

- (vi) Need to connect National Highway No. 5 with National Highway No. 4 by constructing a road from Nayodupet to Chittoor.

DR CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : Sir, Madras-Bangalore National Highway (NH 4) touches Chittoor, National Highway Madras-Calcutta (NH 5) touches Nayodupet' about 100 kilometres from Madras. National Highways NH 5 and NH 4 may be connected, that is, Nayodupet to Chittoor may be connected with the pilgrim centre Tirupati. The cost may be borne by the Centre, and for widening of the road surface, the Transport Minister may release about Rs five crores.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to provide speedy relief to the victims of November, 1984 riots.

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, various parts of the country were hit by riots in November, 1984. The riot-struck people begged for justice. Though late, the Government did accept this request and Mishra Commission was set up to inquire into these riots. But this Commission has not been able to accomplish the task of inquiry with clarity and has left a number of doubts and apprehensions. Another Committee named Jain-Bannerjee Committee was appointed on 23rd February, 1987 to clarify these doubts. Delay in dispensing justice, in a way, encourages injustice. Three years have passed since the riots took place but there are no signs of justice being given to the justice-seekers. The shadows of uncertainty, distrust and frustration are looming large on them.

Therefore, my submission is that in order to ensure that the people continue to repose confidence and faith in justice and in the Government, riot victims of November, 1984 should not be made to wait for justice any more. The Government, therefore, should make such an arrangement that the Committee may now be able to dispense justice at the earliest. Besides, the Committee should also be provided all facilities by the Government, so that it could work

independently and punishment could be meted out to those responsible for riots.

[English]

- (viii) Need to fix responsibility for steep increase in the price of cough syrups

SHRI RAJ KUMAR RAI (Ghosi) : Sir, almost all major selling cough syrups have been price decontrolled. These are being marketed under brands having turn over of rupees two crores to seven crores each. These brands are enjoying the monopoly position. With the increase in mark up and decontrolling the prices of cough syrups, there will be steep increase in prices of cough syrups with brand names. It is not understood as to why these cough syrups have been price decontrolled when these are being used by common man of the country, and why the interest of producer has been looked after at the cost of poor people of the country when price control order is meant to safeguard the consumer's interest. I would therefore, request the Government to constitute a committee of Members of Parliament to find out if there is any collusion with the industrialists and if so, to fix responsibility therefor.

14 20 hrs.

[English]

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

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, we will go to next item, that is, item No 12 of the List of Business, that is, further discussion on the situation arising out of the Natural Calamities with particular reference to drought, floods and cyclone raised by Shri Dinesh Goswami on the 24th November, 1987.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Sir, yesterday it was decided that we would skip the lunch hour of the House and discuss this subject. I just want to remind the House that there is a little time left

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We had already decided that the hon. Minister would reply to the debate around 3 O'clock.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : In the last session, we had discussed this subject for 7 days. It was debated in the House for five days and I replied to the debate for two days.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Therefore, my request to the hon. Members is to be brief in their submission. The Member may take five minutes or so each. You may mention about the problems in your constituency and try to be brief. Please cooperate with the Chair. Now, Mr. V. C. Jain to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are having discussion on drought and flood. Most parts of the country have been hit by drought and flood. Out of 460 districts, 280 districts are effected by drought and the worst-hit States are Rajasthan and Gujarat. In Rajasthan, the worst-hit areas are my constituency Barmer, and Jaisalmer and Jodhpur districts.

I want to submit to the hon. Minister that he himself was in our district on a two day visit and he saw that the work of removing sand from the roads was going on and the situation was grim. He too felt that Barmer, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur in Rajasthan and Kutch and Mehsana districts in Gujarat were the worst effected areas in the country and, therefore, a separate provision should be made for them. These areas should be kept on a separate footing as compared to other States so far as granting drought relief is concerned. In this connection, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the Chief Minister of the State and Shri Titler visited there and the Secretary (Agriculture) Secretary (Finance) and Secretary (Development) met under the Chairmanship of Secretary

(Finance) and submitted the report to the Central Government. My submission is that the Central Government should take a speedy decision in this connection. The number of cattle in the area is fast depleting due to severe drought. Although cattle camps are being run, yet my submission is that the present amount of Rs. 4 per cattle for fodder should be increased to Rs. 5 per cattle. The cattle subsidy be raised from 75 per cent to 100 per cent and the cattle feed subsidy which is being given at present to scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and small and Marginal farmers should be given to all irrespective of whether they are living in rural areas or urban areas.

No useful work can be accomplished without material component. In the absence of material component, Rajasthan Government will get a bad name. Therefore, it is extremely essential that funds are given for material component. I had specially requested for my area Barmer and Jaisalmer and I repeat it once again that if work is started now, the useful work will not last for more than one month. 2.5 lakh labourers will be employed if construction of roads is started. Yet, this work will not last for more than one month. Even patch work will be over within a month. Therefore, I had requested that in order to face the situation there, Rs. 40 per head per month should be given. Half of this amount should be in the form of subsidy and the rest half in the form of loan. Keeping in view the odd conditions there, wheat should be supplied at the rate of rupees 1.55 per kilogram in the tribal area. Only then we shall be able to face the drought conditions. In view of the peculiar and adverse conditions in Rajasthan, the State should be given more aid in the form of grants as compared to other States because the Rajasthan Government is not in a position to return the Central Government's loan. The Rajasthan Government will be able to fight this horrible situation of famine, if you provide more assistance to this State as compared to other States.

On 1st September, 1987, when our Hon. Prime Minister visited there, he had said that employment would be given to

[Shri Virdhi Chander Jain]

two members of a family if the family consists of more than five members. On this basis, it is necessary to give employment to 40 lakh people there and for this purpose the Rajasthan Government has demanded Rs. 615.20 crores. Besides, the State Government's demand for Rupees 310 crores for cattle fodder is quite realistic. At the same time, problem of drinking water too is very acute. Water has to be brought from as far a distance as 10-15 kilometres. The water sent through the tanks is totally inadequate. In this connection, the change effected in the formula has brought benefit. The Government has not been able to remove the problem of scarcity of water in Udaipur, Jaipur, Ajmer, Beawar and Jodhpur, which are worst-hit by this problem. The Central Government will have to solve this problem by paying special attention to it.

Besides, I also want to say that people in the State will have to suffer from dreadful disease. In our area, death have occurred due to Gastroenteritis. Therefore, you will have to make arrangements there for medical facilities too. Along with this, you will have to set up I C D.S. blocks in every district. Only then you will be able to solve this problem.

With these words, I hope that the Central Government will be able to fight this severe problem with the resources it is raising through the reduction in defence expenditure and by taking loans from the World Bank and other countries. So far as the permanent relief is concerned, rupees 200 crores should be provided every year for Indira Gandhi Canal so that the construction could be completed within ten years and a permanent solution to famine could be found. With these words I conclude.

14.29 hrs.

[English]

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars) :
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are speaking about the drought prone areas and the flood and cyclone in our country. The

Government of India should know which are the drought prone areas and the flood areas in the country and perhaps the cyclone also is coming repeatedly every year, but the Government has no idea about all these things, no report at all on that and when it comes in a haphazard manner, it tries to solve the problem.

Sir, we have got here some areas which are affected by drought. Ten States have requested for relief on account of drought and cyclone, but the Government have not yet fulfilled their demand. Everybody knows the drought prone States. They are Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh. Every year perhaps this is a regular feature—occurrence of drought, and flood is coming in the eastern side. Sir, the Government must know that there must be a plan, there should be a scheme to meet the difficulties, to meet the floods and drought and other natural calamities. There must be some plan schemes to face all the difficulties and the relief materials should reach there immediately. We have, in India, 47 reservoirs but during this year, all the reservoirs have the water level less than 30% of the normal level. Even the irrigated areas, in our country, have been affected and production would come down. The Government have no knowledge of how much foodgrains our country needs every year. There must be some plan, as to what our people's needs are every year, like essential commodities, rice, wheat, eggs, meat, milk and all these things for the livelihood of human beings. There should be a plan of how much foodgrains we must need. Agriculture in our country is not at all planned. What we need must be first met. What the country's need must be met. Farmers are doing farming without any incentives. When they get more money, then only, they can grow more crops. For instance, you take sugarcane. When there is a big growth, you cannot sell it. Farmers are not getting the money at all. In this way, in a haphazard manner, agriculture is going on. You have no plan at all even after 40 years of independence, what the country's requirements are. There must be some plan. That is why, when drought or flood or cyclone occurs, people

are dying without food. In Orissa, though the Government denied, so many starvation deaths are taking place in the tribal areas. People have no clothes, no shelter. They are living just like animals there. This is the thing happening in India. So many big people, highest people are here and the poorest people are also here in India.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balasore) : I strongly protest against your version. How do you know it? Have you ever visited that area? How do you say people are living like animals? Have you ever visited that area? I strongly protest against it. These are all false.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : Then, you can speak the truth perhaps. I am challenging you to speak the truth. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Don't bring in controversy.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : You go to the people and ask the people. I challenge you to go and see in Kalahandi. (*Interruptions*).

You must be knowing which State is self-sufficient in food. You may be knowing. Perhaps the Government does not know. I ask the Government to find out the districts which are deficit in food. We have 416 districts in our country and every district must be provided with sufficient food in the district itself. Then, only, you will be able to solve the food problem. Unless you provide this, living conditions of the people would go down and people have to face problems when calamities like floods, cyclone and drought occur. Please have a plan on agriculture.

Please meet the requirements of funds for the projects which you have taken. For instance, in the North Bengal, there are 5 districts and the Teesta Barrage Project is pending. Rs. 250 crores are needed for it. But you have taken so many years and only Rs. 5 crores are given. It is because, West Bengal is not belonging to the Congress Government and there is a Left

Front Government and you want that that Government should be harassed. Only Rs. 5 crores have been given. If the requirements have been immediately met by giving full amount, that project can cover all the districts and all the five districts will be self-sufficient in food and everything. They could even feed the other parts of the country also, like Haryana and other places where agriculture is already developed. In North Bengal, 5 districts can be developed with this project. You should release the needed money immediately.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I feel that so far as the destruction caused by floods is concerned my constituency is the worst affected in the country. When I was in my constituency during floods, at one place villagers told me that 'Delhi is hard of hearing'.

[*English*]

Please listen to me carefully.

[*Translation*]

I felt hurt when they said this. Unfortunately our countrymen are not aware of the havoc caused by floods in North Bihar this year from August to October. Just because three-fourth of the country is affected by drought, people are paying no attention to the problem of floods. They think that flood has become a normal phenomenon in that part of the country and, therefore, there is no use paying attention to that. Never in the past 150 years has the flood situation been so critical as it is this time. I cannot describe the destruction caused by the flood. Belongings of 90 per cent of the people has been swept away in flood waters. Houses have collapsed and probably the death toll due to flood is far more than the deaths caused by drought. According to official figures, more than 1000 people have died of drowning and cholera or snake bites. Gentlemen, please try to understand the seriousness of this matter. The Opposition Members just laugh at this. They cannot understand this. I agree

[Dr. G S, Rajhans!]

that Assam is also experiencing terrible floods. In our area, people had to live in water for three months. There was constant rain from above while water had risen chest high from below. In your area the weather was hot while in North Bihar several people died of pneumonia simply because they did not have clothes and there was continuous rain all through the day and night. Therefore, please take this matter seriously.

