

[राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह]

(व्यवधान) यह आपके अलफाज ठीक हैं कि भट्ठा ही बिठा दिया था। बस इतना मुझे अर्ज करना था।

18.35 hrs.

DISCUSSION ON FLOOD AND DROUGHT SITUATION IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY—contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we will start discussion under Rule 193. There are 5 hon. Members from the Opposition and two or three from the ruling party, who want to participate in the Discussion. I have no objection if the hon. Members take not more than 10 minutes. There is no discrimination between the opposition and the ruling party. The Minister will reply positively at 8' o'clock.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : (हाजीपुर) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आज हम लोग अकाल के बारे में और वह अकाल जो बाढ़ और सुखाड़ से उत्पन्न हुआ है। इस विषय पर हम लोग चर्चा कर रहे हैं। यह इतना बड़ा सवाल है, इतना भयंकर अकाल आने वाला है, मंत्री महोदय भले ही यह कहते रहें कि हमारे भंडारों में इतना अनाज है, हमारे पास इतना समान है, इस मुकाबला वे नहीं कर सकेंगे। आज मैं इस सदन में आपके माध्यम से चेतावनी देना चाहता हूँ कि यह अकाल इतना भयंकर अकाल होगा जैसा कि 1943 में पश्चिम बंगाल में आया था जिससे 14 लाख लोग मरे थे, उससे भी ज्यादा जन-धन की क्षति होगी... (व्यवधान) ... 50 लाख से भी ज्यादा लोग मरेगे।

श्री गिरधारी लाल व्यास : नहीं मरने देंगे।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : यथ सदस्य कह रहे हैं कि नहीं मरने देंगे।

यह इतना बड़ा सवाल है, इस पर तो न सिर्फ सिंचाई मंत्री और राव साहब, कृषि मंत्री, बल्कि प्लानिंग मिनिस्टर को भी यहां पर होना चाहिए।

एक माननीय सदस्य : पावर मिनिस्टर भी।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : मैं तो कह रहा हूँ कि सब को उपस्थिति होना चाहिए। यह बहुत ही ग्रहम सवाल है। आज की खबर को पढ़िए। हम दो दिन से लगातार पार्लियामेंट में इस मामले को उठा रहे हैं। पश्चिम बंगाल में तो स्थिति एकदम गम्भीर हो गई है। वहां संसद् सदस्य और विधान सभा सदस्य धरना देने के लिए जा रहे हैं। आज के ही अखबार में यह खबर है कि बिहार के नवादा जिले में एक मालगाड़ी में गेहूँ जा रहा था, प्रश्न यह नहीं है कि उसकी लागत दस लाख थी या 40 लाख, थी, उसको लोगों ने लूट लिया। अनाज को निकाल कर ले गए और कह दिया कि चाहे हमको सजा दीजिए, हम निकाल कर खायेगे।

कृषि तथा ग्रामीण विकास मंत्री (राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह) : आप जानते हैं, उन लोगो को।

श्री राम विलास पासवान : अखबार में है। ग्रामीण के द्वारा अनाज जब भी लूटा जाता है, ग्रामीण के द्वारा लूटा जाता है लेकिन रुपया डकैतों के द्वारा। इसका मतलब यह है कि निश्चित रूप से उनके सामने भोजन की समस्या है। आज के ही हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स और स्टेट्समैन में आया है कि स्टारविंग संचाल टेक अप आर्म्स फोर जसटिस। इसमें फोटो दिया है संचाल में ब्लाक में मीटिंग हो रही थी। मुखिया लोग मौजूद थे। गांव के गरीब लोगों ने कहा है कि हम लोग भूख से मर रहे हैं हमारे अनाज की व्यवस्था करो। चार अक्टूबर

को भी ये लोग मिले थे कि बी.डी.ओ. रोजी-रोटी के लिए व्यवस्था करे। लेकिन सात लोगों को मार डाला गया। जहां मिलिटेंट रहेगा वहां सरकार की हिम्मत नहीं रहेगी। गरीब था, उड़ा दिया। बिहार के लेवरर्स पंजाब में जाते हैं, उनको पकड़ कर बन्द कर दिया जाता है जेल में। कहते हैं कि तुम को काम करना पड़ेगा। उनके पास टिकट होता है, उसको फाड़ दिया जाता है और जेल में बन्द कर दिया जाता है, क्योंकि वहां पर काम करने वालों की संख्या नहीं है। इसलिये उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक गंभीर स्थिति आने वाली है। मंत्री महोदय ने अपने जवाब में कहा है कि असम, बिहार, उड़ीसा, उत्तर प्रदेश में भयंकर बाढ़ की स्थिति है। पश्चिम बंगाल, उड़ीसा, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, महाराष्ट्र और आन्ध्र प्रदेश और तमिलनाडु में सूखे की स्थिति है। आंकड़ों के अनुसार इस साल बाढ़ से 1150 करोड़ रुपए की क्षति हुई है और 1400 करोड़ रुपये की सूखे से क्षति हुई है। चूंकि मेरे पास बहुत कम समय है, इसलिए मैं अपनी बात जल्दी से जल्दी समाप्त करने की कोशिश करूंगा।

यह इनका 4-10-82 का लोक सभा प्रश्न संख्या 116 का जवाब है जिस में मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है कि :—

“The average annual total damage due to floods during 1953-80 is of the order of Rs. 327 crores, and from 1977 to 1981 is about Rs. 1,048 crores.”

“Since the launching of the National Programme of flood control in 1954, an amount of Rs. 976 crores was spent on the programme till the beginning of the Sixth Five Year Plan (March 1980) providing reasonable degree of protection to an area of about 11 million hectares. In view of the importance of the programme, the Planning Commission has approved an outlay of Rs. 1,045 crores in the Sixth Five Year Plan for flood protection works.”

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, आप सोच सकते हैं कि 1954 से 1980 तक के 26 सालों में सरकार ने फ्लड कंट्रोल पर 976 करोड़ रुपया खर्च किया है। 26 सालों में फ्लड कंट्रोल पर सरकार का यह टोटल खर्चा है जबकि सरकारी आंकड़ों के अनुसार फ्लड से डेमेज होता है 1040 करोड़ रुपये का। इस से अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है कि सरकार कितनी सचेत है, कैसा वह कार्य कर रही है।

एक प्रश्न के उत्तर में इन्होंने 11 अक्टूबर को बतलाया कि :—

The number of human lives lost
1,843.

