

over the Fijians of Indian origin in commerce and trade

(b) we have not received any indication of appreciable investment in India by Fijians of Indian origin in response to the Government of India's new economic policy

Work Assessment of BrahmaMeputra Board

4597 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether any assessment of working of the Brahmaputra Board since its inception has been made,

(b) if so, the income thereof, and

(c) the estimated expenditure incurred on this Board so far and that likely to be incurred during 1993-94?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P K THUNGON) (a) and (b) The working of the Brahmaputra Board was last reviewed by the High Powered Brahmaputra Review Board in July, 1990 the outcome included prioritisation on the implementation of schemes under the Master Plans, integrated watershed development, construction of important drainage schemes to mitigate good problems and setting up a river hydraulic research station for model studies

(c) A total amount of Rs 73.5 crores is likely to be released as grants-in-aid to Brahmaputra Board up to March, 1993. An outlay of Rs 14.10 crores is envisaged for 1993-94

12.00 hrs

RE STARVATION DEATHS IN ORISSA BIHAR AND MADHYA PRADESH AND IN SOME OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY DUE TO SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS

[*Translation*]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) Mr Speaker Sir the alarming situation of drought that prevails in many parts of the country due to the failure of rain has been the subject of discussion in this House several times. 8 districts of Orissa, Palamau and Garhwa districts of Bihar and Sarguja district of Madhya Pradesh are facing severe drought conditions. There have also been reports of starvation deaths in those areas. Our colleague Shri Lokanath Choudhury had forcefully raised in this House the issue about the tragic situation in Orissa. There has been a certain activity at the centre following that. However, that is not adequate.

This problem cannot be solved by holding talks in Delhi. I had an occasion to visit Kalahandi two days back. What I saw and heard there has made me apprehensive.

Mr Speaker Sir, the situation there is serious. The coming three months are going to be very crucial. If the Centre and the State Governments do not join hands to start joint rescue operations on a large scale in order to provide employment and food to the people, the number of deaths which is now in hundreds will go in thousands.

Today's newspapers carry news item pertaining to 130 deaths in two blocks—Pafuna and Malkangin of Orissa. Today morning in Bihar

SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK (KALAHANDI) Mr Speaker, Sir, I represent that constituency, so I know better

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: You too can air your views. They will be welcome.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Shri Lalmuni Chaube - the President of the Legislative party of the Bihar unit of Bharatiya Janata Party had visited me this morning and he handed over a list of those persons to me along with their address who are alleged to have died as a result of starvation. These people belong to the districts of Palamau and Garhwa. He stated that he was an eye witness to these incidents, some of which are really tragic. A similar situation exists in Orissa also.

There should be no delay on the part of the Governments of the affected states in gathering information in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, now these news make the head lines of the Newspapers. Is the situation so bad? Can't there be consensus on the quantum of crisis? When different nations all over the world can come together to extend help to Somalia, why the centre and State Governments of our country can not come together to jointly combat this crisis caused by severe drought? Can't all the political parties be united to solve this problem or atleast to grapple with this problem? It is not a political question so I would not like to look at it from that angle. I have with me the correspondence that has been done between the Centre and the Government of Orissa in this regard. The Government of Orissa has stated that 8 of its districts are facing scarcity conditions. Certain problems are very old. I had gone to Khariyar. Shrimati Indira Gandhi had gone there in 1965 when a crisis surfaced in Khariyar. 20 years thereafter Shri Rajiv Gandhi also went there in 1985. Now Shri Narasimha Rao is going to Khariyar on the 4th of the month. It means that the permanent solution to the problem was never sought. Water projects are lying incomplete. I am having the details of one water project which is lying incomplete for 13 years. That is Lower Indrawati and Upper Indrawati Proj-

ect. Why is not a permanent solution being sought? So besides, concrete step, immediate steps are also required to be taken in this regard.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government of Orissa had asked for funds. It was stated that though Orissa Government was spending the money it had yet that was not adequate. It is the question of providing employment to lakhs of people in 3 months and employment being provided to them so that they are able to feed themselves. The statutory minimum wage there has been fixed at Rs. 25, but there are places where only Rs. 10 or Rs. 11 is being provided to the labour. I would like to read out a part of the answer that has been by the hon. Minister of Agriculture Shir Jakhra Sahab in this regard.

