be repaired during the dry season. The funds are allocated, the contractors get the contracts and just sleep over them and come to repair the breaches only during the floods. To construct an embankment while the river is flowing is nothing but throwing dust into the eyes of the people. They should construct the embankment during the dry season when soil is available. Bhagwanpur embankment has breaches, Rajwada embankment has breaches, Kamla Balan embankment has also breaches, and is also weak at places. Crores of rupees are sanctioned by the Government for carrying out repairs, but the money is not being put to proper use and, thus, they are playing with the lives of the people. If a check is kept on these things, a permanent solution to the problem can be found. Strong embankment should be constructed there on both banks. The area prone to flood should be connected with drought-prone area and canal water should flow to drought areas. If we do it, the drought problem will not be there. In our area, there are ravaging floods on the one hand and on the other there is severe drought. At present, our area looks like on ocean, the flood water has caused a havoc. This is the fury of the nature. The nature is giving us water 100 times more than our requirement, yet we are not able to utilise it. The floods have broken the back bone of North Bihar, The farmers have abandoned cultivation. Kushesharsthan, Singhia, Biraul and Ghan-shyampur present the view of of a huge sea.

Arrangement should have been made for draining out of water, but even that has not been done. There are big pits at places. Water outlets could have been provided at areas of Mukama and Kushesharsthan. That water could have been diverted into the Ganga, but this was not done. I shall request that Kamla-Balan embankment, Gandak, Bagmati and Kamla projects should be completed as early as

possible so that the people of these areas could heave a sigh of relief. Thousands of acres of land is submerged in this fury of nature. Thousands of houses are destroyed. Thousands of villages are being remained, what to talk of houses. Estimates put the loss at Rs. 20 crores in North Bihar alone. Therefore, you must find out a lasting solution to this problem. Do not cheat the people by sanctioning relief, it is proving to be a relief to the officers. You see to it how much of the sanctioned funds is actually being spent. Just have the information how much the people have been benefited.

Drought is such a calamity which hits thousands of acres of land every year. You can take up lift irrigation schemes there, but instead, you provide state tube wells there. I am not opposed to state tube wells, that is also necessary. But there is no provision of drains there, as a result of which everything is lying idle. Therefore, State tube wells, drains as also lift irrigation should be provided. River is flowing just one and a half mile away and had the Government a will, it could have proved as a boon instead of a curse. The land of that area is quite fertile but it has become a curse now and nothing is being done in this regard. I want to submit to the Hon. Minister that, you do provide a large amount of funds to Bihar, but it is not being put to proper use. We want that a lasting solution to this problem should be found. Kamla-Balan Barrage Embankment should be extended, Gandak project should be completed and such a barrage should be erected which is strong and not vulnerable to floods. The officers and Engineers there claim that the repairs have been carried out and, as such, the entire funds have been exhausted. We want the work to make further headway, but their staff do not want to do anything are openly playing with the lines of the people. I hope that you will pay special attention to it, so that the benefits of your allocations could reach the poor.

[English]

**SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS** (Mavelikara) ; Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Seventh Finance Commission has said that if a calamity which occurs to a State is of an extreme

nature, 100% compensation should be given by the Central Government.

With regard to the Kerala floods which have occurred recently, my submission is that this should be treated as a matter of extreme calamity and 100% compensation should be given.

I am thankful to the Minister of Agriculture who visited our State. But I will be doubly thankful if you can make it possible to get 100% compensation.

Kerala has got a peculiar climatic condition. It so happened while I was there in April, there were conditions of drought. I saw people staging demonstrations for drinking water and also the Commissioner or some officers of the Central Government visited my Constituency which is now very much affected by floods and drought. But, at the time the Officers came, it was raining because they came after 15 days of receipt of the information. The floods visit the area in the month of May beginning and by April end, there will be severe drought and by 2nd May and June, there will be floods. They occur suddenly one after the other. So, when the persons of Central Government visited the area, they were at a loss to understand what actually the damage is and what repercussions it has got on the economy of the State. This is a peculiar condition in my State.

I feel that certain area will have to be declared permanently as accident-prone or natural calamity prone area and some measures will have to be taken to meet this permanently and not temporarily, even though this may occur once in a decade.

I will suggest two things in this matter. One, the present situation in my State is that of scarcity because the price of a kilo rice is Rs. 5/- and the price of a kilo fish is Rs. 35/- and the price of every essential article has gone up because of the flood and famine conditions. Such a situation has to be met with a pragmatic approach of sending first of all the essential commodities from other areas to this area so as to lessen the prices. This is one of the services, one of the biggest things which the Government can do without spending a much of money. The roads are now damaged. As my friend

[Shri Thampan Thomas]

has suggested the roads have to be built up whether there are floods or drought in the area. There are natural calamities and also man-made accidents in my State. In my Constituency, half of the population are on the threat of a dam bursting and washing out a large population of the area. It is published as a big news item. There is a dam called Kallada. There is now 16 sq. KM water-logged area having 136 ft height water in the high ranges. There is a report that the dam is leaking. It will be a tragedy on a bigger scale than Bhopal. It has happened because of the natural calamity of the heavy rains and water is stocked there. But man has contributed to it by making a dam without proper cement and proper application. What the Government is going to do about it?

There is another case which I would like to point out, the Edamalayar dam. This is a hydroelectric project, people have gone to investigate it. In a situation like this, it may blast like anything because the water has gone into the rocky area susceptible for blowing up. Like a volcano it has come out because of the water pressure in that area. It has been reported in the press that a very dangerous situation has occurred in the Eastern side of Kerala.

These dams are in a very dangerous position. This has been reported in all our newspapers with photographs that water is leaking. I have seen a photograph of a Minister in Kerala going and watching the area. A threatening situation has developed there. This is man-made and also a natural calamity.

Who are responsible for these things? Who are the persons who have not used the cement which is supplied to them? Those who have looted the money of the exchequer should be found out and punished. That is my suggestion. At the same time, investigations should go and see that this should not happen anywhere else in the country.

I am bringing this to the notice of the Hon. Minister in Kerala that this is a very dangerous situation which has to be dealt with, utmost importance and sincerity.

May I suggest another thing also Sir? In the present situation, the norm of declaring, famine in India is different from what the British code had stipulated. That has not been changed yet. Even after independence, we are following the British system to declare as famine affected area. Those norms were fixed before independence. First of all, that has to be changed, Sir. In the present context, a new code will have to be formulated, to say who are the areas which are to be declared as famine-prone areas. Then Sir, I also say one word about the political aspect of this. This is a thing which is of human importance. It has to be considered in an humanitarian way. Sir, mostly at times such incidents have been used for political propaganda and political capitalisation. Sir, my submission is that wherever it occurs, action has to be taken immediately. I would suggest that an all party committee will have to be formed in which every political party should be involved and associated in the relief works.

Sir, I would also like to suggest one more thing. The bureaucrats, reports may not be awaited in such cases. When a Chief Minister reports that there is a serious situation, immediately something will have to be done. In 1973, I am glad to say that when the Janata Party was in power, they took immediate action when it occurred in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. Both the Chief Ministers, who were not of Janata Party appreciated that action was taken immediately on the spot for relief works. Also in West Bengal Sir, action was taken on the report of the Chief Minister that famine had occurred. So my submission is that we should never wait for the bureaucrat to go to inspect drought situation and come back to give a report. This may not be repeated in this country. These are my suggestions in this regard.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, we have got natural calamities like cyclone, flood and drought in different States of India. There is a need for developing a methodology for predicting drought and flood well before it occurs. Of course, temporary relief is given. But it must be seen how best the problems of calamity affected States can be solved permanently. Orissa is a State where poverty is in plenty.

This State is facing the natural calamities almost every year. Natural calamities have taken a heavy toll of lives and property in Orissa. Virtually, it is threatening the State's economy. Last year, seven districts of Orissa were affected by drouget, wiping out crops completely. Ganjam district in Orissa and my constituency Aska are the worst affected areas by drought, both last year and this year. The cultivators have sown the seeds either by way of broadcasting or by way of raising seed beds. For want of rains they are now looking at the sky and the seedlings and paddy plants have completely perished. The Central Govt. has been very generous to Orissa. The late Prime Minister, Madam Indira Gandhi had extended her helping hand always. Even on her birthday she was in Orissa, talking to people suffering from natural calamities. Our present Prime Minister is going to Orissa tomorrow to visit the districts which are worst affected by drought and mostly inhabited by Adivasis and Harijans. They are Kalahandi, Pulbani and a portion of Sambalpur.

17.00 hrs.

My submission would be that as far as Orissa is concerned, in one part of Orissa people are spending sleepless nights when there is a flood in the river because they are threatened with devastation by the floods and in another part of Orissa people are looking at the sky praying to the rain God, Indira for water. Through there are big rivers, all their waters go into the ocean and they are not utilised for irrigation. So to solve the problem, the different river basins are to be connected cutting the hillocks. Importance should be given to major, medium and minor irrigation projects including lift irrigation projects and maintain them. Sufficient funds should be given so that the State can improve the irrigation facilities and utilise fully the waters flowing in the rivers which are otherwise cause causing devastation and breaching the canals and river embankments and sand-castings. The Centre should come in a big way to see that the major projects for which the Orissa Government has approached the Centre are sufficiently funded. As an immediate measure, the Central Government must come forward and

give sufficient financial assistance to the State Government to meet the present situation.

In 1983-84 the Agriculture Ministry gave Rs. 3 crores to Orissa soil conservation including for water harvesting structure. This water harvesting structure serves the purpose of preventing soil erosion and also irrigation if not for the rabi but certainly for the Kharif crop. I would request the Minister that this year he should give at least Rs. 6 crores for this water harvesting structure which have proved very successful.

Then coming to my constituency, Ganjam district it is the worst drought-affected district. Steps should be taken to expedite the construction of the major irrigation project of Harabhangi which is proceeding at a snail's pace and minor irrigation project and canals are to be repaired and maintained. Similarly, unless a reservoir is constructed on Rishikulya river, the whole district may turn into a desert. Steps should be taken to have a reservoir at Nupally near Gallary. Minor irrigation projects like Landai, Billumax and Kuppatty which should be taken up. Then immediate steps should be taken for lift irrigation which is an assured irrigation.

Before concluding, once again I thank our beloved Prime Minister who is visiting our State tomorrow to see the conditions of Adivasis as well as the worst affected drought areas of Kalahandi and other places. It will certainly give consolation relief and courage to the people of Orissa to face the situation.

SHRI T. BASHEER (Chirayinkil) : With great anguish and distress I am on my legs to tell the Minister and this House the misery of my small State of Kerala caused by the recent monsoon floods, sea erosion and landslides. I will not be going into the details of the damage caused as my other colleagues have narrated them. But I take this opportunity only to stress that the recent floods have upset the economic condition of the State in all sectors.

The loss is very high and it will take years to bring the situation back to normal

[ Shri T. Basheer ]

condition. The vigorous rainfall caused unprecedented floods, sea erosion and landslides. The callousness of the calamity is beyond words. It is estimated that over 52 per cent of the population in the State has been affected. Nine hundred villages out of one thousand four hundred and sixteen villages have been very badly affected. Nearly five lakh houses, both hutments and 'pacca' buildings have collapsed. Thousands of people have become homeless. They are now in relief camps. They have lost everything. Farmers have lost their crops all over the State. It is estimated by the State Government that the total loss in agriculture sector will come to Rs. 161 crores.

In my constituency the most affected people are the fishermen. They have lost their traditional boats, nets, stakes and all. They are deprived of their livelihood. The Kerala Government has taken all possible steps to protect the people and provide relief in terms of food, clothing, medical care and shelter.

We are grateful to the Central Government as they have responded and acted with a sense of urgency and seriousness. The Hon. Ministers, Shri Buta Singhji and Shri K R Narayanan have visited the affected areas in Kerala. The Central team were there and they are going to submit their report very shortly. The estimated expenditure on relief, repairs, re-construction and restoration in all sectors in the State is estimated to be to the tune of Rs. 743 crores. The Kerala Government have submitted a memorandum regarding this. I am not going into the details. The Government have, in their memorandum presented a detailed assessment of damages and have requested for funds for relief and repair.

Sir, I request to the Government that the flood situation in various parts of the country should be treated as a national calamity. I want to stress that there is a usual pattern of Central assistance in such circumstances, namely, 75 : 25-75 per cent by the Central Government as

grant and 25 per cent by the State Government as its share. But considering the financial constraints of the Kerala Government I request to the Government of India to meet all the expenses in this regard. There is no difficulty. Both the Seventh and the Eighth Finance Commissions have made recommendations to this effect.

Sir, some of my friends have congratulated the Central Government. I reserve the 'congratulations'. We are, no doubt, grateful for what they have done in this situation. I am hopeful after considering the Report the Central Government will give adequate finance to meet the situation. In this connection, I would like to lay some photographs showing the flood situations in some areas, on the Table of the House. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last three years, continuously, we have been facing severe drought in Karnataka. This year, the situation is still worse. Out of 173 talugs, only in 100 taluks kharif sowing is done and in the remaining 73 taluks sowing has not taken place. This is the present situation. Moreover, in the coastal areas also, the rainfall has been very scanty. Chickmagalur district in Malnad area is facing an acute shortage of drinking water. Almost all the reservoirs in the State are not filled up. The major Linganmakki Dam is not having sufficient quantity of water and this Dam is mainly producing power for the entire Karnataka State. Last year, the Central Government was kind enough to provide about Rs. 30 crores to meet the drought situation in Karnataka. An amount of Rs. 167 has already been spent by the State Government to meet the drought situation. This year, there is hardly any chance for spending any money for this purpose because of financial constraints faced by the State Government. I would like to give a few permanent suggestions for the consideration of the Government so that the drought situation in the State could be met.

All on-going irrigation projects in Karnataka should be continued and sufficient allocation of funds should be made

for the same in the Seventh Plan so that more areas can come under irrigation. Secondly some funds should be allocated for the construction of percolation tanks so that water table availability is increased in the wells and bore-wells as also sub-soil water level. Third, sprinkler and drip irrigation should be encouraged in a large-scale. I have read in the newspapers that the NABARD is going to stop subsidy to big farmers for sprinkler irrigation scheme and only small farmers are eligible to get this benefit. If sprinkler irrigation is encouraged, it will not only give remunerative benefits by means of providing less water for various purposes but also this kind of education would be more cheaper and economical. Therefore, sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation should be encouraged, in large scale so as to fight the drought situation in various parts of the State.

Lifting of water should be permitted from the main canals and -distributaries wherever possible, by the farmers. Water is being lifted from the major rivers on the left side but not on the right side of the rivers, due to the levels being high. I am told that some States have already permitted the farmers to draw water from the canals on the right side also. I would submit that the same system should be permitted in other States also. Sir, in so many places, fodder is being used for the industrial purposes. This should be totally banned because some of the industries like mini-paper mills and other industries are using the fodder as their raw materials. The use of fodder for the industrial purposes should be banned totally in the country.

As I have already mentioned, the power situation in Karnataka is very much acute. We request the Government of India to see that power is made available to Karnataka from the neighbouring States like Maharashtra and Kerala, where they have abundant power, at a reasonable rate. Power is the main input for agriculture as also for industries. Last year during summer due to power cuts and power ghedding, the summer crops could not be sown properly. I, therefore, request that power should be provided to Karnataka from the neighbouring States.

More foodgrains should be allotted for Karnataka for this year. Karnataka has already made a proposal to the Government of India to allocate more funds and foodgrains to face the drought situation. This problem has to be treated on humanitarian grounds and should be tackled on a war footing basis.

