

3. The Cotton Transport Repeal Bill, 1995
4. The National Highways (Amendment) Bill, 1995
5. The National Environment Tribunal Bill, 1995
6. The Constitution (Seventy-seventh Amendment) Bill, 1995

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14.09 hrs.

[English]

#### Election To Committee

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR) : Sir, I beg to move :-

"That in pursuance of Section 7(2) (f) of the Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two female members from among themselves, to serve as members of the central Supervisory Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

MR. CHAIRMAN : The question is :

"That in pursuance of Section 7(2) (f) of the Pre-Natal Diagnoses Techniques (Regulation and Prevention of Misuse) Act, 1994 the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two female members from among themselves, to serve as members of the Central Supervisory Board, subject to other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

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14.10 hrs.

[Translation]

#### Calling Attention To Matter Of Urgent Public Importance

SITUATION ARISING OUT OF DROUGHT AND FLOOD IN SEVERAL PARTS OF THE COUNTRY.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV (AZAMGARH) : Sir, I draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and urge him to make a statement in this regard :-

"Situation arising out of drought and floods in different parts of the country and the steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) :- Sir, the South-West Monsoon advanced into Gangetic West Bengal on 7th June, 1995 and reached Kerala on 8th June, 1995. Since the normal date for onset of the monsoon over Kerala is 1st June, the arrival of the monsoon this year has been about one week late. The delayed start of the monsoon resulted in late commencement of the rains over some parts of the country. The onset of monsoon was delayed over Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, parts of West Uttar Pradesh, east Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana by about seven to thirteen days. However, by 13th July, 1995 the South-West Monsoon had covered the entire country, two days in advance of the normal date of 15th July for coverage of the western-most districts of Rajasthan.

Information available regarding rainfall in the 35 meteorological sub-divisions of the country for the week ending 26th July, 1995 shows that the rainfall situation is now quite satisfactory. Out of 35 meteorological sub-divisions as many as 26 have excess or normal rainfall and only 9 sub-divisions are in the category of deficient rainfall. There is no sub-division where the rainfall is scanty. However, many of the Sub-divisions which have deficient rainfall have only marginal deficiency, slightly more than -19% which is considered within the normal range such as Konkan & Goa (-20%), Orissa (-22%), east Uttar Pradesh (-24%), Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi (-20%) and Punjab (-24%). However, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram and Tripura sub-division has a deficiency of -29%, Bihar Plains -28%, plains of west Uttar Pradesh -32% and Saurashtra, Kutch and Diu -34%. As on 26th July, 1995 as many as 185 districts in the country had normal rainfall and another 66 districts had excess rainfall. There were 133 districts with deficient rainfall and 17 districts with scanty rainfall. However, I am happy to inform the House that there has been good rainfall over the country in the last few days and the situation is progressively improving.

Since the South-West Monsoon has completed about two months of its four months span and most parts of the country have received good rainfall by now, it would be too early to make a by assessment about drought conditions in several parts of the country. Even though the rainfall commenced late over some areas of the country, the rains have been sufficient for sowing of crops in most parts of the country.

It is reported that transplanting of rice is continuing over large areas. The standing crops of transplanted rice and upland broadcast rice is

reported to be satisfactory. The sowing of coarse cereals is nearing completion. The standing crop is reported to be satisfactory. The sowing of cotton in northern India is complete whereas in western and southern parts of the country it is continuing. Sugarcane sowing in northern India is already complete. The sowing of oilseeds and pulses is in progress. In most areas the area covered has been satisfactory. Sowing is still in progress. The latest situation will be known only after some time.

Expect for Karnataka no other State has reported the existence of drought conditions. The Government of Karnataka had sent a Memorandum seeking Central assistance on account of inadequate rainfall and relief measures required to meet the situation, based on the rainfall received upto 8th July, 1995. At that stage both south-interior Karnataka and north-interior Karnataka sub-divisions were deficient in rainfall, while coastal Karnataka had normal rainfall. As many as 18 districts out of a total of 20 districts were reported to be facing drought situation. However, by the week ending 26th July, 1995 the position has changed very substantially. All meteorological sub-divisions of Karnataka have normal rainfall. Out of a total of 20 districts 2 districts have excess rainfall, 17 have normal rainfall and only one district has deficient rainfall. Since there has been good rainfall in the last few days I expect that the situation would have improved further.

Information received from the States shows that a total of 63 districts in 10 States have been affected by some floods in the current South-West monsoon. Assam has been affected by two waves of floods in which a total of 18 districts were affected causing loss of 48 human lives and 12,644 animals. Jammu & Kashmir State has been having heavy and incessant rainfall during the last few days which has resulted in severe floods. As many as 68 people are reported to have lost their lives in 12 districts. Loss of human lives has been reported from Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Meghalaya and Punjab. West Bengal and Tripura have reported some damage to houses. The total loss of lives reported in the country is 205. In addition, 42,295 houses have been damaged. Figures of crop area affected are available from Assam and Bihar which have reported an area of 3.33 lakh ha. affected by the floods.

