

[Sh. Manvendra Shah]

16.07 hrs.

the net proceeds of the taxes, duties and other receipts; (b) the assignment to or appropriation by the Corporation of the taxes, duties, etc.; and (c) the grants-in aid to the Corporation.

(17) An Election Commission for the National Capital Territory of Delhi is proposed to be set up to supervise the preparation and revision of electoral rolls and to conduct elections to the Corporation. However, the delimitation of wards will continue to be done by the Government.

(18) Any dispute arising on the disqualification of a Councillor shall be decided by the Administrator on the basis of the advice obtained from the Election Commission of Delhi.

(19) An elected Councillor will not be a member of both the Corporation and the Parliament/Legislative Assembly at the same time.

I have no doubt that this bill will go a long way to satisfy the demands of the resident of Delhi for better municipal administration.

I take this opportunity to place on record our appreciation of the valuable work done by the Balakrishnan Committee or Reorganisation of Delhi.

With these words, Sir, I commend this Bill to this august House for approval.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Delhi Municipal Corporation Act, 1957, be taken into consideration."

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, we shall take up the discussion under Rule 193 about flood in various parts of the country. Shri Nitish Kumar.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193
SERIOUS SITUATION

**Arising out of Recent Flood in
Various Parts of the Country**

[Translation]

SHRINITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are taking up a discussion regarding serious situation arising out of recent floods in various parts of the country. From the number of members present here it is obvious as how much we are interested in this subject. Had this issue been raised in Zero Hour, there would have been uproar in the House. We too could have finished this discussion on flood within two minutes had it not come under Rule 193. Now the hon. Minister has himself come late by three minutes.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): No, no it is wrong.

SHRINITISH KUMAR : You are refusing with the gestures of your hands. But you have come late. Perhaps, you are waiting for the floods. As the hon. Leader of Opposition has said that this Government waits for floods so that the minister of Agriculture and the Prime Minister may get a chance to conduct aerial survey and issue statements in this regard.

Now-a-days, Calamity Relief Fund has become the panacea for all problems. Since the time the Calamity Relief Fund was set up, the Government, have been issuing statements that they have released funds from the this Fund. They conduct aerial surveys and after conducting the survey, they will issue statement and release funds from the Calamity Relief Fund for which the State Governments are even otherwise entitled, and with this their duty is over. No arrangements are made to find out a permanent solution to the flood problem.

In the country, there is 48 thousand million hectare area which can be termed as flood prone area. Out of this area, at least 7.5 million hectares are affected by floods every years on an average around 10 million hectare area is affected by floods. Every years it causes casualties. As per the news appeared in newspapers, more than one thousands people have died in recent floods. But the number of casualties is more every year Property worth crores of rupees is destroyed every year. It happens every years.

During the 2nd week of July, there were floods in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan. During the third week, there was a flood havoc in Assam, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Mizoram, Tripura and Northern parts of West Bengal. Recently, flood waters entered into the city of Delhi also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been no rain in Bihar. For one or two days around 25th-26th of June it rained heavily there but, there was no rain prior to that. On one hand it caused heavy losses and on the other, there is a drought situation in certain parts of the State, I will come to it later on. But in Bihar, there were no rains and there was a threat of drought. Despite that, Bihar, particularly in North Bihar, there were floods. Every year the entire North Bihar gets affected with floods. This year, though rains were below normal, even then this part of Bihar was affected with floods. Rivers originating from Nepal and flowing towards north Bihar are the cause of floods in the region. The rivers Bagmati, Kosi, Gandak, Budhi Gandak and Kamala Balan cause floods in North Bihar. District Sitamarhi was affected the most. The link between Shivhar with Sitamarhi was cut off. The latest news is that Samastipur, Vaishali, Muzaffarpur and east Champaran have also been affected. Earlier, Samastipur, Darbhanga and Madhubani were affected but we find 10 or 12 districts including katihar badly affected. The flood in Maha Nanda. With other swelling rivers have made the position worse.

In Bihar, the session of legislative Assembly is going on. The matter has been discussed daily there. The chief Minister has conducted an aerial survey and made on on-the-spot visit. On the night of 24th, the Chief Minister and several M.Ps including Devendra Prasad Yadav, Harkishore Singh and Ram Kripal had called on the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister has agreed to make a visit to the affect area. So far as my information goes he is going to visit the area tomorrow. But I fail to understand what will he do by visiting that area. The government of Bihar had assessed a loss of Rs. 600 Crore on 24th. But now, floods have affected Samastipur, Vaishali, Champaran and Katihar also. I think there is a need of assistance amounting to more than one thousand crore of rupees. Rail lines and roads have been damaged. The houses of the people have been submerged Housing and all other kind of problems are there. There is a food problem. The food grains in the houses have been destroyed. The property worth millions of rupees has been damaged. The assistance should be provided as per this assessment. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not know how much grant we will get. But I only know that the Prime Minister will visit Bihar, stay in Sitamarhi and discuss the position with the media people and officials. And ultimately, the amount from Calamity Relief Fund would be released. Due to the former Congress Government's fault the amount of Calamity Relief Fund for Bihar was assessed very low; it was a very meagre amount of Rs. 32 crore. I have been an M.L.A. there and as such. I got an opportunity to witness the procedure of passage of Budget. The provisional Budget of the Government of Bihar provides relief amount to the extent of Rs. 67-68 crore. In relief works, ration is distributed and other steps are taken. I think a provision of Rs. 150 crores is needed for this purpose. But, for Bihar only Rs. 32 crores has been provided a calamity relief fund. Shri Jakhar Saheb is sitting here. What will he do? Three fourth share is of the Central Government and one-fourth is of the State Government. At the most, he will ask for release of certain amount in advance. In one part of Bihar, there is flood, and in Palamu and in other parts there is famine

[Sh. Nitish Kumar]

like situation. It did Norton in the entire area of Central Bihar which includes Patna, Nalanda, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Buxar, Navada, Munger, Bhagalpur region. The situation is worst there. It did not rain in Chhota Nagpur also. The Member of Parliament from that constituency will explain in detail, when he speaks on the issue.

I am apprising the House of the situation there. Rs. 32 crore has been provided as calamity relief fund. The Prime Minister will make a visit and his announcement would be made tomorrow. I want to apprise the House of the serious situation prevailing there. Bihar is facing the problem of floods, drought and the famine at the same time. I do not know what purpose will be served by this meagre amount of Rs. 32 crore. I therefore, demand that special assistance should be given to Bihar. Punjab and Haryana have also been affected by floods. The Governments in these states have also sought assistance. The Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra, Tripura and Bengal have also sought or will seek assistance from the centre. I do not know what will be the amount of assistance. The entire game is played with the amount of about Rs. 800 crore under Calamity Relief Fund. Relief division is there in the Ministry of Agriculture. There are arrangements for constant monitoring and monsoon forecasting. This time, the monsoon forecast was made late. It is a different story. If there are floods, the Government will immediately send a team to study the situation in the affected area. It will make assessment of the losses and furnish its report to the Government. The Central Government is not in a position to do anything because before doing anything it has to declare a national calamity and that is not an easy job. Before station is going on indiscriminately as a result of which the level of silt has increased in the rivers which causes flood even in those areas where rainfall is less. Desalting should immediately be undertaken in rivers. Damaged embankments should be repaired. Unless

before station is checked, the problem of flood cannot be solved. Government servants are merely sycophants. They should consider it a national problem and rise to the occasion. Measure should be taken to face the flood situation. When rain is required, there is no rainfall, but when it is not required at all, then there is rainfall. It is causing huge loss. The matter needs to be considered thoroughly.

If new plants are not grown, it is not possible to overcome this situation. Flood water carries away top soil with it. Phosphorus and Nitrogen contents in the soil diminish. It also causes shortage of micro nutrients. Today, there is flood in Punjab and Haryana. An environmentalist has stated that its repercussion will have to be faced at least for 10 years. It will take 10 years to make good the loss of top soil and chemical fertilizers will have to be used for this purpose on large scale. Flood is causing such a huge loss to us. The subject therefore, needs to be considered seriously. Flood has become a general phenomenon. If you go throughout the records, you will find that no monsoon session goes without holding a discussion on flood. But it remains confined only to discussions and no effective measures are taken for the solution of this problem. The hon. members are satisfied that they have raised the problem of their areas in the House and the hon. Ministers have a sigh of relief that the debate on floods passed on but till date no permanent solution has been found so far.

Flood occurs in North Bihar. Dialogue should be resumed with Nepal on diplomatic level. Dialogue was held in recent past but that dialogue is not sufficient. This dialogue is not being held in proper manner and at proper level. Unless multi-purpose dam is constructed in hill areas, the flood problem in North Bihar cannot be solved. The Government should come forward to undertake this task. The survey work is being done with the Government of Nepal. It will take several years to complete the survey and submit the technical feasibility report. We should be apprised of the discussion held between.

India and Nepal at the level of the Prime Minister level as well as at the, experts level. The work pertaining to survey and formulation of projects should be expedited. Funds should be made available from any source. it will redeem not only Bihar and check the loss caused to the country, it would also help in producing more hydro power and in increasing irrigation capacity

The flood-prone areas have been identified. Punjab and Haryana are also now flood-hit areas. I feel that the hon. Minister will pay attention towards this problem only after the flood occurs in Rajasthan. He seems to be less sympathetic towards the people of our area, but I hope that when flood hits this area, too it will come into focus. Delhi is also likely to become a flood affected area. Initiative will have to be taken for the permanent solution of this problem.

Immediately after flood occurred at Patna in 1975, preventive measures were taken to check it in that area because it in the capital city of the State. But as a result of these measures the surrounding districts of Patna were likely to be submerged. I think the flood in Punjab and Haryana is mounting pressure on Delhi also. Such a situation is emerging in neighbouring areas also and a huge amount will have to be spent for this purpose. I would like that money should be spent on all the flood prone areas including Punjab, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi and the flood problem be resolved cut other flood prone areas like North Bihar, Assam, West Bengal, Eastern U.P. and North eastern states should also not be overlooked. A just and equitable policy should be formulated so that a permanent solution to flood and drought problem can be found. Action should be taken in the drought prone areas in anticipation. This task should not be left to the State Governments. It is a natural calamity and it can be faced with joint efforts only and the Central Government can perform this task by reducing its extravagant expenditure. We daily read news items pertaining to corruption, bribery and scandals to the tune of Rs. 5,000 crores of Rs. 10,000 crores.

Such money should be spent on these tasks so that permanent solution can be found to problems of flood and drought and the vast land of the country which is fertile be exploited. if we fail in achieving the target of producing foodgrains to the tune of 240 million tonnes by the end of this century, we will once again become slaves. If we become dependent on others, we will proceed towards slavery. It is, therefore, a serious issue. Issues pertaining to flood, drought and irrigation, are very important issues these are not accorded due priority rising above party politics and regionalism, and permanent solution is not found to these problems, the country may suffer a heavy loss and which will create further problems for the country.

Therefore, I would like to state that attempts should be made to solve the problem in affected areas on priority basis so that we not only become self-dependent in the production of foodgrains, but also, are able to create stocks. According to the opinion of experts, if thousands of crores of rupees, provided for relief work is spent for the prevention of flood and drought, such calamities will not hit the country any more. Therefore, we should pay more attention towards solving these problems.

