

also to Port Blair. Services should be there between Bhubaneswar and Amarda, Bhubaneswar and Jharsuguda, Bhubaneswar and Port Blair. Our State is a very neglected State. All the Members of Orissa requested the hon. Minister and after repeated request, he has been very much pleased to console us by saying that he would consider it. I request the hon. Minister that he should first sanction it. It is not enough to console us. He should restore that service. It is not for us only. It is for the sake of passengers. Bhubaneswar is a great tourist place. Tourists from different parts of India and from abroad come in large numbers. Bhubaneswar and Varanasi attract more and more people from different parts of India and abroad. That is why I am requesting the hon. Minister to consider it outright. In his reply, he should tell that it is restored.

Here, I would like to point out that the Members of the Opposition are criticising the Government in all respects. Whatever good the Government is doing for the country, they criticise it. They feel that it is not proper. They have boycotted this House. That is their intention. They want to hide the truth. What happened in the case of Bofors? They tried to pressurise the Government. They tried to play the pressure tactics. In this case also, they have tried to play the pressure tactics so that it would be beneficial to them during the time of election.

सिंधु के पीछे पाप छिपे ना
नेच छिपे ना बारपान गै,
सभा के भेतर पण्डित छिपे ना,
सुरत छिपे ना बदल च्छाई.

What is the truth? It will be revealed one day. The mind of our hon. Prime Minister is very clear. He will take drastic action

against the persons against whom corrupt practices have been proved. Our hon. Prime Minister has stated that if anybody is found guilty, he would be punished. The Opposition parties are reluctant to discuss the Action Take Report because truth will be revealed. If it is discussed, the entire country will know what is what. If the truth is revealed, then their game will be revealed. That is why they have boycotted this House. I condemn their action in this regard.

With these words, I conclude.

16. 00 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Heavy Loss Of Life And Damage To Property Due To Floods In Many Parts Of The Country

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House shall now take up discussion under Rule 193 on the above subject. The time allotted for this discussion is two hours.

Shri Nitish Kumar	Not Present
Shri Guman Mal Lodha	Not Present
Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee	Not Present
Shri Lokanath Choudhury	Not Present
Shri Basudeb Acharia	Not Present
Shri Bhubaneswar Prasad Mehta	Not Present
Shri R.M.Ghangare	Not Present

Shri P.C.Thomas

Not Present

nation has faced.

PROF. K.V.THOMAS (Ernakulam):
 Sir, I am sorry that many of the hon. Members who have given notice under Rule 193 for a discussion on the flood situation in the country are absent and those Members could not give expression to their feelings on the grave situation in the country and specially in their State.

Hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar has made a statement on the situation in the country as a whole on the floods. Monsoon which started by the end of May and which still is going on in the country has created havoc in different parts of the country. Starting from Kerala to Assam, everyday we have been getting reports of the people who have been killed, the properties that are being destroyed and the great loss to the agriculture as a whole.

On the 9th July there was a report in Patriot which titled: 'flash floods claimed 29 lives in North and North-East.' On the 13th July, there was another report about Orissa, 'floods in coastal Orissa'. Again in Statesman on 13th, it said, 'Madhya Pradesh— flood situation is very grim'. In Deccan Herald, it is said, 'recurring floods in Karnataka— ten killed, villages flooded, traffic hit— flash floods wrecked havoc in coastal and Malabar districts.' On 14th again in The Hindustan Times, it is said, 'flood killed six in Madhya Pradesh. On 18th, 'flood toll crosses 600 mark.' Everyday we are getting reports on heavy loss to men and properties. As on today, what we could gather is that more than 600 people have been killed. In Gujarat, it is 117; in Kerala, my State it is 108; in Karnataka it is 56. in Madhya Pradesh it is 13. This is one of the cruelest natural calamities which this

The hon. Prime Minister has taken immediate measures to help the people who are in difficulty. On 18th, under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister, a review of the flood situation in the entire country was made in Delhi and four senior, central Ministers were deputed to flood-hit states. Shri A.K.Antony was sent to Orissa; Shri Mallikarjun was sent to Karnataka; Shri P.A.Sangma went to MP; and Shri Sukh Ram to Himachal Pradesh. At that time hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar was making a visit to Maharashtra to review the flood situation and from there he went to Gujarat. The hon. Prime Minister has directed that a sum of Rs.50,000 be given to the relatives of the people who have been killed in this casualty. He has also released Rs.15 crore from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund towards such payments. Relatives of all those who have been killed have been given Rs.50,000 from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

The flood situation of this time is incomparable. Even though this House has discussed a number of times natural calamities, this is one of the few occasions when we have to be a little more realistic. The central assistance which is given to the States in the form of Calamity Relief Fund has been fixed by the 9th Finance Commission; that is 75 per cent central assistance and the rest 25 per cent the States have to find out themselves. Each state has been allotted a fixed amount. For my State, Kerala, what has been allotted is Rs.31 crore. That means from the Central Government we will get an assistance of Rs.23.25 crore while the State Government has to find out Rs.7.75 crore. This decision of the Finance Commission is highly

unrealistic. Do you mean that in every state if there is a natural calamity, if there is a flood, it can go only to the extent decided by the 9th Finance Commission? For example, in Kerala do you say that we can have a flood only to the extent of Rs.31 crore? Our hon. Chief Minister has written to the hon. Prime Minister on 19.7.1994 that the loss to Kerala as calculated at that time is coming to around Rs.110 crore only from two items— one is the value of crop loss to the extent of Rs.65 crore and the other is the value of the public property loss to the extent of Rs.45 crore. There are other losses also. On 19.7.1994 this is our assessment. In Kerala alone the assessment as on 19.7.1994 is Rs.110 crore. The 9th Finance Commission says, no, your loss cannot be more than Rs.31 crore. I think this is highly unrealistic. The Chief Ministers of different States have expressed their unhappiness on this decision now and then.

I think, the time has now come when the Government of India has to be realistic about the situation and see that, over and above the Finance Commission's criteria, some other help is given. There are ways of extending help. I have got one or two suggestions in this regard.

The Government of India with a futuristic view, has started a Centrally sponsored Integrated Watershed Management Scheme. In 1993-94, Rs.27 crores have been spent for the management of catchment areas in flood-prone rivers; and about 57,000 hectares of land has been managed by this. So, from this amount, I think, the Government of India can immediately release adequate amount to the State Governments, over and above the amount fixed by the Ninth Finance Commission. Even in this Integrated

Watershed Management Scheme, 50 per cent is the Central loan and 50 per cent is the Central grant. This is one of the ways by which, I think, the State Governments can be immediately helped.

The second type of help can be from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Already the Prime Minister has released Rs.15 crores to help the States. I think, more amount has to be released. So, a realistic view should be taken by the Central Government when natural calamities occur. The present stand of fixing a fixed amount to help the States when natural calamities occur, is not realistic. The Government should come up with a realistic plan and actual help should be given in time.

Coming back to my own State, Kerala, the situation is very— very bad there. Kerala has never faced such a bad flood during the last ten years. According to the statistics that we have got, as on 22nd July 1994, the number of districts affected is 14; that is, the entire Kerala has been affected. The number of villages affected is 1,278. The number of population affected is 4,82,875. The number of persons died is 108. The number of persons injured is 190. The number of persons missing is five. The number of families evacuated is 38,455. The number of relief camps opened is 517. The number of families in relief camps is 49,450.

16. 13 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *In the Chair*]

The number of houses fully damaged is 10,550. The value of houses that are fully damaged is Rs.228.6 lakhs. The number of houses partially damaged is 13,797. The value of houses partially damaged is

[Prof. K.V. Thomas]

Rs.251.12 lakhs. The value of cattle loss is about rupees one lakh. The crops affected area is 18,820 hectares. The value of the crop loss, as I have told earlier, is Rs.65 crores. The value of the public property loss is Rs.45 crores.

