

report we had suggested that a provision like this could prompt the concerned officer to make a suggestion that these provisions should not apply to the Union Territory is at all; therefore. On an impassioned stand, the clause was somewhat modified. The proviso to article 243 =B finally reads as follows:

"Provided that the President may be public notification direct that the provisions of this part shall apply to any Union Territory or part thereof, subject to such exceptions and modifications as he may specify in the notification."

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can continue next time.

Now there is discussion under rule 193.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR.

16.01 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Drought Conditions In Different Parts of The Country

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (Barh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for providing me an opportunity to initiate discussion on drought conditions in different parts of the country.

There days back we had held a discussion on flood situations in different parts of the country and we made a hint at the likely reply by the Government which later on came to our expectation. Today, a discussion on the issue of drought, being faced by the different parts of the country, is being initiated and I can very well understand as to what would be the reply by the hon. Minister. During the current session, 11 hon. Members have asked question through Unstarred

Question No. 262.

[English]

"Will the Minister of Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the districts which are facing drought in the country at present, State-wise;

(b) whether any Central team visited the drought affected States;

(c) if so, the findings and recommendations of the Central team;

(d) the Central assistance sought and the amount actually released to the drought affected States, State-wise; and

(e) whether any review of the relief programmes undertaken by the State Governments has been made?"

The answer is:

"(a) to (e): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha."

[Translation]

This question was asked on the 27th July. This Unstarred Question came up in the beginning. The Government replied that information was being collected and would be laid on the Table of the Sabha. That was the reply given by the Government. We have been holding discussions on drought conditions in different parts of the country for the last five days. The Government is not serious. I expect that the Government will once again reply that comprehensive reply will be given only after information is collected, 5-7 days have already elapsed, but the Government is not at all concerned about that. A large part of the country is facing drought. Bihar, Andhra Pradesh,

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some parts of Kamataka, Gujarat, many eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh are in the grip of drought. There are certain parts of the country that are pereminally under drought as they fall under rain shadow area. The Government has been running some special programmes for the drought prone areas. But this time the situation that has emerged, particularly in Bihar, and to some extent in Andhra Pradesh, is different. I am personally aware of the situation that has emerged in Bihar. A large part of Bihar is facing drought situation. Earlier, were having discussion on the flood situation affecting a large part of Bihar. We had discussed that this time the flood was caused not due to rain fall in Bihar but due to inflow of water from the rivers of Nepal. It did not rain in Bihar during the rainy season. It rained there hardly for a day or two. Not even 10 per cent rain has been recorded there, in comparison to what we used to have at this time earlier. Such a situation prevails in Bihar and that has created a horrible situation. It is irony that there is flood in some parts of the country while at the same time there is drought in other parts. The flood prone areas are facing drought. The areas affected by flood are now facing a lot of problems after floodwaer has receded; the problems there can also be attributed either to scant rainfall or to no rains in others parts. There has been virtually no rain in the district of Patna which is the capital of Bihar as well as in the districts of Nalanda, Nawads, Jahanabad, Gaya, Banka, Myngyer, Bhagalpur, Buxar, Bhojpur, Rohtas, Garhswa, Polsmaw, Chatra, Giridih. Hazaribag and several other districts of North Bihar. I represent the Barh Parliamentary Constituency where 90 per cent wells have dried up. Handpumps and tubewells are not functioning. Shri Rameshwar Thakur, who hails from Bihar is sitting here and is nodding his head which is the sign of accepting the facts. He is holding

department of rural development and the job of providing drinkg water comes under his department. I have, however, to say with much anguish that the peopl of Bihar are facing acuate crisis of drnikng water. One can imagine the horrible state of affairs prevailing there. The conern of the Governemn to the prob,em can be understood by its statemtn whichs till says that information is being collected. The Government stated in its reply given on the 27th that information was being collected. The Government is not concerned with the main problem even now. I know this fact fully and I am pained. The hon. Minister of Agriculture will give comprehensive details about Natural Calamity Relief Fund while making reply but nothing is in his hand. He will say that a part in Natural Calamity Relief Fund has been released for flood control. He will go on saying that a report is being awaited from Bihar or the same has not been sent, and that fund would be further released, if required. The Government knows only one method to tackle be it all the situations, drought, flood or anything else. While speaking on Calamity Relief Fund, he will shed tears for the suffering of mankind, show sympathy and say that the Centre and State Governments will work together. Moreover, he will also say that not even a single person will be allowed to die due to starvation. He will end up the discussion with all those assurances.

Sir, the fact remains that a large part of the country is facing drought situation and there is a crisis of drinking water. There is no fodder for animals, there has been no rainfall for two years in those areas of Bihar which I referred to. There was some rainfall during the tail end only of last year. Subsequently there was 60 per cent rabi crop. People survieved any how; but the situation in Palamu and Garhwa districts, which are hit by drought, is going from bad to worse. Situation is becoming horrible even in the areas that were not hit by drought earlier.

You are naturally happy because of the timely break of monsoon. Crops are good when there is good monsoon. The Minister of Agriculture, however, takes credit for this situation and says that there is record production of foodgrains during his tenure. Contrary to it, he does not share the discredit when the monsoon fails. It is said that lack of adequate rainfall has adversely affected the production of foodgrains. On the last two or three occasions, there has been good monsoon and consequently, there has been good production of foodgrains. But a large part of this country is in a very bad State. People are facing starvation. A large number of animals have died in Palamau and Garhwa areas. There is a national park there where there is a crisis of drinking water.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to draw your attention as well as the attention of the House to this matter and wish the Government to rise to the occasion and not to repeat what it has already stated. It should also not state that it would send team and take action only after a report is received from the Bihar Government.