The Prime Minister and the Minister of Agriculture visit the affected areas and communicate to the people that they are distressed with their grief and they have come there to share their sorrows. Such type of politics should be abandoned and initiative should be taken for finding out permanent solution to the problem.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI NURUL ISLAM (Dhubri) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, our is an agro-based economy. it is known to everybody. Every year flood causes havoc to our agriculture and agriculturists. It is known to the Government. May I know from the Government, what is the definite policy on this natural calamities like floods, drought, cyclone

[Sh. Nurul Islam]

etc.? I am sure, there is no definite policy of the Government on these natural calamities. Our and above, I also want to know from the Government, what is the definite constructive planning for preventing such natural calamities in the country both short term and long term. For want of planning, flood is causing devastation to our agriculture every year everywhere in the country. It is devastating the properties of our agriculturists. It is costing the public exchequer in the form of relief etc. very heavily every year. If you take all this into account, then you can see that the colossal amount is being wasted every year in the country on account of flood, erosion, cyclone and drought. Why cannot the Government spend money for protecting agriculturists and agriculture of the country and the agricultural economy by taking definite constructive planning against natural calamities.

I do not know whether the Government has made any policy with regard to river water. River which flows through more than one State should have been declared as national water. But that has not been done. As a result, the States are fighting for sharing of this river water.

So, I think the Government should frame some definite policies for declaring the river waters as national waters particularly, the rivers which are flowing through more than one State and through more than one country.

Sir, in this respect, I would like to submit that the river Brahmaputra is flowing through more than two countries and it is one of the biggest rivers in the world. That river water should have been declared as national waters and any damage done due to the flood waters of this river Brahmaputra, it should have been adequately compensated by the Government. But, that has not been done and the Government is not taking any constructive action towards such havoc.

Sir, every time, when floods come, the

Government gives some relief and takes some relief measures. Why only relief measures? Why the Government did not take any permanent steps to control these floods? As you know, the economy of Assam is also agro-based; everybody knows it and the Government also knows about it. Since last 30 years, nothing has been done by the national Government to protect the State's economy from floods and erosion. You will be astonished to know, what extent of devastation is caused by these floods and erosion of river Brahmaputra? My friends from other parts of the country would not understand what is the erosion, what is the devastation caused by this erosion. They would not understand to what extent, the damage is done by the erosion of river Brahmaputra. I will give you one example. You will be astonished to know that the house of one of our colleagues, Shri Balin Kuli the hon. Member from North Lakhimpur, has been washed away and swallowed by the erosion of river Brahmaputra. In my district alone, that is, Dhubri, where Brahmaputra flows through, it has rendered 53,000 families within five years as landless and homeless. I have repeatedly written to this Government. They have turned a deaf ear and they are waiting for another agitation. There should be an agitation and then and then only they will look into it. I have written to all the Ministers; I have written to the Waters Resources Minister, I have written to the Prime Minister and everybody referred the matter here and there.

In 1986, an anti-erosion and floods control scheme was referred to the Central Government. But the Central Government tactfully sent it back with a minor technical objection to the State Government; and again, it was brought back to the Central Government and again, it was sent back in 1986 to the State Government for model studies and geo-morphological studies report and the scheme is rotting in the hands of the State Government. And, the entire area is washed away and swallowed by the erosion of the river Brahmaputra rendering 53,000 families homeless and landless within these three years besides, swallowing thousands of acres

of precious land, the land which can produce three crops in a year without applying any scientific method.

Sir, if the Government becomes so callous, so far as this type of calamities are concerned, we are afraid, we do not know what will happen to the country? Sir, for Brahmaputra flood control, the central Government have constituted Brahmaputra Flood Control Board. May I know from the Government, whether this Brahmaputra Flood Control Board is in existence, whether it has been reconstituted, whether it has been functioning at all. Perhaps, the Government is not aware of it. This Brahmaputra Flood Control Board is defunct since last twenty years. That is the attitude of the national Government towards the states. That is why, the States are claiming for more powers; that why, there are claims for separate State. So, these things should be looked into and examined very carefully.

Sir, there is no rehabilitation scheme at the Government level. You will be astonished to know that 53,000 families were rendered landless and homeless. I have repeatedly appealed to the Central Government to extend financial assistance to the State Government to tackle this herculean problem.

But they are not giving any attention to it. Simply they are referring this letter to some department or the other. There are departments which are not even responding. If that be the condition, then how will the administration run how will the people get protection from the Government? That is my allegation.

In Assam, you will be astonished to know, all the districts are under water. Eleven districts are completely under water; 26,88,035 hectare crop area is damaged; the population affected is 17,46,721; villages affected are 1595; loss of property is around Rs. 50 crores; and cattle loss is about one thousand. This will remain as a history; nobody will pay any heed to it. That is why my appeal to the Government is that flood,

drought and cyclone should deserve careful studies and it should have definite policies and come out with definite planning to prevent it.

If the Brahmaputra river and its tributaries are controlled, then I am sure it can feed almost half of the country with power and irrigation. But the Government is not doing it with certain objectives and I do not know what are those objectives. For the last 35 years the Brahmaputra flood control measures are there, suggestions are there, schemes are there; but they are not being implemented. I do not know why. Sometimes it is stated for dearth of funds. The dearth of fund is continuing for the last 45 years in so far as north-eastern region is concerned in every respect.

In Assam there is no communication at all. All the roads are under water. All the national highways are completely damaged. It is not fit even for bullock carts. If you come to the Central Government for help to reconstruct these roads, they say economic constraints. The railway communication is completely cut off; water communication is suspended; road communication is dislocated. How do we live? I would like to know whether the Government considers it a part of India or something else. In all these matters step-motherly treatment cannot be tolerated. I just request the Government to give attention to the north-eastern region's flood situation and to help extend adequate financial assistance to rebuild its economy, to restore its communication, to give relief to the people and rehabilitate the people who are rendered landless and homeless by the erosion caused by river Brahmaputra especially in Dhubri, Rangia Darong, North Lakhimpur and other places of the State.

The damage is mainly caused to agriculture. The Agriculture Minister has visited the area once. At least he should suggest that in flood-prone areas a different pattern of agriculture should be followed. The Government should insist to change the pattern of agriculture, so that it can be saved from the effects of flood.

[Sh Nurul Islam]

Lastly, the relief extended to the north-eastern region and other States, I am sure, is inadequate and I hope the Agriculture Minister will leave no stone unturned to see that the relief is adequate and people should not suffer on the plea of resource crunch.

MR CHAIRMAN I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Members that it has been decided that at least two short duration discussions should be organised in a week's time. It has also been decided that a short duration discussion should not be continued for more than two hours. The hon. Members are requested to bear this fact in mind and cooperate with the Chair. We shall have to complete the discussion within the time provided for this purpose.

So, every hon. Member will get ten minutes and not more than ten minutes. Shri Purkayastha

SHRI KABINDRA PURKAYASTHA (Silchar) Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak about the situation arising out of the recent floods throughout the country, particularly in Barak Valley which is a part of Assam State.

Sir, I want to divide the whole thing into two parts—one is the present situation due to the floods and the other is the remedial measures. My friend Shri Nurul Islam already, in a very well manner, described the situation in the State of Assam. He told that eleven districts of the State of Assam are under water and crops worth crores of rupees were destroyed. Not only this, but I must specifically say the situation of the Barak Valley of Assam. Barak Valley consists of three districts and all the three districts are under water. Barak Valley people are facing floods so many times, only in one year. This is the third time they had floods in the Barak Valley. Due to this flood, practically about ten lakhs of people of the Barak Valley are badly affected, at least ten persons were killed and crops worth crores of rupees were destroyed, dwelling-house, insti-

tutions have been damaged, roads, railway lines were destroyed. Not only this, but also the bridges and culverts on the roads were blown off and as a result of this, the whole Barak Valley has been totally cut off from the other parts of the country.

At the same time, part of relief that has been given from the side of the Government is very meagre. This is very unfortunate that whenever the people pray for flood relief, we have been told by the Government that there was a lack of funds and so, they have to be in a position to give adequate flood relief to the affected people.

In this manner, I also want to say that even in the meagre help that is being given to the flood affected people, the distribution policy is not good and as a result of the mal-distribution, the people are not getting this meagre help also. I hope that Shri Nurul Islam will agree that in his own district Dhubri, there was a tussle between the distributing officer and the public and there was a firing in which five persons were killed. This is the position that is there in the State of Assam. Same condition is there in Mizoram as also in Tripura.

As far as the remedial measures are concerned, I want to say that it is an annual phenomenon in the North-East, particularly in the State of Assam and Tripura and also a part of Mizoram. It is very unfortunate that for the flood control, the Government of India has not yet constructed a dam. We proposed to be constructed at Tipaimukh, if that dam is constructed, the whole Barak Valley will be saved from the havoc of this flood. That was proposed in 1976 and now it is 1993. In 1991, the Water Resources Minister assured me that the construction of the dam would be started in 1993. But in 1993, the Water Resources Minister informs me that only the investigation is going on and that has not yet been completed and no specific outcome has come out of that.

Regarding Barak dam, I must appeal that the Government should take it up hurriedly if it

intends to save people of the Barak valley from the ravages of floods

When the Government elaborately declared everything regarding this dam it had told that Rs 1 500 crore will be required And 15 years will be required for completion of the dam 1 500 MW electricity will be generated from that dam This is a very lengthy programme So I request the Government to think over again whether this dam could be constructed at another place Narayandahar If this is done I think that may be better The opinion of the experts is that if it is constructed at Naravandahar only Rs 300 400 crore will be needed Three to four years will be required and floods can be controlled Thus the People can be saved

I want to bring to the notice of the hon Agriculture Minister another measure In the three constituencies namely Sonai Dholai and Lakhipur there are reservoirs of water consisting of 1 1/2 lakh Bighas of paddy land Every year the whole area is inundated As a result the crops are destroyed every year No farmer can grow crops there If one log gate is constructed on river Amjur the whole area can be saved This will require Rs 7 8 crore approximately Crops worth Rs 57 crore would be produced there So I think it is very very essential on the part of the Government to take up this project on the Amjur river If this is done not only the people of Barak Valley but also the people from other parts of Assam will get their food that area That will be known in future as a granary of Assam

The other thing I want to suggest is about dredging of Barak river That is very essential if we want to save the people Silting has brought the level of river bed upwards As a result water cannot flow properly If dredging is done water can easily go downward Then people will be saved from the jaws of floods

The hon Minister has also indicated in a letter that out of 3 15 million hectares of land liable for flooding the Government has so far

given protection against floods to an area of 1 15 million hectares The remaining are should also be protected The unplanned embankment system is creating problems for the people there

The embankment system should be reinvestigated and should be seen whether it is causing damage in place of saving crops This is another point which I want the hon Minister to look into Then investigation expertise should be sent for looking into these problems and if it stands on the way of helping people then that aspect also should be taken into consideration and proper measures for should be adopted I have told you only a few remedial measures for saving the people of Barak Valley from the jaws of floods and I have also spoke about the present situation arising out of the severe flood in this area and about the relief not given to the people from the State Government due to lack of funds In that respect also I appeal to the Union Government to help the flood affected people with adequate fund and sufficient relief so that they can stand on their feet

[Translation]

SHRISANT RAMSINGLA (Patiala) Mr Chairman Sir during this month several parts of the country had to face the fury of floods I hail from Punjab where flood has taken a very serious turn and has caused a heavy loss You know that Punjab has been on the agenda of this country for the last 10 years Terrorism has challenged the economy of Punjab as well as the unity and integrity of the country A lot of efforts have been made to solve Punjab problem for the last 10 years Governors have been changed elected Government has also been formed and Rajiv Longowal accord has also been signed

[English]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur) Sir I want to make a submission When flood situation is discussed Agriculture Minister is present here he will reply on relief and other measures But regarding per

[Sh Lokanath Choudhury]

manent measures which require a deep study and some changes or measures in the policy which will be discussed here, the Water Resources Minister should be present to give a reply. Everybody here will talk of permanent measures and only the Water Resources Minister can give a proper reply on them. So, I think, it is better that the Water Resources should be present here to reply to the points raised by the Members on flood situation.

MR CHAIRMAN It is for the Government to consider it. Mr Singla, you go ahead with your speech.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari) Both the hon. Minister should be present here. Both should seek solution and provide relief.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN Do not take time on these issues.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY No Sir. This discussion cannot get a proper response from the Government unless the Water Resources Minister is also present here.