The number of cattle lost
59,347

इन्होंने पूरा टोटल बताया है कि कुल मिलाकर 1843 लोग मरे हैं और जानवर 59,347 मरे हैं। इतनी बड़ी क्षति हुई है। सूखा पीड़ितों के लिए दी गयी राशि के बारे में आपने बताया है कि 113.5 करोड़ रुपया दिया।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, एक प्रश्न 4-10-82 को पूछा गया था। राष्ट्रीय बाढ़ आयोग और सिंचाई आयोग की अनुशंसाओं के बारे में सदन को मालूम है, सब को मालूम है। यह 1972 की ईरिगेशन कमीशन रिपोर्ट है। हर साल बाढ़ आती है, सुखाड़ आता है। हर साल हजारों करोड़ों रुपयों की वर्बादी हो रही है। खेल-कूद पर हजारों करोड़ों रुपया खर्च हो रहा है लेकिन बाढ़ और सुखाड़ के लिए न तो सरकार की कोई तात्कालिक योजना है, न कोई दूरगामी योजना है। कोई लॉन्ग टर्म प्लानिंग ही नहीं है जिससे कि इन पर रोक लगे।

[श्री राम विलास पासवान]

हर साल बाढ़ आ जाती है, सूखाड़ पड़ जाता है। उसके आने के बाद सरकार कुछ कदम उठाती है और यह सोच कर उठाती है कि लोक सभा में हंगामा होगा, जवाब देना होगा। उसके बाद बात खत्म हो जाती है।

आप अनुमान लगाइये कि आजादी के 36 वर्षों से आज तक कितना लास हुआ है, कितनी क्षति हुई है। अगर आप जमा कर ले तो आप यह जान जायेंगे कि हमारी राष्ट्रीय आय में इससे कितनी क्षति हुई है लेकिन हमारी कोई दृष्टि ही नहीं है।

मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि आपने बाढ़ और सूखाड़ के सम्बन्ध में कब से तैयारी शुरू की? आपको मालूम था कि बाढ़ आने वाली है, आपको मालूम था कि सूखाड़ पड़ने वाला है। लेकिन आपके पास कोई दृष्टि ही नहीं है। इरीगेशन कमीशन और बाढ़ आयोग की रिपोर्ट के सम्बन्ध में इन्होंने कहा था—

18.44 hrs.

(Shri S. M. Krishna in the Chair)

"As per the consensus reached in the meeting of the National Development Council held in March 1982, it has been decided to set up a National Resources Council under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The Council will have the concerned Central Ministers and State Chief Ministers as its members." इसमें इन्होंने कहा है, जो बाढ़ आ गे था—

"The necessity for an apex body to evolve national policy for the development for use of water resources in conformity with the highest national interest has been emphasised in the report of the Irrigation Commission, National Commissions of Agriculture and Rashtriya Barh Ayog."

लेकिन इंप्लीमेंटेशन की ओर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जायेगा। जांच हो रही है, यही कहा जाएगा। अभी मैंने 4 तारीख को एक प्रश्न पूछा था कि वाटर रिसोर्सेस पर आप कितना खर्च करते हैं तो जितना पानी का आता है उसका 14 प्रतिशत खर्चा होता है।

भौगोलिक आंकड़ों को देखिए हमारे पास कुल जमीन है 3287.8 लाख हैक्टर। हमारे पास 1978-79 तक कृषि योग्य भूमि थी, लेटेस्ट आंकड़ा सरकार के पास उपलब्ध नहीं है 1857.8 लाख हैक्टेयर और इसमें से खेती की गई 1553.8 लाख हैक्टेयर जमीन में और इसमें सिंचित है मात्र 379.6 लाख हैक्टर। यह प्रश्न संख्या 58, दिनांक 4-10-1982 का है। 36 वर्षों की आजादी के बाद देश की यह हालत है। सूखे के लिए आपके पास क्या वैकल्पिक व्यवस्था है? दो दिन पहले मैं बिहार गया था। आपकी आंखों में सुनकर आंसू आ जाएंगे कि वहां किसान को 24 घंटे में दो घंटे भी बिजली नहीं मिलती है। आज पूरा बिहार, उत्तर प्रदेश, राजस्थान कहीं सूखे के कारण कहीं बाढ़ के कारण पूरा का पूरा खत्म हो गया है। बाढ़ की स्थिति के बारे में अखबारों में आया है कि बंवाडिंग जसे स्थित हो गई है। 80 प्रतिशत खेती तो पहले ही समाप्त हो गई है और जो 20 प्रतिशत बची है, उसके लिए भी सिंचाई की कोई व्यवस्था नहीं है। किसान को बिजली नहीं मिलती है, और पुराने पंपिंग सैट भी रिपेयर के नाम पर ले लिए गए हैं, जो उनको अभी तक नहीं लौटाए गए हैं।

एक तरफ किसान के सामने तबाही है, एक तरफ मजदूर के सामने तबाही है। बिहार के 50 प्रतिशत मजदूर दूसरी जगह चले गए हैं। बाहर जाने में भी उनको काफी दिक्कत होती है। आसाम

मेल में सारे सेकण्ड क्लास के डिब्बे मिल्ट्री वालों के लिए रिजर्व होते हैं। मजदूर बेचारे टिकट लेने के बावजूद छतों पर बैठते हैं और जब मुगल सराय आता है तो हडबड़ी में किसी का सिर कटता है तो किसी को करण्ट लगता है। यह हालत है। इस तरह की भयंकर स्थिति उत्पन्न हो गई है।

जितनी नदियां निकलती हैं, सब हिमालय से निकलती हैं, नेपाल से निकलती हैं। हम लोगों ने कई बार कहा कि नेशनल ग्रिड तैयार कीजिए। इसके लिए नेपाल से बात करिए। इससे आप बिजली भी प्राप्त कर सकेंगे और दोनों देशों के सम्बन्ध भी मधुर बनेंगे। 50 प्रतिशत इरीगेशन की समस्या इससे हल हो सकती है। लेकिन इस तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया जा रहा है। सूखा, बाढ़ तो जैसे राज्य सरकार के लिए तोहफा लेकर आते हैं, सोने का अंडा देने वाली चिड़ियां की तरह हैं। सिंचाई के नाम पर कमल नाथ जी यहां बैठे हैं, मुख्यमंत्री का पूरा का पूरा परिवार लूट कर खा रहा है। एक-एक बालू की कीमत आप देखिए कि कितनी ली जा रही है।

मैं यह कह रहा हूं कि यह अकाल आयेगा और यह अकाल जो है राज्य सरकार के लिए वरदान सिद्ध होगा। अभी इकोनॉमिक टाइम्स में निकला है कि जितने प्रोजेक्ट चल रहे हैं, उन पर आंध्र प्रदेश के एक एक्स चीफ मिनिस्टर का हवाला देते हुए कहा है —

“A former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was forced to observe recently that these schemes had benefited only contractors, land-lords etc.”