Then, there are a number of problem villages, where we cannot get water for drinking purposes in spite of all our efforts due to salinity or otherwise there is no water is there and in some of the villages, we do not get water even if we dig down upto 300-400 feet. There are certain restrictions to dig water in the problem villages, like only Rs. one lakh has to be spent, and the radius should be only 2 kms. These restrictions should be totally removed, otherwise we do not get any one single village, where we can explore the possibility of locating drinking water within the scheme. Therefore, these restrictions have to be removed. Wherever there are problem villages for purposes of drinking water, they must get top priority and huge amounts should be spent for getting water from any source.

Afforestation should be resorted to on a large scale. Not only that, whosoever cuts a tree, he should be severely punished. Because of the cutting of trees, rainfall is becoming lesser and lesser. We must, therefore, plan about afforestation properly.

17. 18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

As far as agriculture is concerned, we must have proper planning. Now-a-days, farmers are very anxious to take to commercial crop or cash crop, whichever is profitable. There should be a proper planning, for example, one third of the land should be kept for growing foodgrains, one third each for commercial crops and oilseds fodder. So as to have a balanced planning.

Finally, I request the Government of India to allot minimum Rs. 50 crores as against Rs. 200 crores which the State Government has asked to tackle the drought

situation. We should not wait for the Central team to go there, assess the situation and report back. That will take a long time. By that time, the people will be starved. The want of relief work.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH** (Jahanabad) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, We are discussing here the subject of natural calamities which have become a permanent feature in the country and as a result of which there is much suffering.

In our country, if there is a flood in one part, there is drought in the other. Just now, our Hon. Minister have mentioned the names of many places. For instance, if there are floods in Kerala, Orissa faces drought. If there is a flood in Bihar, there is a drought in Uttar Pradesh. Thus, floods and drought have become a permanent phenomenon in our country.

Therefore, I would like to say that as long as you do not find a permanent solution to this problem, the condition of the farmers in the country will go on deteriorating and they will be becoming dependent on others for foodgrains. You can see that these floods have become a curse for us.

Our neighbouring country China has the largest population. They also used to face similar floods and droughts due to which their people had become poor and their bodies used to shrink. Their river Huang used to be called a demon. That river was not only a curse for them, but the people also called it a 'grief'. As long as Chiany Kai Shek ruled the country, he could not control it. They got independence in 1949, two years later than us and a socialist Government was formed there and that Government was able to tame that river and today it is considered to be a Goddess.

For ten long years I had been raising discussion on flood and drought conditions in the Vidhan Sabha and today I have got an opportunity to speak on this issue in the Lok Sabha. Such discussions are held regularly. Your party has been in power for the last 38 years. What have you done

during their period of 38 years? Just now, two Hon. Ministers have said that you have spent crores of rupees on flood control measures. Where has this money gone? This money has been pocketed by the politicians, officers and engineers. But you never cared to know how public money worth crores of rupees is being utilised. Had you paid attention towards it, we would not have been compelled to discuss the situation that prevails in our country today.

The country is facing famine-like situation. It weakens the country and increases unemployment. Today, Bihar is in the grip of floods. In North Bihar Darbhanga, Motihari and Madhubani are in the grip of floods. Floods are affecting certain new areas. The flood is not a calamity which comes once in 10 to 20 years. This natural calamity has made a permanent place in our country.

When we look at the situation in Haryana and Punjab, we realise that after 30 years certain new areas are getting affected by floods.

Jamui was a drought prone town, but Upper Batuwa Dam has breached and today floods have occurred there. In 1974 Patna City witnessed unprecedented flood. People had to go from one place to another by boats. Even M.L.A. flats had been submerged. You have not been able to solve flood problem.

The Central team set up for the purpose makes an aerial survey of the flood affected areas and submits its report making an assessment of the damage. On the basis of this report you provide funds amounting to a few crores of rupees. The families, which are rained by floods, have nothing to do with the funds you provide like the persons who were killed at a result of "Kameshka" crash. You should keep a watch to ensure whether the funds provided by you are being utilised properly or not.

You have formulated a new flood and drought control scheme. It is called Muhana Dam Scheme. It will prove a boon for South Bihar. Today it has become a curse. Flood and drought control schemes

are formulated but they remain unimplemented for ten years or so. No body pays any attention to it. Your reply will be that due to paucity of funds you are unable to execute that scheme. The land where this scheme is to be executed is 70 feet high and water has to come down from that height. In case you are not able to construct a ducca dam there, at least a canal can be constructed which will help in solving flood and drought problem.

Last year floods had destroyed certain Villages. Nothing has been done so far to save those villages. Pirogha Village in Gaya District of Bihar has been affected by floods. In case remedial measures are not taken, a large number of persons and cattle will die. It is a matter of shame that nothing has been done so far to save this Village. Your reply will be that it is the responsibility of the State Government. If it is the responsibility of the State Government then why a central team is sent to conduct a survey there.

We come from a flood prone place. The whole of Kurtha Block in our district was destroyed by floods last year. For full one month the entire village remained submerged and crops were totally damaged. Pun Pun project is also lying pending. In case this project is cleared, flood and drought problem will be solved for ever. The farmers, who intend to give up agriculture as their profession due to floods and drought, will again come back to their profession. Their children will not become unemployed. The country will become prosperous in every field and our independence will further be strengthened.

**SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA** (Roberts-ganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is true that crores of people in different parts of the country are facing difficulty. During the last few years Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Orissa had to face natural calamities.

Last year 31 district were affected by drought in Uttar Pradesh. During these two months of the current years, hill areas, and Western and Eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh have also been affected by severe drought resulting in drinking water crisis

there. At certain places, even murder took place on the water issue. In Dala a can of water was available for Rs. 2. It has become a very acute problem. This reminds us as the conditions once prevailing in Ethiopia and Sudan. Recently, B.B.C. has shown a T.V. report on the conditions prevailing there. There might have been hardly a sow which remained unmoved after viewing that report on T.V. This calamity has always been there in one form or the other.

There are two type of measures short term and long term measures to avoid this situation. Our former Prime Minister had formulated D. P. A. P. programme for drought prone areas, but I am pained to point out that the schemes formulated by her have not so far been implemented. Under the aforesaid programme many schemes were formulated in Uttar Pradesh.

(Interruptions).

So far as my district Mirzapur is concerned, I am much pained to say that all the projects approved by her, have not been implemented so far. The foundation stone of Sone Lift Project, Bakhar Belan Diversion Project, Adwa Dam Project had been laid by her. Besides, she had ordered the construction of 36 embankments. Most of them are lying incomplete. Some of them have, however, been constructed. The lands of farmers were acquired. The Central Government has shelved those schemes either due to paucity of funds or due to some other reasons. Besides, special funds had been provided in the Sixth Five Year Plan for six special types of areas in the country, i.e., drought-prone areas, flood areas, hilly areas, tribal areas and cyclone-affected areas. But in the Draft Seventh Five Year Plan I did not come across any such provision. It is most essential that the schemes formulated to get rid of flood and drought schemes should be completed immediately. A survey of these areas should be conducted and dams constructed. Perennial rivers should be identified in drought-prone areas. If water is made available in these areas through lift irrigation schemes their problem can be solved. As has been already said by me, the foundation stone of Sone Lift irrigation schemes was laid by our

late Prime Minister. If this lift irrigation scheme is implemented there, the water problem of entire drought-prone area of Mirzapur can be permanently solved. The work on this project should have been completed by now because it was started in 1974. Long term policy should be framed for drought affected areas in the entire country whether it is in Andhra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu or elsewhere. Now, the time has come to complete these schemes by allocating some funds from the huge Rs. 1,80,000 crore 7th Five Year Plan. Crores of rupees spent every year to save the people from these calamities should be spent on finding a permanent solution of these problems. For this purpose, you will have to complete all these schemes.

There is no doubt that a National Flood Control Board exists in our country but most of the schemes sent to the States could not be taken up due to paucity of funds with the State Governments as a result of which dams could not be constructed and floods can be prevented. Under one scheme afforestation was to be resorted to on large scale in the entire Ganga-Yamuna belt where forests had been denuded. Under that scheme dams etc. were also to be built there. This work is also not making any progress. In case we depend on State Governments for this purpose, we will never be able to get rid of these two problems. People will recall the situation created by floods, drought and hailstorm in the country in the year 1982-83 when 31 crore people of India were affected by them and about 5 crore hectares of land was under flood. At that time also certain States were careless and they did not properly utilise the funds given to them. The Hon'ble late Prime Minister had given Rs. 700 crore to Uttar Pradesh, which did not submit the memoranda in time. It was the worst affected State, but it could not get a single penny on the technical ground that it had not submitted the memoranda in time. That is why its request was turned down. Today we should not depend upon State Government. The Central Government will

have to act firmly and prepare schemes to solve both these problems. When this issue comes up, the Opposition raises the matter concerning the Centre, State relations. I would like to submit that for God's sake and for country's sake issue of Centre State relations should not be raised so far as national problems are concerned. Sarkaria Commission may not be approached for this purpose. Resources are being mobilised for the Seventh Five Year Plan. When I wanted to know about the resources being mobilised by various States, I came to know that they are unable to mobilise the sources. It is necessary to see that subjects like irrigation, agriculture, flood, etc. do not remain State subjects. I would like to say that if necessary, the Constitution can be amended. On T. V. we had seen a heart-rending scene depicting what happened in Ethiopia. So far as this country is concerned, we are proud to say that due to the steps taken by Government during the last 30 to 35 years no starvation death has come to notice despite all these natural calamities. Nobody can say that there had been any starvation death in 1982-83. I would like to submit that there might not be starvation deaths as such but it definitely affects lives of the people.

I do not want to take much time. This year funds have been provided to States under the head 'Drought and Floods'. In 1982-83 Uttar Pradesh was not given any funds. When planning was under taken in this country, Uttar Pradesh was at number two or perhaps one, but the pace of development in Uttar Pradesh has gone down slowly.

In the last 15 to 20 years, Uttar Pradesh has suffered devastation due to drought and floods as a result of which necessary infrastructure could not be built there. However our state has produced great men but it does not mean that justice should not be done unto us. I, therefore, want to submit that the Hon. Minister of Agriculture should not depend on the State Governments. There were floods in Kerala at a time when nobody could think of it. Our weather forecasts prone wrong. We hear news in the radio that there would be

rains and sky would remain overcast but actually nothing happens. The forecasts regarding drought and floods proves wrong. I think our scientists need further research in this matter. I am very grateful to our Scientists in the country because only due to their efforts there has been progress in the field of agriculture and agriculture produce has increased. But I think more facilities should be provided to them so that they may make forecast correctly regarding the drought and the floods and caution the people and Government of the country in time.

In the end I express my thanks to you for the opportunity given to me for speaking I conclude.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Mr. Ram Pyare Panika, on the one hand you have talked about floods, on the other hand, you have talked about drought. Then you have mentioned about the Meteorological Office and their forecast. The only solution is to change the course of the rivers. This is a national project. Other things cannot be solved.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : The Hon. Member Shri Panika has spoken about U. P. The U. P. Government has sent details. The Hon. Minister may please provide funds to U. P. expeditiously.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, famines; floods, cyclones, earth quakes are all national calamities. Unless the Central Government provide assistance to combat the national calamities, we will not be able to face them. These days no State is capable of combating these calamities alone. There was such type of Calamities in Kerala. There was earthquake in Bihar and situation of famine was created in the desert areas. So with a view to combat such national calamities I would like to suggest that a National Calamity Fund may be established. The money should be contributed in the Fund by every State on the basis of population and in tune or

any other criteria you may fix. Assistance from the National Calamity Fund should be provided to that State which is in distress. Such arrangement should be made. We, in any case, shall not be able to face such big disasters. In my constituency Barmer-Jaismer, there has been famine for four years in succession but the State Government are not fully capable of combating it. What ever help the Centre provides, it is very meagre. The assistance is provided by way of margin money, advance plan and by fixing some ceiling which is not sufficient. Those people do not get any employment. The Government of Rajasthan should start relief work in December but it start the same not in December, January, February, but in April and March and the people have to go outside for employment. They have to go to Haryana, Punjab or Gujarat. In this way they cannot be helped. So it is necessary that assistance in the case of famine should also be given in the same way as is given in case of floods viz, expenditure for 75 per cent non-plan expenditure. The assistance provided for famine is very meagre. The assistance given to us by way of plan advance does not help us much because Rajasthan has very small Plan. In times of severe famine, the Plan advance is of little help. Margin-money is also very meagre. Under such circumstances we cannot help the people and as a result thereof, great discontent prevails among the people. So, I would like to submit to the Government that in order to deal with a situation created by national calamity the Central Government should provide relief.

My next point is in regard to the Rajasthan Canal. If target is fixed for completion of this Canal in the Seventh Five Year Plan, then the problem of drinking water in Rajasthan can be solved. By utilising the water of Rajasthan Canal, Pastures can be developed and this way permanent arrangement to provide fodder for the cattle can be made. Whenever there is famine, the cattle shift to the banks of the river Ganga. Some times they go to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and as many as 75 per cent cattle die. Our economy depends on the Cattle. We have cattle of good breed. Therefore, the work on the

Rajasthan Canal should be extended expeditiously to save these cattle. As 90 per cent subsidy and 10 per cent amount as loan is given as assistance to the Hilly Area Development Programme, similarly the Desert Development Programme should be taken up. Action should be taken to eradicate poverty of the people there. In times of famine, priority should be given to N. R. E. P. and R. L. G. E. P. works. The norms should be changed so that some permanent solution may come out under N.R.E.P. and R.L.G.E.P. Whatever works are undertaken during famine, live works pertaining to roads, excavation of earth are left incomplete there after in spite of having spent lakhs of rupees on them. I would like to submit that whatever is undertaken, whether it is road-building or works relating to soil conservation, it should be completed. If the work is not completed, the same year, then the money goes waste. We should make efforts to solve these problems whether they pertain to drinking water or fodder. Whatever fund is provided in advance plan, it is not spent judiciously and as a result thereof, it goes waste. So it is my submission that whatever provision is made in the advance plan, it should not be diverted.

I would like to submit that there has been rainfall in only 50 per cent area of Barmer and Jaisalmer districts and in spite of this our Government have stopped famine relief works. Now the problem before the people is how to earn livelihood. They have no means for cultivation during rainy season. So there should be provision of taccavi loans and cooperative loans for them. So that they may start cultivation.

I have expressed my views regarding natural calamities. This problem should be tackled on permanent basis keeping the entire country in view. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba): Sir, it is said that prevention is better than cure. But it can be argued that so far as natural calamities are concerned, it cannot be applied there. If you take into consideration the money that has been spent for

eradication of drought and also for prevention of floods, the achievement is very disappointing. So far as flood protection programme is concerned, the achievement is rather disappointing. People have to suffer heavily in both drought and flood. In floods the whole crop is damaged, the property is destroyed and lives are lost. In drought also the crops are destroyed and the lives of cattle are lost. So, till the achievement is good or hundred per cent successful in these cases, all the three categories crops property and life should be insured at concessional premiums. If the whole crop is damaged, then at the most the help and relief that is given by the Government i.e. short term loan is converted into medium-term loan. If the crop is insured, he is to gain. So far as the property is concerned, if the house is destroyed, at the most Government gives some sort of subsidy and loan. It is not his fault if his house is destroyed by the floods. Why should he incur the expenditure in building a new house? For the present, the Government gives subsidy to the extent of Rs. 2000 per house and Rs 8000 by way of loan, which is not quite satisfactory. So, I would suggest that all the properties in the flood prone areas should be insured. If the property is destroyed, they should get full insurance. So far as heavily flood prone areas are concerned, even the people should be insured. Drought prone areas have already been identified. But the success is not quite satisfactory. I would suggest that in drought prone areas all the crops should be insured.