Sir, through you I want to submit that drought and floods have become regular features in the country. We should try to solve these on permanent basis. First of all, work should be started on war footing in the regions reeling under drought and I would like to ask the Minister of Agriculture that potable water should be made available on priority basis. There should be a coordination between his Ministry and Rural Development Ministry. I feel that the amount provided by the Government under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and other heads is not adequate. In a State like Bihar, where migration of labourers to other states is a regular phenomenon, migration of labourers to other states is regular phenomenon, migration will increase to such an extent that they will not be able to get a job to earn their livelihood

even in other states. As there is no rain, migration will be on large scale, although we pray to God that it should rain so that we may get a better Rabi crop but it does not seem to be happening. Then the situation will be quite dreadful we should therefore, make arrangement on war footing to fight this situation. Employment opportunities should be created.

Sir, recently, hon. Prime Minister visited flood affected areas and announced to provide help under different heads. The newspapers carried the report that he had given Rs.44 crore. I do not know, what assistance he had given actually. He provided some assistance from Calamity Relief Fund and some in the form of loans from HUDCO and took credit for having provided assistance. He provided Rs.50 lakh only from Prime Ministers' Relief Fund to the Chief Minister of the State, like we give a rattle to a crying child to him. The State Government sent an S. O. S. during the period of crisis, when there was misunderstanding all around. When a no confidence motion was already moved against the Government, a lot of misunderstandings could have taken place but without caring for anything, the Chief Minister came begging to the Government but nothing was given to him. There is a demand for Rs. 600 crore to Rs. 1000 crore but no assistance has been given.

Sir, yesterday we have already had a discussion on the flood situation. Today we are discussing drought situation. Last year also, there was severe drought in Palamu and Garwah which still continues. The State Government had demanded for a sum of Rs. 1254 crore under different heads, such as, animal husbandry, employment under Jawahar Rozgar yojana, drinking water, prevention of diseases, shelter and fodder for cattle but no assistance was provided. Last time, when the Prime Minister had gone there, the House was in session and when

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we had held discussion on drought and starvation 2-3 times in the House, the Prime Minister called a meeting of the Members of Parliament and thereafter he went there to console the people there. The Prime Minister visited the affected area and provided some assistance mainly from the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana which was a share of the Bihar Government itself.

Sir, through you, I would like to submit that under present circumstances, it is not sufficient to give the regular share but some extra assistance should be provided for the areas reeling under drought in Bihar Andhra Pradesh, Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Kamataka. Sir, we are going to face a worse situation in Bihar. He is Minister of Rural Development. You may ask him....(Interruptions) At present, he is living in Karol Bagh, he might have forgotten Bihar...(Interruptions)

At present he is living in Karol Bagh but he was born in Bihar. If he has sympathy with Bihar and if he has love for his motherland, then certainly, he will feel sympathy for Bihar.

Through you, I appeal that a solution to the drinking water crisis, must be found out. Situation there warrants immediate solution. We are not in a position to visit our area. Recently, Shri V. K. Yadav had gone there during three days' holidays. He will tell you that there are no handpumps, no tubewells are working and there is no electricity. Drinking water is also not available, cattle are dying for want of fodder. In such a situation whom should we approach for our problems. That is why we are putting our problems before the highest Panchayat of the nation in the hope that it would move the Agriculture Minister, Shri Rameshwar Thakur and the person occupying seat No.1.. I do not know whether they have their conscience

with them or not, as they are busy sticking to Chair somehow or other. They do not care for the drought and flood situation, they are engaged in retaining their power. Today, a game of cheap politics is being played and we are not able to remove you from power at least in this session unless the conscience of our some friends from Maharashtra awakes because a no confidence motion has already been defeated...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT) (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR):

The hon. Prime Minister visited Palamu, Chhapra and other areas in distress and provided an assistance of Rs. 180 crore. I do not know whether he had visited that area or not? Why is he then misleading people by saying so? He should not cast aspersion in this way. We should deal a crisis in a serious manner and should not bring cheap politics in it.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already said, perhaps he was not listening to it at that time. The Prime Minister has given Rs. 180 crore and Rs.44 crore but that is inadequate. There is need to release more fund. But he spoke in order to save his chair, it was his duty.

Through you, I want to make an appeal that humanity is crying there. relief should be provided immediately for making drinking water and food available to the starving people and to combat diseases caused by malnutrition. Arrangements should be made to make a permanent solution to drought and flood problem in the country.

While concluding, I want to submit that half of the rain water goes unused. It is the need of hour that water resources available in the country were utilized properly and

scientifically and such resources should be exploited to the possible extent.

Loan is being taken for consumer items from foreign countries. There should be a permanent solution to such fundamental works. The Government is not giving any priority to them. I urge upon the Government that relief should be provided immediately. Secondly, the Government should think over finding out permanent solution, rising above party politics because it is a national problem. We should take all together, identify the manpower available in the country and make concerted efforts to solve the problems of drought and floods in the country.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Many Members are sending their individual names. I would request them to come through their party because the party list would be considered first.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (TIRUPATHI): Sir, we sometimes see the crowds suffering from so many types of droughts. Permanent drought is seen in districts like Kalahandi in Orissa and in districts like Anantapur in Andhra Pradesh. We see this drought situation permanently. And, sometimes, we see the seasonal drought situation in Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. With the result, sometimes, the crops do fall. Sometimes, there is a problem due to lack of fodder; sometimes, we see the drinking water shortage. We see that the rural people are really suffering from these things.