जितनी स्कीम चलायेंगे कि राशन वितरण करो, कहां राशन वितरण होगा। आप कहेंगे दवा-दारू दो, कहां होगा, आप कहेंगे किसान को राहत दो, किसको मिलेगा। सब का सब जो है कुछ मुट्ठीभर लोगों के पालने के काम में होगा। आपकी सेन्ट्रल टीम आती है। बिहार में यह टीम गई है, लेकिन रिपोर्ट कब आएगी, 6 महीने के बाद। उत्तर प्रदेश में जायेगी कल और वहां से रिपोर्ट आयेगी 6 महीने के बाद जबकि अकाल खत्म हो जायेगा और सुखाड़ में सरकार कह देगी कि कुछ नहीं हुआ है। इस तरह का मामला है।

हमारे समय में “फूड फार वर्क” था भले उसका नाम कह दें “लूट फार वर्क” था। मैं आपको एक बात कह देता हूं। गांव का गरीब मजदूर, हरिजन यदि किसी चोज को याद करता है तो काम के बदले अनाज की योजना को करता है। वह कहता है उस समय में हमको 4 किलो अनाज मिलता था और तीन-चार मजदूर काम करने वाले हो जाते तो 12 किलो 16 किलो प्रति दिन की मजदूरी मिलती थी, बदमाशी करता था 4 किलो के बदले 3 किलो। लेकिन, आज तो प्रत्येक गांव में नेता हो गया है। जब उसको काम मिल जाता था तो गांव के लोगों को, एम० एल० ए० को एम० पी० को कह देता था कि चार किलो नहीं मिल रहा है, हंगामा होता था। लेकिन रुपया वाला मामला नहीं था। चार किलो के बजाय साढ़े तीन किलो मिलता था, उसके एक परिवार के लिए। जो आम किसान लोग भी थे उन्हें मजदूरी का काम करने के लिए बाध्य होना पड़ता था। किसान भी कहता था कि चलो हम भी काम

[श्री राम विलास पासवान]

करेंगे, चार किलो मजदूरी मिलेगी और वही एक कारण था जिसको न्यूनतम मजदूरी या जो मिनिमम वेजेस एक्ट है, उसके माध्यम से आप लगवा सकते थे। लेकिन आपकी सरकार ने खत्म कर दिया उसको। नतीजा क्या हुआ? आपने कहा 5 रुपया मजदूर को मिनिमम मजदूरी मिलेगा, पांच रुपया उसको मिला नहीं, आपने कह दिया 9 रुपया क्यों नहीं लेते।

आज गांव में एक तरफ मजदूर खड़ा हो गया है, एक तरफ किसान खड़ा हो गया है। आपकी सरकार कहती है, नक्सलाईट पहुंच गया है। नक्सलाईट कौन पैदा कर रहा है, किस गन्दी नाली से पैदा हो रहा है, आप पैदा कर रहे हैं।

मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं, यदि आप मजदूर के लिए कुछ करना चाहते हैं तो मजदूर के लिए एक चीज "फूड फार वर्क" की योजना चलाइए। उसके पास गल्ला नहीं हो तो आप गल्ला दीजिए, दूसरा रेमेडी नहीं है सिवाय इस योजना के।

काम के बदले अनाज ही एक चीज है जो मजदूर को जिन्दा रख सकता है, मजदूर को बचा सकता है। फूड फार वर्क की योजना को चलाइए नहीं तो पूरा बिहार खाली हो रहा है। उत्तर प्रदेश की भी वही हालत है। उत्तर प्रदेश में भी गरीब वैसे ही मर रहा है।

मैं आपसे इतना ही आग्रह करूंगा कि आप फूड फार वर्क की योजना चलाइए। केन्द्र सरकार के पास कुछ हिम्मत हो तो बिहार सरकार को सजेशन दीजिए या केन्द्र सरकार बिहार को अकालग्रस्त घोषित करे। पूरे के पूरे बिहार को

अकालग्रस्त घोषित कीजिए और व्यापक पैमाने पर केन्द्रीय सहायता वहां भेजिए तभी लोगों का जान माल वहां बचे सकता है। अखबार की कटिंग मैंने आपको दिखला हो दी है। इन्सान के लिए सहारा काफी है। जब पेट में आग लगती है तो धान, धरती धन की पूजा नहीं की जाती है उसके सामने वरदान उसकी रोट्टी होती है। आज जो मजदूर है, जो किसान है, दोनों के पेट में आग लगी हुई है। वहां भयावह स्थिति उत्पन्न हो गई है। मेरा आग्रह है कि एक तो आप दूरगामी योजना बनाएं और दूसरे शार्ट टर्म योजना। सरकार को चुप नहीं बैठ जाना चाहिये। 36 साल तक आप चुप बैठ रहे हैं। आपके सिंचाई मंत्री हैं, प्लानिंग के मंत्री हैं और आवश्यकता पड़े तो प्रधान मंत्री को बुला लें, पूरी कैबिनेट को बुला लें लेकिन बुला कर सलाह मश्विरा करके लांग टर्म और शार्ट टर्म योजना आप जरूर बनाएं और उसको कार्यान्वित करें। ऐसा करके ही आप बाढ़ और सुखाड़ पर काबू पा सकते हैं। चीन है, जापान है, और भी बहुत से देश हैं जिन्होंने इस तरह से यह जो विपदा है इस पर काबू पाया है। आप काबू नहीं पा सके हैं। आपकी नीयित साफ होनी चाहिये। इरादा पक्का होना चाहिए। तत्काल जो काम करने हैं उनको तो आप करें ही लेकिन उसके साथ-साथ एक—दूर-गामी योजना भी इस से निपटने के लिए बनाएं। नेपाल सरकार से आप बात करें। हिमालय पहाड़ से जो नदियां निकलती हैं, ब्रह्मपुत्र आदि जो दरिया निकलते हैं उनके बारे में आप विचार करें और उनको नियंत्रित करें। जबाब दे कर ही आप संतोष न कर लें। साल के बाद फिर यह समस्या आपके सामने आने वाली है। हर साल आयेगी

यह मामला बढ़ता ही जाएगा । मैं पुनः कहता हूँ कि बिहार की स्थिति सभी राज्यों से खराब है । बंगाल, उत्तर प्रदेश की भी खराब है लेकिन हम सब से ज्यादा एफेक्ट हुए हैं बाढ़ से भी और सुखाड़ से भी । बिहार सरकार को आप न केवल पैसा दें, सहायता दें बल्कि विजिलेंस भी रखें, देखें भी, निगरानी भी रखें कि वह उस पैसे का दूसरी जगह उपयोग न करे, अफसरों और ठेकेदारों के पेट में वह पैसा न जाने पाए । यह दायित्व आप का है । आप स्वयं या बिहार सरकार उस क्षेत्र को अकाल प्रीडित घोषित करे । साथ ही पूरे देश के लिए लांग टर्म और शार्ट टर्म प्रोग्राम आप बनाएँ और बाढ़ और सुखाड़ से निपटने का प्रयास करें, इतना ही मेरा निवेदन है ।

श्री बलबीर सिंह (शहडोल) : सारे देश में आज अकाल और बाढ़ की स्थिति है । जैसा पासवान जी ने कहा ग्रामीण अंचलों में खास कर चाहे व बिहार के हों, उत्तर प्रदेश के हों, मध्य प्रदेश के हों, बंगाल के हों, कहीं के भी हों वहां इतनी भयंकर स्थिति है कि कुछ कहा नहीं जा सकता है । मध्य प्रदेश के 45 में से 42 जिलों में जून के पहले बारिश प्रारम्भ होती है और तब खरीफ की फसल बोई जाती है । इसके बाद इन जिलों में बारिश कम हुई । इसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि सारी की सारी खरीफ की फसल बिल्कुल बरबाद हो गई । उसके बाद जुलाई के मध्य में वहां पर एक अच्छी बारिश हुई थी । आशा की जाती थी कि फसल अच्छी होगी । लेकिन उसके बाद चाहे छत्तीसगढ़ का इलाका हो या विन्ध्य प्रदेश का हो, जो धान की फसल के ऊपर ही निर्भर करता है, वहां बारिश नहीं हुई और

