

whether the Government proposes to concede to the long pending demand for declaring the Allahabad-Bengal stretch of river Ganges as a national waterway, on the lines of the declaration made with regard to Kerala and also the time by which it is expected to be done? (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

16.03 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE — 193.

DROUGHT SITUATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the next item, that is, the discussion under rule 193 on the prevailing drought situation in various parts of the country.

Shri Subrata Mukherjee — Not Present.

Dr. Laxminarain Pandey.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, although rainy season has now set in yet, the country is facing drought conditions, and this situation has not changed a bit. Seven crore people of only five states are affected by the drought. Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, U.P., Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Goa and other states are in the grip of severe drought. In this connection, when a discussion was held here, an answer was given on behalf of the Central Government that all possible efforts will be made to render assistance to the states affected by drought. The help which has been given by the centre, is negligible and insufficient. Madhya Pradesh has

made a demand of Rs. 250 crore, but only Rs. twenty crore have been given. In the same way, Maharashtra had made a demand of Rs. 138 crore, but Maharashtra has been given a very little amount. Even to other states, the help that was sought has not been given by the centre, and the situation continues to be the same. The rainy season has set in, but people have not yet got any relief from the drought. Among the states under the spell of drought, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan are the worst affected. The problem of drinking water continues to be there for the cattle. The situation of fodder is grave. The quantity of foodgrains, wheat and rice supplied by the centre to various states is inadequate to meet their requirements. Just two days back, the honourable Shri Naik had raised the question of Kalahandi area of Orissa, and narrated the conditions under which drought stricken people have been compelled to flee from there and how pathetic their condition has become. I would like to further draw your attention to this. I would also like to talk about the states, visited by central study teams. Even after the reports of the study teams, the states have not been given the help they had solicited and among the Madhya Pradesh is the main. After the Prime Minister's visit to Madhya Pradesh, central team was sent to Sarguja and other areas of the state. A period of three months has elapsed since then. Honourable Minister is sitting here he will tell us the recommendations made by that team and the steps taken by the government thereon. I would like to say that Madhya Pradesh has not received assistance as per the recommendations of that team nor any concern has been shown in this regard. Normally, 25-30 C.Ms. rain is received by now, but it has been received even less than 5 cms. so far.

16.05 hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair]

I would like to quote a news item released by a news agency, 'Hindustan Samachar'. The people are fleeing from the

Kalahandi district in Orissa, but the state government interprets it as a routine thing and says that people go out of the state in search of work every year. But in reality, it is not so. In Madhya Pradesh the opposition has levelled an allegation that people had fled in a large number from the drought stricken areas of Sarguja and Jhabhua, but the government denies this. According to the information received from Agartala the administrative officials of Tripura, do not accept the theory of fleeing, but lakhs of tribal families have fled from the hills near to Bangladesh border. 21 of the 29 districts of Maharashtra are experiencing scarcity of water. Opposition parties organised a bandh on the 8th of May to protest against the way in which the drought condition was being tackled. 95 Tehsils of the 28 districts of Madhya Pradesh are under the grip of drought. The state government has asked for Rs. 250 crore from the centre to deal with this situation, but the government has given only Rs. 20 crore. Now, whether it is the Madhya Pradesh government, or the U.P. Government, or the government of Rajasthan how many of them can deal with drought situation in the present circumstances. On the 9th of July this thing was discussed in the House through a question and in the reply to that, the honourable Minister had assured that they would make provision for this at the earliest, but till now no provision has been made. I would also like to draw your attention towards the fact that we have teams of agriculture experts also. We have Agricultural scientists. Recently 30 agricultural scientists discussed this situation of drought and the ways to tackle it. A study group was also constituted. What suggestions have been made in that report? If that report has been received what action has been taken on that? You have a very big Department of Meteorology to give weather reports. You get the weather report before hand, whether it will rain or not, how much it will rain and in which parts it will rain, whether it will be below normal or in excess. Nothing concrete has been done, inspite of all this information and inspite of raising this discussion repeatedly here in the House. There was a similar situation in 1991. The various parts of the

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country were under the grip of severe drought and at that time also the government had said that it was trying to deal with the situation and even now the government has the same reply. There is no water for the fields and drought conditions are prevailing over there while on the other hand is the devastation wrought by dreadful floods. There should be a proper scheme to tackle both the situations.