I would also like to point out that unfortunately even the national newspapers did not send their correspondents to report on the plight of the people in flood-affected areas.

Ever since I was elected to this House, I have been saying that Nepal is the source of destruction for the people of North Bihar. There are no reservoirs there. Rivers originating from there flow through North Bihar causing destruction in their wake. No reservoirs or dams are being constructed there. I have suggested that those rivers should be tamed somehow. With all the electricity that will be produced from the proposed dams the whole scenario in Nepal and North India will change for the better. Nobody has paid any attention to this. This time disaster has struck North Bihar. When water receded, all it left behind in North Bihar was sand, on which nothing can be grown. I brought this to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister and it is his greatness that he went to North Bihar. He visited the area and saw for himself how truly grim the situation was.

The Prime Minister deputed Shri Rajesh Pilot there. He surveyed the area and saw the situation. The railway line was broken to pieces. At some places, the tracks had sunk 2-3 feet deep in the ground. Our Railway Department has made commendable efforts in laying railway tracks and restoring train services. But this is not a short term problem. Next year floods will strike again.

You must have read that at the SAARC summit the Hon. Prime Minister had taken

up the issue of ravage caused by rivers originating from Nepal. SAARC nations are discussing ways to control the rivers of Nepal. It is a different thing that there are no dams or reservoirs on these rivers. But we have come to know of a strange happening there. During last 2-3 years, all forests in Nepal have been cut. There is no way to hold back the water in the absence of forests. What will happen in future? The water coming from rivers in Nepal will cause deaths and destruction. North Bihar is the most thickly populated area in Asia. Where can the people of North Bihar run away from there? The Government has to consider these aspects.

I also spoke to Shri Dhillon and he was kind enough to visit Patna. I request him to visit North Bihar once and see the extent of destruction there. We cannot judge the gravity of the situation by sitting here in Delhi. (*Interruptions*) Don't you know his relatives were killed in Punjab and still he is sitting here. He should have been in Punjab but he is here. This is indeed praiseworthy. I request him to go to North Bihar also.

The second thing that I want to say is that the assistance given by the Centre has not reached the flood-affected people. 2½ kg. of wheat was given once.

I would request you that the Central Government should investigate through its Intelligence Department and find out the reason why relief supplies did not reach the people. Strict action must be taken against whosoever is involved—small or big, because the relief material meant for the poor has not reached the latter.

We repeatedly say in the House that the Rabi crop should be good. But uptil now neither seeds nor fertiliser has been received for the Rabi crop. Then how will the Rabi crop be grown? The reasons for it should also be found out.

I shall say one more thing in the end. The people there are being forced to take fertilizers and loans for house-building etc. only from the co-operatives. I am constrained to say that big sharks operate in these co-operatives. They will not let the

co-operatives function. They will exploit the poor people to the maximum. If the Government has to give a grant or loan it should give it directly, not through co-operatives.

I shall give you a small example. In Bihar, fertilizers and manure is made available through co-operatives. The colour of manure is similar to that of salt. Salt is quite cheap and manure is expensive. The officials of co-operatives supply salt to the people in the name of manure. This is causing damage to the fertility of the soil. (*Interruptions*)

I request you to send a team of experts from the Centre. Let it be a team of officers if you so desire. Let them find out the problems being faced by the people over there. During the times of floods, flood-affected people have survived by eating tree leaves. Floods have caused such a heavy damage that I have myself seen womenfolk, mothers and sisters without any clothes on their person and they were getting drenched in the rain. In this country, where we talk of big things, can we see such things happening? For no fault of theirs, those unfortunate people have been left to perish. I shudder at the thought of those people spending the winter season without shelter or clothing. How are they going to survive and what are they going to eat the next day?

Sir, all this presents a very painful picture. I would suggest that a team of 8-10 M.Ps. from this House should be sent to Bihar to see the sorry plight of the flood-affected people. On return they should suggest to the Government as to what should be done to solve this problem.

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, just now my colleague Shri Rajhans from Bihar, has apprised the House of the problems of Bihar in detail. While agreeing to with what he has said, I would like to say that today India is an agricultural country. While on the one hand we are suffering from drought, on the other hand, floods have caused incalculable devastation. If the drought hit areas are suffering from scarcity of water, the flood affected areas are suffering from

various other problems I represent Gopalganj Parliamentary constituency. Shri Rajhans has rightly said that never during the past 100 years has there been such a horrible flood. According to the report submitted to Government by the District Magistrate in my constituency, the damage in one district alone is estimated to be over Rs. 12 crores. If the estimate of damage in other district of my constituency is calculated, it will work out to billions of rupees and not crores.

It is the Rabi crop season now. After having surveyed my area I had hoped that the Government would pay attention to our agriculture since we have been effected by flood. But I regret to say that nothing of the kind has been done to that effect. You have made arrangements for giving loans through the co-operatives. I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to depute a Survey Team there from the Centre. He will find that even at the fag end of Rabi season, the farmers have neither got seeds nor fertilizer. Therefore, I am constrained to point out that your promises regarding raising the standards of living of the people affected by floods and drought, and making seeds and fertilizer available to all the farmers, have not been fulfilled yet. In the event of my allegation providing false, I am ready to face any punishment you may like to give me through this House

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to name any particular person, but would like to say that in Bihar such heavy-weights are dominating the co-operatives whom people consider the masters of the country and no Member from Bihar can dare to raise his voice against them in the House. A Minister in the Bihar Government had written in a file that the 'Biskoman' co-operative in Bihar cannot solve the problems, and therefore, the entire case should be referred to C B I. But these remarks have remained in the file only and nothing has been done. You still undertake relief work through the same 'Biskoman'.

I want to take you once again to my constituency Gopalganj. In my own constituency, unfortunately the death toll

[Shri Kali Prasad Pandey]

due to floods has reached fifteen. Announcements were made and people had hoped that the Government would definitely implement them. But if you go on making announcements in the Parliament—the Supreme House of the country—and those announcements remained only on paper, the farmer can never be benefited unless these announcements are actually implemented.

During the discussion in the House, all the hon. Members had said that in view of the problems caused by flood and drought, at least the repayment of Government loans should be waived. At that time you had agreed to consider the suggestion but despite the consideration, no Government assistance is being given.

Today when warrants of recovery are issued, persons come running to us. Some of the persons have taken loan as small as Rs. 500 or someone has taken loan for a tractor. But warrants are issued against them whereas there are such cases of people in Bihar who have pocketed millions of rupees from Bihar Government as well as Central Government through some institution, but the Government is not able to take any action against them. I want to submit that the plan of Gandak Irrigation Project was formulated during Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's time and it was to link Bihar with Uttar Pradesh. But the project has made no progress all these years. Now, when the people are in need of irrigation there, silting has taken place in the canal bed. When water passes through that canal, the bed of the canal rises so much that the water overflows in the fields. This has resulted in water-logging in thousands acres of land in the adjoining area. The biggest problem today is that a number of diseases have spread following this flood.

If the Government does not make necessary arrangements in predominantly agricultural areas in the countryside, the agricultural potential, whether in Rabi or any other crop, will definitely fall in the near future.

With these world, I would request that the grant sought by the Bihar Government should be sanctioned by the Central Government, so that relief could be provided to the flood victims.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak on the drought in the villages of Delhi. The drought condition in the villages of Delhi is so severe that in many villages, there is no water and even if it is available, it is too salty. Our hon. Minister Shri Dalbir Singh, Delhi's Chief Executive Councillor, Shri Jag Pravesh Chandra and Shri Baleshwar had all visited these villages together and had seen the conditions prevailing there. Even the khariff crop could not be raised there and there was no fodder for the cattle. We had promised them to arrange fodder for which Rs 60 per quintal were to be paid by them and the rest was to be taken care of by the Government, but no arrangement for that fodder has been done in the villages of Delhi so far.

There are no two opinion that wherever drought has struck, our Government has made adequate arrangements. The drought condition fifty years back was worse than the one prevailing now. At least no one is dying of starvation in India today, although the opposition Member do claim so. There is no doubt that Government has godowns full of good grains. But for how long can they last in such a drought? We must arrange for irrigation in the un-irrigated land.

I want to submit that Keshapur's and Najafgarh's drain-water falls in the Yamuna. If some drain is constructed for diverting this water to 20-25 villages, then we can fight the drought properly. Now-a-days irrigation is the only means of growing foodgrains since there is hardly any rainfall. The Government should sink tubewells wherever there is fallow land. Besides, it is our duty to see that tubewells are sunk through M.C.D and Delhi Administration in the lands which have no source of irrigation.

Farmers should be given loans to buy new tubewells. More the water available

for irrigating fields, more will be the crop yield. You might have seen that in every village the landless peasants are Harijans. I would urge you to give them loans to buy milch cattle. This would enable them to sustain themselves and their children. Another advantage of this is that larger quantity of milk would be available to the residents of Delhi.

More drinking water should be made available to the rural areas of Delhi. In our area, we have seen that people in villages get dirty water to drink. Therefore, arrangements be made to provide them potable water.

Fair-Price Shops are being run in different areas of Delhi. Poor people buy wheat, rice and sugar at cheap rates from these shops. The Government has also introduced mobile shops. For this I would like to thank the hon. Minister. We have lost our Khariif crop due to drought. Therefore, all facilities should be given to farmers to enable them to produce a good Rabi crop. You must see that they do not face shortage of any agricultural input. At the time of sowing and harvesting of crops, farmers should be given loans at low rates of interest. Grants should be given to re-sink those tube-wells where the level of water has gone down. In our area, the Najafgarh Drain contains a lot of water. This water can be supplied to Chhawla and Dhansa through motor pumps and can also be poured into the Dachaon Kalan tank. This will help in checking the water level from going down.

Besides, a 4 feet embankment should be constructed in each of the drains to hold the flow of water.

Our farmers work day and night in their fields. During this time, if power is not available to them or there is a power-cut, all their labour goes waste and the farmer is forced to sit idle. Therefore, power should be made available to them at cheap rates and at the right time. Some times it so happens that power transformers are not in stock. Four transformers should be installed in every village. I would suggest that items

like electric material, transformers, electric wires and poles should be made available at the district office. A head office should be opened there to attend to the complaints of farmers. If any farmer wants a new electricity connection for installing a tube-well, the new connection should be given within 15 days

You should ensure that farmers who work day and night in their fields get a remunerative price for their produce. The price that you offer them for their produce is not sufficient, even to meet their daily needs. I am of the view that when you fix the price for their crop, you should take into account the cost of inputs like water, seeds, fertilizer and other items. A reasonable price for the crop should be fixed after taking into account the cost of all these inputs including an adequate compensation for their labour.

In the end, I would like to point out that Rs. 16 crores allotted to Delhi has not been utilized till now. Fodder for cattle has not reached us so far. All poor Harijans, landless labourers and people belonging to backward classes should be supplied fodder for their cattle at the earliest.

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

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is already 3 O'clock now.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : From Rajasthan many Members have already spoken. (Interruptions). OK ; we will see and give half-an-hour more.