But on the land the agriculturist and the agricultural labour depend. If the crop is insured, then the agriculturist will be benefited. So far as agricultural labour is concerned, he will lose his means of livelihood in case of flood and drought.

In Maharashtra there is some employment guarantee scheme. That employment guarantee scheme should be applied in every area where drought takes place. If that scheme is implemented, then there is a guarantee that the agricultural labour, and even the agriculturists whose crops have been destroyed, will have some guarantee of

income. So, that scheme should be employed everywhere.

For the present, there are hundreds of villages in Maharashtra where drinking water has to be supplied either by carts or by trucks. Why it is so is because the scarcity of water is there in those areas. There are some drought-prone areas. We cannot force the rains to fall there. Since we cannot force the rains to fall, the Government has to take water to those areas, from whatever source it is available, and see that their crops are not affected. Even if the source of water is far away, it should be tapped for drinking and irrigation purposes. If that is done, there will be no need to supply drinking water either by trucks or by carts. Now we are in July. In Maharashtra, normally the monsoon starts in the month of June. But as there are no rains, scarcity of drinking water is there.

For the present, the formula of giving assistance to the States is, as one of my friends has said, that 75 per cent grant is given by the Central Government and 25 per cent is to be borne by the State. But there is a limit also. The limit is that if it comes to 5 per cent or more than 5 per cent of the funds that have been allocated for the year for the particular State, then the entire amount over and above five per cent has to be borne by the State. This is not proper. This I cannot understand. The State cannot be blamed for those natural calamities. If it is not the fault of the State that there is drought or flood, it is a natural calamity. Therefore I would suggest that the formula should be applied without any limit. Thank you, Sir.

(Translation)

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI (Begusarai)  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, floods and drought are two natural calamities which are not the problems of one particular State. They have become a national problem. It is a very serious problem. At present I would like to confine myself to my constituency only.

In my constituency there are six legislative Assembly segments out of which four

segments are severely affected by floods. If you go to that side you will come across a huge area like small Ocean. In 1972 and 1977, when I was a Member of Bihar Vidhan Sabha. I had drawn the attention of the Government of Bihar to these problems. In 1980, when I first came to Parliament, I had also drawn the attention of the Central Government towards these problems. In 1985 also I would like to draw the attention of Government towards these problems. The only difference is that at that time, I had drawn the attention of the Chief Minister towards the problems being faced at Panchayat Samiti level to district level. Whereas in Parliament I would like to draw the attention of Shri Buta Singh, who is present here at the moment and I hope he will definitely pay attention towards this. Prior to him, Rao Birender Singh and Shri Gani Khan Choudhary were the Ministers concerned and I had drawn their attention again and again towards these two problems being faced in my constituency.

Problem No. 1 is of Soil erosion. Extensive soil-erosion is caused by the Ganga, the Kial and the Harohar rivers. Even one river is sufficient to cause loss of life and property. But in my constituency, there are three rivers which are causing soil erosion in ten Panchayat and it seems that there are as will totally vanish. Despite the Central Government or the Bihar Government spending huge amount on irrigation projects or Bihar Government, the people continue to reel under the fury of floods and drought. I request the Hon. Minister that the projects for preventing soil-erosion should be executed expeditiously so that 10 Panchayats of my area can be saved from being submerged in water.

Long term schemes should be formulated instead of short term schemes for this purpose. Only the people can get benefit otherwise the schemes will prove ineffective. Why does the government not execute a long term scheme in this regard? No doubt that I have become an M.P. but I feel that my constituency is still in bullock cart age. It has become an island. It has become difficult to supply

[ Shrimati Krishna Sahi ]

medicines, seeds, fertilizers and food products to this area. The greatest difficulty is that transport system has come to a stand still.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to give an example As has been stated by an Hon. Members, several Commissions were set up to study irrigation and flood control measures. In 1954-55 an amount of Rs. 10 lakh was spent on flood control measures and 1 32 lakh hectares of land came under irrigation whereas during the 6th Five Year Plan an amount of Rs. 129.76 lakh was spent and 120 17 lakh hectares of land came under irrigation. Flood caused damage worth Rs. 11 crores during 1951 whereas damage worth Rs. 1743.92 crores was caused during 1982. The situation is very grave. The greatest tragedy is that people of my constituency are facing man-made water scarcity also.

I would like to submit that the then Union Minister of Works and Housing had written a letter to the Bihar Government on 15th July, 1980 in which it was stated that Government of India had given an assistance of Rs. 7 04 crore to the Bihar Government for advance planning for the supply of drinking water. In this connection I would like to submit that on 16th May, 1985 a Minister of Bihar Government had written a letter to me and again on 21st May, 1985 a district officer had written a letter to me. The letter states-

"Due to geographical reasons, the water level has gone down which has resulted in less water in wells in rural areas this year also as happened in earlier years...

We have not been able to execute water supply schemes due to paucity of water in the wells in rural areas this year." Due to the indifference of the Department of Health, we are unable to provide drinking water facility.

It is a matter of regret that many medium and major irrigation schemes are pending since 1964 and 1967. It means that their cost will go on increasing and

the people will not be able to get the desired benefit.

I would like to submit that the major problem of soil-erosion should be solved. In my area there is acute ecological imbalance. Recently, I attended the meeting concerning implementation of 20 point programme In that meeting I had enquired about the whereabouts of the Forest Minister A man stood up. I asked him how felling of trees was being allowed. He replied that he was there to ensure plantation of suplings. When I asked him about the Excavation Officer, he replied that he had proceeded on four month's leave.

I mean to say that such things happen despite our Prime Minister's and our Government's repeated warnings to them that it is essential to maintain ecological balance. While drawing attention of the Hon. Minister towards the alarming situation of ecological imbalance in my constituency, I expect Government to take effective steps and issue necessary directives to the Bihar Government in this regard.

18 00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL (Muvattupuzha) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my State, Kerala, has suffered very heavily because of cyclone, flood, sea erosion and landslide.

The Kerala Government, led by our beloved Chief Minister Mr. Karunakaran and his cabinet colleagues, rose to the occasion and rendered timely help to the suffering people.

Sir, the difference between the crop loss of North India and South India is this. There are cash crops in Kerala like Rubber, Cardamom Coconut etc. Coconut takes more than 8 to 10 years to get income. After it starts given yield, it will give income for another 30 to 40 years.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon. Member may please resume his seat for a short while. Now it is 6 O'clock. There are still many Hon. Members who want to speak.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** How many ?

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** 10 to 15 members. We want to finish it today. You have to confine yourselves within the time. I go on ringing the bell but nobody is listening.

**SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) :** At least some equality should be there. Some get 5 minutes. Some get 10 minutes.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The time is fixed, that is, three hours. Lists are given by the whips; when there are many members wishing to speak, you have to cooperate and you have to adjust. I request Hon. Members not to repeat the same points.

**SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI (Fatehpur) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would request you to extend the time by one hour more. Then the Hon. Minister will reply.

**SHRI PRIYA RAJAN DAS MUNSI :** Some one will speak on drought; some other will speak on flood.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Now, shall I extend the time by one hour with the consent of the House ?

**SOME HON. MEMBERS :** Yes.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Hon. Members should cooperate; otherwise all the other members cannot participate.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, next time you please give less time to the initial speakers and more time to the speakers who participate later on.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** The Hon. Member may please continue his speech.

**SHRI GEORGE JOSEPH MUNDACKAL :** Sir, the yearly crop is quite different from the long-term crop in Kerala. If a rubber or a coconut plantation is lost, it means, one planter's life is lost because he cannot plant again and wait for another 10 years to get income from

that. It is very difficult. So, the Central Government must give more aid to those people who lost their long-term crops. I request the Central Government to introduce crop insurance for those cultivators and give long-term loans and also interest-free loans. Cooperative societies must be given more amounts so that they can distribute them to the cultivators. Free manure should be supplied by the Agriculture Ministry to the cultivators. Loss worth Rs. 740 crores has occurred in Kerala. More than 100 lives have been lost. After independence, Kerala suffered drought only once, that is, two year ago. Now this is the second calamity which has occurred in Kerala. The States which are near to Delhi are getting more help from the Central Government. But States like Kerala (which are far away from Delhi) are not getting enough share of this aid. I am telling this to you because during the last 38 years, you can find out what is the amount given to Kerala compared with other States, for natural calamities. If you compare this figure, you will easily understand that Kerala State get very negligible amount compared to their heavy losses.

The Minister visited our area and I am thankful and grateful to him for seeing the calamity and consequent loss there for himself. All the roads are damaged there. More than a hundred crores of rupees are required for repairing the roads. The river banks are also eroded there. Not only that, something is also required to prevent sea-erosion. A lot of landslides have occurred in Kerala which spoiled lot of crops and caused a lot of loss life. So, preventive measures must be taken by the Central Government and they should also give more aid to the State of Kerala. So, I humbly request the Central Government to do all that is possible in this regard. The Central Government should give 100 per cent grant to Kerala for this purpose.

I hope I have not taken much of your time. I once again congratulate the Minister Buta Singhji, who visited our area and was convinced as to what had happened in Kerala. So, I once again request him to give more aid to Kerala. Thank you.

**SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep) :** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for at last I got my chance.

*(Interruptions)*

Every year we have been discussing the calamity either on account of flood or drought or on account of cyclone. This year we are hearing about calamity on account of massive sea erosion especially in the coastal areas. This has not become a regionally confined problem. This has already assumed a national character starting from Assam to Kanyakumari, also from Andaman to Lakshadweep.

Kerala is the immediate victim in this year's flood. I think Kerala stands as the worst victim.

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Kerala is the first in flood.

**SHRI P. M. SAYEED :** Yes, in flood.

I must congratulate Mr. Karunakaran's Government in Kerala which has taken timely action. I think on account of that many more calamities and havocs at least have been averted and also, timely assistance from the Centre was rushed to Kerala.

As for as the financial position of Kerala is concerned, my esteemed colleague here, Prof Thomas, who initiated the debate followed by all other, have mentioned in detail. I do not want to repeat it as you have already mentioned about the brevity of our speech. So, what I want to impress upon the Government is that Kerala must get 100 per cent aid because their position, as I know from the very close quarters, is very bad. Sometimes they are not in a position even to pay the salaries to their staff. That is the position there. They have estimated the aid as Rs. 700 crores if I am correct, and the Central Government must come forward and liberally sanction the money as 100 per cent aid, that is, without expecting to get back the money from them.

Coming to my own constituency--I will be brief as you have already cautioned

me--an unprecedented sea erosion is taking place now. For the last two or three days I have been getting hundred of telegrams. My constituency is the smallest in the country having a land area of 32.2 square kilometres and taken with the economic zone it has spread out to half a million square kilometres and you know, it is the smallest inhabited island and its population is 27 crores. Many lands of coconut trees, fishing sheds and so many lands have been washed away. My misfortune is when Buta Singhji visited, with whom I have two decades of friendship, at that time...

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** How can you be misfortunate ?

**SHRI P. M. SAYEED :** I was misfortunate because when he visited Kerala, this misfortune had not taken place in Lakshadweep.

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) :** In his constituency, the calamity happened after my visit to Kerala.

**SHRI P. M. SAYEED :** So far, I was not successful in taking him to Lakshadweep. Had he gone there, he would have been in a position to appreciate the condition very well. The condition is, the moment you forget about this, one by one, these islands will be disappeared. In this 27 acres of land, more than 200 people are staying. Due to the ferocious sea and the monsoon, ships cannot go every now and then. One ship gone there and had been written off. The condition is very serious. I would request the hon. Minister, who is my esteemed friend to send a team to assess the loss suffered by the islands due to the calamity. Fortunately, the people who are living in the interior area experts and there was no loss of life because of the tactics and the experience they have gained from ages. What I am impressing upon the Government is that this problem is there for the past decade. We should find a permanent solution for it.

For example, some years back, there was some problem to link the Northern rivers with the Southern rivers. Now,

Kerala is the worst affected State due to floods. As a Member from Tamil Nadu was telling a little while ago, Tamil Nadu and Karanataka are worst affected by drought. So, these things could be solved if we make an earnest effort by taking the water from the rivers of the North to the South. I was told that it was a scheme of Rs 10,000 crores. But if it is to materialise, all of us must make some contribution and we should tighten our budget so that we can have a better future.

Secondly, there must be a revolving fund as Mr. Jain has just now mentioned. We must study, for 10 years, how much amount has been spent in each State in the form of relief. Accordingly, there must be some percentage from each State and they should make a contribution to the revolving fund so that this permanent fund can immediately be used for the amelioration of all those persons and State affected by havocs.

I do not want to take much of your time. I would only, impress upon the Government that there must be a revolving fund and the proposal of linking the Northern rivers with the Southern rivers must be seriously taken note of.

**PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :** If that happens, Karnataka will be washed away.

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Karnataka is also facing water problem now.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today discussion is going on in this House on natural calamities being faced in the entire country. India is definitely reeling under the natural calamities whether caused by floods in the Budhi gandak or by famine or floods in other rivers. I come from Bihar. North Bihar is affected by floods whereas South Bihar is affected by famine. My constituency Gopalganj is situated in North Bihar. West champaran and East champaran are the adjoining areas.

Before independence we had been hoping to get rid of these calamities after independence, but we have not been able to find out any lasting solution of these problems even after 38 years of independence. Every year half of the Bihar budget is spent on flood control measures, but no solution of these problems has been found so far. In 1970, the late Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi had formulated Peeprasi Pipra Dam Scheme to save particularly the people of Champaran and Uttar Pradesh from floods. Crores of rupees were spent on it. I was a Member of Bihar Vidhan Sabha at that time. I raised questions in this regard. The result is that its cost has increased to several hundred crores of rupees as against the original cost of few crores. Despite incurring huge expenditure, the floods wash away the dam.

On the one hand we are suffering from natural calamities, whereas on the other hand we are facing hardship at the hands of Government also. Thousands of homes have been washed away and heavy damage has been caused to crops by floods in the Ganga due to rivers erosion caused by the Burhi Gandak in Dighwa Divouli Block in Gopalganj. Many schools have also been washed away. When I met the local people there, they told me with tears in their eyes that on the one hand they have been severely affected by the erosion caused by the river and on the other hand the members of their families are arrested and put behind the hours. When I wanted to know the basic cause, I come to the conclusion after investigations that recovery of bank loan or revenue is effected there every year. Warrants have been issued against all the persons. On the one hand, the people have been affected by soil erosion and on the other hand they have been put into difficulty by Government. Their hand is submerged under the water of Budhi Gandak. No officer has so far tried to find out for which land they have been recovering loan. They do not know whether the land in question exists or has been submerged under river waters.

West Champaran is located in Bihar from where Bapuji had launched his agitation. Siwan is also located there to which great personalities like Dr. Rajendra Prasad and

[ Shri Kali Prasad Pandey ]

Maulana Majoul Hak belonged. But today people there are reeling under the fury up soil erosion caused by Budhi Gandak, Ganga, Kosi, Bagmati and Ghaghra. No relief has so far been provided there by Government. I therefore, would like to request the Agriculture Minister to allocate funds immediately for this purpose and a Central Study Team may be sent there.