I understand that the hon'ble minister is not as serious about this situation as he should have been, otherwise in view of the situation existed earlier and the situation existing today, the effective steps which were required to be taken immediately would have been taken and Government would not have stated that it would take action on the report of Ninth Finance Commission or it would provide assistance on the principle of "rare severity". Then my honourable friend Shri Anna Joshi Ji and Shri Patel had asked the definition of "rare severity". They had also asked whether the definition of "rare severity" differs for one state and the other? Does the definition of rare severity continue to be the same, or has been changed? If the entire village, in accordance with that definition of "rare severity" is not in the grip of drought or 10-20 villages in a particular are not in the grip of drought then they do not come under the definition of "rare severity". Therefore, it is necessary to change this definition of "rare severity".

(Interruptions)

I would like to draw the attention of the honourable Minister towards this that he had at that time stated in his reply that they sent study teams to those states which had requested for the same and they did not send study teams to the states which did not make such a request. If Bihar did not make any request for sending a study team so it was not sent over there, whether Bihar is in the grip of drought, or whether people are starving but the Government is not concerned about that. We send the team only on the request of State Government. If the State Government of U.P. does not make such a

request, we shall not send, even if there is severe drought condition in U.P.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister particularly towards Madhya Pradesh, as I told you earlier even Bihar and Karnataka both are affected by it. Just now my friend Dhananjay ji was referring to the situation in Karnataka that there is a great crisis over there. Similarly, U.P., Maharashtra, Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh are also affected. We shall make a comprehensive plan to deal with the situation deteriorating year after year. Does Government have any long term plan to deal with it? As I requested you, Madhya Pradesh sent its team and this study team assessed the situation in 8 districts. A detailed discussion was also held with the concerned senior officials in Bhopal, I said that a span of almost three months has elapsed, but the state government has not been informed of the action proposed to be taken by the Central Government. They do not know whether you are going to render any help or not. The State Government has asked for assistance of Rs. 250 crores. I would like to request that it should be made available to the State Government because the state government has made a lot of expenditure on its own. It has undertaken the work of digging wells and constructing ponds. It has also provided relief providing employment to the people and in May and June it created work for 281 lakh days. Even in June, I have figures with me, upto 19th June, the work of 110 lakh man days was provided. In this way the state government is making efforts to deal with this situation but the Central government is indifferent towards it. I would like to draw the attention of the hon'ble Minister towards one more thing.. in Indore, in Madhya Pradesh a citizen of Indore Shri Anand has filed a public interest petition before the Indore Bench of High Court. The hon'ble High Court of Madhya Pradesh has given directive to the central government that central Government should, without any delay, provide to Madhya Pradesh government the amount sought by it. I would like to submit that the Government should complete the above mentioned work within three weeks period so that the State

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Government may take up relief measures smoothly. I would also like to know the measures taken by the State Government after the verdict given by the bench. The bench gave its verdict on 17.6.92.

THE MINISTER OF
AGRICULTURE (SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR):
In which case?

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: The Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court had given the verdict in which the Central Government was directed to provide relief assistance immediately to enable the State Government to take up the relief measures properly... *(Interruptions)*

Madhya Pradesh Government in a telex message dated 16.6.92 had requested the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India to release relief assistance immediately in view of the fast approaching rainy season and to provide protection to the amount already spent on ongoing relief works. But, the Central Government did not take any step. We hope that the Government will take immediate action.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, from the data available with me it is found that the situation in the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan is almost the same. As far as Tripura and Maharashtra are concerned:-

[English]

"The National Institute of Communicable Diseases, New Delhi, recently carried out a survey and have reported 71 deaths in Tripura due to starvation and non-availability of foods."

