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14.48 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

#### Drought Situation in Various Parts of the Country - *CONTD.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will you take Discussion under Rule 193 on the prevailing drought situation in various parts of the country. Shri Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum): Sir, I need not tell either the House or the hon. Minister that drought is very devastating than flood in terms of long-term consequences. Drought has a long term effect unlike flood. We remember that long time back, Panditji said that floods have a benign effect also. Now this is a problem which we cannot control. We cannot control rains. They neither follow the rules of procedure of the Parliament nor are they guided by the guidelines of the Reserve Bank of India. The point is that there two kinds of consequences to which I would like to draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister. I have only questions to make.

There are short-term consequences and those short-term consequences generally could mean that every year, there is drought somewhere or the other. Firstly, there should be a contingency plan generating income in the drought affected areas. This should be the first thing because people who live on agriculture lose all their income. Secondly, there should be a package plan. Arrangements for transportation of food and fodder to these drought affected areas from the rest of the country should be there. Thirdly - I am a little perplexed here and I do not really know what the solution is - since income cannot be generated adequately,

food has to be subsidised and fodder has to be subsidised. We know the difficulties. There is an imposed restriction on giving of subsidies from forces outside our country. In the Budget also we are proposing that there should be reduction in subsidies. This is a problem to which, I do not know whether the Minister of Agriculture alone can give an answer. I really do not know. But subsidies have to be there. Then, there is the problem of import intervention. Given the situation in our economy, it is extremely difficult unless our export-import policy is modified to that extent. After the compression of imports last year, we have already started relaxing and during this March and April, we are having a record deficit in our balance of trade. Unless there is some import of foodgrains, the situation cannot improve. Given the very low level of our foodgrain stocks, I have to say this and I do not know what answer the Minister of Agriculture will give. But I must say that this is a question which is almost eating into my mind. And I do not know the answer. I leave it to you. These are the short-term consequences.

But there are long term consequences also. In the long term consequences I formulate drought as non-availability of water - not only quantitatively but qualitatively too. We know the famous adage: 'Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink.' You see water but you cannot meet the problem of drought. I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and through him, the Minister of Water Resources to the problem of drinking water supply also. In West Bengal, we are going to be affected in a very long term way with regard to good quality water supply which is being affected by arsenic poisoning. I do not know whether he knows about it. In several districts on the left bank of River Hooghly, water is infected with high deposits of arsenic. Not only the top layers of water, but water at deeper levels, even at the third level, is affected with this arsenic. The districts of 24 Parganas, Nadia, Murshidabad, Malda, Burdwan and Birbhum are affected in this way. Some studies have been made by the Centre and also by the State and it is reported that certain arsenic deposits in Chota Nagpur Hills are passing,

[Sh. Nirmal Kanti Chatterjee]

through geological movement, into waters even at such deep levels. And this water can neither be utilised for agricultural purposes nor can it be used as *potable* water. The Government of West Bengal is in a dilemma. All the tubewells - both shallow and deep - are affected and they have to be withdrawn from the ground. And to find potable water, you may have to go deep down, a thousand metres down, perhaps! The State Government is a helpless witness to this devastation. This problem of non-availability of potable or quality water also generates a drought-like situation and some answer should be found to remedy the situation.

What are the long term measures? We cannot order rain. But the problem of drought is not directly related to the availability of water or availability of rains on one to one basis. Had we been able to manage such irrigation projects, whereby we could have stored water, we could have handled the problem somewhat better. We have discussed it earlier also, and many times we have said that we should not spread our resources too thin. But unfortunately, there are still some old projects which are yet to be completed and these include even those which had been initiated at the time of the Second Five Year Plan. So, unless and until we concentrate our resources on the irrigation projects which are already on hand complete them immediately, we will not be able to reduce the impact of lack of rain and thus reduce the area affected by drought. For example, Teesta, which requires aid from the Centre. It is more relevant this year particularly because some of the North-Bengal districts, despite rains elsewhere in West Bengal, are affected by drought this year. Secondly, if the management of water is devolved to the rural panchayati institution then the problem can be tackled in a way which is satisfactory to all.

So, for long term measures where I want to draw the attention of the Minister is that instead of concentrating our resources on many irrigation projects all over the country,

*various parts of the country*

you should concentrate on some areas and finish the projects as early as possible - as it should be done in the case of Teesta. Secondly, the local elected bodies should be given the power to handle the water management. If you can do this then I think even if rains are not there to the extent which we like, the impact of drought can be reduced to a good deal. These are some of the problems about which I do not have the answer and these are some suggestions which I am leaving for the consideration of the Minister.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: (Berhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, indeed while reviewing the subject of this immense gravity like the drought situation of our country, it would be worthwhile and pertinent to understand the quantity of water actually available for utilisation from all the possible available sources.

Strangely, of the total quantity of water, about 97 per cent is salty, filling the oceans and seas. Out of the rest 3 per cent major portion is out of reach, either frozen up in ice caps and glaciers, or buried deep underground. We depend on what is left in rivers, lakes and accessible aquifers to quench our thirst, wash away our wastes, water our crops and increasingly, to power our industries. This available water for our use comes to only 0.3 per cent. Unfortunately, even this precious little water is overstrained. Industrial wastes, sewage and agricultural run-off overload rivers and lakes with chemical wastes and poison water supplies. Sediments from eroded land silt up dams, rivers and hydroelectric schemes suck irreplaceable ground water reserves, dry.

A global statistics disclose that every day 25,000 people die as a result of bad water management. Some two thirds of the world's population is without clean water and as a result diarrhoea kills a staggering 4.6 million children under five age, every year.

With this background, while thinking of global perspective, we have to think and act locally.

15.00 hrs.

Orissa State is faced with acute problem of water. Here, floods, droughts, death or loss of life and property due to ill-management of water are colossal. Lack of due attention to rehabilitation of people in damming areas like Subarnarekha reservoir projects, wanton deforestation leading to scarce rainfall and lowering of ground-water table in Kalahandi and Bolangir Districts, lack of provision of safe drinking water, etc. are some of the burning problems. In the Ninth Lok Sabha, to my Starred Question No. 316, the then hon'ble Minister has replied on 4th April, 1990 that in Orissa, by the end of the Seventh Plan, only 50.3 per cent of irrigation potential has been created as against the corresponding figure of 70 per cent for the country. Hence, there is substantial scope for improvement for Orissa State in this regard.

Further, Ganjam District, geographically located in South Orissa is an agricultural-based district. One of its Parliamentary constituencies, Berhampur which I represent, comprises of seven Assembly segments of Chatrapur, Gopalpur, Berhampur, Chikiti, Mohana, Parlakhemundi and Ramagiri. It is sad to observe the poor water resources management in all these areas. Even the existing sources provided by the philanthropic and far-sighted luminaries of the yester-years are in a total state of neglect.

To briefly illustrate this point, Parlakhemundi Taluk to which I belong, has 527 large and small irrigation projects, which is the highest number in entire Orissa State. This has been possible mainly due to the initiative of late Shri Krushna Chandra Gajapathi, whose Birth Centenary is being celebrated with fervour throughout Orissa this year. He spent millions of rupees for creating an agricultural infrastructure of this kind. Ironically, however, his own home town suffers from acute drinking water problem during the summer months. The main source, Sitasagar is so badly silted and choked with aquatic plants that it practically dries up during summer.

Furthermore, the Baijal Stream, a perennial source of water supply in the outskirts of Parlakhemundi, still remains *unharnessed*. After years of appraisal and representations to the State Government, the foundation stone to this most viable project was finally laid by the former Chief Minister, Shri J.B. Patnaik in early 1989. The actual implementation of this much-delayed, minor irrigation project is another dream. Owing to its delayed implementation, the original estimated project cost of Rs. 75 lakhs in 1979, has escalated to Rs. 3.5 crore in 1989. The popular adage 'a stitch in time, saves nine' could not have been more true. That, the right money should be spent at the right time, is the moral.

There are a number of villages, particularly, in the agricultural-dependent Chatrapur, Mohana and Ramagiri Assembly segments, which have neither irrigation facilities nor even the basic drinking water facilities. In the case of Chatrapur, the irrigation projects have not been implemented as yet, while in the case of the tribal dominated Ramagiri and Mohana even the few available water sources have become inaccessible, due to lack of proper road-link system in the villages.

While I agree in principle to the quantum of financial allocation of the General Budget for fulfilling this vital human requirement, it is imperative on the part of the Central Government to ensure that these financial allocations are fruitfully utilised at the earliest point of time, for people to obtain the maximum utility from such schemes.

We have reached an era in which the water resources availability is grossly inadequate to the ever increasing demand of the growing population. Thus, the Government would do well implementing the master plan of forming a national grid of our water resources by inter-linking the country's major rivers, which at present empty out into the seas, millions of cusecs of invaluable, unutilised water.

Ultimately, the review of the drought

[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): There is no quorum in the House.

situation will not be complete if we do not consider some of the allied problems associated with drought. When there is drought, it brings in its wake acute conditions of famine. Hence more foodgrains should be rushed to the famine zones from the central pool. In my State of Orissa and particularly in the rainshadow areas of my Berhampur Parliamentary constituency, the prolonged drought conditions during the last two months have affected the paddy seedlings; which have withered away and rendered themselves incapable of giving satisfactory yields. Hence, I would request the Government of India to rush more seeds and foodgrains to Orissa from the pool well in advance before real starvation conditions set in, like the Central Government's recent favourable consideration with respect to Maharashtra State. Cases of few States like Tripura and Madhya Pradesh with its Sarguja District, reporting many starvation deaths should also be favourably considered. Further, I would also suggest that more FIC godowns be set up throughout the country and particularly in remote agricultural belts like Ganjam District, Orissa, where adequate godowns for storage of paddy/rice are really found wanting. As a result, Government procurement, millers' and paddy growers' problems only get magnified. Liberal loans to small farmers and free supply of subsidised fertilisers also should be made available.

In conclusion, we will do well to remember the popular adage, "prevention is better than cure". Now, after 44 years of independence, let us earnestly try to become independent from total weather dependence and not fall a victim to the vagaries of nature regularly year after year.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (Amreli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Congress members are never present in the House.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Ruling party is showing indifference towards the House. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let quorum bell be rung.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, it is indeed paradoxical that when we are discussing the drought situation in the country, reports just are pouring in regarding the cyclonic storm that has originated from a deep depression in the Bay. It has since crossed the Paradeep - Balasore Coastline leaving a trail of 15 persons dead so far and devastation in many areas. Reports have also come in of toppled houses, uprooted trees, shattered power and telecommunication net. work, accompanied by saline water inundation of vast cultivated areas which my learned Colleague Shri Sivaji Patnaik raised this morning only. Even in the southern district of Ganjam, incessant rains have caused lot of property damage and also the Vamsadhara and Rushikulya rivers to flow above the danger levels.

I would earnestly appeal to the Orissa State and the Central Governments to tackle this grave situation on a war-footing, to prevent further loss of lives and property. Than you, Sir.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy, at last, that this Government found time to have a discussion on the very serious problem of a severe drought situation in the country.

[Translation]

O. Kay I shall speak in Hindi but I am sorry that our Minister would not be able to do anything in this regard. That is why he is submitting again and again. (Interruptions)

[English]

We get stock-answer from the Government that the Ninth Finance

Commission has fixed certain guidelines for distribution of funds available in the Calamity Relief Fund and they are only the distribution agency. If that is the case, shall I ask the hon. Minister why do you have the necessity of a Ministry? Why do we have Minister for this Department of Agriculture, if he needs only a distribution agency?

Sir, the hon. Finance Minister is also present in the House. When reference is made to the Ninth Finance Commission and about the distribution of the available funds, does this Government feels that their responsibility ceases? For a moment has this Government ever thought of the problems that have arisen on account of the severe drought.

This year, we have the report, there has been a very severe drought condition in parts of Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, West Bengal and U.P.

The drought situation has occurred largely on account of the failure of the monsoon during 1991-92. This has affected a large population of about 70 million in these parts of the country and 18 million hectares of crop area in these States is also affected. This has also resulted in the loss of seven million tonnes of *kharif* foodgrains and the value of these seven million of foodgrains amounts to Rs. 3 crores. That apart, again cash crops like oilseeds, cotton, worth about Rs. 5,000 crores have also been lost and then a large cattle population was also adversely affected.

We know that on account of the severity of the drought there will be a fall in food production, and on account of that, the prices of essential commodities will go up, a large number of peasants and working class people will become jobless. All these problems will have to be tackled at the proper time.

I would like to ask the Government whether they are a responsible Government at all. If they are a responsible Government, should they not anticipate such a situation

and make proper arrangements to deal with the situation?

AN HON. MEMBER: Have we to anticipate the drought also?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: A responsible Government would always anticipate situations-drought, flood havoc and any other situation that would arise in the country which would affect a large number of people, resulting in loss of employment, price rise, etc.

I will come to the situation that has arisen in Karnataka. In Karnataka on account of insufficient rainfall many parts of the northern portion of the State in districts like Bidar, Gulbarga, Raichur and Bijapur and also Tumkur district, from where you hail, I am told even inside your constituency places like Chiknayakanahalli and Gubbi are severely affected. A situation arose in Gulbarga city where in potable water was to be airlifted as there was such an acute shortage of water

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Was it airlifted or rail-lifted? Did they supply by train or by air?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kottoyam): Are you contesting from the Deputy -Speaker's constituency next time?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: It is not a question of contesting from any constituency. If you have to come to this House or anywhere in the country, you will have to tackle this problem first. (*Interruptions*)

AN HON. MEMBER: Please address the Chair.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I am addressing the Chair. The Chair is also equally concerned about the severe problem being faced by the people of our country.

