

are being withdrawn from the spot due to the complete diversion of water from this river from a scheduled area to a non scheduled area.

I urge upon the Government to intervene and direct the State Government of Orissa to release at least 20 per cent of the water of the dam in the downstream to safeguard the interests of residents of this area.

(ii) Need to Augment Telephone services in Nasik

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (Nasik): Sir, Nasik District is growing industrially and agriculturally. The need of telephone services has become the necessity in this area.

There is a need for expansion of electronic exchange. In the Nasik Electronic Exchange (E-10-B), there is huge demand for telephone connections and as many as 9000 people are in the waiting list. The building is ready and about 75 per cent equipment is available. At the same time, the work on Panchavati Electronic Exchange with a capacity of 3000 lines should also be undertaken immediately. The land for Panchavati Exchange has been acquired. The Budget provision has to be made immediately for completion of the work.

I urge upon the Government to provide adequate telephone services in Nasik and ensure proper functioning of the same.

(iii) Need to provide drinking water to the people of Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh.

DR. VISWANATHAM KANITHI (Srikakulam): Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh

is one of the most backward districts of our country. The living conditions of people of this area are very bad. There are about 100 villages with 21,000 families living on fishing on sea, but the minimum needs of these people are not met till date. They have to be developed in a systematic manner. They must immediately be provided with potable drinking water which is scarce in majority of the villages. Some villages can be supplied with ground water and others require potable water from sea water. Though schemes were prepared and estimates were submitted, but so far only few villages got the water through pipeline.

I urge upon the Government to implement schemes for providing potable drinking water to people of Srikakulam district in Andhra Pradesh immediately.

(iv) Need to Provide adequate Financial Assistance from the Natural calamities fund to state government of Andhra Pradesh to Mitigate the Sufferings of people affected by drought in telengana region.

SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY (Warangal): Sir, for the last three years, the Telengana Region in Andhra Pradesh was very badly affected by the unprecedented drought conditions. The districts of Warangal, Nalgonda, Khammam, Madak and Mahboob Nagar were the worst affected areas. Warangal district suffered, most on this account. This year also, the conditions are no better. There were no rains. As a result, the agricultural operations like paddy cultivation have come to a standstill. There is an acute shortage of fodder for the cattle which has resulted in migration of cattle to other

districts. The ground water level has come down considerably and is almost the lowest in recent years. The depletion of ground water level has resulted in drying up of open wells as well as bore-wells and this has caused acute shortage of drinking water and the problem has become unmanageable.

The ad hoc amounts sanctioned by the State Government to the district authorities are quite insufficient and inadequate to mitigate the unprecedented sufferings of the people.

I would, therefore, request that the Union Government may urgently depute a relief team to Telengana region and particularly to Warangal district to assess the havoc and damage caused by the unprecedented drought and the extent of the Central assistance needed to tackle the situation.

I would also request that the Union Government may sanction a sizeable amount (say Rs. 40 crores to Rs.50 crores) out of the Natural Calamities Fund to the Andhra Pradesh Government for providing relief measures to mitigate the sufferings of the people of the drought-affected areas of Telengana region, particularly Warangal district.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR
GRANTS (GENERAL), 1994-95,

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS
GRANTS (GENERAL), 1990-91,

AND

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS

GRANTS (GENERAL), 1991-92-
CONTD.

12.48 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up Supplementary Demands for Grants (General). Prof. K.V. Thomas was on his legs. He will continue his speech.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): When we come back to the economic situation of the country, one more factor that we have to examine is the rate of inflation. Three years ago, the rate of inflation was 17.8 per cent. From that rate, today it stands at about 10.2 per cent. This double digit inflation is not something which gives us satisfaction. If we look at the change of inflation during the last three years on the basis of WPI, we will find that in April, 1991-92, it was 11.6 per cent.

Again, in 1992-93, it was 13.8 per cent, in 1993-94, it was 6.9 per cent and during the week ending 2nd July, 1994, it has come to 10.7 per cent. There are various factors which contribute to the inflation. My request to the Government is that Government have to take the strongest measures so that inflation is contained below two digits. Otherwise, there will be an increase in the price of essential commodities which will be causing undue difficulties to the daily life of the common man. Fortunately, from the last months of April to August, if you look at the prices of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, pulses and edible-oil, the prices have been more or less stabilised. But Government cannot be complacent on this. The PDS system has to be strength-