[Translation]

SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA (Sangrur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, many Members have expressed sadness while discussing the flood and drought situation. They have narrated

[Shri Balwant Singh Ramoowalla]

the problems arising out of these natural calamities in their respective States. Through you, I would like to tell the hon. Minister something about Punjab. The drought situation has challenged the country's farmers. My friend Shri Patel from Gujarat, has shown us photographs which show that lakhs of cattle-head have perished and a heavy destruction has taken place in Gujarat and elsewhere. Yet at every place farmers have fought against the drought. (*Interruptions*) When drought has hit Gujarat, the neighbourhood cannot remain unaffected. So in some parts of the country farmers have accepted the challenge of the drought situation.

15.01 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

I am presenting some figures relating to Punjab in this connection. Rs 37.5 crores were spent on boring and sinking tubewells and water was drawn up from the ground to combat drought. Similarly, paddy was sown in only 14 lakh hectares of land instead of 10 lakh hectares because it needs more water. If there is no water, then the fertiliser does not work effectively and weeds are not destroyed. The farmers needed more water to destroy weeds. More water was made available for this purpose. Rs. 37.5 crores were spent on boring and sinking tubewells this year. Likewise, 2.72 lakh tonnes of fertilizer was used last year. This time farmers in Punjab have used 3.02 lakh tonnes of fertilizer. Thus, the Punjab farmer had to put in greater manual labour. The total effect of this was that the cost of production of paddy and other crops rose by Rs 100 per quintal. But I am sorry to say that very little help was given from the Central exchequer and in many areas help from the Centre was almost negligible. In this context I would like to say three things to the Central Government. The Punjab farmer should be helped because after having fought the drought and despite a rise of Rs. 100 per quintal in the cost of production, he has been able to

get a higher yield of paddy than that of the last year. In spite of drought, the production of paddy has been higher than that of last year. How did this happen? Because farmers challenged the drought, incurred more expenditure, worked harder and used more fertilizer. Through you, I would request the hon. Minister that matching bonus formula should be worked out and bonus equivalent to the bonus given by the Punjab Government should be given from the Central exchequer to the farmers of Punjab, as they have not received any bonus from the Central exchequer.

Secondly, I would request that the Central Government should pay at least 5% if not the full amount, spent by the farmers on deep-sinking of tubewells.

Thirdly, the farmers have no capacity to repay the agricultural loans. I would suggest that in view of the drought, the repayment of agricultural loans upto Rs. 10,000, if not more, should be waived. This is my demand before you. Besides these three demands, I would also like to submit that we should cooperate with each other in order to face the drought. For example, we have fodder in our Punjab which can be transported to other States. Paddy-straw in huge quantity is also lying in Punjab. I have learnt that this fodder too is being demanded by some of the States. Therefore, as much cooperation as possible should be extended in this regard.

Having raised these three points, I conclude

[*English*]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) : Sir, we have seen after Independence that the Government has been taking action to help the farmers all these years. We have seen that the zamindari was abolished, land was given to the tiller, cooperative bank credit was made available to him at lesser rate of interest, fertilisers and high-yielding varieties of seeds were provided to him. But in spite of all these, even today the farmer has remained where he was earlier,

Sir, there are certain drought prone areas in this country. But the severe drought this year has spread, for the first time, to certain other areas. We find that the farmers in those areas have been crippled. What is the reason behind it? We have to think about it. We have been giving them subsidy. We have been giving them all the help at our command. We have given them electricity, water and loan for sinking wells. In spite of that, if the farmer feels that he cannot sustain even a year of drought what is the reason behind it? According to me, the real reason behind it is non-remunerative price that we have been paying all these years to the cultivator. When a man is doing some business for 40 years, how is it that he cannot face a single bad year? Can you imagine this thing? Even now in the first year of drought you are trying to give him all the help to make him stand on his legs. What are we giving him? Support prices. We thought of reconstructing our agriculture. But do you think these support prices will make him stand on his legs? It will never make him and allow him to stand on his legs. All the grains filled in the warehousing godowns have been taken from us at support prices and not at the prevailing prices. That is the reason of it.

I request you that the Government should pay enough attention to this and give us the 'real remunerative' prices as has been said in Latur by the Hon'ble Prime Minister. I hope, the Department of Agriculture will look into it.

Then, about the crop insurance. If it is crop insurance, how is it that this crop insurance does not cover the people who have taken loans? Do you still call it crop insurance? Why a man has to take loan just to get his crop insured? This is nothing but crop loan insurance. You are protecting the loan that you have given to the cultivator and his claim is also not accepted on many occasions. My taluqa is one of the victims. Politics is supreme there. Vendetta is allowed a free hand. In my constituency, when the whole constituency was insured, I received a letter from the Hon'ble Minister that there was no claim regarding the jowar failure. How can it be? Sir, Government of India is the

insurer. The GIC is the agent here. The district cooperative bank is the agent of the GIC. If these agents fail, are you going to leave us to someone else's mercy? If you are not going to take the responsibility for us, then who will take it? After all, you are the government and not an individual not one department. Don't think that you are the only insurer and, therefore, you cannot take any action. This is not the single case of Kinwat, District Nanded Ahmedabad where the tribals live but there are cases in Ahmedabad district like Patri where we hear that since the present MLA defeated the President of the District Co-operative Bank, so the District Co-operative Bank took care that the insurance claim of that taluka was not accepted, I am afraid that something of this kind has happened in case of Kinwat Taluka also. I would request the hon. Minister to kindly inquire into this matter and not to give me such letters. You say that you have sent a team of experts. I will bring my cultivators and show you what all we have undergone. Year before last year, only 3000 people were working on the EGS. Last year more than 10,000 people had been attending to these work where drinking water difficulty and several other difficulties were there. With this sort of crop loan insurance, are you going to help us? Do you think that you are helping us? It is only lip sympathy. Your efforts are not full hearted. That is why, I tell you to hold an inquiry wherever the claims of the cultivators have not been accepted. You must call the MLAs, you must call the MP, you must call the local people and if you find that the GIC and the District Co-operative Bank have played the mischief, you should punish them. Do not allow these banks to play with our lives.

Thirdly, I would say that in some parts of Maharashtra, we have been facing drought for the fourth year. I would request the hon. Minister to give us help in time. Of course, they have been giving. They have been giving something. We need this help earlier because you have said that the plan allocation will be cut by $7\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. The provident fund is not available to us and under these circumstances, I earnestly request to look into all the three aspects and help us.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. AYUB KHAN (Jhunjhunu) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak. First of all, let me express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister on behalf of the people of Rajasthan and on my personal behalf that of all States, he visited Rajasthan first to assess the famine situation in the State. The severe famine situation in Rajasthan notwithstanding, the State Government has promised that it will not let any person die of hunger. However, besides famine, there are other problems facing the State. I am also grateful to the hon. Minister who visited Rajasthan and apprised himself of the famine situation in the State.

Firstly, I would like to say that in view of the horrible famine situation in Rajasthan, the normal rules governing the quantum of assistance to be given to the State should be amended. The Central Government has given only 50 per cent of the assistance and the State Government has been asked to bear the remaining 50 per cent. I would request that instead of this, the Central Government should provide cent per cent assistance. The assistance which the Centre has given so far does not include a single rupee for material component. Material component should be included in the assistance, otherwise, the entire money will go waste.

At present, the Government of Rajasthan is procuring 300 truck loads of fodder from outside the State for which the Central Government has given 75 per cent transportation concession. This transportation concession should be increased to 100 per cent so that the people could transport fodder easily. You have fixed assistance at the rate of Rs 3 per cattle for Gaushalas. In my opinion Rs 3 is totally inadequate. It should be raised to Rs 6 per cattle. There is acute shortage of fodder in the State. I would particularly request the hon. Minister about Jhunjhunu area that he should arrange to set up two projects for fodder there so that the problem of cattle fodder in Jhunjhunu and Sikar areas could be solved.

Secondly, Haryana is an adjoining State to Rajasthan and canal water reaches the farthest corner of Haryana, but this canal water is not supplied to Jhunjhunu which borders Haryana and, as a result, the people of that area pine for even drinking water. This is so in spite of the fact that there is a scheme of Ganga-Yamuna Canal named after Jawaharlal Nehru for supply of water to Jhunjhunu. My submission is that water should be supplied to Jhunjhunu so that drinking water problem could be solved and the people could heave a sigh of relief. Although there are limited resources at the disposal of the State Government of Rajasthan, yet it is grappling with the problem. In such a situation, the State Government has been able to provide relief work only to 13 lakh people. But this number is very low, 30 to 40 lakhs of people should be engaged in relief work. Then only the people of Rajasthan will get some relief. Whatever assistance the Central Government provides to the State should be sanctioned without any delay so that the people could feel that the relief works are being undertaken speedily. This would especially help in solving the electricity problem which would provide relief to the farmers and the common man during famine. Rajasthan has been hit by famine for four years in succession. The Central Government should consider writing off the loans of the farmers in the State. Today, they are in such a miserable condition that they can neither purchase fodder nor food because they have no money. The Government should waive the payment of interest on loan in respect of those farmers who have repaid the principal amount. At the same time, arrangement should be made to provide them fertilizer and seed for the next crop so that the people could feel that the Government is giving them assistance. The credit for this should go to the Government. I shall be grateful to the hon. Minister if he could give permission to set up a fodder plant at Jhunjhunu so as to overcome the fodder problem. One more thing that I want to say is that out of the aid that is being given by the Centre to the State Government of Rajasthan, 50 per cent is being given as loan and the rest 50 per cent as assistance. Instead of this, the entire

amount should be given as relief because Rajasthan is in the grip of severe famine successively for four years. The famine has totally crippled the people. But brave as they are, the people of Rajasthan are fighting the situation with courage. They are every inch patriots and they take the famine as curse of God which needs to be faced bravely. But I must request the hon. Minister that whatever assistance the Central Government has to provide to the State Government, it should be provided urgently.

In the end, I want to say that water level in hilly areas of Udaipur Vati and Khetri in Jhunjhunu district has gone down considerably. Therefore, Government should arrange to dig deep wells and also provide canal water there.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI ASUTOSH LAW (Dum Dum) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. The question that we are discussing today is the situation arising out of the natural calamities with particular reference to floods, droughts and cyclones. In a country like ours with such topography and geographical conditions, we have to learn to live with natural calamities and natural hazards.

Since these cannot be totally eradicated, as I said, we have to learn to live with them. In our vast country, while one part is affected by floods, at the same time the other part is affected by drought and sometimes cyclones also. We will have to find out ways and means how to combat with these natural calamities so that in future in our country we can live with them with minimum sufferance.

If there is no rain, it is drought, and if there is excessive rain, there are floods. Therefore, the important factor is rain. We will have to try to control rain water so that when the occasion arises, we can divert excess rain water to the drought affected areas and in case there is no rain, we can even create rain. It is a very complicated process, I can appreciate that

it is not so simple thing to combat with nature.

Since we are now approaching towards the end of the 20th Century, we should have all the modern scientific technology in India. People working in different departments are very efficient and I think the time has come when we can think of having a Central body which can do the round the clock monitoring work throughout the year. We know which part of the country is drought prone and which part is flood prone. Similarly, we also know which coastal part of India is cyclone prone. The people who are entrusted to look after all these things also know the time of its occurrence. So, I would suggest that we should bring all natural calamities namely floods and drought under one umbrella, under one head and establish one Central body which will monitor them throughout the year. This is the only way with which we can combat the natural calamities.

We cannot ignore rural India. We will have to think about the people of rural India, and most important sections of our country, i.e. cultivators, the farmers, etc. They are the real beneficiaries. A substantial part of the money, even I should say if a single 'naya paise' that is spent for the development of India, should go to their benefit. They should be considered as the real beneficiaries of our country.