Sir, in Karnataka a crop areas of 8.12 lakh hectares was adversely affected. A report was made to the Government of India. A request was also made by Karnataka

[Sh. V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

Government for additional Central assistance of Rs. 50 crore. But we get a stock reply. Added to that, the reply given is that the situation in Karnataka is not of rare severity this is a new word - and hence you are not entitled for any additional Central assistance. In the first stage, we do not have additional funds. We are only a distributing agency. The Central Government is saying that the situation is not of a rare severity and hence you are not entitled for additional assistance. If that is the case, why do you send teams after teams to make a study of the situation? Why do you get a report? Why do you make us discuss this situation on the floor of the House? If you are not able to come to the rescue, if you are not able to help the deserving, then probably all these are only an eye-wash and we are just shedding crocodile tears...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SUSANTA CHAKRABORTY  
(Howrah): If the crocodile have tears at all..

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: The people have to judge that.

There was a reference about *Annavari* system, based on which assessment of the situation is made. The hon. Minister was telling the other day during Question Hour that it is the State Government which has to change the system and they have to make the assessment. If that is the case, how can we, sitting here, satisfy the questions that are raised by our constituents? How can we do justice to the needy people? What expectation can be made of this so-called responsible Government? Sir, could it be termed just that the drought situation is not man made and it is an act of God? There is a legal terminology '*vis major*'. If that is the case, probably we are preparing ourselves to leave the fate of these people, who are affected, to the God and God only can come to the rescue. and the Government which is sitting at the helm of affairs will never come to the rescue of these people.

Sir, the Government has been talking, specially the hon. Members from the ruling

party all along have been talking about respect for the law and that the Court orders will have to be obeyed.

MR. DEPUTY -SPEAKER: We are discussing about drought now. Please do not deviate. If you have got any suggestion, please make.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: In regard to Ayodhya, we have been hearing sermons not only from the Members of the ruling party but from the Left Party Members that you are not obeying the Court orders, etc. Sir, here is a case where some individual MPs from Madhya Pradesh filed a write petition in the High Court of Madhya Pradesh seeking a direction to the Government of India that they should come to the rescue of the drought affected people immediately. The Madhya Pradesh High Court immediately passed the orders. It has issued a direction to the Government of India that they should send the necessary relief immediately and this relief is apart from whatever is due to Madhya Pradesh under the guidelines of the 9th Finance Commission. May I ask the hon. Minister why is he sitting pretty over that order? That order is passed about three weeks ago. Still that order is not being implemented. Can I take it that this so called responsible Government also has scant regard for the orders of the court? How far can we drive the people? Should we drive them to the doors of the courts seeking relief in a situation like a drought and what is the use even after getting the orders from the court, if this Government does not care for the orders of the court? Then probably, we will have to leave them to their fate.

I would earnestly make an appeal to both the Ministers here the hon Minister of Agriculture and also the hon. Minister of Finance to think over the matter and re-draw the guidelines as to how much assistance is to be given to each State and in such severe cases which are not anticipated - as my friend was referring to, drought situation cannot be anticipated if it cannot be anticipated then what is the preparations? In a given situation, in a situation like this how do you react? Do you not think of keeping apart some fund to

meet such situations? You call for a meeting of all the Chief Ministers again. You please make them understand the gist of the discussion which has taken place in this august House. You tell them what the people want, and what the representatives of the people on the floor of this House have been urging upon. Then, re-draw once again the guidelines as to how the money will have to be distributed; how assistance will have to be given, so that the situation could be tackled properly.

During the present Session of Parliament as many as five questions have been asked in both Houses of Parliament on the prevailing drought situation, about sending teams for making the assessment and also on the report that has been submitted. The questions were also raised about setting up an inter-ministerial group which was supposed to make an assessment of a drought situation. But for all these questions the stock answer is given that the guidelines are fixed by the 9th Finance Commission. So, I would make an appeal again to make a rethinking about the whole situation and come to rescue of the affected people so that the situation could be tackled properly.

I would make a last appeal please do not show any step - motherly treatment towards Karnataka. I have never seen them to have ever come to the rescue of Karnataka. They do not take into consideration Karnataka at all and they say that Karnataka is a wealthy State. But we know how the State is being administered. The entire administrative machinery has collapsed in Karnataka. I have been referring to that the other day. So, I hope, at the hands of the hon. Agriculture Minister, the people of Karnataka will get justice.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh):—Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the drought situation and the famine conditions arising out of it. But the Government has become very insensitive to the situation as

is evident from the presence of Members in the House. Many parts of the country are facing conditions of scarcity and here we are facing scarcity of the Ruling party members in the House. Such an important issue is being discussed and there is lack of interest among the Members. Mr. Jakhar and Mr. Ramachandra are present in the House because of their own compulsions.

It is not that this issue is related to them alone. But since the relief work, animal husbandry and foodgrains production are dealt with by the Agriculture Ministry so the Ministry of Agriculture and Minister of State in the Ministry of agriculture are present in the House. But the whole matter is not concerned with Agriculture. In the entire debate attention has been and can be focussed on two things. First, are we making long-term planning and secondly how are we planning for irrigation? All the hon. Members have suggested to make arrangements of irrigation by adopting various methods, such as construction of small dams and canals, installation of tubewells, utilisation of surface and underground water. They have also suggested to prepare big and medium plans for irrigation and make small schemes at pachayat level. But is the Ministry of Agriculture responsible for all these works. Policy should be framed according to that. It is concerned with the Irrigation. The famine stricken area face scarcity of water. This is concerned with the Rural Development Ministry and Prime Minister himself is the Minister incharge of Rural Development Ministry so he should have been present in the House. It is also concerned with the supply of electricity. Electricity should be supplied to the drought affected area regularly so Minister of Energy should also pay attention to it. Whenever such questions are raised, Central Government gives standard and routine reply that a calamity relief fund of Rs. 805 crore rupees has been formed and amounts have been fixed for every State. When we were in Government we also used to give this reply. Three fourth is contributed by the Central Government and one fourth by the State Government. Now a State like Bihar, which force drought and famine conditions almost every year, has

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been provided a fund of only rupees thirty two crore. I have been M.L.A. there and I know that when Calamity Relief Fund has not been formed assistance used to be provided on much larger scale than this. Now this fund has been formed, so every thing is to be managed within Rs. 32 crores.

Similar is the case of many other States. But I would not like to waste the time of the House by just giving comparative data of the States. To me, this Calamity Relief Fund is insufficient for the whole country specially for state like Bihar which is affected by one or the other natural calamity every year. Sometime it is affected by drought and sometime by floods, as coastal area suffers heavy losses every year due to cyclones.

When the question was raised in the House, members started asking many questions from hon. Minister, but the hon. Chairman had decided to hold a separate Debate on it. Then the situation was very grave. But when was some down pour in Delhi and in some other areas, the interest in the drought situation declined. Today morning I had a talk with the Minister of Agriculture of Bihar and he has said that the situation continues to be grim and alarming. We wanted to ask a supplementary questions that day regarding the measures to be taken in respect of Bihar. We are the people's representatives so we know the difficulties being faced by the people there. But Government gives the same reply every time that State Government should first ask for assistance that means, the Government and the whole society have become totally insensitive to it. Previously, when there used to occur drought situation in any part of the country a discussion used to be held throughout the country and relief measures used to be taken on a large scale and people used to come forward to face the situation on together. I recollect the year 1966-67 I had taken admission in college that year. That year a severe drought had hit Bihar. In 1967 a coalition Government came into power there and it took steps to meet the situation on war-footing and not even a single person

had died in that famine. Today we do not see such a concern.

The hon. Members from Orissa draw attention of the House time and again to the fact that persons die of starvation every year in Kalahandi and other parts of Orissa as that is a drought prone area. This question is not that of Orissa alone. It concerns the whole nation. But we do not see any sympathy. If there has been some sympathy then Minister of Agriculture Shri Balram Jakhar would not have said that, a child get food only when he cries for it. This cannot be the response or language of a leader of the society or a representative of the people that Centre will provide relief only on demand from States. The question was about the places visited by the Central team and the report submitted by it. Has any State Government sent any report or made a request for sending a team or would they do so? We know their compulsions as well as their reply. They have also asked us to give this reply. This question does not pertain to any one party it needs to be considered by all. A calamity relief fund has been formed in pursuance of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission and there is no need to change it upto 2000 A.D. We are thankful for this. The other day the hon. Minister had given an assurance that the Tenth Finance Commission which has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Pant would review the situation for making reallocation. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Sir, the Member of the Tenth Finance Commission is here. He should listen.

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North West): Sir, I am listening.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, we suggest that this should definitely be considered, reviewed and rectified by the Tenth Finance Commission. When a natural calamity hits a region in a terrible way, only then Central

Government comes into action. It starts contemplating as to whether it is national calamity or not. No norms have been laid down to define a national calamity. If the people of Andhra Pradesh face a severe drought situation, they would say that this is natural calamity, if people die due to the famine conditions in Kalahandi or in other places in Orissa, they would say that it is a national calamity. But who will decide whether it is a national calamity or not? When cyclone hit the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Prime Minister himself, Deputy Prime Minister and other people visited that place and a discussion started whether it was national calamity or not. If the same discussion will continue in the Ministry of Shri Jakhhar Sahib it would not serve any purpose. It is a proof of lack of sensitivity on our part. We should review the whole situation afresh to face the current situation. This 805 crore rupee fund is not enough to face the drought situation in the whole country. It requires will power. When we do have strong will power people would continue to shift their responsibility on others. The hon. Minister of Agriculture can reply very easily that relief was not provided to the States because they did not ask for it and it would be sent to them only when they would ask for it. He can submit it easily that he agrees to the submissions of the members and shares their feelings, that long projects should be formed and immediate relief should also be provided. Fodder and water should be provided. Not even a single person should be allowed to die of starvation. But when the time to implement all these things comes he would say that they lack financial resources, Dr. Manmohan would reply in a single sentence that there is lack of resources. In this country the lack of funds is felt only for taking relief measures otherwise there is a lot of resources for people like Harshad Mehta to allow him to indulge in Four thousand crore rupee scandal. There is only 805 crore rupees to provide relief to the 87-90 crore people of this country while there are 35 to 37 hundred crores rupees for 4-5 brokers to play with. This shows as to how much are we sensitive, and how much is our Government sensitive to it. This also shows the priorities of the country. But all the Members whether

they belong to ruling party or opposition would speak in the one tone and would ask only one question as to how do we propose to counter it.

The Geographical condition of our country is such that there is no shortage of water. If we utilise out surface or underground water in a proper way we would not face scarcity of water. We have the rivers of which have water throughout the year. We also have mountains. But we should have to properly utilize these resources. For this we will have to take long term measures with a strong will power so that famine and floods do not recur in future. To provide relief to the afflicted people we would request the Minister of Agriculture not to wait for the reports from the States and not to depend merely on the Calamity Fund created for States, otherwise I am sorry to say, this discussion would have no meaning. If Government has to give same old response that there is no money and that this the subject concerned the State Government then there is no use of discussing this issue here. If we discuss the matter seriously to face the situation, then the Chief Ministers should be called here, there is no need of giving fifteen days notice, it should be done by maintaining regular contacts. We have received scant rainfall. Whatever rain we have received that is not sufficient to meet the requirement of paddy crop which is a main kharif crop. Its impact would not be felt now. We would be able feel its impact after December and January when people would die of starvation. Therefore, I request that work should be taken up on war footing. I am not talking of the working of the existing committee. I am saying that Shri Balram Jakhhar should contact the people of all States with a strong will power. A large area of the country is likely to be affected by drought so we should prepare ourselves to meet the situation.

Drought is not a political issue. All people have suggestions to make. We are a very powerful country and if we utilise that power in facing the situation properly we can face any challenge or calamity. You will have to take initiative and utilise all your resources wisely and provide funds to take long term

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measures, it will solve the problem of drought and floods for ever.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy to participate in this discussion regarding drought situation in various parts of the country. In fact, I am not directly concerned with the drought situation, as I come mainly from the Bombay city. But I will be failing in my duty if I do not plead for the State of Maharashtra.

As far as the severity of this drought situation is concerned, sufficient data has come on record which are given by the earlier speakers and in fact, the replies to the Starred Questions in this House also have brought out sufficient data about it. On 9th July, 1992, in reply to starred Question No. 22, it was stated that crop areas to the extent of 68.60 hectares of land in Maharashtra were reportedly affected and therefore, the State of Maharashtra had demanded central assistance to the tune of Rs. 780.41 crores. Different figures are given as far as other States are concerned. As against this, the calamity relief fund which has been paid to Maharashtra is only Rs. 33 crores. Now, according to the figures given by different publications of Maharashtra, the uneven rainfall with a long dry spell in Maharashtra during *Khariff* 1991-92 and also in *Rabi* 1991-92 had adverse effect on *Khariff* as well as *Rabi* crops. The Maharashtra Government had assessed according to the State *Paisewari*, it was observed that in addition to the aforesaid 21,545 *Khariff* villages, *paisewari* of 1,790 villages is 50 or even less than 50 paise. Therefore, on 30th January, 1992, the Government of Maharashtra took a decision to declare scarcity conditions in these villages. As far as the final *paise wari rabi* villages are concerned, it has been declared so by the Government of Maharashtra on 15th March, 1992 and according to that final *paise wari* 6,111 villages were found to be 50 paise or less. It has reported that this year out of

40,000 villages in the State, nearly about 29,000 villages are scarcity affected. I am not going into other damages due to heavy rainfall in certain pockets of Maharashtra but today I am only on the question of scarcity conditions. Even the present report up to 18th July, 1992 out of 29 districts consisting of 300 tehsils 129 tehsils have got 50 per cent or less rainfall. Therefore, the situation is not better as far as this year is concerned.