In accordance with the scheme of Calamity Relief approved by the Government of India on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission it is for the State Governments to carry out relief and rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamities such as drought and floods. An amount of Rs. 1130.26 crores has been allocated for the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) in 1995-96 for the

different States of the country of which the Centre's share is Rs. 847.71 crores. The Central Government has already released the first and second quarterly instalments of the CRF amounting to Rs. 423.55 crores. Karnataka has a CRF amounting to Rs. 39.49 crores in the year 1995-96 of which the Central Government's share is Rs. 29.62 crores. The Central Government has already released the first and second quarterly instalments amounting to a total of Rs. 14.81 crores. Karnataka and other State Governments can undertake relief and rehabilitation, if necessary, in case of any drought or floods using the corpus of the CRF which is available with them. In addition, State Governments can generate employment in affected areas using the employment schemes sponsored by the Government of India such as Jawahar Rozgar Yojana as also other Centrally Sponsored Programmes such as Drought Prone Areas Programmes and Desert Development Programme.

I fully share the concerns expressed by the Hon'ble Members and would like to take this opportunity to reassure the House that in case the situation requires it, the Government of India will extend all possible assistance to the State Governments to enable them to meet the situation created by drought and floods.

*[Translation]*

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is deplorable that during the discussion on the Calling Attention Motion, the hon. Minister of Agriculture was not present in the House though his presence was called for. I do not object to Shri Arvind Netam making a statement on the floor of the House on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture but can he give a definite assurance to the House about steps the Government will take to meet this situation? There is a question mark on how much can he say on this subject.

The statement of the hon. Agriculture Minister is far from reality and it will be no exaggeration to say that through this statement a curtain has been cast on reality. Just now, while he was reading out his statement that there is no matter of concern because there has been satisfactory rainfall throughout the country, Shri Nitish Kumar on my right and Shri Mohan Singh on my left said in a spontaneous response that the claimed made by the Government are not true. Though, they give sound reasons yet they don't want to reveal the fact, I myself say that he is not ready to accept the reality.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, at least 30 crore people are affected by severe drought situation. Right from Meerut and Ghaziabad to Azamgarh, Ballia, Deoria, Varanasi, Jhansi and Allahabad, the whole state of

Uttar Pradesh is under the grip of severe drought. I would request the hon. Minister to ascertain facts in some more depth as there is a worse situation of drought in the country. Shri Jagannath Mishra is present here and he will concede, as Nitish ji was saying, that barring Purnia, the whole of Bihar is facing an acute dearth of water. There is no rainfall due to which more than half of farmers' crops have so far been destroyed. Then why don't you accept the truth?

I have got the cuttings of newspapers of 28th July. The leading newspapers of Uttar Pradesh have drawn attention to this drought under different headlines - "Kisanon ke Darwaze Par Sookhe ki Dastak", "Kharief Ki Fasal Nasht", "Rabi Ki Fasal Par Bhi Vyapak Asar", "Khetoon Mein Dhool Ur Rahi Hai", "Poora Uttar Pradesh Sookhagrast Hone ke Kagar Par", "Mausam Ki Maar Se Kisan Behal", "Varsha Na Hone Se Kisan Vyakul", etc. and he has read out this report here. Who gives him such reports? I challenge this report and demand that the Government of India should constitute a high level Parliamentary Committee to probe the matter. In the event of communal strife, and earthquake or a grave calamity, the Parliamentary Committees are constituted which examine things. Such a committee visited the J & K State. To me, the most appropriate demand will be to constitute a Parliamentary Committee that would visit the drought affected areas and assess the damage. At least, this would help examine the report submitted by the meteorological department who are doing injustice to the country's farmers by keeping you in the dark. This drought apart from having its immediate effects will also affect the Rabi Crop in future.

There is dearth of electricity in this country today. Mishraji is well aware of the situation of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh that a farmers gets the supply of electricity for not more than 3-4 hours per day. In Bihar, he gets no electricity at all. Both these States have a population of 25 crore. Same is the situation in Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and other parts of the country. I have stated a minimum number of affected people i.e. 25-30 crore people. If you go through the whole report, you can see that half the country has been devastated by drought. The farmer is not able to sow seeds and whatever sowing he has done is by dint of his hard work and not by Government's help. Further, the water in his tubewell has dried up and you are saying that the real situation of drought cannot be assessed right now. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it is quite astonishing. When will the hon. Minister make the assessment? Due to this, no electricity will be supplied, no tube well will be repaired, no canal will be deepened and no water will be flowed in them. Thus, no priority will be given to the farmers and the Government says that it is not possible to make an assessment at this juncture. Will the assessment be

made, when everything gets destroyed? On the other hand, he says that 133 districts experienced less rain and 17 districts experienced scant rain. I want to say that the facts presented by him are absolutely wrong. When the farmers of Northern Indian will read his statement, they will be disappointed that the Government was not aware of their condition and all their hopes will be dashed to the ground. We observe in Delhi that the sky is overcast in the day and at night easterly wind blows, clouds scatter and stars begin to twinkle. Same is the situation in areas of entire Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and Madhya Pradesh. (Interruptions)