MR CHAIRMAN You have made a suggestion and it is for the Government to consider.

(Interruptions)

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY We will speak about permanent measures on floods. Can the Agriculture Minister reply to that? It is not within his capacity to reply to it. Why should he discuss at all when he is not present in the House?

MR CHAIRMAN Do not waste time on these points because only two hours are there.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY But that time should be properly *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga) Let all the Members be given opportunity to speak. My constituency is also to be discussed *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN This is what the speaker has told me.

[Translation]

SHRI SANT RAM SINGLA I was saying that Punjab had been severely affected by terrorism for the last 10 years. Many Prime Ministers came and they changed number of Governors in that State. sent high officials and Rajiv Lonogawal Accord was also signed, but Punjab problem became more complicated. More the Government tried to resolve the more it became complicated. When Shri Narsimha Rao came in power, he took a big decision regarding holding of elections in Punjab.

SHRIMOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI We are discussing flood situation in the country.

SHRISANT RAMSINGLA I am coming to the flood situation. Sardar Beant Singh became the Chief Minister of Punjab as a result of which Punjab is more peaceful as compared to any other part of the country.

I am also proud of the people of Punjab. Yesterday Some hon. Members were speaking on No-Confidence Motion. I would like to ask them whether this single achievement that the Shri P. V. Narsimha Rao has resolved the Punjab problem is not sufficient, because no previous Government could succeed in this task. Kashmir

problem is pending for many years but so far no solution has been found. Our Hon. Prime Minister has solved the Punjab problem within a short period. The state has solved the problem of terrorism but unfortunately it has come under the grip of flood. This year in the second week of July, heavy rains occurred in Punjab which took the entire state in the grip of flood. Heavy losses occurred in almost 9-10 districts. We can judge the loss from the figures that 4741 villages, 44 cities have been taking affected and 6293 cattle heads have been washed away. Standing crops over 16 lakh acres of land have also been damaged. The total loss to the state is approximately to the tune of Rs. 2500 crore.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now Shri Nitish Kumar was saying that the Government conducts only aerial survey. Has anybody visited any floods affected area? You sit here in the parliament House so that your name may appear in the newspapers. I am happy that hon. Prime Minister has visited entire Punjab and deputed MPs, MLAs and ministers in the different places of States to keep a watch on the flood situation. Not only this but at the first opportunity the Minister of Agriculture, Shri Balram Jakhar, The Minister of Railways, Shri C. K. Jaffer Shanef and Internal Security Minister, Shri Rajesh Pilot visited those areas. Thus every one has extended their cooperation on this account. I am happy that the Government have taken timely rescue operations and taken relief measures and have also organised relief camps. Government have also undertaken evacuation of marooned people, distribution of food packets by air dropping, distribution of essential commodities and medical assistance. It is a fact that the loss suffered by Punjab is so huge that the State Government can't bear it. Punjab produces so much quantity of foodgrains that people of Bihar, Assam, and Madras also depend on it.

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not true. It is a thing of the past.

SHRI SANT RAM SINGLA: It may be a thing of the past but Punjab is bread basket and

sword arm of India. The people of the state have never backed out. Punjab has contributed a big share in the fields of foodgrains. Flood has affected 80 per cent population of my home district, Patiala. It is for the first time that flood had damaged the entire agricultural land of the area and has ruined all the industries, small shopkeepers, institutions, houses and other infrastructures.

I am happy that the hon. Prime Minister has visited the state and provided a relief worth Rs. 1 crore and made an announcement for providing relief, advance release of C.R.F. Besides Shri Jakhar has also announced release of two quarterly instalments of CRF for 1994-95. But despite this the loss occurred there will not be made up.

17.00 hrs.

Shri Jakhar is sitting here. I request him to provide immediate relief to the industry, trade, farmers, jhuggi-jhupan dwellers, urban population of the state which is urgently required there. I would like to request him.

[English]

provisions for loans to business and industry at subsidised rate of interest that is 4 per cent be made. Repayment of loans by small and marginal farmers be deferred by two years and a special high power Committee should be set up by the Centre to find out a permanent solution so that the menace of flood does not occur in future.

[Translation]

I would like to say that water resources available in the country are our asset and strength. If we can make optimum utilization of the water that goes waste at present by constructing dams, it would on one hand help us in power generation and on the other hand it will also be used for irrigation purposes. Unless we do not seek a permanent solution to the problem of

[Sh. Sant Ram Singla]

flood, the country would continue to suffer loss because every year there is flood in one or the other part of the country. Therefore, without taking much time I would like to draw the attention of Government towards this aspect. Shri Jakhar is sitting here, he belongs to Punjab and is also the Union Minister of Agriculture. He has done great service to the farmers of the country. I request him that Punjab is at present in great difficulty. He should therefore, provide an amount of Rs. 1000 crore to the state, in addition to the amount of Rs. 500 crore from Calamity Relief Fund and find a permanent solution of the floods problem. Constitute a committee or set up a commission for this purpose which may give suggestions so that flood may play havoc in the country again.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI: Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping in view the paucity of time, I would like to request that 5 minutes should be allotted to each of the Members so as to cover the maximum number of Members who want to say something about the situation of their respective flood affected areas.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will be glad but nobody can speak within five minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I would like to make a submission in this matter.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You come through your party. Your party has given the names of the speakers and your name is not there.

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (Jalpaiguri): Sir, I am very glad to know that you have given me the opportunity to express my views in the

House. I feel very sorry and ashamed that even after 47 years of independence, our Government has completely failed to protect the people and the country at large from the natural calamities like floods, droughts, etc. Floods and droughts have now become annual phenomenon. One part of India is being affected by floods and the other part by drought. These natural calamities cause severe damage to human and animal lives and property worth crores and crores of rupees is being destroyed every year. Here I would like to give certain statistics regarding the average loss and average affected area per annum.

About 40 million hectare of the land, that is nearly one eighth of the geographical area is flood prone.

I am giving you the annual average statement of the damage:

1. Total area affected annually is 7.7 million hectares
2. Agriculture crop area affected 3.5 million hectares
3. Human lives lost, average per year, 1449

In 1977, it was 11,316 lives. So the total loss due to flood damage per year comes to about Rs. 1,000 crore.

What is the policy of the Government? I would like to quote the Government's integrated approach for flood management:

"Flood management schemes need to be planned within the framework of an integrated long term plan and in conjunction, where appropriate, with the plans for other water resource development such as irrigation, power and domestic water supply."

They are now going to chalk out a plan. This will help increase the effectiveness of the flood

control schemes and may also significantly improve the economic viability. The Central Government has set up two bodies for comprehensive planning of floods control in the lower Ganges and the Brahmaputra Board. The Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Brahmaputra Board have prepared and submitted their Master Plans and detailed reports for some projects. Both the Plans emphasise the need for integrated catchment area plans and to monitor its implementation. Considerable further work is required in operationalising the Brahmaputra

Flood Control master Plan. Similarly, detailing is required for the Ganga Flood Control Plan. High priority should be given to the development of such operational plans giving detailed designs for specific projects, their sequencing and priorities. This is the plan of the Government. There is no effective and definite plan. The Government is in the habit of planning but doing nothing. They are satisfying by giving some relief under the head NCRF (Natural Calamity Relief Fund). The distribution of that fund is very odd. Therefore, I am giving you the details.

Punjab	Rs 21 crore
Himachal Pradesh	Rs 6.75 crore
Haryana	Rs 12.75 crore
Gujarat	Rs 31.875 crore
Rajasthan	Rs 46.50 crore
Assam	Rs 11.25 crore
Madhya Pradesh	Rs 20.8125 crore
Maharashtra	Rs 16.50 crore
Mizoram	Rs 0.375 crore
Tripura	Rs 2.25 crore
West Bengal	Rs 15.00 crore

In only one sub-Division viz. Alipurduar in West Bengal, in the recent flood we required at least Rs. 500 crore. This is the policy of the Government.

17.09 hrs.

[MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

This year the Northern part of West Bengal Punjab Haryana Himachal Pradesh Gujarat Jammu and Kashmir Assam Bihar

Madhya Pradesh Maharashtra Mizoram and Tripura are affected by floods. Jalpaiguri district has been subjected to the ravages of floods time and again. Devastation caused due to the floods of 4th October 1968 are still fresh in the minds of the people. This was followed by floods in the year 1987. This year due to torrential rains for three consecutive days viz. up to 20th July 1993 and abnormal rise in water level of all the rivers of Jalpaiguri and Cooch-Bihar embankments and floods protection systems were severely damaged. As a result floods of abnormal

[Sh. Jitendra Nath Das]

magnitude occurred throughout the districts of Jalpaiguri and Cooch-Bihar causing death of about 200 persons, death of animals, properties, roads, bridges, hospitals, schools, tea-gardens, amounting to Rs. 500 crore.

These districts remained under water of 10 to 15 feet on 20.7.93 and 21.7.93. Rail and road communications were completely cut off. Telephone connections were snapped. Army was called in Alipurduar. Helicopters were pressed into service for air dropping food and medicines. Fifteen lakh people have been affected.

State Government has immediately rushed to the affected places. The hon. Chief Minister, West Bengal, has already visited the places. This is the situation in all the States where the recent floods had been there. In other States also these relief works are going on. But these works are being hampered due to want of funds, food and other materials. Rail and road communications are yet to be restored. The central Government will have to come with clear mind to accelerate the relief works in the affected areas.

I am giving you a chart of loss of lives, crops and properties in the flood affected States. in Punjab, human lives lost-311, cropped area affected/value-15.00 lakh acres; in Himachal Pradesh, human lives lost -43 cropped area affected/value-0.32 lakh acres, houses damaged-6000 and public property damaged-Rs. 176.00 crore; in Haryana, human lives lost-38, cropped area affected/value-4.49 lakh acres, houses damaged-41,00; in Gujarat, human lives lost-116, cropped area affected/value-Rs.2.12 crore, houses damaged-15,591 and public property damaged-Rs.10.47 crore; in Assam, human lives lost-24 property damaged Rs. 50 crores; in Rajasthan, human lives lost-11, houses damaged-14,644; in Jammu and Kashmir, human lives lost -25 cropped area affected/value-Rs.8.00 lakhs, houses damaged-1290 and public property damaged-Rs. 3.46 crore and in Alipurduar, human lives lost-200,

cropped area affected/value-Rs. 5 crore, houses damaged-10,000 and public property damaged-Rs. 500 crore.

I urge upon the Central Government to come out with a concrete definite and effective programme so that in future the people and the country may be saved from these severe floods.

SHRI PETER G. MARNAIANG (Shillong): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to inform the House about the heavy rain fall which has occurred in Meghalaya especially in Garo Hills and in the border of Bangladesh in the south-east, south-west of Maghalaya.

Sir, we had, in a period of ten days, i.e. from 4th July till 14th July, about 500 inches of rainfall. As a result of it we found that all the rivers swelled up and there were devastating floods in the West Gora Hills, especially in a place adjoining Assam. Places like Phulbani, Rajabara, Mahendraganj, Dalu and Bakmara are partly affected.

Sir, on the night of 5th July a heavy storm came which uplifted thousands of trees and due to the floods that occurred we find that about 100 houses were carried away, 10,000 heads of cattle down, 7 to 10 long length bridges in the high-way were destroyed and miles of roads washed away by the floods. 40,000 people became homeless and 10 lives were lost. An estimate of the loss amounted to more than Rs.12 crores.

Sir, there is an urgent need for immediate central assessment of the situation and also of central assistance from the Relief Fund immediately to the tune of Rs. 4 to 5 crores. There is also an urgent need for immediate help from the Surface Transport Ministry for the roads which have been destroyed by the rains.