I happened to go to village, day before yesterday, in my Constituency, and I asked a rural woman: What type of work are they doing in this season? She said that they do not have any work to do. I asked them: What is the reason? They said, the crops have

totally failed due to lack of rains. I asked them: Have they taken any food? They said: "Yes, we have taken food: a little bit of *ganji* we have taken." Since they do not have any work, they do not have good to eat. But, they are taking a little bit of *ganji* now and then. I asked the women in the village, what are their problems? They said, there is a shortage of drinking water. I asked some farmers in a village, what are their problems? They said, they are not able to put good fertilisers in their crops and they are not able to cultivate properly.

We see this type of situation mostly in the rural India today. In the rural economy, there is a little bit of erosion. If this type of situation continues for a very long time, we may have to face some type of frustration among the poor people.

Sir, I know that the Government is taking lot of steps to improve the rural economy. and yet, it is not that adequate to reach the rural poor. In the name of structural adjustments in the economy, we are trying to improve the economy on the one hand, but, when we go to the rural areas, there, we really see that among the poor people, there is a little bit of problem and frustration. I do not know, how the Government proposes to counter this kind of a situation. I believe, the Government will try to do its best as soon as possible. I happened to meet an economist and I asked him, how is the situation in our country today. He said, the economy has improved and the GDP has gone up. But, when we go to rural areas and ask the rural poor, they say that they do not have food to eat, they do not have work, they have a problem of drinking water.

We have so many programmes like IRDP, DRDA under the Rural Development. We have so many programmes. But, I really do not know, whether the Government of India through the State Government agen-

[Dr. Chinta Mohan]

cies are doing some survey on this. I do not know, whether this IRDP, and DRDA programmes are really reaching the poor people or reaching some one else. I do not know whether the money that is being given to the IRDP, DRDA programmes is going for administrative expenses or really the poor people are getting the benefit out of it.

I want to have a very categorical answer to this from the Government.

Coming to the drinking water problem, we have spent so much of money on drinking water. We have drilled so many tubewells. I want to know how many tubewells have been drilled so far, how many of them are working. Due to failure of monsoon the water table in the ground is going down and down. Added to that if all the tubewells also fail what does the Government propose to do? If that situation arises, how are you going to counter the situation? Mostly in the rural areas we see that most of the tubewells are drying up and most of the tubewells are failing. Nobody is going to those areas and try to counter the situation. What is the Government of India trying to do if that type of a situation comes when the water table goes down?

Coming to fodder, because of shortage of rains, fodder situation is very bad. Animals are migrating from place to place and the situation is very bad in the rural areas. I hope the Department of Agriculture will look into this.

Coming to allocation of funds, the 9th Finance Commission has stipulated some guidelines. So many State Governments are approaching for funds. A State like Andhra Pradesh has asked for Rs. 650 crore and you were kind enough to give them about Rs. 25 crore. But it is not meeting their needs. What are the guidelines that you are

following to give money to the State Governments. The other day you have given more than Rs. 100 crore to Bihar; you have given about Rs. 90 crore to Madhya Pradesh; you have given approximately Rs. 100 crore to Orissa. When a State like Andhra Pradesh asks for Rs. 650 crore you have given only Rs. 25 crore in installments. Why are you giving so little money? What is your problem and how do we come out of these financial constraints. If the State Government asks for Rs. 650 crore, why do you give Rs. 25 crore only? If possible, please give them a minimum of Rs. 50 crore or Rs. 100 crore, so that the State of Andhra Pradesh which is facing a drought situation can come out of this.

Coming to the pitfalls, you are trying to give money for tank construction and number of other things. But the money is going not to the construction of tank or check-dam, but it is being misutilised. Is there any type of screening procedure from the Government, particularly from the Government of India? If that is not there, the money will be misutilised. If that is going to be misutilised, how are you going to counter the situation?

Coming to your achievements, I am not happy to see your achievements. In 1992-93 if your target was 100 per cent, you were not able to come to 28 per cent. The Department of Rural Development failed to come up to the expectation. You said that under the drought prone areas programme, Land treated under soil and moisture conservation would have 1, 06,00 hectares as your target, but you have reached only 30,000 hectares; that is about 28 per cent. Coming to water resources development you said 28,000 hectares; but you have completed only 2, 000 hectares; that is about 14 per cent. Afforestation and forestry you proposed to do 82,000 hectares and you have reached only 22,000 hectares; it is only 27 per cent. Desert Development Programme

- land treated under soil and moisture conservation was 11,000 hectares target; but you have completed only 1,000 hectares. It is very bad; it is only 10 per cent. Water resources development out of 10,000 hectares you have completed only 1,000 hectares; it is 10 per cent. In the case of afforestation and forestry there is little bit of improvement; it has gone up to 72 per cent. I really want to know why you have failed to achieve it. What exactly you are doing sitting in the Ministry? What are your problems? You open your heart and take us into confidence and tell us why you are not able to reach your targets. If you cannot reach your targets, what are you going to do in the coming year, that is 1993-94?

