

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (Firozabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I request that the following items may be included in next week's agenda:

1. Need to connect Shikohabad and Fahehabad in Firozabad district with Agra-Oraiya gas pipe line.
2. Need to save lakhs of workers from rendering jobless due to the possible closure of factories in Firozabad and Agra districts.

12.40½ hrs.

[Translation]

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS
(GENERAL), 1994-95

(i) Ministry of Water
Resources—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset of my speech yesterday I thanked the hon. Members for raising important points during the discussion. I get this opportunity to throw light on different projects and difficulties being experienced in their execution. The hon. Members should clearly understand about the jurisdiction of this ministry. Demands are made or replies are given by us and on the basis of such points further actions can be taken. The main function of the Ministry is to formulate policy for proper development of water resources and formulate new schemes for the entire country so that surface and ground water could be developed and controlled in a planned manner. Many suggestions

have been given by the hon. Members in this regard. As I have pointed out yesterday also that if time allows me I shall speak about it and the points raised by the hon. Members during the discussion would be analysed and sent to them alongwith other relevant details, so that they may suggest proper action on them. I think the hon. Members have taken it very seriously and valuable suggestions have been given by them. Water is a natural resource and there is no dearth of it in India. Some hon. Membes have pointed out about the scarcity of water. During rainy season we have water in abundance but after the rainy season is over, all water flow to the ocean and the people face drought situation. The storage and economical use of water is must. Therefore, we have started a big campaign through school and in big areas to make the people aware of the need of economical use of water.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): 80 percent of water flow to ocean un-used. (Interruptions)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: First listen me. If I fail to explain properly then you ask question. I will try to satisfy your curiosity.

We should realise one thing very clearly. In our country, it rains roughly for 100 days in a year. If we analyse minutely it takes 60 days in a year to have complete rainfall in India. Therefore, we should store water. For that purpose, introduction of small medium and major irrigations projects is inevitable. Until and unless we store the water we would not be able to utilise this water properly because it does not rain throughout the year and it is limited too. We put endeavour to store water as per the geographical situation of different places through available means, so that water

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could be utilised for drinking and irrigation purposes throughout the year.

Our national water policy was finalised in the meeting of Chief Ministers, on the basis of consensus. The meeting was presided by the Prime Minister. I am happy to see that the decision arrived at unanimously is being implemented throughout the country. The top priority has been given to drinking water in the national water policy. Thereafter, the priority is given to irrigation, sanitation and industrial use. These three priorities have been accorded to water.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): There is nothing new in it. It has been happening from the very beginning.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: There was no such national water policy prior to the meeting held in 1987. It has facilitated the Planning Commission and the Minister of Water Resources in accomplishing their task. The work would be carried out in the Eighth Plan as per the above priorities. Considerable amount has been allocated for the purpose in the current Five Year Plan. I would like to say something on the basis of the report on the subject submitted by the Committee under the chairmanship of Shri Nitish Kumar Ji. I hope that other members of the House might have seen this report. It has been mentioned therein that we have to face great difficulties in our working. The subject matter has been assigned to the State fully. We try to march ahead with systematic planning cooperating each other after resolving differences, disputes and hurdles. Out of Rs. 32,500 crore earmarked in the British Plan, Rs. 1500 crore is for Central Sector. We are endeavouring with this sum

to the maximum extent, possible (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Dauji had made a lot of noise yesterday. I would like to request him to listen to me.

PROF. PREM DHUMAL (Hamirpur): Did he make noise or mention good points.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: He did not make a noise. He mentioned good points. I agree, I would like to say to approve the priorities fixed by the committee. I repeat them. We would try at its level best to accomplish the task as per the priorities fixed by the committee. The House will come to know the difficulties being faced by the Ministry. A number of difficulties have been experienced while undertaking the priorities fixed by the House. Various State Governments oftenly have difference of opinions and sometimes Planning Commission does not co-operate. There is no use to say something more in this regard. I would place some priorities fixed by the committee on the table of the House, to facilitate the House to arrive at a decision.

First priority has been given to complete on-going big and medium irrigation project by allocating adequate funds. Until the requirements of on-going projects are not meted out, new projects cannot be undertaken. While agreeing to their priorities the State Governments violate the priorities. There are a number of projects whose 80-85-90% work has been completed. Leaving aside these projects the State Governments invest money in new projects. This money might have been invested in those projects

which need a meagre amount for their completion.

The completion of these projects will benefit the entire area and the people for whom these projects were started.