We appeal that the Government of India should extend help from the National Calamity Relief Fund immediately for Maghalaya. It is very unfortunate that in the assessment of Government of India, no mention was made of the floods that occurred in Maghalaya. We heard about

Mizoram, we heard about West Bengal, we heard about Assam and other States which have been affected by the floods and immediate relief was granted to them. However it is very unfortunate that in Maghalaya no central assessment has been made and no central assistance has been given or sent on the damage done by the floods.

I appeal to the Agriculture Minister who is here with me to kindly extend immediate help to the Government of Maghalaya in order to tide over the floods situation.

[Translation]

SHRIB L SHARMA PREM (East Delhi)
 Mr. Chairman Sir, about 18 lakh people were affected due to last week floods in East Delhi. Government godowns, buildings and shops of Bamtek, Narela, Jahangirpur, etc. areas were under 8 feet water. A dead body was also found in Shri Ram Colony and shops belonging to 15 thousand people were submerged. Flood water is still there in Harsh Vihar and Sonia Bihar. Houses of Saboli area are still under water. Besides, almost whole of the Sabharpur village has submerged in water. According to an estimate there has been a loss of nearly Rs. 600 crore in the areas falling under my Constituency.

Two meetings have already been held with L.G. regarding floods control. When I enquired about the readiness to combat the situation created due to flood, I found that all the preparedness was on papers only. There was no arrangement of any pumping set and there was no officer available.

17 19hrs.

[SHRI PETER G. MARBANIANG in the Chair]

What are the factors responsible for the present situation? The present Government begins any preparation only in the eleventh hour. To the officers of the M.C.D. I have to say that

[English]

they are criminally negligent.

[Translation]

those officers are responsible for the deaths of these persons.

Moreover, the Commissioner of M.C.D. acts irresponsibly. Officers of flood control

[English]

Must be dealt with seriously. I tell you people are ruined.

[Translation]

People are now dying of cholera. Death of a person has been reported from Shri Ram Colony. Drains are not cleaned. There is no desilting. Expenditure is shown merely on papers and the poor are to suffer ultimately.

I would like to submit that the four largest markets of Asia are so much in dirt that they pose a danger to the lives of hundreds of people by the possible outbreak of cholera in East Delhi. There are heaps of garbage all around and the department of flood is responsible for it.

Lastly, I must reiterate that to prevent recurrence of such a situation

[English]

severe action must be taken against the highest officers of M.C.D.

[English]

DR C. SILVERA (Mizoram) Mr. Chairman Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue. I will be very brief.

This year there is a lot of floods in the whole

[Dr C Silvera]

country and my colleagues have spoken about the floods situation in other part of the country I would like to concentrate on the North Eastern area and Particularly of my State Mizoram I will speak on Mizoram I want to touch partly the situation in Assam because Assam is important for Mizoram It is the State through which we get all our supplies I would like to request the Centre to give help on war-footing for the permanent solution of the floods situation in Assam I would not go into the details and I will now talk about Mizoram straightaway

This year we had the worst-ever landslides and floods in Mizoram as compared to the past many years Lot of damage has been done by these floods and landslides As it is hilly area we do not suffer much because of floods But because of the lanslides lot of damage has been done

In Aizawl, the capital of Mizoram some inhabited area about three areas are sinking and those areas are not worth for people to settle down About 2,000 families are affected The national highway which is the lifeline of Mizoram is spoiled and the earth has sunk in about four places and the road communication is completely cut off And also the State highway which is connecting the railhead and the capital is completely damaged No transport communication could be available The rivers are swollen, the bridges are swept away Four people died because of landslides and house collapse According to the estimates, the entire damage is of Rs 30 crores The most important thing is that the power station which is situated in the Aizawl town is badly damaged by the sinking of the soil of that area

It is estimated that shifting of that power station will cost about Rs 15 crores In order to save that particular area temporarily an amount of about Rs Six crores is needed

Sir we are happy that the Prime Minister

and the Agriculture Minister have sent a team of geologists to investigate on the arae and to have an on-the-spot study of the damages caused by the rains and floods We are sure they are going to submit their report to the Central Governmnt shortly I would like to request the Central Government to come to the aid of the poor State of Mizoram We do not have the resources of our own and the damage caused by the floods is about Rs 300 crores So, I would request the Central Governemnt to come immediately to the help of the State of Mizoram xzy

[Translation]

SHRI HARIKISHORE SINGH (Sheohar)
Mr Chairman, Sir, I am extremely thankful to you for providing me an apportunity to speak on the problem of flood that is being faced in most of the areas of country I would mention the situation of North Bihar in particular The problem faced by the north Bihar is not due to any fault of the Government of Bihar Actually it is due to heavy rains in the neighbouring country Nepal Flood situation is very serious there My Parliamentary Constituency, Sheohar and the district of Sitamarhi that are situated near Indo-Nepal border are completely affected by flood In a least 200 villages all the roads have been damaged, communication links of the Blocks with the district Headquarters have been snapped and Samastepur Narkatiaganj rail line is lying damaged The Government of India should make special provisions for the North Bihar in view of the loss suffered by this area Due to torrential rains in Nepal, North Bihar has to face heavy flood It may be construed as an invasion of Nepal on India through nature This is not the responsibility of the Government of Bihar This responsibility should be shouldered by the Union Government rather than by the Government of Bihar Those areas have been neglected for a long time I would, therefore like to submit that at least one thousand crore rupees should be made available to the state The Government is having with it the reports of Ganga Flood Control Commission and all the Schemes regarding catchment are have been submitted to the Gov-

ernment, I would like to know as to what steps are going to be taken by the Government in this regard

I would further like to submit that the Government should make an arrangement to provide special grants for flood control. Special arrangements should be made for other areas also that are affected by floods and for the area that have been affected by heavy rains in neighbouring countries. I would like to submit the Government of India should immediately contact the Government of Nepal and should do the needful on war footing. Moreover the Government should give priority to the implementation of the Bagmati-Adwara river irrigation Project

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Fandkot)
Mr Chairman Sir although the whole country was recently affected by floods yet I will confine myself to my region only consisting of the States of Punjab Haryana Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir. I am happy to note that both the Hon Prime Minister and the hon Minister of Agriculture Shri Balaram Jakhhar who has very soft corner for the farmers visited Punjab to take stock of the heavy losses caused by the floods in the State. Sir I would like to remind Shri Jakhhar Sahab that in 1988 also Punjab was affected by the floods. At that time the former Prime Minister late Shri Rajiv Gandhi along with his wife Smt Sonia Gandhi covered a distance of 500 kms in the three regions of the State namely Malwa Doaba and Majha. Driving himself he went door to door. Though many were spectral about his safety yet Shri Rajiv Gandhi toured whole of the State. The day the hon Prime Minister toured Punjab the weather was inclement and therefore the aircraft was flying 15 000 feet high. Had the Hon Prime Minister toured the State on ground perhaps he could have got the correct estimate of loss but through aerial survey he could not get the real estimate of loss. However the Hon Prime Minister released Rs 22 crores from the Prime Minister's Calamity Relief Fund and rest of the amount was contributed by the State Govern-

ment. I would like to submit that in the floods 500 persons lost their lives. In Punjab 28 000 persons had already been killed in the terrorist activities.

Sir the Ministry of Agriculture cannot be kept out of the purview of the Calamity fund for States recommended by the Ninth Finance Commission. Otherwise the issue being raised here will not gain any significant attention. I remember when Shri Rajiv Gandhi toured Punjab during the tenure of Shri S S Ray as Governor of the State he announced the compensation package of Rs 400 crores and released another Rs 200 crores. In total an amount of Rs 600 crores was released for Punjab. Punjab and Haryana have suffered heavy losses. I would like to submit that the State Government has its own style of functioning and the Central Government has its own. Punjab was suffered heavy losses. People of Punjab saved many persons from drowning and nearly 30 persons lost their lives in the floods while saving others lives and more than 5,000 villages were affected by the floods.

Mr Chairman Sir I would like to submit two things. Mr Jakhhar, the Government of Punjab has asked for Rs 500 crores apart from the funds from the Calamity Fund in accordance with the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission in case of rare severity. The responsibility for it rests with the Central Government. I would like to submit that the State has suffered loss of more than Rs 3 000 crores excluding the loss of individual property. These floods were peculiar in nature because earlier only villages used to be affected but this time even the towns were affected by the floods.

I would like to submit that shelters for one lakh persons were provided by the people and the role of the Armed Forces had been really commendable.

Sir through you I would like to submit to the hon Minister of Water Resources that-

[Sh. Hari Kishore Singh]

[English]

Rair river has not been tamed for the last 20 years.

[Translation]

Although the project was envisaged in 1956 yet till date The in Dam has not been constructed., Every year, Amritsar and Gurdaspur are affected by the floods and even the loss is not made good. Border villags in Pakistan have made their own arrangements like building of technical bridges but we have not done anything on our side to prevent floods and every year, 1000 crores cuesec water flows to Pakistan through madhopur Headworks. Both Punjab and Aaryana are demanding this water. Till date, the Government of India has done enothing in this regard. if the country is to be saved from the floods, then this work should be taken up in right earnest immediately.

[English]

Taming of river Rar is most essential.

[Translation]

I would like to request the Government of India, the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Jakharji, to use their good offices to make funds available for their Dam.

Sir, Punjab and Aaryana contribute 70 per cent of their wheat output to the Central pool. Recently seven lakh hectares of land was adversely affected by the floods in these States. I think it is a matter of sorrow for the whole of the country. Punjab and Harayana suffered loss of Rs. 300 crores on account of damage to roads and bridges along and transmission lines were also damaged. Loss on account of latter can be estimated at Rs. 20 crores in case of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh. Power gen-

eration system has also suffered heavy damages. Narwana canal has been badly damaged and people are facing drinking water problem. Therefore, repair of all these is a must. For all this Rs.22 crores is immediately needed. But for the Central assistance all this repair is not possible.

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Agriculutre the twin issues of soil erosion and tree felling. It is understood that a farmer Chief Minister of Himachal pradesh ordered cutting of trees. All this has serious affects on climate. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to check both soil erosion oand felling of trees. (Interruptions)

[English]

Beuase you put me from No.3 to No.5 and I have got ten minutes from my party.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is also the need to imporve forecaste system. People of Punjab and Haryana got only 20 minutes to save their lives and property and they did so by climbing on the roofs of their houses. That's why many were washed away in the floods. Similar is the story of Bihar, Bengal and other States. Therefore, the farmers are not being benefited by the scientific Pogress and satellite network, being daily mentioned. There is the need to pay attention towards this also. If timely forecasts are available then much loss can be easily prevented.

I would like to draw attention towards progress made in the 19th century In Patiala, Jacob Fall was constructed to save rearby areas from floods. However, despite a lot of scientific progress nothing concrete is being done in this regard. There floods are a blot on India and be muct endeavour to remove this blot.

In the end, I would like to make one more submission and that is more funds should be

made available to the rare severity floods zones' even in excess of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission to protect the people.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, several places in the country are affected with floods. My constituency has never seen such an unprecedented flood, which has come this time. Kumargram, Barobisa, Kalchini Falakara, Madarihaat, Alipur, Jalpaiguri, Tufanganj-Kooch Bihar are heavily affected with floods. My entire constituency is submerged under water. For the last nine days this area is under flood, but it is impossible to go anywhere due to water. A number of persons have died due to this flood. When we met the Prime Minister in this regard, he said that so many deaths are unnatural and he will immediately send some help. He might have sent the assistance, he had said about sending a medical team also. A large number of crops of 07 children, women and men are lying there and the problem is taking a very serious turn. It has been reported that there are 200 dead bodies, but it is being estimated that near about 2000 persons have died. Army has also been called for relief work, but the situation there is so grave that the victims do not even have a cloth to wear and are taking the clothes from those who are going there. The State Government has pent and amount of Rs. 12 crores to solve this problem, but this amount has not been properly utilised. So, the Central Government should pay immediate attention towards this crisis, because there is large scale loss of property. Epidemic has broken out and everyone has lost their clothes and utensils. All the tea-gardens have submerged under water. The F.C.I. godowns are also filled with water and the food grains kept there has been destroyed. This miserable situation had taken place in Alipurduars and Jalpaigudi. The people are not able to find even a match box there. Food packets were air-dropped, but very few people could get them. We have never seen such distress anywhere. There are several other points, which will be raised by other Members. In view of the damage caused there, a financial assistance amounting to Rs. 500 crores should

be provided.