Sir, there are various fields, like the animal welfare, fodder production, food production, nutrition, water, irrigation management, etc. towards which we have to pay our attention. These areas are attached to various Departments like the Agriculture Department the Irrigation and water management and feed department etc. and they function through the different Ministries and different Departments. So, my suggestion is, that these departments should be brought under one umbrella so that immediately whenever the occasion will come, they can easily functions to feed the need of each other and also to give warning to the people and take positive steps to solve the problem. Sir, with these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY (Mahbubnagar) : Having regard to the paucity of time, I do not intend to cover the whole gamut, nor do I intend to concentrate on my constituency. Sir, I want to confine myself only to two points. One point has already been touched upon by Shri Rathod, i.e. about the Crop Insurance Scheme. The Hon. Minister should know that this Crop Insurance Scheme has been more honoured in the breach than in observance. Sir, in practice it is a fraud and a farce. Some of the farcical aspects of the scheme have already been referred to by the hon. Member, Shri Rathod. Firstly, as has been pointed out earlier, the scheme is open only to loanees and not to every farmer. This is the severe limitation. And, secondly, Sir, any loanee, a person who wants to take loan either from the co-operative institution or from the bank, has no option in the matter. He must necessarily pay the insurance sum. I do not know why it is made compulsory when the implementing machinery has not been properly devised.

Sir, as and when the crop is lost through natural calamity, it is not the farmer who is taken as the unit but the whole tehsil; in the case of Andhra Pradesh it is Mandal which is treated as the unit. I do not know why the insurance sum is collected from various individuals. Prof. Rangaji would also testify to the facts I am referring to.

Sir, in the case of flood, the flood does not cover the whole taluk. It sometimes mercifully covers only a part of the taluk. If a part of the taluk is covered by floods, then the insurance relief is denied to that part, on the ground that the whole taluk is not covered by the floods. It is a paradoxical position that the Insurance Authorities are taking.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur) : They will arrange for the expunction of the villages !

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur) : Village must be made the unit.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : As Prof. Rangaji has pointed out, village at least must be made the unit. In fact, the effort

should be directed towards the goal of making the farmer himself as the ultimate unit of insurance scheme.

I may also refer in passing to the norms of insurance payment. The norms themselves have been severely diluted. The relief provided is marginal, to the point of being nominal and illusory.

Sir, I now come to the second point, that is regarding the eligibility criteria imposed by the NABARD and the RBI for financing the cooperative credit institutions. The eligibility criteria have been divided into four categories. The first category is regarding such banks that have a recovery performance of more than 75 per cent. Those banks or those cooperative institutions have access to unrestricted lending. But in regard to the other three categories, lending is restricted and it is linked to the recovery performance. In regard to such banks that have a performance rate of less than 50 per cent in respect of recovery, the financing has been totally stopped. Sir, when areas are affected by severe drought or floods, I would like to know how the recovery performance in those areas can be very high. And if you want to help the farmers affected by natural calamities, be it drought or flood, how do you link it to the recovery performance? Therefore, there is a need for us to scrap these eligibility criteria at least in areas which are affected by either drought or flood.

The eligibility criteria are leading to further accentuation of regional imbalance. Take the case of Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has fixed that 40 per cent of the finance which comes through NABARD for Andhra Pradesh should go to Telangana. But the district banks in the Telangana region are not able to avail of this facility because of the eligibility criteria. Sir, while computing the recovery performance, the NABARD is not prepared to take into consideration the assistance extended by the State Government to individual farmers as a part of the larger policy in the form of interest waiver and interest rebate. In Andhra Pradesh, the State Government was good enough to extend this assistance to all the farmers but the assistance given by the State

Government to individual farmers in respect of their cooperative loans is not being taken into consideration for calculating the recovery performance.

Recently, the RBI has directed that the loans be rescheduled in drought affected areas ; particularly in those areas which are affected by drought for more than three years. But this reschedulement can take place only for three occasions and not more than three occasions. Our State along with many other States in the country has been affected by drought for the fourth successive year. So, therefore, I plead that the reschedulement facility should not be restricted to three occasions but it could be extended to more number of occasions.

Lastly I have only one submission to make. Crop loans are given either by the commercial banks or co-operative credit institutions. You admit that either through drought or flood the crop has been lost. I am therefore pleading that in such cases the Government of India should come forward boldly with the proposal for waiving or writing off the crop loans. I am not saying that this is in respect of the long term solution. I am pleading that this proposal of writing off short term loans should be seriously considered in case of such areas which are affected either by drought or by flood

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR (Kutch) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, a large part of India has been affected by drought this year. Our learned friends have given a number of suggestions regarding floods and drought. I shall not speak much and shall not take much time of the House. We are proud that Government of India, the State Governments and the voluntary institutions are unitedly facing this challenge and I, therefore, express my thanks to them. Our learned friends have just now talked about a number of policy matters. Dr. Rajhans has just now said that his area is very much affected by floods. Similarly my area of Kutch is also affected by drought. I would like to speak about my constituency. Hon. Prime

Minister, his wife, Shrimati Sonia, hon. Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Yogendra Makwana, Shri Bhajan Lal and Kumari Saroj Khaparde had visited our area. I would like to express my thanks to them all. There is acute problem of drinking water in Gujarat and my area of Kutch. Water is not available due to drought. With the help of the World Bank and through Narmada Pipe line, this work should be undertaken immediately. Through you, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that there is problem of drinking water in my area of Kutch and a Central team had visited the area. The team has also accepted the fact that in the entire country, Kutch is the worst-affected area which has always been facing the problem of drinking water. During the last forty years, this area has been affected by drought for 32 years. Through Narmada Pipe line, not only drinking water should be supplied, but water should also be supplied in the canals so that farmers could use it for irrigation. Kutch and Saurashtra have a long sea coast. I would like to request that a plant should be set up for converting sea water into potable water and Kutch as well as Saurashtra region should be supplied drinking water from this plant. The hon. Agriculture Minister had agreed to my plea and had accepted my suggestions. I am fully confident as I am saying this in the House that he would definitely do something for the people of the area. I have submitted a memorandum with the request to supply water from other rivers. I do not want to repeat that. I had also said in the last session that till water from Narmada river is made available and sea water is converted into potable water, you should make some efforts to supply water from other rivers.

I have submitted a memorandum to the Hon. Prime Minister. I would also like to say something about the cattle problem. In this connection, the decision of the Central Government to provide Rs. 3.50 as subsidy is not proper. It is very meagre amount. The Central Government has admitted that there are certain areas where more subsidy would have to be given. When the Government has admitted the fact, more amount should be

[Shrimati Usha Thakkar]

paid as subsidy. I have come to know that the Government is going to sanction Rs. 5 as subsidy. You have taken a decision. It is very good, if such a decision has been taken. Just now Shri Viridi Chander Jain was saying that more amount should be sanctioned for his area. I would also like to submit that in the areas of Banaskantha, Mehsana and Jamnagar etc., the problem is particularly severe. Therefore, Rs 5 as subsidy for each cattle should be immediately sanctioned.

Sir, secondly, I would like to speak about the voluntary organisations. Some charitable institutions have come forward on this occasion and are spending money and providing help also. Through this House, I would like to appeal to the Chief functionaries of such organisations that they should properly monitor the work which they are doing in consonance with the Indian culture after taking so much pains in the desert areas. The Central Government should appoint one person for every group of 50 or 100 cattle to monitor properly the subsidy of Rs. 5/- being spent on each cattle and to ensure that fodder is given to every cattle, besides other related matters. The expenditure on such persons should be borne by the Central Government.

The Government has spent a large sum of money on providing electricity to the farmers, but our area of Kutch is a very large area and it is secluded from the rest of the country. Electricity lines running in two hundred kilometres are there and that is why occurrence of fault is a common thing. As a result, the farmers have to face a lot of difficulty. I would, therefore, like to submit to you that a Lignite based Thermal Power Station should be immediately set up there. Wind farm should also be set up there. This work could also be done very easily there by making use of solar energy. I have also requested the hon. Minister in this regard. Wind always blows in Kutch at a speed of 20 kms. per hour throughout the year whether it is summer or winter. Therefore, you should instal

one wind farm for every 8 or 10 farmers. It requires 3 or 4 lakhs of rupees for installing a wind farm, and, therefore, 25 or 30 per cent subsidy should be given to the farmers. If such type of small wind farms are set up there, it would be very useful for our area of Kutch. Government would also be benefited thereby. Farmers would also be saved from the trouble which they face when a fault takes place in a line. In this way, the farmers and the Government both will be benefited.

In Kutch area, about 97,000 persons are working as labourers under your programmes. I would like to appeal to you that they should be supplied wheat at the rate of Rs. 1.55 as was being supplied to them earlier. In my area which is only 32 kms. away from Pakistan border, the people have demanded that the persons engaged in relief works should be provided wheat. I would also appeal to you that you should provide wheat to them.

Keeping in view the special situation of Kutch. I would like to submit to you that under Article 371(2) of the Constitution, a Development Board was constituted for Kutch. You are making efforts to undertake permanent measures. You also asked the Governor to remain there for 3 or 4 days. He has also agreed that Kutch has become a cursed area since the water of Sindhu river has stopped reaching there. Hon Shri Jawaharlal Nehru had accepted this fact, the Government has accepted this fact and our Prime Minister has also accepted this fact. He had visited Kutch twice in a year. We were given certain rights and hon. Indiraji had declared in this House that a Development Board would be constituted for Kutch, but Janata Government came to power in 1977 and you know that Janata Government had revoked that decision. Whatever Indiraji had done was revoked by the Janata Government. The Janata Government had come to power just to revoke all the good decisions of Indira Gandhi Government. As a result Kutch had to suffer a huge loss. The provision which was made for us and rights which were given to us were snatched away.

I would like to request you that the declaration which was made by our

revolutionary leader, Shrimati Indira Gandhi should be implemented by our young Prime Minister.

I would like to speak a bit for women also. I want to speak about the handicrafts for women.

[English]

SHRI D.B. PATIL (Kolaba) : Mr. Chairman, we are discussing a very serious situation here. If there is no rainfall, we say we cannot help it ; if there is heavy rainfall, we say we cannot help it. It is true to that extent only. But if we take into consideration the action which is being taken to meet the situation created by drought and floods, we will find that thousands of crores of rupees have been spent till today and still we are facing the same problems.

One the one hand, it is being said that the Central assistance is too meagre, so far as the demand of the States is concerned ; on the other hand, it is being said that the money spent on the relief measures is not being properly used. All these things are correct. So far as the need of the States is concerned, it is very important and assistance given by the Central Government is very meagre.

I quote from the papers of my own State---the Government of Maharashtra---this is the fourth consecutive drought in Maharashtra (October 1986 to June 1987). In some of the districts in Maharashtra, so far as drought is concerned, in Maharashtra, since October 1986 to June 1987 (the year 1987 is not yet complete) the Government of Maharashtra has spent Rs. 86 crores for supplying drinking water from their own sources and the assistance of the Central Government is only to the extent of Rs 9.70 crores. It clearly shows that the burden on the State Plan is too heavy ; and since the burden is too heavy, the other plans suffer in the State. Therefore, I would suggest at this moment that the central assistance for drought relief should be given not as advance plan assistance but as outright grant outside the plan so that the annual plans of the State do not get distorted and the overall

developmental efforts are not thwarted on account of cut in the plan size. So far as assistance for drought is concerned, the same practice is applied by the government, that is there is a limit for certain margin money ; and if the limit is crossed, then the government gives assistance by way of loan, and that assistance given by way of loan is cut from the State plan fund. That means it is going to affect the Plan funds adversely. So it should be taken into consideration.