[Translation]

The Government should think over it seriously. It is not a question of one or two states. The hon. Minister in reply to a question on 9 July has stated:

[English]

"According to these reports, more areas to the extent of 8.12 lakh hectares in Kamataka, 1.12 lakh hectares in Kerala, 27.42 lakh hectares in Madhya Pradesh, 58.60 lakh hectares in Maharashtra and 77.99 lakh hectares in Rajasthan have been affected."

[Translation]

These figures have been given by you. I think that the agricultural production has been adversely affected because of the drought situation. The people have been rendered helpless, thinking all the times about rains. The position is that the sowing of the crop could not taken up in Madhya-Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. It is, therefore, not correct on the part of the Government to say that since there is sufficient rainfall now there is nothing to worry about. The situation is very critical even today. In 1991 rainfall was scanty and that too was not widespread, it was limited to few pockets. The result was that we had to import wheat from foreign countries as we could not create favourable conditions for the farmers... (Interruptions)

I understand that the decision to import wheat is not correct. We are not in a position to import wheat at present. As regards foodgrains we had attained self-sufficiency and we were even exporting it, but the position now is just reverse to it. Is it not due to lack of farsightedness in our planning or due to our weather forecasts being wrong or is there any lacunae in our planning to face acute drought situation? Why did the situation become so critical? What is our short term and long term planning?

I would like to submit that States have demanded certain amounts, but I would like to quote from your reply given in the other House:

[English]

Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments are required to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural calamities using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Fund. The Central Government need provide additional assistance only in the case of calamities of rare severity, warranting handling at the national level. The requests from the above State Governments for additional Central assistance in the wake of drought conditions have been considered in the light of the existing scheme for financing relief expenditure.

[Translation]

Now, your existing scheme does not cover all these things. I would like to know whether the Government proposes to review the existing schemes? On 9 July you had given an assurance in the House that Government would go into the matter and will make efforts to see that such conditions do not arise in future. I hope the Government have taken action to fulfil that assurance.

Once again I would like to draw your attention towards the State of uncertainty and the problems States are facing, particularly the farmers. Urban people manage some how to avail foodgrains through public Distribution system from fair price shops. May be, the foodgrains they get therefrom are not of good quality, it may be rotten, years old or sometimes unfit for human consumption. But, even that too is not available in the villages. What is the quantity per capita that is being supplied and that which has been decided to be supplied in the villages? Even the States adversely reacted to the quantity decided to be supplied per capita. Government makes announcement for distributing foodgrains to rural people through Public Distribution System but I find that they have not achieved success as was expected in this field. Central Government is to be held responsible for that not the State Governments. If the Central Government does not provide sufficient quantity of sugar, rice and wheat to State Government, where

from would the State Government manage these items for public distribution? Central government often blames the States Governments for all these things. The hon. Minister in reply to a question has said that since no request was made for sending any central team to the area, therefore, no work could be undertaken. We do not know as 'what is actual position in Bihar. Government is not showing the type of concern it should. Is there no responsibility on the part of Central Government? I feel that the Government does not have any interest in it. I would like to submit that the drought situation should be taken seriously. I do not want to link floods with drought situation, but the Government is not so serious as it should be in this regard. Floods hit the cities and the water after destroying lives and property goes into the ocean. But a serious thought has not been given to it. Several effective steps are needed to face the drought situation. Arrangements should be made that the flood water reaches to the village fields for irrigation purposes. In Madhya Pradesh BJP Government feels concerned even opposition feels concerned, but opposition talks of starvation. People died of starvation or not, this is not the real point. One thing is certain, that situation is very critical and it may take an ugly turn any time Opposition have admitted this fact.

So I would like the Government to give a categorical reply. They should take steps as they decide. As you have said in your reply:-

[English]

"Central teams were deputed to the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Rajasthan to assess the drought situation and the quantum of additional Central assistance required to be provided in the present framework. As the drought situation in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra is not considered of rare severity..."