इसका नतीजा यह है कि ग्रामीण अंचलों में जहां मजदूर लोग रहते हैं, किसान रहते हैं और जो अच्छे समय में आप को अच्छा चावल और गेहूं खिजाते हैं उनकी स्थिति आज दयनीय हो गई है और वे दाने-दाने के लिए तरस रहे हैं । मंत्री महोदय और शासन की यह नैतिक जिम्मेवारी है कि उनकी वह मदद करे । यह नहीं कहा जाना चाहिये कि यह राज्य का मामला है, केन्द्र का मामला नहीं है । इसको आपको गम्भीरता से देखना होगा । सभी प्रान्तों के बारे में जिम्मेदारी आपकी है । जिस क्षेत्र से मैं आता हूँ विन्ध्य प्रदेश का वह क्षेत्र है । चार जिलों का एक सम्भाग जो रीवा सम्भाग है "वहां पर सिंचाई की क्षमता केवल दो प्रतिशत है । वहां पर बाणसागर योजना चलाई गई है । शहडोल जिले में सोन नदी का उद्गम स्थान है । वही सोन नदी पटना और बिहार में बाढ़ का प्रकोप लाती है, तबाही मचाती है । बाणसागर की योजना बहुत ही मन्द गति से चल रही है । दस साल से मैं सुन रहा हूँ कि इसको तीव्र गति से चलाया जाएगा लेकिन चलाया नहीं जा रहा है । तीन राज्यों के सहयोग से यह बन रही है, उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और मध्य प्रदेश । यदि यह योजना पूरी कर दी जाए तो न केवल मध्य प्रदेश बल्कि उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार की भी इससे सिंचाई की क्षमता बढ़ेगी और उनको भी इससे बहुत ज्यादा फायदा मिल सकेगा ।

19 hrs.

हमारे प्रदेश में अभी बाढ़ की उतनी ज्यादा स्थिति नहीं है जितनी अकाल की है । जुलाई के मध्य में छत्तीसगढ़ में आपने स्टडी टीम भेजी, इसी तरह से हमारी मांग है कि विन्ध्य प्रदेश डिवीजन में जिसमें रीवा, सीधी, सतना और शहडोल जिले आते हैं, आप एक स्टडी

[श्री दलबोर सिंह]

टीम भर्जे जो सर्वे करके आपने रिपोर्ट दे। मध्य प्रदेश शासन ने रबी फसल के लिये 15 करोड़ रु० की मांग की है। अधिकांशतः हमारे प्रदेश में ड्राई फार्मिंग है, जहां-जहां रबी बोयी जाती है यदि जल्दी से जल्दी आपने पैसा नहीं दिया तो रबी नहीं बोई जायेगी।

मध्य प्रदेश में 1958, 1972, 1973 और 1978 में बाढ़ आयी। इसी तरह से 1982 में 13 जिले बाढ़ से पीड़ित हैं और उनमें आदिवासियों और हरिजनों के मकान नष्ट हो गये हैं। उनको मकान बनाने के लिये भी सहायता दी जानी चाहिये। एफ० सी० आई० के बारे में क्या कहें। मेरे ही क्षेत्र सहडोल में सड़ा हुआ गेहूं एफ० सी० आई० के माध्यम से बांटा जाता है जिसको जानवर भी नहीं खा सकते। लेकिन मजबूर हो कर आदिवासी और हरिजन-लोग फेयर प्राइस शोप्स से उस सड़े हुए गेहूं को खरीद रहे हैं। आप एफ० सी० आई० के रवैये को सुधारें। आपने कहा है कि सारे देश में 2 लाख 77 हजार उचित दर की दुकानें हैं जिसमें से 2 लाख 16 हजार दुकानें गांवों में काम कर रही हैं; लेकिन उन पर राशन नहीं मिलता। राशन वितरण प्रणाली को भी आपको ठीक करना चाहिये। आदिवासी क्षेत्रों में जितनी भी सिंचाई की स्कीमें ली गई हैं वहां पैसा ही नहीं है। और आपने कहा है कि सिंचाई को प्राथमिकता देंगे। लेकिन यह काम बिना पैसे के नहीं चल सकता है। एन० आर० ई० पी०, आई० आर० डी० पी०, एस० एफ० डी० ए० की योजनायें हैं। इनकी नया प्लानिंग है इसकी रूपरेखा अभी तक नहीं बन पायी है। चाहे ट्राइबल एरिया में सब प्लान की योजना हो चाहे और कोई योजना हो

किसी का प्रारूप ठीक ढंग से नहीं बन पाया है और लोगों को मालूम नहीं है कि कौन सी योजना आप लागू कर रहे हैं।

आप कहते हैं कि डिफोरेस्टेशन नहीं किया जाए। लेकिन जंगल कट रहे हैं। आप कहते हैं कि फलड आये इसको कैसे रोकें। मेरा निवेदन है कि इसको रोका जा सकता है। आपने बड़ी-बड़ी योजनायें बना लीं। लेकिन उनका इम्प्लीमेंटेशन ठीक से नहीं हुआ। इसलिये अच्छी योजना बने तो सिंचाई की सुविधायें हो सकती हैं। जहां आदिवासी क्षेत्र हैं वह पहाड़ी अंचल हैं वहां शिफ्टिंग कल्टीवेशन होता है। वहां पर लिफ्ट इरीगेशन से ही सिंचाई हो सकती है। आप कहते हैं कि इरीगेशन स्टेट सबजेक्ट है। लेकिन आपकी जिम्मेदारी है कि जहां-जहां ट्राइबल सब प्लान है वहां-वहां राज्य सरकार के साथ-साथ केन्द्र सरकार का भी उत्तरदायित्व है कि उनको सिंचाई की सुविधा उपलब्ध करायें। इसलिये मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान मध्य प्रदेश की ओर आकर्षित करता हूं और चाहता हूं कि मध्य प्रदेश सरकार ने जो 15 करोड़ रु० रबी की फसल के लिये मांग है उसको आप जल्दी से जल्दी स्वीकृत करें ताकि रबी की बोवाई हो सके। और सहडोल जिले में इस बार जो एफ० सी० आई० द्वारा सड़ा हुआ गेहूं भेजा गया है उसको वापस लें और अच्छा गेहूं वहां आप भेजें। हमारे जो गरीब किसान खेतों में काम करते हैं, ग्रामीण अंचलों में निवास करते हैं, वह नारेबाजी नहीं जानते, न स्लोगन लगाना जानते हैं। इसमें आपका और हमारा सब का नैतिक उत्तरदायित्व है कि हम सही मायनों में उनको काम दें। राहत कार्य हमारे यहां खोल दिये जाते हैं, लेकिन मजदूरों को उतना पर्याप्त पैसा नहीं

मिलता है । इसलिये स्टेट को निर्देश दें कि स्करसिटी मैन्युअल लागू हो जिससे पूरा पैसा उनको मिल सके ।

SHRI D. P. YADAV (Monghyr): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I beg of you to just give me a few more minutes.