Then about the relief that is given to the labourers, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what wages the actual labourers are given when they are working on the drought relief works. According to a report they hardly get Rs 3 or Rs. 4 per day. There are some instances where they hardly get Rs. 4 or Rs. 5 per day. In some cases it is on daily work basis, it is not given on wage basis. If the man is strong enough he may get more. (*Interruption*).

PROF. N.G. RANGA : Are they not given two meals or one meal a day in addition to Rs 2/- ?

SHRI D.B. PATIL : Some people are getting. In many States, no.

PROF. N.G. RANGA : In addition to two meals, are they not getting ?

SHRI D.B. PATIL : Yes, They are not getting. I would like to suggest that the wages that are being given to the workers working in the relief works should be increased.

Then, about cattle. There are so many instances, particularly in Rajasthan and Gujarat where thousands of cattle are dying. Not only cattle are dying, people are also dying. In Orissa there were starvation deaths. When it was raised it was contested by the Members from Orissa. I would challenge it, whether a Committee of the Legislature was appointed, headed by the Speaker or not ? It was appointed. That Committee has indicted the Orissa Government in clear terms that the starvation deaths had occurred. The Assembly Committee has indicted the Orissa

[Shri D.B. Patil]

Government for this. Some Members of the Orissa Government are trying to contradict this. The Comptroller and Auditor General has complained about the Orissa Government that in 1980, from 1980 to 1985, funds allocated for flood relief were diverted for beautifying Bhubneshwar and constructing the ring road of Cuttack and for the elephant sanctuary in other places. I am not saying this. The Comptroller and Auditor General has mentioned this, that the funds meant for the flood relief have been diverted like that. If such things are happening who is going to look into this matter? The Central Government should look into this, because the Central Government is responsible for it. This is a remark of the C&AG and on this no action has been taken so far as my knowledge goes. (*Interruption*)

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : I am on a point of order. I want to know from the hon. Member from which report he is quoting. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let me listen to his point of order.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA : I want to know. (*Interruption*). When he is making allegations against the State Governments or a particular person or Ministry, he should have produced the authenticated document before you, before making certain type of allegations. There is no basis, nothing of the sort. He is making unnecessary allegation based on Press Reports. Does he want to say that whatever is coming out in Press is all correct publicity to it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : There is no point of order. If it is a personal allegation it is all right to say. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do not make any allegations against the State Government.

SHRI D.B. PATIL : I am not making any personal allegations. It is against the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Proceed.

SHRI D.B. PATIL : Then about crop insurance. It has been mentioned by some friends that it should be introduced at the earliest for crops which are sown twice. This crop insurance is now limited to farmers who take loan only. So far as the crop loans are concerned all sorts of crop loans are paid well in time. I fail to understand how converting their sort term loans into medium term loans, crop loans into medium term loans is going to be help them how is it possible for the farmer to repay the loan and from which crop, he will repay the loan? His crop has been totally lost. He has no means of livelihood for that particular year. You are saying even though you have lost your means of livelihood, you have to repay the loan. How is he going to repay it? I would urge upon the Government to waive the crop loans completely and totally because it is not fair on the part of the Government to ask the agriculturists and the farmers to repay the loan, by which he has not benefited at all as he totally lost the crop for the particular years.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Sir, I want to level an allegation that the funds being received in the name of drought relief by the Governments ruled by the opposition parties are being misused whereas our colleagues in the opposition allege that the Central Government is not providing them adequate help. The question is not whether the State Governments are spending the funds properly or how much help is being given. The real question is whether the help which is being given is being utilised properly or not and whether the purpose for which the help is being given is being fulfilled even partially or not. This is the sowing season and farmer requires seeds, but he is not getting quality seeds. The Central Agency or State Agencies are unable to supply seeds in time and the farmers are finding it difficult to undertake sowing operations of Rabi crop. The hon. Minister should keep this in mind.

The irrigational means like canals are lying breached and due to shortage of funds, repair work has not been under-

taken. Even seasonal repair which should have been undertaken has not been initiated as the Department is short of funds. Who would look after this matter? If repair is not done right now and the farmer is not provided the irrigational facilities, it would have adverse effect on Rabi Crop. Half of our pumps are lying out of order and the rest half have not been energised. The pumps are either lying out of order or repair work is not being undertaken or some pumps have not been energised, but the bureaucracy is not coming forward to look to this aspect.

Many of our friends have referred to the Drinking water crisis. The reference to Saurashtra was made with a great emphasis. Today one of our sisters has spoken about the situation in Saurashtra region and Rajasthan. Similar situation has also developed in certain parts of Uttar Pradesh as well.

In area like ours, which was less drought prone, new water sources did not erupt due to drought, as a result of which all drinking water schemes are not working. The taps are dry and the scarcity of water has forced the people to walk as long a distance as 7 to 8 kms. to fetch water. It appears that more difficult days are ahead when the summer sets in and in order to meet the situation, schemes should have been formulated right now but no such schemes are being formulated. When we approach the State Government in this regard, they simply reply that they do not have requisite funds for them. I would like to submit that the Centre should provide separate funds for solving drinking water crisis and if need be, some amount out of the amount which is to be given to the State Governments in the next year of the current five year plan, be given to the State Governments right now as an advance so that they could utilise it for formulating their new schemes and we could face the drinking water crisis which is imminent in the coming summer.

You have put a condition for utilising the money provided by you. The condition is that only labour-oriented works and

earth work, etc. can be done with it so that more and more labourers could be accommodated. This idea, no doubt, is very good, but the roads, which have already been constructed under N.R.E.P. or R.L.E.G. schemes are now being repaired under its cover and earth work is again being done on those roads and full measurement is being taken for them. If it rains, entire earth work will be washed away, leaving those roads in their original condition. The money which you have provided will also be drained off along with rain water. Had you kept some scope for material components, some concrete work would have been done. If there is any possibility of decrease in plan expenditure or getting sufficient funds, some provision should be made for material component also. I would like to submit once again that you should create an agency to administer the amount given for afforestation under I. R. D.P. and N.R.E.P. At present, an agency is there for 20-point programme but this agency functions as an advisory Committee only. Bureaucrats dominate in this Committee. They are spending the money arbitrarily and there is no control over them.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has given assurance from the rampart of the Red Fort that the Government would give every assistance to face the drought situation. Although, work relating to providing assistance is being undertaken on war footing, yet in reality what is being done? You are distributing money like post-office, but the bureaucrats sitting in the agency, which is responsible for implementing the scheme at lower level, are spending the amount arbitrarily and the people are looking forward to us that we, M.Ps and M.L.As. will do something for them. But I am not in a position to understand as to where is our participation in it. I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to take up this matter with the State Governments and the Chief Ministers, and the bureaucracy should be tightened so as to ensure our real participation. Only then, we can fulfil our obligations and make the people realise that the people's representatives have lived up to their expectation at this critical situation of drought.

SHRI SHANTI DHARIWAL (Kota) : Mr. Chairman, Sir I will take only two minutes and will not repeat what my previous speakers have already said. Rajasthan, from where I come, has 27 districts and all the districts are reeling under severe drought. I do not say that you should not provide so much assistance to other State or provide so much assistance to our State, but I would certainly like to say that we have a very experienced leader as incharge of this Ministry. I urge upon him that timely and adequate assistance should be provided to Rajasthan. It will not be fair that Rajasthan, whose 27 districts are drought affected, is given assistance equal to the amount given to the state where only 6-7 districts are drought affected. It is my request that the efforts should be made to provide timely and adequate assistance to Rajasthan.

Many problems have been created due to this drought. For example, half of the tehsil of my Parliamentary constituency are drought affected and the remaining half are under Command Area where sugarcane is produced. As a result of scarcity of fodder in Rajasthan, the price of fodder has soared as high as Rs. 45 to Rs. 65 per quintal, while the support price of sugarcane is Rs 22 or Rs. 23 per quintal. As a result, entire sugarcane crop of the area is being utilised as fodder instead of sending it to the sugar mills. I think this will pose a serious problem in future when sugarcane will not be available to sugar mills, thereby causing steep increase in the price of sugar. In such circumstances, I urge upon the Government to increase the support price of sugarcane as soon as possible so as to check this trend, lest sugarcane should be used as fodder and our sugar mills are deprived of sugarcane.

16.00 hrs.

Secondly, the Eighth Finance Commission has directed that the entire portion of financial assistance given to the States by the Centre be treated as grant and this is binding on the Government. There is no need to reconsider it, but you must look into the manner in which bureaucrats interpret the above directive. The

same procedure has been in vogue for the last so many years in those States also which are suffering from severe drought. If you want to follow the same procedure, it will be of no use. If you want to keep the States which have been hit by drought successively for the last four to five years on the same footing in the matter of giving assistance, and will continue to follow the same procedure of sending central team, which after enjoying 3 to 4 days of sight-seeing and moving here and there, would recommend the financial assistance according to the degree of lavish entertainment offered to them by the respective State Governments, you keep this procedure for yourself and provide adequate money to Rajasthan. You should provide money for the remaining works. You do not give money for material components and earth work, as a result of which the entire earth work, road construction work is going waste. Government money is being wasted.

Sir, through you, I requested the Government and the hon. Minister that he should keep this in mind and make available funds to Rajasthan for material components also alongwith wage component. Till now, the Central Government has given Rs. 37 crores to Rajasthan, which is totally inadequate. It is like a drop in the ocean. The Rajasthan Government has demanded an amount of Rs. 434 crores and if you do not provide this much of amount, Rajasthan Government as well as Central Government will earn a bad name.

With these words, I urge upon you to provide assistance to Rajasthan Government without any further delay and particularly the share of material component may be made available.

SHRI MOHD. MAHFOOZ ALI KHAN (Etah) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, drought problem is a major problem of the country. A lot of discussion has already taken place on it and nothing fruitful will be served by repeating the same thing time and again. But I would like to say a few words.

As hon. Shri Harish Rawat has rightly said that you have given assistance to the

States and allocated money to them, but it is a different matter what kind of survey was undertaken by your central team and what sort of report was given to you by them. So far as I understand, Uttar Pradesh, which is the biggest State of India, was not given that much of assistance as it deserved to face the drought situation. The manner in which the financial assistance given for floods, is being utilised is totally improper. Shri Rawat has rightly said in this regard. Earth work has been undertaken on the roads which were already constructed. Not only this, there is virtually a dictatorship of the heads and Pardhans there. They are doing it in the manner they like, so much so that percentage is fixed in work, there is no benefit from the money given by you. It is being wasted like water. I support what Shri Rawat has said in this regard. In place of small roads, which should have been constructed, roads have been constructed at different places on political consideration by the 'Pardhans'. No attention is being paid to the roads which are yet to be constructed and the problem has been continuing for the last so many years. Even after 40 years of Independence the condition of the country is so pitiable. But it is said that the country is making fast progress, new bridges and projects are coming up.

16 04 hrs.