Even the small rivers of the Himalayas are flooded. Kumargram is severely affected with flood and it is totally cut off from other parts of the country. Army has been sent there. The people there are in an agitated state of mind. I, therefore, would request that the Central Government should pay immediate attention towards it.

SHRI KAMALA MISHRA MADHUKAR (Motihari): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the area from North Bihar to West Champaran, about which we always tell the hon. Agriculture Minister, is severely affected with floods. These have devastated the area. Shri Nitish Kumar and several other hon. Members mentioned about it here. Gandak, Budhi Gandak, Bagmati, Adhwara, Kosi and Kamla Banal rivers are flooded. The area of East Champaran is not only affected with flood, but is affected with soil erosion also. There is heavy erosion in Chintavan and Iranavad area. Thousands of people have become homeless but no help has yet been provided to them. The dam in Damodarapur has been damaged and water has entered in several blocks. The areas of East and West Champaran are affected due to it.

Pakari Dayal, Dhaka, Ramgarhwa, Raxaul etc. blocks of Madhubani district are also affected with floods. The immediate relief, which should have been provided to this area, has yet been provided. The Chief Minister had discussed the issue with the Centre and had demanded Rs. 600 crores as relief. But the situation is getting worse there. Several other Members had also demanded that Bihar should be given Rs. 1000 crores for flood relief and if it is not given, Bihar will be in a critical position. In the present financial situation of Bihar, it will be difficult for the common man to live there. People will die even after the floods because there will be no farming and further more, it will result in drought. So a permanent solution should be found for these problems of this state.

I would like to give suggestions in this

[Sh. Kamala Mishra Madhukar]

regard. Until and unless the scheme of "Char Masan" dam is implemented, North Bihar will continue to be flooded. The hon. Minister may have great sympathy, but if dams are not constructed in Munther, Sisapani and Barah areas in North Bihar, the public will not get relief from the floods.

Attention should therefore, be paid towards the problems of Bihar and it should be provided financial assistance to the tune of Rs. 1000 crores. besides this, ration should also be provided. After the flood water recedes, the workers should be provided with jobs. Adequate funds and seeds should be provided for the next crop. The Central Government should also take steps in view of its announcement about waiving of the loans of the farmers.

In the end, I would like to submit that people are migrating from those three areas where soil erosion is taking place. Relief work should be started for those people. Several hon. Members have said that those areas have continuously affected with floods since independence. This Government has been ruling for so many years. We tried to topple it yesterday only, but could not do so. The Government has not taken any steps to control the floods. The statement of the Agriculture Minister is not likely to solve the problems. Water Resources Minister should also extend his cooperation in this task. He should also assure that all the schemes will be completed. The Bihar Government should be given the funds as demanded and help should be provided to the people. With this, I conclude.

SHRIMOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Chairman, Sir, flood situation in the area to which I belong is very serious. At least four blocks—Manigachchhi, Banipur, Alipur and Ghanshyampur Biraal in my district are under the grip of flood. When the discussion on floods was going on today, one of my colleague

has rightly raised the issue that the Minister of Water Resources should also remain in the House. This issue is not confined to the Minister of Agriculture only. We were referring to Punjab just now. But 92 per cent part of North Bihar has been submerged under flood. In the last session, the Prime Minister said that if we could provide adequate irrigation facilities in North Bihar and Eastern U.P. add solve the problem of drought, this area can provide rice and wheat to the entire country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, today Punjab is an advanced State only due to the proper water management. On the other hand, in Bihar and particularly in North Bihar, in my district, one part of the State is facing the problem of flood and the other part is facing drought.

This time, floods have come not due to heavy rains but it is due to the water flow into India from Nepal. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have tried to raise this issue at least 3-4 times in the House. Recently, after the visit of the Prime Minister to Nepal, a treaty was signed between the two countries. Under the treaty, there was a provision for constructing dams or barrages over all the rivers flowing from Nepal into Bihar. It was mentioned that this work would be undertaken by 1994. But I have come to know that at present its feasibility report is being prepared and survey is being conducted.

It appears as if the Government of India simply wants to complete the formula. It does not actually want to complete the work. In this regard, I would like to raise one more point. Raising objection, Nepal has requested the Government of India to provide a route to Bay of Bengal through Kosi river so that they can transport their goods through water ways. If this is agreed to then the Government of Nepal would allow us to construct dams or barrage. Through you, I would like to suggest that we should not feel any difficulty in allowing the water route as asked for by the Government of Nepal because

a friendship treaty has been signed between the two countries. In my opinion both these countries are having brother-sister relationship. Such examples do exist in the world. In Europe, there is one river named Rhine. It has been passing through many countries of Europe for the last 800-900 years. Transportation of goods through the river has been continuing till now. Therefore Mr Chairman, Sir through you I would like to urge upon the Government of India to accede to the request of the Government of Nepal and allow it to use the water route upto the Bay of Bengal. It will be beneficial for the people of our country also.

Mr Chairman Sir I would like to make another submission. Shri Nitish Kumarji has raised an issue in the House regarding large scale felling of trees resulting in accumulation of silt in river bed. To the best of my knowledge such technology is available in today's world that can cleanse the silt. If we cleanse silt from rivers through importing troweller instead of spending and allocating crores of rupees to States in the name of relief it would enable us to check floods to the maximum possible extent.

Mr Chairman Sir I mean to say that the problem of floods cannot be solved by merely providing relief. If we want to control floods in Bihar or any part of India we have to find a permanent solution by formulating projects and streamlining water management. It will provide water for irrigation as well as generate hydel power. Only then we would be able to solve the problem of floods permanently. There is no way out. If it is materialised we assure the Government that the land of Bihar and especially North Bihar is so fertile that it can provide rice and wheat to the entire country.

DR LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur) Mr Chairman Sir I would like to submit that the discussion was started 10 or 12 minutes past four. Prior to it the Minister of Home Affairs was speaking. We have allotted two hours for it. Let the two hours be over at least. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN We started the discussion on this at eight minutes past 4 o'clock and it should be over by eight minutes past 6 o'clock. Now if you want the Minister's reply then you better let the Minister reply now. We can extend the time of the House for eight minutes.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON MEMBERS No Sir (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) Sir in the Business Advisory Committee it was decided in consultation with everybody that whenever the short duration discussion is taken up the discussion should be concluded within two hours. (Interruptions) And this has been to facilitate the Members to have a proper discussion on any important issues and it would be very difficult to take up discussions beyond the permitted time and if the discussions become long-drawn then it will be difficult to have any other discussions on any other important matters. Do I would request Sir to allow the hon Minister but if we can finish the other speakers by just making a reference and putting their point across rather than making a long speech it is all right because it will be impossible to take up the discussion tomorrow. We would like to finish it as soon as possible and I would request that the Members who would like to speak they should only refer to the points rather than making long speeches. (Interruptions)

MR CHAIRMAN If all you stand up at the same time no sense can prevail. Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NITSH KUMAR(Barh): Sir, I have raised the discussion. Just now the hon. Minister has spoken the hon. Members of different constituencies are yet to speak. It is correct that certain time was allotted in the Business Advisory Committee. But Generally we start discussion at 4 O'Clock But we started discussion at twelve minutes past four. We should have this 12 minutes at our disposal plus 5 minutes time, which the hon. Minister has taken. In lieu of it, the discussion may be allowed to continue.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Saharsa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. The discussion which should have started at 4 pm could start 10-12 minutes late. There are still many parties of which not even a single Member has spoken and there is flood in every State. Therefore, if time is extended, it should be extended considerably so that Members of all the parties whose names have been given could participate in the discussion. If it is not possible and the Government wants to give reply tomorrow, the discussion can continue tomorrow also. Because when Shri Sharad Dighe was in the Chair, a request was made that the hon. Members from all the parties would like to speak and a Member would not take more than 10 minutes, he had given an assurance to accept this request. That assurance should be fulfilled.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT) AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think I must explain the background. I would like little bit of understanding from the Members. Sir, under Rule 194 the speaker allots.. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMOHAN SINGH (Deoria): If we ask for something, rule is referred to. Is rule above the House? Sir, there is flood in our State. We should be given time to speak. (Interruptions)

18.05hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please speak one-by-one.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM: Sir, I am only submitting what is the background. You had, in fact, very kindly agreed to try and have, as far as possible, two sittings a week for 193 motions, which are brought up. Under 194(2), it is clearly laid down:

"The Speaker may allot two sitting in a week in which such matters may be taken up for discussion and allow such time for discussion not exceeding two hours at or before the end of the sitting, as he may consider appropriate in the circumstances."

In Fact, by almost practice, we have been violating the rule. What really happens is, we are not able to discuss in this House many important issues because 193 becomes very long. (Interruptions) It is a very important issue. What really happens is, we do not end up discussing other issues and we have 193 as carry-over sections. I would, therefore, request that whatever it is, let us finish it today. Let us not have this issue of carrying over. If possible, as my learned colleague-hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs has said-and you perhaps have said, let those who want to make their points, make the points very briefly and let the Minister make his reply.

MR SPEAKER I would like to bring to your notice that we had discussed this matter very seriously. Hon Members wanted to make their statements and make their points on certain important issues. They were doing it immediately after the question hour. It was not possible for them to get the response from the Government on those points. So, it was very consciously decided that we will not have a very long zero hour activity. It should be over within 10-15 minutes and 377 in 10-15 minutes.

It was also agreed that there should be call attention motions given and replied to by the Government so that you get a concrete reply to the call attention motions.

It was agreed between the leaders sitting in the Business Advisory Committee that the call attention motion will be given. And each Member will be allowed only two minutes to put a question. Under the call attention motion when the statement is made by the Government only a question has to be asked. It is not a speech. It is a question. So a question has to be asked. It was decided that in about 10-15 minutes, the call attention motion will be over. Then also it was decided that there are certain important issues on which the Members want to discuss. For instance, this flood. Then there is a drought. Then there are certain other things which are happening in the country.

If the Members are not in a position to give their considered views on those points, it would be difficult for them to highlight those points in a proper manner. That is why, it was decided that we will have two short duration discussions—at least two short duration discussions every week—so that the Government gives a proper response. But then we had the short duration discussions continuing for 10 hours, continuing for 12 hours, continuing not only in one session but in other sessions also.

If we want this kind of this to continue, it will be very difficult for us to have the short duration discussions later on. Now it will be very clear

in our minds that if Assam is suffering from flood, if Punjab is suffering from flood, if some other provinces are suffering from flood, other Members should show the courtesy to the Members coming from those areas to speak on those points. They should not insist on speaking on those points. Supposing there is a drought condition somewhere, the people coming from these food areas should not speak and they should show the courtesy. If the flood condition is not there in Andhra Pradesh, it is not necessary that the leaders of the parties from Andhra Pradesh should speak on that.