[English]

"Central Government is required to intervene and provide additional central assistance only in the case of a calamity warranting handling at the national level "

[Translation]

The Centre is of the view that the situation there is not so serious, yet as such, it does not warrant Central assistance. The money that the Government has....(Interruptions)

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the same reply was given to the Government of Maharashtra. The same reply was given when Maharashtra was hit by drought. So there should be half an hour discussion on it... (Interruptions)

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: That is why I have raised this issue. It is good you are extending your support (Interruptions)

SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK (Kalahandi): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Prime Minister has sanctioned rupees one crore for

Kalahandi. I should be given an opportunity to express my views on it. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: You may speak later.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I just now suggested whether all the political parties cannot work as one way of working in such manner is to give up the habit of speaking at a time by the Members. Just see, I am speaking at the moment and you are also speaking at the same time.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, what I want to submit is that centre should adopt an attitude of co-operation. The Government of Orissa States that it has collected Rs. 70 crore from different sources which, however, is inadequate. I do agree that the amount is not adequate. Bihar has its own problem. I am, having the details of an incident which relates to a mother who cuts her starving children into pieces and thrown them. Prabhadevi, the wife of Mr. Vijay Pal, village Bhikda under Vishrampur Police Station unable to bear the agony of her starving children slaughtered her 4 year daughter Anita, 2 year son Kamlesh Pal and a new born baby of 2 month and ultimately she ends her immolating herself. I feel it is a fact. In the event, of such incidents it is the duty of the concerned State Government to investigate the matter immediately. With a view to check recurrence of such incidents, it is necessary that relief operation, should be started without any delay.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask whether the Parliament does not have any responsibility in this regard. It is not the question whether the problem concerns the Central Government or the State Government. The question does not relate to party politics also. I do not relish the idea of merely holding discussion in the House on the reports of starvation deaths received from the different parts of the country without taking any concrete step. I, therefore, suggest

that an All Party Parliamentary Committee should be formed and this Committee should visit the places from where starvation deaths have been reported following severe drought. The Committee should take stock of the situation and then impress both the Central and the State Governments to take effective measures. The House will be on recess from 1st of April. The entire House is aware of this problem and it is distressed over it. So, let us take a concrete step in this direction by setting up an all Party Committee and send it to the affected places. Let us hope by the time we reassemble the report of the Committee would have been received and with that the State Governments too would fight the drought situation on a war footing.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is no shortage of foodgrains in the country. However, it is not being made despatched to the places where it is required. The needy persons are not getting it. Lakhs of people are leaving their homes in search of employment. But what would happen to those who are not in a position to leave their homes? There are old men, widows, children and handicapped persons who would be no more after some time. Relief must be provided to them and for that purpose there should be an integrated national policy.

The complaint of Shri Mutterwar do suggest that there is ample scope for improvement in the policy. So, let us collectively impress upon the Government to bring about change in its policy and to take immediate steps to fight out the drought situation.

SHRI SUBASH CHANDRA NAYAK: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I represent Kalahandi Constituency which is figuring in the Newspapers everyday. I held talks with the hon. Prime Minister on several occasions about the question of development of my district and the progress of the poor and he was kind enough to sanction Rs. 1 crore for

the immediate implementation of the development programmes in Kalahandi, Bolungir and Koraput. A Central team was dispatched, there and it has since submitted its report. There is a Five Year Plan regarding the progress of the poor. Discussion with M.Ps of Orissa and Bihar has already been held about the problem of Kalahandi. I hope a decision would be reached in 2-4 days.

I appreciate Shri Vajpayee Ji who has taken fair to speak sympathetically about Kalahandi, I am thankful to him for that. I have on many occasions raised in this House as also brought it to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister that the Government of Orissa has been neglecting the people of Kalahandi. The money sent for Kalahandi from the Centre does not reach there in full. I would like to cite the example of Madanpur and Rampur which were hit by floods. As a result thereof the houses of the poor were damaged. However, the relief of Rs. 500 per family was provided to the affluent while no relief was provided to the poor. When I contacted the Government of Orissa for the facts in this regard, they did not respond to my request. There were 12 casualties in Lubengarh also. The benefit of old age pension has not been extended to this area. So many deaths have occurred there. Under the leadership of Shri Ghasiram Mishra, the hunger strike is being observed for the last three days in Madanpur and Rampur. The poor people should be provided accommodation immediately. This is the demand of the poor citizens. The money released for Kalahandi should be spent in Kalahandi itself.....(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, he is saying that it has been discussed with the M.P. from Bihar. Where was this discussion held?(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE

(Bolpur): Other Members from Orissa are also there. Let them also associate. You give them half a minute.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the drought situation in Bihar is turning grim and severe. Be it South Bihar or North Bihar, 90 per cent of ponds and lakes have dried up. Because of severe starvation conditions and unemployment, 8 lakh agricultural labourers are fleeing to Punjab, Haryana and Delhi from their villages. In the absence of job opportunities, the condition is becoming more and more miserable. Shri Vajpayee has also talked about Palamau and Garhwa. The condition of Garhwa and Palamau is definitely very miserable. So far as the question of starvation deaths is concerned, the Central Government is neglecting Bihar State. The Central Government had sent a team to Bihar to assess the situation of drought there. The Government is silent on the report of the team (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: There are many hon. Members to speak here. Please conclude.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: This is the document. The Bihar Government has sought additional financial aid of Rs. 1254 crore from the Centre. The Central Government makes announcements every day in newspapers in this regard. Sometimes it declares that it is releasing Rs. 90 crore and sometimes it says that it is releasing Rs. 52 crore. Not a single paisa has been given to Bihar. Therefore, I demand that the Bihar Government should be given additional financial assistance as per the memorandum submitted to the Centre on the 16th October.....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: When you have been given time to speak you could come to the point.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Taking into account the serious drought condition prevailing in Bihar, the Central Government should release Rs. 1254 crore immediately. There should not be an part politics in it. It is a humanitanan question We all should unitedly face this natural calamity....[Interruptions]