[SHRI N. VENKATA RATNAM
in the Chair]

It is my humble request to you that you stop all other work and solve the problem of flood only. If you do it, this problem will be solved for ever. Telegrams to this effect start pouring in from officers soon after rainy season starts saying that the river Ganga is flooded, make arrangement for it. A lot of money is pent on it, but permanent solution is not found. Unless you find a permanent solution to it, there will be no benefit from it. You are spending money without any rhyme or reason. The country is going to drains. The people are suffering. This drought has affected only those 80 per cent people of the country who live in the countryside but if you go to Connaught Place in New Delhi, you will not find any effect of

drought there. Shops are crowded there, doing roaring business and on the other hand, even a quilt is not available to the poor people in the countryside to cover their body. They use paddy straw as their sleeping bed. This is their condition today. There is no impact of any such thing in the cities. The capitalist and the highly-paid officers are enjoying a great deal in celebrations and are doing a lot of shopping of clothes and woollens. But just look at the condition of the 80 per cent population living in villages who are instrumental in installing and dethroning the Governments. In the winter season, they just sit around the fire to warm themselves and criticise the Government. It is all right that you gave them money, but as Shri Harish Rawat has said, this merely opens another gate of income for the bureaucracy who are quite lucky to get monetary gains whenever any problem arises. The poor people, on the other hand, never get the money. I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture who is sitting here, that Uttar Pradesh which is a very big State, should be given money according to the loss suffered by it and the State Government be instructed to make proper use of that money. The people who have actually suffered should get the money. As of now, it is being pocketed by others and no work is being done. The poor person is crying for help. I would request you to ensure that the right persons get the money.

With these words, I conclude and request you once again to try to implement the suggestions I have given in this regard.

SHRI VISHNU MODI (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the disease has aggrarated with each dose of medicine. It is the irony of fate that even after 40 years of independence our country is still reeling under the severest famine of the century. On the other hand, the country is in the grip of flood. It is our misfortune that 70 per cent of the fields in our country are still dependent on monsoon. In the event of failure of monsoon, the production potential is badly effected. Today these 70 per cent fields contribute 50 per cent of the total foodgrain production. A lot of

[Shri Vishnu Modi]

progress has been made in the field of developing quality seeds after Independence but nothing has been done to bring the dry land under irrigation. On the one hand, destruction is being caused due to floods and on the other hand, fields are lying dry due to drought. This has happened because we have tried to imbalance the environment by indulging in deforestation and other such things and our planning has basically gone wrong somewhere, as a result of which these natural calamities are befalling the country. I want to submit to the hon. Minister through you, that two-third area of Rajasthan is desert area and the rest of it comes under semi-arid zone. The Aravalli hill range in Rajasthan divides the desert area and the semi desert area. Through this House, as also by writing to the Prime Minister, I have submitted that of the three gaps in the Aravalli Range, two are near Ajmer. Through these gaps the desert is marching towards the semi-arid zone not only in Rajasthan but also towards Delhi and Uttar Pradesh. If these gaps in the Aravalli hill range are not filled, the remaining areas of Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi and Haryana will also be converted into desert.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today 38 lakh families in Rajasthan are in the grip of famine and the Central Government is providing employment for only 13 lakh people. My submission is that you will not be helping them in the true sense unless at least two members of a drought-struck family are given employment. I want to request you in the most humble words that your scheme of wage component, which envisages that the drought struck people will get employment and will be helped, is only causing more loss. I want to tell my colleagues that if instead of getting the earth work done, these families are given cash, at least the money being spent on Government machinery, comprising engineers, etc. will be of saved. Since this work will not be any benefit and the money is simply being wasted, you should rather give grant in cash instead of spending it on such things. This will surely benefit the people. You will spend crores

of rupees on this work but you will not be able to do anything worthwhile to face this drought situation.

Besides, I want to point out that in my constituency, Ajmer, drinking water is supplied only once in four days. Some water is available from the hand pumps, but even those hand pumps will go dry by February-March and in that situation water cannot be made available from anywhere because the only sources of water then available will be the Rajasthan Canal which is at a distance of 500 kilometres or the Yamuna river. By the time summer season approaches, you should send water to Ajmer through trains, other-wise there will be acute scarcity of water there during this summer season.

I also want to draw your attention towards transport subsidy. This subsidy should be given cent per cent so that the cattle in Rajasthan could be saved. As much as 50 per cent of cattle heads have already perished and a very few cattle are left. Even the high-breed cattle are being saved with great difficulty. It will be extremely difficult for the people of Rajasthan to save their cattle unless you give cent per cent transport subsidy.

At the same time, proper precautions should be taken to see that the epidemic does not break out there during summer. Steps should also be taken to make drinking water available there. With these words I conclude.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : I may also please be given two minutes to speak. Nobody has spoken from Jammu and Kashmir State. There are some issues relating to that State. It will be very kind of you if you could give me two minutes.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I leave it to the hon. Minister. Shall I give him a chance ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : Yes, I don't mind.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a question of time. All right, you can speak.

[*Translation*]

SHRI P. NAMGYAL : I am thankful to the hon. Minister for releasing Rs. 12 crores as relief. The demand for Rs. 31 crores as relief is still pending with you. I request you to release the amount as soon as possible, because not only drought but un-seasonal flood also has caused destruction over there. Recently, about 1½ months back Ladakh region, which is my constituency, and some hilly areas of Kashmir Valley experienced snowfall. The snowfall was quite unseasonal. Due to this, many villages are still cut off. There was snowfall on 11-12 October. Two months have since passed, yet many villages continue to remain cut-off from communication with the outside world. I raised this matter under Rule 377 and also brought it up during the discussion on price-rise. I request you to get an aerial survey done over there by helicopters or by approaching the Defence Ministry in order to find out whether people living in these 20-22 villages which are cut-off for the last two months are alive or dead. Further I request you to arrange air-droppings in such areas. Cattle are dying because no fodder is available there. Since you are the Agriculture Minister, I request you to take this step. I suggest that as people in the drought and flood affected areas of Jammu and Kashmir are getting 10 kgs. of ration per month per head free of cost from the State Government, the same rule should be applied to the people living in those areas of Ladakh region which are cut-off due to snowfall. I shall not take any more of your time. I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON) : Mr. Chairman, first of all, I thank you very much that after all, you have asked me to reply on the debate. For full one week, I attended the same debate in the Rajya Sabha. The very following week, you have fixed it here and I was told, it was only for 2 hours. I think, it is the 4th or 5th day that

is going. I am particularly thankful that the auspicious hour of my reply has come.

So many points were raised. I thank, my old friend, Shri Dinesh Goswami, who was at one time by my side, now sitting opposite. He started the debate particularly regarding the Eastern sector. Then, Mr. Raghuma Reddy on the other side started the debate on behalf of the drought-stricken States. Sir, we discussed it in the pre-monsoon months also. Then, in the Monsoon Session, every time, the background had changed. The whole background changed later on with what we discussed earlier-after the monsoon when our expectations about the rains went wrong. Now in this Session, because after the monsoon has retired, we are more worried about drinking water, our low level sub-soil water, our empty reservoirs and dams. But the rains came and they raised our hope, particularly in some States.

Goswamiji's main point was about Assam, besides his other points which were raised by other hon. Members also. He was very particular about the Brahmaputra river water control which makes the flood chronic phenomenon. I have been going to Assam almost every flood period, last year also. This year I went twice, rather thrice. Every time I thought that, that might be the last flood. Another flood came later on. That came into five phases. We have already received three memoranda. Some of them, we have dealt with last year when I was immediately there on the spot, I exercised my discretion and it went up to Rs. 11 crores or Rs. 12 crores, which was later on supplemented. This year also, the Prime Minister directly dealt with that. It is not, as is customary with the Minister always to contradict everything, but I fully realise that the calamity in that area is very genuine. That has my sympathy. When I flew over Brahmaputra, the roads were not accessible at that time and the Prime Minister also wanted to go and the roads were not accessible. He wanted to see the area by road. But I saw it from the air and by road also. My view, as given by Shri Dinesh Goswami, was that if we had started this Flood Control Programme a bit earlier, by this time we

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could have improved and controlled the situation. The whole havoc is caused by these tributaries. I saw the tributaries over-flowing. The areas were flooded. The very first idea that struck me was that if we had tried and managed, the floods could have been controlled. We have that Brahmaputra Control Board. They have already prepared a water plan for flood control. I must say that many points that the hon. Member raised related either to the Ministry of Water Resources or to the Ministry of Food and Civil Supplies or to the Ministry of Forests and Environment and some to my Ministry also. As speaker of this House, I developed a very bad habit of judging the relevance of the issues---my old friend Mr. Somnath Chatterjee is sitting on the other side. I have tried to get rid of it. Even after 12 years, that habit still speaks of itself. I find that most points were not relevant to my Ministry but to other Ministries.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI (Guwahati) : That point will not arise for the simple fact that all the Ministers who are relevant for the purpose of discussion should be present. My discussion was not based on the Agriculture Ministry. Therefore, all the Ministers who were to deal with this problem should be present.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The Prime Minister should have been present.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : The Prime Minister should have been present.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is an important issue. It should have been discussed.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : That argument is not of any worth.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : What you are now saying has also occurred to me. My own view is that it is also up to you that when you want to raise the point which concerned the other Ministry, you should send a copy of that to the other Ministry also. You only address the Agriculture

Minister and, therefore, the Agriculture Minister comes here.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : My notice was both to the Agriculture Minister and to the Water Resources Minister.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : In addition to Food and Civil Supplies, you could have also addressed the Minister of Forests and Environment.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It is a serious question. The esteemed Minister was our Speaker. There is the principle of joint Cabinet responsibility. Therefore, the hon. Minister should be able to represent the viewpoint of all the Ministers because that would be the Cabinet responsibility. Therefore, we can understand Dr. Dhillon's difficulty because he has been very kind enough to sit all through the debate but what about your colleagues? Have they any responsibility towards you or to the Cabinet or to this House? Don't try to bail them out. You are trying to bail them out.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : The whole Cabinet is not expected to sit here. But the Cabinet Minister with whom you are in touch, you may send your notice to him. He will be here. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Chatterjee, you very well know of it and then also you are emphasising on it. I think the lawyer's part should be taken out of it. It is a practical thing. How many Ministers can sit here? You say, it is the total Cabinet responsibility.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Let us now hear him.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : This has already been sent. This project and the Report is under examination. Further, short-term measures like construction of embankment, drainage channels and protection works have been taken up. You mentioned about two projects---one is about the Rihand project and the other is about Tiesta. You also mentioned that one could deal with 40 per cent and other

7 per cent. That is an idea which we can send to that Ministry for examination. But, anyway, the only object of emphasising was that they should be expedited ; there should be no delay in the implementation. We can, on behalf of our Ministry, bring this matter to the notice of the Ministry of Water Resources.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars) : What about the Tiesta barrage ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : I will come to it later on. I have a note on Tiesta. I have been very patiently listening to many of the points made by the hon. Members and they should listen to me also... *(Interruptions)*. You said that there is no medical aid given to Assam. An amount of Rs. 11.27 crores has been approved and out of which Rs. 50 lakhs are earmarked for medical care.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : That is a pittance.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Some suggestions are there regarding the Integrated Water Resource Management. I have taken note of it. We will forward it to the Ministry concerned and will pursue it later on because it very much concerns our Ministry also.

