

affairs of the Bank and the Bank is known for its scandalous activities all over the world. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Let us be fair.

(*Interruptions*)

17.24 hrs.

At this stage Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav left the House

MR. SPEAKER: Let us resume the discussion on flood and drought situation. Shri Vijaykumar Raju.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193
—Contd.

17.24½ hrs.

Flood and drought situation in the country—Contd.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narasapur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country is subjected to floods and droughts every year. Much of life and property is being lost due to these natural calamities. Since the successive governments have failed to take suitable measures to combat these natural calamities, we continue to lose precious life and enormous property every year.

17.25 hrs.

[SHRI P. M. SAYEED *in the Chair.*]

Standing crops are being washed away by the floods. Roads get damaged and bridges collapse. It has almost become a regular feature. Certain regions in the country receive excessive rains, while certain other regions receive no rainfall at all. Even within one state, certain areas receive

good rainfall, and in other areas the rainfall will be very scanty. Mansoon varies from state to state and from area to area. We suffer heavy losses due to erratic mansoon. Hence it is high time the Govt. comes out with certain well defined policies and programmes to tame the fury of these natural calamities.

In this connection, let me say that the deforestation is going on unabatedly. As the forests disappear, naturally the rainfall comes down. The result is drought. Hence, the Govt. of India should give more importance to afforestation programme. The afforestation programme must be implemented with all sincerity and earnestness.

Sir, as I said earlier, droughts and floods are a regular feature in the country. One of the reasons why we get floods every year, is the siltation of river beds. All the major rivers in the country especially in our area, the river beds are heavily silted. As a result the rivers are not in a position to accommodate the excess water they receive during the monsoons. Hence desiltation of the rivers has to be taken up on war-footing. That way, you can reduce the occurrence of floods. Sir, the delta region in coastal Andhra is much more vulnerable to floods. The main reason for the floods is the heavy siltation of the rivers there. This siltation has already caused enormous damage to the existing drainage system there. The drainage system is also more than a century old. Hence I appeal to the Union Government to desilt the rivers and undertake the repair works of drainage system in this region immediately. Otherwise, I am afraid, Sir, the loss of life and property will be much more in the years to come.

Sir, the scientists are of the opinion that the sea-level in costal Andhra will go up by at least 3 to 4 feet in the coming fifty years time. Should

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

[Sh. BH. Vijayakumar Raju]

it take place, hundreds of villages will be submerged in the sea and the e will be a heavy loss, both to life and valuable property. So, the Government should examine the matter and take necessary steps to avert the situation.

Sir, the meteorological Department is working satisfactorily. They should try to improve the accuracy in predicting the floods in advance, so that people can be shifted in advance to safer places before flood destroy them. Similarly State Governments should also take necessary steps in evacuating the people to safer places. Loss of life can be minimised if we take precautionary steps well in advance. This is the responsibility of State Governments. The National Flood Management should be in constant touch with the State Governments in controlling and combating the floods. First of all, we have to tame all the big rivers in the country. The *bunds* are pretty old. They need immediate repairs. The repairing work should be taken up extensively and immediately. The breach in bunds usually result in a flood. Hence such things should not be allowed to happen. For that we need money. We can get the necessary funds from the farmers, from the World Bank or Asian Bank. This stupendous task has got to be taken up immediately without further loss of time. Better management of our precious water resources is the need of the hour. Otherwise, we may have to blame only ourselves if the resources dwindle down.

Sir, monsoon is quite erratic this year. Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Orissa, and Karnataka are some of the States which were affected very badly. Many people have lost their lives. In Assam 14 persons died on account of floods. Another 12 persons died in Madhya Pradesh. In Arunachal Pradesh the toll is 25. In Gujarat and Orissa it is 7 persons each. It shows that many areas in the country appears to be reeling under floods. Due to floods

in river Cauvery in Karnataka, the standing crops in nearly 50 thousand acres have been washed away. Nearly 20 thousand people were affected. Many bridges have come down. Traffic movement has come to a stand still. News of floods causing enormous damage in many parts of country are still pouring in.

