

[Shri Chitta Basu]

the spot, others died on way to hospital. More than 200 persons who have been fatally injured have been hospitalised. Among the dead, two were women and six children.

Speedy relief, proper rehabilitation and adequate compensation for the victims are the urgent needs. The Central Government owes its responsibility to provide financial assistance for the purposes as they are victims of natural calamity. The Prime Minister, in her magnanimity, should also grant some assistance from her relief funds.

I would also demand that the Government should immediately take necessary steps in order to provide adequate financial assistance for the purpose.

(viii) NEED TO COMPLETE VEERANAM PROJECT EARLY TO SOLVE DRINKING WATER PROBLEM OF MADRAS CITY

DR. V. KULANDAIVELU (Chidambaram): I would like to draw the immediate attention of the House about the serious plight of the public in general in our country with special reference to my Chidambaram Parliamentary Constituency and Madras city consequent to acute water scarcity due to monsoon failures. The present water scarcity has led to the spontaneous reaction of the Railway authorities to carry water from Vijayawada to Madras and supply of water by NLC Neyveli.

The need of the hour is to make use of the available water resources in our country on a war-footing for irrigation and domiciliary utility. I refer to the availability of enormous water resources in the lignite mines beds at Neyveli to meet the requirements as a long term measure. The NLC is beling out 1.8 lakh litres of water per minute from the Mines by giant bore wells all the 24 hours and this enormous water is getting wasted by unplanned diversion.

As a local Member of Parliament I have been repeatedly stressing the very

need and urgency of the utilisation of the water resources for irrigation and domiciliary purposes ever since my election to the Lok Sabha. I am happy to note that the present NLC Management has magnanimously responded to my earnest plea by initiating the irrigation scheme of Gangukondan lake and processing of water supply to the lakes of perurnal, Kannapuram, Kathamhai-Athanoor, Walajah, Veeranam, Willington and rivers of Sethisthope, Paravanar, Manimuthar etc. Without much financial commitments on the part of the management as a welfare measure.

At this juncture, I earnestly urge upon the Union Government to ensure revival of the feasible Veeranam Project, and avert the miseries of the millions of Madras city.

(ix) NEED FOR OPENING A BRANCH OFFICE OF EMPLOYEES-PROVIDENT FUND ORGANISATION

SHRI K. A. RAJAN (Trichur): Trichur is the centre of the State and industrially developed area. Now, Provident Fund benefits to the employees of this area (Trichur and Palghat) are not at all received in time. Only on personal contacts with the office, their grievances can be redressed in time. The employers who are meeting the entire administrative expenses of the Provident Fund offices also feel that the grievances of their employees should be dealt with without delay. This, no doubt, will act as a lubricant to the wheels of the other activities of the Provident Fund office such as settlement and loan.

Taking into account the geographical and other importance of Trichur, the Head of Employees State Insurance Corporation is situated at Trichur. For quick disposal of the Government servants' P. E. pension etc., one branch of the Accountant General's office is also functioning at Trichur. ESIC has got its own building and one five storeyed building for A. G.'s office is under construction at Trichur.