[Translation]

Thirty six districts out of the total forty six

Various Parts of the Country in Madhya Pradesh are drought hit. In Maharashtra twenty out of twenty nine districts are affected and still you maintain that the situation is not grave. This does not go with your assessment of the situation. I think the situation is very disturbing and grave. You have further stated:

[English]

"However, in order to augment the resources of the State Governments, towards relief measures, Government of India, has sanctioned advance releases of the central share of the CRF and certain other plan schemes. The entire central share of Calamity Relief Fund for 1992-93 amounting to Rs. 63.85 crores for all the States, that is, for the whole country."

[Translation]

What are you planning to do for the whole country in future? What is the short term and long term plan in this regard? If you try to satisfy people by just telling... (Interruptions) they would not be satisfied. I hope you would take effective measures in wake of serious drought situation. The crops in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Bihar have been affected. 58.50 lakhs people are affected only in Madhya Pradesh and the crops worth rupees 202 crore have suffered a great loss. I would like to have an explanation from you in this regard. I would also like to know about the steps taken by you after the court's order on the petition lodged in public interest in a bench of M.P. High Court. It is a serious matter and majority of the States are affected from it. Majority of the population and vast agricultural land is also affected from it. Crores of the farmers are affected from it. So I hope you will take steps to improve their situation to save them from this disaster. With these words I support my Motion and hope that the House will give its approval. (Interruptions)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman,

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Sir, a serious matter is being discussed.
(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whatever Shri Nitish Kumar says will not go on record. Shri Nitish Kumar, please do not disturb. As the issue has been very important, that is why, it has been taken up. The hon. Agriculture Minister and the Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture are here. Now I will ask Shri Chandulal Chandrakar to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we have been discussing on the drought situation and relief work in this House for several years. But this year a heavy drought in all States of India has occurred after a long time. I have never witnessed such drought situation since 1950-52. Earlier only the grains were affected.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to bring this to notice of Parliament and the hon. Minister that the present drought is not related to grains only. It is related with drinking water for men and animals. It has also affected generation of electricity. Now our country is suffering from all these three types of drought heavily. I can give details of land, people and animals affected by drought. But I want to say nothing more that we discuss about drought and flood only after their occurrence. Today I would like to discuss it specially that what is a drought? Why it occurs and what steps should we take to check it permanently? We should discuss these points seriously. Though every year we say that drought has occurred yet we don't try to check it permanently. Today the drought of land is a State subject. But as it is a long repeated practice and moreover this year we are witnessing three types of heavy drought so the Central Government is expected to prepare a big plan under the aegis of Ministry of Agriculture this year.

We have 468 administrative districts in our country. First of all Central Government should prepare two or three schemes for each and every district i.e. immediate plan, intermediary plan and third long term plan. You can do it permanently only when you are aware of the land, weather, climate and rainfall of every district. A laboratory should be set up in every district for soil testing. By this we can find out the quantity of water in the soil. Which crop can be cultivated in that soil and about the variety and the quantity of fertilizer to be used. Today the farmer is being advised to use Urea. In this way we are not using the fertilizers available in our country properly. We should also use compost manure and farmers should be encouraged to use it at block and district level.

As you have said that in 1991-92 our living style, dining style and transportation system has changed in comparison to 1949-50. There is a sea change in our attitudes. But no change has been introduced to increase the agricultural production. The area which produced wheat, rice jute, is still producing the same crops continuously without any alteration. Today we have to prepare a scheme to select the crops to be sown in a particular district. It can not be done merely by advising the farmer. We have to make 'agriculturae demonstrative farms' in every 10-15 blocks. Where the farmers can live for 2-3 months study the types of crops that can be sown on his land so that he can go back to his own village and do the same.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, alongwith this in the present changing circumstances of our country it is necessary to increase the number of horticulture and forestry universities. Because at present we have only 50 universities in such a big country so that people can find out what type of crops vegetables etc. they can produce, and the king of forest they can grow. We have seen that forest policy of the Government has proved a failure. Now some farmers want afforestation on their land. But for this they need the help of a horticultural university.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that Madhya Pradesh is such a vast State. Which has rivers, good soil and plenty of land. But it has nothing on the name of horticulture and forestry. Moreover there are several places in our country where young boys and girls want to study in these universities. Their only interest is to acquire a degree and they are not interested in the institute. So through you I would like to say that horticulture and forest universities should provide degrees. In the same way dairy farming university should also be set up they should provide training for 4-5 years. There is a need of several animal husbandary universities in this country. Nothing can be done in this regard merely by discussion or without paying attention. People should produce cereals.