Sir, drought has become equally severe this year. Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh are some of the worst affected states in the country. The Govt. should have taken steps to meet the situation. The Govt. must assess the situation that may arise where the monsoon is likely to fail. The tube wells have to be repaired. The new tubewells have to be sunk. These are some of the steps which the State Governments have to undertake to meet the scarcity of drinking water in drought affected areas. Otherwise there will be an acute shortage of drinking water everywhere and people will be subjected to untold miseries. Hence proper planning and strategy are very much necessary. Otherwise, mere spending of money will only result in a wastage. Sir, let me give you an example. Andhra reeled under an unprecedented cyclone in May 1990. Hundreds of people have died during that cyclone. Property worth hundred of crores of Rupees has been destroyed. The loss was too heavy. The then Prime Minister, Shri V.P. Singh visited the area and announced a grant of 85 crores of rupees on the spot for helping the victims. Later on, Sir, the State has received a loan from the World Bank. But I am sorry to tell you that the amount has not been used properly. The money has been misused. I come from Delta region in Andhra I know the situation there only too well. I am representing that region in this August House. The entire drainage system is in shambles. It is 160 years old. The barrage was constructed by Sir Arthur Cotton. The situation remains the same as it used to be in those good old days. Yanam

bunds, river bunds and the drainage systems and in fact the entire set up in virtually on the verge of collapse. No repair work was taken up during the recent years. Very recently World Bank has sanctioned a loan of Rs. 300 crores. In all Rs. 700 crores have been sanctioned for the entire work. Nearly 90% of the amount that is being spent today is being misappropriated. The Government of India should take necessary steps to see that the amount allocated for certain work is appropriated properly. Otherwise, there will not be any discipline in State Governments. The Central Government should intervene, if necessary, to see that the amount is properly spent. Engineers and contractors should not be allowed to make hay while sun shines. I bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister, Shri Balram Jakhar, that nearly 1 crore and 25 lakhs of rupees have been given to the State during 1990. The amount was shown as spent. Really, no work was done. The matter was brought to the notice of State Government. 24 Engineers were suspended. An IAS Officer has investigated into the matter. It was found that no work was taken up and completed anywhere. This way, whole of the Central assistance has gone waste. We get loans from World Bank and other financial institutions. What is the use of taking loans, if we cannot spend the money for which it has been received. If we fritter away money like this, it will not be good for the country. Be it an I.M.F. loan or any other loan, we have to see to it that the money is properly and carefully spent. Otherwise we cannot progress. The country cannot prosper.

The bunds of river Godavari are pretty old. They are on the verge of collapse. If the Engineering staff wants to reach an affected area for repairing work, they must be in a position to reach the spot. The required materials have got to be taken to the spot. But if the approach roads are not well maintained, if the roads and bridges get washed away,

how can they reach the spot and carry out repair work. For all this we require a proper approach to the problem. Proper planning is necessary. Proper management is called for. We must have proper plan to combat floods and droughts. Sir, we have been discussing floods and droughts every year. Be it 8th Lok Sabha, 9th Lok Sabha or 10th Lok Sabha, the House discusses these natural calamities every year. In spite of all our discussions, the country continues to have floods and droughts every year. Life and property are being lost every year. It shows that there is no proper planning to bring down the fury of floods and droughts. Once again I emphasise that there should be a proper planning to get the country to get rid of these natural calamities.

The Central Government must be vigilant. It must take stern action against the State Governments, if they fail in their duty. The State Governments may belong to any party. If those Governments fritter away the funds, if they misappropriate money, then the Central Government should immediately take action against them. Otherwise, the amount that we borrow from international financial institutions like IMF, even at the cost of our prestige and dignity, will serve no purpose. Care should be taken to see that every paisa is spent properly.

Sir, fertilizer prices have gone up recently. Everyone is of the opinion that the prices of fertilizers should not be increased. Fertilizer price increase is not justified. We have to understand the position of the farmer. If there are excessive rains, the farmer loses, and if the rains are scanty, again it is only the poor farmer who loses. Thus the farmer is suffering loss on every count. We may have different political affiliations, yet everyone should think of the plight of the farmers. 80 per cent of our population is farmers. Our economy is dependent on agriculture. If we want that the honour and dignity of the