I have seen in Bihar that the flood control Department and Irrigation Department of Bihar Government are the two cius of corruption. In India the maximum number of engineers suspended belong to these two departments in Bihar. I talked to an engineer there and advised him not to misappropriate Government money for God's sake. He replied that if he had money, he would manage to come back again. I, therefore, request you that arrangements should be made to ensure that the funds earmarked for implementing flood control measures should be utilised properly. Government has not so far provided any relief in Gopalganj, West Champaran, Noutan Block of Burhi Gandak and Jadopur, Dighwa-Digholi, Kuchaikot blocks of Gopalganj in which thousands of villages have been washed away by floods. But no relief has been provided by the Government so far. The people of the area and myself have made an appeal to the Hon. Prime Minister to take measures to save the people of Dighwa-Digholi Block and West Champaran District. But no action was taken despite prior intimation about occurrence of flood there. Crores of rupees are being spent there after the floods actually occur. I would like to request Government to take some concrete steps at their own level to present the floods in time to solve the problem of floods in Bihar on permanent basis.

\*SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, so far several honourable members have elaborately dealt with the devastating flood and draught situation in the country. Therefore, I would like to concentrate on the severe drought situation prevalent in the Karnataka State.

An unprecedented drought situation is prevailing in my State. Sowing work has not been done in 75 taluks out of 172 taluks of the State. Many taluks have not received even half an inch of rain in this year. The Central Government has sanctioned Rs. 29 crores for drought relief programmes in the State. But this amount is very meagre to be of real help. Now the State is facing scarcity of food, water and unemployment. The cattle do not have fodder and water. To avert starvation of people and decimation of cattle, some concrete steps have to be taken immediately.

Severe drought is afflicting the districts of Bangalore, Tumkur, Kolar, Bellary, Chikkamagalur, Hassan, and Gulbarga. The farmers are sitting idle without jobs. Therefore, I urge the Hon'ble Minister Shri Buta Singhji to grant at least Rs. 200 crores to my State. As an immediate relief measure Rs. 50 crores may be sanctioned and the rest be sanctioned in the second stage.

Before coming over here to attend the Parliament session, I have toured throughout my constituency for fifteen days. I have seen the situation of the poor villagers and farmers. Therefore, the Centre should rush relief measures immediately. At the same time, I request our Central Government to set up a "Watch dog Committee" to look into the proper utilisation of the drought relief funds. Otherwise, I am afraid that the amount may be misused by the agents of the Karnataka State Government. The organisers pay only Rs. 200 and show Rs. 2000 on the record. Today our State Chief Minister has become "*Dena Soora Karna of Mahabharata*". He is spending money on non-plan schemes. Money is going to the pockets of several agents and it is not reaching the needy peasants. I regret to state that the Chief Minister of Karnataka has neglected the farmers. He is favouring the rich people. The officers sent by the Centre are also not functioning properly. Therefore, the Centre has to select a good team of officers to work in drought relief programmes.

The problems of floods and drought are perennial in our country. Therefore, I would like to suggest some permanent solutions. The proper utilisation of river

\*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

water will enable the conversion of 40 lakh acres of dry land into irrigation land in my State. The waters of Krishna, Godavari, Cauvery and Tungabhadra rivers have to be properly utilised. Our State Chief Minister is not in favour of spending for irrigation. Karnataka was a prosperous and flourishing State. But now unfortunately has become the most backward State in the country. If the water of west flowing rivers is diverted eastward, at least 16 lakh acres of land will come under irrigation. Irrigation projects of Netravati river has to be given top priority. Upper Bhadra Project and Upper Tunga project have to be completed at the earliest. For the above projects, an outlay of Rs 10,000 crores is needed. This would be the permanent solution and it would enable the State to generate several hundreds of crores of rupees every year.

Once again I request the Central Government to release Rs. 50 crores as advance relief fund and I hope that our Hon'ble Minister would sanction a total amount of Rs. 200 crores to Karnataka State to face the crisis of severe drought situation.

[English]

SHRI G M BANATWALLA (Ponnani : I rise with a heavy heart to speak of the distress caused by the natural calamities in several parts of our country. Year after year this House has to discuss the havoc created by floods and other natural calamities. It is high time that greater stress is now laid upon preventive action. I must also emphasize that this need to stress upon preventive action brooks no further delay. The programmes for the control of floods should be given high priority.

Further it is also distressing to know that our Government does not have any machinery to assess the damage that has been caused in any particular State and its need for assistance. Such a machinery must be evolved so that succour is provided without any delay whatsoever. This delay in the provision of relief causes greater hardships and misery to our people also. Because of the paucity of time I restrict myself to the State of Kerala.

In Kerala the vigorous monsoon has led to unprecedented floods, landslides and sea erosion. Every sector of economy and every sphere of life in the State of Kerala has been adversely affected. We can have a rough idea of the extent of damage if we realise that nearly 52% of the population has been badly affected by these calamities. Now the need, therefore, is for the Centre to come in a big way to the help of Kerala, specially because Kerala is finding itself in difficulties with respect to the financial position also. Kerala finds it now extremely difficult, rather impossible, to raise further internal resources. So, on the one hand we have this difficulty of finance being faced by our State of Kerala and on the other hand, we have the unprecedented havoc - unprecedented since the last 60 years; since 1926 we have not heard of such a calamity as we are to-day facing in our State of Kerala. So this usual pattern of assistance of 75% by the Centre and 25% by the State under these circumstances cannot be made applicable to the State of Kerala, because otherwise the economy of Kerala will be wrecked. I must, therefore, emphasise and urge upon the Government with all the vehemence at my command that cent per cent grant should come to Kerala in order to save Kerala in these days of difficulties.

In the present calamities also in our nation, Kerala is the worst affected State. The total loss has been estimated at Rs. 743 63 crores and, therefore, I say that it is absolutely necessary that cent per cent grant should be extended by the Centre.

Sir, thanks and sincere thanks to the Centre for rushing an advance of Rs. 25 crores. The efforts of the Kerala Government are also very commendable. A massive campaign of relief and rehabilitation was launched by the Kerala Government under the able stewardship of the Chief Minister, Shri Karunakaran over there. Time does not permit to tell you how the Government left no stone unturned to reach the people in their misery and distress. 1.20 lakh people were to be provided with timely relief. It was a herculean task. All the various sectors of economy and social life have been affected. If you take housing 4.78 lakh houses have been damaged. In

[ Shri G. M. Banatwalla ]

many cases not only are the houses destroyed but the land has also been washed away so that nearly 1.20 lakh houses require relocation on new sites. Almost 98 per cent of the fishermen in the State have been very badly affected by this heavy monsoon. Port structures have been destroyed and the cost of repair to port structures is estimated at Rs. 2.19 crores. Several port structures have been affected in the district of Mallappuram. Damage to Ponnani port is estimated at Rs. 12 lakhs because of heavy siltation and Rs. 5 lakhs due to damage to wharf and buildings. Extensive damage has occurred to roads.

Sir, an important point as far as Kerala is concerned is sea erosion. Coast-line of Kerala is very vulnerable. Hence the importance of construction of sea walls. But, Sir, sufficient funds are not available and where there are no sea walls the damage has been so heavy that all trees, buildings and lands have been washed away as a result of those sea erosions. Construction of sea wall has to be accelerated. Additional funds are also required for the purpose and additional funds to the extent of Rs. 27 crores are wanted in nine districts. In Mallappuram district alone Rs. 45 crores are needed for this particular project.

Another important point there is that when every sector of economy has been affected to provide livelihood to those persons who are badly affected. In other words we need employment generation programmes. A lot of funds, therefore, are needed for this particular purpose in order to provide livelihood to these people.

Sir, I conclude by saying finally that when you sanction the amount, the approved amount and the released amount at times do not agree. For example, in Kerala itself in the year 1982-83, the approved amount in case of drought over there by the Central Government was Rs. 4.10 crores and the amount that was released was hardly Rs. 2.0 crores. Again in 1983-84 the amount approved for Central assistance was Rs. 42.46 crores and the amount released was Rs. 38.35 crores. So, while cent per cent grant has to be approved, it is also

to be released and I hope, therefore, that the Central assistance for Kerala will not be wanting in any respect.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, first of all let me thank the Hon. Speaker for allowing a discussion lasting over almost 4 hours on natural calamities. Many of my friends from Kerala have spoken at length on the floods and devastation it caused in Kerala. So I do not want to go into any further detail. I want to take this opportunity to express my sincere thanks to our beloved Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the timely help he has given to Kerala in its hour of distress. As soon as the floods occur he released Rs. 25 crores for relief and rehabilitation. He also sent the Hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Buta Singh and the Planning Minister Shri K.R. Narayanan to Kerala in order to make on the spot study of the damage caused by floods. Later a central team was sent and that team is about to submit its report. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture has seen for himself the extent of devastation caused by natural calamities in Kerala. Therefore, I do not want to narrate all that has happened.

However, I would bring just one or two points to the notice of the House. During the last 30 years Kerala has not faced floods of such devastating impact. Out of 1416 villages in Kerala as many as 900 villages have been affected. 146 lakh people have been seriously effected. They constitute almost 52% of the total population of Kerala. 7400 people have been injured and about 4.8 lakh houses have been destroyed.

Damage to cash crops has been very severe.

145761 hectares of agricultural land has come under the impact of floods. Most of these cash crops take a number of years before they start giving yield. So destruction of these crops means that the loss will be suffered over a long period of time. The

\*The Speech was originally delivered in Malayalam.

loss is not only of farmers but of the exchequer also as most of these cash crops such as rubber, cardamom, coconut etc. earn us valuable foreign exchange. In this context I would request the Government to come to help of farmers by giving seeds fertilizer and other necessary things free of charge. Similarly, there should be a moratorium on the repayment of loans.

The fishermen of Kerala are the worst affected as they live along the sea coast. Their huts are at once washed away when sea erosion takes place because these are situated very near the sea coast. Even at the best of times they find it difficult to make both ends meet. Their misery is inexplicable. I want the Government to give more serious attention to their problems. The Govt. must formul to a scheme for providing them houses a little away from the sea coast and the expenses should be fully met by the Centre.

Sir, every year sea erosion occurs in Kerala. Although there is a scheme to construct sea wall it has not made much progress. Sea erosion poses a great danger to the land as chunks of land is eaten away by the sea every year. I would request the Govt. to regard sea erosion as a national menace. A long term plan should be prepared to prevent sea erosion and it should be a part of the central plan. A necessary provision for this should be made in the annual budget of the Centre.

Another problem is with regard to repairs and reconstruction of roads. 6300 K.Ms. of roads have been damaged in the recent floods. Most of the roads in Kerala come under water during the monsoon. Therefore, some special steps should be taken to strengthen the surface of roads so as to resist the impact of flood water. A long term scheme has to be prepared and implemented in this regard.

Finally, I would add my voice to the demands made by my friends from Kerala that the Centre should give cent per cent grant to the State of Kerala for meeting the calamities. The Govt. of Kerala has put forward a demand for Rs. 743.36 crores as cent per cent non-plan grant. I request the Central Govt. to accede to the request of Govt. of Kerala.

Before I conclude I must say a word of praise for the magnificent work done by the Kerala Government under the able stewardship of the Chief Minister Shri K. Karnakaran. Relief has been provided to all the affected people within the shortest possible time. The Govt. of Kerala has thus done a commendable job. When relief is provided to the people who are in distress, some of our friends in the opposition have chosen to criticise it and try to see politics in it. I can only say that they can see only politics even in the misery of people. I do not want to say anything more than that. Once again I thank the Speaker for allowing this discussion and I conclude.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the national level, the north faces floods and the south is hit by the droughts. There being no coordination for the solution of this problem, in every session we discuss the natural calamities in the House. Many areas of Maharashtra and Kerala were inundated by the floods whereas there is drought in many parts of Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. Drinking water is not available there, fodder for the cattle is not available. With a view to overcoming this problem, a suggestion of linking the north and south rivers was mooted by Shri K. L. Rao.

In the absence of ground water, no grass grows due to which the cattle perish whereas the people are dying due to floods. An Hon. Member has said just now that the floods are followed by diseases. Some people are dying of stomach ache and some of starvation. We shall have to formulate a plan to effect coordination in this regard. That plan is to link the Ganga and Kaveri. During the time of floods, the excess water should be checked from entering the fields and instead be stored by constructing reservoirs. Besides, we have to face the floods and droughts in the wake of inadequate aid from the Centre. Today, whatever aid we are getting from the Centre is in the form of plan advance. No other assistance is being given. Therefore, my suggestion is that money should be raised by creating a revolving fund, so that assistance can be provided to the States in the event of flood or

[ Shri C. Janga Reddy ]

drought. In my view, such assistance should not be in the form of plan advance. Drought-resistant seeds should be developed for the areas which receive insufficient rains.

Such seeds should be developed in the Agricultural Research Institute. Agricultural production must be raised by carrying out such a research. Similarly, research should be conducted for saving paddy crop in the area which receive excessive rains or are flood-prone so that the crop does not rot in the event of water-logging for 5 to 10 days.

The Centre assessed an amount of Rs. 369 crores as Central assistance to Andhra Pradesh in 1982-83, but only Rs. 54 crores were given that too in the form of plan advance and not as grant. I do not know what is the hitch in it. As stated by our colleagues from Kerala and Karnataka you are giving plan advance and not assistance. You are giving 20 or 25 per cent as assistance and 75 per cent as plan advance.

In Andhra Pradesh, drought relief works are undertaken where plan works are going on. In the areas which receive excessive rains, plan work is taken up, but these funds cannot be used in drought affected areas to generate employment. Apparently, the plan works are taken up where there is excessive water, but how the works can be taken up where there is no water. You should change this policy.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh had sought assistance of Rs. 342 crores in 1984-85, but you provided only 50 per cent of it. I do not know why it happens? Why such a drastic cut? Why do you hesitate in sanctioning funds? How the State Government can manage in such a situation? My friend has just now told that the funds that were allocated did not reach the people. The same has been said about Bihar. This position should be changed. The Ganga and Kaveri should be linked. Revolving Fund should be created. If you do all these things, you can have permanent solution to this problem.

(English)

**SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh)** : We are discussing here today regarding the natural calamities. Much of the discussion is devoted to the situation arising out of floods in different parts of the country very recently. Even now, large areas in some provinces of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Assam are under flood waters. But natural calamities do not relate to flood only. There are natural calamities like drought, cyclone, tornado and other such situations.

Orissa, which I represent, is a homeland of natural calamities. That unfortunate State is frequently visited by all these calamities—cyclones, flood, drought—and sometimes all of them in the same year also.

Sir, as you know, poverty exists with natural calamities. They are very good friends intimate friends. Therefore the percentage of people living below poverty line in Orissa is the highest in the whole of the country. And as such poverty influenced the Father of the Nation. The entrenched poverty of Orissa, Gandhiji during his visit to Orissa was moved, was touched by such poverty and he decided to give up his usual long dress and resort to short cloth covering up to his knees with a chadar in the upper portion of the body. Shri Utkalmanigopalbandhu Dassji, a distinguished son of Orissa, a Mahatma of Orissa, dedicated his entire life to ameliorate the sufferings of the flood victims of Orissa. He was earlier wearing such a dress and that influenced the Father of the Nation, Gandhiji also to follow him in the context of Orissa's poverty.

Sir, I will now give some evidence how that State is presently suffering due to natural calamities. Orissa has a total number of 314 community development blocks. Out of them as many as 201 blocks covering 14025 villages in different districts of Orissa are in the grip of severe drought. Sir, this discussion is important for us because we are discussing today in Parliament on natural calamities, on the eve of our beloved Prime

Minister's visit to Orissa's drought affected areas. Our Prime Minister will be visiting drought prone areas of Kalahandi, Sambalpur and Phulbani adivasi inhabited areas tomorrow and the day after. In this background, Sir, I would also like to submit that tornado seldom visits different parts of the country. But this year the very tornado affected several areas of our State during fort night in quite disturbing. We are accustomed to cyclone. In Orissa, we are accustomed to live with natural calamities, in the midst of natural calamities. That is why that State is the poorest State today in the country.