The courtesy should be shown to other Members. We are not interested in showing to the people that we are making speeches in the House. We are interested in highlighting the real problems of the people and get some remedies provided by the Government for those things. If you want to enjoy the luxury of showing to the people that we have made the speeches on these points even though the matter is not relevant to our State, we can have that but it is ultimately for you to decide. If you do not cooperate today, it is going to have an effect on tomorrow's short duration discussion because then it will be decided that it is not possible to have the discussion in two hours time, then we will not have discussions on other topics. So my request to you is this. We are not trying to spare the Government. It is an extra burden on the Government. They have to be careful about the information. Collect the information, come to you and give you that information. Not only that, they have to tell as to what they are going to do. You are pinpointing them. If you follow this procedure and if you do not follow this procedure, we will allow you to make the statements after the Question Hour. You can go back. The Government will be very happy not to respond and then things will continue like that. We do not want this kind of a thing. So my request to you is to cooperate on this. This is the first day we are having short duration discussion. So cooperate on this point and may be for 10 minutes, 15 minutes, half-an-hour or one hour, you can sit and cooperate. But then if you insist that every

body coming from all parts of the country and everybody belonging to the party should speak. We do not have that kind of time and it will be very difficult for me to do that. It is ultimately for you to decide and everything will depend on the decision we take today. I will be deciding but if you are not cooperating, then there is no point in having the discussion. If you are cooperating, then we will have the point. Supposing, in Bihar, people are suffering from flood, then it is our duty to allow at least one or two Members from Bihar to speak; each Member has to speak on that

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER. This is for Assam, Bihar and any State.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER. That is exactly I am saying. Supposing there is a drought in Maharashtra. Why would I speak on flood? If there is no flood in Andhra Pradesh, why should somebody from Andhra Pradesh speak on that? It is not to show to the people that you are speaking on this. So, please cooperate. The ruling given and the suggestion made by the hon. Minister is that you will be allowed to make your points. You make the points, let us sit for some more time and finish it. Everything will depend on the decision you take today on short duration discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI SHOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: With all due respect to the Chair, you have given a suggestion that if flood is not there in Andhra Pradesh, then Members from Andhra Pradesh need not speak on that item. I appreciate that the Members who come from the

affected areas must be given an opportunity to explain their particular experience regarding the situation there. If your suggestion is accepted and when a particular incident occurs like Harijans are harassed in a particular State, then do you mean to say that people from other States do not raise their protest on the matter?

MR. SPEAKER: Where is the time for all the Members to speak?

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Is it that Members belonging to that particular State should speak? *(Interruptions)* Sir, let me complete. In that case I am sorry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is not a point of order. We have not violated any rule.

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: If this is not a point of order, then let me tell you....

MR. SPEAKER: No. Let me tell you that it is for the Speaker or the Presiding Officer to decide who should speak and who should not speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SHOBANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: This is exactly what I am saying. This House of people is consisting of all the States of this country and it is the responsibility of the citizen of this country, moreover, a Member of Parliament to raise their voice and give their valuable suggestions on any particular issue that is being discussed in this House. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No no. We do not take much time on this.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a request

to you Those who had decided that we will have 15 minutes for the Zero Hour they themselves have taken two and a half hours time We won't allow it During every Monsoon session the discussion on flood continues all day long We have been doing this I would like to request you (*Interruptions*) which should have been reduced to Sufficient time should have been allotted for this subject Flood has taken place in my constituency also Big national leaders can fight elections and win from any express our grievances nobody will stand by us Our grievances have to be entertained

[English]

MR SPEAKER I will leave it to you

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH No Sir there have been floods in my constituency also (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR SPEAKER Please sit down It is not possible

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH Sir one or two minutes will not make any difference Flood has occurred in the eastern region of my constituency and the people of my constituency (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR SPEAKER I cannot go by the wishes of all Members You have not understood what I said Please take your seat

(*Interruptions*)

MR SPEAKER There is a limit to the patience of the persons sitting in the Chair also Now we are trying to accommodate you I have said that Members from the area which are suffering from the floods will be allowed to speak Yet you are making the same point Do you think that those people who are sitting are always required to hear what all of you have to say?

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH I do not want to argue I would like to make only request to you (*Interruptions*) No Sir We have been listening to your sermons for the last 10 minutes

[English]

MR SPEAKER This is a very obnoxious statement from you

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH And you in the Chair go on preaching and we are bound to listen to you

MR SPEAKER If you take my words as sermons then I won't do it from tomorrow You may do whatever you like to

SHRI MOHAN SINGH No we cannot do anything to you but we have to express our feelings We can raise a voice against injustice done by the Chair It is our right and we will keep on expressing ourselves

[English]

MR SPEAKER Please sit down You have not understood what I have said This is very unfair on your part to make such a statement

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARA-MANGALAM: Sir, he should withdraw his statement. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translato*n]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH: I am one of the disciplined Members. I never argue. I never behave in such a manner, but if I am not given the opportunity, can I not express my feelings

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PADEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as you stated, you wanted to finish this debate today itself. I would, therefore, like to suggest that some more time should be given so that two or four hon. Members may be accommodated....*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: This is exactly what I said.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: They want to participate. The discussion has decided, should be finished today itself, but time should be extended to accommodate more hon. Members in the discussion

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipurduars): Whatever has been stated regarding the Chair, should be expunged from the record. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I have already said that I will allow them, if you have understood it properly.

(Interruptions)

[*Translato*n]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN MANI TRIPATHI (KESARGANJ): We should also be given time.

The hon. members sitting on front benches take more time, and when we want to express even in brief, always it is always said that there is no time.

MR. SPEAKER: All right.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Let us not waste time.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Amar Roy Pradhan, I will allow you to start your speech but you have to complete within five minutes. I think only those MPs from the flood affected areas will speak.

(Interruptions)

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193
SERIOUS SITUATION ARISING OUT OF
THE RECENT IN VARIOUS PARTS OF
THE COUNTRY - (*CONTD.*)

[*English*]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar): Sir, devastating floods have occurred in different parts of the country, in Punjab, in Uttar Pradesh, in North Bihar, in North Bengal and in the North Eastern Region, viz. the seven Sisters from Assam to Tripura. Till yesterday, you were all busy with other work. But we expected that at least today morning there would be a statement from the Ministry regarding the flood situation in the country. But I am sorry to say that it did not come.

MR. SPEAKER: We don't have time for all those things. you please let us know

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Mr. Chairman Sir, you know very well that North Bengal

is the only link between the North Eastern Region and the rest of India

NH 31 rail line was washed away So, you can imagine how the North-Eastern region was isolated from the rest of the country We have to see why floods come in our country every year It is reported that one Chukha Hydel Project was opened Lock gate was opened and water was discharged suddenly Flash of water came at a time But no information was given to anybody by the Bhutan Government We can say that this Hydel Project was constructed by India but even the Bhutan Government did not inform us I think some sort of negotiation should be there and we should ask them suddenly the lock gate was opened

The West Bengal Government is passing through difficult days last month we met the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister just sanctioned Rs 50 lakh as a relief measure But unfortunately the loss was of the order of about Rs 1000 crore So many Central teams have been sent in the past to Punjab and other States but no Central Team was sent to Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar In the absence of the Central Team how can you guess the degree of loss that has occurred there? I request you to immediately release Rs 500 crore as the flood relief measure I doubt whether you are at all serious about controlling the flood I think you are only interested in giving flood relief assistance every year

Long back ago Man Singh Committee was appointed to go into the flood control measures and it had made certain recommendations But you have never tried to implement any of those recommendations The Master Plan comprising of Teesta Mahananda Jaladhara Torsa Raidah-Sankosh is yet to be implemented What about the Ganga-Brahmaputra canal? A survey was made in the fifties but so far nothing has been done in this regard I think the Central Government is only interested in giving some petty amount to the States which are in distress I would request you to please send at least Rs 500 crore to West

Bengal Government so as to save Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar districts

MR CHAIRMAN Do I have your permission to call the Minister?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (ROSERA) The time of the House is extended by one hour and to was agreed that you will give about four to five minutes to each Member (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI HARCHAND SINGH (Ropar) Mr Chairman Sir there have been floods in Punjab earlier also But never before during 77 years of my life did I see such a flood as this year we have witnessed in Ropar The downpour in Ropar caused ditches of about 30 feet depth and no path was visible The Patiala remained cut-off by rail and road from other parts of the state for about a week (Interruptions) I mean to say that an amount of assistance of Rs 500 and Rs 2000 each for small and pucca buildings respectively will not help in solving the problem of floods in the country Those who had land got their due but those who are landless were not given even food Their huts and other belongings were washed away and they got nothing because they had neither land nor shops This Government is not going to give anything to the affected slum-dwellers Shri Balam Jakhar is a landlord Minister He therefore will give relief to the landlords I mean to say that the flood-affected poor people in Punjab must be assisted The landlords will surely get assistance by the Government Now the question is as to why floods occurred in Punjab should it be considered the mistake of the Punjab Government or that of the central Government Syphons constructed below the railway track were covered with grown up grass Nobody cleared it There is Chief Engineer a separate Department for flood control but nobody did anything at all When I asked why the syphons were not cleared which caused the flow of water to Ropar town and

[Sh. Harchand Singh]

claimed the lives of the people and the thousands of animals of the town. They replied that they would repair the damaged dams and make money... (*Interruptions*) The Irrigation Department itself sent manual labourers to see that the flow of water to the city. (*Interruptions*) A thorough enquiry should be made against this Irrigation Department for not fulfilling its duty. Why the Flood control Department, did not strengthen the emplement of the sagvis est while state of the entiermetn of the rivers patiala. Had on income of just Rs. one and a half crore. The Rajat always kept in mind that the banks of the river Patials are will protected and there is no threat of any damage on this account. Now it is damaged every year. What Shri P. V. Narasimha Rao and Shri Beant Singh re doing? Therefore, these Government are requested to see that the flood-control department do take necessary steps to strength the banks of the . Adequate funds should be granted this purpose. The grant of Rs two hundred or four hundred will not serve any prupose. The Government should waive off the interest which is done form the farmers of the inundated areas. (*Interruptions*).

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to request Shri Balram Jakhar to waive off the interest as well as loans of the poor.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (SAHARASA): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not take much time but I never expected that you would ignore my party to this extent. Sir, we we borl in flood and is seem we . I hail from North Bihar. When water flows down from China, Nepal and the Himalaya, the entire Bihar comes under the spate of flood, causing a heavy loss of life and property. Union Government as well as, the Bihar Government spends an amount of Rs. 100 crores each every year. Crores of ruppees are spent on flood-relief measures and repairs of raods and bridges. I have often suggested that a permanent scheme should be evolved to tackle flood problem. A survey was conducted for this prupose. Engineers we of the view that

if a dam is built on Kosi river it would not only generate electricity but also help in protecting land of farmers from floods. Although crores of rupees are spent on relief work every year yet no step has been taken to implement that scheme. My submission is that helgotiations should be held with Nepal Governemtn and some solution of the Problam should, be found out.

Today northern part of Bihar is flood affected and southern part is drought affected. The finacial condition of the state Government is so critical that it does not have even funds to give salary to its employees. The State Government has demanded an ex-gratia grant of Rs.500 crores immediately to protect the life and property of its citizens. I demand that this help should reach the state within 24 hours so as to save the life of the people in the State.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, time is short, so I would conclude with this submission. I requet that timely assistance should be provided to the State, Otherwise, in view of the sufferings of the people of the State we would launch a move dislodge the present Government.

SHRI RATILAL VARMA (Dhaunduka): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister towards the flood situation in Gujarat. Many villages around Ahmedabad have been inudated. Water has entered into the villages like Sarora, Chalora, Dholka, Dadrakha, Aviliaro. Kiliyavasa and hevay damage has been done. The Chief Minister of the State has conducted an arrival survey of the entire area. But State Government is unable to tackle the situation there. Today, the situation has become so critical that due to the silting into the river, the danger of revrse flow of rivers from Bay of Belgal had arisen. There is a need to construct a wall on Sabarmati river to prevent flow of water towards western villages. It can save the life and property of poor farmers.