The hon. Minister says that rice sowing in most of the areas is going on. What is this fun? Paddy is sown and not the rice. Rice is extracted from paddy. You should make the officers understand the difference between rice and paddy. These officers are not aware of farmers' problems and have no knowledge of village life. It is very unfortunate that such officers are appointed in Agriculture Department who have no knowledge about the problems of 70-80 per cent population, the backbone of this country. If there is drought, our industries will be ruined and prices will go up. He is giving a statement on the lines of Shri Buta Singh. It seems as if the Government is unaware of the problems of farmers. When Shri Buta Singh said that pulse is being sold at the rate of Rs. 14/- per kg., all the members present there asked him about that particular shop so that they can also buy pulse at the same rate. Today, no pulse is being sold below Rs. 34/- per kg. Shri Netam ji may sometimes be purchasing the pulses but Shri Buta Singh does not have to buy. Maize, millet and all other Kharif crops are drying up. All pulses including Urad, Moong and Arhar have perished due to drought. If the Government remains in dark like this, it will be inviting a great trouble. Under such circumstance, the prices will go up and there will be shortage of foodgrain. If sugarcane gets dried up, we will have to face shortage of sugar. Similarly, there is likelihood of a great power crisis in near future. If there is no power supply, the factories will close down. We will not be able to generate electricity if there is no rain, water reservoirs remain dry and no water is made available for dams. The Government should not conceal the facts. This statement conceals the reality.

I would like to speak on 2-3 points. First, a high level committee of Member of Parliament minus officers should be sent to see the ground reality. Thereafter, reports can be called for from each district. He has said that no state except Karnataka has asked them for assistance.

The Central Government should ask what the Chief Ministers and the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar doing? Why are they inattentive

to this problem? If the Governments of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar have not brought the reality to your notice, then they should be held responsible for that. However, you will have to come out with the true picture.....(*Interruptions*)

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important subject.

SHRI MOHAN SINGH ( DEORIA ) : This issue may be discussed under Rule 193.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : Actually, there was a demand for allotting 4-5 hours for the discussion on this issue but it did not materialise and this issue came up under "Calling Attention Motion". I request the Agriculture Minister to discuss this matter with the Minister of Power. There is total disorder in power sector. 60 per cent tubewells are not functioning for want of power. Farmers are facing worst water crisis. When I visited a village under my constituency Azamgarh, a meeting was held there. After the meeting was over, women in large numbers came to me. I thought that they had some problems but to my surprise all of them said with folded hands that their nearest tubewell was not functioning for the last six months and as a result, their crops had dried up. This is the situation prevailing there.

I hail from a backward area like eastern Uttar Pradesh and Western Bihar. If a house collapses due to flood, the Government provides assistance of Rs. 300/- only. You can imagine what kind of a house can be built with Rs. 300/- only. Recently 65 houses were gutted in fire in my constituency. All the houses belonged to the poor and dalits. I visited the area.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH ( AONLA ) : They actually get Rs. 200/- only. The remaining Rs. 100/- are grabbed by middlemen.

SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV : This is the position. In fact, Rs. 1000/- per family were distributed there. When I visited that village, the villagers complained that they were on the verge of starvation. They had built jhonparis with the amount of rupees one thousand and they had nothing to eat. I met the District Collector for help but he said that they had no other alternative. Then I approached the Commissioner and he was kind enough to sanction four hundred rupees to each family. They had no clothes to wear. I made them available dhotis, sarees and blankets with the help of some people. They are poor people. They are facing the situation created by drought. You are not aware of their plight. The allocation of fund for this area is not sufficient. The Government has only Rs. 11.36 crores to meet drought, flood and other calamities. This amount is

very less. It is needed to be increased. Secondly, you should allocate more funds to the States under this head. You say that all these responsibilities lies with the State Government but the Central Government can not escape from its responsibility in such a situation. You are, therefore, requested to increase this amount and the Central Government should bear this responsibility. The Central Government should resolve this big crisis, otherwise it will take the shape of a national crisis. As per your statement 300-350 people have died in the flood in several districts. In Jammu and Kashmir 50 persons died. Deaths due to floods were also reported from West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh and Kerala. Will Rs. 300/- be sufficient to build their houses? The Union Government should evolve such a scheme under which it will take the responsibility to build houses for such people, as the States Government do not have sufficient resources. Moreover, the Revenue Department should stop recovery of revenue and rent. Fee concessions to students and options of opening fair price shops should be considered in this regard.

Electricity supply should be regularised so that water can be released to the canals and tubewells start functioning. Simultaneously, we should chalk out big schemes to avoid recurrence of such crisis in the country. There is a need to allocate more funds to increase the irrigated area.

I hope the hon. Minister will not get carried away by the report of his officers and take necessary steps.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. C. CHACKO) : Chitta Basuji, you can ask some questions if you have. Please do not make a speech.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (BARASAT) : I am quite aware of the limitation of the time and the limitation of the rule.

From the statement, it appears that there has been flood in a wide area in different parts of our country. From the statement which is with us and from the reports available from the State Governments and the press I find that the flood has affected certain parts of the following States :

First is Bihar. Not only has there been a drought but there have also been floods in Bihar. Then Assam is heavily affected by two waves of flood. West Bengal is also affected by floods. Punjab has been affected by floods. Kashmir Valley has been affected by floods. And Meghalaya has also been affected by floods. We have also heard about the drought through the statement made by the hon. Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chitta Basuji you can ask clarificatory questions and do not make a speech. There are other Members also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am simply asking for clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All these statistics are there in the Minister's statement also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : There is no mention of districts.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please put your question. The Minister will reply.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : There are also drought affected areas. I am not going to say what are the areas affected. Have the Ministry, have the Government taken note of this paradox that in the same State there are floods in certain villages and in the same States there are certain districts which are affected by drought? This is the paradox. And this paradox is the cause for overall comprehensive planning covering, flood control measures as well as efficient water resources management for long-term solution.