For the relief for last year, the Government of Maharashtra has actually spent Rs. 834.76 crores in anticipation that the aid will come from the Central Government. Now many Members have spoken and I would also join them in saying that as far as the present system of giving aid to the affected parts of the country is concerned, this is very defective. The Ninth Finance Commission has laid down certain formula and that for calamity relief fund, certain amounts were set aside. Those amounts were already taken away by the States. In the case Maharashtra, nearly Rs 33 crores were taken. Thereafter, they say, if the calamity is of rarest of rare type, then only it is considered for financial assistance from the Centre. The Central team has gone and come back from different States including Maharashtra. As far as Maharashtra is concerned they have found, 58 lakhs hectares to 60 lakh hectares in Maharashtra is affected and it was also found that nearly 800 and odd crores of rupees have been spent by Maharashtra. In spite of it, this team has come to the conclusion that no fund required, since it is not rarest of the rare calamity, as far as the State of Maharashtra is concerned. I do not know what are their norms for finding out the rarest of rare calamity. It is not defined anywhere. As far as I know, no norms are laid down. Therefore, these teams have gone and come back and report back that no assistance is necessary or to be paid. The people are surprised. Even the Government of Maharashtra is surprised.

As I find from one of the replies to the question, inter-Ministerial committee was also appointed and the committee has accepted this report. In response to my Unstarred question No. 272 replied on 9th

July, 1992, the reply was, the inter-Ministerial group considered the reports of the Central team which visited Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to assess the drought situation in its meeting held on 18th May and 2nd June, 1992.

" and the Group agreed with the recommendations of the Central team that a drought situation in the above States cannot be considered as of rare severity warranting any additional Central assistance."

So, it is not only the Central team but even the inter ministerial Group also considered the situation and they are satisfied that it is not a rare severity.

I am surprised. what are really the norms? What do you want to happen in the States further than this to be treated on a national level for the assistance to be given by the Central Government? What are those norms? Let us know.

I feel that his is only to show that the Central Government is doing something.

I do not know whether there decisions are conveyed to the Government because this inter-ministerial group had taken this decision on 18th May and 2nd June and I remember even after we were told in the discussions with the Maharashtra Government that we should pursue this matter with the Central Government. That means, the State Government has not been informed at all. They are just waiting for Central assistance. They are thinking that this team which had gone might have reported to the Central Government and that the Central Government is considering to give them some assistance.

Therefore, this situation is not very encouraging and in this particular circumstance, it is a thing which must be avoided.

Of course, the Tenth Finance commission will come and I hope that they will revise this formula and find out some

other formula. But when the drought situation in the whole country is such that they require assistance to the extent of Rs. 300 crores or Rs. 200 crores, then why should we not consider that it should be treated as a calamity on a national level? Some re-thinking will have to be done. Otherwise, we can never help the State Government.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: In Maharashtra, it is Rs. 67 crores or Rs. 89 crores but not Rs. 300 crores.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE: No In some States, it is Rs. 300 crores. But as far as our State is concerned, it was Rs. 844 crores. That was the amount actually spent by the Maharashtra State Government. The State Government cannot afford to spend such funds for relief purposes because they have to supply drinking water on bullock carts to different villages and give all sort of relief and if that relief is not given, how can the State Government function in the State at all?

Therefore, some re-thinking will have to be done. The formula will have to be revised by the Tenth Finance Commission and even the Central Government must have some new norms to help the State as far as the drought situation is concerned.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILENDRA MAHTO (Jamshedpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I hail from Jharkhand area of Bihar. This area is continuously in the grip of drought since independence. No financial aid is provided to my constituency by the Central Government. There are only small and middle class farmers in my constituency. Geographically the land is uneven so since independence, no proper source of irrigation has been evolved not lift irrigation system has been introduced for unlevelled land. Small check dams also have not been built. Thus no irrigation facility has been provided to my area. Panchet Maithal dams have been constructed there. Very recently under our Suwarn Rekha project a dam was constructed with the cost about Rs.1200 crore. In the beginning when our land was

[Sh. Shailendra Mahto]

acquired, it was assured that water would be provided for irrigation. The dam started under an agreement between Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa Governments. Land of our farmers was acquired yet the project is not complete till now. It is not providing any irrigation facility either. Ten per cent of Jharkhand area was irrigated through three big projects which were completed earlier. Today only 6 per cent land is being irrigated.

So, I would urge the Central Government to implement its schemes for the hilly areas in my constituency so that it may prove helpful to sort out the present drought problem. Former Central Minister Shri K.L. Rao prepared a plan to overcome the drought problem. Under this scheme a distributory canal was to be dug from the Ganga through the Jharkhand area to join Damodar river later. If, it had been done, there would have been no flood in Northern Bihar and no drought in southern Bihar. So I would like that check dam and lift irrigation should be given priority to solve the problem of drought.

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this Session, in this House, there were several questions on drought and the Minister has also given replies. The demand is: what amount of drought-relief will be given? I know that during the last three years, drought is being discussed several times. The successive Ministers also go on replying that it is given as per the guidelines of the Ninth Finance Commission. So, what is the use of talking it out here? I am asking it myself. But I do not know what new reply our hon. Agriculture Minister will give to today's discussion. Anyhow, I want to say that whether it is drought or cyclone or floods, our country is exposed to these natural calamities.

16.00 hrs.

These natural calamities are there because we have not so far taken necessary

steps and because of lack of resources to control our rivers, to have proper irrigation etc. etc. But I want to say that gradually it is being seen that the area of drought is spreading. There are two types of areas which are affected by drought. There are certain areas which are chronically affected by drought.

16.01 hrs.

(SHRI SHARAD DIGHE in the Chair)

All the areas of Kalahandi and Bolangir in Orissa State are chronically hit by drought. There is continuous famine there and there women are sold at the rate of Rs. 40. There has been a great scale of migration from this area since 1975, as you know. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, she visited Kalahandi District, she visited Bolangir District. It was such a scene, such a inhuman scene that she was moved by that. But even though twenty years have passed, nothing has been done in that area, to mitigate the difficulties of the people. I am talking of Kalahandi and Bolangir districts.

Similarly, in Andhra in Rayalaseema area, there is chronic drought. In certain parts of Maharashtra, 26 districts in Maharashtra are, as I know chronically affected by drought. For this strategy is necessary. What should be the strategy? What should be the national strategy for the areas which are chronically affected by drought. How to mitigate the grievances in the long run is necessary. No doubt the question of relief comes. We talk more of relief. What is more required is that the chronically drought affected areas of the country should be identified and a national strategy should be there to mitigate it, to bring it down.

Similarly, there are certain areas in this country which are chronically affected by floods and cyclone. You know in Orissa, during the last six months, there are two successive cyclones. When the cyclone comes, you cannot imagine how it damages everything and what damage it does. I think, one of the causes of Orissa becoming poor

is the chronic floods as also drought and cyclone in some parts. Even late Shri Gopbandhu Das brought the Orissa to the national mainstream because he was moved by the poverty that was caused due to drought and cyclone etc. No doubt some relief comes. Will it mitigate it? That is why, immediate things should be started. Now it is high time after 43 years, to stabilise the economy of this area. The Government should prepare a comprehensive plan. The comprehensive plan should be to minimise effect of cyclone and minimise effect of flood. For that reason, areas should be identified. No doubt, everybody will demand that there should be some help to his State. No State Government can do it with the meager resources. States cannot do it. The first thing which is necessary to mitigate drought is the irrigation. We have enough of both underground water and river water. We have not been able to do it because of lack of resources. I have occasion to say about it. Can it be done only by money? Can it not be done by people's cooperation? I have seen in my life, when thousands and lakhs of acres of cultivated land was waterlogged and when the crops were damaged, even the Government machinery failed to drain out the water but thousands of people were mobilised and they, by their own labour, opened the river mouth without taking any funds from the Government. That was part of out national leadership. Our national leadership knew what are the problems that the country is facing, and how to mitigate it. The prospect of our national leadership was to do it with people's cooperation. But, unfortunately, the Congress which was in power had distanced itself from the people and they wanted to get the work done through the Constructors for profits and other commissions. The result is, the energy that our people have got, has not been utilised. The energy which Gandhiji inspired has gone to the background. Now the Government plays politics of which State will get more and which State will get less. That is the politics which the Centre is playing.

Therefore, I will demand and it is high time that the nation should not be exposed to these calamities. The whole nation should

be mobilised and the Government should prepare a strategy to mitigate it with the people's cooperation. The Government should not fail to do it. And moreover, when the question of relief comes, the Ninth Finance Commission's guidelines are not enough. Now I will speak about this.

Orissa, towards drought relief, has got Rs. 48 crores. In the last four years, Orissa had seen the three floods and two cyclones. and successive Prime Ministers have gone there; even the last year, the Prime Minister, Shri Narasimha Rao and the Agriculture Minister, Shri K.C. Lonka have also gone there, to see the flood situation. But what they have done? They have talked about the Ninth Finance Commission's report. When I demanded that these calamities should be treated as national calamities, I remember, the hon. Minister of Agriculture told me that the Orissa Government is not behaving in away so that it can be declared as a national calamity. It is unfortunate. Even if the Orissa Government does not behave in a way or have given some wrong reports or say they belittled the situation but, the Prime Minister himself has gone there and saw the situation. When there was devastating flood in Ganjam district, Shri Chandra Shekhar was Prime Minister at that time, I met him personally and requested him to go there. He went there and promised Rs. 50 crores and that Rs. 50 crores never reached Orissa.

Now, Sir, you can imagine the situation, when during these four months, drought, flood and cyclones have engulfed Orissa. How can the Orissa Government give the people the necessary help, unless the Centre charges its guidelines?

I remember, when I was on fast, I was taken to a jail where there was a cot measuring 5'6", but my height is 6'1". I told the jailor that I cannot sleep on it. Then the jailor said you would have to sleep on it. I asked him whether the cot should be considered or the man should be considered or man should be brought to the size of a cot.

I want to draw the attention of the Agriculture Minister, to the Finance

[Sh. Lokanath Choudhury]

Commission's report which has made some guidelines. Are you going to look everything from that point of view so mechanically and so bureaucratically? Or do you have human heart? If you have a human heart, if you think that it is a question of suffering of human beings, you will have to find out ways to save the situation. Unless that sympathy is shown, unless the Government does not reflect the miseries of the people in itself, just by giving formal answers or discussing the issue in this House the problem will not be solved.

I once more appeal that in view of Orissa's present tragedy, the Agriculture Minister should take into consideration our problems. Not only Orissa, but all those areas which are chronically affected by cyclone, drought and flood should be identified and a national authority should be created with a view to bringing down the effect of cyclone and minimise the floods within a period of ten years. That should be the national objective by which we can meet the flood and drought challenge of cyclone, and mitigate the sufferings of millions of our people and stabilise our rural economy.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Finance Minister is sleeping the House. Let him go to take rest for a while. He will feel easy. For the time being, the business concerning him has not been taken up. He is still sleeping..(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam): Sir, we had given Call Attention notice on 17th itself on the drought situation. We should be given a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I would like to know how long we are going to proceed with the discussion on this subject. The time was already over and I am getting several names even now.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE

(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): There must be some time limit.

SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK (Kalahandi): Let it be finished today and now itself.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV: My Call Attention notice was rejected mainly on the ground that discussion on this subject is going on.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All right, I will allow one or two Members. Then the hon. Minister will reply.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH YADAV: Those who had given Call Attention notice should be permitted to speak Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You will be included in that two more Members.

SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK: I represent Kalahandi and children are being sold there, I should be given a chance to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, I will accommodate as many as possible. Please sit down now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (Jhansi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, a discussion regarding drought has been going on in this House for two days. Hon Members of all parties have expressed their concern about the drought situation in the country and have attracted the attention of the hon. Minister towards this problem. It is a very serious matter. Several parts of our country are in the grip of severe drought. Perhaps hon. Minister is seeing some clouds here in Delhi. Seeing these clouds and by reading the news of rainfall in some parts of the country he would be thinking that perhaps the country will be getting relief from drought to some extent. But Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Minister should take this problem seriously because due to drought for years together the situation has become serious and country is passing through a critical situation.

In reply to a question the House had with great anger demanded from the hon. Minister and had warned the Government to prepare some action plan to meet the drought problem. Hon. Minister may be knowing that the problem was taken up very recently. In reply to a question, the hon. Minister told the House that he is serious and the Government was worried to meet the situation. I am sure that the hon. Minister while replying to all the questions of all the members would certainly announce an emergency plan to face the problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the drought situation in U.P. Barring 10-12 districts all districts are in the grip of drought. The main reason is that the average rainfall in these districts has been less last year as well as during the current year. In this regard the U.P. Government is aware. But I hope that the hon. Minister will convene a meeting of all Chief Ministers in Delhi and will constitute a committee and will announce immediately a long term plan so that country may get relief from drought situation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir under the present situation of crisis in the country, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister and the Government towards those parts of all the States which are victims of regional imbalance, where there are no development schemes. These are bigger than small States. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the fact that I have been elected from Bundelkhand which is a hilly area of M.P. and U.P. and it includes 21 districts. Shri Arjun Singh, Shrimati Vijayaraje Scindia and Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance also have been elected from there, Bundelkhand is situated on a plateau. There is acute shortage of drinking water these days. The area is in the grip of drought, drinking water and irrigation facilities are lacking since 40 years. These problems have acquired the form of epidemic in this region. But at present this region is in the grip of drought. Though there is no news of death from that area yet I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that there

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Minister that there are several neglected areas which are bigger than several States like Haryana and Kerala both in population and area. But these areas are in the grip of drought now. I want to draw the Government's attention to severe drought situation prevailing in these States.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that there is a severe problem of drinking water and the irrigational facilities are very few. The industries, in this area could not grow due to this problem. Agriculture is the mainstay of that area. Last year as well as this year there has been severe drought in that area. The Kharif crops could not be sown and when the rain is scanty the Rabi crops will also not be sown. The people of that area will not get food and the students will have to face problems in getting education.