[Sh. BH. Vijayakumar Raju]

country are to be safeguarded, if we want that the country should produce enough grains not only to feed our people but to export also, then we have to safeguard the interests of the farmers. If we pursue wrong policies, farmers suffer and the country suffers. Hence we should put our minds together and take decisions which are beneficial to the country. The performance of State Governments is really poor. There will be no estimates, no tenders. Yet the Bills are produced and money changes hands. The same situation prevails in the States even today. The State may have a Congress Government or for that matter any other party Government, if it fails to spend the amount properly, the Central Government should at once take action against them. Already Rs. 300 crores have been given to the State. But I am afraid, the worth of the work will not exceed Rs. 25 crores or at the most Rs. 50 crores. They are not carrying on work in real terms. The farmers are subjected to too many difficulties there. We should not allow farmers to suffer any more at any cost. Now we are taking steps to liberalise our economy. Multinationals are being invited to invest more in the country. M.R.T.P. ceiling has been done away with. We are allowing 51% of the shares to foreign nationals. You say that these steps are being taken to improve our economy and make the country rich. But, Sir, the day you forget farmer, everything is lost. The country cannot survive without farmers. The policies and programmes in the country should be invariably farmer oriented ones. Increase in fertilizer prices is quite uncalled for. We have land ceiling Act. But that Act is not being implemented with sincerity and purpose. Hence the result is almost nil. Without social justice there cannot be any progress in the country. We enact laws, but nobody bothers about their implementation. The land ceiling Act was introduced in Andhra Pradesh way

back in 1969 by the present Prime Minister who was then the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. But it was not implemented. What is the reason behind its non-implementation? Lack of sincerity and commitment is the answer. The Government has no sincerity or commitment to implement the Act. Social justice cannot be ushered in by mere words. The Government needs commitment. Without commitment, there can be no social justice. Sir, I am not saying all this because I belong to an opposition party. Party considerations should not come in our way in providing social justice to every one. With single-minded devotion and purpose, the Government should work towards achieving that goal.

Sir, we have to take up construction of various projects in the country. We have to generate more power. Without power there can be no industry. Without industry there can be no employment to the people. For construction of the projects we require money. We must see that the amount we get as loans and through our own resources, is spent properly. Then only, it is possible to have more projects and more power. More power means more industries. There will be no labour unrest in the country.

Sir, natural calamities are, after all, natural Floods and droughts are a natural phenomenon. Since we are not in a position to avert them, we can atleast control their fury. Loss can be minimised through early detection and better management.

Sir, with these words, I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI BALIN KULI (Lakhimpur):
Mr. Chairman Sir, since 1950, Assam has been experiencing floods of varied magnitude almost every year. Since the great earthquake of 1950, the mighty river Brahmaputra which once enriched the soil of Assam has turned

into a river of sorrow for the plains districts of Assam extending from Dibrugarh to Dhubri.

Erosion, which either accompanies or follows the floods, also causes great devastation eating away great chunks of soil every year. A number of towns like Sadiya and Morkongselek in Upper Assam and Palasbari near Gauhati were lost completely. Dibrugarh town was also on the brink of extinction, but for Pandit Nehru's intervention who boldly accepted the challenge of nature and offered all help to save the town.

The first wave of floods this year which remained alarmingly at dangerous level for several days have created havoc in the districts of Sibsagar, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Dhema-ji, Nagaon, Darrang, Sanitpur, Dhubri and Majuli sub-Divisions. The flood situation was so critical that the people had to take shelter on the embankments without roof over their heads for many days. Majuli the largest river island in the world and centre of Assamese religion, culture and ethos is also on the verge of extinction because of erosion. Due to floods, communication has severely been disrupted and to cope up with the serious situation air dropping of food supplies has to be arranged. In most of the places Army has to be deployed to rescue the marooned people.

Floods in Assam are no longer a State problem alone. It is a national problem and it demands urgent attention and top most priority from the Central Government. Therefore, I demand that the Centre should come forward with all scientific and technological assistance. There should be short term as well as long term measures to tackle the recurring flood problem of Brahmaputra at the national level. The Brahmaputra Board should be activated. There is a need for re-orientation and re-construction of this Board immediately. Now, I would like to quote certain figures for the information of the hon. House to

show the extent of damages that Assam suffered since 1980 because of these floods.

As regards the area affected the figures in hectares are—11,60,954 for 1980; 68,85,266 for 1982; 6,94,999 for 1983; 5,80,095 for 1984; 3,73,955 for 1985; 3,74,000 for 1986; and 16,26,215 in 1987.

The number of villages affected due to floods in the year 1980 were 5980; in 1982, 3600; in 1983, 4403; 4699 in 1984; 3006 in 1985; 2181 in 1986 and 7290 in 1987.

Population affected: 33,88,878 in 1980; 14,23,000 in 1982; 21,21,75 in 1983; 18,04,113 in 1984; 19,65,820 in 1985; 21,20,500 in 1986; 47,91,032 in 1987.