MR. SPEAKER: When you are asked to sit down after conclusion of your speech, you should do so. There are others too to speak

[English]

SHRI SHIVAJI PATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): The senousness of the situation is not really being realises by the Government. After the matter was raised in the House, the Prime Minister met the MPs from Orissa and a central team had also gone there. But what has really happened after that? The Prme Minister sanctioned only Rs. 1 crore from the Prme Minister's Fund. Whatever other money has been sanctioned, that has really been adjusted against the State Government allocation from the Centre

The State Government has also formulated a Rs. 70 crore project, but that is from various other funds earmarked for the work in the area earlier. Eleven distncts of the State are affected by drought and the situation is very critcal in these four distncts where starvation deaths and sale of children is taking place. But in that area, the work on the Upper Indravati Irrigation Project has stopped. The work on the Tunk Proect has also stopped. No steps were taken for lift irrigation work.

Since there is no work left for the people to do, people have started leaving their villages. Besides this, social and economic problems are also there. So, all these things have to be gone into deep for which a

parliamentary delegation should go there. The representative of the State Government and the Central Government should sit together and work out a comprehensive project which can be started on a war footing.

SHRI MRUTYUNIYA NAYAK (Phulaoni) Phulbari district is a drought prone area. Some parts of the distnct were affected already by the flood because there are hilly lands and high hills. So, there was no water. Rabi and Khanf crops were affected because of the after-math drought conditions. Simultaneously, Denkanal, which is an adjacent distnct in my constituency, has been also equally affected by drought

Already, the Central Team had been to Orssa. Phulbari and Denkanal could not be taken up for appraisal by the Central Observer Committee. Now, there is a report of starvation deaths in my constituency as well as the constituency of the Minister of Information and Broadcasting. He cannot speak because he is a Minister. So, on his behalf I want to raise this matter. Phulbari and Denkanal are equally affected by drought and flood. There is no scope to work. Hence, immediate provision should be made for providing adequate funds to meet the situation. I hope they will take appropriate steps in this direction.

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 Speaker, Sir, this matter has come up in the House more than once and I had earlier, when it had come up, informed the House that the Prime Minister would meet the Members of Parliament from the concerned State. He did have one round.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): It was said on last Monday also.

MR. SPEAKER: Look, you are disturbing now.

[*English*]

There are other points I have to make.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am not disturbing. You might recall, it was stated last Monday also. The meeting has not been held so far.

SHR RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: I am not contesting on what my friend has said. But he had a meeting with the Orissa MPs and after that a Central team had gone there. It is a matter well beyond any groups or partes, and it is not even the State or the Central Government, it is a matter of which all of us should be concerned with and we are concerned with it.

As the hon. Member of Parliament, Shri Vajpayee had mentioned the he would like to have a parliamentary delegation to visit, that is for the Parliament to decide but from our side we are doing our best. The meeting with the Members of Parliament from Bihar and Madhya Pradesh will also take place this week. Last week, there was a little shortage of time but we will see that they meet. The problem is addressed on a war-footing and we are not treating it as a normal issue at all. It is a calamity which must be looked into
(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I would like to consult the Leaders and try to see as to how we can send a team to these areas and find out what can be done

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA: I need your protection, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: What protection? I have said that I am going to send a team.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MRUTYUNJAYA NAYAK: Sir, the Minster has to say something.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: In case a team is going from the Parliament, from the Government whatever assistance is required and if an officer is to accompany from the Central Government, we will definitely make all the arrangements.

[*Translator*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the issue I am raising is related to the two departments. The one is related to the department of law and order in Uttar Pradesh and the another is related to the Ministry of Railways. I am distressed to inform that the president of our East Delhi Janata Dal, Shri Anil Kumar Garg aged 32 years was murdered in train on the 23rd while coming from Kanpur. Just few days ago, we had discussed a lot about Railway Protection Force in this very august House. But on the 23rd, he was murdered in a first class compartment. I am telling this only because it is related to the Railway Protection Force. It shows that if passengers are not safe even in the first class compartment, then how can the safety of other railway passengers be ensured? Secondly, we apprehend a conspiracy behind this murder. I have talked to the members of his family also in this connection. Our State party President Shri Viresh Pratap Chaudhary has written a letter to the Lt. Governor in which he has expressed his doubts. Since he used to visit Kanpur every Tuesday in connection with his cable manufacturing business, there-