The Central Government has formulated I.R.D.P. NREP Schemes and the plan to keep water in rural areas confined to these areas only but the implementation of these plans is very slow. I would like to submit to the hon. Agriculture Minister that if he is anguished at the sufferings of the people there, then he should visit the areas of Uttar Pradesh and the plateau area Bundelkhand of Madhya Pradesh within two days. You will come to know how the young men are suffering for livelihood, how the animals are suffering for fodder and drinking water. I want to draw your attention specially towards that area. I expect the Central Government to provide adequate funds to the State Government for the development of that area and accelerating the on-going schemes there. The negligence on the part of the Central Government is a matter of concern. I submit to all the hon. Members to draw attention of the Government to the drought situation. These areas have not been getting drinking water for the last 40 years. The drought situation is so severe in this area that one day the people will be clamouring for bread. Special plans should be made for such backward areas.

[English]

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatanam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, without going into the details of the drought situation that is prevailing in the country, I will give certain suggestions to the Minister of Agriculture so that he could immediately jump into action. The situation prevailing in the country is very serious. A mere five per cent shortfall in the agricultural production will shake the entire country's economy. I do not know how the Agriculture Ministry is looking into the drought situation. Last year, a mere one million tonne import of wheat had shaken the Finance Ministry and the entire country. Now, as per the estimates available, as on today, there is shortfall in agricultural production in various States and more particularly in Andhra Pradesh, estimates show that shortfall in agricultural production is nearly ten to twelve per cent. But I do not know what the records of the Government say. There is at least ten per cent shortfall as far as kharif crops are concerned. Plantation could have been over at the end of June in Andhra Pradesh. Today, we have reached the end of July. Nurseries have been damaged. There is not even drinking water today and the Government of Andhra Pradesh, as far as I know, has not started taking steps which will be assisting the agricultural farmers. Nurseries are completely damaged due to non-supply of irrigation of rain water and there is shortage of seeds also. I do not know whether they have estimated as to whether there is shortage of seeds in the kharif season or not. The Agriculture Minister may be having the necessary stocks with him at appropriate places. But there is problem of seeds in Andhra Pradesh. They have to grow the nurseries now and then comes plantation. There is shortage of fertilisers also and above all, there is no money in the hands of Andhra Pradesh farmers.

We have been hit by cyclones successively. In 1989, there was a severe cyclone and Mr. V.P. Singh had declared that cyclone as a national calamity and only the Centre has given Rs. 80 crores for it. Thereafter, they have not even given any

assistance to tackle the water management systems of Andhra Pradesh. Subsequently, in September last year, heavy rain and flood had come and crops were ruined completely. No substantial assistance was given by the State or the Centre to the farmers. Now the situation in Andhra Pradesh is due to lack of water and cattle food. The cattle strength has also depleted. Whatever cattle there are being sold away to the slaughter house. Thereby, cattle strength has also depleted throughout the country which creates an ecological imbalance in the country. Now Sir, all the three Ministers of the Agriculture Ministry should be empowered to have three helicopters; they should open an emergency cell in their offices and they should get information from the States as to in which part of the States seeds are not available, cooperative banks are not giving loans, NABARD is not giving loans, etc. In Andhra Pradesh, due to successive cyclones, agricultural farmers could not pay back their loans. Sir, do you know what Andhra Pradesh Government did? Technically, they have written in the books that loans are repaid and loans are given again. But the result is there is nil money in the hands of the agricultural farmers. Please do not sit on technicalities. Now, you must go to the farmer and see to it that the inputs are got in the kharif season. If you do not arrange for fertilisers or the money to purchase the fertilisers, then, I am sure, the country is going to face a serious situation. Five to ten per cent of the agricultural production will land you in trouble, will shake your Government and nobody will come to your rescue. Therefore, call the Chief Ministers or Agricultural Ministers Conference and ask them about the plans they have and whether they will be able to give cooperative bank loans to the farms in the kharif season or not. That is the main reason. My suggestion is that you may waive the interest or even the loan itself. Or you may keep the earlier loan aside and give fresh loan. I reiterate that fresh loans should be given to the farmer so that he can put some inputs in the Kharif season and thereby augment the agricultural production to save the economic situation of the country.

Sir, I am very sorry to state that the

administrative machinery of the Ministry of Agriculture is just sleeping. They take everything very casually. They start action only when everything is completely ruined. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture who is a farmer-*shaharka* farmer, to implement all his propositions. Now, more than three-fourth area of the country is receiving good rains. Except some parts of the country, all the areas have sufficient rains. Now that rains have come, please do not go to sleep and please do not take things in a causal manner. Even if the rains are there, unless you give the inputs and arrange loans to the farmers, nothing is going to succeed. I humbly request the hon. Agriculture Minister to forget about the technicalities of sanctioning loans. Farmers should be given fresh loans to augment agricultural production for saving the country.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: (Barh): I would request the hon. Finance Minister, who is sitting her to accept his suggestion of a Helicopter.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think that the serious issue which is being discussed today has been an issue for the last 45 years but our discussion did not bear fruits. The policy of our Government specially regarding agriculture has been so rigid that we have not been able to provide water for irrigation purpose to the entire country even in the last 45 years. Only 31 per cent of the total area under cultivation is irrigated. Many learned Prime Ministers have come and expert agriculturists have occupied the position of Agriculture Minister in the past but Indian agriculture has always been neglected.

It is said that ours is a country of farmers but the farmers have been in a bad plight since long and they have never been treated properly and nothing worth has been done for them. Today the situation is that we have to discuss about the drought continuously. Drought has become the permanent feature of the country and it can't be controlled without going for a plan to solve this problem.

It is said that the drought situation is so serious that it has accelerated the crisis of drinking water.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Sir, please get the name changed on the CC T.V. outside. The name of Shri Ram Sharan Yadav has been displayed there. Whereas Shri Ram Prasad Singh is speaking here.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It has been corrected.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH: Sir, the then Irrigation Minister had stated that we recognise the fact that there is no scarcity of surface or underground water in the country but our projects are not made to tap the entire potential of these sources. There are big projects in our country and a lot of money is spent on them but today these big projects are also failing. There is low rainfall in Punjab and Haryana, where as in Bihar it is 44 inches. It is 13 to 15 inches in Punjab but the irrigation facility has been made in Punjab and Haryana and the credit for it goes to the then Chief Minister Shri Pratap Singh Kairon. It is as a result of these projects that the crop of paddy which was not grown earlier in Punjab is being cultivated there and Punjab is leading paddy producer in the country but in a State like Bihar, where the water is enough, due to the lack of projects the water is not being utilised fully. Today 115 years old, Sone Canal Irrigation Project in my constituency, which used to irrigate 10 lakh hectare of land has become useless and we are unable to provide water to the farmers. I have drawn the attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister and the hon. Minister of Human Resources during Zero Hour for its renovation and the farmers of that area had staged a dharna at the Boat Club but the Government has not paid attention to it as yet. Consequently, the farmers do not get water for irrigation during drought whereas they have to face floods during the monsoon. Therefore, my submission to the Central Government is that action should be taken for the immediate renovation of this old scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Kadwan and Kadamchat Irrigation Projects in Bihar are

[Sh. Ram Prasad Singh]

lying pending for years now and the Central Government is neglecting them as result of which these schemes are not being completed. The Government should pay immediate attention towards them and I want to submit that the projects are made by the big engineers but the Government should also pay attention towards the small projects. Though the small projects come under the domain of the State Governments yet the Central Government should pay attention to it. subsidy should be given to the farmers on personal tubewells and electricity and diesel should be made available to the farmers, for this purpose, which is not being provided till now. 1500 M.W. capacity power plants have been set up in Bihar but their total output is only 300 to 400 M.W. Consequently the power can not be provided to the farmers for their tubewells and we can not even make diesel available to them. My submission is that the Central Government should pay attention to these small projects and take them over. The minor irrigation projects prepared by the State Governments should be undertaken by the Central Government. Arrangements should be made to construct tanks of 100 acres each in our out hilly areas, where water can be stored and the crops of paddy, pulses and oilseeds could be produced there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, an allocation of Rs. 805 crore has been made for drought relief. Ten per cent of the total population of the country is in Bihar but only an allocation of Rs. 32 crores has been made for Bihar. This amount should be increased so that the State Government can face this situation.

I want to extend my greetings to hon. Power Minister for approving Koelkar project but the officers are neglecting it. I was astonished the day when the hon. Power Minister stated that the Bihar Government is indolent about it which is far from true. Likewise, the Kahalgaon plant was commissioned by the hon. Power Minister, in February by the Chairman there said that although it has been commissioned but the power generation has not started yet.

Similarly, in my constituency Dehri Power Project is under construction for the last 4 years but it has not been completed as yet. 15 M.W. power is to be generated there. Time and money was wasted on it. The projects are lying pending for technical reasons. I would like that minor and medium projects should be implemented along with major projects. Tubewells should be set up for farmers. Electricity and diesel should be supplied to them. I am laying emphasis on minor projects because despite spending huge sums of money on major projects during the last 45 years, the country did not benefit much from them. So far irrigation facilities have been provided to 31 per cent of total cultivable land. Therefore, minor projects should be launched in the interest of farmers. Minor projects should not be left to State Governments. The Central Government should take initiative and provide funds to State Governments for this purpose. It should implement these minor projects from its own resources. Only then the problem of drought could be solved. I thank you for providing me time to speak.

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH (Ropar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Punjab has faced a lot of problem for want of rains. It has experienced severe drought. In the absence of rain, water could not reach Bhakhra Dam. As a result of that water could not be flowed in canals and electricity could not be generated. That is why the State experienced difficulties. Farmers made efforts and set up tubewells. But the ground water has gone below 30 feet of the surface. The dug up wells. Each well costs Rs. 10,000.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, during 1960 setting up of a tubewells cost only Rs. 4000/- Whereas now it costs Rs. 1 lakh 4 thousand. The farmers of Punjab were burdened with loans crores of rupees due to huge expenditure incurred by them on tubewells. I would like to tell the Central Government that the farmers made strenuous efforts and produced bumper crop of paddy. The labour put up by the farmers of Punjab has not been put up by the farmers of any other State. Punjab supplies 70 per cent of wheat to south. This much quantity of wheat is not

produced in any other State. the farmers of Punjab are very industrious. The farmers and the labourers are in great distress due to drought. They are facing a lot of hardship. They are burdened with huge debt. They dug wells, installed tubewells and purchased engines. They have invested the entire income they earned from paddy. But unfortunately rains caused havoc and destroyed the entire crop. Since there is no representative from Punjab in the Council of Ministers, I would like to tell the Government that the State of Punjab has to repay a loan of Rs. 650 crore. The people are in great distress. There is no industry. Agriculture is their only profession. 90 percent of farmers are under debt. The hon. Minister is not present here. He says that he belongs to Punjab. He belongs neither to Rajasthan nor to Punjab. The people belonging to both the States look to him. Therefore, I would like to request him to waive off all Government loans outstanding against the farmers of Punjab. The hon rime Minister had given an assurance to waive off all Government loans. But it has not been done so far. The Government should waive off the loan outstanding against the farmers of Punjab so that they could grow more crops and supply foodgrains to South.

**SHRI KAMALA MISHRA MADHUKAR** (Motihari): Mr. Chairman, Sir I rise to speak on flood situation in Bihar. North Bihar experiences flood and drought every year. There are rivers like Ganga, Gandak, Kamala and Kosi which are perennial rivers. if the area experiences drought, I would certainly say that it is not natural but a failure by man. I am saying this because it was expected that with the completion of the Gandak the Kosi and the Bagmati projects north Bihar would provide foodgrains to major parts of the country. We are not getting the expected results. It is in itself a contradiction that North Bihar is experiencing drought while abundant water flows in rivers. The Government's faulty policies have created such a situation and caused drought. The Gandak canal is not being maintained properly and no water is flowing in the canal. Drains are not being drawn from this canal. When I met officials in this connection I was told that there is no

fund. When I met the Ministers of Bihar they say that the Central Government is not providing funds. I demand from the Government that the Gandak, Kosi and Bagmati projects should be treated as national projects. The Central Government should take suitable steps to provide irrigational facilities in north Bihar so that foodgrains could be provided not only to north Bihar but to other parts of the country. My previous speaker has rightly said that though people have installed tubewell with their personal efforts power is not being supplied to them. The Ministers of Agriculture, Power and Water Resources should have been present here to give proper reply...*(Interruptions)*

There are a number of rivers in north Bihar. Lift irrigation can be done from these rivers. Machines have already been installed for the purpose. There is no shortage of power. My previous speaker has rightly said that electricity and diesel is not being supplied there. As result of this tubewells which have already been set up are not working. Schemes have been implemented. But they are not being run properly. There is a hue and cry. In north Bihar, loan is being recovered from the farmers. There is no production of foodgrains. The people are in great distress. The loan was waived off by the Janata Dal Government and the Central Government. But that waiver of loan could not benefit the people. Small farmers are being ruined. I demand that Gandak, Kosi and other projects should be brought under the national scheme. I would like to request that loan be waived off and recovery should be stopped immediately. Shri Nitish Kumar rightly said that amount of funds to be provided to the States at the time of natural calamity should be raised. Employment opportunities should be provided on a large scale in villages. During famine small farmers and laboureres experience numerous hardships. Therefore, a scheme should be formulated under which employment opportunities could be provided in villages.