For the clarification. I want to know whether the Government accepts this or realises the implication of this paradox and whether they have so far prepared any comprehensive plan or whether any comprehensive steps have been taken to remove this difficulty and to fight the situation. It is one aspect of the problem. That is a permanent solution to the problem.

But there is also another aspect of the problem which is the question of relief and rehabilitation measures. The present system, as I hope you know, is unsatisfactory. In one word I say that it is unsatisfactory and needs revision. What is the present system? I think, you will explain it. The Tenth Finance Commission has recommended certain amounts for each State for fighting natural calamity. And then the State Government shall draw from that fund and undertake relief and rehabilitation measures with the corpus money available through the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). It is the general complaint of all the States that the Tenth Finance Commission has not done justice to the States and as a result of that.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister would not be able to give you reply to such questions. Please confine to your question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I am not responsible for the inability of the Minister.

AN HON. MEMBER : There is a reference to the Tenth Finance Commission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : All of us know what are the criteria for relief for droughts and floods. Let us not go into it.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Sir, I am not responsible for the inability of the Government. I am here to raise the issue and the Government certainly functions as the collective body and not by him alone. How can you treat the subject without taking into account the Calamity Relief Fund? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand. Will you please address the Chair.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : This is the main subject.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please address the Chair? Let us go by the rules. You may ask your question, the Minister wants to reply.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : May I know whether these unsatisfactory methods are going to be revised. If yes, then when and how? This is the thing and I think unless I say this, they will not understand this ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, after receiving the report from the State Government, a Central team will visit. Then, they will produce a report. Based on that, the Cabinet will take a decision as to whether some relief assistance from the Centre should be given or not and if given what is the quantum? Sir, I ask you is it a satisfactory method of meeting the natural calamities? No. I want a clarification.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is beyond the scope of this Calling Attention. Please.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : No, Sir, with all humility, if you allow me to raise the question of natural calamities. *(Interruptions)* Then, it is within the jurisdiction. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is fine. No more questions, Please.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Precise or specific question, please.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I want to know whether the Government has taken a by measure to see that the whole procedure is revised and revised in a manner so that the State Government has got no compliant and immediate relief measures can be adopted by the State Government and necessary financial assistance is quickly and immediately available to the State Governments. I take example of two State Governments.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please, Chitta Basuji, it is not permitted.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Assam. *(Interruptions)* What the Chief Minister says about Assam? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have to restrict you. I will be forced to restrict your speech.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have to put a question and the Minister will answer.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : He makes a Statement saying that the State was also entitled to Rs. 47 crores per year to combate natural calamities as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission. Out of the total amount for drought in the current year ..... *(Interruptions)* It had been Rs. 23 crores. Now this is my complaint and this is my question. While the Finance Commission has allotted.....*(Interruptions)* I want to know why the other quantum money has not so far been available to the Assam Government. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Next Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh please.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : Assam Government also says that.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chitta Basuji, please be seated. Pleased take your seat. I am standing. Please take your seat. This is very unfortunate. You know the rules and procedures of this House.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I know.

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a Calling Attention Motion.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : So what?

MR. CHAIRMAN : I have given more time to Yadavji because this is a very important and very crucial question as for as farmers are concerned. He made a very detailed statement and the Minister is here to answer. You can specifically mention one or two questions and you are allowed to make one question.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing. You are going through the Statement and making a long speech.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHITTA BASU : With all humility.....*(Interruptions)* I know the limitation of the rule. *(Interruptions)* I can help myself. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We do not need your support. Now take your seat.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH) : Nobody is supporting him. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is a good suggestions. Let us finish this.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have made your suggestion. Why don't you take your seat?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Why can't you sit down, Please.

Now please ask a specific question.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I have already asked three specific questions and I am on the fourth one.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Chitta Basuji, you are allowed to ask only one clarificatory question. That is the procedure.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The rule is clear. I am entitled to put some clarificatory questions. There is no limit of four or limit of one. Where is the limit? What is the rule?

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are a senior Member. Please do not compel me to restrict your speech.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : I have put three questions. I think the hon. Minister will respond to them.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, he will definitely respond to them.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : The fourth question is, complaints have been made by the Chief Minister of Assam regarding non-availability of funds although funds have been allotted by the Tenth Finance Commission. So I want to know the reason therefor. Secondly, complaints have also been made by the Chief Minister of Karnataka that they demanded Rs. 256 crore as the drought relief. So far the Central Government has sanctioned only Rs. 39.5 crore in the CRF, that is the Calamity Relief Fund and of that allotted amount, only Rs. 15 crore has been released. That means, the Karnataka Government has so far received only Rs. 15 crore from the Central Government for meeting the situation arising out of the drought condition. I want the Government to clarify this position as to why the Chief Minister's requests are not being accepted.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not asking the Minister to reply to your final question because there is a set pattern for that. You should understand that, This is the limited question on the present crisis which is development due to flood and drought. The Central assistance to States is a different issue. The Minister is not bound to reply to these questions.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : If you give that ruling. I am sorry. But it has serious implications. You have admitted a motion for discussing the situation arising out of the drought and flood and steps taken by the Government in order to meet that, Steps taken in that direction necessarily include the steps for relief; and for relief it necessarily includes the question of finance; and in that question, the question of Central assistance also comes in.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude.