AN HON. MEMBER: Such a university has been set up in Bihar.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR: Only one is not sufficient. I am talking about the entire country. I hope that you will also agree with me. They should be praised if they has set up, if not then they should be encouraged to do so. In the same way we talk about agro-industries and its development. But nothing much has happened in this regard.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there are 5 lakhs 76 thousand villages and 1 lakh 74 thousand Gram Panchayats in India. But neither the Government nor the Banks ever paid any attention towards them. I mean to say that neither the Government nor the Banks are making any effort to develop agro-industry. So I want to tell the Government and the Planning Commission that under the 8th Five Year Plan 100-150 young boys should be encouraged to start small scale industries. Training will be needed to start an industry. But no training is being given. The State Government always postpone the training programme on the pretext of paucity of funds. As my friend Shri Laxminarayan Padenya said that there is a heavy drought but funds are not available in that ratio to face the situation. The State Chief Minister should

have requested the Central Agriculture Minister to call a meeting of the Agriculture Ministers from every State and find a solution to face the drought situation.

(Interruptions)

I have to inform the both. I would like to inform the State Government through the Central Government that it should ask the Union Minister to find out permanent solution for installing an agro-unit in the State and we should have a discussion on that. We all should have a discussion on it and that discussion should last for two, three or four days. One should not make any pretext for one's inability to attend the meeting nor should one leave the meeting in a day or two. We should discuss it for some days. it is very necessary to discuss the problem of acute drought situation in the country.

My colleagues are saying that it has rained. Perhaps it might have rained in some districts including his district but out of 459 districts in the country, it might have rained hardly in 50-60 districts. It has not rained everywhere.

I mean to say what happens to the water of all rivers of the country. I do not believe in statistics but sometime statistics are to be relied upon. It has been said that rainfall in our country and America is the same. It has also been said that in America 34-35 percent of rain water is utilised for agriculture through canals and drains constructed these for that purpose. I do not want to mention statistics here but in our country water for irrigation is not utilised to the extent it ought to be. It is very essential to construct small dams for power generation whether their capacity is 5 M.W. or 3M.W but small dams should be constructed. Therefore, through the hon. Minister of Agriculture I would like to submit to the Planning Commission, which frame plans for our country, that stop dams should be constructed on all big rivers of the country.

The advantage of constructing stop dams will be that water will be stored in them

and the existing water table, which lowering at present, will also come upwards.

Secondly, sand, stones, pebbles and mud have accumulated in huge quantity in all the rivers of the country. River Yamuna is not so deep today as it was in 1950. In 40 years as much as fourteen feet silt has accumulated in it. Similar is the position of other rivers also. Today there is need of using dredging machines in each river of our country, so that accumulated sand and mud may be dredged out from them. Now the question arises about the use of dredged out sand and mud of the rivers. We have the example of Suez Canal. Dredging of sand from Suez Canal goes on continuously and dredged out sand is used in the construction of roads. Visit Suez canal and the Egypt Roads upto Cairo have been constructed with the sand dredged out from that canal. Therefore, we can use the dredged out sand of these rivers in the construction of roads. For doing this work cooperation of all is needed be it the Dredger Corporations of the State Governments or of the Union Government or any other agency.

Along with this, it is very necessary to construct stop dams, because without these dams we cannot solve water crisis in the country.