There are some stages in national life where we have to forget the party issue or the Government issue. We have reached a stage where we have to think very coolly. There may be a turning point in national life as to what to do from tomorrow. Till today what we have done, we should forget it. From tomorrow what we have to do we have to remember.

There are some warnings before the nation. Those warnings are not to the Congress (I) or to the Congress (S) or the Lok Dal or anybody else. It is a warning to the whole country. This is a warning to the whole nation. The first warning is that of starvation. I shall most humbly request both the hon. Ministers for Irrigation and Agriculture to kindly pay a surprise visit to some parts of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh etc., sit with the block people, talk to them and assess the situation and see for themselves what calamity drought has brought for them. I hope, Mr. Chairman, you will realise that the situation is very grave.

My friend, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Harikesh Bahadur and everyone from this side or that side has said enough about the grave situation in the whole country. I shall mention that till to-day, unfortunately, we have not been able to define what drought is.

While going through the report of the Irrigation Commission, there is a definition of drought. The Irrigation Commission, which went into the question of adopting a suitable criterion for defining drought ultimately had to rely on the criterion of the Indian Meteorological Department which defined drought as a situation when the rainfall is less than 75 per cent of the normal. They have defined moderate drought as obtaining when the deficiency in the annual rainfall from the

normal is 25 to 50 per cent and severe drought, when the deficiency of rainfall is above 50 per cent of the normal. Whenever 75 per cent of the normal rainfall is not received in 20 per cent or more of the areas, the area is said to be a 'drought area', and whenever this rainfall is not received in 40 per cent of the area concerned, it is classified as a 'chronic drought area.'

On the other hand, in the report of the National Agricultural Commission, 1976, 'Agricultural drought' has been defined as an occasion, when the rainfall in a week is half of the normal or less, when the normal weekly rainfall is 5 mm or more. The agricultural drought is a period of four such consecutive weeks in the period from middle of May to middle of October or six such consecutive weeks during the rest of the year. These are the two definitions of drought. My hon. friend, the Minister for Irrigation is sitting here. I would first of all like to ask the Agriculture Minister one thing. Whichever definition we adopt, let us adopt one definition and add something or subtract something thereafter. We must define scientifically what drought is. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall just quote the losses occurred due to drought so far as food production is concerned.

1965-66	19.12 million tonne.
1966-67	22.26 million tonne.
1972-73	15.7 million tonne.
1974-75	18.98 million tonne.
1979-80	22.78 million tonne.

Sir, this is the loss due to drought. When we calculate the price, it is fantastic. The whole balance gets very much imbalanced. The whole economy gets imbalanced. So, drought is more dangerous than flood. In the circumstances we have to decide as what to do to save the country from the loss of grain production. Rao Sahib sometimes says very boldly that in the matter of food production we are self sufficient. Rao Sahib, I am quoting this from the Economic Review. You know better definitions. You have got better knowledge. For the last 10 years the average annual production of foodgrain of this country has been 117 point something

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million tonnes. Today the requirement is a minimum of 132 million tonnes. We must have 20 million tonnes in our reserve. It means that our task is a herculean one. And you find this, Rao Sahib. In 1970-71 our production was 198.42 m.t. In 1971-82 it was 105.17 m.t. It declined to 97.03 in 1972-73. What has happened to our irrigation schemes? We have got no answer to that. Then again Sir it has shot up in 1973-74. It has gone up to 104.67 m.t. In 1974-75 it came down to 99.83 m.t. It is really very surprising, Sir. In 1975-76 it went up to 121.3 m.t. In 1976-77 it came down to 111.17 m.t. In this way in 1979-80, after a gap of 10 years, food production is just as good as that of 1970-71. It was 108.42 m.t. in 1970-71. In 1979-80 it is 108.85 m.t.

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: In 1978-79 it was 130 m.t.

SHRI D. P. YADAV: This is the situation 108.85 m.t. It is from the Economic Review that I am quoting. I should not say, if I sit in the Government, food production will go up. I never boast like that. Food production depends upon weather conditions...

PROF MADHU DANDAVATE: But consumption is going up.

SHRI D. P. YADAV: This is the situation before the country. It means, till today we are not independent so far as food front is concerned. We are not self sufficient. Let us accept this fact. We have to be self sufficient in the food front. Now let us come to analyse how much resources we have got. During the days of drought there are some rains in the country which can be utilised. In the peak season what is the total water resource of the country? It is 1440 million acre feet and out of this 540 million acre feet of water only is utilisable. The water resource utilised so far in this country is 210 million acre feet. But the reservoir capacity created is only 140 million acre feet. This is a very pertinent point. Reservoir capacity of our irrigation system has to be increased. The reservoir capacity of the water resource is only 10 per cent of the total water resource we receive in one year. It means this, USA

till today has developed 50 per cent of its water under reservoir capacity; but, on the other hand we have just developed only 10 per cent. Until and unless we develop the reservoir capacity of water to at least 30 to 40 per cent it should at least be 50 per cent to my mind—we are not going to tackle the drought situation. Why we are not tackling it or why we are able to tackle it. I will now read out the Unstarred Question No. 46 put by me on 4th October 1982 and the reply given by the Minister of Irrigation. I asked a specific question.

“Will the Minister of Irrigation be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the medium and major schemes sanctioned by Planning Commission for the districts of Monghyr, Bhagalpur and Santhal Pargana in Bihar in the last ten years;

(b) whether the escalation in cost has taken place to about ten to fifteen times in each project over the actual cost and the revised estimates now; and

(c) the time by which all the sanctioned schemes are to be completed?”

The reply was that there was one scheme called Ajan in Monghyr district, which was sanctioned in 1973 at a cost of Rs. 141 lakhs. Now the escalated figure is Rs. 798 lakhs. Another scheme in Beharna Reservoir Scheme. It was sanctioned in 1973 and the sanctioned cost was Rs. 62 lakhs. The revised estimated cost is Rs. 698 lakhs. The cost has gone up at least 10 to 11 times. Why are we not able to execute the schemes within the scheduled time? Who is responsible for this inordinate delay in the execution of these schemes? Now, due to escalation in cost, a lot of money would be spent. We know how the money is plundered and looted there. I do not know why the efficiency is very very low in executing these schemes. Now, it has got no relevance whether the Irrigation is in the State sector or in the Centre. It is a national subject now.

Now, I wrote a letter to the Prime Minister detailing all the schemes. The Prime

Minister was kind enough to send a reply to me. I will read it out.

"Dear Shri Yadav,

I have received your letter of the 25th June. I have discussed the progress of the major projects in the Irrigation and Power sectors with the officials of the Bihar Government and also stressed the need for speedy development and monitoring of projects. I am sure you would have taken up the schemes mentioned in your letter with the Government of Bihar also. I am asking the Ministry of Irrigation to look into this further."

Your sincerely,

Sd/- Indira Gandhi."

I am thankful to the Prime Minister for the reply.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The point is very well taken that they have been following it up.

