

there is drought in every two or three years and rain is scant. The whole of Western Rajasthan and its people always suffer from scarcity of water, electricity and irrigation facilities. I would like to request that the construction of Indira Gandhi Canal Project has not been completed so far. Its construction should be completed with special grants from the office of the Prime Minister because by doing so the construction work of the Rajasthan Canal and the water from Jawai Dam could be supplied to the people of my district Pali, irrigation could be possible at other places and drinking water could be made available to the people. Sir, my submission is that we should rise above party-politics and regional lines. I would like to request to the hon. Ministers, who hail from Rajasthan particularly to Shri Ashok Gehlot from Western Rajasthan and to other hon. Ministers who have said again and again that the problems of Rajasthan should be sorted out by obtaining special grants from the office of the Prime Minister. Therefore, I would like its early completion with special grants.

[English]

Shri T. J. Anjalose (Alleppey) : Sir, the State of Kerala is facing acute power shortage. For more than a decade, no new Project has been started in this State. More than 15 Projects are pending clearance by the Central Government.

Kayankulam Thermal Station is the only one Power project which got clearance by the Centre. But, environment clearance for this Project has not yet been given.

I urge upon the Government to take urgent steps for giving environmental clearance without further delay.

Shri Pala K. M. Mathew (Idukki) : Communal violence and killings have been going on unabated in all the States, especially during the last two weeks and there are plenty of

newspaper reports that these happenings are going on every day. The unfortunate fact is that as it goes on unabated, the sense of urgency that is required for solving this problem is not there in the Government. The communal killings are happening these days mostly in U.P., Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and Bihar.

I would request the Government to take immediate steps to put an end to this violence so that the country may not be put to more difficulties than we are put to at present. This has been going on for the last two years. We have been witnessing a very terrible phenomenon these two years. We have to put an immediate stop to this. The Government must come with a programme to be completed within a time-bound framework.

[Translation]

Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav : Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri has just raised an issue about serious situation in this context. I would like to mention that 30 crore of people have been affected by severe drought. The whole of Uttar Pradesh, the whole of Bihar.....

Shri Shiv Charan Mathur (Bhilwara) : Not 30 crore but 3 crore.

Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav : I am saying, it is 30 crore. 12 crore to 13 crore drought-affected people are there in Uttar Pradesh alone. Likewise, the whole of Bihar is also suffering. Shri Buta Singhji was present here just now. Western Rajasthan and a major part of the country are drought-affected at present.

Sir, the situation there due to monsoon being late by one month. Today farmers are worried not only over the problem of their food, over their economic crisis alone but they are worried because their cattle are on the verge of dying due to non-availability of fodder.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has made many statements in the House but no hon. Minister thought it proper to make a statement in this regard. Today the entire country is affected by wide-spread drought, the hon. Minister should at least make a statement mentioning therein the steps being taken by Government in consultation with the State Governments to overcome the crisis.

Sir, Shri Sonkarji was just telling that the people are worried a lot and a starvation situation has arisen and there is fear that cattle would die if the steps were not taken immediately in this regard. Therefore, my submission is that the hon. Minister of Agriculture should at least make a statement in the House. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, a situation of severe drought has arisen in the entire Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and some parts of Haryana and almost all the North India. Flood situation is there in some parts of the country. In this way crisis is growing for farmers in two ways. The farmers are extremely worried. Therefore, I make a submission to the Leader of the House to ask the Minister of Agriculture to make a statement in the House about the measures being taken by the Government to overcome the drought and flood situation which are causing crisis for the farmers as well as farm labourers and take the House into confidence.

Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a serious matter. Please urge upon the Government to make a statement and initiate action in this regard. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr. Speaker : I think that this is such an issue as everybody is worried over it. Therefore, I would ask the Government to collect the statistical data of rains from the Meteorological Department and consult State Governments to take action and make a

statement in the House conveniently within two-three days regarding the steps the Government is contemplating to take.

Shri Arjun Singh : All right.

Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav : Sir, you have said about the Meteorological Department but that department is also creating confusion. The department's director said on T.V. that rainfall is normal. It has created further confusion. *(Interruptions)*.

Mr. Speaker : Chandra Jeetji, it is not like that. It is not a political issue. It concerns the lives of the people. I know that the Meteorological Department has equipments by which it can forecast the amount of rainfall in the next 15-20 days. Weather maps are prepared on a Daily, Weekly and Monthly basis. This information helps the Government in formulating its policy. The Government can also take precautionary measures in the areas where low or no rainfall has been predicted on the basis of the above maps. The State as well as the Central Government should also chalk out their plan of action on that basis. The Government should give a comprehensive statement within the next 2-3 days keeping all these things in view. *(Interruptions)*.

Shri Surya Narayan Yadav : Sir, the whole of Bihar has been hit by drought for want of rainfall.

Mr. Speaker : I am talking of the entire country.

13.00 Hrs.

[English]

Shrimati Malini Bhattacharya (Jadavpur) : Through you, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the concerned Ministry the failure of successive Governments to meet the just demands of the five lakh *Anganwadi* workers in the country. At the moment, *Anganwadi* work is regarded as a voluntary service with a very meagre