As I said a little earlier, the largest percentage of people living below the poverty line are in that State. I may point out here that there is no warning arrangement for tornado, whereas for cyclone, there are some arrangements to warn the people before it occurs. But tornado surprisingly and mysteriously had visited four or five districts - Sambalpur, Cuttack, Keonjhar, Balasore where large areas were affected. We knew tornado affects locally small areas only, and it devastates life and property. When I was Minister in charge of the Revenue in the Orissa Government, I had seen myself a boat which was there in a tank with water, that boat was blown up and rested on the top of a tree. Such was the speed of the tornado. The buildings are uprooted completely. Thousands of acres of land were affected and standing crops of over thousands of acres which the cultivators grew with lot of labour and lot of money spent on fertilizers were totally devastated.

They got nil out of them, this time. This is the rice bowl of Orissa. But, Sir, to our utter surprise it is a misfortune that there is no provision even for conversion of cooperative loan from short terms to medium terms. Without such facility naturally the cultivators are very much upset.

The Reserve Bank says 'No' to a proposal for such a conversion. I would appeal to the Hon. Minister kindly to look into this personally. Otherwise, Prospects of a crop in this rice bowl of Orissa will again be seriously affected during this Khariff season

I will now give some suggestions about the Famine Code of natural calamity. This problem has two aspects, one of which is preventive. Secondly, inspite of all our efforts, whenever natural calamities visit some areas, how are we to face the situation, and provide relief to the affected people without loss of time? Naturally, whatever is provided by way of relief is just a token sympathy. We cannot really compensate the loss. According to the provisions of the Famine code, this relief operation is conducted. This Famine Code is time-barred and out-dated. It is in force since British days, without much amendment. I request the Minister of Agriculture to take a meeting as quickly as possible, with the Revenue Ministers of all the States who deal with relief operations. Necessary, timely amendments should be suggested. A new Relief Code should instead be formulated to be insore all over the country. The Minister should coordinate with different States. Before the onset of monsoons, natural calamity meetings are held at district and State level. I would suggest that our Union Minister also should convene once every year meetings of the Revenue Ministers to discuss all these things.

Now about relief amounts given. In Orissa, when a house is completely devastated, uprooted, is extinct and there is no trace of it, do you know what is the amount offered by the Government? It is Rs. 500/-. In respect of partially damaged houses which are many, and where poor people are involved, the amount given Varies from Rs. 25/- to Rs. 100/-. These days, with a relief amount of Rs 100/-, what sort of construction can a person have, a person who has lost a house?

Cooperative loans should also be converted from short term into medium term. loans. The Reserve Bank should have no hesitation, it should not be conservative in allowing conversions. After all, they are not writing off the loans. It is a question of giving them some time only to repay the loans, so that a crop is grown, and they pay the amounts without interest, within 1 or 2 years. This is the minimum that should be done.

[ Shri Sriballav Panigrahi ]

Now about drinking water. It is also a problem in thousands of villages in Orissa. As I said earlier, India is a vast country. It is like a mini-world. Naturally, different parts are quite likely to be affected by natural calamities. When we do not have drinking water in some areas on some States in India, face severe flood situation in some other parts. This is the beauty or peculiarity of this country. So, we should have an integrated approach, an approach of taming the rivers, of having reservoirs and thus controlling floods. We should instead provide water to the cultivators to grow crops-water which will provide irrigation.

Now about cyclones: we can go in for a massive tree plantation programme which will minimize the effect of cyclones. Cyclone and tornado cannot be eradicated. But the causes can be studied i.e. why tornado is so often visiting some parts of the country, and what can be done there need to be studied. We should also try to prevent or at least minimize the effect of cyclones. Similarly, more emphasis can be given to the integrated programme of flood control and provision of irrigation, which will prevent the recurrence of drought.

I would now close with a request to the Hon. Minister to have a pragmatic approach, and not leave things to the States on the plea that it is a State subject. The time has come now come which calls for a radical and practical approach. We disperse here after making speeches. But what is the result? We only get psychological satisfaction some times.

19.00 hrs.

The grant of Rs. 25 crores, Kerala friend was saying, had been paid to Kerala Government to disburse by way of relief or loan to the affected people. But I understand that this is regulated according to the recommendations of the Finance Commission. Marginal money is there. If marginal money allotted for every State is exhausted and they cannot meet the expenditure without control assistance, then they make a request and the central team visit. What does the Centre do? The Centre gives some loan

assistance only on the recommendations of the Central Plan, some advance to be adjusted subsequently. So, for a State like Orissa, which is so much natural calamities prone, which is poor, cannot prosper with this kind of arrangement; it can prosper only if 100 per cent grant is given. If you allow this arrangement to continue, then such States in future are bound to remain poor and that will not help the country to grow uniformity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as you know, already we have extended the time of this discussion by one hour. Now that time is over. So, is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time for this discussion by one more hour so that we can accommodate all the members who are on the list and who want to speak on this subject ?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT) : I just wish to inform the House that there are still many members on the list to speak. We have arranged for a dinner at 8.40 P.M. in room no. 70 because the matter relates to States' floods and other things. So, naturally, the members are interested in speaking. So, the Minister will start replying at 8 O'clock.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : All right.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : So, we have extended the time of the discussion by one more hour or till is over.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : We don't want dinner; we want that the Minister should start replying now so that we can go home early.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Minister can reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The number of members who want to speak is more. There are 10 speakers. Every member wants to take 10 minutes, 15 minutes and so on. So, it is not possible to finish it earlier. Then we cannot postpone the reply of the Minister also. Yesterday, we had postponed one item. Every day we cannot

go on postponing like this because the Minister cannot reply afterwards.

[Translation]

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA (Pali) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on this subject on behalf of Rajasthan--a State having an area of 3,42,000 square kilometres. I want to say that this Government and Shri Buta Singh may kindly hold an enquiry to find out how much money has been spent on famine. You get it enquired into at all places to see where this money goes. They have converted it into a very good source. The Chief Minister strengthens his position in his constituency through it, a Minister also spend these funds in his constituency. What is this method of doing work ? First, a Central Study Team goes to the State. When we say here that there is drought in our area, you send Central Study Team. The Central Study Team submits its report after passing 15 to 30 days' time in Government Rest Houses eating good food. Who makes the study ? What I want to know is whether any State Government representative, any Secretary ? any Revenue officer is associated with the preparation of the report ? That report is submitted to a high level body. That high level body does not bother to ask what happened in Kerala. That committee goes into that report and gives its approval in a month's time. A representative of the State Government, either Chief Secretary Revenue Secretary should be associated with the Central Study Team when it goes to the State for assessment. He should be a Member of that team. He should know what report has been submitted by the Study Team. When the high level committee studies the case of Kerala, an M. P. from Kerala or a representative of Finance and Agriculture Department is associated with it. After the study is over no State representative has a right to see this report.

[English]

Nor can they ask comments on that report.

[Translation]

I want to draw the attention of Hon. Shri Buta Singh that the State Government have the right to see the report of the Study Team. A Commission which is set up after a drought or flood at any place comprises three or four persons. They simply say that so much amount has been sanctioned as grant. Those who are smart, shake hands beforehand. I also want to tell how the funds are spent. It is specifically said that this is the constituency of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, 18 rigs will be installed here. One rig shall be installed in the Constituency of Daga. Some people cover grind their own axes in the name of famine relief. Therefore, kindly order an enquiry into it so as to ascertain where the money goes. Our head hangs in shame on the exposures of D. D. A. Hundreds of crores of rupees have been spent in the country in the name of famine. No durable assets have been created. Buildings or roads have not been constructed. Earth work was done on the roads and that was washed away by the rains. I want to challenge that no durable assets could be created inspite of spending crores of rupees. Kosi barrage has not been completed even during the last 20 years. Rajasthan Canal which was sheduled to be completed in 1960, is still incomplete. Shri Govind Vallabh Pant had laid its foundation Stone. The Members from Kerala vociferously demand 100 per cent grant instead of 75 per cent, because the newspapers will Carry the name of Shri Kurup saying that he had raised this demand. Will you please let me know whether any enquiry has been ordered into the spending of funds sanctioned for famine and flood, if so, that report should be discussed here in the House.

[English]

Whether this Parliament has ever discussed a report as to what has been achieved after spending the money.

[Translation]

We have spent crores of rupees on this work till today. Will the Hon. Minister

give assurance on the floor of this House that he will order an enquiry into the spending of funds on famine and drought, on constructing barrages during this year. The inquiry will reveal that big engineers have constructed their bungalows, the big Ministers have pocketed the money and that the funds have been misused. What purpose is going to be served by ringing the bell...I do not have time, otherwise, I can give you figures in detail.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ  
(Baramulla) : Mr. Daga, the whole night is at your disposal.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : It will be darkness around if the darkness of Corruption continues to spread like this and then the people will write in the history that there were the M. Ps. during whose tenure such and such corrupt practices were indulged into. Our names will also be included in the history. We too shall not be spared.

Now, I want to mention a few points about Rajasthan Thirty-Three Thousand villages face the danger of famine this year itself.

[English]

There is a news item which says :

“Rs. 24 Cr. Loss

The move for the probe was spear-headed by the Congress (I) Member, Mr. C. P. Joshi, who alleged that the ‘scandal’ had caused a loss of Rs. 24 crores to the State Exchequer. He had alleged that the contract for digging wells had been awarded to contractors at the rate of Rs. 240 per cubic metre against the prevailing market rate of Rs. 140 per cubic metre

The Contract for the construction of cement platforms, he alleged, had been awarded at the rate of Rs. 1250 per pump, whereas the ruling rate was only Rs. 350.”

[Translation]

Thus, the exchequer suffered a loss of Rs. 24 crores. You have worked in the

Army Mr. Colonel. Enter this field also because, this is also a big battle field. This is also a scandal.

You take the example of Madhya Pradesh. When I say it is a scandal, you will not agree. But I want to say that an inquiry should be conducted to find out what are the works on which the funds sanctioned by the Central Government for natural calamities were spent. No such inquiry is conducted by Government. Our Famine Minister or Agriculture Minister does have the information before the floods or drought actually strike. Excuse me, I do not blame you, whosoever in the Famine Minister or Agriculture Minister of the country has a duty to pay on the spot’ visits to see things for himself, not at the time when we seek assistance, but at the time when relief work is going on and he should see whether work is actually going on or not. Kindly spare some time for it and see, not by sitting in Delhi or through an aerial survey, but by visiting the actual sites, what type of work is going on, how it is going on and who is doing it? High power Commissions and other tall talks are only procedural matters. I only want two things that you lay your report on the Table of the House. Tell this august House that we have spent this much money in Kerala on such and such works. Thereafter, the Members belonging to Kerala will discuss here in the House and will see to it whether the funds have been spent properly or not. Some Hon. Members have also suggested here to evolve a famine code. But, this concept of evolving a famine code is nothing new, the debate on this has been going on for a long time. Still, no famine Code has so far been evolved. Famine is still persisting in many part of the country and so far as Rajasthan is concerned, you can see yourself how much funds have been sanctioned in spite of severe drought conditions prevailing there. Whether it is flood or drought, you consider both as natural calamities, but you sanction 75 per cent for flood and only 50 per cent for drought. This is a strange logic which you apply in the event of natural calamities. We do not have a drop of water and are suffering heavily and you say that you will get Rs. 50/- out of 100/- because we have com-

mitted a crime whereas in the case of floods you sanction 75 per cent.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, ours is a very vast country and we experience different sorts of climates in different parts of the country. If in one part of the country there is a flood, in another part of the country there may be drought. And the cycle we have experienced in our own life time makes it imperative for the Central Government that it must be wide awake and all the time prepared to face these calamities. Although we wish and pray that there are no floods, there are no droughts, and we forge ahead to a very prosperous India.

To my mind, the crux of the problem is that we must assess the damage to the land and then after assessing the damage we must ensure distribution of relief properly. So, far as the assessment of the damage is concerned, I want to bring it to the notice of the Agriculture Minister who is fortunately very energetic and he has made notes, also- and I hope he will take notice of what we say. Now, how is this damage assessed? After lot of noise through the media- and it depends on how a State can cry- at long last a Central team will visit a particular State, and as and when that team visits that State, it straightaway goes to the Secretariat and has some sessions of long chats with the bureaucrats. Now Mr. Daga has brought to our notice that in Rajasthan even the constituencies are picked up or they want to know as to who is the person who represents a particular constituency, and naturally more aid will go to the more important person's constituency. But in my State...

(Interruptions)

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : It is not correct that when the Central Team visited Kerala, they did not visit all the affected areas. You ask Mr. Thampan Thomas whether they visited his constituency, you ask Mr. Kurup, nearby, whether they visited his constituency.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am not discussing Kerala. You take the seat please. Mr. Daga was discussing Rajasthan, I am discussing Jammu and Kashmir State.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) : Are you not interested in Kerala?

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : I am interested in every part of the country but I have to particularise how a team visits...

(Interruptions)

I am interested in Kerala but I am now discussing Jammu and Kashmir State.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Sir, he is making an allegation, that is why I have said it.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Who is making an allegation?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN : He has said that the Central team is only visiting certain places where important M. P.s are there.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Did you hear Mr. Daga what he was talking about that there is a lot of corruption? There is a lot of mess in this country...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Minister will himself give a reply to what he has said.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Sir, as far as my State is concerned, this is my personal experience and I was one with Mr. Daga when he was speaking before me—that the drama of Jammu and Kashmir is not different from Rajasthan. But in my State the team came after I had sent seven telegrams to the Ministry of Agriculture, when Rao Birendra Singh was holding the portfolio here, that there was hailstorm incessant rain and early snowfall in Jammu and Kashmir State, along with Himachal Pradesh. And when the team comes, it does not move outside the Secretariat, it

[ Prof. Saifuddin Soz ]

does not invite M.Ps. After all we are representatives of the people. I did not get any invitation from them. When I came to know that the team had visited Srinagar, I went to the Chief Secretary. I was told that the team had come and it had gone back to Delhi, Hell with that team. I represent seven lakhs of people and I was not given any opportunity to explain the position there, particularly when I had sent seven telegrams to the Centre. Sardar Sahib can just check up the records and see whether I had sent seven telegrams or not.

When the Central team goes to the State capital, it has to move to the site where a calamity has taken place. Such a team probably consists only of bureaucrats. I do not suppose any Minister or any public man goes with the team. Only bureaucrats at the lower level go. They get certain graphs and on the basis of them they assess the damage in a room and decide about the extent of central relief. That happened in Jammu and Kashmir State. This team went only in 1984. It did not visit the State in 1982 and 1983. The Hon. Minister will kindly take notice of this fact that in 1982 and 1983 the whole region from Himachal Pradesh to Jammu and Kashmir suffered in the months of September, October and November continuously through hail storms, incessant rains and early snowfall. Whereas Himachal Pradesh got Rs. 5.96 crores for that year, Jammu and Kashmir State did not get anything. It is not just to suggest that Himachal Pradesh should not have received any relief. It suffered natural calamities and it got relief. It is very good. But why should not the Jammu and Kashmir State get even six pennies during that year? I can produce records and the Hon. Minister's Office knows about the conditions in Jammu and Kashmir that existed during that period. I have raised this issue a number of times. Even the Finance Minister had to intervene and I was told that that State had not raised this matter with the Central Government.

[ Translation ]

I was told in Urdu that the details have not been received.