SHRI CHITTA BASU : These are my four questions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay, take your seat. Before I call upon the next Member, I may in all humility remind the hon. Members not to behave like this. Senior Members, knowing the rules of the Calling Attention Motion, are going beyond the scope of this particular motion.

Now Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh. Please put your one clarificatory question.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (JAJAHANAD) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I will like to tell the hon. Minister that two speaker have already spoken before me on the subject under discussion.

My point is that it is not a new thing, but I want to know from the Government why even after 47 years of our independence, floods and drought situation is being debated here. I, too, have been witnessing it here for the last 11 years but whether the Government has formulated any scheme to deal with floods and drought permanently? Whether it is not a fact that the country suffers a loss of property worth billions of rupees and heavy toll of human lives due to floods and droughts. Farmers also sustain great loss due to floods and droughts. Whether Government has earmarked so much funds for relief works? We want to know whether it is not the Duty of the Government to save the people, the farmers and labourers of those states who have been caught in the throes of drought but do not have required resources to fight it out? You have said that Bihar is not in the grip of drought. This is far from the truth. I want to say that drought is there in Bihar and this is due to You. There is Arval irrigation Schemes of British period is in my constituency, which irrigates various districts. But you could not even carry out its maintenance till date, due to which irrigated land has shrunk by 33 percent. Today, the area is slowly getting barren. If you fail even in maintaining that important scheme bequeathed by the Britishers, then you cannot be called able administrator.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, if the Government implements those schemes of Bihar which are pending so far, then Bihar can be saved from floods and droughts. Out of these one important project is Punpoon Morhar Darga Project, whose estimated cost is one billion rupees and the project is in the cold bag due to lack of resources. If the Central Government wants to save Bihar from drought then it must provide assistance for this project of Bihar and this project should be relaunched. Otherwise, mere talk would not suffice. You are under a wrong notion if you think that this work will be accomplished with the speeches of Mr. Ramashray Prasad or some other hon. Members.

Our Present Rural Development Minister has been Chief Ministers of Bihar for three terms. I want to know what is the fate of the tubewells installed during his tenure. The schemes involved lakhs and crores of rupees, but all the tubewells are out of order and are not being looked after. Had State tubewell scheme been running properly, Bihar could have faced drought easily. The Chief Minister of Bihar asks for more and more funds. Mere debating here will not help unless and until assistance is given.

My request is that the hon. Minister must reply to the points I have raised here. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would you please wind up?

Mr. Das, please do not follow their examples.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS (JALPAIGURI) : Sir, I will take only two minutes for my speech. I will finish my speech in two minutes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Put it in the form of a question.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : There are opportunities in the House to discuss all these things. Now, let us go the rules.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JITENDRA NATH DAS : You are only taking my time....*(Interruptions)* Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have gone through this statement. But there is a gulf of difference between this statement and the actual relief received by the State Government. So, I demand that more fund be provided to the State at the appropriate time so that the State Government may meet this crisis. Flood and drought have become an annual feature. I have tried to give some idea in different words.

The total area affected annually is 7.7 million hectares; the total crop area affected annually is 3.5 million hectares; the total number of lives lost annually due to flood is 1439 and the amount of loss on account of flood annually is Rs. 900 crore.

This is a very alarming thing. You may get to know this from the statement also. This year also various parts of the country are affected by floods and drought. Assam is badly affected by flood. In West Bengal, Jaipauri, Darjeeling, Coochbehar are the areas which are affected by the flood badly. Communication has also been dislocated. Restoration of communication is essential, but no fund has yet been placed by the Central Government in this regard. I would like to request the Central Government to place funds to repair the communication system. Giving relief is not a permanent solution. So, I would like to know what is the idea of the Government to have some permanent solution so that people of our country may be relieved of these things. In this regard, I would like to have the following clarifications:

1. Whether the existing arrangement to make forecasts is sufficient to cover the entire flood prone areas; if not, what are the steps that are taken by the Government?

2. Whether integrated long term flood management and drought control schemes have been planned at all? If so, I would like to have the schemes in detail with monitoring process.

3. What is the fate of the comprehensive planning of flood control in the lower Ganges and the Brahmaputra basins?

4. River beds and ocean beds are rising up due to siltation caused by the erosion of land. May I know whether the Government has got any programme to deepen the beds? If so, I want to have the programme in detail.

Lastly, I would like to mention that the Government should also have a master plan to divert water from the flood prone areas to the drought prone areas. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE (WARDHA) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the statement given by Mr. Minister is incomplete. I want to add here that he has referred to the drought hit area of Karnataka only, whereas the information reaching here proves that areas of Bihar and U.P. are also in the throes of drought. Most parts of Sholapur, Marathwada and Vidarbha are also hit by drought conditions. No rain was witnessed here and by the time rain came sometime in July, what ever seeds the people had sown there in the Pre-Monsoon season, had already dried up. Consequently, people did not have money to buy even seeds. They did not have money to buy fertilisers and as such, failed to buy fertilisers in time. Thus the proper sowing season elapsed. Now it's the rabi cropping season there, but we do not have irrigation facilities for that. People have not got any relief. Agricultural labourers are sitting idle. So, this must be reminded and appropriate remedial measures should be taken so that farmers could sow rabi crops at least. They must get some assistance for it. My request is that they must get some assistance in the form of fertilisers, seeds and loans.  
*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN (SHRI P. C. CHACKO) : No more questions are allowed.....