Then, an hon. Minister—from Andhra Pradesh—raised about shortage of power—thermal, nuclear etc. I think that that does not just connect to the debate on drought. Anyway, we will pass it on to the Ministry of Energy.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : Sir, I am on a point of order. My notice was to the Minister of Water Resources. In the discussion, my subject is: "the situation arising out of the Natural Calamities, with particular reference to drought, floods and cyclone..." If the hon. Minister actually was not expected to deal with this subject, then he ought not to have come here.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY (Katwa) : Who is the correct Minister concerned ?

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : After all, this is not for the first time, this subject

is being discussed. As the hon. Minister began, we discussed this subject in the last Session. Time and again, these points have been made. You should have come prepared. It is no use telling that this will be referred to that Ministry and that will be referred to some other Ministry. I think, the Water Resources Ministry is in charge of this.

(Interruptions)

DR. G. S. DHILLON : As far as the question of energy is concerned—nuclear power etc.—it is not my subject nor can it form part of this debate here.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : What is the use of this debate at all ?

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda) : It does not pertain not only to power shortage. But I mentioned many points pertaining to your Ministry and other Ministries also, as to the problems of the State Governments.

(Interruptions)

DR. G. S. DHILLON : As far as the question of power shortage is concerned, you question the concerned Ministry that there should be no power shortage during drought time. They assured us that so many hours will be guaranteed. But what they say about the nuclear power and other matters, atleast I have no sources in my Ministry. I can only refer to them.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is how this Government is functioning.

(Interruptions)

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Another point made was that the Finance Commission had recommended a hundred per cent grant if the States were continuously affected by drought and floods. In para 11.10 of the Eighth Finance Commission Report, the views of some of the State Governments that Central assistance should be given to the extent of a hundred

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per cent as non-Plan grant only have been expressed. In their final Report the Commission has recommended Central assistance in the case of floods, cyclone and other like calamities in the form of non-Plan grant, not adjustable against the Plan of the State, against Central assistance for the State Plan to the extent of 75 per cent of the total expenditure in excess of margin money.

First I have taken those points which concern other sources from where I have to get the information. Now I come to the other points.

Some point was raised about cattle--- this point was raised in the other House also—that there was loss of life and cattle in flood-affected areas. In the case of Gujarat and Rajasthan I personally toured. My information that no cattle died was based on the information given by the State. We have no other source except this. When it was questioned again, the Chief Minister reiterated that there were no reports of loss of cattle. But still in the other House some Members insisted that there had been some and poster was also circulated. I want to this very organisation which had issued—Satsewa Sangh in Kutch, near Sabarmati. I expressly asked them, "Are there any cattle deaths?" and they denied it. I openly admired the work of that organisation and of many other voluntary organisations also. I can assure you again that, if the State is not giving correct figures or their information is not reliable, I have been trying to find it out from my own sources. This organisation and some Marwari and many other organisations have done a good job. I base my information on firsthand knowledge. My friend, Mr Bhajan Lal, and some of us were there in Bhuj. We went there and said, "Show us round if any cattle had died". They said that no cattle died. As a matter of fact, for their good work, I was thinking of recommending them for some good service award. Now I have tried to know from the same sources which have published it; "You did not tell us at that time; we are sending some officers and we can send some non-officials too; please tell

us from where to have it corroborated". But they have not so far intimated to us. My colleague, Mr. Makwana, is from the same State and I have asked him to try to find out from his own sources whether it is a fact.

As you are aware, many Members have said that the allocations made to their States have not been adequate. The procedure, we have been repeating again and again, in the April Session and again in the Monsoon Session. The procedure is very much set. It is not in the discretion of the Minister or a single individual. An inter-Ministerial team is sent. Now we have fixed that time. As soon as a State sends a memorandum, we have fixed the time limit that within 30 days the team should visit. If any delay results, it is because of the delay in clearance from that State. We tell them, "We have appointed the team; are you ready to receive it?" They tell us we are ready to receive it on such and such date. Within the period of the report of the Team, we had fixed that in one month everything should be cleared. Most of the Hon Members said that the Team has recommended so much. Earlier than the Report of the Eighth Finance Commission, there was no obligation on the part of the Centre to augment resources of the State. It was purely the State's responsibility and it still pertains to them. It is only in deference to the wishes of the Commission that we started this process of finding out as to how much reasonable aid should be given from the Centre to augment their resources. Now this Team goes; they come prepared; they consult their officers and people; and then they come and submit the report. That Report goes to High Level Committee on Relief called HLCR. There we have the representatives of Planning Commission and the Finance Ministry. They finalise the total allocation which is finally to be cleared by the Ministry of Finance. That is the process.

I find it difficult to move out in the corridor also. They say, "what work have you done?" When I tell them that I am a helpless man in this and intermediate is the Team and ultimate is the Finance Ministry, perhaps, they are reluctant to

accept it. That is the only problem. Once you are an MP or a Minister, people think, you have all the powers. And we have to bluff sometimes, though not always.

Sir, regarding drinking water for Gujarat and Rajasthan, we have already allotted to one State Rs. 14 crores and Rs. 12 crores to the other. Through our Technology Mission on Drinking Water, we have already covered about two lakh problem villages. You see this Mission works through sub-missions, then mini-missions. It is quite spread out. The success which we have achieved is quite spectacular. Had there been no drought, we would have controlled the programme completely; we would have covered most of the villages within the next six months to one year. Now I think, the total programme will take about two or three years more. That is in my opinion a long range view.

Regarding fodder subsidy, we have very acute fodder problem. When I visited second time Jodhpur and then again went to Barmer, Shri Virdhi Chander Jain and the Madam who spoke from Kutch were with me, at that time, so many voluntary organisations were working and I myself found that the money given at the rate of Rs. 3.00 per cattle was not adequate. Of course, Gujarat Government was paying another 50 ps. to make it good.

When I visited a camp in Jodhpur cattle camp, they told me that they are being paid Rs. 2/- One of the Hon. Members of that Legislative Assembly entered into an argument and said that you are paying only Rs. 2/- and I said that perhaps I did the wrong. But in Gujarat I was right when I said Rs. 3/- How could I be wrong in Jodhpur? Then, immediately I found that we were paying them Rs. 3/-. Then I recommended that Rs. 3/- is too inadequate. (*Interruptions*). Can you please wait? You have spoken a lot; you could not be controlled by the Chair also! I am giving you a good news, kindly listen to me. I cannot sit down when a lady is speaking, I can sit down when Goswamiji is speaking!

We have fixed for Jaisalmer, Kutch, Barmer districts, may be Rs. 5/- We have increased it. Are you happy now?

We are also thinking to declare about four districts of Rajasthan as severely hit areas and treat them at a different level. We found that when we give some allocation to any State, we give it on a State basis. I actually found, I am sorry if some Members take offence at it, that some districts which were not affected got it; the real districts which suffered a lot did not get it; their share was reduced and those non-deserving districts got more. This was very inequitable.

We have come to one decision now. We have a category as 'severely drought hit area districts'. There are four in Gujarat-Kutch, Banaskanta, a part of Mehesana, Jamnagar and a part of another district. In Rajasthan there are Jaisalmer, Barmer, a part of Nagaur, a part of Jalore and a part of Jodhpur; perhaps the whole of Jodhpur. But my memory was that we have recommended for only severely drought hit areas. And if we have a little more allocation, then comes the less hit areas. About this we have already decided.

But in Orissa, when I went there—though I could not go everywhere because it was impossible—my view is that Kalahandi, Koraput, Ganjam and Phulbani are the worst hit areas; though not in the same manner as Rajasthan or Gujarat. Their condition is very pitiable. in my own view. We have taken up these districts with our colleagues also and I will be coming with some sort of a more favourable decision in their favour.

Some of the Hon. Members had some discussion raised about management of river waters—about Kosi, about Sone about Mahanadi and all that. The only problem about this is that we have negotiations going on with the Nepal for quite some time; but no result is coming out. The result is that these river—Kosi and all that—are getting silled when more water comes. Their level being high, more inundation takes place. We sincerely wish that Nepalese should appreciate our problems. They are our neighbours. We

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expect more humanitarian approach from their side also. They are like our brothers our miseries should be their miseries also.

We are now taking it up quite seriously. I think the new projects that may be coming—may be on our own side—may mitigate the sufferings a lot.

A question was raised by Shri Amar Roypradhan that Ganga and Caveri should be linked.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : I said that for three rivers from three States of UP, Bihar and West Bengal, a Commission should be formed.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : I will tell you everything about it. Sir, I was occupying that Chair when Dr. Rao spoke on this. He was Cabinet Minister and I was the Speaker. He was a very sincere and competent man. When he floated this idea to connect these two rivers and that it will promote national integration all of us were so excited and the House was so Jubilant on that idea. Later on during his life-time and, I think, even when he continued as Irrigation Minister we were told that the estimates will cover so many lift schemes and so much rocky areas, etc. and that it will run into billions and billions of rupees and years and years of time.

Sir, this is the third generation of the British and French people which is building this under the channel passage. They have been debating it almost over a century and only now it has materialised. So if at all we find resources we may just see the opening ceremony only during our life-time and part of construction may be seen by our next generation. Perhaps the completion will be seen by the third and fourth generation. It is such a huge project. It is a commendable project but only if we could find resources, devotion and the desire on the part of the coming generation also. At least my generation will have only a few more years. Prof. Dandavate I do not apply it to you. You will live a few years more than me.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : At the rate of 'zero hour' we may pass away even earlier.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Sir, there is a good debate about this 'zero hour' that this 12 O'clock should be called 'AM' or 'PM'. You must have read it in the newspapers also. I think if you transfer this 'zero hour' to mid-night 'zero hour' as in U.K. we will get rid of so many problems.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE : I think Ministers will sleep more in response to 'zero hour'.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : No. They usually have a Session at night time. It is only in our country where we sit during the day. They do their business and then at 4 O'clock they come to the Parliament and they have their beds and rooms also.

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : They have other things also which we do not have in this House.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Other things all depend as a part of the Member. Even in our Parliament some Members may be having other things also but the only desirability is that not inside the House.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Hopefully.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : I remember Mr. Dandavate used to sit here and he used to be up at 11 O'clock. Then I would ask him as a Speaker : Are you riding a high horse ? He would say, "Yes, Sir. This is my time." I think, God forbid, we should not go upto that.

Sir, there was a point raised about material component, wages, etc. Earlier we used to give 75 per cent only of wages and 25 per cent for the responsibility for the material by the State Government. Members have said that this point of material component should be taken over by us. Already we have made cent-per-cent. From 75 per cent we are now giving cent-per-cent part of the wages. If the States are under duress, how much part of it should be the material component ?

Do you expect us that we go from 70 to 100% and even jump up for the material component beyond the resources of the Central Government? After all, what for are the States? This is their responsibility which we are handling. They should also come forward for some sort. Even in the case of fodder subsidy we give 75% when it is brought from outside and 50% when it is the internal movement of fodder. We tried it cent per cent for a few months. We just had an experience about it. All accounts started being fabricated. Then we said you put some responsibility for the States. They should at least be careful to see the accounts, monitor them well. Otherwise cent per cent is okay, because they had nothing to give themselves.