So, this is the situation in Kerala and the Government of India is just giving us Rs.23.25 crores. That will not help us. So, immediately the Kerala Government should be given proper assistance.

Secondly, in this connection, I wish to bring before the august House, the position about sea erosion. Sea erosion is a part of the natural calamity. Earlier, for building new walls in the sea eroded places, the Government of India used to give us 50 per cent; and for the repair of the work, they used to give us one-third of the amount.

Now, both have been withdrawn. The anti-sea erosion work has been completely entrusted to the State Government. How many crores of rupees, we are spending for the defence of our nation! Does not this sea erosion work become part of the defence work because this is also a part of our boundaries? You should not leave the protection of our sea shores to the State Governments alone. State Governments are in a very bad shape. Of course, I do agree that the Central Government too has financial problems. But the anti-sea erosion work should not be entrusted to States alone because they do not have enough resources. Especially, in States like Kerala, we find it practically difficult to spend even a single paisa, for the simple reasons that we do not have any money to spend! Therefore, unless the assistance used to be granted

earlier is restored, States like Kerala will be very adversely affected and the entire coastal area will be washed off. I once again request the Central Government firstly, to give immediate assistance, over and above the norms set by the Ninth Finance Commission; Secondly, to provide some financial help for the anti-sea erosion work; and lastly to give us immediate help from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund as well as the Integrated Watershed Management Fund.

With these words, I conclude with a request that relief work in respect of natural calamities should be taken up on a war-footing.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I totally endorse the views given expression to by my hon. friend and colleague, Shri K.V.Thomas. He has given everything in detail and he has depicted a graphic picture of what happened in Kerala.

Sir, we have great respect for Shri. Balram Jakharji, hon. Minister for Agriculture. He has always been very considerate to our State. But I am very sorry to say that this time when our State is facing such an unprecedented flood after the 1962 floods, Shri Jakharji could not make it convenient to visit his favourite State of Kerala. I say 'favourite' because whenever any important issue, political or otherwise, cropped up in Kerala, I know personally that it was Dr. Balram Jakhar who used to rush to Kerala at the instance of his leader late Shri. Rajiv Gandhi and also on his own. But this time, I do not know what happened to him. I wonder how he could forget our state when we are facing such a terrible situation. I would like to put it on record that 109 people have lost their precious lives, five people are still missing, about 200 people have been injured

and more than 50,000 people are rendered homeless. So, one can easily imagine the magnitude of the flood situation in Kerala. And I do not understand how our hon. Minister who is in charge of Flood Control can have a good sleep here in Delhi! Our hon. Chief Minister has assured the state that Shri Balram Jakhar will be visiting Kerala. When many of our Central Ministers have been sent to various States to assess the situation, nobody is sent to Kerala. Of course, I do remember that one of our Minister from Kerala, Shri. A.K. Antony did pay a visit. I also know that he is duty bound to do it. But Shri Balram Jakhar, the Minister in charge of Floods has not found time till now to visit our State. That is the resentment that I have to express. Anyway, it may be an omission on his part and I hope he will sincerely attempt to make good the wrong that he has done to Kerala.

How will he be able to do it? In such a situation how can we be satisfied with just Rs.23 crore of financial assistance? I know that the Minister will say that this is what are allocated by the 9th Finance Commission. But, if he is guided by the Finance Commission and Planning Commission he will not be able to solve our problem. I know that the Planning Commission is not a statutory body but it is more than a statutory body. However, I do concede its importance. You cannot expect us to go to the people and say that the Commission is unable to help us in this natural calamity. How can a State like Kerala, which is already facing its own financial crunch, solve this problem? Is it not the duty of the Central Government to help the State in such a natural calamity?

I would like to say that many of our boundaries have been eroded by sea. From the Defence point of view whenever there is

a dispute on the border, the Government spends crores of rupees on it. Similarly, why cannot the Central Government come forward to protect the boundaries of a State which are being eroded by sea. Is it not the duty of the Government? On the contrary, everything has been left to the State Government.

What is the position in Kerala? Everybody knows that the financial position that holds good in Kerala is from treasury to mouth. Whenever we get any assistance from the Centre it will be first utilized for paying salaries to the officers and such other purposes. In spite of all these shortcomings and difficulties the State Government has risen to the occasion to solve this problem on a war footing. Our State Ministers have been camping there all the time. They have mobilised the public, but what about the share of the Government of India? What is the role of the Government of India? Is Kerala not a part of this country? I am very happy and I congratulate the hon. Minister for showing consideration to other States. I have absolutely no objection to it but why the same treatment is not given to the State of Kerala? You should treat Kerala also at par with the other states.

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): He has also not visited Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI E. AHAMED: But Madhya Pradesh has very many great leaders like you and like Shri Arjun Singh, who is a very senior leader.

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (Shri Arjun Singh): But I do not have money.

SHRI E. AHAMED: You will be able to make money for your State. Anyway, I am not here talking about the visits of the Minister. I wish to say that this is the time for the Central Government to come forward and help the State. Even now the rain is unabated and in northern districts torrential rain continues and even now many of the houses are being destroyed. People are just running from pillar to post. Many of the school buildings and other important institutions have been affected in my constituency in Malappuram and Kannur districts. All these people have been rendered homeless. I do not want to take much of the precious time of the House. I request the Minister to take this into account seriously. The Minister should not be guided by the bureaucratic attitude. He should not be guided by any other consideration except the humanitarian consideration. He should be guided by compassion. I again and again urge the Government of India, especially the Hon. Minister who is very much considerate to the States to help us in this natural calamity.

The Agriculture Minister announced that apart from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund there will be some discretionary fund. I do not know whether it is applicable to the Planning Commission or to the Government of India. The Hon. Minister of Commerce, who is also the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, is present here. I request that there should be some such discretionary fund which should be set apart to meet such situations. One cannot say when the floods will come. You can very well evaluate estimates to say that whether the railway line would require but flood is a natural calamity. A natural calamity like this should not be entrusted to the Finance Commission alone to fix the norm because

it may sometimes exceed the limit.

So, such a contingency should also be taken into account. Therefore, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to assure the House that he will provide help to the State Government for which our hon. Prime Minister also was requested for. When we requested for Rs. 150 crore, you have given us only Rs. 23 crore. Now, you are saying that you have discharged your duty. I would say that you have not discharged your duty. So, please assure the House on this.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on flood, drought and famine always goes on in this House. The hon. Agriculture Minister has just given the details about the areas in the country where flood have occurred this year. In this flood, more than 600 people have died and the amount of loss to the crop is still being assessed. It is also true that this time the flood has come earlier in July form its usual course in August. As a result thereof the situation has become more grim. More than 600 people have been killed this time in floods. It happens always, some people die due to famine and some in earthquakes. In this regard, I would suggest that a Prime Minister Calamity Relief Fund should be set up and the people dying in natural calamities, should also be given compensation of Rs. one lakh, as is done in the case of rail accidents. The Government should also think seriously about the damage caused to the crops due to flood. If an industrial unit sustains loss, the Government try to give it every possible assistance. In Assam and some other States, the crops worth crores of rupees are damaged due to flood. In this year too, there is a fury of flood