Secondly, we should encourage maximum participation of people in major and medium projects in system and at local level. A command Area Project was prepared to encourage people's participation. We are busy in plugging the loopholes found after reviewing it. I hope that we would be able to streamline it with the help of this House. In this connection, sometimes, we have to face difficulties creation by the State Governments. The State Governments have been failed to derive the desired cooperation from the farmers residing in command area. As a result of which the people residing there are not getting desired full benefits as well as its utility.

Thirdly, a review of command area development should be undertaken by the respective State Governments so that it could be made more effective to divert it for irrigation purpose and maximum utilisation of water. We are also busy in performing this task. I would like to submit that the hon. Members must use their influence in their respective States and cooperate with them in undertaking this task.

The fourth priority should be given to modernisation and improvement of old irrigation system including small irrigation projects. I accept the category in which this number was shown in command area by the Committee. I am citing it at the beginning of discussion so that it may be recorded and we undertake work on its basis.

The fifth priority has been given to the repair and improvement in small

irrigation works as a part of integrated small development projects.

The sixth priority is in regard to introduce several surface water current small irrigation projects. We, time and again, request the State Governments in this regard.

Sometimes we get full cooperation from a State and sometime do not get. We have been waiting it for day and night so that we could initiate our work on that basis.

The Seventh priority is to promote small surface water generation irrigation projects of both types individual as well as community projects.

The Eighth priority has been given in this report to introduce the concept of command area for major and small projects which are having 500 hectare of land or making comparatively proximal blocks out of it. We endorse it. We will work on its basis.

The Ninth priority is about the verification and periodical study of basic details in regard to number of wells. I mean wells amount to open wells or tubewells from which we take water. All these things will have to be managed properly again. We will be benefited if we maintain the water in the manner in which it is being maintained otherwise, the level of ground water has been started to descent. The saline water of the sea has started to come up due to excess exploitation of water in coastal areas.

The saline water has started to come up from a place where there was a source of drinking water. Therefore, we will have to utilise it with the cooperation

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of State Governments after analysing carefully so that there may not be any difficulty in utilising it.

The tenth priority is to discourage the excess use of ground water. We would endeavour in this direction in a planned way so that groundwater and surface water could be used in a balanced manner and maximum benefit could be derived.

The Eleventh priority is regarding shortage of water and introduction of sprinkle and drip irrigation system in drought-prone areas. Apart from these areas, it has been mentioned that in water shortage-prone areas we should encourage the introduction of sprinkle and drip irrigation system throughout the country including water surplus areas because it is very essential to save water there. Therefore, sprinkle and drip irrigation system should be promoted, there also. For that purpose, the Ministry of Agriculture has formulated good plans and I realise that the farmers have started to utilise these projects for the last several years. We have observed that in the past when the use of chemical fertilisers was introduced, the farmers did not use it for 4-5 years in the beginning. As soon as they realised its utility and profitability, they started to use it. Now they are using it properly and taking full benefit of it. I hope that the sprinkle and drip irrigation system, in which much investment is made at initial level and the Government has made provision for subsidy and more provision of funds for the persons particularly belonging to the backward, adiveries and other classes who are really in great need will facilitate the people. It will facilitate us to elevate irrigation and save water.

The Government should bring improvement in the use of public tubewells and these should be revived. Much water can be saved from these tubewells, and I realise that we will have to take full cooperation of the State Governments in this regard.

The 13th priority is regarding to give emphasis on large scale exploitation of underground and surface water of the catchment areas.

This is also approved and is the 14th point in the list of priorities. Demand to make available huge funds for expansion of flood forecasting and warning network was made to the Planning Commission, but unfortunately the demand has been turned down. All the funds made available are being utilised for modernisation of the network because it will be of tremendous help in checking loss of life and property and crops worth crores of rupees. Saving standing crops is an extremely difficult task.

13.00 hrs.

Maximum use of the present network will be made to warn the farmers about the impending floods so that they can protect the crops lying in the fields and in the threshing floors. That's why this work has been attached utmost importance.

My fifteenth suggestion is regarding formulating a master plan to control floods in various river basins and the work in this direction has already been started. I hope after formulation of the plan all will cooperate in its implementation. All efforts are being made to formulate plans for imparting necessary training in this regard. However, due to resource crunch and in the absence of

priorities the works could not be done effectively and efficiently.

I would like to submit to the hon. Members hailing from Rajasthan that undoubtedly water is scarce in the State, but the demand to make available atleast drinking water be pondered over sympathetically. Recently when the dispute about distribution of Narmada water surfaced and the Narmada Tribunal gave its award in this connection then adequate water was made available to Rajasthan. The hon. Members from Rajasthan as well as the people of the State will clearly understand that we have got no intention to cut down share of the State. It is our endeavour to made available maximum water to Rajasthan. We will also made efforts to exploit the ground waer reserves in desert areas because sometime at a depth of 4-5 thousand feet ground water reserves can be found to make available water to the people of Rajasthan. So that, the shortage of drinking water being faced by the people of Rajasthan could be mitigated.