North Bihar particularly eastern and western champaran districts experience flood every year. The Mansan Dam projects

[Sh. Kamala Mishra Madhukar]

neglected. It will be as good as playing with fire if the Government does so.

is to be implemented in the area. The Government has already spent Rs. 5 crore. But now the work on the projects has been stopped. The area experiences flood for want of a river dam. The river water flow unutilised and causes drought and electricity scarcity. Our hon. Member, Shri Bhogendra Jha has presented a scheme to meet irrigational and electricity facilities and combat drought in North Bihar. It has been discussed in the Lok Sabha several times. I would like to request Shri Balram Jaxhar to consider this scheme. The Central Government should provide assistance to the Government of Bihar, because the Government of Bihar is not able to implement such major schemes. Due to step - motherly treatment being shown by the Central Government to the Government of Bihar, the State Government is not getting as much funds as it requires. Due to this there is an overall shortage in the State. The Government is not all-concerned whether people die of starvation or famine. The Government is keeping quiet. I would like to request this Government to change its apathetic policy and provide adequate assistance to Bihar. It should send an enquiry team there.

Bihar has many agricultural potentials. In no respect Bihar is inferior to Haryana or Punjab. Abundant foodgrains can be produced of there is a permanent solution to drought problem and proper supply of electricity, irrigational facilities and loan waiver is ensured. If it is not done, the State will continue to experience flood and drought for all time to come. There are large potentials of agriculture in North Bihar. The Government should not treat it as crisis of Bihar or north Bihar but as the crisis of the entire country. If problems are not solved, it will cause public resentment and create agitation. The Central Government cannot escape the lapse. I would therefore, like to make an appeal to provide assistance by formulating short term and long term schemes to save North Bihar from flood. After Uttar Pradesh, Bihar is the second largest State. It should not be

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): There is a problem. This original discussion was slotted for much less time. We have taken almost three days on this and I do appreciate the issues of tremendous importance. Drought is after all not one of the usual things. It is something which we must all take seriously. Members have participated; I know there are many Members still wish to participate. But there is a problem of shortage of time. There are other discussions slotted and it would be very difficult to manage the Business of the House, if one goes on extending. There are a few complaints about uneven distribution of opportunity and time, we can look into that. I do not think that is impossible. But I would like, as a special case considering, I hope the Members will appreciate that we have already spent a lot of time on this subject, to permit the Minister to reply at about 5.15 P.M. Others who are participating, please make their points very sharp so that as many Members can get their chance to put their points across. Let us not become descriptive, as far as possible, so that the Minister can reply at 5.15 P.M. We can then take up the next discussion which has to be finished tomorrow. Otherwise, the whole time-table which has already been disturbed tremendously will go totally out of phase. This is my personal request. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhanduka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thanking you that for the last two days...

[English]

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): today no CPI (M) Member has been able to speak so far. Why were they not given a chance? Will you give us time or not?

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: You are only wasting time. I have told you. We will sort it out. You sit down. Your chance will come. (Interruptions) The names have to come through the party whips.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN: How many BJP members have spoken today? I would like to know that. How many from CPI (M) have spoken? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do not waste time. I will call you.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RATILAL VARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the last two days our fellow Members of Parliament have been hearing a detailed discussion on the serious situation, that is likely to arise due to famine in the entire country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you might be knowing that Gujarat faces drought situation very frequently and the situation there has been so serious that it has become difficult for the farmers and the cattle to survive. There is no drinking water available there. The area does include the districts of Saurashtra, Banaskantha, Baroch etc. but 18 out of 19 districts of Gujarat are facing famine. The situation is such there has been no crop there and the Minister of Agriculture who is sitting here is aware that the maximum crop insurance claims have been made from the very State of Gujarat. A delegation of the Members of Parliament of Gujarat has already met the hon. Minister for the compensation money of crop insurance and the Minister has also assured to take immediate steps to do this work. But it is a matter of regret that

no work has been done due to the failure of the Government of Gujarat. I am thankful to the hon. Minister for extending a full support from the centre.

1. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the main cause of the recurrence of drought in Gujarat is that dams are not being constructed on the rivers where they should have been constructed. There has been a discussion for years to construct a dam on the river Narmada. There is a dispute between one State and the other. If a dam had been constructed on the river it would have been of great help to face the drought situation in Gujarat. But inordinate delay has been made in it. I would like to submit that the Narmada Project should be declared a National Project so that it might be recognised on national level and so that efforts might be made to complete the work soon. Similarly, big ponds should be dug in the villages so that rain water is collected in them may be utilised. More-over, dams should also be constructed on small river. As construction of such dams take less time, they can be of great help to face the famine situation. If ponds are not dug in the villages and if dams are not constructed on small rivers all rain water would flow into the sea. Now there has been a good rainfall in some parts of Gujarat. There has been 30 per cent rainfall in Kutch. People are happy there. But the excess or surplus water flows into the sea without being utilised. I would, therefore, submit that small dams should be constructed on rivers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would also like to add that it would be a great relief if the big project formulated by the then hon. Minister of Agriculture of Gujarat Shri Keshu Bhai Patel is implemented. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will be surprised to know that the farmers abandon their oxen and left them on their fate during famine by putting talk on their forehead.

17.00 hrs.

The survival of farmers has become difficult there. I hail from the district Ahmedabad. It faces drought situation very frequently. there is no industry to help people

[Sh. Ratilal Varma]

earn a livelihood. For agriculture people depend on rain water. When there is no rain, they are forced to go to the town leaving their village. States have got limited resources. I, therefore, request the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Government that economic assistance should be given as per demand made by the Government of Gujarat under the master plan forward by it.

SHRI PREM CHAND RAM (Nawada):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not take much time of the House to express my views on the drought situation. Many of the hon. Members have already highlighted the issue.

I belong to Bihar, particularly to central Bihar which has always been neglected in regard to the irrigation and agricultural development. This time most of the parts of our country have been experiencing drought while some other areas have been experiencing floods. But the entire Bihar has been hit by severe drought. There was of course, a little rain some days ago, but the east wind that blew afterwards dried up the land. I had discussed the matter with the hon. Minister of Irrigation on August 22, 1991. I had pointed out that discussion was held during every session; representatives from every constituency were elected; persons may replace but the representation - whether of one party or the other — continues; discussions are also held. However, no concrete action is taken to solve the problems.

I had told that a river named Sakri passes through Nawada constituency, this river is considered to be 'mini-kosi' of Bihar. Just as people were terrified of flood in Koshi at that time of rainy season, people living at the banks of Sakri river are also terrified. When rainy season is about to set in. When Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh, who is no more, was the Chief Minister of Bihar, he had laid foundation stone upper Sakri Dam Project. Ten years have passed since then but no work has been done. When I was elected here last time I had raised the matter. This time also I have drawn the attention of the Hon. Prime Minister to the

matter. Since it is a state matter and the people of the State were assured that upper Sakri Project would be implemented, so much so that foundation stone was also laid for the purpose. However, no action has been taken so far in this regard. This has created the feeling of disappointment among the people. Lakhs of hectares of land can be brought under irrigation if this matter is taken seriously and the construction work is started. I think it would solve half of the problems of Central Bihar. Other regions — whether it is district Nalanda, Begusarai, Nawada or Gaya - would also be benefited by it. If we take into account the land of only these districts, it would come to lakhs of hectares. Such projects are neglected where as on the other hand, Mr. Chairman, Sir, man is struggling between life and death today. Drought as well as flood are the other names of death. The solution to both these problems is essential. Both of them are related to each other and they are two sides of the same coin. If adequate attention is paid to these problems, I do not think that India, which is an agricultural country would be poor any more. Rather India would be on the top in the world in regard to agriculture. However, I feel that the Government adopts indifferent attitude to such problems and it lacks will power. The fact that the Government does not take any action in this regard shows that it lacks determination. Giving priority to party interests than to national interests is the cause that there have been constant irregularities and scandals.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, drought is a serious problem. The Government in a country where there is drought, has no moral right to remain in power. How can the Government which neglects this problem rule the country, when the people of the country starve, the Government remains indifferent. Just now, some Members pointed out that starvation conditions would be faced from January, but in reality, starvation conditions have already arisen. The daily wages labourers are facing starvation problem. They are unable to find work. When the sowing season started, men as well as women worked together; but today, both are without any work. Labourers are already facing the threat to their life.

Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Minister of Agriculture, the Central Government that instead of wasting huge amount of money in relief measures at the time of flood every year, a permanent solution to this problem should be evolved. Our rivers are called as life giving source but they have been proving otherwise. They can again be converted into life giving sources. Provided the Government make efforts in this direction. The present Government has already taken heavy loans and thus it is under heavy debts. It should seek loan for such projects that it has not to take loan again and again in future. Therefore, my submission is that all the projects and problems lying pending with the Government and with the Water Commission and Planning Commission should be completed and implemented. The Hon. Prime Minister had told me that he had written to the Planning Commission about the Upper Sakri Project hence the Planning Commission should take that project on priority basis. The State Governments should be asked to point out their priority while sending the projects should be implemented to the Central Government and all such projects. The Government should start the relief measures immediately without waiting for that situation to arise by December, January or February. Death has already started playing its game and people are falling victims to it.

Therefore, I hope that the Central Government would be able to evolve a permanent solution to the human problems and give a proof that it has strong will power. The suffering people of the country are looking towards the Government with an expectation. I had witnessed the famine of 1966. That time people did not die due to starvation though irregularities did take place. The officials engaged in operating relief measures bungled about half of the amount allocated for relief measures despite that people did not die of starvation. People from other countries like America etc. had come in connection with the care taker programme; though they had to face a lot of inconvenience due to heat wave in summer, however they proved their dedication to work. If projects are implemented with similar spirit here

drought situation would never take such a terrific shape and the problem would never deteriorate.

At the same time I would urge the Government to fulfil whatever it promises, it should give proof of its strong will power and provide justice to the poor people of the country; only then these problems can be solved. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY (Anantapur): I was at the third place in the list even by the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs. You have ignored that list and you are giving chance to those Members who make noise in the House. I have not been given a chance. so, I protest.

[Translation]

\*SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak a few words on the drought situation in the country which is being discussed in the House under Rule 193. As you know, Sir, Orissa is a cursed State. We experience some kind of natural calamity or the other almost every year. Drought, flood and cyclone are permanent phenomenon in Orissa. As it is seen in the last three years that drought or floods have been occurring in some parts or the other in State. Right from Cuttack to Kalahandi, people in all the 13 districts are suffering on account of these calamities every year. The farmers are mainly facing problems on account of drought. The big farmers may somehow manage, but the small and marginal farmers are mainly suffering on account of drought. Therefore, I would like to urge the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture to exempt the loans given to the small and marginal farmers in Orissa.

Sir, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not bring to the notice of the Government the problems of the peoples of the people of my district Kalahandi. It is well known that Kalahandi is a drought prone district. But, it is irony of fate that sometimes heavy rain

[Sh. Subashchandra Nayak]

causes a great deal of damage in that district. I received some telephonic messages today regarding the disruption of road and telecommunication from Khariar to Bhawanipatna due to heavy rains in the last three days. The State road between Junagarh and Bhawanipatna has been damaged and breached at several places. Bus communication has been discontinued on account of this damage and destruction of the road between those places. The reason of narrating the present condition of Kalahandi is only to draw the attention of the plight of the people due to rain, flood or drought.

As you know, Sir, Chherapunji areas which were then in the Assam State witness heavy rainfall every year. They have surplus rainfall. This excessive rain causes shortage of water. Sometimes they do not get drinking water as there is rain water everywhere. On the other hand, Sir, see the irony of fate of the people of Kalahandi. Almost every year we get scanty rainfall which is the main factor for the chronic drought in that backward area. So, drought breaks the backbone of the farmers as they depend on rain water for agriculture. In addition to Kalahandi, Dhenkanal, Phulbani, Koraput, Sundargarh, Sambalpur and Bolangir districts of Orissa are also reeling under the severe drought. Even the people of Sahdol, Jhabua and the entire Chhatisgarh region in Madhya Pradesh are affected by severe drought. The State Governments have been demanding adequate funds from the Centre. The Govt. of India has been saying that the allocation made to different States is very adequate to meet the drought situation. The State Government of Orissa has been complaining that the Central allocation has not reached to the State. Sir, the Chandra Shekhar Government had sanctioned 50 lakhs of rupees to meet the flood situation in Orissa last year. Our present Govt. led by Honourable Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao has sanctioned 35 lakhs of rupees to meet the drought situation. I do not know how the State Government of Orissa has not received any grant so far. As I had said every district of Orissa does not have

irrigation facilities. There are some districts where people depend on rain water for cultivating their land. So, adequate irrigation facilities must be provided in every part of Orissa if we like to tackle the drought situation in the State, if we really want to solve the problems of the farmers. Forget about the new irrigation projects, even the existing irrigation projects which have been damaged due to heavy rain need urgent repair. At the same time they require proper maintenance from time to time. But, it is regrettable that neither the Centre nor the State Government has the fund to undertake these repairs and maintenance work. Therefore, fund should be earmarked exclusively for the maintenance of the existing irrigation projects.