*(Interruptions)*



MR. CHAIRMAN : All the hon. Members who have given notice are given time to seek clarification.....

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : also, The Minister may reply...

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Take your seat.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Mr. Chairman, Sir, only this time it is being discussed through a calling attention Motion, otherwise every year it is discussed under rule 193. If you want to express your concern, then either discuss it, Under rule 193 or suspend the rule itself.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing is going on record, please.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Do you not want to obey the Rules of the House?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, no; that is not the point.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Nitish Kumar, you are not permitted to make a statement on this. Whatever you are saying is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : I am not allowing.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister may reply.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seats. This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Minister, please go on. Please confine your reply to the issues related to this motion only.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is a Calling Attention Motion. Please understand that.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Yes, we understand that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : So, you cannot go beyond a point. You can resort to some other Rules. If you want a discussion, you can resort to some other method. This is not the way. Please understand it. I would not allow a by Member to bend the Rules like this.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. This is not permitted. You are not allowed to speak please.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You can allow if you wish.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now you take your seat. Let us not debate this issue. Debate is not permitted. The Mover of the Motion, Shri Chandra Jeet Yadav, was given almost 20 minutes to express his views. This is such a very important issue. The Chair is quite aware of that. Let us not unnecessarily enter to an argument. The scope of the discussion is limited to one clarificatory question by each Member whose names are listed. All the Members made long speeches of five to ten minutes. Now please understand that all the issues related to this are brought to the notice of the House. There may be some lack of information in the statement. That also is brought to the notice of the Minister.

Now the Minister may reply. Please do not disturb the proceedings of the

House. Please cooperate with the Chair. I am calling the Minister to reply.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No more discussion please.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We are making an appeal to you. We are not interrupting the proceedings of the House.....(*Interruptions*) We are making an appeal to the Chair, This is not disruption of the proceeding. You can consider our request.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing other than what the Minister is saying is going on record.

(*Interruptions*)\*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : You can then allow after his statement.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : After raising such an important issue, if you do not want to listen to the Minister, then I cannot do anything on this. Please listen to the Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to the hon. Members that they have given this House opportunity to debate the situation of drought and floods thought the calling attention Motion.

Everybody knows that our country is primarily an agricultural country and our agricultural depends on Monsoon. If Monsoon does not come in time in the entire country or if there comes a gap in it, then it is but natural for hon. Members and the people of the country to feel worried about it.

Our economy depends on agriculture, where 70 per cent population is engaged in agricultural professions.

As I have said earlier, this is true that Monsoon came late by a week and then there came a gap after showers for a few days. This gap worried the Government indeed but with the re-emergence of Monsoon, the situation improved considerably. I do not say that that is all right but, as I have mentioned earlier elaborately as to how much average rain was experienced and that which places witnessed deficiency in rain. Hon. Chandrajeet Yadav has expressed concern over the situation in Bihar and U.P., I want to say, through you, that there is nothing which could be concealed by the Government. This is all apparent as to what degree of rain has taken place at which place. So I have furnished data of 35 meteorological sub-divisionals as well. You are talking of U.P. and Bihar but the fact is that neither the Government of Bihar nor the Government of U.P. has informed us that the situation is very bad there.

\* Not Recorded

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : If the Government is uncompleted there, then it means you too should sit quite?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : I am not saying this. I have got information that seeds have been sown a bit late because of delay in Monsoons's arrival. But there is no possibility of shrinking of acreage of kharif crops like Paddy, oil seeds or pulses. Monsoon will continue for two more months. To decide in the beginning of August only that the situation has worsened will prove hasty. So I have said in my earlier speech that two months are still there and later on it may be analysed.

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (ALLAHABAD) : The fields have dried up, water is not available and still you will make cofectors.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHANDRAJEET YADAV : There goes a proverb " Ka Varsha Jab Krishi Sukhani." When it is already a drought situation then what the rain could do.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was saying that Monsoon is late by 10-12 days. ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please understand that your shouting like this is not serving any purpose.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Farmers are non-plussed .....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI KRIPAL YADAV : The Central Government is hell bent on discriminating and the Government of Bihar is capable..(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA (FAROJABAK) : The hon. Minister says that two more months are there for Monsoon to continue. Till then the country will get ruined. He must go for immediate arrangements .....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : The fall of rain in Bihar plateau is 14% which is near to normal rains. It is 28% in Bihar plains and that is also near to normal one Similarly, it is 24% in eastern U.P. and it is 32% in the Plains of U.P. and it is 15% in the western hills of U.P.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Wherefrom you have framed these data?

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : From meteorological sub-divisions.....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mrs. Saroj Dubey, what is this? You have not given a notice on this point. I am not permitting you.