in Kerala, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh and several other States. Even the farmers could not sow their crops. As the hon. Minister has himself admitted even the farmers would not sow their crops. For a farmer, crop is everything and if it is damaged, his whole year's hope gets dashed. Therefore, I would suggest that the Government should also think about giving some compensation for the crops damaged due to natural calamities. I do not say that the farmer should be given a compensation of Rs.5-10 or 20 thousand for one acre of land, but some compensation must be given to the farmers.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government assesses the damage caused to the crop due to flood and drought every year and also starts some relief programmes to extend immediate help on ad-hoc basis. Though, the wages and wood for building a house is made available to the people, yet the permanent solution of the problem does not come out. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister as well as the Government that the problems of famine and flood are two sides of same coin and unless stop-dams are constructed on small and big rivers as well as on canals, we will not be able to find any permanent solution to these problems. If we construct more stop-dams, it would help in storage of water, whereas it would not be possible by constructing ten big dams. In France, big dams are not constructed. Rather, they construct stop-dams. Due to construction of stop-dams, the rain water of the villages coming under the periphery of 80-100 miles is stored. In our country, the Government tries to construct big dams in which lakhs of poor people lose their houses and land and they are, in return, given a little compensation. They do not get that much of land from that compensation. Whenever big

dams are constructed, the poor families get ruined forever. However, if it becomes necessary to construct big dams, the Government may go for that. Shivanth river flows through Durg district, which is my constituency. When its water reaches Orissa, it causes damage there. Therefore, about 7-8 stop-dams should be constructed in this district so that the water is stored there itself and it may not cause any damage in Orissa. Many benefits can be derived from the storage of water in stop-dams. If we construct big dams, we ought to give compensation to displaced people. However, in case of stop-dams, the environment does not get polluted, the forests are saved and the houses of the poor people do not get damaged. There are five lakh seventy six thousand villages in our country. We should construct more and more stop-dams so that the rain water could be stored. Due to construction of thousands of stop-dams, there will not be any danger from heavy rain or flood. The Government should spend more money on the construction of stop-dams so as to find a permanent solution to this problem. The Finance Commission has decided that a particular State would be given a particular amount of assistance. In my opinion it is a very little amount. Besides this, other states are also required to be given more financial assistance. A large part of Madhya Pradesh has been badly affected by the flood but the Government has not received the factual details. In Chhatisgarh region, the flood has caused havoc in eight or nine districts—Rajnadgaon, Raipur, Bastar, Sarguja, Durg, Balaghat, Raigarh, Bilaspur and Madla. At least three or four lakh people have been affected and about 50-70 thousand houses have been damaged. Crop has also been damaged in large area. Accordingly roads, culverts, dams and canals have also been damaged. I would request the hon. Minister

[Sh. Chandu Lal Chandrakar]

to provide adequate funds, as early as in September, to repair the damage caused to roads, culverts, dams and canals and also to protect the ensuing rabi crop by stopping the water. I understand that the Government has received a report in this regard. About seven or eight districts of Chhatisgarh region have been badly hit there by the flood. Therefore, the Government should send Rs.50 to Rs.60 crore immediately, otherwise the paddy crop will be completely destroyed.

I am confident that Sh. Balram Jakhar will go there and get acquainted with the problems of the villagers. The dependants of the deceased should be given Rupees One lakh each. Further, the injured as well as the farmers, whose crop has been damaged, should also get some kind of compensation.

I would once again request the hon. Minister to pay a visit to that region because he himself say that if they face any difficulty, Balram will save them. Therefore, you must go there and provide adequate compensation for the losses suffered by the people.

*SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, the recent floods have created havocs in many of the States. Karnataka is one of the states which has been affected very severely by the floods. This year the monsoon in Kerala started three days in advance. In Karnataka normally the monsoon starts on the 7th of June and this time it has started on the 30th of May itself. Floods have occurred thrice consecutively. In fact, this season the monsoon rainfall is a record for the last 60 years.

Hurricane and storm have affected the villages which are at the higher altitude while heavy rain and floods have affected the people living in the lower altitude particularly in the coastal area of the Karnataka. About 60 persons have lost their lives according to a 15 day old report. At present, this number has gone much higher. Out of 22 districts, 14 districts have been affected by the floods. About 2546 villages in 88 Taluks are in great trouble on account of the floods. In the entire State, the total loss of cattle is about 2399 and the total number of persons who are affected by the floods is about 10.73 lakhs. Standing crops about 127516 hectares have been destroyed. Many farmers in the state took up sowing after the first flood. Unfortunately that was also destroyed by the second flood. Added to this sea erosion has also created havocs and destroyed many villages in the coastal areas. The agricultural lands on both sides of the rivers have been affected. Water logging in the agricultural fields has become a major problem to the farmers. This water has to be removed immediately so that the farmers can take up agricultural work.

The State Government of Karnataka has submitted memorandum to the Centre and they have requested Central assistance to the tune of Rs.100 crores. The State Government is very keen to help the farmers and others who are affected by the recent floods. The State has no sufficient funds for this purpose and hence the Centre should come to the rescue of the State at this juncture.

3,000 houses have been completely destroyed and about 15,000 houses are partially damaged. These damaged houses have to be repaired and new houses have to

be constructed to those unfortunate people who have lost their houses. Many village roads & dams have been damaged and these have to be repaired immediately.

About 500 rupees is being sanctioned per hectare as the flood relief. This meagre amount is not at all sufficient for the helpless farmers. Agricultural workers are the worst hit in the floods as they do not get work anywhere. Hence financial assistance must be given to these agricultural workers from the Flood Relief Fund.

The Centre has to approach International Financial Institutions to take up flood control measures in our country and a substantial amount has to be allocated to my State. Desilting work in the rivers has to be taken up without any further delay otherwise there would be floods in future. I urge upon the Government of India to increase the Flood Relief Fund per hectare from Rs.500/- to Rs.5000/- to be given to the farmers.

The Government of India has sent a team to visit the flood affected areas in the State of Karnataka to assess the total damage and I am grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for this. The Hon. Minister for Agriculture was kind enough to discuss this matter with me. All the Members of Lok Sabha have submitted a memorandum to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister for Agriculture. Both of them have assured to wipe out the tears of the people who are reeling under severe flood situation.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important subject and with these words I conclude.

SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT (Mandvi):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, due to heavy rain in the whole country, the food situation has become grim in several states. In Gujarat also, due to the heavy rain South Gujarat and Saurashtra region have been affected by heavy flood this year.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to inform that Gujarat is such a State which comes under the grip of natural calamities—famine, flood, cyclone etc. every year. For the last few years, Gujarat has been facing the fury of famine. In this regard, Kutch and Saurashtra region have been badly affected. In this year too, there was a possibility of famine in Kutch but due to good rain, there is smile on the faces of the farmers of Gujarat. It rained heavily in the districts of South Gujarat, Surat, Balsar, Dang, Barauch etc. w.e.f 13 June to 16 June. Generally this region experiences about 40 cm rainfall every year but in the outset of this monsoon, it has already rained about 40 cm to 50 cm in this region so far. Similarly, it has rained about more than 108 cm in South Gujarat. It is because of this that heavy flood came in Ambika, Purna, Jhankri, Oranga etc. rivers of Gujarat. This fury of flood has broken the record of the last fifty years.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, my constituency, Mandvi has come under the grip of this dreadful flood. As a result thereof thousands of people have become homeless and their livestock have also been washed away in flood. There has been heavy damage to the life and property, including crops. Besides Surat district, other districts in Saurashtra region i.e. Junagarh, Kutch, Rajkot, Amreli, Bhavnagar etc. have also experienced heavy rain and due to this, there is a fury of heavy flood. This has resulted in a loss worth crores of Rupees. Due to heavy rain, out of

[Sh. Chhitubhai Gamit]

18 districts of Gujarat, 10 districts have been completely struck by flood and 12,74,000 people of about 5,162 villages have been affected. I would like to share some information, which I have received from other sources. Due to the flood, the damage to houses, jhonparis, crops and livestock has been assessed to be more than Rs.300 crore. In the heavy rain, about 140 people have been died, the crop standing in 48,784 hectare area has been damaged, 14,940 houses have been destroyed and jhonparis of about 7153 people have been destroyed. Thus, the damage to jhonparis has been assessed to be around Rs. 32,602 crores.

