

had seen people there who were in a state of extreme distress. They are not getting food. Sir, I would like to request you to direct the Leader of the House to make a statement in this regard.

Mr. Speaker : Every hon. Member is adding to my work.

Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly take this matter seriously.

Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav (Azamgarh) : My submission also relates to it.

Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri : A painful situation is prevailing. Shri Chandrajeet Yadav and all other hon. Members had made similar submissions. Serious concern has been expressed. I would urge upon you to direct him to say something in the House as to what would be done here.

[English]

Shrimati Vasundhara Raje (Jhalawar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister for Environment has been made very very laudable comments in the newspapers for the last two weeks. He says that he and his Ministry do not want to stand in the way of appropriate projects. He says that development and ecology must go hand in hand. But at the same time, action speaks louder than his words. There are very very wide disparities between his action and his words.

At this very moment of time, there are over forty-nine hydro and thermal projects having a capacity of over 15,000 m.w. lying on various shelves gathering dust. A case in point is, Dholpur Thermal Plant which is going on for the last twelve years. Various clarifications are asked repeatedly and sent back to the State Government despite the clarifications are provided by the State Government. Would you believe it, the project has

been stalled due to supposed crocodile sanctuary where no crocodile exists? But the hon. Minister and his Ministry have stalled this very very prestigious project. Rajasthan is dying for power.

Rajasthan is short of power and we are waiting for this project.

I call it whimsical on the part of the Government. It is a failure on the part of the Environment Ministry to allow the project to be pending in this manner.

Therefore, I seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. I would ask you to please direct the hon. Minister to make a statement in this regard. (Interruptions).

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Environment and Forests (Shri Kamal Nath) : The hon. Member has observed that this Project is pending for the last 12 years. I have just been here for last one month. I do accept that there are a large number of projects. But we must be conscious of one fact. (Interruptions).

Please listen to me if you want to know the facts.

Unless and until these projects are environmentally compatible and unless and until they comply with the various stipulations of environmental and pollution laws, they cannot be cleared.

But I assure the hon. Member that I shall certainly have a look at the Dholpur Project not only with open eyes but with open mind.

[Translation]

Shri Guman Mal Lodha (Pali) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, our hon. colleagues have drawn attention to the serious problems of Rajasthan, I would like to make a submission especially regarding severe drought in Western Rajasthan as it is such a desert area where