(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : We have come back here after having seen the situation in our respective constituencies and so why not to speak on it.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : We are trying to know something but you are making interference.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Smt. Saroj Dubey, you have not even given notice to speak on such a serious situation and now you are shouting ever without the permission of the Chair. You should understand that. You please take your seat. How long should you continue like this?

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not correct.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, we are objecting to the figures that are being given. We are not disrupting...

MR. CHAIRMAN : what is that you are objecting to?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, we are just pointing out...

MR. CHAIRMAN : These are all facts and statistics.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, that is what we are objecting to. From where has the Minister obtained these facts? This is our question.

There is a drought-like situation in Bihar. We come from Bihar. Only two days ' before we have come from Bihar.....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : What is this? Why do you shout like this? Do you think that it will help you? Nobody is able to make out anything of what you are shouting. Then, will it help you?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR (BARH) : Sir, you please help us. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The thing is that five hon. Members had given notice to speak on this and they were given a chance to speak.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now; if you go on talking like this, how do we proceed?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, many Members had given notice to speak. But only the name of five Members have been listed in the List of Business for today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those Members are only entitled to speak.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : They are lucky people.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Those Members whose names are enlisted here are entitled to speak.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, we know that .....(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, you do not interrupt the Minister for each and every sentence. What he is reading out here are the factual statistics. You cannot deny them. He has also said that many State Governments.....

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Will you please take your seats? Some of the State Governments, like the State Government of Bihar, have not even informed the Central Government about this. That is what the Minister has said. You should know where things are standing. You should know what things are. You please listen to him. I am not allowing any more intervention. I would request the hon. Members not to interrupt the speech of the Minister. Now, please take your seats.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATNA) : How do you say about the Government of Bihar that it has not done?

[*English*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, you can ask Dr. Jagannath Misra about this...(*Interruptions*) Sir, we are agitated due to a drought-like situation in our State.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The failure of your own State Government is being announced.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : Sir, that is not my State Government. I do not recognise that.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You should understand one thing that while shouting you are making allegations against the State Government also.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Chandra Jeet ji and Chitta Basu Ji mentioned calamity Relief Fund. Chandra Jeet ji stated that Calamity Relief Fund should be increased since States receive aid through it. I would like to let the whole House know that 10th Finance Commission has increased the amount in comparison to that of 9th Finance Commission. In 9th Finance Commission the amount earmarked was Rs. 4020 crore while in 10th Finance Commission it was Rs. 6304 crore. This, the amount of C.R.F, has been increased which will be provided to all states as assistance through 10th Finance Commission.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, keeping all the aspects in view, the amount of CRF is determined by State Governments, Central Government and 10th Finance Commission in a meeting. To say that only Agriculture Ministry is responsible for it, is not true. Every State puts forth its views and on basis thereof, CRF is determined. It has been determined by 10th Finance Commission and I have to work and provide relief according to that.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (BARASAT) : Will you please improve it? State Governments get opportunity to improve it and they put forth their views before Finance Commission and on that basis amount of relief and CRF has been increased. Whenever such demand is raised by State Governments, we try to give full assistance on behalf of Central Government and my own Ministry and within the limit of CRF. I am in contact with State Governments to ascertain the condition of sowing and am trying to give them maximum possible assistance on behalf of Central Government. I have released two instalments of CRF to each State as their share. We are ready to give them optimum assistance, that we can give from this fund so that they can compensate the loss occurred to them in the field of Agriculture in their States. We are ready even to release the CRF instalment in advance, if any State wants so or the condition has worsened in any State. In doing so, our Ministry and Government will have to face no constraints.

Chitta Basu Saheb has just mentioned about Karnataka. It is true that in the beginning the condition of Monsoon not being good, Karnataka Government had sent a report to Central Government; we have taken action on that....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI (JHANSI) : It seems that hon. Minister has not experienced our grief. We had drawn the attention of the Government towards the conditions arisen out of flood and drought in several parts of the country but hon. Minister is mocking at the grief of masses. *(Interruptions)*

The condition of farmers has become deplorable these days. He did not even try to understand the grief of farmers.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please have the patience to listen him first.

*[Translation]*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : He has nothing to say except the misleading statements *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I hope you are not yielding to any Member.

*[Translation]*

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : I would like to tell Chitta Basu ji about the demand made by Karnataka Government and Karnataka Government is aware of it that condition of the State has improved with the on set of monsoon. As I have just mentioned, we have released two instalments of CRF to Karnataka also. The condition of Karnataka, which was not good due to absence of rain, has improved all over the State. Still, if State Government demands for CRF, we will release assistance to State Government from it. *(Interruptions)*

I would like to state that it is State Government's duty to provide relief to the affected areas, specially to villages to combat the situation of drought or that of the flood. Further, as I mentioned in my main statement, Central Government has other schemes also, the benefit of which can be availed by the State Governments. I have just mentioned Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. Besides, I mentioned Several other centrally sponsored schemes. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NITISH KUMAR : What will be your reply about Jawahar Rozgar Yozana? Jagannath Mishra ji is already sitting to reply it.....*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Hon. Member has just stated about flood and drought. I would like to tell this August House *(Interruptions)*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI (GARHWAL) : Hon. Minister is not saying anything about relief for flood and drought. *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, you are not listening to him.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI : He is only telling us what the State Government should do.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not going on record.