Some hon. Members made submissions regarding non reaping of full benefits of Chambal project. In this connection on a number of occasions we have drawn the attention of the Governments of Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh and I hope that in future the situation will definitely improve. When the dispute of Yamuna water surfaced recently then all the four concerned States and National Capital Territory of Delhi recognised and appreciated the fact that even if more than due share of water of Rajasthan is to be given to the State then there should be no hitch. In this connection an agreement was arrived at and the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and other concerned States expressed their satisfaction in this regard. However, due to some reasons it is at present being held in

abeyance. All the concerned Chief Ministers and the Lt. Governor have not on six occasions and I think there is agreement on 90-95 percent points and on only a few points there is disagreement due to which it could not be implemented. I think when the final round of talks gets underway then definitely some agreement will be reached. I have cautioned the various parties that in the absence of a fixed time frame there is no point in lingering on the talks and much harm will be caused instead of gain. If the Centre is compelled to refer the matter to the Tribunal then much time and money will be wasted. It is normal for the Tribunal to take 10 to 15 years and within this time many more problems will crop up and especially the drinking water problem of Delhi will become worse day by day. Therefore, through the House, I would like to appeal to all the hon. Members hailing from concerned States to impress upon their respective Governments to come to an agreement in reagrd to the collective interests of all the five States so that no further problems crop up and no further loss of water, as is taking place at present, is witnessse as the hon. Members from Haryana stressed that due to the present barrage on yamuna many difficulties are being faced. That barrage is like to give way any time and on many occasions warning shots have been fired. If this barrage give way then mass destruction will be witnessed. Many villages will be inundated and havoc will be caused over a large area. Tajewala headworks was build 25 to 30 years ago and is in the danger of being washed away any time.

The proposal to construct a new barrage at Hathnikund has got underway and all material has already been collected. Hathnikund is close to Tajewala. Till the time the barrage at Hathnikund is constructed the danger will continue to

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loom. Therefore, an agreement at the meeting of the five concerned States should be arrived at regarding the water of Yamuna river. The problem of measuring water in the Eastern Canal and Western Canal of Tajewala head-works will continue to be faced. Sometimes it is felt that U.P. is going to be the gainer and sometimes Haryana and Rajasthan feel that they are the losers.

In the new barrage latest technology will be used to properly measure water. There should not be any difficulty regarding distribution of water. Barrage can be constructed only at the appropriate site. That's why all have decided that barrage need be constructed at Hathnikund only. I am in favour of an early agreement in this regard. So that construction of barrage immediately starts.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, before replying to the points raised by the hon. Members I would like to make two-three points. Rivers of South India generally carry less water and some more. As per the estimates prepared by the National Water Development Agency basins of Mahanadi and Godavri have more water than the requirements of the area and Krishna and Cauvery have less water. Surplus water of various rivers need to be diverted to Cauvery river through some via media to remove the shortage of water in Cauvery basin. As per an estimate prepared if even every drop of Cauvery water basin is tapped then too the water demand of the developed areas could not be met. Therefore, surplus water wherever available is to be diverted to the deficit areas and this task should be accomplished soon. Exemplory work in this regard has been done by the National Water Development Agency. It will have two good affects. Firstly, water will

be made available to the water scarcity areas and secondly, linking of Mahanadi with Cauvery will irrigate lakhs of hectares of land in between. I do not clearly remember at the moment how many hectares of land could be irrigated. The proposal in this connection was probably sent to the various State Governments three years ago. Parleys in this regard are on. However, these are raising various objections. Once there objections, apprehensions and clarifications are removed, I hope an agreement will be arrived at and the work will be started soon. Therefore, it will be good to start the work immediately. Otherwise the surplus water of Mahanadi and Cauvery will unnecessarily flow into sea.

Unfortunately, when the report was sent to the Government of Andhra Pradesh it started saying that Godavari does not have sufficient surplus water. Similarly the Government of Orissa also stresses that Mahanadi does not have sufficient surplus water.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): It is correct. Their assessment is correct.... (Interruptions)....

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Estimates were prepared by the scientists after thorough study. If all the water of Mahanadi and Godavari could be locally used then there is no problem. However, if there is surplus water then it should be diverted.

Similarly the work of survey of Himalayan rivers has also been entrusted to the same agency for their proper development. The agency is preparing its draft.

Often the hon. Members talk about the non-implementation of the Garland

scheme formulated by Dr. K.L. Rao for the linking of Ganges and Cavery and all other rivers.