Moreover, the property worth Rs.115 crore has been lost in which the public property such as irrigation, dams, canals, bridges, roads including the property of the Gujarat State Electricity Board are included. Thus, due to flood Gujarat has suffered a loss of more than Rs.300 crore so far. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is still raining heavily in Gujarat. Sir, keeping in view the heavy loss of Gujarat due to flood through you I demand that the Government of India should release an interim financial aid of Rs.200 crore for the Government of Gujarat immediately. Moreover, maximum possible help should also be given to the flood-affected people from the Prime Minister Relief Fund. At least Rs.One lakh should be given to the next of the kin of flood victims. The farmers, who have lost their crops, should be provided seeds, fertilisers and medicines as much as possible. Those poor people, tribals, Harijans and agricultural labourers who have suffered loss, should be provided loans under the Indira Awas Yojana for the construction of their houses and the amount of the loan

should be raised. Those persons who have lost their industries, shops etc. should be provided loans at lower rates of interest. The loan facility at lower rate of interest should also be given to those farmers who have lost their crops or live-stocks.

In order to assess the loss of life, industries and public property, a high-level central team should be sent to Gujarat.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at last I would like to submit that Gujarat has suffered heavy loss this time due to flood. The economy of the State has been shattered and development works have got a severe setback. The life of the flood affected poor have been scattered. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I urge upon the Government of India to send Rs.300 crore immediately to the Government of Gujarat to combat the flood situation.

[English]

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY (Anantapur): Sir, strangely when the majority of the country is facing flood havoc and cyclones and relief measures undertaken by the Government, unfortunately the Anantapur district is facing severe drought conditions.

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, South-West monsoon 1994 arrived three days in advance and covered the entire country by 30th June, 1994 about 15 days advance of the normal time of the coverage. I differ with the statement of the hon. Agriculture Minister with regard to the rainfall in the Anantapur district. Due to floods, many people lost their lives and properties, I feel very sorry for the same.

I hail from Anantapur district which is the most backward and drought-prone in Andhra Pradesh. The rainfall of Anantapur district is 520 millimeter, which is the lowest in the State and the second lowest in the country. Farmers 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 South-West monsoon. Unfortunately, South-West monsoon is not kind toward us. Tanks, drinking water wells and bore-wells have gone dry and people are suffering for want of water and foodgrains. The cattle are suffering for want of water and fodder.

The entire House will agree with me that drought is more severe than floods. On account of drought the people suffer for drinking water and foodgrains and the cattle also suffer for drinking water and for fodder. The farmer will incur a heavy loss due to drought.

The Central Government and the State Governments are taking various relief measures in flood and cyclone affected areas and lots of funds are sanctioned for this purpose which is a welcome measure. But, at the same time, there is necessity to come to the rescue of drought affected areas in any part of the country.

Unfortunately, the State Government and the Central Government are not paying much attention to these aspects.

In this connection, I urge upon the Government, through you, to take the following steps:

(i) To take immediate action in

arranging for artificial rains in the area, which is possible due to advancement of science and technology;

(ii) to take immediate action to assess the loss due to drought in the backward drought-prone area of Anantapur district in Andhra Pradesh and to provide immediate financial assistance and relief measures; and

(iii) to consider the proposals of the Government of Andhra Pradesh to constitute the Anantapur Desert Prevention and Development Authority; by including it in the Eighth Five- Year Plan.

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha):

Sir, this year's calamities which have occurred throughout India, are so serious that very staunch steps have to be taken to give some relief to the affected people as well as the affected farmers.

One of the States which have been affected this year is Kerala and I think the points relating to Kerala have already been raised by two of my learned friends who have already spoken. It is true that when the floods were in vogue and when the leaders were being sent, we had a feeling— at least the Papers reported in Kerala— that Kerala alone had been left out. But we were expecting that this will be compensated by immediate aid which was going to come. The most unfortunate thing is that Kerala is being affected by floods and also by droughts, year after year, for the past several years without any stop. As per the directions of the Finance Commission, the maximum aid that we can get is only Rs.33 crore, out

[Sh. P.C. Thomas]

of which one-fourth has to be met by the State of Kerala. So, what we can get is only Rs.25 crore. This norm has to be changed in the first instance. The State Government has been pleading with the Finance Commission and also with the Central Government that this norm is so unreasonable that such States as Kerala are entitled only to such paltry amounts, compared to the loss that occurs. Therefore, this is something which has to be taken very serious note of and some change has to be brought about in this regard.

As has already been put, out of the total deaths that have taken place in the country due to floods, almost one-fourth have occurred in the State of Kerala. In Kerala, 109 people have died, thousands have been injured and thousands have lost their homes. It is also a matter of grave concern that the loss occurred to crops or plantations is something which cannot be counted.

I would just draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one aspect which I think is more special to Kerala. So, I think I would put more stress on it. As far as the agricultural loss is concerned, Kerala is a State where, in a different way from other States, the types of crops are mainly cash crops. The plantations- rubber trees or pepper vines or other cash crops- are nursed for years together. The farmer who has put in all his efforts on plantation for quite a number of years, is just amazed when he finds that within a few seconds all his efforts have gone waste. The sight of this is something which we cannot explain but which we know that the hon. Minister as well as the Government will surely understand.

This year, three or four, Assembly segments of my constituency, called Muvattupuzha, have been very seriously affected by floods.

17.00 hrs.

There is one Panchayat where in one ward itself 55,000 rubber trees are lost. Those trees belong to more than 200 farmers who are all small farmers. But nothing could be done to compensate them. The compensation to be given to one rubber tree which is lost must be at least Rs.2,000/-. But the State Government could pay only Rs.40/- per tree. It may be just enough to cut and remove that tree which has been lost due to flood. It is not at all sufficient and the farmer is not given a proper relief.

Sir, I think some new aspects may also be brought into this discussion at this stage. In fact, my party, the Kerala Congress had given a document to the Planning Commission. It was an alternative document to the Eighth Five year plan. At that time, the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission said that that was the first time an alternative Plan document had been given by a political party. In that document, one submission was made with regard to Group Insurance for the farmers. This is something which, I think, we have to take it up on a long term basis because there is no Group Insurance Scheme for the farmers now. Therefore, no Government can really give any proper assistance to the farmers who lose their plantations like the cash crops. There will be no difficulty in starting such a scheme. The farmers' organisations are there, the cooperative banks are there and there are many other governmental and non-governmental organisations which are working with the farmers. They can contribute

in a big way and the Government also can contribute to it. I think a scheme has to be prepared and approved to give effect to the Group Insurance to the farmers. I think that is the only way in which any Government can give proper assistance to the farmers who lose their crops due to flood. At present, we can give assistance only from the Central Government.

Sir, the State of Kerala has asked for a flood relief of Rs. 150 crore. Last time, an amount of Rs. 300 crore was asked, but no proper amount could be given. The amount which was given was only Rs. 25 crore. That is why, I would request the Government that this aspect has to be taken very seriously. The hon. Minister can make a visit to Kerala because even now the monsoon is very active there and the downpour is continuing in Kerala. I was there in Kerala yesterday. The rain is continuing and there is no chance of rain stopping in the immediate future. So, if Jakhariji can make a visit to Kerala. I feel it would be better. If it is not possible, then a Central team may immediately be sent to the State of Kerala to assess the damages. If it is assessed, I am sure it would come to Rs. 100 to Rs. 150 crore. So, I would request Jakhariji, through you, Sir, to give proper assistance to the State of Kerala.

With regard to the other States where floods have been there, they were very severely affected. I submit that we must find a long term solution in which this kind of a natural calamity can be dealt with. I think that is the only way in which we have to find a real solution to this problem.