Besides, there is acute power crisis in our country and due to power crisis people in villages have begun to install tubewells, but even then they cannot get drinking water, because power is not supplied to those tubewells. Only one or two States like Haryana and Punjab are exceptions. In these two States attention is paid to the problems of the farmers and sufficient power is supplied to them. But in other State, there is acute power crisis and in power generation our State Madhya Pradesh figures last. In Madhya Pradesh power is not supplied to the farmers.

I mean to say that unless the Government do not make arrangements for water for irrigation, supply power to the farmers and along with this set up agricultural dem-

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onstration farms for 10-15 blocks, this problem cannot be solved. All the relief measures should be of permanent nature. Through you, I would like to make a request to the hon. Minister of Agriculture in particular to convene a meeting of all the State Governments, so that it may discuss in detail the short-term, mid term and long term plans to combat the acute drought facing the country today. There is a need to bring about a change in our patterns. Those who sowed wheat earlier, should sow wheat and those who sowed paddy, should sow paddy. Demonstration Farms and Horticultural Universities should be opened. The situation can be improved if 10 colleges each will be opened in States of Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, similarly training centres should be opened in each State for imparting training in dairy, animal husbandry and industrial development on large scale. Only then these states can make progress.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the State Governments are not as much concerned as they ought to be. This is the reason that sufficient fund is not spent on relief works. The Union Government provides funds but the State Governments should also spend their own funds for the development of the State and on the flood and drought relief works. With these words I thank you for allowing me time to speak.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing such a serious problem due to which people are suffering somewhere from flood and somewhere from drought in the country. Saint Kabirdas has rightly said "Jal men meen pyasi, hamen suni suni laagat hasi."

Sir, there is no shortage of water resources in this country. There are so many water resources in the country that their water can irrigate each and every inch of the country. But even after 47 years of independence, the Government could not pay attention to it with the result every State is

facing either drought or flood despite these water resources. Particularly, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are most affected.

I think Haryana and Delhi are never affected by drought and flood. Because Delhi has nothing of its own. People from all over the country and of different countries live in Delhi, but it has nothing of its own. When there is snow fall in Himachal Pradesh, cold winds flow here and when the weather is hot in Rajasthan, heat waves blow here.

Sir, we had a lot of expectation from the hon. Minister who is in charge of the Department, for finding out a solution to this problem here in the capital of the country—Hastinapur. He is the only Minister who is son of a farmer, therefore, we had have a lot of expectation from him that after becoming a Minister he would certainly find out its solution, but we are observing for last one year that our expectation could not come true. 3-4 months ago he had given an answer on the flood situation that the Union Government had given 50 percent of advance of what was demanded by the States. Sir, the survey conducted by the Government, which is a report of Government of India not of one year but of several years and according to that report, such situation of flood and drought is likely to prevail in one or the other part of the country. Therefore, we should find out solution to both of these problems.

Sir, I would like to give an example in this regard. There is a river Kosi in Bihar and there has been a long standing demand to construct a dam on this river. If this dam is constructed it would not only make the poor Bihar self dependent in foodgrains but it would also in a position to meet the requirement of the whole country. There will be then neither any drought nor any flood in Bihar. Both the central Government and the State Government have misused several crore rupees in 45 years. The State Government continued to demand whereas the Government of India went on refusing. What is the use of it? I know that the Government would

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misutilise crores of rupees when the calamity comes. Much money will be wasted over petrol for conducting ariel survey. But what the victims will get in the name of relief? They will get only four Kilo grains in a week. Therefore, there is a need to think over it seriously.

Examples of Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh may be given. M.A. pass youth come to me and ask to me help them get some job even on a meagre salary of 200 rupees per month. Just see what is the condition of you country. The educated unemployed youths of this country are compelled to do labourer's work but they are not getting even that. The State Government does not have enough resources to do anything for them. The Central Government should therefore, render financial help to them so that they may have a sigh of relief.