SHRI D. P. YADAV: After this letter was sent by the Prime Minister of India, even after 1-1/2 years period even 5 per cent progress has not taken place in any of the scheme. I do not know how they could flout the directive of the Prime Minister. Sir, I may be allowed to read out some of the extracts.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Don't think that you are going into minute detail at the district level?

SHRI D. P. YADAV: I will just quote them. In a proceedings of a meeting where the Chief Engineer, the District Magistrate, the Minister of State and myself were present, I put a question as to why these schemes were not completed?

"इससे सिंचाई नहीं हो रही है और सिंचाई नहीं होने की कौन कहे किसी समय डैम हीफ्ट कर फेंका जा सकता है क्योंकि स्पिलेव गेट को खोलने और बन्द करने के लिए भी अब कोई मट नहीं रह गया है। मुख्य अभियन्ता, देवकर ने स्थिति को बहुत ही भयावह कहत हुए सूचित

किया कि सभी चीजें डगमगाने लगी है। चौकीदारी करने वाला अब कोई नहीं है। ट्रक एवं ट्रैक्टर बनाने वाला कोई नहीं है। सरकार का आदेश ऐसा है कि हम लोग बहार से किसी को बहाल नहीं कर सकते हैं। किसी पदाधिकारी को आशुलिपिक नहीं मिला हुआ है। नकशों को खींचने के लिए ड्राफ्टमैन नहीं है। दूसर नहीं है एवं ब्लू प्रिन्टर नहीं है। सभी व्यवस्था डगमगा उठी है और ऐसी परिस्थिति में सिंचाई परियोजनाओं के कार्यान्वयन में लक्ष्य के अनुरूप प्रगति कैसे मांगी जाती है? यह मुद्दा केवल मुंगेर जिल के लिए ही नहीं है बल्कि पूरे बिहार में समूची व्यवस्था डगमग होने लगी है।

सभापति जी, वह मुख्य अभियन्ता ने कहा है। जो सचचाई है वह सारी बातें मैंने सभा पटल पर रखी है।

I would now like to give some suggestions:

1) The Central Water Commission should continue preparing drought-area reports.

2) Efficient use should be made of soil and water management for proper utilisation of irrigation potential.

3) You should prescribe guidelines for drought preparedness.

4) You should expedite creation of National Water Resources Council and the River Basin Commission.

5) Drought is a national problem and it should be dealt with at the national level and not left to the States.

6) Non-official multi-disciplinary committees comprising experienced irrigation engineers, agronomists, soil scientists, economists be set up to evaluate performance of command areas and suggest improvement for proper utilisation.

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of irrigation potential, specially in drought years.

7) Conjunctive use of surface and ground water should be given a top-most priority.

8) On the same analogy as NHPC and NTPC, to execute power projects under the Central Sector National Irrigation Corporation be set up for execution of the infrastructure of major irrigation projects.

9) To conserve water, sprinkler irrigation, drip irrigation and polythene pipe system should also be encouraged.

This would help us to conserve water and get more production.

The warning which we have received this year should be taken seriously and necessary action taken in a coordinated manner.

SHRI NITYANANDA MISRA (Bolangir): Mr Chairman, Sir, my State of Orissa, which is the poorest and the most under-developed and backward State in the country, has witnessed three natural calamities coming in quick succession one after the other, which has devastated and broken the backbones of millions of people of my State. On June 3 we had a cyclone which swept everything before it coming at a tremendous speed of 230 kms. and it caused widespread devastation, demolished houses and hundreds of lives were lost. We are grateful to the Centre that on that occasion, we got some financial assistance which proved a great blessing for the people who had been affected by the cyclones.

After that we had drought conditions prevailing for more than a month which resulted in seriously affecting our crop which was in its infancy stage. This drought condition delayed our agricultural operation and transplantation work as a result of which the crop was very badly affected.

On September 29-30, we had a heavy rainfall unprecedented in history. For the last 100 years we did not have such a

rainfall. As a result of this there was flood never witnessed during the last 100 years. There was flood in the Mahanadi and its tributaries and also in the Hirakud Dam area right upto coastal plain and the whole of the delta region become one vast sheet of water submerging everything.

I shall now speak a few words about my constituency which is in the Western part of the mountainous region of our State. This area never experienced floods, but this year there was terrible flood. Rainfall within the span of thirtysix hours was to the tune of nearly 25 inches. As a result Mahanadi and its tributaries—Ong Tel, Shuk Tel, Sungarh and Lanth were in high flood and this resulted in the devastation of the villages, crops and the houses and brought terrible sufferings and hardships to the people. Most of the roads in the villages including its feeder roads which were constructed during the last two decades were completely wiped out. As a result of the washing away of the bridges and culverts the communication system was completely disrupted. It became virtually dead for more than a week. Sir, in my constituency there is not a single project which can provide flow irrigation. At present there is only tank irrigation. In the tanks there were breaches and after the floods we were faced with the drought condition because there was no water in the tanks. Therefore, the situation has become more serious. Apart from the disruption of the communication system, the entire electricity system also broke down and we got the restoration work done only after twenty days. People had to remain without electricity and water supply for a long time.

After the floods the drought conditions prevailed because most of the irrigation work were damaged and there were big breaches in the bandhs with the result the water had flowed away. The restoration work could not be done immediately because of the conditions created by the floods.

Sir, I would like to mention two types of damages which have hit us very hard. One is the land, which has been sand-

casted—the most productive land which was situated on both banks of the rivers. All these lands on both the sides of the rivers that I have mentioned, have been sand-casted; and the entire current of the rivers has flowed on both the sides and has destroyed the most valuable, most fertile and productive land. Nearly one lakh acres of land have been and-casted. The farmers must be given some financial assistance which will enable them to remove the sand from the land which is very fertile.

We were a surplus district in food-grains. But we are afraid that because of the excessive sand-casting in these one lakh acres of land, our agricultural production will suffer very much. We appeal to the Minister of Agriculture to take steps for the restoration and recovery of this most fertile land. For this purpose, some amount of money should be given to the affected people to enable them to reclaim land. The farmers are prepared to work hard. But we should boost up their morale. They are desperate, because their land has been lost for all times to come. So, it is absolutely necessary that in order to encourage them, some financial assistance should be given to them.

Another difficulty that we are experiencing is that in all these five rivers, there have been more than 500 breaches on the banks. Even if there is a small flood now, it will not flow in the course of the river, but will come on both the sides of the river through these breaches, and that will cause further damage to the houses and lands. Efforts should be made to close the breaches. It will require a substantial amount of financial resources. And so, this work should be undertaken by the Irrigation Department of the State Government. Unless embankments are constructed, it will not be possible for the farmers to cultivate these lands which lie on both the sides of the river. Because this will need a colossal amount of money, I think Central aid for this purpose must come in a big way, so that this massive work can be undertaken.

We are facing this twin problem of drought and flood. Our technical people

are thinking about it; our engineers have applied their minds as to how to control the floods. But I think it is not a twin problem. It is only one problem. If we can successfully tackle the problem of drought by constructing big irrigation projects and dams, we shall be able to store up a colossal quantity of excess flood water, and we will be able to check floods, which have assumed such serious proportions now.