[ English ]

One friend from here who happened to be Revenue Minister in Orissa, just now said, we cannot leave it to the State Government altogether. May be the State Government is sluggish. Ultimately, the Minister has to work on a desk and he has to be assisted by bureaucrats. If the bureaucrat does not work, the Ministry will not work and the people will suffer. Our people have been raising this issue. This point has been agitated upon in our Press also that while the Himachal Pradesh could get Rs. 6/- crores, why should not Jammu and Kashmir get anything during that year?

Now I come to the distribution part. I am particularising this issue in order that the Hon. Agriculture Minister takes notice of what is happening in the State. Some relief was granted in 1984 and in 1985 also, but there was a lot of *Ghapla*. I do not know how to translate it into English.

S. BUTA SINGH : *Ghapla* is *Ghapla*. There is no translation.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Here I would like to emphasise that you cannot leave the distribution part to the State Government. Because you are giving money you have to watch that this money goes to the victims. What I want to say is that this money does not go to the victims. \* is the Constituency of the present \* of the Jammu and Kashmir State. It is a shameful state of affairs that they distributed foodgrains to their supporters in that constituency, but the people of Dangi-wacha and adjoining villages did not receive anything. They complained about this to the Deputy Commissioner of Baramulla. Already we have sent a communication to the Home Minister of India and our Governor is in full knowledge of this activity. The Minister told the people of Dangi-wacha, you voted

\*Not recorded.

for Farooq, you go to him for relief. Since you did not vote for the \* you would not get anything. When I raise this issue in the Parliament today I am seriously telling you that the scene in Jammu and Kashmir is very bad. Corruption is rampant and our State has touched a new height in this matter. Even the Congress people now say that the G.M. Shah Government is a † Government. It is a † Government.

Corruption is an all-pervading phenomenon in Jammu and Kashmir State.

In Jammu and Kashmir State, whatever relief you sanction, does not go to the victims. That is the point which I am making. If the Hon. Minister takes the trouble of visiting Srinagar, I will give him documentary evidence. It will show this. Whatever relief was sanctioned in the name of hailstorm has not gone to the real victims. It has gone to buttress or support \*

I request the Hon. Minister again to send a Central Team to visit that State. They should invite all the MLAs and MPs belonging to various parties to participate in the discussions with the visiting team. Unless the Hon. Minister does this, we will not be satisfied.

[Translation]

I would like to request that a team should again visit the State. The team should invite MLAs of the State, belonging to the Congress, the National Conference and various parties.

[English]

Wherever the team goes, at least the MPs. must be invited to meet that team. What happens is this. A team comes to Srinagar or any other State capital. It goes back to Delhi, without meeting people's representatives. I hope that the Hon. Minister will organise a fresh team to visit the Jammu and Kashmir State to assess the

damage and then sanction adequate relief. With these words I conclude.

SHRI I. RAMA RAI (Kasaragod) : Sir, the case of Kerala was argued very well by my friends from Kerala. I don't want to repeat the same points. But I will give you some facts.

My Hon. friend sitting there has pointed out about the loss due to natural calamities. These natural calamities in Kerala can be converted into national assets. Out of all the 44 rivers and number of streams in Kerala, only 2 per cent of the water is utilised. The rest of the water is going into the sea. The rest 98 per cent is wasted without any utilisation at all. So, it can be converted into a national asset by some research work.

Sir, the bed of the river in Kerala has risen out of silt deposit which is mainly due to soil erosion, and landslide. This soil erosion and landslide is due to deforestation. This is the phenomenon which we are facing.

About Roads, I wish to point out that we have about 70,000 KMs. of village roads and 18,000 KMs. of PWD roads which are all damaged by the recent floods. In this connection I wish to suggest that while undertaking programmes under NREP and RLEGP, the climatic conditions of each State must be considered. According to the RLEGP the roads will be formed and black-topped or tar-topped at a stretch. Now, these roads are vanishing in Kerala because these roads have to be allowed to settle down and set in for a year at least, and proper drainage must be provided in order to prevent the destruction of the roads.

About fisheries, I must give some suggestions. Out of the total coastline in the whole of India 10 per cent of the coastline is in Kerala, i.e., about 590 Kilometres. But 40 per cent of the fisheries export is from Kerala. In that respect the Kerala coastline itself should be considered properly. About 1.25 lakhs of people are fishermen in our State and many more people depend on fisheries.

Out of this 590 Kilometres of coastline, 320 Kilometres are subject to sea erosion. This coastline is thickly populated and

\*Not recorded.

†Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Shri I. Rama Rai]

national highways and railways are quite vulnerable in some points. There is every danger even for railway lines in Kerala State if we do not take measures to prevent sea erosion in our State. Most of the important towns in the coastline and 9 district headquarters are coastline cities which are all in danger. Only 90 Kilometres of the coastline is protected according to the reports. The rest of the coastline is not protected. Nearly one Kilometre protection requires Rs. 30 lakhs. You can imagine how big an amount is required to protect the entire coastline.

Sir, I want to wind up soon. In Holland, among the Dutch people there is a common saying; 'God made all the lands, but Dutch made Holland'. It is true that the Dutch over centuries built up their land by skilled reclamation. But we, in Kerala, are losing land year after year. There is a place near Cochin where miles of coastline is washed away. Nearly two hundred Kilometres of coastline was simply washed away in 25 years. We in Kerala want the Centre to help us. Of course, they have rendered timely help. For this we thank the Central Government and specially the Minister, Buta Singhji, who has visited the area and who has consoled the flood victims.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) :** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the magnitude of the tragedy that affected Kerala has already been described by my colleagues. So, I am not going into any description and I shall confine myself to points.

The sorry State of Kerala is there. It is the third successive year where our State is affected by a natural calamity. Two years back there was an unprecedented drought which took away cash crops worth about Rs. 1000 crores.

Regarding this monsoon flood, this year it was unprecedented. But every year we have to face these monsoon floods and two or three peculiar features of these floods are already mentioned here. They are, that the paddy field, especially in Central Travancore, that is, Kuttanad area, which is the rice bowl of Kerala, goes under water; secondly the landslides in high ranges, in Vyanad and

Idukki districts and lastly sea erosion—these are the three main features of the monsoon floods in Kerala. And regarding Kuttanad, almost everything has been sanctioned and major portion of the paddy field in Kuttanad is made from the backwaters, i.e., huge bunds are created in the backwater and the water is pumped out of them. In this way, major portion of the paddy fields is created and when these monsoon floods come, cracks occur in the bunds and in this year this was an unprecedented thing and almost everywhere cracks occurred in the bund and paddy field are completely submerged in water. The Hon. Minister knows it, he personally came over there.

My request is that the Hon. Minister should take a personal interest in this sorry predicament of Kuttanad area. A high powered scientific committee should be appointed to study about this flood situation in Kuttanad. Some voluntary scientific organisation has made some study. For example, this Shashtra Sahitya Parishad of Kerala and People's Science Forum have done some study. The Central Government should also take an interest and appoint a high powered scientific committee.

Second thing is about the land slide. Many Hon. Members who spoke from the other side very cleverly did not mention why this land slide occurs. I appreciate the Hon. Minister for Planning who came over to Kerala to personally visit the Idukki district. At that time he publicly said, this is because of large scale tree felling. Ecologists and scientists have been repeatedly warning that if this type of felling continued in Vyanad and Idukki districts, large scale land slide will be the result in all these areas. But the Government of Kerala has been keeping a blind eye. So, my second request is that the Central Government should intervene in this sorry state of affairs in Kerala. A large scale deforestation is taking place there. The example of Himalayas is before us. I am not going into the detail. This is the main reason why this land slide occurs in Vyanad and Idukki districts.

I come to sea erosion. My only request is all those statistics have been mentioned here. As far as my understanding goes, till two years back.....

**PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** May I interrupt for a moment ? The Government of Kerala is not allowing even to cut a single tree. This is the present position. But you are talking about the affairs two years back.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP :** I am not going into the detail. Every child in Kerala knows what is happening in the high ranges.

**PROF. P.J. KURIEN :** It is not correct to say that the present Government is allowing falling of trees. (*Interruptions*).

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER :** Please sit down.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP :** Let the Central Government institute an enquiry committee about this deforestation in Kerala.

**SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) :** Let them find out how many trees have been cut by your Party and how many by the other Party.

**SHRI SURESH KURUP :** Everybody knows which Parties are behind it. I am not going to mention the name because the time is limited. Let the Government institute an enquiry commission to go into it.

About the sea erosion, as far as my understanding goes, till two years back, the Central Government used to give 3/4ths of the cost incurred by the State Government for preventing the sea erosion. Now, that portion is cut and it is made half of the cost that is incurred. My humble request is that the former position should be restored.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandurbar) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Dhulia and Nasik district of our Maharashtra State have been hit by drought. There is no fodder in tribal districts. Drinking water is also scarce. There areas have received rain on 16th July last. Irrigation facilities in Maharashtra, including Dhulia district, are available only in 2.5 per cent area. Irrigation facilities in

our Dhulia district are utterly inadequate. Construction of big dams is a must for the extension of irrigation facilities. Rain water in our rivers and riverlets flows down and goes waste and the people face drought.

Therefore, I request the Central Government to sanction the irrigation project in Dhulia district, such as Upper Tapti Project Rs. 303 crore project- which will provide irrigation facilities to Dhulia and Jalgaon districts.

With these words, I conclude.

**SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) :** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak at the close of the discussion. The House is going to call it a day. I have only to add two-three sentences to the debate which has been going on in the House for about quarter to four hours, as almost every thing has already been said.

Every word of National Anthem which Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore gave us is feeling hurt today, it is writhing in pain. Our Hon. Agriculture Minister is taking down notes and, therefore, I want to confine myself to two or three points. Nature has become more ferocious towards man today than the man was towards nature earlier. We are suffering the curse of indiscriminate denudation of forest in Asia and Africa for the last 25 to 30 years. The seasons in India have changed, each season has shifted by 40 to 45 days from its course. We face floods and drought every year. We think, we are ruling the country, the people are ruling the country, but if we go by the official figures, natural Calamities are reigning supreme on 40 per cent of the country every year. Whether it is flood or drought, 40 per cent people of the country are in the grip of natural calamities. We just now have listened to the speeches of the Hon. Members right from Kerala to Kashmir and from Kutch to Kamakhya and it is evident from their speeches that 40 per cent people are reeling under natural Calamities.

Colonel Mushran is sitting here. 200 villages of his Jabalpur district are in the

[Shri Balkavi Bairagi ]

grip of drought. Two thousand villages are facing drought so far as my constituency mandasaur-Javra is concerned.

PROF. K. K. TEWARI (Buxar) :  
The same is the situation in Bihar.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : This is the situation everywhere, but I do not want to be a spokesman of all. The first thing which I want to say is that before we pass on the burden of this calamity to any Government, we should entrust this programme to our experts, scientists or those who are prepared to grapple with the problem with foresight. The scientists should reach there before we reach and the problem should be properly solved.

The second important thing is that a permanent fund of Rs. 2,000 crores should be created which may be spent on the solution of this problem in a planned way. One thing I specifically want to say to Shri Buta Singh. Although, the matter is out of your purview, but I want you to convey this request of mine to the Prime Minister. When natural Calamity is reigning over 40 per cent of the Country, an independent Ministry or Department for this purpose should be created so that a war can be waged against it in a coordinated manner.

Another thing which I want to say is that this natural Calamity is creating a new problem in the country. There is a custom among a tribe of adivasis in the areas of Rajasthan which have no rains. As the custom goes, if there are no rains, they have a belief that the traders and the business community have put the clouds under lock and key in their safes. The newspaper bear testimony to it that in Rajasthan our adivasi brothers in thousands went berrerk with spears in their hands in the bazaars of Udaipur and Jaipur in a bid to secure release of clouds from the safes. Shri Bhuria is sitting here. Similar rage was witnessed in Jhabua also. I am mentioning it because such things happen there, this thing has happened this time also. I come from Madhya Pradesh but my district borders with Rajasthan. They try to secure release of clouds from the safes.

In such a situation, I would say that you pay attention to these there things which I have just now mentioned.

In the end, I want to say that Shri Buta Singh has been very kind to pay a visit to Kerala- a fact acknowledged by each Member from that State. I would like to submit to Shri Buta Singh that instead of visiting a place after a calamity has struck, it would be better if he visits our area before the Calamity strikes. We want to invite you. You pay a visit to our area.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : A heavy rain will come if he comes there as his visit to Kerala has made everything flooded.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : I want to submit to him that I have gone on record in the newspapers to say that of course he is Sardar Buta Singh, but for us he has become Sant Buta Singh now a days. So, just possible that with your sacred feet touching our land, its famine and epidemic may vanish.

I thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, and hope that the outcome of this 4 hours debate on this subject will being fruit for at least our next generation, if not for us. I also hope that in the coming six months we shall be having an independent Minister looking after this Department and exclusively devoted to fighting the natural calamities.

With these words, I conclude.

19.47 hrs.

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM (Hajipur) :  
Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of Government to natural calamities which are being discussed in the House at the moment.

Northern part of Bihar Called 'North Bihar' has been the victim of floods for centuries and has been suffering on this

account ever since. There is a river named 'Kosi' there and it will be no exaggeration if it is called 'River of Sorrow'. Shri Daga has just now rightly said and I agree with him. If we go into the reality, we shall find that the huge amount of funds shown to have been spent in the name of floods, have not been actually spent. Had we wanted sincerely to control floods with all that money, we could have overcome it with a lesser amount, but even today, North Bihar frequently suffers from the fury of flood. A huge loss of life and property is suffered every year and many cattle heads either perish or are washed away. The soil of that area is so fertile that if floods are controlled, Bihar can become a surplus State and can feed people of other States and become another Punjab, but Bihar always faces the fury of floods due to which its people continue to suffer. Therefore, I want to say that Government have set up many Boards, one of them being Flood Control Board and spent huge funds, still they have not been able to control floods.

We would like to request you to go to North Bihar and see the land there. This land is very fertile. If floods are controlled, this land can produce more. During the floods our entire paddy crop get submerged in water and many cattle are killed. If floods are controlled, we will be able to prevent loss of life and property there. Hajipur, from where I come, is located at the embankments of both the Ganga and the Gandak. When the Ganga and the Gandak are in flood, the entire district of Hajipur and also Vaishali District get submerged. People face this problem every year and it results in drinking water problem besides foodgrains problem. Flood water is very dirty and due to water logging several diseases break out there. We would like to draw the attention of Government towards the fact that relief work is not being executed properly because of floods. Many islands come into existence in my constituency Hajipur because Raghupur Diyar of Hajipur is located between the Ganga and the Gandak. Similarly, Manner, Patepur and Jandaha also become islands due to floods. In this way about one dozen islands are created in various parts of my constituency. In these islands relief work is to be done by

boats. Boats are also in bad condition. We are unable to provide boat facility everywhere. If we are unable to provide boat facility and supply foodgrains there, then how can we call ourselves people's representatives, how can we call our Government as people's Government? I would like to urge the Hon. Minister to formulate a master plan for at least North Bihar which has to face floods problem every year. We have spent hundreds of crores of rupees to tame Kosi, which is called the "River of Sorrow", but we have failed. A way out should be found to control the Kosi and the Gandak so that North Bihar can be saved from floods year after year. The waters of the Ganga should also be controlled.

Besides supplying foodgrains to flood, affected people we should make arrangements for providing fodder for cattle also. It is also our duty to save them. Cattle die of starvation in floods. So, we should make arrangements to supply fodder for cattle also.

As we know that floods are in annual feature, we should prepare schemes in advance so that we may be able to supply foodgrains to people and fodder for cattle in time.