Sir, the crop area affected in hectares is as follows. 8,88,375 in 1980; 35,50,000 in 1982; 1,23,886 in 1983; 1,34,308 in 1984; 69,590 in 1985; 2,26,000 in 1986; and 4,27,958 in 1987. This is the brief picture of devastating floods of Assam.

Therefore, I demand that the Central Government should come forward with some concrete measure to rescue Assam from the brink of extinction. There are many proposals which have been stopped by the Government of India. I request that these proposals should immediately be taken into consideration. With this I conclude, Sir.

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SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATI
 (Berhampur). Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of grave concern and in fact a real pity that our country is ravaged regularly by the two extremes of nature namely drought and flood. Every other day with striking regularity, we hear through media that such situations recur in different States. Hence this trend warrants a proper anticipation and preventive action by the Government rather than taking after action when the disaster has al-

[Sh. Gopi Nath Gajapathi]

ready caused havoc to the hapless villagers and crippled rural economy.

In my State of Orissa, drought conditions in Kalahandi and floods in Ganjam districts are as regular as the daily sun rise and sun set. During the 9th Lok Sabha I had suggested certain remedial measures for combating the cyclonic conditions in the flood prone coastal regions. They are:

Installing at regular intervals telecommunication systems for warning all concerned in time about impending storms and cyclones.

Providing suitable drainage canals along the coast line for preventing flooding.

Construction of circular shaped buildings for cyclonic shelters at frequent intervals along the coast.

Incidentally, extensive damage has been caused due to the recent heavy rains followed by floods during the last week of July, 1991 in the 8 districts of Ganjam, Koraput, Puri, Sambalpur, Cuttack, Kalahandi, Balasore and Dhenkanal of Orissa State.

In particular, the Upper Indravati Tunnel disaster and the wide-spread damage due to floods in Kasinagar and the surrounding areas of Ganjam district to which I belong, warrants the Government's immediate attention.

The assistance received by the flood affected victims from the Government of Orissa is found to be grossly inadequate. I, therefore, urge the Government of India and our dynamic hon. Minister of Agriculture present in this august House to be generous enough to expedite the maximum Central assistance and rush relief supplies to the flood affected victims of the above mentioned 8 districts of Orissa State, which has been ravaged by heavy floods for second successive year.

[Translation]

DR. S. P. YADAV (Sambhal) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, today the situation of flood and drought is being dis-

cussed under Rule 193. The members, who had raised this issue, have walked-out and thus we have got an opportunity to speak on this issue. And this is a matter of happiness.

(Interruptions)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, most parts of Uttar Pradesh are in the grip of drought.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (Sasaram): As a result of walk-out by the B.J.P. this House is pollution free today.

(Interruptions)

DR. S. P. YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Ruhelkhand Commissionary and Moradabad Commissionary are worst affected by drought. In the absence of rains, the standing crops like Sugar-cane and Mentha are completely destroyed on one hand and on the other hand the Kharif-crops could not be sown. Yesterday, the Finance Minister said in the House that the support price of agricultural produce would be increased. But what is the use of this increase in the support price, if crops are not sown and produced. I would like to say that due to drought Kharif crops could not have been sown yet. The farmers are very much distressed over this situation. Neither the sowing of Macca and Bazra nor the plantation of paddy has taken place there.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, besides it, there is a power crisis as well. Since the formation of the B.J.P. Government in U.P. they have not paid any attention to the problems of farmers. There is a power crisis in the whole of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in its Western districts, but the Government is not concerned about this problem. Moreover, as a result of four hours' cut in power supply, tube-wells are not functioning at all. The cleaning of those tube-wells never takes place whereas allocation is made every year by the Government for this purpose.

So far as electrification is concerned, the position is very deplorable. At some places poles have been erected,

but there is no wiring on them and at some places even the electric poles are not there. The funds allotted for these works have been swindled in the name of electric poles and wiring work. There is corruption on mass scale in the Electricity and Tubewell Department of Uttar Pradesh Government. The Government has not been paying any attention to it. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is interested only as to how the section 3/7 may be simplified. The Government has not yet issued any instructions to its officers to meet the drought situation prevailing in U.P. No inspection has been done about the drought affected areas. No action is being taken by the Government of Uttar Pradesh to meet the drought situation. No attention is being paid to waive the recovery of land revenue, to postpone the recovery of loans, to provide free education facility to farmers' children and to make provision for scholarships for their children. These facilities were being provided in the past to the farmers belonging to the drought affected areas, but the present Government is ignoring the issue. The Government of Uttar Pradesh is not aware of the problems. The Government is not aware of the problems of the drought affected farmers and the facilities required by them. The Government is worried only about two-three matters. One is how to simplify the section 3/7 and secondly it is engaged in creating Hindu-Muslim riots by raising Mandir-Masjid issue.