Sir, the former Late Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi was very kind hearted person. He had visited the poverty and famine stricken Kalahandi district. The district had received the special attention of the former Prime Minister. He made several trips to the district during his years in office. He had made special arrangements under a centrally aided scheme named as ADAPT so that the fund was directly going to Kalahandi for implementing some programmes as a result of which the people were able to earn their livelihood. They were getting direct benefit out of the Central allocation which was being made under that 'ADAPT' scheme. But, it is unfortunate that the scheme discontinued when V.P. Singh Government assumed the office. After I became a Member of Lok Sabha, I have written to the Honourable Prime Minister. I brought to the notice of this House the need to implement the scheme. I have highlighted the problems during Zero Hour in this House. The Honourable Agriculture Minister must note this point. I am glad that the Honourable Minister of State for Agriculture Shri K. C. Lenkaji is here. He must review the implementation of various programmes and recommend the Government to revive the centrally aided plan Area Development Approach for Poverty Termination (ADAPT) in the entire Kalahandi district. He had been deputed by the Present Prime Minister Honourable Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao to assess the situation in Kalahandi. I am happy to learn that he has

mentioned in his report that the district of Kalahandi, Bolangir and Phulabani are really poor and backward districts. Special schemes should be launched in these districts with a view to accelerate the developmental activities in these districts. Honourable Shri K.C. Lenka, the Union of State for Agriculture has seen the real condition of the people of Kalahandi. His report is under the consideration of the Central Government. I met the Planning Minister of Orissa a few days ago. He informed me that they have drawn up some special scheme for Kalahandi and these schemes have been submitted before the Centre. If the Government of India has really received those schemes, steps should immediately be taken to approve those schemes. If those schemes are implemented, the plight of the people will be removed. The people who are living their birth places and migrating to several parts of India and even to the far off places in search of job will stop migration and will take the benefits of the anti-poverty programmes.

Sir, it is regrettable that the people of Kalahandi and Bolangir are passing their days with great misery. Many people are not getting two square meals a day. They are living their birth places in search of jobs, to get their daily bread. A man sold his child for Rs. 40/- only at Patnagarh. When the condition of the people are so bad, it is unfortunate that the State Govt. of Orissa is adopting step-motherly attitude towards the people of Kalahandi, Bolangir, Dhenkunal and Sundargarh. I draw the attention of this House through you the need to take immediate measures to rescue the poverty stricken drought affected people of these districts. I request the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister and other Union Ministers also to show their sympathy for the people of Kalahandi and they should not be allowed to face misery any longer. Lastly, Sir, I would like to say that the Hon'ble Finance Minister does not remain present in the House when Agriculture or drought is discussed. But, we are happy today that Hon'ble Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh is now present in the House. I hope he will help the State of Orissa particularly Kalahandi to provide fund to take up all kinds of relief, rehabilitation and

developmental measures. As I had started, Orissa is an agricultural State. But, due to want of irrigation facilities, agricultural development has not become possible in that State. Therefore, I urge the Agriculture Minister to start drip irrigation in Orissa in order to increase areas under irrigation and rescue the drought affected farmers as it is done in the State of Haryana. If it is done, then nobody in Kalahandi will suffer on account of food. This is my demand.

With these words I thank you very much for having given me the opportunity to speak and conclude my speech.

SHRI RAM SARAN YADAV (Khagaria):  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, either drought or floods cause large scale destruction in the country every year. Water flowing from Nepal causes destruction in our area every year. It is the responsibility of the Central Government to meet such situation in the same way as it meets the situation at the time of foreign attack. The Central Government should pay attention to our area, it should discuss the matter with the Nepal Government to find out the solution. Lakhs of people have been displaced for the last about 35 years as a result of soil erosion by Ganga and Kosi river. People were displaced many years ago and it appears that it will still take a long time to rehabilitate them. Bihar is faced with a number of difficulties. The Government of Bihar is not capable to meet the destruction caused by the water that flows from Nepal every year. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Central Government to tackle the problem.

Relief can be provided to the farmers by undertaking work of boring at the time of drought and diverting the river water through canals as the time of floods. But this is possible only when power supply is available because without power boring would be of no use. The House has been discussing the Ram Janam Bhoomi Babri Masjid issue for the last 4-5 days, however, no attention was paid to other problems in the country.

A news item has appeared in the 'Jansatta' dated 5th May, to the effect that

[Sh. Ram Saran Yadav]

accounts have not been audited in Bihar for the last 12 years. There are about 90 offices in total; out of which the accounts of only three offices were audited revealing the bungling of crores of rupees. However, no action has been taken in regard to it so far. The Central Government should send an audit team there and get the accounts audited. The officers in Bihar indulge in irregularities. I would like the Central Government to send a team there to get all the accounts audited. Relief should be provided to drought affected areas and provision made to prevent floods. This is my only submission.

SHRI TEJ NARAYAN SINGH (Buxar): Mr. Chairman Sir, today drought condition prevails in the entire country. No state has escaped drought. One is compelled to say with grief that even after so many years of independence, we are witnessing all this. For a long time, the Congress has been in power in the Centre. The Congress has made no attempt to stop or control the drought condition. Till today we have not achieved self reliance in the matter of irrigation.

Almost 70% people of the country survive on agriculture. Only 30% people of the country earn their livelihood from the jobs other than agriculture. It appears from all these things. It appears that the Government is not paying any attention to this direction. The Government takes interest in constructing five star hotels and producing luxury items but as regards the question of making arrangements for irrigation, the Government does not pay any attention to this. Today, there is hardly any state which has not faced such devastation.

In a State like Punjab where water was available at the depth of 6 feet earlier today in that Punjab water is available at the depth of 20 feet. Our Lok Sabha members from Punjab were saying that 2-3 years back, the water was available 6 feet deep but today it is not available even 20 feet deep. This is the situation in Punjab today. I would like to say that the situation in Haryana and Bihar is

worse. In Bihar very little water is available. The Government gives pipes to the farmers for boring, only upto the depth of 30-40 feet whereas he needs a pipe of 100 feet. The condition of the country today is very bad. We should adopt measures right now so that we may achieve self reliance in the field of irrigation.

There is no shortage of water in our country. Dams have been constructed on five rivers in Punjab. If a dam is constructed only on the river Ganges in Bihar, then even a single inch of land in Bihar will not remain dry. All places will get irrigated but this work is not being done. If at the source of the Ganges river, the water of the Ganga is used, then no adjoining area shall remain dry. If there will be no rain for one year even, then the water of the river Ganges will be used for irrigation, but unfortunately this work is not being done. If a dam is constructed in Mirzapur on the river Ganges, and also with the digging of 8 kilometers the water of the river Ganges can be dropped into the son river. As a result of it the farmers in 10 districts will be self-reliant. At first Bihar used to get water, but there had been an agreement among three States i.e. M.P., U.P. and Bihar in connection with sharing of water. As the provisions of the agreement could not be implemented properly, Bihar is sustaining a loss, because Bihar is not getting its complete share of water. If Bihar gets the full share it will get self-reliant in the matter of agriculture. The British people had made the son canal so that the neighboring districts might get benefits from this. Our enemies did that work which was beneficial to the people, but the Indian Government is hesitating in giving money for this work. Last year an amount of Rs. one crore had been allotted for this work, but now the Indian Government says that its coffers are empty, and it cannot give money to Bihar. This is what the Indian Government says. I would like to say to the Indian Government, that if it does not have money for pumping sets for farmers, for pipes for farmers for tractors, for fertilizers, then how does it have money for Harshad Mehta? Why does it have money for Harshad Mehta? If the manager of the bank, is legally entitled to give 17000 crore rupees to Harshad Mehta,

then why the Government is not capable of giving Rs. 5000 for farmers, that is why I would like to tell the Minister to keep his eyes wide open.

Today, the Water Resources Minister should have been here, but the hon. Minister is missing. The Minister of Power should have remained here but he is also not here. If there is no rain, and electricity is there we can use Ganges water and pumping sets for this purpose of irrigation. But the Minister of power is also missing. Five years back a foundation stone was laid in Jadishpur of Bihar by the Government of India for setting up a power Grid with an estimate cost of Rs. 5 crore. I ask the hon. Minister whether he has sent the money he says that he has given 6 crore rupees to the Bihar Government. But when I ask the Chairman of the Bihar Electricity Board, he says that he has not got any money. This is the State of Affairs with the Indian Government. That is why, I would like to say to the hon. Minister, that today all the concerned Ministers should have remained here and should have considered this issue in details whether the Government of India would do justice or injustice to Bihar. I would like to tell the Indian Government not to do any further injustice against Bihar, whatever happened, has happened. Now if you do not do justice with Bihar, the people of Bihar will adopt the way of struggle and nobody can stop them. Bihar is the only state from where the youths go to other states and work there.

If a survey is made in Delhi, you will find that at least more than 10 lakh youths are living in Delhi, to earn their livelihood. That is why I would like to request the hon. Minister, that proper arrangements should be made for irrigation in Bihar. Not only this a Dam should be constructed on the Ganga river, but the public distribution system should also be correctly implemented, so that the poor people should be able to get foodgrains etc. through the public distribution system, now the shops of the public distribution are with those people who do not know the work of distribution. That is why I would like to request the Hon Minister, that in view of the country wide drought loans should be given to farmers

to buy pipes, pumping sets, and traders etc. and also for boring of tube wells and electrification of tube wells, otherwise the farmers cannot face the drought crisis. With all these things, I concludes and I again request the hon. Minister, to do justice with Bihar.

[English]

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY (Anantapur): Sir, I hail from Anantapur district which is the most backward and drought-prone in Andhra Pradesh. The rainfall of Anantapur district is 544 mm. which is the lowest in the State and second lowest in the country. This year also, Anantapur district has had meager rains in some areas. Many ryots have not raised any crops in the district and delayed monsoon has affected sowing and transplantation of *kharif* crops; particularly in Anantapur district.

We mainly depend on Southwest monsoon. Unfortunately, Southwest monsoon is unkind towards us. Tanks, irrigation canals, drinking water wells, bore-wells have gone dry and people and cattle are suffering for want of water. The expert team of the World Bank which visited Anantapur district warned that Anantapur would be converted into desert if immediate steps are not taken to stall the process. They have said so but unfortunately no proper step has been taken to arrest the process and with the result, the district is becoming a desert.

Anantapur district which forms part of historic Rayala seema region in Andhra Pradesh is facing serious threat of desertification and also people in the district have been languishing due to consecutive droughts. The rural economy is in shambles. The migration of rural population to the neighboring States of Karnataka and Maharashtra is an annual phenomenon. Selling of cattle to slaughter house is a sad commentary on the plight of the people, especially the farmers, agriculturists and labourers in the district.

As the situation is alarming and it is a

[Sh. A. Venkata Reddy]

problem of great magnitude, State Government alone cannot taken up programmes to stall the process of desertification.

For the purpose of saving Anantapur district from becoming a desert, it is necessary to constitute an Authority namely, Anantapur Desert Prevention and Development Authority with the necessary funds for implementation of programmes by both the Central and State Governments by including it in the Eighth Five Year Plan.

I bring to the notice of the Government through you that there are some areas which will be affected frequently by cyclones and floods and there are some areas which will be affected by drought and famines in Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

DILEEP BHAI SANGHANI (Amreli): Mr. Chairman Sir, There is no quorum in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung. Now there is quorum. The hon. Member Shri A. Venkata Reddy may continue.

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY: The States and the Central Government will spend crores of rupees for cyclone-affected areas whereas they are not taking much interest on drought-affected areas usually and they are not even spending any amount on those areas during famine times in spite of people's agitation.

My humble submission is that the impact of drought is more serious than the impact of cyclones and floods. If there is drought, people and cattle suffer for want of drinking water and foodgrains. Cattle suffer for want of fodder and water.

I appeal to the Government to treat this drought-affected area seriously and come to the rescue of the drought-affected areas.

The Government should pay more attention to the drought-affected areas than to the flood and cyclone areas.

I request the Central Government to grant aid liberally and hope that the Government will do the needful in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all, I am fortunate that the agriculture Minister belongs to Rajasthan. He is well aware of the situation prevailing in Rajasthan. He must be equally unhappy over this situation. He would also like that Rajasthan State, at this time, should get the maximum possible help.

Sir, the devastating effect of drought is lying on more than 65 districts of five states in the country where at least 7 crores people are living. According to a survey, the crops in 170 to 180 lakh hectares of land in Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Karnataka and Rajasthan has been damaged during to drought. The rainfall has been below normal in 27 of the 30 districts of Rajasthan. 30 to 40 thousand villages have been suffering from this drought out of those, 16,000 villages are badly affected due to this drought. Barmer, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Dungarhpur, Banswada, Udaipur Rajsamad and some other villages are badly under the spell of drought. The State Government has already spent 200 crore rupees to delay with the drought situation. Rajasthan, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra and Manipur have demanded funds from the Central Government for this purpose. A team was sent to Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra for making a survey of the situation. I would like to make a request to the hon. Minister to tell us about the decision of the team taken at its meeting held on the 18th May and 2nd June.

It is my request that a master plan should be formulated to deal with the drought condition. The centre should make an emergency scheme and where the situation is serious, it should consider for sending assistance to those places over and above

the rules. The funds should be allotted from the Emergency Fund and the long term and the short term schemes should be formulated to deal with the drought. The dams should be constructed on the rivers. I would like to inform the hon. Minister that although there are rises in certain places in Rajasthan yet it is still facing a severe crisis due to drought. However the State Government is dealing with the drought condition within the limit of its resources. But the natural calamity is so serious that the State Government does not have adequate funds to deal with it. In view of its limited resources, the State Government is not in a position to do anything more. That is why the State Government has formulated a plan and has asked the Central Government for a special assistance of Rs. 174 crores, under the plan. But the Central Government has refused to extend help to the Rajasthan Government.