Further, there is an urgent need to construct a bridge on the river. By constructing Limbasi-Barotha bridge, relief can be provided to the poor

at hours of need and they can be removed to the safer places. Today, if any youth tries to save people from drowning, he would not succeed. Therefore, it is very essential to construct this bridge. The hon. Minister should pay attention to this suggestion.

Similarly, floods in Narmada and Tapi rivers also cause heavy damage. We have been agitating for Sardar Sarovar project. This project should be completed without any delay so as to save people from floods. On one hand, floods cause heavy damage and on the other hand drought causes large scale scarcity of drinking water. This is the situation in my area. My submission is that financial assistance should immediately be provided for my area and assistance should be provided to Gujarat Government.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity. I will not repeat what my colleagues have said regarding the flood situation in different States. We should congratulate all the officials as well as the people and the voluntary organisations which are helping in the rescue operations.

At the same time I would say the respective State Governments will prepare the estimate of losses and Government of India will release its share of the calamity relief fund and the flood relief operations take place. After some time everybody forgets about that. That is one of the main reasons why the flood losses are to this extent year after year.

During the last several years, on an average Rs. 2000 crores of losses have occurred to crops and to the property. You will be surprised to know more amount is spent on flood relief fund than on flood control. For example, in the year 1978-79, Rs. 170 crores were spent on flood control while Rs. 370 crores were spent on flood relief. Similarly in 1980-81 also Rs. 165 crores

were spent on flood control where as Rs. 230 crores were spent on flood relief. So my suggestion to the Government is to take up this issue on a permanent scale.

Till now flood control is a State subject. State Governments not having sufficient resources in hand are not able to spend good amount of money for flood control measures. In several other countries the flood control is in the hands of the Federal Government. I urge upon the hon. Minister for Agriculture. Dr. Balram Jakhar to take suitable steps to bring flood control into the Concurrent List of subjects. Both Central Governments as well as the State Governments should take care of the flood control problem. I also suggest, as my friends have suggested, that not only the Ministry of Agriculture but the Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Forest and Environment should be involved to tackle this stupendous task of reducing or controlling the flood control losses which are continuing year after year.

I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to discuss with the Minister of Forest and Environment and bring suitable changes in the Forest Conservation Act so that the people around the degraded forest areas are involved in raising up trees of not only forest species but mangoes and other fruit trees in which people will have an interest to raise it, grow it, protect it carefully and enjoy these fruits and at the same time protect these trees.

I also suggest that Government should take suitable steps for watershed programmes in very big way. Over the years, because of this, on an average 600 crore tonnes of top soil is being eroded and goes into rivers. To form one inch of top soil it takes from 500 years to 1000 years. That precious earth is being lost. I request the Government to take on a big scale the watershed programmes.

Ultimately, I also suggest that Government should think in giving Indira Awas yojna houses to the flood victims, Harijans and other weaker

[Sh. Sobhanadreeswara Rao Vadde]

sections. When the houses of poor people are completely washed away in the floods they must be given permanent houses under Indira Awas Yojna.

I hope the Government will take in all earnestness and take suitable step[s] to prevent flood contrl losses in the years to come.

[Translation]

SHRI PREMCHAND RAM (Nawada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would conclude within two minutes. We have deep sympathy with the flood victims. All sort of assistances should be provided to them. We belong to Bihar and northern Bihar is flood affected. We have been urging the Government time and again that a permanent solution to the problem should be found out. We had submitted the same during the last session also. Instead of triung loans from IMF and World Bank time and again, why do not we take a loan to such an extent that we do not have to take any further loans. The funds should be utilised for preventing loss of life and property caused every year due to floods and dams should be constructed with a view to provide water to the dry fields so that they can provide more yield. If land is not saved from the curse of flood and drought, all our projects would remain incomplete.

Further, Sothem and Central Bihar is in the grip of drought. Even the drinking water is not available in those areas. Hon. prime Minister had visited Garva in Palamu. There is no arrangement for drinking water in Navada, Gaya, Nalanda, Harjarbagh Munger and Ranchi districts. Men and animans are dying for want of water. If Government pays adequate attention towards the problem of drought and flood a solution can be found out. The Government should promote the use of indigenou items and discourage the use of foreign goods. If the Govern. ent wants to solve the problem of nemployment, it should find our permanent

solution to the problems of flood and drought.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): On 23rd, floods in Narayani river took a very serious turn as a result of which the site of Barhi Railway project worth Rs. 165 crores cam under water. Floods first hit Uttar Pradesh and then Bihar. Gandak and Buri Gandak originate from my area. This area was under deep water on 21st and 22nd. But no relief was provided. I would like to submit that when our Prime Minister pays a visit to Nepal and his counter part in Nepal visits our country, much publicity is given to the Kamali and Pancheswari projects for flood control but these projects are not implemented. The Government should state as to when this project is likely to be started so that flood and drought problem is solved in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): I come afrom an area which is totally flood affected. These two districts are Darbhanga and Samastipur. One of our colleague has just now enumerated the long term policy. Central Government can improve the lot of Bihar if it so desires. In one part of he state, there is flood and the other part is facing drought. The flood water can be utilised through canals but 86%. If water goes waste. I would tehrefore urge upon the Government to formulate a long term policy in this regard. It is not within the reach of Bihar Government. Bihar Government has asked for an assistance of Rs. 600 crore. This amount should be provided to the state.

Secondly, I would like to say that a population of fifty to sixty thousand people is surrounded with flood water on delhi-Wazirabad route. The situation is very critical in that area and there is fear of outbreak of Cholera. One child dies of drwing. Therefore, relief work should be started after proper assesement. Shri V. P Singh visited Ludhiana. He is not feeling well, so he cannot come here. The Government had declared an assistance of Rs. one crore for the flood victims in Punjab. Due to floods in Rohtak, Haryana Government has demanded maximum assistance. Bihar Gov-

ernment has asked for assistance of Rs. 600 crores. This amount should be provided at an early date.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI RAM PRASAD SINGH (Bikramganj): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The bell is being rung. Now there is Quorum. Please continue.

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA (Jaipur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at present 2160 villages and 26 cities and towns are submerged in the flood water in the country and more than 300 persons have died. This year due to flood 11 persons have died and 14,644 houses have collapsed in my state Rajasthan. 108 houses have collapsed in Padmapur alone in Ganganagar district due to breaches in Satrah Bibi canal and you will be surprised to know that all the collapsed houses belonged to Harijans. Harijan settlements have been damaged but no relief has been provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund and since the state is under the President's rule, the State Government could not rehabilitate them. This is not a problem of Rajasthan alone. A number of villages are affected by floods every year in the country. Most of North India is affected by floods this year. I would like to submit that this destruction occurred due to carelessness of the employees of the Irrigation Department. The villagers are not getting adequate compensation due to failure of officials to analyse the situation properly. The central Government should send a team of officials in Rajasthan and funds should be provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund in advance. Crops in hundreds of acres of land have submerged in several villages between Hanumangarh and Shri Ganganagar due to the breach in the canal. It has appeared in the

newspapers that the former Chief Minister of the state, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat and several other leaders of the state are visiting these places. But it is a matter of regret that the entire administration which is under the Governor's rule is not paying attention in this regard. The administration have also not given any details in this regard. Moreover, the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who is elected from Sikar Constituency of the state has also not mentioned the loss of crops in the state while presenting the data in this regard. Several states like Assam, Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan are in the grip of floods. The Hon. Prime Minister should provide assistance to Rajasthan, and the Government of Rajasthan which is under the President's rule should make arrangements to rehabilitate the affected people. Earlier, floods were not heard of in Rajasthan. A permanent solution should be sought to prevent floods in the entire country. This is my submission.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shri Nitish Kumar for initiating discussion on the situation created by the floods in the country.

This issue is very important because even now, in the month of July life and properties of lakhs of people are in danger in Uttar Pradesh Bihar West Bengal or Assam. What are the reasons behind these floods. Even after 46 years of independence, the Government of India not taking any initiative to seek permanent solution of this problem. Every year the Government releases funds in the name of Calamity Relief Fund but that money is misappropriated. The funds do not reach the affected poor people in the villages. This is a scheme to loot the Government as well as the people. These schemes, as well as the construction work on embankments on rivers, should also be stopped. The Government should take initiative to seek a permanent solution of this problem.

just now, our hon. leader Ram Vilas Paswan was speaking on this issue and after that Shri

[Sh.. Devendra Prasad Yadav]

Nitish Kumar and Shri Manmohan Singh also expressed his views on this issue. 37% areas of the entire country is affected by floods and in Bihar alone, 70 percent area is affected by floods. 17 districts in Bihar like Madhubani, Saharasa, Madhepura, Araria, Katihar or any other district, are reeling under the suri to the floods. About 4 crore people are badly affected by floods in North Bihar alone. Therefore, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the destruction casuied by floods in Bihar. Just now the hon. Minister of state is present here. I would like that the hon. Minister of Agriucture should waive off aldn revenue in such flood-prone areas, only then relief works can be undertaken in true sense. Relief works cannot be carried out by merely providing funds.

Mr. Charman, Sir, the Government used to announce here that it is going to release funds from the Calamity Relief Fund, tomorrow the hon. Prime Minister is going on the tour of flodd affected areas in Bihar. My friend Shri Nitish Kumkar has rightly expressed his apprehensions that this problme would not be solved mereely by releasing money from Calamity Relief Fund. An amount of Rs. 600 crore is required in Bihar to start relief work at war footing when this amount is released. Only then relief works can be undertaken at war-footing. So far as the permanent solutin is concerned..(Interruptions) I would like to state my last point that the main reason behind loss of life and property due to floods is that we do not have an adequate network of forecasting. The Government is not spending money on establishing such a network. They should spent an adequate amount on this network also. I demand, this from the Government through you this from the Government.

I would also like to say that floods do not occur from those rivers which originat in Bihar bue du to rivers originating in Nepal and flowing in Bihar. Due to heavy rain in the Himalayas, all the riverse like Kosi-Bagmati or Adwara group originalyt from Nepal. (Interruptions) I am com-

ing to the last point.

I am coming to the last point high level dams should be constructed in Barah area of Kosi river so that hydro-electricity may also be generated from it. Hydroelectricity can be generated at such a large scale in the area that Power can be supplied not only to Bihar but also to five other states of North India, Uttar Pradesh, Assam, West Bengal etc. Electricity can be provided to farmers at cheaper rates. Nepal also needs power. Therefore, the Governetrms of Nepal and India should agree on the construction of high level dam jointly on Kosi by conluding an agreement in this regard. Concrete constructive works can hot be done merely by conducting a survey and submitting feasibility report. There is a similar proposal for cosntruction of high level dam on Kamala river, at Sisampani, a water catchment area in Nepal. No progrss has been made on this poject so far. Similarly, there is proposal for construction of a high level dam at Lunter on bagmati river. I demand that high level dams should be constructed as soon as possible in all these places. The Government of India and Nepal should take initatives in this regard.

19.00 hrs.

Since we come from the region contiguous to Nepal-border that is affected by floods...(Interruptions).

I am now coming to the last point . I would like to submit that if the high level dams are constructed over Bagmati river in Lunter area over Kosi and kamla rivers in barch and Sispani ares respectively which are in Nepal then we will not only get Hydrs-electricity but the threat posed by the floods would also be qver. Moreover, the requirements of water for irrigation would alos be fulfilled ; but this has not been done so far because of defective planning , the people of those areas are not getting any relief from floods. Therefore a proper plan should be chalked out to construct multipurposs high level dams. This is my submission.

[English]

MR CHARIMAN: Hon Agriculture Minister

SHRI BHOGENDRAGHA (Madhubani)
You have called my name

MR CHAIRMAN: It if goes on the whole purpose will be defeated. Sorry. You can speak next time.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRIBALRAMJHAKHAR) Mr Chairman Sir actually the matter is *(Interruptions)*

SHRILAKSHMINARAINMANITRIPATHI (Kasierganj) Mr Chairman Sir those who approach humbly and politely are not allowed to speak but those who talk roughly and who show utter disregard to the authorities are allowed to speak. Those who occupy front benches are allowed to speak *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN Please sit down. Do not record anything. Nothing is to be recorded.