I would also like to highlight the situation relating to law and order. The incidents of thefts, dacoities and road holdings are a common phenomena in U.P. nowadays. The bad elements riding on horses are roaming openly and are killing the people. The people are being looted there, but the Government is not paying any attention towards the law and order situation. I would like to mention something more about the drought and flood issue.

I would like to inform the Central Government that Hasanpur embank-

ment in Moradabad district has been getting eroded for the last one year. I had raised a question here also, but no action was taken in the matter. I had requested the Central Government that it should warn the Government of Uttar Pradesh regarding the wasteful expenditure being incurred on the Thokar Bundh. The Ganga river is eroding the embankment from both the sides i.e. South and North. I had told Shri P. K. Singh, Executive Engineer that I have surveyed the barrage after having walked over five kilometers during this year and observed that the money is being wasted and erosion was going on continuously on it. When the waterlevel will rise, the Thokar bundh will also be damaged due to erosion. Two Chief Engineers have visited that place and gave their opinion that this erosion would have no effect on it and it will stop automatically in a day or two. But it did not happen so. Now the water level of Ganga river has increased further. Three Thokar bundhs have not been constructed in Gunnaur Tehsil of Badaun district. As a result four-five villages have been submerged in the Ganges water and the erosion of those villages is still going on. Public money has been wasted this year also. An enquiry committee should be constituted to look into the wastage of money which was spent on the construction of embankments in Gunnaur and Hasanpur. Engineers already knew it, even then the Government funds were wasted. There is a devastating drought and flood situation in our areas. Central Government itself can take steps and ask the Government of Uttar Pradesh to avoid the wastage of money and do something for the welfare of rural students and provide relief to them.

SHRI PIUS TIRKEY (Alipur-dwar) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, we hold discussion every year regarding drought and flood. It is not a new problem. Though the Government make some efforts, yet destruction takes place. The urgent measures are taken at that time to meet the im-

[Sh. Pius Tirkey]

mediate needs. We are also farmers and the hon. Minister of this Ministry has more knowledge than we have regarding the farmers' problems. If there is any mishap in any city, the attention of the people of the world is diverted at once towards that incident to help the affected people. A lot of money is spent even for a man and similarly a large sum is spent on maintenance also. But when the farmers need money due to natural calamities etc. it is released very late. It is thought and it appears from the behaviour of the Government that death of some people will reduce the population. The farmers are the producers who provide food for the country. But what has been provided to them in return. They are sent from one place to another to meet their requirements. I would like to know whether the Government would construct godowns of F.C.I. near their villages.

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. M. SAYEED): The time allotted for discussion was two hours. Now it is six.

[English]

What is the mood of the House? There are 23 names now before me. Therefore, I do not know whether we will be in a position to finish it even within one hour. Should we continue? I would like to know whether we can continue for another one and a half hours.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): I would like to submit that it is six now. All the people have their own engagements. Therefore, the house should be adjourned now. The discussion may be extended for two hours and we can discuss it tomorrow.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Tomorrow there is an Half-an-Hour discussion which will go up to 6.30 P.M. From 6.30

P.M. onwards up to 7.30 P.M. or 8.30 P.M. we can sit.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur): You extend the House today by one hour.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : I have a suggestion. Do not extend the House now. Tomorrow, 8 hours have been fixed for the Ministry of Industry. Tomorrow, we may discuss it for two hours and for the remaining period we can discuss the Demands of Grants of the Ministry of Industry. Therefore, we may take it tomorrow from 4 P.M. to 6.00 P.M. A decision may be taken after 6 p.m. There is no need to continue the House after 6 P.M. today.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Then, I do not think that one hour will be sufficient.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO: It is better to continue today itself.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : We have no objection. As you know, B.J.P. has already staged a walkout. The meeting of National Front has already been fixed at 6.00 P.M. today. We may not be able to participate in the discussion even if we want. So, the Left Front would be there in the House. Therefore, I suggest that it may be taken up tomorrow as it is an important and useful discussion. Today, you kindly adjourn the House in time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow at 11.00 A.M.

18.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock on Thursday, August 8, 1991/Śravaṇa 17, 1913 (Saka)