With this I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, several parts of the country are facing drought and here we are holding discussions there on. Recently the Hon. Prime Minister made a survey of a number of districts of Bihar that were severely ravaged by flood; many of those places are still facing flood situation. This provides a confusion to the people, particularly the people of Bihar, as to what is the approach of the Government to the two different problems of flood and drought. The fact, however, remains that the recent flood is not due to torrential rains, rather, it is due to the inflow of water caused by heavy down powers over the Himalayas in Nepal. But ironically, the same districts are also experiencing drought. There was much loss due to this inflow of water from Nepal but there is no benefit at all to those areas due to this water.

I belong to the district of Nalanda and its adjoining districts like Nawada, Gaya, Jahanabad, Patna etc. were hit by drought last year. The Hon. Prime Minister con-

ducted a survey of all those areas. We had also contacted the Hon. Prime Minister in that regard. Whatever amount was provided to Bihar as 'advance' was very much the 'share' of Bihar. Bihar is facing financial crisis, that is why the required development has not been made there. The Chief Minister of the state had also sought for adequate central assistance from the Hon. Prime Minister when the latter was on a visit to Bihar. According to him the financial assistance provided by the Centre was not adequate. The situation in the state is that there is not even 1% of crop left there. Saplings have dried up as there was no rain and there was no electricity to obtain water through pumping sets. Crops of rainy season are destroyed. The actual situation cannot be assessed while sitting in Delhi. Now the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Balram Jakhar is to go there.

The level of water has gone so deep that there is a great crisis of water. Except in cities, where wells are deep, there is shortage of water all around. People of villages are drinking contaminated water which is causing break of epidemics. Thousands of people are affected while several hundred people have died. I would say that if Shri Rameshwar Thakur and the hon. Minister of Agriculture try to provide at least the facility of drinking water to Bihar where situation is deteriorating, then it would amount to a great relief. There is now mass exodus of laborers which will be checked. People are leaving villages. There has been no development work for the last several years. In Bihar, there is no alternative arrangement for providing jobs to the labourers in case there is not agricultural work there, nor does the state enjoy a sound economic condition to cope up with such situations. The hon. Chief Minister of Bihar as well as we, the Members of Parliament have every been putting this demand to the Union Government. We made this demand last year and even this year we have been making the

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same demand. Ultimately, what sort of help do you want to provide us and what will be the mode and criterion for it. There is acute crisis in all those areas and people are in virtual trouble. The number of possible starvation death cannot be imagined. Last year, there were such death in Garhwa and Palamau. This time a larger part of Bihar is facing starvation. There is no chance of even one per cent of paddy crop this year. So you can imagine the situation likely to emerge for the entire population of the State, in the background of the fact that the state was hit by drought last year and even this year, there is drought. We should think how to combat with the situation.

I would like to make one submission to the hon. Minister of Agriculture. In fact the matter concerns with the irrigation Department. The river Ganga is overflowing and yet there is drought on both the sides of the river. The entire water is falling in the bay of Bengal which further foos in the sea and is wasted. There is soil-erosion in the adjoining fields of the Ganga. There is drought which jeopardizes the prospect of crop. Our colleague Nitish ji has just suggested a permanent solution to the problem. If the Union Government take up the issue seriously, there can be a permanent solution to the problem of drought faced by Bihar. I have been a Member of the Parliament ever since 1980 except the period of 11 months in between. I have always demanded that the water of the Ganga may be diverted to the South direction. There should be a big reservoir in Rajior to collect that water. The Ganga water may also be lifted through a canal to the South direction. In this way, at least 6-7 districts will get water for irrigation. The situation of drought emerges in this very season. There is at present no shortage of water in Bihar. The main problem is lack of a planning to utilize water. That, of course, requires money.

It was just now stated that there is a price hike in Bihar due to the emergence of the aforesaid situation there. I would like to mention in this regard that no stories are available in the fare-price shops. Prices of commodities are soaring. The Central Government states that it has ample stocks. I would ask whether the foodgrains provided to Bihar for distribution through fare price shops is adequate. I am not aware of the statistics in this regard, nor have I studied it. But I would definitely like to ask the Government as to how much foodgrains has been provided to Bihar till last month? I had gone to Nalanda a day before yesterday. When I enquired about the stocks to be distributed through fare price shops, I was told that there was no wheat and the people are not getting it for a long time. Sugar is also not available and prices are rising due to the drought situation. Unless the policy of public distribution system is made strict, people will not get the commodities easily. The common people who are already hard pressed by unemployment and drought, cannot buy the commodities through black-marketing. I would like to submit that whenever the hon. Minister visits that state he must call a meeting at Patna of all the M.Ps from Bihar. Whenever the hon. Minister or the Central team visits the State for enquiring into the actual position, it fails to get the real picture of Bihar. I would, therefore, like to submit that the meeting of all the M.Ps belonging to Bihar must be called in case the central team is sent there or the hon. Minister himself makes a visit to the state for enquiry.

You should stay there for two days instead of one day, if required; but something concrete must be done. Our approach should not be like the one we have towards Jawahar Rojgar Yojna where we get satisfied by merely releasing some funds in advance. Rather, the Government should devise some ways and means to provide substantial assistance to Bihar in these moments of natural calamity. The situation

will further worsen there if Central assistance is not provided. We will earn a bad name throughout the world when thousands of people are in the grip of drought there. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to remind that the present horrible situation of drought in Bihar is unprecedented.