As far as my district is concerned, we have got these five tributaries of Mahanadi. But there is no irrigation project in any one of these rivers as a result of which the entire flood waters of all these rivers run into Mahanadi and cause flood there. The thinking among the engineers there is that they will construct some dams in Mahanadi which will help them to check floods; but it will never be possible, unless the tributaries are tackled very efficiently. So it is high time that serious attention is paid to dam the tributaries which were also in high flood. I think during the recent floods, nearly eight lakh cusecs of water came from these tributaries to Mahanadi, which caused flood in the delta basin. It is absolutely necessary that there should be more than one irrigation project in every one of these five tributaries, so that we can get irrigation facilities, and at the same time sufficient amount of excess flood water can be stored up in these irrigation projects. It will ultimately help in the control of floods in Mahanadi.

I request our Minister of Irrigation to give utmost importance to this problem, which will solve not only the flood problems of the delta region but also the drought problems and the irrigation problems of my constituency which has got irrigation only in 5 per cent of the cultivable land as I had already mentioned a number of times on the Floor of this House. We are so backward, as far as agricultural development is concerned because only 5 per cent of the cultivable land gets irrigation facilities. If there are irrigation projects, then the main problems of flood, irrigation and drought can be solved. I would request the Irrigation Minister to pay all seriousness and importance to it so that we can have a number of irriga-

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tion projects and the flood of Mahanadi and its tributaries can be sufficiently controlled and checked.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHURI (Berhampore): I do not know whether I should describe it as my privilege or my misfortune that I have to sit here for the last 30 years. This discussion on floods and drought has become hardy annual, a routine matter.

Every year, devastating floods occur in some parts of this vast country and a cycle of drought occurs. The only remarkable thing is that no long-term measure has been taken so far to remedy the situation fundamentally and whatever little has been done has hardly solved the basic problem. Anyway, it is no use harping on that grievance. I take it that for the next 35 years also, we will have to live with floods and drought. I am not, therefore, making any suggestion about the long-term measures that have to be taken. These are all well-known.

There was a National Floods Control Commission as early as 1953. Then various commissions also sat, deliberated and made recommendations, but nothing much has been done. This year, somehow or other, has been an unusually bad year and vast parts of the country have been ravaged by floods; and similarly, an unprecedented drought has stricken equally vast areas. I think, for this year, at least, we have to concentrate on short-term measures for drought and flood relief on a war footing.

The Irrigation Minister, in his intervention, yesterday stated that they have not received any report on starvation death so far and the Government has sufficient stock of foodgrains and nobody shall be allowed to die of starvation. I do not know wherefrom the Government receives such reports. But for the last 15 days at least a fortnight, daily papers have been regularly reporting widespread starvation prevailing in different States. Even today's papers have reported about starvation deaths in Bihar and West Bengal in rural areas because of drought, because of lack

of work, lack of income and lack of foodgrains: and it is almost as if famine is knocking at the doors and if you do not plan things properly with utmost sense of urgency. I think total disaster will overtake us. That is why I am urging the Government to concentrate on short-term measures and plan on short term things.

Coming to West Bengal, the State from which I come, the drought this year has been unusual—not only unusual, unprecedented. Out of 15 districts 13 have been stricken by drought: and the main *kharif* crop—paddy crop—has been lost and the present estimates are that not more than 40 per cent of the crops would be harvested. The rest have all wilted and gone waste. So, in that background the West Bengal Government has made certain suggestions. The Chief Minister was here only a day ago and he met the hon. Minister for Agriculture, had discussions with him, met the Prime Minister and he has put the demands of West Bengal Government, which are not very immoderate or inflated I mean exaggerated. They are all within the power of the Central Government to grant, if they look at it, look at the Bengal problem sympathetically. They have to look not only at the Bengal problem sympathetically, they have to look at the problem of every State sympathetically. But Bengal's demands this year are somewhat desperate. Firstly, we are confronted with the problem of breakdown of the entire ration system, the public distribution system in the urban areas and also the modified ration system in the rural areas, if at least the monthly supplies that are being given not kept up. The West Bengal Government has demanded that a monthly central supply of 3,75,000 tonnes has to be given. They have demanded only that much. Actually they have been demanding in the previous years, uptill now no more than 3,40,000 tonnes. They got round about 2,40,000 tonnes. The hon. Minister yesterday raised the question about off-take. The off-take last year and even in the early part of this year was more or less to the extent of nearly 2,40,000 tonnes, monthly. But, now, the

off-take has risen. Whatever quantities are given through the ration shops, they are all taken by the ration card holders, because the price is rising in the open market.—It has already crossed Rs. 4/- limit. If the Central Government does not make available at least 3.75 lakh tonnes or a quantity near about that, it will be very difficult to stop the breakdown of rationing system both in the urban and rural areas. I would urge on the hon. Minister of Agriculture to see to it that as much supplies as possible may be kept up and arrangements be made to send the supplies regularly in coordination with the Railways and other concerned Ministries.

There has been some difference of opinion or some controversy between the Central Government and the West Bengal Government with regard to the utilisation certificates under the NREP Programme. The West Bengal Government has claimed that they have given certificates or whatever they have to give, they will be giving by coming December. But, anyway, this central grant for NREP should also be rushed to West Bengal so that work can be given to the agricultural labour and landless poor.

The West Bengal Government had demanded Rs. 70 crores for drought relief. After the receipt of the report of the central team, which went there, the Central Government has granted Rs. 24 crores to West Bengal. Now, the position has reached such a desperate stage that at least this year Rs. 100 crores would be required by way of relief. Certainly the Central Government should see as to how much of this demand they can meet. I do feel that this Rs. 100 crores should be given to them because the West Bengal Government is in financial difficulties. Their resources are limited. So, at least, on an emergency basis, this sum of Rs. 100 crores for drought relief should not be denied. These are the few demands that could be tackled in the short run.

I have already stated that I do not want to go into all the long term measures, because it is no use concentrating on long term things at the present moment.

There is enough time for that. If the Government decides, they can yet formulate long term plans. But in view of the limitation of resources, whatever plans we may take up or adopt, it will take a longer time to get them implemented. So, I am deliberately not going into that. I would be satisfied if, for the present, on an urgent and emergent basis, on a war time basis, these few demands that have been made on behalf of the West Bengal Government are accepted. The demands are, firstly, a monthly supply of 3.75 lakh tonnes; secondly, rushing NREP grants and, thirdly, a drought relief grant of Rs. 100 crores on an emergent basis.

I apologize to the House that I have concentrated only on the demands of Bengal, not only because I come from Bengal but because I am more acquainted, better acquainted with things as they obtain in Bengal. But I would urge on Government to think very seriously about this problem. Because, whatever might appear on the surface, there is no doubt about the fact that widespread starvation has started and famine is knocking at the doors. So, if urgent short-term measures are not taken, almost on a war footing, disaster will overtake us.