The Central Government says that the State should meet the expenditure from the permanent natural calamity relief fund, but that will not suffice. Rajasthan is in need of 380 crores of rupees to deal with the dreadful drought conditions. The centre has deliberately made a reduced assessment. Previously also, Rajasthan has faced the drought situation and the Central Government has given special assistance to deal with the situation. In 1987, 6.50 crore rupees were spent on the drought that time also, the Central Government had rendered special assistance.

That is why, I request the hon. Minister that drought has struck in your own home, your constituency is adjacent to my constituency so you should pay your attention in the matter. It is a question of Rajasthan. I think that you will definitely declare to provide a special assistance of Rs. 174 crores as required by the Rajasthan Government, as you have been giving during the past time also. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BUTA SINGH (Jalore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, even to day there are several districts in Rajasthan, particularly Udaipur, Bikaner, Barmer and Jalore and then the

Constituency of the hon. Minister in Western Rajasthan where there is acute shortage of rains. There is not only drought but famine like situation as well. Even relief work has not been started on the part of the Government. Perhaps the state Government does not have any resources there..... I request the hon. Minister to provide concession and emergency relief as much as possible to those farmers in western part of Rajasthan where there is severe drought, many cattle were killed and even paddy was not produced in the fields of farmers. The Government should provide compensation and sufficient emergency relief to them so that the drought-hit farmers, may get relief.

17.41 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Speaker, Sir, a large number of hon. Members, perhaps 40 in number have participated in this debate.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Sir, I wanted to participate so far as drought situation is concerned. I do not want to find fault with the Government so far as allotment of time is concerned because I belong to a very microscopic minority party. But I would like to tell one thing, with due respect, to the senior Members of this House how the time is being spent for all other purposes other than the important matters like drought, irrigation and energy. About forty Members approached you with the written representation in the last Budget Session to give some time about the discussion on irrigation and energy. Every Member in this House tried to speak of permanent relief measures for constructing various irrigation dams. But I am closely watching, how you are wasting the time. I am not enamoured to speak here and get any publicity. The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is telling that under the mercy of Rule 193, we are debating this serious matter like the drought situation in the entire country. But this is not an issue

[Sh. H. D. Devegowada]

which has to be dealt with so lightly in the Business Advisory Committee. May I honestly tell you that I am very sorry about it? I have lost all importance that is attached to this House, the way things are going on so far as these serious matters are concerned. We are deliberating for four days, five days emotional issues only to gain some votes. This is how things are going on. I am very sorry. I am speaking here only to express my views. I am not bothered even if I have been permitted or I am not going to be permitted. The only thing is about the way in which the valuable time of the House has been spent for various other unwanted issues under Rule 377 and so on. I may be a new Member. But I am not a new person for the proceedings of the Parliament. I have seen enough. With very agony, I am expressing these few words even though I am not.....

MR. SPEAKER: If you want.....

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: I have made my request. I do not want to create an ugly scene. I can speak here, but I do not want to shout.

MR. SPEAKER: You are a very senior Member. You understand the subject. The hon. Minister has also yielded. If you want to speak for five or ten minutes. I will request him.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have great regard for Shri Devegowda. I talk to him daily. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: I do not want to create any scene here. Let me be very plain here. I was under the impression that the Chair is going to call me. I do not want to shout every now and then. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You make your speech.

If it were known to us that you wanted to speak, we could have found time before also.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore): It has been discussed for the past three days. Whoever wishes is allowed to speak. There are 535 hon. Members. So all of them should be given a chance.

[English]

Everybody has a point to make on drought. Why do you waste time in this way?

MR. SPEAKER: He is a very senior Member. He understands the subject and I know it personally. We should like to hear his views.

[Translation]

SHRI SATYANARAYAN JATIYA (Ujjain): He was allowed to speak only because he felt hurt. But there are still other Members who are going to speak.

MR. SPEAKER: Others too will be allowed to speak. But not today, they will be allowed to speak, some other day.

[English]

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I do not want to minimise the importance of any Member here. But the way in which the valuable time of this House has been spent, and on that, we have got our own views. The Members should not feel this way. I am sorry about how things have been moving in this House. We have seen enough of it.

MR. SPEAKER: Please leave it.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I would like to raise only two or three points. While answering the Starred Question in this very same House, you have admitted that in Karnataka about 8.12 lakh hectares of crop

has been damaged. In your own reply on July 9, you have admitted this. I only wanted to have clarifications, particularly on this issue as to how the Government of India has tried to provide the financial assistance to various States. I will read your reply given in your own statement:

"Under the existing scheme of financial relief expenditure, the State Governments are required to undertake relief measures in the wake of natural climates, using the corpus as a Calamity Relief Fund."

This is O.K.

"The Central Government need to provide additional assistance only in the case of calamities of rare severity warranting handling at the national level."

It is all right. But when you come to the next para, your goodself has said:

"As the drought situation in the States of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala and Maharashtra is not considered of a rare severity, it has been decided that no central assistance is required to be provided to these States."

When that is the case, in the last para, it was said:

"The Calamity Relief Fund that has been released for 1992-93 amounting to Rs. 63.25 crores, out of which Rs. 33 crores is to Gujarat and Maharashtra respectively and three instalments amounting to Rs. 17.43 crores and 20.81 crores to Kerala and Madhya Pradesh respectively have been released in advance."

In your own statement, I would like to ask, what exactly is the reason as to why Karnataka has been neglected? I do not want to find fault as to how so much of money was released to other States. But in your own

statement, you tried to say that about 8.12 lakh hectares of crop area has been affected. And there is one more thing that I would like to ask your goodself to clarify in this House. A team of officers has been sent to various States. Why the same team of officers has not been sent to Karnataka from the Central Government? This is another point on which I would like to have a clarification from your end. And after a term of officers had gone to various States and submitted the report, again that report is going to be scrutinised by inter-ministerial group. Then the inter-ministerial group is going to take a final decision on the basis of the report that is going to be submitted by the team of officers who have done an on-the-spot study. How that report is again going to be reconsidered or scrutinized by these officers at the inter-ministerial level, who have no knowledge of the field level work and the problems there? These are the two anomalies. I would like to ask the hon. Minister how there can be an overriding over this body and the report that has been submitted by the team of officers who have gone there, studied on-the-spot, looked into the burning problems being faced by the people of the local area? And how the inter-ministerial group are going to take a decision against the report? If they agree to the report, it is well and good. You have also said that inter-ministerial group has not agreed with the report in one of the statements.

Sir, I would like to ask this question, through you. Let there be a uniform procedure or guidelines so far as allotment of the relief funds are concerned to various States. I am not going to find fault with 'A' State or 'B' State and whether some amount of money is given more or less. I am least bothered about it. But there must be some guidelines so far as the allocation of the relief funds are concerned.

About Gulbarga I would like to say one or two sentences. The hon. Railway Minister, which is a Cabinet colleague of the hon. Agriculture Minister, went there and saw the situation on the spot. He has ordered for railway tankers to supply water from Manatralaya which is in Andhra Pradesh. From Manatralaya to Gulbarga, by railway,

[Sh. H. D. Devegowada]

water is being supplied and not a word has been mentioned about it. I am unable to understand how the reports are going to be secured or how the information is going to be collected.

I have gone through the answer to an Unstarred Question in Rajya Sabha on 10th and the answer to a Starred Question in this house on 9th. There is so much of difference, discrepancy and distortion between the two answers. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to this fact; with his wisdom, with his experience he should not allow this type of incorrect information to be supplied either to this House or to the other House. Much more than that, while going to take a decision about the gravity of the situation, officials or the bureaucracy should not play a major role.

Last time I wanted to place on the floor of the House cheques of Rs. 2 or Rs. 3 that have been issued by the Karnataka Government as relief to the farmers. But your goodself advised me not to do so. I respectfully agreed to the advice given by the Chair. There must be some guidelines from the Centre to the State as far as these things are concerned.

Before concluding I will again request the hon. Minister to see that there is no disparity shown between one State and the other and no State should be treated in a step-motherly manner.

With these few words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister to reply now. I think we shall sit until the hon. Minister completes his speech because it is already ten minutes to 6 O'clock now.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to express my thanks to all hon. Members who were fully engrossed in narrating the troubles of their Constituency and who also gave some suggestions to prevent such things.

Mr. Speaker, sir, so far as I have understood, four issues were raised in the debate. One of them is about the aftermath, and effects of that drought. It explained the severity of our sorrow and pain of people, their demand and shortcoming in relief requirement of fodder and water for cattle and hows all the works can be executed in this atmosphere. They have mentioned about all this.

The second issue is as to what is the immediate contingent plan? It relates to the action being taken by the Government in this regard and also our plans in this connection.

The third issue that was raised in the House about which the Members said that some far-reaching standing planning should be made.

The fourth issue which is disturbing everybody is about climates funds. Provision is made under this fund but it remained static. We cannot come out it unless we approach the next Finance Commission. It also came under discussion. Before we go into these issues I would like to know the effects of their sufferings. There are no two opinions about their sufferings. The term drought itself is very terrific. If a man dries up, i.e. if he is dehydrated, it is very serious problem, dehydration creates lot of troubles. Man cannot survive without water. There are no two opinions that nobody is spared from the ill effects of drought. Neither the people nor the Central Government or any State Government is benefited by it, on the contrary it causes damage. Hon. Minister of Finance is not present here. Only the Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is present. Actually, the Ministry of Finance is also dependent on the rains. If there is sufficient rain, there is no problem. The Government exchequer is full. There is not deficiency. Neither there is any want of food nor that of funds. I am myself worried about all these things. You are worried about your States only but I have to take care of all. You are asking me as to what would I do for drought? One of my sisters, an hon. Member was sitting here, she was saying that if the hon. Minister cannot give water what is his justification of being a Minister? Oh! would I be able to cause rain, I could

have done everything. But I do not have that power. Otherwise, I could have fought against God and prayed to leave aside that temple dispute and shower rain. (Interruptions) I could have demanded Lord Rama to cause rain here. That is all I want to say.

SHRI INDERJIT (Darjeeling): This is being said in the House right from the British period.

[English]

The Budget has always been described as a gamble in the monsoon.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: This is reality. This is the factual position. It cannot be denied. I know it. He who has not cultivated, does not know it. Shri Agnihotri is sitting here. Did he cultivate any land or not?

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNOHOTRI: I am still doing the same job and my elders, are also doing it.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I know what is drought. People have to depend 70% on rains. Previously British Government was in power in Punjab. It takes time to progress. During the fifth and sixth decade irrigation was done through canals. But water was not enough to meet the requirement. Water was available to meet only 25 to 35% of requirement.

AN HON. MEMBER: You are talking about Punjab or Rajasthan?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am talking of both the States. My elder were from Rajasthan. My grand father came from Rajasthan. I belong to whole of India. I am not a narrow-minded one. I do not discriminate with persons on the basis of state, high or low caste etc. Shri Nitish has answered my question. He knows about the problems and difficulties faced by an Agriculture Minister. Shri Laxminarayan Pandeya ji is not present. Perhaps he has gone.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: I am very much present in the House.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: He had started first of all and asked as to what is this all about. But limit has been fixed. Nobody can violate it. There are rules and regulations in the constitution to govern all the institutions. What can I do alone? I want to understand your feelings and sufferings. You said that we did not follow law and the verdict of Indore High Court. How can it be? When I accept each and every thing how can I think to violate the High Court which is a much higher authority.....(Interruptions) The bench of Indore High Court did not direct to give more but it directed to release it immediately.

[English]

Indore Bench of Madhya Pradesh Court had directed that if anything is due to the State Government from the Central Government in pursuance of the Central team's visit to Madhya Pradesh, then it should be released quickly.

[Translation]

We had not withheld anything. How could we do it?

SHRI LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: We had demanded two hundred and fifty crores, but we only got eighteen crores. Is it enough?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have said that limits were fixed. You should understand this limit. I can feel it at my heart. How it all started? I would like to tell you.

18.00 hrs.

When Ninth Finance Commission was formed and the question was raised, states objected to the authority being fully vested in the Centre. They said that it was their own money and centre was no one to exercise its authority in this matter as drought conditions do not occur every year. It can occur once in three or five years then why centre should keep all the money with it. They decided to keep the money with them and to spend it according to their needs. They suggested to evolve a system for ten years and calculate the average. The States shared the money accordingly. But the table turned upon them.

[Shri. Balam Jakhar]

They wanted to solve the problem but it complicated further. It all happened like this. I have witnessed much severe droughts there in Rajasthan. Shri Bhardwaj is sitting here in 1987-88 a very severe drought had hit Rajasthan. It was the severest of the century. People had abandoned their cattle. They had put a tilak on them. We collected thirty seven lakh Rupees to save the cattle. We utilised that money to feed the 13 thousand cattle kept in camps for four months. That is why I know as to how does one feel in such a situation. I am repeating the same thing again. I had allocated 625 crore Rupees to Rajasthan. Two hundred crore Rupees were taken from Rajasthan and 850 crore Rupees were spent to meet the drought situation. I myself had wanted to spend all the money. But that money was distributed. All the States asked for their share thinking that drought would not occur next year. If it occurs, they would spend it, otherwise they would keep it with themselves. They do spend it. But Bhargava ji, two hundred crore Rupees are still with the Rajasthan Government. I can give you all the figures. I told them that they can spend the money that is being released to them. If more money is needed it would also be given to them.