I hope the Government will realise the gravity of the situation and would provide adequate assistance to Bihar. The hon. Chief Minister has sought for Central assistance only to combat with the situation of flood but not in view of the drought situation prevailing in the state, the Government should increase the amount of assistance as much as it can.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT): SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Mr. Chairman, Sir, whatever has been submitted here by Yadavji is true. 11 districts of Bihar have been much affected by flood due to inflow of horrible flood water from Nepal. The hon. Prime Minister had just gone there and I too accompanied him. It is also true that a large area of South Bihar including Palamau, Garhwa, Lohardoga etc. have been hit by drought. As has been just said by the hon. Member the whole of South Bihar...*(Interruptions)* which include Ranchi and other districts along with all the four districts of Santhal Pargana were under the grip of accent drought. The parts of Central Bihar are also hit by drought. Yadavji was right in saying that the people there are now facing a crisis of drinking water and of other things. There are other problems too.

When the Hon. Prime Minister visited the state to have a look at drought situation, he announced the central assistance of Rs. 180 crore for Bihar after having careful deliberations and having considered the problems. That amount was released to the Government of Bihar.

The second point is that.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Was the total amount of Rs. 180 crore released?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Yes. Rs. 180 crore was released. This time when the Hon. Prime Minister made another visit of the state, he announced to provide Rs. 44 crore for relief. That amount is being released through concerned departments. The due share of Jawahar Rojgar Yojna is also included there in.

I would also like to submit that the Hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Agriculture and the Union Government have full sympathy for the situation that has emerged there; nevertheless, I would say with due submission that the funds that are released from the centre should be used in time and for the purpose these are sent there. It is, however, not being done. Moreover, it is the duty of all the Members of Bihar to assess the development being made in this regard in their respective areas...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (Patna): You should tell as to how the funds are being utilised there and what is the basis of your allegation against the Bihar Government?

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: Please first listen to me. This year from January till date Rs. 432 crore have been provided under Jawahar Rojgar Yojna to all the districts. Out of these Rs. 432 crores only Rs. 79 crore were left with the State Government as on 1st July. Yadavji, I would like to give this information to you because you had asked for it. Rs. 353 crores were balance as on 1st July out of the fund allocated to the Government of Bihar from April to June and only Rs. 79 crore were spent during these three months. I have also district wise details with me. You want to know about district

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Patna. Rs. 9.70 crores, Rs. 7.02 crore and Rs. 13.27 crore were not spent and were in balance on 1st July out of the fund allocated to Patna, Nalanda and Gaya respectively. Similarly, Rs. 15 crore were provided to Navada district out of which only Rs. 2.13 crore have been spent....(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Why this fund is not spent? What are the reasons for it? Does the State Government not want to provide it? Is there any condition?....(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR: There is neither any condition nor any restriction on it. The Government has provided this amount for spending in the drought prone areas. After this amount is spent, more funds will be provided. I would also like to furnish information about the other districts as to how much amount was in balance as on 1st July, 1993. These figures are based on the information sent by the State Government. Rs. 9.40 crore in Muzaffarpur, Rs. 7.68 crore in Sitamarhi, Rs. 6.94 crore in Vaishali, Rs. 70.86 crore in East Champaran, Rs. 9.92 crore in West Champaran are in balance. Similar is the position of other districts also. You had asked about Ranchi. Rs. 16.27 crore were provided to Ranchi out of which Rs. 1.95 crore were spent and Rs. 14.32 crore are in balance. This is the position as on 1st July. Rs. 10 crore and Rs. 28 crore were provided to Chatra and Palamu respectively out of which Rs. 9 crore have been spent. I have information about all the districts and can furnish to the Members who want to know about it but I would like to submit that it is not proper to blame the Central Government alone for it.

The problem is big and we have to work together. But first we should spend the amount which is available with us. The State Government has demanded additional

amount. We know that the amount is required by the State. In this regard the hon. Agriculture Ministry will clarify the position.

Similarly separate fund has been allocated for providing drinking water facility. According to the figures available with me Rs. 15 crore have been provided to Bihar this time and there is a proposal to provide Rs. 18 crore more.

[English]

A proposal for the release of 50 per cent of the balance amount is awaited from the State Government.

[Translation]

The State Government should send the proposal after that we will release the fund. This the position. So I would like to submit humbly and want that relief works should be undertaken in those areas which are affected by drought or flood and for which fund has been provided so that people may get job, food grains and drinking water facility. The tube wells which are not working should be repaired. It is mainly the responsibility of the State Government. It is also the duty of the Members of Parliament to extend cooperation in the matter. The Central Government is fully conscious about it and when this amount will be spent the Central Government will provide fund for Jawahar Rojgar Yojana in September. But, first the fund provided for it should be spent otherwise the Ministry of Finance will not release the fund. I would like to submit this.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now the hon. Minister was saying about severe drought conditions in Bihar and the assistance given to provide relief. Through you, I would like to say that during 46 years of independence one or the other part of the country has either been affected by floods or by drought every year.

Billions of rupees are spent every year on relief works. It has become a routine thing, when an area is affected by drought or floods the concerned State Government first submits report about the loss suffered and makes demand. After that it requests the Central Government to conduct an ariel survey and then the Minister or the Prime Minister makes an ariel survey. This is followed by a visit of Central team which assesses the loss suffered by the State. After that the team submits its report and then the Government provides assistance worth crores of rupees from Prime Minister's Relief Fund. But next year again the havoc of floods and drought is wrought on the country. Why is it so? Why has the Government not made any effort to find a permanent solution to this problem? The situation would have been different if the Government had considered it a national problem and not the problem of the States. The story would have been different if waters of rivers of North had been diverted to the rivers of South.