Mr. Daga has rightly said that if an enquiry commission is set up to go into the matter whether hundreds of crores of rupees spent on relief work have been utilised properly or not, then you will come to know about the factual position. We would like to say that it must be ensured that hundreds of crores of rupees being spent on relief work should be utilised properly.

In South Bihar there is an Adivasi area. It is hill area also. Many parts of this area are drought-prone. No foodgrains are produced there due to droughts the local adivasis are migrating from these areas due to food problem. You might have heard in this House also that adivasis of these areas go to Punjab and Haryana in order to earn their livelihood. Foodgrains can be grown in sufficient quantity in the area of Chhota Nagpur, if minor irrigation and medium irrigation schemes are implemented and irrigation facilities provided. The relief work in this drought affected area is also not undertaken properly.

[Shri Ram Ratan Ram]

The people of North Bihar have to face great difficulty due to floods in the Kosi, the Gandak and the Ganga rivers as many islands are created there. Relief measures may be adopted there so that we can say that we have done something for them. I would like to request the Agriculture Minister to accompany us to North Bihar once during the floods so that he may be able to know the actual position.

**SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV**  
(Morena) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for permitting me to speak.

I would like to say three or four things about my constituency. The Central Government has not, so far formulated any commendable flood control scheme for Morena area.

Morena constituency is a preserved constituency. I am also a Harijan. Mostly this seat has remained in the hands of Opposition. The reason is that the Central Government has not formulated any scheme for this area. As has been said by many Hon. Members, I also suggest that a survey may be conducted about the flood situation there. Many people are saying many things. In my constituency there is Gandhi Sagar Canal for providing irrigation facility, but only 25 per cent water is made available from the Gandhi Sagar as a result of which Morena area is not able to get the required quantum of water. I would like to request Government that water from Chambal Canal, which is 2 to 3 Kms. away, should be diverted to this canal so that Morena area can get adequate water supply. Similarly, there is power shortage in our area due to which the farmers are facing great difficulty there. I, therefore, would like to submit that a project should be set up on the Chambal river in Morena District to meet the power requirement of the people of that area.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you might have seen that there are dark forests between Dholpur and Morena. Forests are being eroded by 6 to 7 rivers which flow in that area. That land needs to be reclaimed for agriculture purposes in order to check that erosion. In this way thousands of people

may get land and they can earn their livelihood thereby.

A lot of discussion have taken place here on flood situation in the country. In my constituency there are two Assembly segments where what to speak of irrigation facility, even drinking water is not available, these are Adivasi areas where wells and hand pumps do not prove successful. There is acute shortage of drinking water in villages like Karabal, Vijaypur, Girdharpur, etc. A river is flowing in that area. If Government make arrangements to lift water from there and provide drinking water to Adivasis, then they can be benefited considerably. With these words I thank you for giving me time to speak.

**SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA**  
(Jhabua) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would try to conclude my speech early. I am talking about those people, who have been struggling hard for their livelihood for the last 15 to 20 years. This area is affected by drought every year and Government spends Rs. 4 to 5 crores every year in the name of providing relief there. This area is still in the grip of drought. There is acute shortage of drinking water. Fodder is not available for cattle there. People are not getting any employment. Recently, our Hon. Prime Minister has visited this area. He met the people there and has expressed surprise on how people are pulling on there. We are glad to know that our Prime Minister has visited the Adivasi area and personally seen the condition in which people are making their both ends meet. This area is affected by drought year after year. The purpose will not be served by constructing a small nullah or Pond. Some big projects will have to be undertaken there so that people can get work for a period of 10 to 20 years. The Hon. Minister of Railways is sitting here. The people of the area had placed a demand before the Hon. Prime Minister that a railway line should be constructed from Indore to Daud with the funds provided for relief work so that the people could get work for 10 to 12 years. Mahi River Project and Johat Projects will have to be undertaken in order to provide relief to people of the area affected by drought every year. Just now Shri Bairagi was

saying that people there do not get anything to eat for 2 to 3 days continuously. People go to places where food grains are available and manage to bring handful of food grains. Adivasi people do not get anything to eat. That is why construction of this railway line is essential,

20.00 hrs.

Just now some one spoke of denudation of forests. There is need to encourage forestry today. The adivasis live in the forests and it is their only means of livelihood. Today due to denudation of forests their economic plight is deplorable. The adivasis used to sell the wood from forests or indulged in hunting. But today one does not find such thing anymore. The Central Government should prepare a special plan for those unfortunate people so that they may get suitable employment I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (S. BUTA SINGH) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I must express my gratitude to the Hon. Speaker for having provided this opportunity in this august House to discuss very serious problems faced by the people of our country under very severe conditions as a result of natural calamities like drought, floods, soil erosion, land slides, etc. Sir, about three dozen hon. Members of this House have participated in this discussion. Naturally because in the respective constituencies, our people are suffering and they must speak behalf of those people who are in distress. It is a hard fact of our national life that every year the country is visited by severe floods, by droughts and in some areas, in the mountainous regions hailstorms and snow-falls, in the coastal areas, soil erosion cyclone and sea-erosions in some other areas tornados, etc. But, Sir, in the present system in which we are working there is an established procedure and norm under which the Government of India and the respective State Governments are tackling these problems. The

main organisation that has given us a set of guidelines, that is, the Finance Commission of our country. The last Finance Commission have given us the guidelines based upon which the Government of India is helping the people under the severe conditions in various parts of the country. As a result of the Eighth Finance Commission, the margin money which was meant for helping the State Governments to meet the immediate requirement of such conditions, has been increased from the earlier recommendations of the Seventh Finance Commission, It was Rs. 100.55 crores and it has been raised to Rs. 240.75 crores. The Eighth Finance Commission has revised certain norms for meeting such situations. As I mentioned, first of all, on behalf of the Hon. Members who have spoken and those who have not spoken, I must express my deep sympathies with the people who are suffering whether it is on account of drought conditions or the flood situation, I was specially directed by the Hon. Prime Minister to make it possible to visit all the affected areas almost all over the country to see how the administration locally as well as at the State level and from the Central Government is trying to ameliorate the conditions of the people who are put to hardships. Sir, it was not possible for me, till today, to visit all the areas. But as I got some opportunity, I did visit the affected areas. I went to Kerala and I went to Punjab and I propose to visit the North-Eastern States. I tried to visit there twice or thrice. But the weather conditions did not permit me. I am going to visit all the parts in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar and other parts which are reeling under the difficult conditions.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all these happen because of the erratic behaviour of the monsoons, whether it is drought or it is flood. Drought visits us only when the monsoon fails to come and the flood comes if the monsoons are on the heavy sides and we are affected by heavy floods. One single note which was struck by almost every Member in this House was that instead of trying to meet these situations on year to year, season to season basis,

[S. Buta Singh ]

the country should try to devise a long term strategy for meeting such situations.

It is not that we have not been doing anything in this direction. There have been very serious attempts made by the authorities which are connected with handling these problems. The major part is with the Ministry of Irrigation which looks after the long-term plans of meeting the flood control situation and I have been informed that they have been attempting a long-term strategy to meet the flood situation in our country. Regular track is kept for several years to meet the flood situation. Then the Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Central Water Commission are trying how best the situation could be met and are trying to devise certain measures which can tackle these problems on a long-term basis Sir, an attempt was made by the Central Water Commission and also the Kendriya Barh Ayog to evolve some kind of model law which can help better use of the plains which are prone to floods every year. They have prepared a country-wide scheme by which the natural course of the rivers and the flow of water in these rivers which affect the plains every year could be identified and certain corrective measures can be taken by developing those plains on scientific lines suggested by the team of specialists and the scientists. I am told that the average annual loss due to floods in our country is about Rs. 505 crores and on the basis of the information given by the State Government, the total flood prone area was taken to be about 34 million hectares. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog had assessed the total flood prone areas of about 40 million hectares out of which the protectable area is 32 million hectares.

This is the extent of floods that occur in our country every year and in some State more than once. So, the Central Water Commission suggested a model law. So far only one State, i.e. Manipur, has adopted it. Many States have not adopted that Act which could help the States in devising the scientific use of plains, which

are prone to floods. I am told that some State Governments have also come forward and they are actively considering the adoption of that Act. One Hon. member, perhaps from Orissa, made a point that we should try to have an annual meeting of the Revenue Ministers. Yes, we do have Revenue Ministers' meeting every year. But earlier, our main stress was on the crop production, on the administering of land ceiling measures, on conserving the soil and protecting the land. But I assure it the hon. member that I will make it a point to meet the Revenue Ministers of various States, whenever I visit to review the flood and drought situations in their States, and we shall organise Revenue Ministers' meeting at least once every year to promote annual plan to meet such situations in the States well in time.

Some of the Hon. Members wanted to know as to what are the methods by which we can take some corrective measures. Now, so far as the cyclone warning system in India is concerned, our Meteorology Department have evolved a two-stage cyclone warning system. A warning is issued to the State Government officials and other concerned officials in the concerned State. In the first stage, the cyclone alert is issued first, about 48 hours in advance of the expected time of the land fall of the cyclone, by the highest priority land line telegrams to the Chief Secretaries and the Coastal Collectors and other officials concerned by Cyclone Warning Centres in the maritime States. This is also issued through the All India Radio to be broadcast on a larger network for people's information. At the second stage, numbered cyclone warnings are issued about 28 hours in advance of the land fall of the cyclone to the Chief Secretaries, Coastal Collectors, Coast and Fisheries officials as well as the All India Radio to be repeated through the local and regional languages.

Sir, with the present system in the Meteorology Department, we have Cyclone Warning Centres at Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, Visakhapatnam, Madras and Bombay. These warnings are coordinated by the Director General of Meteorology Headquarters and the warning centres have been provided

with additional facilities by the Government, besides the conventional observatories. The Cyclone Detection Radar with 400 KM range is installed at Calcutta, Paradeep, Visakhapatnam, Masulipatnam, Madras, Karaikkal, Goa and Bombay. These are the latest gadgets which can help the warning institutes with quite a wide range and the areas to be affected could be forewarned, so, that the people could be saved. We also make use of Insect-J(B) which provides continuous surveillance of the cyclone and is useful in tackling cyclones by knowing the intensity estimates. These are the methods by which we are giving information in advance to States, which are likely to be affected by cyclones.

Now, a question was raised by many members from almost all the States about the drought situation. No doubt, for the past three years, we have been facing this situation but there are States where the severity is of a very high density. For example, from 1st June to 17th July, we have the information that in some divisions in Gujarat region, the deficiency of rain was to the extent of—58 per cent, in Saurashtra alone it was (-) 83 per cent. The deficiency in East Rajasthan was (-) 38 per cent, West Madhya Pradesh : (-) 50 per cent; in Madhya Maharashtra : (-) 41 per cent; in Rayalaseema : (-) 31 per cent; in West Uttar Pradesh Hills : (-) 26 per cent. These are the areas, which have suffered very heavily under the drought conditions. At the same time, I must also say that we in the Ministry of Agriculture have been making a two-prong attempt to tackle the severe drought conditions. The first is to open relief work. There has been a lot of criticism about this, I do not say that the entire criticism is wrong. There are complaints by Hon. members both inside and outside the House and whenever they find an opportunity, they keep on informing us that in the implementation of most of the 20-Point Programme, specially under the rural development projects like IRDP, NREP and RLEGP, TRYCEM, etc., there has been a lot of mismanagement and mis-utilisation. I will go by Prof. Rao's words that the moneys are not properly used, but rather abused in some parts of the country.

Sir, you must have yourself seen and heard the Hon. Prime Minister visited some parts of Madhya Pradesh which are under severe poverty. The people mentioned to the Hon. Prime Minister when he visited—how tardy and how lopsided is the implementation of 20 point programme that is taking place down the line. We are quite aware of it. And under instructions from the Hon. Prime Minister we are trying to involve the local Members of Parliament, the MLAs and the elected representatives of the people to see that they have a very vigilant follow up of the programmes that are being implemented in various States. Sir, now the Hon. Member is not here. The Hon. Member, Mr. Thomas was saying that we are politicalising. The relief work and the work that was done under 20 point programme. Sir, I am sorry I have to comment on it. It has been observed in the State from which the Hon. Member comes, that the provisions made under 20 point programme have not been utilised for the purpose for which it was meant.

Rather on the country, the names were changed. In that State, they had given some local names to make the people believe that this money which comes from Delhi, from the Central Government under the 20 point programme is actually the money being given by that local party which rules that State; they have changed it into some local names so that it sounds as if it comes from party which rules over State in that particular area.

Sir from this very thing you can realise who is politicalising. Sir, we are ashamed of such things when they happen with people who are also under destitution, who are marooned; and if some succour is sent to them and if somebody plays with their lives, it is not playing with the money or something, it is playing with the life of the people who are very much in distress and we should be ashamed of it. Sir, I do not mind, provided this Govt. does not object to it. Whenever we tried to have deeper look into the implementation of certain things of the State Governments, the Hon. Chief Ministers come heavily on the Centre that the Centre is being partial. Now, I do not remember the name of the

[ S. Buta Singh ]

Hon. Member who mentioned that Karnataka has constructed a *bandh* over a river which has drained the complete water and now Tamil Nadu is going to start. Similarly, in Telugu Desam, some water is being used for which Karnataka will suffer. Sir this is the problem with the regional parties. They cannot have a perspective of the whole country. They go after the philosophy of sons of the soil and they do not bother what happens to that State. That is why this august House and the national parties, the people with the secular outlook they always say, I am not objecting to the regional parties taking powers into their hands, but I am saying look this is what is happening, the three different States in one line are trying to utilise the natural resources, namely, the water and the power in such a fashion that they do not care for the next door neighbours.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : The Congress (I) ruled States clash together—Nagaland and Assam.

S. BUTA SINGH : Well that is not the exploitation of the natural resources. There can be local differences, but there cannot be a situation like this that the Chief Minister deliberately cuts the water resources of a State by which the people are going to suffer. That is what I have pointed out. My contention is that whenever any State tries to exploit natural resources, they should not be so self-centred, so narrow minded ..

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Don't bring in those matters here.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am not bringing it. Your States are bringing it. I am only trying to highlight that these things should not be allowed to happen.

Most of the Hon. Members while making their observations have naturally pleaded the case of their respective States and respective constituencies. It will be difficult for me to go into each and every constituency; but I can say that we never attach any importance to local feelings, whenever from the Government of India

any team goes, as Prof. Soz mentioned, its brief is not only to meet people in the Secretariat. I do not know, but I can speak on experience that I have with these Ministeries that whenever team goes, before it goes, I hold a meeting myself. I tell them : this is the information received in the Ministry, and this is the information which I have received from the Members of Parliament.

I am sure the Hon. Members from Kerala will bear me out : the Central team which went there this time was not only a team from my Ministry. After I visited the flood-affected areas, the sea-eroded areas and the landslided areas, I promised there itself, to the representatives of the people that I would try to send them a team in which would be such that they can talk to every Department of the Government. I included people from the Commerce Ministry, because plantations were involved—rubber, cardamom and cocoa are there. So, I thought : let a team go there which can on-the-spot try to identify the damage and also try to meet the points raised by the local administration and the people of that area. Similarly, people from Finance, Works and Housing, Transport and also Ministry of Rural Development were there. So, there was a compact team which could meet questions raised by the local authorities and local representatives. They came back with a very valuable information. The system under which I am trying to implement the policies of the Government of India has been devised and given in writing by the Finance Commission.