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL
(Belgaum): Mr. Chairman, Sir, this time the floods have come in an unprecedented way in all the places. It is a natural calamity

beyond the imagination of the human being and no Government can help in that way. However, we have been used to drought and flood regularly for centuries. But no arrangement has been made permanently to meet the situation. As my friend has said, I suggest that a separate arrangement has to be made independently and a special portfolio has to be created so that it can independently monitor, watch, anticipate, attend and tour the drought and flood affected areas.

17. 04 hrs.

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

Sir, this time the State of Karnataka has been affected by flood in an unprecedented way and particularly my district has been affected very seriously due to flood. In Karnataka, the catchment area is more, but the flood has taken place in drought areas. In the river there is no water, but in nearby areas there is flood.

Actually in my constituency, Belgaum, about 20-25 villages are totally submerged in water including two towns. One is Gokak and the other is Ramdurg. For two or three days they were totally submerged in water and many houses fell down because they were built in mud. When the water receded we found that three or four lanes and some villages have been destroyed. Actually three villages in the Gokak town were under water. It has been very difficult for the Government to evacuate people and make the necessary arrangements for their rehabilitation. However, we have done it. More than six or seven people have lost their lives and a lot of property has been lost. Sugarcane, groundnut and jowar and all other crops

[Sh.S.B. Sidnal]

were totally destroyed. Drought could be tolerated to some extent because people can go somewhere else and get themselves employed. But when affected by floods, the persons, crops and the animals remain in water and its impact will be felt for the next three years because of soil erosion and so many other things take place. Apart from this loss, the roads are also destroyed. National Highway No.4 is totally destroyed and there are no funds with the State Government since it is a National Highway. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of India to set up a mechanism whereby the necessary work can be undertaken automatically in such an emergency. Otherwise, it becomes very difficult.

I thank Shri Mallikarjun who could come in the rough weather and stayed for two or three hours in my constituency and he could visit some areas. In Belgaum city also, there is water in some low lying areas. Of late, when cities are being developed and when there is a heavy rainfall, the water does not get percolated because of the use of cement and tar and as a result every rain drop gets collected in the low lying areas. Now water has been collected upto ten feet deep in those areas. We could not get even oil machines. There was no current and there was no oil machine available to pump out the water. So, thousands of houses in the Belgaum city were sunk under deep water and many houses fell down; some of them are still in water. In my life I have never seen such a thing happening; it is happening after 50 years. It has to be taken very seriously and the Government should establish a special portfolio which can monitor and look at the trends scientifically and it can also visit these flood affected

areas. In my State, there are five or six districts right from the Tumkur district, from where Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, your goodself represents. The floods are affecting our State at one or the other time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Drought and floods are really terrible. In Tumkur, Bangalore rural area, Chitradurg and in Bijapur it is very terrible.

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: In half of the State we are facing regular floods or drought. And no attention is being paid by the Central Government. We pleaded with Shri Balram Jakhar also, who is very generous and very good, but he does not give us any money.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is very kind also.

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: He must be more liberal because it has been very difficult for us. There is no planning, but we are going in, as my colleague said, for big dams where silt is deposited after 20 years. For completion of these big dams, it takes 20 years time and the benefit derived is nothing. The land is also lost. I do not know, how it is economically workable. If you make a small bund and if you build check dams in every village, wherever water is flowing, at least, it gets percolated, the borewells gets charged and you can get water. There is no planning, there is no scientific approach to such things. If you do not attend to these things now, the future generations also will suffer. The rain is scanty and there is no regular rain in half of the Karnataka. What should be done? Only by addressing the Parliament or attending the meetings nothing can be done. It is just like distributing theertha. The aid that is given is just like a theertha. Some solution has to be found out. If necessary a

committee has to be formed to look into these things.

How best can we overcome? In backward areas, industries could be set up. A permanent arrangement can be made. There are rivers and there is no water. There is silt in some tanks. Who can do these things? The State Government should be directed to desilt the tanks. At least, percolation can be developed. If small sectors are built, it will have its benefits. You can get fish. You can have good environment. If you develop a system of percolating the water down it gets stored. You can get tubewells. If this arrangement is not made, nothing can be done. How much money the Central Government can give? There should be a permanent solution and a mechanism. A Committee by a Minister like Shri Balram Jakhar should be set up for this area. Its recommendations should be implemented bit by bit. Funds can be raised. Whenever flood or drought comes, we come here and address the House. Some aid is given. It is not properly reached and worked out. People always agitate and all the areas are as they were 100 years back.

At least, horticulture is to be started in the drought affected areas and shady trees have to be planted so that they can get fruits within 10 to 15 years. I have worked out that horticulture is more profitable than regular crop. If you put 30 to 40 tamarind trees, you get Rs.40,000 per annum after 10 to 15 years. You can manage with some other thing during these 10 to 15 years. There are many species, varieties where such things could be done. But there is no planning either by the Central Government or by the State Government. We only see some notes in Eighth Five Plan and something is given. Some labour is recruited under JRY. They

do not have a permanent plan.

I thank the Prime Minister for having sent Shri Mallikarjun who took pains to come there in the rough weather.

Our Chief Minister also visited the area twice. Other Ministers are also visiting the areas.

There are some charitable people in this country who have given some money. Government money comes late. Government of Karnataka has released money immediately and something can be done.

Three villages are to be totally rehabilitated and 50 families were totally in the water for three—four days. There was no food for them. We could put the wire. We installed poles and tied wire. We sent food for them. We brought some steamers from other places and sent them food. This is a temporary arrangement.

Shri Balram Jakhar has rich experience in life. He himself is an agriculturist. He knows the sufferings of agriculturists.

Therefore, I appeal to Shri Balram Jakhar and to the Government of India to establish a permanent mechanism to avert drought and floods.

Thank you very much for the opportunity given to me to speak.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): I participate in this debate with a very heavy heart. On the very first day of this monsoon Session, I have given notice for a discussion on this subject but unfortunately the valuable

[Sh.P.C. Chacko]

time of this House was taken away for other unimportant and political issues.

In the country, more than 14 States are being affected by floods and heavy monsoon. It is an extremely important issue. An issue of even such national importance is not being discussed in this House, is a sad thing.

Friends from my State, Shri P.C. Thomas and Prof K.V. Thomas and Shri E. Ahamed have highlighted this problem which my State is facing due to the flood situation.

I do not want to repeat those issues. But the flood situation which the country is facing today is something very grave, very serious. I am happy that the Commerce Minister and Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission is also present today in this House. The Government has to have a re-look about the arrangement that the Government of India is making for facing the natural calamities, for redressing the grievances of the people. The damage caused to each State is being explained by the Members while they participate in this debate. Different States in the country are in different financial situations. All the States cannot be treated on an equal footing. I come from a State which is facing unparalleled financial difficulties. During the last three years, we had faced six times the overdraft crisis in our State. We are finding it extremely difficult even to pay the salaries. Such a State, which is finding it extremely difficult to make both ends meet, when a natural calamity of this magnitude affect the people, how can that State face the natural calamity? How can that State handle the situation? That is the real problem I think

that the Central Government has not applied its mind to this question and has not come out fully for helping the State Governments. The figures have been explained here. So, I am not going into the details. It is not a problem confining to only one State. I am bound to explain the problems facing my State. I know from Assam to Kerala, more than 14 States have been affected. Even in Delhi, because of overflowing of Yamuna River, the lower parts of Delhi have been inundated. Like that, the Brahmaputra, Ganga, Cauvery and many rivers are overflowing and causing havoc. In Kerala, the problem is that we are not only affected by floods but also by landslides. Recently, we have read about the cloudburst in Himachal Pradesh. The hon. Prime Minister gave assistance to Himachal Pradesh to face this.