When Shri K. L. Rao was the Minister of Irrigation he had made a scheme to link the Gangas with the Cauvery and the Godawari. Indira Gandhi canal has been constructed in Rajasthan which has brought the waters of rivers of Punjab to Jaisalmer district of Rajasthan. If the Government had made such permanent schemes, I think we would have got relief from drought as well as from floods. Through you, I would like to say that drought and floods are our national problems, it does not matter which part of the country is affected by these problems, it may be Palamau or Garhwa or Chapra district or 54 blocks in five districts of Bihar or some districts of Orissa or Telangana or Rayalseems districts of Andhra Pradesh or the areas of the Eastern States. The areas which were earlier affected by drought or now reeling under flood water and the areas which were earlier used to have heavy rains

are now facing drought or famine conditions. If it does not rain during the next 3-4 days, there will be drought or famine conditions in Rajasthan. One more factor is also responsible for creating situation of drought and famine in Rajasthan. Pakistan did not give any information about the invasion by west on the country. Lowest have entered the country. Lowest Swarms are heading towards Barmer, Jalour, Jaisalmer and Bikaner districts. Locust swarms have entered Gujarat also. These locust swarms are destroying the crops there. The Government of India woke up very late to take steps. It provided two helicopter for it. One helicopter met with an accident and the other has gone out of order. Now all the work has come to stands till. Locust swarms are marching ahead towards Bikamer and Churu districts. The crops are likely to be destroyed by them. In no State of the country water problem is as acute as is in Rajasthan. The water supply in entire Rajasthan is inadequate during summer season. whether it is desert area of Rajasthan or Aravali Range of the State or other areas such as Pashkar or uhawayes 'darga' inflywer or which are visited by ministers or other for pilzriwage. But this area receive water for half or one hour during 72 hours. Beware, Kishangarh, Nasirabad or Jodhpur areas of Rajasthan are facing acute shortage of drinking water. In villages people have to walk several miles to fatch water. Through you, I would like to say that the budget of India deverds monsoon. Sometimes there is no rain, sometimes there is heavy downpour, sometime there is irregular rain and sometimes there is a long gap all these factors are responsible for floods and drought conditions. Through you, I would like to say that just now the hon. Minister was reading a list giving details of crores of rupees, but has the Government set up any machinery to ascertain as to whether the funds provided for relief works are being utilized properly or not? The Central Government should also see that the fund is not diverted.

[Prof. Rasa Singh Rawat]

In my opinion small irrigation project should be prepared and small dams should be constructed to store the rain water. It would ensure water in wells and underground water level will also come up. This water can also be used for irrigation purpose later on. I am ashamed of saying that every year when famine/relief works are started labourers have to be employed and engaged in earthwork and in the construction of the roads. They hardly work for 2-3 hour in a day False attendance is shown. The Congress Government had made famine relief works a business in Rajasthan for the last several years. It is true and it should be investigated. This investigation would reveal the amount misappropriated in famine relief work and the cases of bungling committed in the purchase of fodder as also the cases of making payment for false attendance. This is not true in the case of Rajasthan alone. It is true in the case of all those States which remain affected by drought. It is very essential for Government to ensure that the funds provided for relief works are utilised properly and the funds provided for purchase of cattle fodder for the development of waste land, for schemes of rural areas, for Jawahar Rojgar Yojana or for horticulture or plantation, etc. are utilized properly.

I would also like to draw the attention of the Government to one more point that no attempt has been made to control locust swarm invasion in Rajasthan. Crops worth crores of rupees are likely to be destroyed as a result of that invasion. The Locust swarm will destroy whatever vegetation and greenery is there in the State. More than one month has past since it had invaded Rajasthan but despite many efforts this invasion by locust swarm has not been checked. Has the Government asked Pakistan as to why it did not give information regarding locust swarm invasion. Locust

swarm is entering the new areas of the country and measures such as use of pesticides and spray etc. being taken to check the invasion are proving a failure. For this, I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister to take personal interest and ask the hon. Governor and officials of Rajasthan to take appropriate measures in this regard because now-a-days the state is under the President's rule. He should also send agricultural experts and others from the centre so that locust swarm may be controlled.

A permanent solution to the problem of drinking water in Rajasthan is very essential. For this a scheme should be formulated to seek a permanent solution to the famine conditions in the State, so that fund of billions of rupees which is spent every year may be utilized in such a manner that people may get permanent benefit in coming years. Government provides temporary relief so the money spent there on goes waste. It does not provide any permanent solution.

17.00 hrs.

Therefore, we should take such steps which may solve the problem permanently, only then the problem of drought can be resolved.

[English]

SHRI SUDHIR GIRI (Contai): Mr. Chairman, Sir, India presents a paradox in so far as the weather situation is involved. Because of the vagaries of nature, sometimes we find that large parts of our country are inundated by floods and sometimes we find that huge parts of our country suffer from severe drought.

The other day, in this House, there was a discussion and I think an important discussion on the flood situation of the country. And now we are discussing the drought situation.

Floods do kill and have already killed hundreds of people in our country, destroying villages after villages and destroying all the crops grown there. Floods kill all these things very swiftly, but drought causes destruction of such properties, human lives and cattle very slowly.