Now if they are to give something from their pocket also, they are responsible for the whole of it. If we have given 75%, they are asking for cent per cent. We could do it if there could be some guarantee about proper monitoring, some watchfulness etc. I have shared something which should be confined only to me or my Ministry just to satisfy that these were our apprehensions. That's why we have done it. For the hard-hit areas, of course, we have also this component arrangement. The Governor of Rajasthan is the acting Governor but he is the Chief Justice of the High Court. He asked me about it. I told him that when we came up to the cent per cent and 75 per cent formula, that was not a unilateral decision but it was by mutual adjustment.

Shri Roypradhan also said something very sensitive about West Bengal. I am afraid of treading this field. Your Chief Minister is a good old friend when he used to be in the Congress. But now it is very painful to talk about or criticise a gentleman who has been a friend. But anyway you raised this point. Therefore, I am telling you this fact and not on my own. When we counted Rs. 67.27 crores, we counted on the basis of Rs. 23 crores margin money which we have made and we jointly own as a whole. Always in all the calculations that is counted. Then about 75% of non-Plan grant, I have been told by the Finance Ministry. That comes to

Rs 33 crores. Out of this, Rs. 24 crores was released and the remaining amount is yet to be released. That is not the final one.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : The Prime Minister said at Farakka that they have released Rs. 70 crores. But out of that, the Government misused the money.

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S. DHILLON : Mr. Roypradhan, you can quarrel with me as much as you like but not with a lady.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN : But the lady also should not quarrel.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this 23 and odd crores is the margin money. Out of that, the State Government has got 50%. You know that..

DR. G.S. DHILLON : I will send you the full details and the calculations. Now the Prime Minister visited West Bengal on the 16th and of course, the statement of accounts was on the 20th. All this time, we have been asking for the accounts from the West Bengal Government, I asked, "If not upto 20th, how is the position now?" We still have not got it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Unless the works have been carried on and roads repaired, buildings completed, how can the accounts be given?

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : There is no question of getting total accounts. You can just give the statement of expenditure and the money would be released. That is the position.

DR. G.S. DHILLON : We are not sensitive over it. We just want to be

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satisfied that the money is spent. We have a very bad experience.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Is it a charity given to the State? Are the people of West Bengal not the people of India?

DR. G.S. DHILLON : We have for all the States...*(Interruptions)*..

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : The Prime Minister gave the lollypops. Even then the people have rejected them.

(Interruptions)

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE (Jadavpur): They are not giving the account on the expenditure to the Central Government. The Central Government is asking the account and they should give it.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are not the Minister. You are a Member. Please allow him to speak.

DR. G.S. DHILLON : I have just received the information. That information is upto 31st October 1987. Their expenditure was 19 85 crores. This is not only in West Bengal but the same problem is there with other States also whether congress or non-congress. It does not matter. Since you have raised the question I had very reluctantly referred to it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI DINESH GOSWAMI : I raised the point of erosion which has direct concern with this Ministry. I said large tracks of land are being eroded by Brahmaputra and its tributaries and agricultural land is washed away. As you cannot reply to this, at least, will you pass it on the Water Resources Ministry?

DR. G.S. DHILLON : I will pass it on so that I am on unassailable ground. Hon. Member, Shri Vijayaraghavan from Kerala said that more amount should

reach Kerala. We have been advancing money for Kerala. When Mr. Nayanar came here—he was my colleague in this Parliament many years back. I assured him that we have given them more money than we gave to Mr. Karunakaran. You should never be under the impression that there is some sort of discrimination. What we found was that if money was got for house building, it was spent on other matters like schools and whether it was earlier Government or this Government, we invited their attention. You have got money but the projected targets should be looked after. If you spend the money on hospitals which is meant for drought-hit areas, we don't accept that.

17.00 hrs.

I was in Hyderabad about a month back and I made a general reference at the Agricultural University, where they had all assembled for a conference. I told them that what I felt from their performance was that the funds had been diverted to other purposes. In a passing remark I also said that Andhra Pradesh was not an exception to it along with other States. Next day, the press people asked me if it was only Andhra Pradesh. I said it was not, it was along with other States.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : But it was reported in the press that it related to Andhra Pradesh only.

DR. G.S. DHILLON : It was there on the first day also. I now understand that you sent the press people after me.

I have now tried to answer many of the general points raised by the hon. Members...*(Interruptions)*.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : What about Teesta project?

DR. G.S. DHILLON : I have not yet concluded.

SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakonam): What about Tamil Nadu? How much assistance was asked and how much have you given?

DR. G.S. DHILLON : Now comes your favourite question about Teesta. Irrigation projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Governments. However, the Government of India sometimes considers additional assistance depending upon the individual situation. The Teesta irrigation project is being implemented by the Government of West Bengal on the Teesta river which enters Bangladesh lower down. The State Government had requested for an additional Central assistance of Rs. 20 crores for the year 1983-84 and an assistance of Rs. 5 crores was sanctioned over and above Rs. 28 crores to be spent by the State Government with the understanding that the total expenditure during the year would be Rs. 33 crores, but the actual expenditure turned out to be only Rs. 25.52 crores, which means the State Government has underfunded the scheme even from their own resources. In the year 1985-86, the State Government initially requested for an assistance of Rs. 18 crores and later reduced it to Rs. 9 crores. The Government of India felt that it would be difficult to continue to provide such special assistance outside the Plan in its very first year when the State Government was underfunding the project. On the repeated requests of the State Government, an advance plan assistance of Rs. 15 crores was provided during the year 1986-87, but the amount utilized was only Rs. 10 crores.

I thought, I must give this information to the hon. House.

SHRI PIYUS TIRAKY : How much has the State Government spent from its own resources ?

DR. G.S. DHILLON : I have explained everything and I have nothing more left for your cross-examination. That is only what I have got to say.

A question was raised about the eligibility for loans to the farmers. There was a question about some guidelines for that purpose and they were related to the pre-drought period.

Now, for tackling these situations arising out of the flood and drought, we

thought that sort of Devi Lal's way, we should find some other method. That, of course, is unacceptable because Chowdhury Devi Lal himself is worried about it. The result of that decision is that you come out very soon and we are very careful about it. NABARD and others expect that we should re-schedule these norms—short to medium and medium to long—and once these norms were re-scheduled there was no need for any bar for further loans from the banks. This is what we have done.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL (Kopargaon) : Due to drought every body can't repay the loan. They do not have the facility. Those who are eligible or permissible for loan they can do but what about the defaulters ?

DR. G.S. DHILLON : How can we go back on anything which we ourselves have decided upon ? When I am talking of Devi Lal, we criticise him.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : But I am talking about the recent defaulters due to drought.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : If they suffer for three years, then only some benefits are given to the agriculturists. In backward area and poverty stricken area if they continue to suffer for 3 long years that means a lot.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Though I have mentioned this but it is not the final answer. The suggestion is not in the ultimate interest of the farmers nor of the cooperative institutions which are farmers' organisations. Cooperative Banks lend money by borrowing the same from their depositors or from higher financing institutions, i.e. State Cooperative Banks or NABARD. The major part of the lendable resources of the District Cooperative Banks comes from their own depositors or deposits of the State Cooperative Banks. Writting off of overdues will mean that Cooperative Banks will not be able to meet their commitment to depositors. It is not possible for the State Governments or the Government of India to order blanket write off by providing resources from the budget which are limited. On

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the one hand we have to have a Budget for these and on the other hand it cannot come without any further taxation. This is a vicious circle. I also come from that community which is very bad in calculation to which Devi Lal also belongs. Such a step will also vitiate the climate of recovery and those persons capable of repaying will also not repay. Even in a year of drought and drought affected areas, there would be loanees who have their own irrigation projects like tubewells and they would also not pay. Moreover, in case of insured crops, the loss occurring in the year of drought is paid up to the designated amount linked to the loan taken from the financing institutions. For the above reasons, the suggestion is not acceptable. Reserve Bank of India, Government of India and NABARD have all along been against any blanket write off. There are also provisions for conversion and rescheduling of loans in case of natural calamities.

PROF. N. G. RANGA : What about the penal interest ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : I think it is not allowed.

Now, what is being done to rehabilitate credit structure. In the context of the drought situation this year NABARD has announced several concessions in cooperative as also Commercial banks to ensure that flow of credit to the Agriculturists is not impeded. These include, the fresh finance for second sowing. If the first sowing fails, we have arrangements for fresh finance for the second sowing and also for raising an alternate crop. In Punjab, this facility is extended even for the third crop also. Finance for raising fodder is also available. We have extended it to 2.25 lakh hectares and it is Rs. 300 for small farmers and Rs. 400 for marginal farmers. There is additional short-term credit limit. We also have more liberal stabilisation arrangements. Rescheduling of long term loans is also announced. It is expected that the credit flow will not be diminished if the banks take advantage of all the above concessions and I am sure

that there will be a healthy trend so far as flow of credit is concerned.

AN HON. MEMBER : What about crop insurance ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : About crop insurance, I cannot contradict what you said. These insurance schemes are very much linked with the small and marginal farmers and also the loanees. In bad years and during drought and flood, if we do not establish the credit credibility of the farmers, no bank will trust them and they will not pay them any more. It is indeed for the credit credibility that we are looking after and not the loanees' insurance. We have recently had an Export Committee to re-examine as to where we are losing and where we are gaining and what the future prospects are.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : What about the area approach ? Are you reconsidering it ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : Earlier, it used to be the blocks. In Andhra Pradesh there is a smaller unit, that is the Mandal. But if you want to have it at the village level, it is impossible. It is beyond the means of the State. Now, we have the threshold yields in the block.

SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL : What about revenue circle instead of tehsil ?

DR. G. S. DHILLON : We have no objection if it is to be a larger area. But they wanted to go down to the village level even. And that is unacceptable. It is very difficult. Even about the threshold yields—we have fixed 16 areas in a block—we have to look into the matter..

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, what about giving more money to Kerala. An all-party delegation has come to Delhi and they met you and the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

17.17 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DR. G.S. DHILLON : This has been examined by the Planning Commission, by other Ministries as well as by the High Level Committee...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : No more individual queries please. He cannot go on answering every member. You may write to him and then he will tell you the position.

DR. G. S. DHILLON : I have to say something more about it. We have recently received complaints and then the Prime Minister and we ourselves examined the matter. All the Secretaries of the concerned Ministries, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Planning Commission, the Ministry of Finance, were asked to go and visit these areas. Now the States have nothing to gain from it. Their report is that invariably these memoranda from the States are exaggerated. Most of the States try to link it up with their general budgetary conditions. We do not accept that. Well, that is what the Planning Commission's analysis shows.

Now, thank you very much, Mr. Deputy Speaker for giving me so much time.

17.18 hrs.

RESIGNATION BY MEMBER

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have to inform the House that the Speaker has received a letter dated 2nd December 1987 from Shri Chingwang Konyak, an elected Member from Nagaland constituency of Nagaland, resigning his seat in Lok Sabha. The Speaker has accepted his resignation with effect from 2nd December 1987.

Supplementary Demands for Grants (General), 1987-88 submitted to the Vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the Vote of the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2		3
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE			
1.	Agriculture	4,66,00,000	11,26,00,000
4.	Department of Rural Development	249,90,00,000	...

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : To which party does he belong Sir ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Congress (I).

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Why did he resign ?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I do not know.

17.19 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1987-88

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion and voting on Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1987-88 for which 3 hours have been allotted.

Motion moved :

“That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1988 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof

Demand Nos. 1, 4, 5, 6, 10, 18, 22, 27, 37, 44, 48, 54, 58, 59, 64, 67, 69, 76, 88 and 93”