That is why I submitted that I was fully aware of the drought situation, I have practical knowledge about it. I love my own trees and crops and I love them like my children. I have watched the plants growing out of soil and also dying. I have created gardens in desert. I had to plant trees three times during a severe drought. People came to my house and said, "Why are you trying unnecessarily. Not a singly plum tree has ever been grown there and you want to create a garden there." "Even the bark had burnt in the hot sun. But today crops are blooming there as water is being supplied in adequate quantity. Now dams have been constructed. Bhakhara Pong and Their dams have been constructed. Now there are no dunes and land has become fertile. Everything has become possible with the help of water. I know their plight. I know their sufferings. I wanted to share their miseries with you so that we may be able to

help them a little.

We wanted to take immediate action. I was myself worried about the gravity of the situation. It has not rained. If it did not rain, all the people of the country would ask us about the measures that we are taking to supply the food. Last year, in the end of August and in the beginning of September there was not good rain, so we received 6 million tonne less production during Kharif. However there was some satisfaction as we had good crop of oilseeds and wheat during last season. It gave us a great support. Even then it could be said that procurement was less. Procurement was less but the production of the foodgrains in their stores but I would not compel them to sell the foodgrains at lower price because we have given them support price not the procurement price. I will not allow others also to compel the farmers to sell their foodgrains at cheaper rates. When policy of liberalisation has been adopted for all spheres why they should the farmers be compelled to sell their product at lower price. When any issue about farmers is raised all people say that farmers should be given reasonable price. But you cannot follow two type of policies at the same time. (Interruptions) O.K. We would like to do in this way. This is alright. We like to follow this path.

I would like to submit one more thing about the policy that we would like to adopt in future. I would like to tell you that we sent all the officers.

[English]

Officers of the Department of Cooperation and Agriculture visited 16 major States during the first fortnight of June, 1992, to discuss their Kharif contingency crop pattern.

[Translation]

Officers were sent to sixteen states to find out as to how they propose to meet the situation if any contingency arises. We pray that the situation should not become so grave; but in case situation becomes grave what measures should be taken.

[English]

"Conference of Relief Commissioners of all the States was held in June to review the arrangements to combat drought."

"Then, to ensure coordination between different Ministries, Crisis Management Group met three times during the last two months."

[Translation]

They met three times. I could have called the Chief-Ministers but I did not call them because we sorted out the problem at lower level itself. We do not want such things to happen. I have received reports that there is some improvement in the drought situation. It is there in a few pockets. The report submitted today by the Meteorological department gives a very optimistic outlook. On the basis of New element Meteorological department had predicted a very scant rainfall. I have received their letter, only yesterday. Now they expect the things to go in a normal way.

The rainfall which is expected to cover whole of India does not cover Orissa. I am showing you the meteorological report. It shows that Andhra Pradesh is not covered by it. I wanted to manage it in this way.

[English]

"Crop Whether Watch Group under Additional Secretary is meeting every week to review the situation in which, amongst other subjects, supply position of diesel and power situation are being reviewed."

[Translation]

I have been informed by the hon. Members that there is a lack of diesel and power. I myself and my department is trying our best to get these things and we are after the concerned Ministers.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): How will you ascertain that it will be all right in future as well.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have received a letter yesterday only to this effect I have gone through it today at 2 P.M. I am satisfied with it. There has been good rainfall in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. Shri Bhargava what to talk of a rain, there is a flood in your Rajasthan.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI: Hon. Minister Sir, you are just repeating what the hon. Member has already said. There is nothing new. You just tell us whether you are going to announce an emergency plant to effective by face drought and flood.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: That is what I am saying. I was tellign you what all I did and how did I manage it. I was telling you about the contingency plan and the meetings and discussions. I told them about deadline, the target and also my helplessness. Shri Nitish understands it. He will bear me out. We made all possible arrangements within our means to tackel this problem.

About Bihar an hon. Member said that I was rigid because I did not provide relief on my own initiative. Now you know well that States are the eyes and ears of the Central Government. We implement all the things through the States. You know that it needs two to make a sound. It can't be done single handedly. We can function better if both the Centre and State go had in hand you please ask from the Minister of State for Finance. He is present here. He knows what were my demands. He also knows what he could provide. We have to consider all the aspects.

Earlier I also thought like you that our projects should be far-reaching. I wanted that we should collect the surplus water and in tunes of need release it for irrigation. Nonc other than me can know the real value of water. I have got the entire drainage system in Punjab cementede. Thus 25 percent water and a percent land had been saved. I know what it means and that is why I am saying that we are making all possible efforts in this

[Sh. Balram Jakhar]

direction. We gave them additional advance instalments under Jawahar Rojgar Yojna and Exceelerated Rural water Supply Scheme. I have assured them to give four advance instalments of one. I have also tried to get funds from the Calamity Relief Fund. I have made all possible efforts to the best of my capability. Now future is before us. I understand your point. You want that the Central Government should provide the funds. I would like to make one thing clear first. Your voice is being heard by the Central Government and we would try to get maximum funds for this purpose, as in the past. I would try my best but I know he had his limitations and compulsions. We have to see whether they can accomodate us inspite of these compulsions. All of us want more funds, but had it been with me I would have gladly given it.

We are planning for future. Planning can not be done alone either by Centre or by the State. I would like to cite the example of Punjab here. Had Bakhara and Pong dam not been there and Thein dam, which is under construction not planned for the State there would have been no progress. Neither Haryana would have got water for irrigation nor there would have been sufficient food grain production. Earlier Punjab, constituted of Haryana, Una Tehsil and Kangra district which is in Himachal now and Chandigarh. All this was in a single province. This province was facing shortfall of 33 thousand tonnes of food grains in 1950. It had to be imported from abroad. Today Chandigarh, Una and Kangra are separate and Punjab is a small state. Even then today it contributes 65 percent of the total food grain production and all this is due to better irrigation facilities. Punjab did not produce paddy earlier but this year it produced 78 lakh tones. Production of wheat was also 5 to 7 lakh tonne more than the last year. In the same way sunflower has been produced in 2 lakh hectares of land. (Interruptions) Centre alone can do nothing. States are also required to make efforts in that direction....(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: You are speaking of Punjab only what about U.P. and Bihar

MR. SPEAKER: He is speaking about the entire country.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I was just giving an example, to show as to what a state and its leadership can do. If you think the Centre should do everything, it is not possible at all.

SHRI TARIT BALRAM TOPDAR: Why are other projects in various States not successful as Bakhara has been?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am coming to that. I was trying to make that point.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: He is helpless. He can do nothing. Let us at least listen to him.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: How sympathetic, Shri Nitish is! He has been in my shoes earlier.....(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: Sir, the former Agriculture Minister supports the present Agriculture Minister.....

MR. SPEAKER: He understands his difficulties.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: But let him not adopt the attitude of the former Speaker. Then, the Members will be nowhere!(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Neither the Centre nor the State can do things on their own. The implementation depends on the State Government and its leadership. An hon. Member from that side said that had Pratap Singh Kairon been alive, things would have been different. I would like to ask from Shri Nitish Kumar and other Members from

Bihar, why should only 1500 Mw power be generated in Bihar and why should some canal remain closed. Centre can't do these things. It should be done by the State. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Man is the main factor. He is the creator and he is the producer.

SHRI H.D. DEWEGOWDA: How much assistance do you give to each State for power generation? You said that the late.....(Interruptions)

SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR: That depends on the State Government. Every State Government is given money according to the plan. There is a plan for each and every State. There is no discrimination against anybody. At least, I cannot think of any discrimination. (Interruptions)

SHRI H.D. DEWEGOWDA: There is discrimination. It is a different thing that you do not want to go into it. (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: You have expressed your views. You would be really interested in hearing the views of the Government also. And, nobody is here who can give more authentic views than the Minister of Agriculture.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I speak from my heart. I am not going by figures. I believe in realistic approach. I am stating the facts. I work according to certain norms. I don't want to discriminate but one thing I would like to clarify. If the Leadership of a State is strong laborious, honest and devoted it will definitely progress. If a particular State does not progress it will harm the interests of the country and its people. I would appeal to the hon. Members who are present here that they should put in best possible efforts to get things done in their States and if they approach me for anything I will not mind. I am ready to tolerate if you criticise me or threaten me. I will not take it. Otherwise I have taken oath to serve the country. I will keep it in my

mind. Whatever we wanted to give, we gave, we took up the matter with the Finance Ministry and even fought for more funds. We categorically told them that the funds allocated were inadequate. Ours is a big department and for implementing schemes we required more funds. I forced them to increase it from Rs. five thousands crores to Rs. seven thousand and five hundred crores. I also forced them to increase the amount for research and development from Rs. 400 crores to Rs. 1300 crore.

I would like to call a meeting to discuss about the calamity relief Fund. Hon. Finance Minister may call it, if he so desires. I would like to place it before the cabinet also. I can send only officers to all those place I alone can not get everywhere. It is with their cooperation that I get strength just as the fingers make the hand strong. When Shri Nitish Kumar was in the Ministry he constituted the Ninth Finance Commission. We are bound by it. I have my limitations but even then I am trying to accommodate all I will be responsible if discriminate in allocation of funds.

[English]

In Gujarat, we gave:

- Advance release of entire Central share of calamity relief.
- Restoration of cut under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Scheme.
- Release of next installment of JRY.
- Additional allocation of food grants for the Public Distribution system. This amounts to Rs. one lakh.

Similarly in Madhya Pradesh we gave:

- Advance release of second instalment under JRY.
- Keeping in view the pace of expenditure by the State Government, advance release of second quarterly installment, of Central Government under CRP

[Sh. Balram Jakhar]

[Translation]

for 1992-93.

- Advance release of quarterly instalment under Water Scheme.

First the State Government should spend it. Subsequently we will be providing funds if there is a need of more funds. (Interruptions)

In Manarashtra we gave:

[English]

- Advance release of entire Central share of CRP.

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct. Let him finish his speech.

- Advanced for Public Distribution System; 1,35,000 tonnes in the month of May, 1,65,000 tonne per month from June to September and 1.6 lakh tonne from October to December.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Every thing has been explained. Now you may speak about Bihar. The Government of Bihar..... without.....

- Advance release of second instalment under JRY, keeping in view the pace of expenditure.

AN HON. MEMBER: What have you done for Indian fishermen?

- Advance release of fund under Drinking Water Supply Scheme in rural and urban areas, depending upon the expenditure.

MR. SPEAKER: No, not like this.

(Interruptions)

- Relaxation of norms for three months for drought affected regions so that villages although fully covered by the Drinking Water Supply may be taken up to meet the demand of drinking water.

Not in this manner. He wont reply to whatever you ask.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: All these things are done by the State Government. The Central Government is unable to do all these things. It has to attend to other things.

- Consideration of releasing additional fund by Department of Women and Child Development for Supplementary Nutrition Programme or receipt of suitable proposals from the State Government.

[English]

It is to coordinate certain things; to guide and to help. The State Government must bear the responsibility for all this.

[Translation]

As regards Rajasthan, requirement of funds for drought situation, which was assessed by the team is Rs. 80 crores. The State Government has got inspect balance of Rs. 200 crores and as such no additional Central assistance is required. State Government should step up measures to provide drinking water and fodder.

We have to do all these things. Secondly, it would be better if you ask the State Government. Now, you may see that I have received no demand from U.P.

[English]

No demand has come from the Government.

[Translation]

I have the record with me. You may come to my office and verify it. I have had never any scope, to hide it. I don't keep anything concealed. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not correct. This is too much.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: About Bihar, I was stating that it would be better if you ask them to write to us about the work being done by them. Only then, we will come to know. We can't know all these things while sitting here.....

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): You should speak about short term and long term plans.

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have already spoken about short term. Regarding long term.....

[English]

There has to be a coordinated approach.

[Translation]

The Ministry of Agriculture is unable to do it alone. For the purposes the Ministries of Power, Irrigation, Rural Development and Funds will have to sit together. The way the projects are being run may not provide water. There is always an apprehension of drought unless arrangement is made to generate water. When there is no water there is every likelihood of drought. At present only 30 per cent fields are being irrigated and 70 per cent fields are not under irrigation. He is sitting here just now. He was saying that 30 per cent land comes under irrigation and 70 per cent area depends on rains. We have to complete

all the projects. We have to give practical shape to all the projects. We have to initiate new minor projects and construct small dams to provide water for irrigation purpose. We have to develop new methods for irrigation and utilise the water in the best possible manner.

There is drip irrigation. It is used where there is shortage of water, the plants..... Mr. Speaker, Sir, you just see in your State of Maharashtra where people have produced pomegranate by carrying water in their urns. I was surprised. I visited a village where there was no water available. Mr. Vajpayee, but the children and family members were watering the plant of pomegranate after making a hole in the urn and placed it near the root of the plant. They have produced better quality of pomegranate. They have done a remarkable job. That should be the spirit.

I am holding talks with the officials of Israel. They have visited India. Our delegation has also returned from there. They held talks and have seen the complete functioning. Later on we will invite them. The way they have developed blooming fields even in drought, is remarkable. They have only Jordan river whereas we have number of rivers. What is the use of boasting. I do say that it had been a Burdial Canal. A new system had been developed between Ganga and drought. But it requires crores of rupees. Do we have such an amount of money today? There is a saying in Punjabi language not to spend more than one's means - which means "Cut your coat according to your cloth". so, we should have enough funds. I am not in favour of drought or water should go waste into the sea. For the purpose, it is essential that we should utilise all the projects properly. This time, we.....(Interruptions) Please sit down for one minute. Don't interrupt for a short while please.

SHRI BHOGENDRAJHA (Madhubani): I do not want to create pandemonium, I want to ask if you permit me.

MR. SPEAKER: Not in this manner. You should ask after his speech is over.