It involves a lot of problems. We are doing it by dividing it into two parts but even then we are facing difficulties. There are a lot of technical problems in linking all rivers. That agency made a study in this regard and found that it requires a lot of energy in order to carry water from North to South. Due to some other technical problems this sort of scheme is absolutely impossible. The only scheme which seems to be feasible is that we will have to carry out schemes for North and South Separately and the rivers which originate from Himalaya should be utilized in North India. The rivers of South India should be linked together and likewise all the rivers flowing South of Ganges can also be linked.

These are long term schemes and the completion of these schemes will take time. These can take years together but what is required is that we should accept it in principle and should consider it from the point of view of national interest.

Jena ji, I admit your view point that they view it from the point of national interest but we come from different regions. The district from which I come, is the origin of Mahanadi river and even my constituency is surrounded by Mahanadi river. I know this fact that the quantum of water of Mahanadi, which we utilize, is not detrimental to the interest of Orissa in any way.

SHRI SRIKANT JENA: We do not have any objection in your taking water from it.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: While expressing your concern about Mahanadi, you are not alone I am also

with you because Mahanadi's origin is in my area. (*Interruptions*)

I, therefore, request you to give weightage to the national interest. When you are sitting in the Parliament of the nation you must have broader outlook, do not talk about the Orissa's interest only.

Likewise, we chalked out a useful Tank Board Scheme. It was meant to remove silt from the 200-300 years old ponds, lakes and tanks with the aim of providing more water for irrigation by incurring minimum expenditure. The most unfortunate thing is that when we approached Planning Commission with this scheme it scrapped the entire scheme by saying that we need not worry in this regard and Local Area Development Board and block Development board were quite capable of looking after the maintenance of these ponds.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there should be a separate discussion on Planning Commission. The clerks sitting in Planning Commission simply turn down the schemes prepared by the experts.

MR. SPEAKER: The Planning Commission takes decision only after considering every aspect.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: I do not want to blame the Planning Commission, it said that steps should be taken only after considering the local interest. That is why it did not approve the Tank Board Scheme. The Government should provide more and more funds to the State Governments for the maintenance and repair of reservoirs which include large and small ponds, from Bhakhra Nangal to small ones which provide water to irrigate 500 or one thousand hectares of land so that more

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and more people are benefited from it. It does not involve much expenditure as in the case of starting a new scheme or construction of a new tank or a new reservoir.

Devendra ji stresse on river basin Planning. We do carry out schemes in this regard but sometimes we have differences with the State Governments. Here, in Central Water Commission, we try to remove such differences.

Masudal ji mentioned about anti-erosion programme. A provision of Rs. 30 crores has been made in this regard for the next five years, which is not sufficient. Shri Asim Balaji of your party showed me the work of anti-erosion. I did not go there on my own. He put a lot of pressure on me then only I accompanied him. (Interruptions)

I was not aware of this fact that it is the land of Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and a temple is also there. (Interruptions) I had not gone ther to contribute for the temple. He asked me to visit his constituency. (Interruptions)

It is very essential to save the important archeological movements, buildings. This fund can be utilizd for this prupose only. It is not meant to save them form the flood.

Purkayasthi has said that more attention should be paid towards North Eastern parts of India. We are concentrating our attention on these areas and moreover a number of good schemes have been prepared for this purpose. We will try our best to implement the schemes made by the Brahmaputra Board.

Kipaimukh scheme is a big scheme, having an international importance. This

will prove very useful for that area. Field work has already been started there. Although, it has not been implemented in the Eighth Five Year Plan but steps regarding making primary provisions and basic work have already been initiated. I hope that considering its utility, we will be able to add more points in it in near future.

We have made a provision in the Eighth Five Year Plan for major and medium projects and minor projects of North Eastern Region to the tune of Rs. 265 crore and Rs. 355 crores respectively and it is Rs. 130 crores for Flood Control projects. The region of Brahmputra has a number of low lying areas, therefore, it is very essential to chalk out such schemes in order to protect land people and properties there.

So far, 30 major and 50 medium flood control schemes have been implemented in Seventh Five Year Plan and an expenditure of Rs. 615 crores have been incurred on these.

Besides, number of other points were also raised by our hon. colleagues. I would like to make a special mention about one of them regarding Teesta. The Government of West Bengal had said that the centre should bear 50 per cent of its expenditure. It is not the general practice but it has a great national importance. We had even made a proposal to give a status of national importance to this scheme. But our proposal was not intended for this scheme only as there are a number of other schemes also which are of national importance. We want that a category should be made and all such schemes should be put under it so that we can develop them in a planned manner but this request has since, not been accepted. We have been continuing our efforts to get this accepted

so that the scheme of national importance could be completed on priority basis. Last year, we accepted to bear the 50 per cent expenditure in Teesta project. I wrote to the Chief Minister of West Bengal that we would provide them 50 percent funds and for the rest 50 per cent they would have to manage themselves so that the teesta barrage project could be completed during the Eighth Five Year Plan. In order to complete this project Rs. 150 crores will be invested by the Central Government and another Rs. 150 crores will be invested by the Government of West Bengal.