The hon. Member, Prof. Soz was agry with us saying that we do not share the information with other people. Firstly, we take information from the State Government. As soon as an area is affected either by flood or drought, we have the district authorities, the local people and revenue authorities who make an assessment and give it to their headquarters in the State. Then naturally, it is passed on to us. After receiving it, there are two methods : one is based on the dimensions of the situation. There is already margin money available to every State.

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : Only a small amount.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** That is there with view to meeting the immediate needs, within hours of the happening. The State cannot say: 'Sorry; we did not have the money'. This instruction has been given to the States, viz. to make this money available to the headquarters of every district.

One Hon. Member mentioned—I think it was Prof. Parashar—that the board should be there. Yes; in every district, the District Magistrate knows that in such a situation, where he has to go, for medical aid, fire-fighting etc. The States are also allowed, and given margin money well in time, so as to meet the situation on an S.O.S. call. As soon as the State Government sends us an alarm—mostly it comes through a telex—I have instructed the Secretary to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation already that even if I am not here he should immediately act upon the message received from the State and should immediately rush whatever relief is available, or whatever could be given. Let us wait for the report or things like that a little later. But we cannot allow people to suffer for want of immediate attention from the Central Government, and also I want to share with the Hon. House that Hon. Members mentioned about the famine board. I have already appointed a small committee headed by the Secretary, Agriculture to go over the whole situation and suggest to the Government of India as to how best we can revise norms which could face the reality of the situation on the ground. The Hon. Members mentioned about the drought. Before I go over to flood, because drought preceded flood, I was trying to make out that we are trying to attend to these problems from two angles. (1) Drought and its hardship could be reduced by providing certain schemes in that area by which people can keep themselves engaged and can earn something. Also we try to conserve soil moisture. But one most promising thing which I want to bring to the notice of the Hon. House is that our scientists have been able to develop certain varieties of crops, seeds which can withstand hardship of the situation like drought. To illustrate my point, I will quote as to what happened during the drought situation in

the year 1978-79, I am not going to just cite an example from the Janata party Government. It is a natural calamity and we cannot foresee anything. But this is what had happened in 1979-80 (*Interruptions*). Well, the Prime Minister was *ki ar ka bata*. In 1979-80 there was a severe drought. In that year, our foodgrain production fell down from 131.90 million tonnes of previous year to 109.40 million tonnes and then the severe drought took place again in 1982-83 and 1984-85. Now, I am going to quote figures on the decline of our agricultural production. The drought in 1982-83 was very severe, but the figures show that the agricultural production which had risen by about 133 million tonnes in 1981-82 it dropped only by about 3 million tonnes, earlier in 1979-80 it dropped over 21 million tonnes. That means that our scientists are now in a position to give to the farmers those seeds which are capable of standing the severe situation in a drought. Similarly during 1983-84 it came to about 151 million tonnes and it dropped marginally in 1984-85 when another drought took place. What I am trying to make out is that our scientists are now trying to fight out the drought situation not only by providing succour to the people, not only by providing the best attention to the health of the soil, but, at the same time, they have been able to develop certain crops and certain seeds which can grow even in the difficult drought conditions. That is my point and we are proud of it that our scientists have been able to evolve that kind of a thing.

About relief work, in most of the drought affected areas, I can quote figures from various States in which the Government of India has provided timely relief. But one thing I want to share with the Hon. Members is that we ourselves are not happy over the implementation of some of the schemes which are taken up by the State Governments and not that all the States are following that track. For example, under the flood situation I have seen myself in Kerala, it is not only that State happens to be ruled by a party to which I belong, but even I met the opposition people there. They informed me that as soon as news reached the Secretariat, the Chief Minister, and his colleagues who were busy in the

[ S. Buta Singh ]

Assembly Session, they immediately adjourned the Assembly and requested all the MLAs to go to their constituencies and try to help people in their constituencies.

And I am told that 1,920 relief centres have been opened in Kerala. I saw about half a dozen of them, along with the Chief Minister. I met the people who were suffering. I could not talk to them because I never knew their language. But I was able to feel myself that they were quite satisfied with the steps taken by the State Government and they were able to get relief. And they pointed out to me, because I had my own people also to tell me, that in this present calamity the first people to reach them were the district authorities who provided them the timely help and the people were happy that they were saved from further disaster, in the situation. Otherwise the casualties would have been much more, the danger would have been much more, but for the timely help of the State Government.

I am sorry that the Hon. Members from States like Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh who spoke, did not have the same experience. Our Hon. Prime Minister is very seriously concerned about it and we are trying to devise some monitoring system from the Government of India's side, to see that the money that is meant for the eradication of poverty, and for meeting the distress situations in the country, is spent strictly for the purpose for which it has been sanctioned and for that matter we are having a very serious thought, of course, in consultation with the States to devise a method by which we can have some kind of a central monitoring system.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the schemes which I have mentioned for the central relief, whether they are for the floods or for drought are devised based upon the recommendations of the Eighth Finance Commission and within those parameters we will try to do our best, to see that the States receive their minimum share and attention immediately.

Now, Hon. Members from Kerala, they spoke at length from almost both the sides

of the House. I need not go into the details, but from 1980-81 to 1984-85 the central relief both in drought and flood, till today has been to the tune of Rs. 85.52 crores in Kerala.

In Madhya Pradesh, the drought assistance from the Central Government from 1980-81 to 1984-85 has been Rs. 119.69 crores, and Madhya Pradesh had asked for further drought relief and our experts and the central team are examining and we will see how best we can help the State Government.

Now, one Hon. Member mentioned about drinking water in Madhya Pradesh. In Madhya Pradesh the number of problem villages as on 1-4-1980 was 24,944 and towards the end of 1984, the number has come down to 1,099. This is the number of villages which still are in need of help.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : May I interrupt please, for a second? A number of villages were declared as scarcity villages from drinking water point of view a long time ago, in 1980-81 or even in 1980. But today, the water level in a very considerable number of villages has gone down and those affected have neither been surveyed nor any measures taken. Even though they have not been surveyed, because of the strict procedure and the rules of the Government of India, they have not been declared as problem villages. That is why the number seems to have gone down, but actually the number has not gone down.

S BUTA SINGH : We will take into account this changed condition and I will pass on the information to the Ministry of Works & Housing for re-checking it. For Orissa, the Central assistance, sanctioned for the drought condition was Rs 8.95 crores. And no request has been received from the State Government for any further assistance. Also, at the same time, we have not received any representation from the State Government about floods. Unfortunately, placed as I am, I cannot take upon myself this task unless the State Government itself does not come forward. And it is provided under the Statute, Shri Panika has pointed out that Uttar Pradesh went by default. In such situations I will request the Hon. Members to sit with their own State Governments and

try to tell the State Governments that if they are not prepared to come forward and if they are found wanting in that respect, neither this House nor anybody can do anything. Specially I want to convey this message to the Hon. Members of this House that God helps only those who help themselves.

**SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) :** Since it is not assistance, they try to manage with plan assistance with difficulty. Unless compelled and unless the situation arises, they do not try to approach the Centre because whatever you give them, that has to be adjusted against plan allocation in future.

I rose on another point and that is that conversion of short-term loan into medium term loan should be made at least where tornado has affected the agriculturists. Only the Reserve Bank has got to be prevailed upon to agree to this.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** I will still argue with Hon. friend that he should try to persuade the State Government to take up all these suggestions.

In Karnataka the number of problem villages as on 1.1 1980 was 15456 and now the number of problem villages attended to is 15443 leaving only 13 villages. I think, this can be termed as hundred per cent implementation and we should be proud of this. But I am sorry to say that no Hon. Member from Karnataka has complimented the Government on this. *(Interruptions)*

**AN HON. MEMBER :** He is not yielding.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** This is a problem of development. If you are going on foot, you would like to have a cycle. If you are having a cycle, then you would like to have a motor-cycle. Then you would like to have a car and go on to the aeroplane. I am prepared to consider, as I promised to the Hon. Members from Madhya Pradesh, if the conditions have changed, if the water table has gone down and there are more problem villages which could not be identified when the census was taken, we are prepared to do it again. Let the Hon. Members from

Karnataka produce the statistics, we are prepared to do it again. It is a continuous process and we have not stopped.

Under the accelerated rural water scheme the first instalment of Rs. 14.12 crores has been released to the Karnataka Government this year. And also according to the detailed programme, we are having our own scheme to cover all the rural Population for drinking water in that State.

About Bihar, I am afraid, again that question will come because the Central Government cannot, and I repeat cannot, take over the responsibility of implementing the schemes in the talukas, in the villages, in tehsils and districts. The machinery will continue to be the State Government machinery. As I mentioned in the beginning of my remarks, we are thinking of associating the Hon. Members of Parliament from their respective constituencies, with all the rural development programmes like IRDP, NREP, e'c., so that if not anything else, they can at least report to the Government of India as to how far the implementation of these schemes is being done sincerely, how far it is being done correctly, and if there are any lapses which they bring to our notice, we can definitely go into them.....  
*(Interruptions)*.

**SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU :** Sir, when the M Ps are not involved in the schemes in the rural districts, how could they get the things done? At least M.Ps. should be made one of the members of the committee in Karnataka.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** The guideline from the Government of India is that we should try to include the representatives in the DRDA (District Rural Development Agency). But in case it is not there, we will try to make it a condition that the Hon. Members and the elected representatives.....  
*(Interruptions)*. From today onwards I would request my Hon. colleague to pay more attention.....  
*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI P.M. SAYEED :** Many Members of Parliament are not associated. In Karnataka also the same thing is there They are not associated with the implementation.  
*(Interruption)*.

S BUTA SINGH : We will send a directive and we will make it compulsory that Hon Members should be associated.....  
(*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Sir, the Hon. Minister has just stated about the respective constituencies. What I referred to was about North Bihar flood. It is not a particular constituency but the entire North Bihar is suffering from the havoc of floods every year. So, I would like to know whether there is any scheme or plan of the Centre just to save us from the flood. The entire North Bihar is suffering from floods.

S. BUTA SINGH : As I mentioned, there are certain schemes which the Central Government is trying to implement for the major rivers and, I am sure, Hon. Member's State is covered.

In Bihar, Punpun, Rajwaha and Gandak are the rivers which are covered by the Central scheme.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : What about Kosi? Kosi is actually a river of sorrow.

S. BUTA SINGH : Kosi is included in the Seventh Five Year Plan, in collaboration with Nepal.

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : Thank you, Sir. Very nice.

S. BUTA SINGH : So far as the money released to Bihar is concerned, and also I would like to mention for the information of Prof. Soz - well, I cannot speak for what happened in the past, but I have in my ministry said - that whenever the money is approved, the first step should be to immediately release the money to the State Government (*Interruptions*).

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ : So good of you.

S. BUTA SINGH : So, Sir, in the year 1984-85 under flood relief, the money released for Bihar was Rs. 58.95 crores. Similarly, Uttar Pradesh has been sanctioned for drought in 1985-86 Rs. 51.78 crores, and in the whole period of Sixth Plan, Uttar

Pradesh received Rs. 362.81 crores. At the moment, there is no pending request from Uttar Pradesh.....(*Interruptions*).

SHRI RAM RATAN RAM : This figure of Rs. 58.95 crores for Bihar relates to the year 1984-85. You have just mentioned about the flood relief, but what about the drought relief.

S. BUTA SINGH : In 1983-84, money released for the drought relief was Rs. 8,938 crores and the total amount from 1980-81 to 1983-84 was Rs. 58.18 crores.

Similarly, about Rajasthan, to which I have the privilege to belong to, whatever request was received from the State Government, was promptly attended to and there is no request pending before me.

Our difficulty is that we release the money to the State Governments. That is why I want the Hon Members to be more vigilant. Now, in future, what I can do is that I can circulate to two Hon. Members that so much money for such a scheme has been given to that particular state and the Hon. Member should try to see that that money is spent for the people for whom it is meant.

Similarly about Himachal Pradesh.

I have mentioned about Kerala. I am really grateful to the Hon. Member from Kerala who have showered so much of their generosity on me. Well, I have done only what I am to do.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : But you have never visited Lakshadweep.

S. BUTA SINGH : I am sorry Lakshadweep was hit by the sea-erosion only a few hours after I left Kerala. I would request the Hon. Member to bring me some kind of a memorandum from the Administration so that we can consider it.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED : I would also request the Hon. Minister to pay a visit at the earliest opportunity.

S. BUTA SINGH : Yes, as soon as the weather permits.

[*Translation*]

**SHRI BALKARI BAIRAGI :** You will not alone. You will take Balkair with you.

[*English*]

**S. BUTA SINGH :** About Punjab, only yesterday. I completed my survey. And let me tell Prof. Soz that although I did make the survey by air, yet I had made it a point and I had already told the authorities to collect their representatives at a place where I could touch so that I could meet the people from the three district - Kapurthalla, Jalandhur, and Hoshiarpur - which are affected by the severe floods in Punjab.

**PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** Excuse me, Sir, it is a new deal and you have made a new commitment. Would you confirm that whenever a team visits any place in any State, Members of Parliament will be called irrespective of their party affiliation ?

**S. BUTA SINGH :** They will be informed and they can meet the team.

**PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ :** Also you said that you will associate us at the district level. I do not think that by merely sending a direction to a State Government will mean anything unless this kind of norm and this kind of reform is incorporated in the very scheme. For example somebody from Karnataka said that he was not invited. If he has not been invited, I take exception to the behaviour of that Government. But as far as our State Government at this moment is concerned, it has not been inviting me at all although I am a Member of the District Development Board.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** Well, I take the suggestions from the Hon. Members and we will implement them.

Now, the situation in Punjab is that the total arrival of rainfall in that State any season is 600 milli-metre whereas within 24 hours the State received a rainfall of 524 millimetres. That means within 24 hours' period the State received the rainfall of the whole Monsoon period. So, you can imagine what will happen to the people of the

State. Unfortunately, the people have been very badly affected there and they have been marooned. Thousands of villages and lakhs of people have been affected. I was told that five lakh acres of paddy crops, which were recently sown, are under five to eight feet deep water. There also whatever immediately could be done, we have done. I have asked the State Government to get in touch with the Central Team. The State Government has promised that it will try to go in for replantation of the paddy, because we cannot miss that belt in Punjab which is a major rice-producing area. I am told by our scientists that there are varieties which can be grown even at a late stage and will not affect the yield to a great extent. Therefore, in Kerala also. I made this announcement to the farmers that we will not hesitate; whatever quantity of seed, fertilizer or input is asked for by the State to replant the crops, the Central Government will immediately provide these to the Kerala Government and the North Eastern States which have suffered as a result of floods, and also Punjab, or wherever such situation arises. We will try to see that adequate support is given to the farmer to raise his crop and not to have the agricultural production affected by these calamities.

Again at the end I want to assure the Hon. House...

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** Many Members spoke about inter-linking the rivers.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** That is a laudable idea.

**MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER :** It is being talked about for long. How long do you think it will take ?

**AN HON. MEMBER :** Revolving fund also.

**S. BUTA SINGH :** Both the issues - the idea of revolving fund and also the linking of Northern Indian rivers to the South Indian rivers, are commendable ideas and I will sit with my colleagues; I will try to convey it to the respective Ministries to see that it is done.

[ S. Buta Singh ]

But, Sir, let me again conclude my remarks by saying this; Our heart goes out to those who are suffering under severe conditions in our country. And we should at every level at the level of voluntary agencies, political parties and people's representatives immediately try to attend to the problems of those of our brothers and sisters who are suffering under these difficult conditions.

But, Sir, I have to say with some reservation that the country started with drought and ended in floods. I started this discussion from flood and the House is now empty, - almost a drought.

20, 52 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July, 26, 1985, Sravana 4, 1907 (Saka)*