Sir, the South-West monsoon had started by the middle of June. It is still continuing in Kerala. The northern parts of Kerala are reeling under deluge. It is not only in villages but also in cities the flood waters are playing havoc. 108 people died.

In this connection, I would like to point out that the hon. Minister Shri Balram Jakhar Ji in his statement has said that more than 580 people died. Out of the 580 human lives lost, one-fifth is from my State. In such a small State, 108 lives have been lost. What is the compensation that we are giving to the affected people? The total allocation by the Finance Commission for Kerala towards natural calamity for one year is Rs.31 crores. This is very unreal and inadequate. I request the hon. Commerce Minister and Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission to have a re-look on this issue. The Finance Commission and the Planning Commission decide that μX is the amount for meeting

natural calamity. The point is that natural calamity is not under the control of anybody. Only Rs.31 crores were allocated to Kerala for meeting natural calamity. If this is the decision of the Government, where can we get justice from? Out of the allocation of Rs.31 crores, 25 per cent is to come from the State Government and the balance is only Rs.23 crores. For the whole State of Kerala, for meeting the natural calamity, the total amount expected in one year is Rs.23 crores from the Central Government. Shri Balam Jakhar has said that he has released the third instalment for Kerala. Even if the entire amount is released, it is not even a fraction of what we have lost. The loss to the standing crops alone is to the extent of Rs.65 crores. Apart from that, the loss to irrigation canal is there. The experts say that there is an advantage in the case of floods also. They say that even if the standing crops are lost, the second crop may be better. But the crop which is lost is lost. That alone amounts to Rs.65 crores. In the case of canal system, there is another loss of Rs.45 crores. So, the total comes to Rs.110 crores. In addition to this, the damage caused to bridges and roads comes to Rs.30 crores. The loss suffered by a small State of Kerala during the last 30 days is to the extent of Rs.140 crores. The total compensation to Kerala, as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission, is only to the extent of Rs.31 crores. Out of that, the Central contribution is only to the extent of Rs.23 crores. How are we going to meet this problem? 108 lives have been lost. In the case of a train accident, if a person dies, there is a provision for compensation to be paid to the affected family. Like that, if people lose their lives in the natural calamities, there must be a provision for compensation to be paid to their families. There must be a revolving fund in the Central

Government. The Finance Commission and the Planning Commission has to find out ways and means for that.

There has to be a revolving fund for helping the poor States which are in distress. Loss which occurred to the State is Rs.140 crores and the total assistance provided is only of Rs.23 crores. Out of that, two instalments are already consumed and the balance is a very meagre amount. With this, how are we expected to redress the grievances of the people? 50000 people are now living in the make-shift camps. I am coming from Trichur constituency. Half of the area of my constituency is coastal area. Sea erosion which is happening is affecting the coastal area in a very violent manner. In my constituency, I visited a panchayat Kadapuram and there one kilometre of sea wall costs Rs.5 lakhs and fifty per cent of the assistance was given from the Centre previously. But that has recently been stopped. My friend Prof. K.V.Thomas has made that point. Whenever there is a necessity for repairing a sea wall, 30 per cent was given by the Central Government. Both these assistance are completely stopped. States are left to construct sea walls on their own. I fully subscribe to the idea expressed by Prof. K.V. Thomas that sea coasts should be treated as international boundaries and construction of sea walls should be funded and financed by the Central Government. This is not being done.

During this monsoon season, in many areas of Kerala like Idukki, Wynad, Calicut are facing land slides. Kerala is facing the problem of sea erosion on the one side and the problem of land slide on the other. And all the rivers are inundated. The whole State is facing such a serious calamity that even giving ration for the poor people who lost

[Sh.P.C. Chacko]

their houses, is beyond the reach of the State Government. In such a situation, 3,500 houses are totally lost, 15000 houses are damaged, 15000 families were to be evacuated, 58 thousand people are living in the make-shift camps, how can a State Government which is in such a grave and financial difficulty, meet this calamity? The whole nation has got the responsibility, the Central Government has got the responsibility not only to sympathise but also to extend full support. Here is a situation where this cannot be within the rules or the plan. This is beyond everybody's expectation. If something like this happens, it is the duty of the Central Government to come out with a solution. Our Chief Minister has written a letter to our beloved Prime Minister asking for Rs.100 crores as an interim assistance. We know that the Central Government also is having the financial constraint and they have to work within certain parameters. We have asked for an advance of Rs.100 crores. But even that is not being considered. The Agriculture Minister knows the problem of Kerala. Kerala is very often flooded. This is a perennial problem for the State. Rs.100 crores which is asked for by the Chief Minister as an interim relief, may kindly be extended to the State and the State of Kerala may be helped to tide over this crisis situation, and emergency situation due to unprecedented floods. Emergency relief measures should be evolved by the Central Government. I urge upon the Central Government to take emergency steps. The steps which are taken, I am of the clear opinion, that these are not sufficient. Government has to come out with concrete steps to tide over the crisis situation which is being faced by the country.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (Mavelikara): I am not going to narrate the sufferings of the people which are already being narrated by my friends. I support all, what they have said. Every year there is a discussion on the flood situation in this House. I have been a Member of this House since 1980. I have seen not a single year without a discussion on this. But still we do not have a plan to tackle this natural calamity which is occurring every year. What I am suggesting to the Agriculture Minister is that there should be a long time plan.

Instead of dealing with the situation with ad hoc grants, assistance and ad hoc plans, there should be a long term plan. I hope the Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission, who is here, will think of such a plan. Today in this scientific age it is possible. There are experts to advise us on how this long term plan can be formulated and implemented. I would request the Agriculture Minister to come forward with a long term plan.

Secondly, I want to bring to his kind notice that the compensation that he is giving today is inadequate. The norms are being devised by some bureaucrats sitting in the Krishi Bhawan or in the Planning Commission. These norms are perhaps prepared by those who have no idea about agriculture. My friend Mr. Thomas said about the compensation being given to rubber growers. It is Rs.40 per tree. To plant a rubber tree and bring it to yielding stage it requires more than five years and on each plant the farmer must have spent hundreds of rupees. But unfortunately the compensation is very small. The same is the case with coconut trees. The norms of compensation should be revised and brought

on par with at least the expenditure involved in growing these trees.

Thirdly, I want to bring to your notice that the compensation today is given after a long time. I find that the floods take place at a particular time, say in the month of July or August. But the team visits afterwards and bring a report. Then some study will take place as to what all is going on. Finally it will take months before the assistance is released. By that time there is no need of assistance. So how quickly we can disburse whatever assistance is given is very important. I want the Agriculture Minister who himself is a farmer and who knows the difficulties of farmers to act in such a way that the assistance is released without any delay.

In my State only 108 human lives have been lost. This is not the up-to-date data. Today I have got a telephone call from constituency that the southern part of Kerala is also fully flooded and the National Highway, and the MC road, all have been flooded. Mr. Chacko spoke about the flood situation in the northern part. So the number must have increased by now.

I read in the newspaper yesterday that the Railway Ministry is going to give a compensation of Rs.2 lakh per passenger if some accidents takes place and his life is lost. This is also an accident since these floods occur and the lives are lost because we are not able to adequately plan and prevent such calamities. So we have an indirect moral responsibility. Not only moral, in a way we have a direct responsibility on the lives lost. Therefore, the Government of India should announce the compensation of Rs.2 lakh each for each life lost. If the Railway Ministry pays Rs.2 lakh as

compensation, let Agriculture Ministry also pay that amount. In floods 500 precious human lives have been lost, All brothers and sisters who are poor people. If you take the list and see you will find that those who die in the floods are not even the middle class or the rich people; they are poor farmers, poor agricultural workers or people who have no dwelling place. Therefore a compensation to them is due. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to consider this suggestion for each life lost in natural calamity, whether flood or landslide or cloud burst, whatever it may be; adequate compensation should be given.