In the last, I would like to submit that I would send the detailed reports to my colleagues from Haryana, M.P., South India and Orissa regarding the points raised by them, so that without wasting the precious time of the House they might get the clarification about each and every point raised by them in the House. We will try to solve them through discussions.

I once again would like to thank hon. Members for actively participating in the discussion and giving it a new direction and momentum.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats. You should stand up only with my permission. Please take your seat first.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: The hon. Speaker has made it clear that the questions which have not been answered, their written replies will be sent to you. Many

questions have been raised and it is hard to give the replies of all these here. If some thing emanates from the reply, you will be given the opportunity to raise that (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli) : Sir, it is a life and death problem as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: The Minister will be writing to you.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: What happened to the Monitoring Committee? We want a reply from the Minister regarding this Monitoring Committee. It is a life and death problem for Tamil Nadu people. But the Minister is keeping quiet.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI (Kota): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am sorry to say that yesterday I expressed my views for forty minutes but the hon. Minister took it otherwise. My submission to the hon. Minister is that yesterday during the discussion, the Ravi-Beas issue was raised and Shri Jagmeet Singh ji had expressed his views. He had said that Rajasthan does not have any share in the Ravi Beas, but the hon-Minister did not express his views on it. Hon. Sardar Sahib, the panel of Chairmen has also said that Rajasthan has its share in Ravi-Beas. Therefore, we would like to talk to the hon. Speaker on both these points and we will give notice to him for half an hour discussion on it.

MR. SPEAKER: Is not this discussion of six hours sufficient.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: Shri H.C. Mathur had discussion with Shri Veerbhadra Singh at Manali and had deposited one and half crore rupees with your department for coal. Seventy five per cent amount out of it is to be paid by us and that we will have 67 percent electricity. This amount of one and half crore rupees is lying with you but till date no survey has been conducted. Same is the position of our Theen dam. We are not getting water from it. Same is the position in regard to Nathpa-Jhakhri dam. The Hathnikund dam is going to be constructed but no allocation has been made for it till date. Construction of the Hathnikund dam is a must. My submission is that Rajasthan's share in Hathnikund dam should not be neglected. Likewise the Gurgaon project.

MR. SPEAKER: I will not allow. The hon. Minister is not going to give the reply on all the projects.

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: We have our share from Gurgaon, but it has not been discussed. My submission is that the hon. Minister may have complaint against the Planning Commission. Shri Nitish Kumar has also complaint against it.

The hon. Minister has said that he had approached the planning commission in this regard. It is said that the budgetary allocation for water, which you too consider an important subject has been reduced in comparison to the last year.

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. You want to get all the projects to be passed here.

SHRI DAU DAUAL JOSHI: You will have to bear no expenditure in linking the Brahmaputra with the Ganges. Other projects will involve expenditure. This river has caused devastation in Assam and the people are in trouble. Their trouble has multiplied with the non-availability of water. Please take some positive action. Nothing new has been said in your speech.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: This is not going on record. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has rightly proclaimed that there will be separate budgets for the Southern India and the Northern India. I belong to the area where one has to live amid water throughout the year. I have met the hon. Minister in this regard. Lakhs of acres of land in these three districts Darbhanga, Saharsa and Khagaria remain immersed in water throughout the year. It was said that a dam will be constructed but only a canal has been dug. Neither the dam, nor the canal was constructed properly. You will be surprised to know that I had written to the State Government time and again for the construction of Darjiya fura dam. This land is worth 10-12 crore rupees. My submission is that the detail of it can be found in the report as to how to control the floods. My submission to the hon. Minister is that a survey should be conducted in the Kosi belt, in the districts Saharsa, Darbhanga and Khagaria, where the land worth crores of rupees is submerged in water and causing destruction to thousands of people. It is quite possible the hon. Minister might not be having a ready reply to it but, however,

I urge upon him to arrange to conduct a thorough survey there. You are having sufficient money so if need be, the Central assistance may also be increased and the Project of the dam. Kindly be completed.

[English]

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dum Dum): Firstly I make a submission to you. If this procedure is adopted that individual Members would be given replies.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not possible. This is the procedure. You have always been directing the Speaker and the Presiding Officers. It is not possible for the Minister to reply to all the points which are raised on the floor of the House. You come to the point now.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: I appreciate that. What I am submitting on this point is that when you give reply to the individual Member, you can send the copies of that letter to at least other Members coming from the same State. Because on the other side the Speaker is correctly insisting that we should not repeat. That is one submission I am making before you.