This is not a temporary situation in this year. Drought situation happens permanently in our vast territory because of the vastness of the country, because of the diversity in weather, our drought situations do occur every year. So, it is not of a temporary nature but it is of a permanent character. So, it is not of a temporary nature but it is of a permanent character. So, solution to such problems should be sought by the Government by applying their mind scientifically; and in these cases experts and know-how of our country should be at our service and the Government should remain prepared and come forward to invite our know-how and experts how to solve this problem.

In this year, floods have occurred in Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, Punjab, Jammu and Kashmir and some other parts of the country also; and drought has occurred severely in Andhra Pradesh, Kamataka, Gujarat, U.P. and Bihar. In Bihar, Palaman, Nalanda, Ranchi and in U.P. in eastern part of U.P., Garhwal have been severely affected by drought.

To solve the problem, the Government have sent monetary help. The Hon. Prime Minister visited the other day some parts of Bihar which have been affected severely by drought; but mere visiting will not do; we have to find out some durable solution to this perennial problem; and for this purpose, this purpose, different projects have to be worked out.

Already for the purpose of rural development, some projects are there. The Gov-

ernment have evolved such projects and State Governments have sent those projects to the Centre for its approval. Some projects await completion, some projects have been partly implemented. But so much time is taken to implement these projects and that time cannot be afforded because of the severe nature of the drought and floods.

Sir, there are developing projects like DRDA, IRDP, Jawahar Rojgar Yojna, and some other projects are there. But where there are Panchayats the funds spent by the State Government and the Central Government can be properly utilised. Where there are no Panchayats part of the money spent by the Central Government and the State Governments is diverted in different ways. This money actually does not reach the people who are really affected.

In such a situation, in Orissa, we notice that people leave their permanent habitats and wander to some other places in search of food, drinking water and work. In such a situation there is price rise and scarcity of food and consumer goods. There is shortage of drinking water. Such a situation prevails everywhere. production of crops goes down. People roam about from one place to other in search of employment.

For this purpose I demand that the Central Government should divert funds, for the purpose of providing drinking water in the drought affected areas, which are allocated for some other purposes. Projects involving sinking deep tube wells and for providing drinking water should be immediately implemented. Supply of consumer goods at subsidised rates should be given to those who cannot afford to buy them at higher prices and people should be saved from this calamity.

Sir, provision of relief work should be made there. Provision of fodder for cattle also should be made, as in the drought

[Sh. Sudhir Giri]

affected areas cattle die because of shortage of drinking water and fodder. For this purpose also the Government should take steps to supply fodder for the cattle. Without sanctioning more tube wells the shortage of water cannot be solved at all. All the rivers should be brought under a broad scheme so that their water can also be utilised during the drought situation.

All projects which have been formulated and for which allotments have been made should be implemented rapidly.

My next suggestion would be that alternative sources of water should be found out. Providing monetary help and employment to the people should be chalked out and that should be given immediate priority.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV (Azamgarh): Mr. Chariman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me time to speak. I had also to attend another programme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, severe drought has engulfed my district Azamgarh. And this is the position in more than 40 districts in Uttar Pradesh. I am confident that the report submitted to the hon. Agriculture Minister in this regard is not based on the factual position. I will request you to call a complete repaid from the Governor of U.P. I think that at present Azamgarh, Gazipur, Balia, Deoria, Gorakhpur, Jaunpur, Varansi, Faizabad division and Allahabad division of the State are the worst affected ever. Only four days back after visiting Allahabad district, half of its area has been declared drought affected. Now the situation of drought is prevailing in more than half of the districts of Uttar Pradesh. There has been on an average 40 to 80 per cent deficiency of rain in the State as a result of its crops are withering and

paddy is not being planted. The administration of the State is totally indifferent. Tube wells are not working in the State. It is not a new thing for eastern Uttar Pradesh as most of the time tube/wells remain out of order or transformers are stolen or drains are not repaired or power is not available. The same situation, is also, prevailing now.

Some is the condition of canals there. Water is not being made available. Irrigation Department generally wait for rain and when crops start withering then the water is released in the canals. As most of the members amongst us are farmers, they know that if once the crop starts withering then despite providing water, it suffers damage from 50 to 100 per cent. Therefore, I would like to submit to the Central Government to provide assistance there as soon as possible.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I think the hon. Agriculture Minister pays attention to this and also makes funds available for this purpose on the demand of State Government. I think now the Government should change the position and ask as to which states are affected by drought and how much fund do they require. Provide fund to them as soon as possible. Just now, Shri Rameshwar Thankur has given the detail of fund provided to Bihar. I was surprised to know that Rs. 8-10 to 18 crore have been provided to each district but according to him the State Government is not spending that amount.