My friend Mr. Chacko mentioned about the inadequacy of the Calamity Relief Fund allotted to the State.

It is ridiculous for a body whichever it is, to fix a limit on what should be the upper limit or extent of calamity. Since you cannot predict the calamity, how can you limit it at a particular level? How can you say that only Rs.31 crores will be the Calamity Relief Fund for the State of Kerala? I think, the very procedure is wrong. Instead of that, the Central Government should keep a revolving fund, I would say, of at least Rs.5,000 crores with it; and wherever floods or other calamities occur, adequate funds should be released. This should be taken out of the purview of the Finance Commission which is now being asked to prejudge the volume of the calamity or about the quantity of the funds that is to be released. The very policy should be changed. Instead, a quantum of fund should be kept at the disposal of the Prime Minister so that whenever the situation demands or whenever a calamity occurs, a team will go and visit the place; and the relief will be given immediately. Such a new policy should be adopted because no flood occurs

according to norms, no rains come according to norms and the lives are also lost not according to any norms. So, the bureaucrats in the Krishi Bhawan or in the Planning Commission or in the Finance Commission can not fix a ceiling or limit on the Calamity Relief Fund. Therefore, the very concept of Calamity Relief Fund should be changed. This is my suggestion.

Whatever happened has happened; and for the State of Kerala, the Calamity Relief Fund is only Rs.31 crores. For other States also, it will be limited accordingly. What I suggest is this. Since the fund is inadequate, special relief should be given by the Central Government to meet the situation. I do not know the details about other States, but at least about the State of Kerala, I know. I support what Mr. Thomas, what Mr. Chacko and others said. In fact, the figures which they have given must be less because those figures are the figures which are received a couple of days back. After that, many things have happened. I came from Kerala only yesterday and I found that there was again torrential rain and most of the areas in the southern part of the State are also inundated. So, the lives which are lost will be much more. Therefore, I would request you, as I said earlier, that a special relief asked for by the Chief Minister, that is Rs.100 crores, should be provided immediately. Whatever other account adjustments are to be done, it can be done later. This is an urgent demand from the State of Kerala and I am sure the hon. Agriculture Minister will give a special consideration. He gives a special consideration for the State of Kerala always, I know; and he will do the same thing now also. At the same time, we have a genuine complaint that he did not visit our State. Even though he did not visit, I know that he

would compensate it by giving Rs.100 crores to the State. If he wants to visit now, it may be late; but if he is willing, he is welcome. His visit will be very fruitful and I have no doubt about it. Last year, I went along with him to visit the places. His visit will be very useful, I know. He is now very kind to say that he can visit any number of times. But before visiting, please announce in this very House itself- I am requesting the hon. Agriculture Minister through hon. Deputy Speaker- that Rs.100 crores assistance would be given to the State of Kerala. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing here about the flood caused by heavy rain. There has been heavy flood in many States of the country. Many people have lost their lives and many others injured. The people have to face many difficulties due to excessive rain. Shri Chandrakar was right when he was saying just now that nearly half districts in Madhya Pradesh have been affected by flood. Still it is raining heavily there. As a result thereof, many people are residing out of their houses. In this regard Shri Kurian stated just now that Madhya Pradesh has been given only Rs.37 crore from the Natural Calamities Funds. The area of Madhya Pradesh is largest in India where thirty districts have been affected by the flood. Therefore, an amount of Rs.37 crore will not serve any purpose. At least Rs.200 crore should be provided there. Over 600 persons have lost their lives and lakhs of people have been rendered homeless till now. In such a situation we should help them. The area of irrigated land in Madhya Pradesh is very little. The people should be provided employment until the next harvest season comes. Arrangements

for their accommodation will have to be made. For all these works funds must be raised.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the people who have taken loan for seed and fertilizer should be exempted from the recovery of loan and the banks should withdraw their recovery orders. I mean to say that such recovery should be postponed from those farmers whose crops have been destroyed by flood, drought or famine.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission Shri Pranab Mukherjee is sitting here. He is requested to rethink this issue. Normally the rainy season starts from the 20th to 25th of July in Madhya Pradesh, but this time it has been started since the 10th June, and due to this reason paddy fields could not be prepared for sowing. Neither seeds have been sown nor fertilisers have been used there. In such a situation we should have to make all arrangements for the whole year. The Banks will have to postpone the recovery of their loan and plans have to be chalked out again and therefore, Madhya Pradesh should be given funds as much as possible. As Shri Chandrakar has pointed out that under the insurance scheme, the Railways provide compensation of Rs.2 lakh to each of the kins of the deceased in the train accident. Similarly, the farmers should be provided compensation in case of the damage to their crops. The Government must give guarantee that in case the crops of the farmers are damaged or they are rendered homeless the Government will provide help to them generously. As I have stated earlier, Rabi crops are grown in many parts of Madhya Pradesh. Secondly there are no means of irrigation in my constituency Jhabua. These farmers cannot progress

there. Through you I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture that the proposed fund of Rs.37 crore from the Natural Calamity Relief Funds to Madhya Pradesh will not be adequate. Madhya Pradesh should be allocated at least Rs.200 crore so that people get employment there round the year. With these words, I would like to submit to Shri Balram Jakhar that Chhattisgarh is known as the paddy bowl and Madhya Pradesh as wheat bowl. Therefore, he should provide aid to the farmers of Madhya Pradesh generously as he has promised to do so in other States. With these words I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS (Mysore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving us this opportunity to speak on the problems of flood affected areas. Actually, I feel that this subject should have come up on the very first day of the Session or at least some preferential date in the first week of the Session should have been given to it. But unfortunately, various other furious and serious problems were raised and this subject could not be accommodated before. Anyway, we are happy that we now have an opportunity to take up discussion on this very important subject of natural calamities.

Coming to my State, Karnataka has been facing the problem of heavy floods consecutively for the last three years. A lot of damage has been caused due to the heavy rains in Karnataka. As per the estimates of the State Government submitted to the Central Government, the damage can be to the extent of Rs.100 crore. In my view, this could be much more because these figures were drawn up or assessed during the first week of the floods.

[Smt. Chandra Prabhu Urs]

In some parts of the State, the rains are still continuing heavily. Due to this unusual and unpredictable rains, a lot of damage is caused. Bridges and roads are submerged. Standing crops have been totally damaged. Even the national highways have suffered the maximum extent of damage. Districts like Mangalore, South Canara, North Canara, Chikmagalur, Mysore, Gulbarga and Bidar have been very adversely affected due to these heavy floods. Rivers such as Kaveri, Tung Bhadra, Kabini and Hosangi are in full spate and they have washed away many lowlying areas. Even the houses in some areas are completely washed off. In Mysore District, commercial crops such as tobacco, sunflower, and to some extent sugarcane and foodcrops such as paddy have been damaged.

To highlight the magnitude of the havoc caused by these floods, I would like to give some figures which have been officially released as on July 1994. The South West Monsoon has taken a toll of nearly 60 human lives and 2300 livestock; 82 persons have been injured; 2842 houses have been fully collapsed; 14,620 houses have been partially collapsed; 3345 irrigation pumpsets and 95 irrigation wells have been damaged; 1,27,515 hectares of agricultural area has been totally damaged; the estimated loss to private property is to the extent of Rs.35.01 crore; as many as 1840 public buildings, 625 bridges and culverts and 824 minor irrigation tanks have been totally damaged.

Public roads measuring about 2379 k.m and another measuring about 1385 k.m have been damaged. In addition, the damage on account of sea erosion is of the order of Rs.5.16 crore. Damage to the property of

Karnataka Electricity Board itself is of the order of Rs.6.13 crore. So far the aggregate loss of public property is nearly Rs.65.74 crore. The aggregate estimated damage to both private and public properties as of July 21, 1994 is Rs.100.75 crore. A statement has already been laid on the Table of the House.

