

touch the fringe of the problem. It is requested that Central Government may take up this district as a special case and allot sufficient funds for famine eradication on a massive scale for afforestation, for soil conservation, for construction of percolation tanks, check dams, repair the breach tanks, industrialise the district on a big scale, impart education freely by opening and constructing schools and colleges, improve the roads and sanitary and health conditions of the people and devise such other ways and means to eradicate famine from this district permanently and save 30 lakhs of population of this district from total extinction.

(iv) Need to provide financial assistance to the Government of Orissa to meet heavy losses caused by floods

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Continuous rainfall for more than two weeks in the month of June is something unheard of. But it has been the peculiar feature of this year's monsoon in some parts of the country including Orissa. In Orissa it started raining on June 11 with the onslaught of monsoon and went on almost incessantly till 28th June recording rainfall ranging from 500 to 800 m.m. at different places. Such continuous heavy rainfall at the first phase of the monsoon very adversely affected the agricultural operations. Besides, it caused floods and damaged a large number of houses. Loss thus caused should be properly assessed and necessary assistance be provided to the State by the Union Government without delay.

12.19 hrs.

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

Further, about 50 per cent of the annual average rainfall having already been there in the State it is quite natural for the peasantry to be apprehensive about failure of the monsoon in the coming months resulting in serious drought situation. What is, therefore, required is keeping close watch over the situation in Orissa and elsewhere and making necessary preparations right from now in order to effectively meet any eventuality that may fall upon us.

(v) Demand for both short term and long term measures to meet power Crisis in Delhi

SHRI JAI PRAKASH AGARWAL (Chandni Chowk) : Power considered to be the backbone of both industry and trade has also now become an essential need for every household. There is no doubt as we march ahead towards the 21st century, more need of power will be there. Accordingly, we shall have to meet this requirement. However, our experience, particularly these days, of the Capital is totally different. In the Capital today it is just a power vacuum for the small traders and shopkeepers. In the name of power cuts and heavy load sheddings, power is being denied to even the small scale sector and thereby it has almost been crippled. No new connections to even small traders like Atta Chakkiwalas are being given in the Capital. How long this is going to continue? The Government should come out before this House to immediately announce short term as well as long term measures to solve the power crisis in the Capital.

(vi) Demand for Central Government's clearance of the cotton monopoly scheme for another ten years

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government of Maharashtra have asked the Central Government to clear cotton monopoly scheme for another ten years. This scheme is in operation for the last 13 years in the State. It has helped the poor cultivators to grow more cotton and sell it at a reasonable rate. This scheme has become popular with the cultivators. Cotton being the cash crop in most of the areas in Maharashtra, it is essential that the above scheme should be cleared by the Central Government soon. A period of 10 years is necessary.

It is, therefore, requested that the Central Government may clear this scheme to dispel the doubts from the cultivators' mind.