I was talking to the M.P's of Bihar just now. Please give them the list. The State Government cannot spend funds on drought due to certain constraints and restrictions. The Central Government has put restrictions as to how funds are to be utilised. Kindly provide us the whole list. We would get information from Bihar Government. According to my information State Government is providing huge assistance to the

flood-affected areas. The hon. Prime Minister paid a visit to these areas and he was impressed by the relief work there. He provided more funds. He knew that funds were being spent and so more funds were required. Kindly make me available the list of Uttar Pradesh also. Honestly, I am telling you that I took interest in such things of my district for the first time. The problem is that there is paucity of funds. If a three kilometre unmetalled road is to be constructed, only one kilometre is constructed in five years. The expenditure on the construction of one kilometre path comes to about Rs. one lakh. Due to paucity of funds, culverts are not constructed, roads are not repaired and there is lack of drinking water facilities. On my request the Governor paid a visit to my district. There were no drinking water facilities in my district, so he was kind enough to grant immediately Rs. three lakh. He directed that new tubewells should be installed and the damaged ones should be repaired. When Shri Reddy was the Governor, many tubewells were out of order. Rs. five lakhs were demanded for repairs but only Rs. 2.25 lakh were granted. So I would like to submit that there is paucity of funds. Drinking water problem arises during drought situation. Bihar M.P's were submitting that if drinking water is not made available, cattle would perish and the situation would worsen. Jakhar Sahib takes much interest in such things. In Punjab, Haryana and Maharashtra, these things are taken up on priority basis. Similarly, it should be taken up on priority basis in Uttar Pradesh also. A sum of Rs. ninety lakh have been granted for the development of Eastern Uttar Pradesh. What can be done with such a meagre amount. Azamgarh is second to Kerala, so far as density of population is concerned but such a meagre amount has been granted in the name of development and progress. The Minister of Finance had declared that some backward States and districts would be identified and special assistance would be provided to them. The Planning Commis-

sion has refused to give special assistance to some backward districts and said that it would also not consider them zero industry areas. There has been no progress in development of such areas. After a span of forty five years, the hon. Minister of Railways went there to lay down the foundation stone of a broad gauge railway line. people have doubts in their mind as to whether it would be completed or not. When Government is not providing means of transport and irrigation, when roads are neglected, industrialists do not go there because of lack of infra-structure. Therefore, I request you to kindly fix some priorities, rules and law as in this regard. I would like to submit that the poor people of the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh which remains either drought affected or flood/affected suffer due to bad management of the Government and has to go to Singapore or Malayasia or Gulf Countries or sometimes to Delhi, Bombay and Kanpur for earning their livelihood leaving there families behind. Central Government should provide special assistance in this regard. A Central Board should be set up for their development. When Shri D.P. Dhar was the Minister of Planning, some schemes were framed for the benefit of these areas. Later they were abandoned. The farmers of this area are very hard-working. I have written many times in this regard to the hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Netaji and it is a matter of great pleasure that they have decided to open Krishi Vigyan Kendras there. The people are poor and the breed of the animals is not good. The cows give little milk, say 250, gms to 500 gms. so some crash programme should be undertaken for breed improvement. Many programmes are framed. I would like that attention should also be paid towards backward area. Recovery should be stopped at once. At least R. ten to fifteen crores should be spent in those special areas to promicre electricity repairing of opening of PAS to matter the Kachar roads tubewells, so diploma livelihood to the people there. This is my special request.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA (Junagarh): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is a matter of great regret that even after a passage of 45 years of independence we have not been able to take appropriate steps to combat drought situation. We have been saying that India is predominantly an agricultural country but even then we have not taken appropriate steps regarding arrangements of water, fertilisers and seeds. For one reason, Government does not work properly and secondly natural calamities do affect agriculture. Consequently, the farmers are in distress. Hon. Minister is present in the House and through him I would like to submit that even though rainfall in Israel is very low agriculture production there is good. In India, the rainfall in some areas is heavy and there are floods. We were discussing the drought situation in Bihar just now. I would like to submit that cannot we take such steps to enable us to utilise every drop of water. Cannot we take such concrete step. We should consider it seriously.

Overall, nothing is satisfactory as some parts are affected by drought, other are affected by floods. There are some villages where there is no drinking water facility and women have to tread three to four kilometers to fetch water. Only a women can feel how difficult the situation is. Today we are discussing drought situation, but there is also drinking water problem. Government should pay attention towards this problem also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as Bihar is affected by drought, in the same way Gujarat and Kutch is also affected by drought. Districts of Ropar, Mandvi, Bhuj, Apdasa, Nakharana and Bhacharu are also drought affected. There has been no rain fall in Junagarh, Bhavnagar, Surendranagar, Jamangar, Rajkot, Sabhar Kantha districts of Saurashtra region. Where there has been less rainfall, the plight of farmer is still bad. When farmers had sown the seeds, there was little rainfall. Where there has been no rainfall, farmers did not get chance to sow the seeds. So I

demand that States should be given assistance at war footing from National Calamity Relief Fund immediately and to meet the drought situation. Although hon. Prime Minister is not present here, but hon. Minister of Agriculture is present here.

I would like to submit that as you go on tour of the flood-affected areas by helicopter like that you should also tour the drought affected areas and assess the situation there. The hon. Minister should consider this point.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, River Narmada is the Life line of Gujarat. But it's water is flowing into the ocean unutilised. There is a project in this regard, but God knows why it is lying pending on one or the other pretext. It has not been implemented. the way it should have been. The Narmada Project should be treated as national project and should immediately be completed, so that the water problem of Gujarat can be solved. The farmers are facing all the problems, as electricity is also not available. Where there is electricity, there is no water. Even if there is water, they are not able to save their crops as there is no electricity. The hon. Minister should consider it seriously and should relieve the farmers from all the difficulties. No fodder is available for livestock also. Through you, I would like to request the hon. Minister that save the people and live stock from drought. Relief works should immediately be started there and the State Government should be provided assistance as early as possible from the calamity relief fund.

17.33 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER-CONTD

(iii) Order dated 2 August 1993 of the Chief Election Commissioner, Suspending all Activities for Holding Elections in the country

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COM-