The other thing is an incipient dispute is growing regarding the sharing of Ganga water. We from our end we say that in Calcutta Port the problem of dredging is arising partly because of sharing problems of the river side States along the river Ganga. You should look into it. That is the second point that I want to mention to you.

Just a third point which is that the entire South of West Bengal is dependent for its drainage. The Minister was kind enough to send officials to some of

those areas. I joined them. The problem of dredging of the face of Vidyadhar where it meets the sea, if that is not done, then the entire southern districts of Bengal would be flooded because the drainage is being choked kindly look into that also.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: First of all I plead with you to please protect the interest of the Tamil Nadu people. Last year the Minister had come and assured a monitoring committee. I want to know categorically whether the monitoring committee is only on the paper or whether it has come into being. The month of June is approaching and we are in need of water. We want a categorical answer. We want protection from the Chair for the people of Tamil Nadu. The Minister must respond.

MR. SPEAKER: You have asked the question.

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: Tamil Nadu people are getting injustice from the Central Government. In protest we are walking out.

13.34 hrs.

(At this stage Shri M.R. Kadambur Janarthanan and some other Hon. Member Left the House.)

[Translation]

SHRI NARAIN SINGH CHAUDHRI (Hissar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his statement has held the States responsible for still hanged up 5-6 per cent tailend work which is lying inexecuted for the last 5-6 years. This project which is executed with 100 per cent Central assistance in persuance to a tribunal decision taken years back and foundation stone of which was laid by the

[Shri Narain Singh Chaudhri]

[Translation]

Late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi is still hanging up. It is a causing loss to the whole state and the farmers of Haryana are much affected. I am pointing to the S.Y.L. What is the problem in its completion?

[English]

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh): The Minister has not said anything regarding the additional requirement in the coming three years. As per the assessment of the Ministry it is Rs. 1800 crore. He has not said anything about that.

My next point is, regarding the National Water Resource Council, after adoption of the National Water Policy in 1987, no further meeting took place. What is happening to this Council which is charged by the Prime Minister I want to know whether you are going to hold any meeting of the National Water Resources Council to take care of the national water resource.

Thirdly, regarding sharing of Ganga water it has become a very very important problem for the coming days between the States and with Bangladesh. Because the existence of the Calcutta Port is entirely dependent on the availability of Ganga water at Calcutta.

MR. SPEAKER: That was raised by Nirmal Kantiji. You can leave it.

SHRI ANIL BASU: The last point is regarding my constituency. I raised it with the Minister several times and also in my speech I referred to that regarding providing water to Boro crop from the DVC system which is causing flood in my area.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a misunderstanding. The hon. Minister has mentioned that Rs. three crore has been given for Down systems area of Farakka Dam but that amount would not be spent to save Farakka dam and not a single penny would be spent on the area from Lalgola to Jalangi. Every time Rs. 2 to 3 crore is spent for this purpose on the land which is going under Bangladesh Government. I would like a reply from the hon. Minister in this regard.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA (Salumbar): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has mentioned about many big projects and I support them too. I would like to make submission about Rajasthan especially about Udaipur, Banswada and Dungarpur for which no big scheme has been formulated. I have got a master-plan prepared from the Commissioner and have sent it to the Planning Commissioner. I am also sending it to the hon. Minister. So I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would sanction amount for this master-plan or not ?

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) :The construction of major irrigation project is very costly and also time consuming. But in the case of premier, major projects which are already constructed. for instance, Hiracut, because of lack of proper maintenance the ayacut area is getting squeezed year after year. With some more care for proper maintenance and for proper renovation of designs and the system & silts will have to be removed, etc., a very large area will be served and additionality

will also be there. May I know whether the Government will take into consideration these aspects? The second point is regarding Mahanadhi-Godavari linkage. It will be very good in the national interest. It is a rosy picture, no doubt. But in our situation, it does not seem to be practical because of the very high amount involved in this. For the Sambal project, the ayacut is ready, but the canal system is not there. So, I request that the provision of proper funds should commensurate with the project.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR (Faridkot): Hon. Speaker, Sir, as per your direction, the hon. Minister has replied. I just want to ask him about one important question. Thien Dam Project was envisaged in the year 1964; and the States of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana are going to get benefit out of the irrigation-cum-hydel project. For the last 30 years, that Project is moving at a snail's pace. Will the hon. Minister provide adequate funds for Thien Dam Project so that the pressure on Punjab is decreased and the States of Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that we do not talk about the Projects; we talk about the policies here, in the Parliament.