*** (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JHAKHAR) Mr Chairman Sir after listening to the submission of the hon Members I have come to the conclusion that they were there was a flood of anger which has now subsided.

Mr Chairman Sir I fully share the anguish of by the hon Members in the wake of damage caused by the floods that has rendered people homeless. There is no denying this fact. There is no more reason also that has added to their agony but whom should tell that because the hon

Members left after expressing their views. Now I am in a fix as to whom should I make my own submission. I fully share the views that have been expressed by you. You were in the Government earlier. So you must be realising the situation that I am in. There is no difference in the situations between the one you had faced and the one I am now facing. I cannot give false assurances. I am not in the habit of making false statements. I say only what I can do. Now let me explain my plan to you *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra) If we do not expect from Government of India then where should we look for help? Should we seek help from Russia?

SHRIBALARAMJHAKHAR So long you and we are here as Members of the Parliament, we all make the Government. The responsibility rests on both the sides. The hon Members have expressed their views and feelings. I am worried because I am affected on three accounts. Firstly being a farmer I feel hurt when the crops of farmers are damaged. Secondly I am the Minister of Agriculture at present and therefore I am more likely to suffer a loss. If there is fall in production of food grains how can I face the people?

Thirdly what will be there from to show. Therefore I am also worried over the fact that the floods cause damage and add to the misery of the people. Everybody has said that here should be a pre-planning. How should we plan to avoid the reoccurrence of floods? Actually a planning board has also been set up and I have the details with me. But the question is how to proceed with the Plan? When I was engaged in farming and was not here in politics I used to say that there should be pre-planning since we suffer damages ever after investing so much money every year. I used to say that we must construct dams. When I look at and the river Brahmaputra I find that if we utilise the water of that river we can generate 40 thousand megawatt electricity. I know that but the point is from where should we raise the money to begin work on that project. I

[Sh. Balram Jakhkar]

was a Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Irrigation at the time when Bharhars dam on Vyas river were committee. I thought that we would be able to control the situation. I happened in the year 1975 when I was a deputy Minister and there was a severe flood while the dam over Bhakhara river had already been constructed. There was also floods in the river Vyas/ I was able to control the situation upto 80 percent, but when there is a natural calamity, things go beyond control. 450 mm rainfall was recorded in one particular night at patiala.

One of our colleagues was just now referring about Rhine river. A large area of France has been inundated due to the floods in Rhine. There is severe floods in Mississippi river. So there are floods in those places also. Nothing can be predicted about such nature calamities. Government should also do its best, Plans should be made. The situation in the country would have been different if no dams would have been to over Bhakhra a Vyas rivers. There would have been fall in product in foodgrains, We would not be producing as much foodgrains as we are now. An hon. Member has raised these points and has suggested that Minister of also should have been present have Irrigation because all these matters come under them. Ultimately, I have to bear the overall effect and the farmer to have to bear it. It also influences the economic condition of the country. production of foodgrains is also affected. Old projects should be completed as soon as possible. delay would cause further damage. Shri Jagmeet Singh Brar ahs left the House. He was saying that their dam has not been completed and that I am pursuing the matter seriously. Initially, there was no decision in this regard. I said that it would be tackled later on. If their is to be constructed, then it should constructed. There were severe floods in 1988. The construction work remained suspended and work could not be carried out. Some defects developed in tonnels which had to be repaired again. That is why work is delayed. Again, there were severe

floods in the river Ravi. Its capacity was one and a half lakhs Cusecs, but there was a sudden discharge of four and a half lakhs cusecs. This worsened the situation further so such things have also to be kept in mind. There things are bound to happen. Such natural calamities do happy? There are so many factors and you are also aware of them. We are harming our own interest. We have to be conscious as to how can we protect our environment? We have to see how can we avoid soil erosion and accumulation of silt? There is no greenery, no trees, nothing is left. This results in droughts. The Ministry, of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministry of Irrigation should come together to formulate a scheme. There should then be efforts to mobilise funds. That alone will serve the purpose. You wanted to know as to why funds were not being sought from the World Bank and from the I M F for this purpose. They are also unable to provide us funds. There can be such requirements even in future. We will have to mobilise funds from our own resources. For that purpose that state and Central Governments should work jointly. There should be co-ordination between them. Our co-ordinated efforts can be the desired results.

[English]

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijaywade) Sir, even when the Maharashtra Government has requested the Central Government to issue permission to raise the irrigation Bonds from the farmers who are going to be benefited, our Finance Minister has not yet accepted.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR There must be some constraints. Otherwise, they would not have done it.

[Translation]

I am not aware of the action taken by the Ministry of Finance. They may have their own limitations.

Nitishji was referring to the Calamities Relief Fund I am anguished over the operation of this Fund It was started in 1990 and the funds were exhausted in 1995 I have already written from my own side Our Ministry has also sent its recommendation for a review Shri Jagmeet Singh and a few more Members were saying that they demanded Rs 600 crore There was a demand of Rs 450 crore from Haryana No State demands less than that there is a saying in Punjab -

Ghar wich Nahin daone Amma Chali Bhunane

The money is all your nobody else's what is required is to decide how to invest

There were floods in Punjab in 1988 Late Sh. Rajiv Gandhi and myself travelled 300-400 kilometres by jeep We visited each and every village Similarly there was a severe drought in Rajasthan The Centre had provided a financial assistance of Rs 600 crores while the share of the State Government was Rs 200 crore At that time we were capable of providing that much aid There was no C R F at that time Now after setting up of C R F we have to operate through proper channel We try to provide assistance but the channel of providing assistance is a matter of debate

Today for the first time have received a demand from the Government of West Bengal for sending a team There similar demand has also been received from the Government of Bihar If the Government had resources I would have done it without any delay

[English]

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN The point is the people are drowning At that moment who will send the Boat for their rescue? Will the central Government send it or the State Government send it?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR It is the people

on the spot that is the state Government and the machinery therein who have to do it We can only coordinate certain things It is we who get things done through the State Governments They are our implementing agencies - not anybody else It is not we who go there It is they who have to look into it

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN Is the Prime Minister visiting Bihar tomorrow?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR I will enquire about it and let you know later on

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN He should have some money with him (Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR We have provided funds for every affected state (Interruptions) We have already visited Assam and provided funds for the same I will apprise you with the details in this regard

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh) It is something very strange that every newspaper is carrying this news that the Prime Minister is visiting Bihar tomorrow and you do not even know about it You are Minister in charge

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR It is his programme

SHRI NITISH KUMAR No he is going there to assess the floods situation there

[English]

He is going to visit the floods affected area Even you are not informed of it This has been published in the newspapers today that he is going to Bihar But you do not know What type of collective responsibility do you have?

[Translation]

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR We are sending

[Sh. Balram Jhakar]

out team. This team is all set to visit these areas. There is no problem in it. I will also visit the place if I am member of the team but out team is ready to visit. At present, the Government of Bihar has funds worth rupees 97 crores. I have rupees 96 crores with me, if they ask for more funds I will then and there release the same. So far, I have not been asked to release the funds. A demand was made for rupees 600 crores. As and when I receive I will release the funds. I will provide whatever funds I have. The Prime Minister is also visiting the area. The Government of Bihar has not so far informed about any loss of life. If there is any then relief will be provided from the Prime Ministers Relief Fund for the same. We will also make efforts to provide help through Jawahar Rozgar Yozna and Accelerated Water Scheme as well. This is the procedure we follow for providing assistance for the houses which give way due to floods. The same methods was adopted for providing assistance in Tamilnadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Pondicherry and West Bengal. This sort of help was also provided to Punjab and Uttar Pradesh and all such places.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna):
Would you please tell us the amount which you are releasing in Bihar?

SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR: Whatever I have, I will release that immediately. The annual amount of CRF is 35 crores rupees and I have just now received a report that 33 persons have died in Bihar.

[English]

I have received a report today.

[Translation]

A report from West Bengal has also been received today. A report from your state was also received yesterday. I had pointed into to one of from hon. Members Rajya Sabha. I had said that I did not have any information about it, an

Hon. Members went there and did this whole job for me. He has provided me all necessary information, the places where deaths have occurred, the names of the persons died and all such information. He has made my job easy.

[English]

We will do everything which is possible for us. About West Bengal, villages affected are 332; districts affected are two; population affected is 16 lakh 68 thousand; damage to the crop is of the order of one lakh 36 thousand and human life lost is 236.

[Translation]

More deaths occurred in Punjab, it does not mean that we lacked resources. We have 36 floods forecasting stations in Bihar.

[English]

36 floods forecasting stations have been set up only in Bihar by the Central Water Commission and 17 of them are in North Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The floods forecasting stations do not make forecasts in this regard. If these stations inform us at least about the magnitude of the ensuing floods then we can manage the things properly. Three years ago, there was floods in our village in which 14 persons died. If these stations at least inform us about the magnitude of the floods in advance then so that we can shift the people to safer places.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I can cite an example in this regard. Last time when there was floods in Tamilnadu and Karnataka, the stations had made forecast and as a result of that a number of lives were saved. Otherwise the loss of life and property would have been much much higher. It is announced through radio. I am telling you the same thing.

[Sh. Balram Jakhkar]

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SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: In our case, in West Bengal and particularly in Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar, flood came up suddenly. It is also reported in different newspapers that the Chukha Hydel Project suddenly released water. That is the main reason. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We shall be taking up this matter with the Bhutanese Government. It should be done like that. And that is the main reason.

If it is not under control, we shall be taking up the matter with the Bhutanese and it should be done like that. In Bhakra Management Board, they have got flood release control with this forecasting. They can say how much water they are going to release from the dam, if the dam is overflowing or things like that. Otherwise, in this Northern region, we have not got any forecasting for the weather as a whole. We are going to set up that here. But, due to paucity of funds, so far, we could set up that only in certain States which had this cyclonic belt and in the belt which is more prone to cyclones. There, it has been done.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Please take up the matter with the concerned Government.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We will take it up, if it is going to help us. There is no problem about that. It does not cost us anything. And, it saves so many lives and other things. That is how it is, on our behalf, we are trying to do whatever we can. What more can I say? I can convey to the Irrigation Ministry the consensus among all of us that we should coordinate and implement the flood control measures.

I have got some information with me and it is the same thing about Patiala. Hashimara in West Bengal received 14" of rain in one day, that is, on 21st July. And that, I think, was the highest in the world; same is the case at Cherrapunji also. That is what it is.

SHRI PIUSTIRKEY (Alipurduars): Please visit these places and see for yourself.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will come. If you let me go, I will go, I am being held up here. Otherwise, there is no problem. I want to go everywhere. I went to Assam. Shri Nurul Islam has gone, but, he was saying something.

[Translation]

I had been to Assam as well as to Tripura. The funds meant for Assam are still lying with me. A sum of Rs. 65 crores meant for Assam is still lying with me.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: After being you we feel greatly relieved.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I am always at your service.

[English]

I want to share the grief, love and affection of my people. That is what I want. My duty is to serve my duty is to be able to be available to them.

[Translation]

Just now, we were talking about Rajasthan. Rajasthan has a balance of rupees 198 crores. During last year, nothing was spent from this account. We cannot solely depend on Calamity relief Fund. We can spend as per the demand of the situation. Now we are releasing funds on the basis of the average of the last ten years. Some state have ten crores rupees some have fifteen crores. Bihar has Rs. 35 crores. To my mind, it is a meagre amount for such a large state. We should provide funds where it is needed most... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: It was decided by the Ninth Finance Commission that a mid term appraisal would be made and we would review it. This was stated from your side. Has there been any progress in this regard?