*(Interruptions)\**

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : We have earmarked about Rs.1,623 crores for Head Control, and out of its Rs. 1,366 crore rupees are for State Sector *(Interruptions)\**

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record. The Minister may continue.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (CUTTACK) : We are walking out in protest.

15.21 hrs.

(AT THIS STAGE, SHRI SRIKANTA JENA AND SOME OTHER HON. MEMBERS LEFT THE HOUSE.)

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, drought situation is afflicting our farmers in the country and Mr. Minister says that at present it cannot be estimated *(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not going on record. Do not waste your energy please. If you want to go out you can go. Your party has staged a walk out. If you want to go, you can go please, but no shouting like this.

*(Interruptions)\**

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Mr. Chairman, Sir, lot of money has been earmarked in the Eighth Plan for flood control in the central sector and the state sector and that is how this scheme is continuing since 1954. Similarly, large funds have been earmarked in every five year Plan. This work is required to be done by the state Government. So, all depends on them only. Whether it is an old scheme or a new one, it's only their concern as to how to complete it.

The Government of India has exclusive scheme for the drought prone areas, which has been implemented at various points of time and in various ways. This was started as rural works programme in 1977. Then it was renamed in 1993 and since then the work is going on in 13 states, covering 627 blocks and 96 districts. Assistance is given on behalf of the Government of India and separate allocation is made for the Central and State sectors. A Desert Development programme has been launched to regularly check the recurrence of drought.

Assistance is provided to all on behalf of the Government of India on the basis of the recommendation of national Agricultural Commission in 1974. Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would therefore be a precipitant conclusion that the drought situation is really very grim. The way the country has experienced the monsoon rains, that has made considerable improvement in the situation, I hope, that it will have no adverse bearing on our crops. If monsoon goes on repeating itself this way, then the target set by the Government of India for the food-grains production will definitely be achieved. This would not fall short of the target, then we will offset it by better yield in the Rabi crop and for that we will discuss the strategy with State Governments on behalf of the Government of India and will be able to bridge the gap.

[*English*]

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA (GUWAHATI) : Sir, the Minister should be a little more specific about Assam. It is a burning problem there.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It was mentioned in the statement, Mr. Kirip, you were not here.

SHRI KIRIP CHALIHA : There should be a permanent solution.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND NETAM : Permanent solution is that there is a separate scheme for flood control and this is being run by the Government of India in coordination with the State Governments and allocation has been made for this purpose in all the five year Plans. Similarly, Mr. Chairman, Sir I want to convey it to the nation through you and this august House that the situation has improved with the advent of Monsoon, and keeping it in view, I can say that this will have no adverse effect on our agricultural yield in particular and even if any deficiency is found therein, we will off set it in the Rabi crop. With these words I conclude.

[English]

15.25 hrs.

**Business Advisory Committee  
Fifty-Second Report**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : On behalf of Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, I beg to move the following :-

"That this House do agree with the Fifty-second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 1st August, 1995, excluding Item Nos. (1) and (2) of paragraph 2 of the Report since disposed of by the House."

The motion was adopted.

15.26 hrs

**Matters Under Rule 377**

[English]

(i) NEED FOR EARLY CONVERSION OF NAUPADA-PARLAKHAMUNDIGUNUPUR NARROW GAUGE RAILWAY LINE IN SOUTH EASTERN RAILWAY

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI ( BERHAMPUR) : Like the previous budgets, the Railway Budget, 1995 has omitted the announcement of the long-awaited

conversion of the Naupada-Par lakhemundi-Gunupur narrow-gauge line with extension for commercial viability upto Rayagada in Orissa, falling under the South-Eastern Railway.

There have been a lot of public agitations till now, for improvement of this Rail line, which was laid by the late Shri Krishna Chandra Gajapathi, the First Premier of Orissa, with much personal and financial involvements.

The survey work of the aforesaid project was initiated by the former Minister of State for Railways from Orissa and is understood to have been completed at present, The non-implementation of this project adversely affects the area. In fact, the hon. Prime Minister has also very kindly recommended the implementation of this project on my personal representation to him last year.

I would, therefore, request for the immediate announcement of implementation of the long-awaited aforesaid project, catering to the travelling needs of basically the tribals and the deprived lot of the border areas of the States of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

15.27 hrs.

[SHRI NITISH KUMAR IN THE CHAIR]

(ii) NEED TO RESTORE TRAIN BETWEEN NAWANSHEHRA AND RAHOAN IN PUNJAB

SHRIMATI SANTOSH CHOWDHARY (PHILLLAUR) : Rehoan is an historical town situated in Phillaur Parliamentary Constituency. It is surrounded 100 village of wet area. The train had been one of the media for transport, even before the Partition of India. But the trains running between Rohoan and nawanshehra were suspended during the Gulf war. After the Gulf war all suspended trains were restored except Rohoan - Nawahshehra. The present rail track was laid down by the Central Government but expenses were met by the then MLA of Rohoan and land was also donated for this purpose by him. At that time an agreement between the central Government and the MLA was executed that the Government would never suspend the running of trains on this track as long as the Indian railways exit. The suspension of the train is against the mutual spirits of the above-referred agreement as well as the interest and convenience of the people of this area.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to restore this train service between Nawanshehra and Rohoan so that the development of this area may flourish.

(iii) Need to re-start local train running between Vilaspur and Shahdol in M.P.