SHRI JAGMEET SINGH BRAR : But, you never allow us to talk about the policy.

[Translation]

SHRI TEJSINGHRAO BHONSLE (Ramtek): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there is a Kuchhi Joint Project on Kanhan river of Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra which would greatly benefit both the States. This project is now with the Central

Government, so I would like to know as to when this project would be started ?

SHRI MANJAY LAL (Samastipur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, every year flood occurs in North Bihar which is neither checked by the Central Government nor by the State Government. Water flows from Nepal causes havoc in North Bihar. So, I would like to know whether the Government would talk to Nepal Government to take some preventive measures so that North Bihar could be saved from recurrence of flood fury every year.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA: In Orissa, flood and drought occur simultaneously. The hon. Minister says that there is surplus water. Yes, there is surplus water; but if you calculate the irrigation of the whole State, you will find that only 19 per cent has been irrigated, the lowest in the country. Rengali Dam-Upper Colab Dam is complete since the last five years, the irrigation channel is not available because the State Government do not have funds for irrigation channel.

They require nearly Rs. 1,500 crore for Rengali itself. If you say that Mahanadi water can be brought to Andhra Pradesh and via Andhra Pradesh, it can come to Tamil Nadu, it is just impossible. Anything that was thought of at that point of time is not possible. The Subernrekha project is not operating. I do not know what is happening in Subernrekha. It is hardly 10 to 20 per cent in operation. The work has progressed. These are certain projects where flood is there and the drought is there, The water is there. The water goes straight away into the sea. Looking at that, you say that surplus water is there. But as per the S.R. Sen Committee report, the entire eastern Uttar Pradesh,

[Shri Srikanta Jena]

Bihar and Bengal and Orissa are surplus in water. But the water is not utilised. It can be utilised. Hardly 5 per cent ground-water is being utilised in Orissa whereas 90 per cent is utilised in Haryana. This is the imbalance. To balance it, the Government of India has a role to play. You can say that the State Government of India has a role to play. You can say that the State government should spend money. The State Governments are reeling under financial problems. How really would you utilise the natural resources like water and utilise it properly for the benefit of the State itself? Mahanadi comes from your State. You can take some water to your constituency. But please look at the Mahanadi water to be utilised in that particular State itself.

SHRI NURUL ISLAM (Dhubri): I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any policy decision has been taken with regard to river Brahmaputra to declare it as a national water. The ravages done by this national water should be compensated by the national Government.

Secondly, in my constituency, 54,000 families have been rendered landless and shelterless due to erosion by river Brahmaputra. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any steps have been taken for anti-erosion and for checking the floods.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Sir, I have tried to avoid the issues which are under adjudication of tribunals or other judicial bodies. I have also tried not to make any mention of such problems which are rather explosive or volatile because expression of such opinions here can create problems for ultimate

solution of those problems which are being adjudicated or are being considered by the various tribunals. We can arrive at such decisions if we all exercise some self-restraint. Otherwise, expression of opinion here and at various forums really queers the pitch rather than help in solving the issues.

Our Members of Parliament coming from Punjab, Haryana and North-Western areas know about the tribunal history. Interim report was submitted and after submission of the interim report, there was a reference made by the State Government concerned-party States-to the tribunal for certain clarifications, It will help in removing any sense of grievance that the farmers and the people living in this basin have.

Similar is the case of Cauvery. We know the nature of the dispute. The dispute has been going on not for 10 years or 20 years but almost for centuries. The first agreement was arrived at in 1894 and for each 50 years, it has been renewed. Ultimately, when no agreement could be made after the renewal was over, this dispute was handed over to the tribunal.

Interim report created some problems. Final report is awaited. The tribunal is hearing the party States. Government of India is not a party to this dispute possible and it does not create any problems whatsoever. I have already indicated in my main reply that Cauvery is a water deficit basin. Therefore, unless there is augmentation of water supply by the river links and the water transfer canals, this problem cannot be resolved in spite of our best efforts. It is because we cannot increase the quantity of water without increasing the quantity of water by such water transfer link canals.

I have also not referred to Farakka Barrage, Calcutta city port and Calcutta city water supply problem mainly because these concern international problems. We are having a useful and hopeful dialogue with the Government of Bangladesh and we want to solve it on the basis of friendship and understanding. This is a difficult task but nonetheless, with the support given by this House, we hope to make progress in the matter so that this problem can be resolved. This is the only thing which will create problems between the otherwise friendly countries of India and Bangladesh. Similar is the case with SYL. This is of a very sensitive nature and therefore, we have taken note of the opinions and various angles that have been given by the hon. members while participating in this debate. They have given their viewpoints; we will take all those viewpoints into account before we make progress in the matter and I am sure this matter will be resolved soon.