On the recommendation of the Eighth Finance Commission only Rs.27 crore were given to the State of Karnataka and Rs.25 crore have been spent so far on the relief work. Sir, Rs.25 crore is the annual Central share and Rs.60.75 is the annual State share. The official machinery was put in on a war footing exercise to see that minimum relief measures are taken up. These people have rescued a number of people. The people living in low level area have been shifted to higher level area and efforts are made to provide them at least minimum necessities of life. Even now the loss is still continuing due to continuous rain in our part of the country. Even Delhi has experienced heavy rain in the last 2-3 days. There was continuous rain in the catchment areas for a week which has disrupted the life.

The measures that have been taken up so far are the barest minimum. Though some relief was given, permanent rehabilitation of the people living in the low lying areas could not be achieved. The Revenue officials and other agricultural officials are assessing the loss caused due to the damage of standing crops. When these permanent relief measures are taken up the Central Government has to come to our assistance. At least 60 per cent of the fund for which the State Government has put up the requisition should be granted. We are thankful to the hon. Prime Minister for giving help out of the Prime Minister's Relief

fund to the families of the persons who died in this mishap. I think about Rs.1 lakh has been granted to each of such family. But these measures are not at all enough. People living in the low lying area, who are continuously affected by the floods and its consequent affects, have to be shifted to higher level area and they should be provided with permanent houses. Assistance was given not only to the families of those who died but also to those who have lost their standing crops due to heavy rains. In Karnataka irony of nature is that while in some districts drought conditions are prevailing and in other districts heavy loss is caused due to flood in which the small farmers lose all their staple food like paddy, jawar and so on. The revenue officials and other agricultural officials are assessing the total loss due to the standing crops. The assessment is still on and as I told you earlier it may go to about Rs.75-100 crore.

Sir, for meeting these natural calamities, the funds set apart are very meagre. So, a rethinking has to be done by the Planning Commission and also the Ministry of Agriculture in this regard. Unfortunately, in our area where small farmers are in larger number, because of soil erosion, they are facing a lot of difficulty. The top soil had been washed away because they were holding these lands in the low level areas. Some of them were holding three acres of land and some of them still more. Sir, it will take a few more years for them to bring back those lands to a cultivable condition. In order to take care of their livelihood and in order to see that soil conservation measures are taken up, they should be given loans from the State Banks or Lead Banks or some such banks.

The other day the hon. Agriculture

Minister in his Statement had said that these rains also bring natural fertilizers and good soil to other fields. It might be true as far as the plains of North India are concerned. They may also bring fodder to the cattle in the longer run. They may also add to the fertility of the land in the plains. But it is not so in low level areas. The hon. Members, especially, from Kerala and Karnataka were saying earlier that the Government should give a relook towards the whole situation as such. I would also request the hon. Minister to visit our State immediately in order to have a first hand knowledge of the situation prevailing in our State. It is because you have not only to give assistance to them but also you must see that they conserve the soil for the coming years which takes a longer period and involves huge investment.

It is also stated that the funds set apart for this purpose needs rethinking. When you say that you cannot limit yourselves with any norms or guidelines in the natural calamities, you must also know that sometimes you may require more funds and sometimes you may require less funds. You must think of taking some immediate measures. The State Government had given a Memorandum to the Central Government for release of nearly Rs.100 crore as relief. If you can release, at least, sixty per cent of it immediately as an advance, it would be very helpful for us. It is because, in our State, there are many other social welfare measures that are going on for quite some time. Take the examples of Jawahar Rozgar Yojana, the Employment Guarantee Scheme and so on. You must also see to it that through the Public Distribution System, the poor people of our State are given more food grains and more kerosene during the current year as also in the coming year.

[Smt. Chandra Prabhu Urs]

Sir, our farmers are put to a lot of hardship. They are suffering a huge loss. Even next year also, they may take some time for conserving their profits for putting back their land to a cultivable condition.

Sir, in the case of drought affected areas, the Government have given assistance through various programmes. In the case of drip irrigation, earlier, the Central Government had come forward with a project for giving all assistance to the farmers. But those farmers who have lost their livestock and the standing crops as on today, they will have to be given relief immediately. Unfortunately, as stated earlier, if you give financial assistance, if not directly but through waiving of loans or interest or adjusting the loans with the cooperative banks and other leading banks, in order to see that those farmers, take other loans for conservation of cultivable lands, that would be very helpful.

Regarding houses, as the hon. Member Prof. P.J. Kurien has put it, it is the poorest of the poor people who have lost their houses; those who do not have their dwellings they have lost their houses and huts. They should be given permanent shelter through these small colonies at a safer place. They should also be shifted to safer places where they can live peacefully in future.

Such assistance could be thought of. Of course, it needs a lot of funds to be raised, but they can be compensated in many other ways. It could be streamlined through the revenue departments through the agriculture machinery and the State machinery, because the machinery which

has to go into the needs of the people and immediate relief measures have to be taken up, is the State machinery. They can not only earmark the amount to be given but they can also streamline it through different departments by giving proper direction, guidelines and instructions so that the amount reaches the needy and the affected people as quickly as possible.

These are some of the suggestions which I have put forward like waiving of the crops loan and the interest amount. They can reconsider it. The Finance Ministry can also consider it. In detail, they can study the statistics that have been collected by the State Government and some compensation may be arranged. They have already made a request to the hon. Minister of Commerce to put a word to the IGF, because in our area, export quality tobacco is grown largely; it is grown in some of our talukas where they have now sustained heavy losses due to floods; they are not recoverable at all. It is totally washed away; it is totally decayed. So, they have also lost the barren fields. In such sheds they can put up a note to the I.T.C and instruct them to give some financial assistance for the rehabilitation of tobacco growers and farmers in the area.

I request the Commerce Minister to go into other aspects also in the Planning Commission to revive the Natural Calamity Fund which is very meagre. Every year, that can be made available in a more scientific way so that any State which is flooded or which is having such natural calamities, at that point of time, we need not rush in and ask for immediate aid which is not available there. Immediate relief means only Rs.500 for the loss of a house or a hut; immediate relief also means Rs.5000 for the death of a person or something like that, which, in no

way, compensates a human life or a small farmer or a poor farmer.

So, I would request the Government of India to come forward with more funds generously through these departments which could generate employment, which could also assist them through other ways and means. They can give advance in any form to help them timely.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: In some parts of Karnataka, still drought is there.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: It is still going on. The water level had started receding to a certain extent. Day before yesterday, it again started rising to the maximum level in dams and other reservoirs.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udupi): When the hon. Minister replies, I would request him to take into consideration these suggestions also. For drought affected areas, what relief the Minister is going to give to Karnataka? On the one hand, we have floods; on the other, we have a drought. These points should also be covered in his reply. We have this situation in almost five-six districts.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: If the House agrees, can we sit for some more time? There are so many hon. Members who want to participate in this discussion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Let us

adjourn the House. Tomorrow, they can speak.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS: In our State, the situation is extremely difficult. It is totally affected by the floods and other natural calamities. As other hon. Members have put it, it is the other way round. There are drought affected areas. There also, they need a lot of assistance.

18. 00 hrs.

As I said, conservation of soil and water, more assistance towards drip irrigation and other alternative measures have to be taken up.

So I would urge upon the Government of India to have a relook and rethinking not comparing the small and poorest farmers to the other parts of the region and other parts of the country; to take an overall look at the latest statistics collected by the concerned States and also give more assistance which will go a long way in protecting the lives and properties of poor and the flood hit areas of the country.

MR. DEPUTY- SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

18. 01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, August 3, 1994/ Sravana 12, 1916 (Saka)