Let us also see the plight of the cattle. The Government talks of improving the breed of the cattle. But during drought they do not get grass and during flood everything flows away. Some provision should be made to provide the shelter for the cattle. In our area where there are no mountains the cattle are reared in a different way. I would like to submit that there is a need of around improvement. The State Government has a separate budget for Ranchi. No scheme has ever been formulated for the cattle. This scheme must have proved successful had the Central Government taken proper care.

Shri Chandrakar who was just speaking has said a very good thing. There is a facility of pumps, electric motors etc. in villages but there is not even one hour supply of electricity during 24 hours. On the other hand, there is a great misutilisation of electricity in the headquarters as we also do here in Delhi by using electric heater and air condition. I believe that if this electricity is provided to the villages by reducing its supply to the headquarters our farmers would be greatly benefited. Our country will be economically strong only when the farmers of this country grow economically sound. If it is not done, no economical advancement can be attained

even after making the best efforts. With much anguish I would like to say that the unemployed youth are forced to do the work of labourer. From 25 to 50 people are always there at my house to complain against drought, flood and unemployment. I do try to convince them that the Government cannot provide relief to all and that there cannot be arrangements for all. But is it not the responsibility of the Government to know as to why the drought recurs and as to what brings about the floods. The Government has never tried to conduct a survey in this regard. Without taking much of your time I would once again request that this should be taken seriously. I am speaking under rule 193. The hon. Minister should be serious about this serious problem. I am aware that the hon. Minister has his own limitations.

Experts are made members of the Planning Commission. It is a good thing, experts should be there, but there should be at least one such person among them who has the bitter experience of village life. This will help in the upliftment of villages. Educated persons can do great deeds but there are at the same time such people who live in villages and even after being uneducated they can help in good discussions on different issues. I repeatedly suggest that the able persons of villages should be taken into the Planning Commission. The Government must follow my this suggestion. This can bring a sea change in villages. The village schemes cannot be completed as long as the persons who enjoy air-condition comfort in the rooms will continue to be made members of the Planning Commission. This is my challenge. In Bihar the flood and the drought come simultaneously, so the Government should pay special attention to Bihar. Relief work should immediately be undertaken there. The Bihar Government has also sent its demand to the Central Government regarding this and it has also sent its report. It should be given a serious thought. I have to submit only this much.

SHRI BHJOGENDRA JHA: Mr. Chair-

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man, Sir, Most of the country is under the grip of drought. There has been some rainfall in some places but that can be useful for agricultural purposes only for two-three days. The water of rivers in areas like Madhubani, Sitamadhi, Sahasa, Sopaul in North Bihar is falling into seas, but areas on either sides of this region is experiencing severe drought. I do not want to think of charity to which our colleagues will just refer to. The Government should do some arrangements right from now. We will not need either to give or take alms. The Government should provide pumping sets on rent along with diesel to lift water from the rivers. Several lakh acres land in northern part of Uttar Pradesh of northern part of Bihar and some part of Orissa are flooded by water. That water flowing on either side of the rivers can be immediately utilised for irrigation purpose by using big tubewells. It will take time if we go in for the purchase of tubewells, then the issue of commission will also arise, therefore, Government should accept my suggestion to provide tubewells on rent.

I will not compare the State Government with the Central Government nor will I say that Government of Bihar is better than the Central Government, but this much I would certainly say that if pumping sets are made available on rent to the farmers to lift water from the rivers, that will ensure good crop this year in ten lakh acres of land. I am suggesting this as an immediate relief measure. At least the northern part of the Ganga which includes northern Bihar and the north part of Bengal and the north part of Uttar Pradesh are almost floating on water. The water level is not so deep. There is plenty of water. The Government of Bihar has provided tubewells to the marginal farmers to bring out the water by giving 90 percent grant. But due to the lack of money only selected persons are availing this benefit. They have to give 10 percent money from their pocket. I think that it is justified because if they do not contribute even 10 percent money from their pocket, then they will not care about their property. (*Interruptions*)