Now, our friend was asking about the meeting of the National Water Resources Council. This meeting was fixed last month but due to certain reasons, it had to be postponed. We hope that in the coming weeks, this meeting will be held.

Shri Hussain wanted to know something about river problems which makes a border between India and Bangladesh. Those problems are such that it is difficult and I think it is not proper to say anything. We have to resolve it by mutual consultations and give and take basis. We do not want to say anything here which will create problems in resolving these issues which arise from time to time and year by year. We have to resolve them carefully. We are very conscious about the progress of Thien Dam; it is a very useful project and we

will try to complete it as quickly as possible. About Rangali, Upper Kolab Dam and Subernarekha.

[Translation]

SHRI DAU DAYAL JOSHI: When it was scheduled to be completed and when it would be completed?

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: We cannot say about this. These problems are created and it is our effort to resolve it and complete it as quickly as possible but the dispute and the problems are sometimes created by various reasons including politics. And it creates problems. Therefore I would request the hon. Members to keep politics out of water just as we must keep religion out of politics so that such troubles do not arise which will create problems for us everywhere.

About Brahmaputra, we have given special status to this mighty river; we have set up a special board to look after the problems including development and otherwise and that board has proper staff and proper budget has been given to it. This board is doing good work and I hope that the problems that have been mentioned by the hon. Members will be resolved by this board.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Say something about Bihar and Kosi river also.

[English]

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: About Bihar, I must say that nothing is

[Shri Vidyacharan Shukla]

complete without mentioning Bihar. I would like to say that we have given an outlay of Rs. 50 crore in the Eighth Plan under the scheme Flood Proofing measures in North Bihar for flood protection works in the area represented by the hon. Member, Mr. Ram Vilas Paswan

But unfortunately, the Government which is run by his party has not been able to use any of this amount. Out of Rs. 50 crore, the Government of Bihar has been able to use only a few lakhs of rupees so far. This money has been put at their disposal. We cannot send a Central Team from here to do the work if the congestion has to be removed, it has to be removed by the local Government. The required money has been provided, the scheme has been sanctioned and every thing is done. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan is not able to persuade his own Government to do anything in this matter. I am quite helpless in this regard.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Is it your money or the Planning Commission's money?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: It is sanctioned by the Planning Commission and given by us. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: No please. You cannot have another round of clarifications. All these things are not going on record.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: A number of cut motions to the Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Water Resources have already been moved. Shall I put all the cut motions to the vote of the House together or does any hon Member want any particular cut motion to be put to vote separately?

I shall now put all the cut motions together to the vote of the House.

All the Cut Motions were put and negatived.

Mr. Speaker: I shall now put the Demands to the vote of the House

The questions is;

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1995, in respect of the heads of demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 82 relating to Ministry of Water Resources."

The motion was adopted.

481 Demands for Grants
(General), 1994-95

VAISAKHA 9, 1916 (SAKA) Ann re Adjournment of 482
sitting of the House for lack of Quorum

Demands for Grants (General) for 1994-95 in respect of Ministry of Water
Resources voted by Lok Sabha

No of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of demand for Grants on Account voted by the House on 17th March 1994		Amount of Demand for Grants voted by the the House	
		Revenue Rs	Capital Rs	Revenue Rs	Capital Rs
Ministry of the Water Resources					
82	Ministry of Water Resources	56 60 00 000	1 54 00 000	282 9800 000	17 71 00 000

MR SPEAKER Before I announce that we will take up the Demand relating to the Ministry of Human Resource Development after the Lunch Hour, I would like to say that we are very happy that the hon Minister has referred to many of the suggestions given in the Report of the Standing Committee on Irrigation. Not only has he referred to the suggestions but he has also indicated that the approach suggested by the Standing Committee in many cases can be adopted. I would like to congratulate the Chairman and Member of the Standing Committee for the report. I would also like to congratulate the Minister for adopting a very positive and helpful attitude. Thank you very much.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3 p m today.

13.54 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for
Lunch till Fifteen of the clock

15.00 hrs.

(At 15 00 hours quorum bell was rung. No quorum was made. At 15 03 hours once again quorum bell was rung and no quorum was made.)

15.11 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENT RE
ADJOURNMENT OF THE HOUSE
TILL TWENTY FIVE MINUTES
PAST FIFTEEN OF
THE CLOCK FOR LACK OF
QUORUM

[English]

ADDITIONAL-SECRETARY There is no quorum. So the House cannot meet. We cannot start the House till there is quorum. The Chairman has directed that the House will meet at 3 25 p m.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at
twenty-five minutes past Fifteen of the
Clock