श्री केशव पारधी (भंडारा) : सभापति महोदय, सूखा और बाढ़ से जो देश के अन्दर हानि हुई उसके बारे में कल से जो चर्चा चल रही है उसमें भाग लेने के लिए आपने मुझे समय दिया उसके लिये मैं आपका आभारी हूँ। किसी राज्य में सूखा है तो किसी में बाढ़ है। इस बाढ़ और सूखे से निपटने के लिए जैसा पूर्व वर्षाओं ने भी कहा है, लॉग टर्म बैसिस पर जो योजनायें हैं जिसकी डा० के० एल० राव ने भी प्लानिंग बनायी थी ब्रह्मपुत्र, गंगा, नर्मदा, गोदावरी और कावरी नदियों को जोड़ा जाये उससे लाभ होगा। देश के किसी भाग में बाढ़ आती है और किसी भाग में सूखा पड़ता है इससे मजदूर, किसान और सारा देश चिन्तित रहता है। तो मैं

[श्री कैशव पारधी]

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री जो से कहेंगे हम बाढ़ और सूखे पर जो पैसा खर्च करते हैं क्यों नहीं लोग टर्म योजना बनाते ? डा० के. एल० राव ने कहा था कि ऐसी योजना पर सरकार का विचार चालू है । अगर हम कोई योजना नहीं बनाते तो ऐसे हो करोड़ों रुपये हर वर्ष खर्च होता रहेगा और लोगों को तकलीफ होती रहेगी । अतः हमें इससे बचने के लिये उस दृष्टि से विचार करना चाहिये ।

मैं जिस क्षेत्र से आता हूँ महाराष्ट्र में उसको विदर्भ कहते हैं । महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने केन्द्र शासन को जो रिपोर्ट भेजी है और 131 करोड़ की मदद को मांग की है, उसके विचार से विदर्भ में कोई आपदा नहीं थी । लेकिन सप्लीमेंटरी लिस्ट जो आयी है उसमें उस क्षेत्र को पार्टली एफेक्टड कर के विदर्भ के 3 जिले भंडारा, चंद्रपुर, नागपुर जोड़े गये हैं । पहले भी जो 10 जिले जोड़े गये हैं उसके बारे में महाराष्ट्र सरकार से केन्द्र को देर से रिपोर्ट आयी थी और उन जिलों में भी परिस्थिति ऐसी खराब थी जिसके बारे में मंत्री जो ने 4 तारीख के उत्तर में कहा है कि 46 लाख 94 हजार लोग, 36 लाख 72 हजार कैटिल और 22 लाख 84 हजार हेक्टर एरिया एफेक्टड हुआ है ।

यह तो 10 जिले का हुआ, लेकिन महाराष्ट्र में जो चावल पाकने वाले जिले थे वह इसमें शामिल नहीं हैं । भंडारा, चन्द्रपुर, नागपुर का कुछ हिस्सा ऐसा है जहाँ पर चावल ही होता है । कुछ भाग में गन्ना या कपास है नागपुर में और भंडारा में भी थोड़ा बहुत गन्ना होता है ।

जहाँ चावल होता है, उन किसानों की हालत इतनी बदतर है कि जून के शुरू में हमारे यहाँ पैड़ी बोई जाती है । पानी आने के बाद पैड़ी निकालकर अलग अलग रोपे जाते हैं जून के पहले हफ्ते में धान बो दिया गया, उसमें अंकुर भी आ गये, लेकिन बरसात न आने के कारण वह सूख गये । फिर से बिजाई डालनी पड़ी जुलाई में, फिर बरसात आई, बाद में परहे लगाये जो जुलाई के आखिर तक परहे हो जाने चाहिये थे उसके बदले सितम्बर के आखिर में रोप लगाने का काम हुआ । उसके बाद बरसात नहीं हुई ।

मैं तीन दिन पहले अपने जिले से आया हूँ, अगर बरसात भी वहाँ आई तो फसल होने वाली नहीं है । इस दृष्टिकोण से भी बालनगढ़ी जैसी सिंचाई योजनाओं पर ध्यान देना जरूरी है ।

हमारे यहाँ भी कुछ सिंचाई योजनाएं 1973-74 से चालू हैं, लेकिन बीच में जनता पार्टी की सरकार आई, उन्होंने 3 साल तक यह काम बन्द कर दिया गया, 1977 से 1979 तक काम बन्द हो गया । 1980 में अपनी सरकार आने के बाद वह काम शुरू किया गया ।

मैं राव साहब से विनती करूंगा कि डी फोरस्टेशन का जो कानून है, फोरस्ट अमेंडमेंट बिल उसकी बजाह से जिस सिंचाई योजना का टेन्डर हो गया है, काम चालू है, कनाल में काम चालू है, लेकिन फोरस्ट डिपार्टमेंट कहता है कि जब तक सेंट्रल से गवर्नमेंट से मंजूरी नहीं आयेगी तब तक एक झाड़ भी नहीं काट सकते, भले ही कन्ट्रक्टर और दूसरे लोग लाखों का माल चोरी कर के ले जायें । लेकिन अगर महाराष्ट्र गवर्नमेंट का इरिगेशन डिपार्टमेंट का अफसर सिंचाई योजना के काम के लिये एक भी झाड़ काटता है तो वह

मनाई होती है । पुलिस में रिपोर्ट की जाती है । कर्‍यवाही होती है ।

मेरी रिक्‍वस्ट है कि फारेस्ट अमेंडमेंट बिल पास होने के पहले जो जो योजनाएँ चालू थीं उनको क्लीयर किया जयें जिससे वह काम जो 4-4-5, -5 और 6-6 साल से चालू थे, वह शुरू हो सकें ।

सिंचाई योजनाओं के लिये मैं बोल रहा हूँ, उत्पादन बढ़ाने की योजना है, जिससे लोगों को खेती के लिए पानी मिलेगा, बाढ़ की परिस्थिति भी टेगी किसानों को पानी मिलने से फसल होगी और देश का उत्पादन बढ़ेगा ।

विदर्भ में ऐसी बाढ़ वाली नदियां हैं, वैन गंगा, कन्हान, बावनथड़ी जैसी । वैन गंगा पर मध्य प्रदेश में एक डैम है, महाराष्ट्र में भी एक डैम का सर्वे हुआ है जो मंजूरी के लिये प्लानिंग कमिशन के पास आया हुआ है । इसके अलावा भी वैन गंगा के कुछ एरिया ऐसे हैं जहां से लिफ्ट इरिगेशन करके लाखों एकड़ को पानी दिया जा सकता है । जो पानी बरसात में आता है, सारे का सारा समुद्र में बह जाता है और बाद में सूखे की परिस्थिति होती है । मैं उस जिले के लिये बोल रहा हूँ जहाँ चावल की खेती होती है । उनको पानी न मिले तो फसल नहीं होती है । बावनथड़ी, कालीसराय, गोसीखुर्द यह तो डैम होने हैं, उसी तरह बांध योजना का पानी खलबंदा टेड में डालने की योजना और वैनगंगा पर धायेवाड़ा के पास पिक अप वेयर बनाने की योजना है मैं जहा से आता हूँ, वहां कुछ तहसीलें ऐसी हैं जहां हर वर्ष सूखा रहता है जैसे तुमसर, मुहाड़ी, तिरोड़ा, गोरगांव ।

इन एरियाज के लिये सिंचाई योजना के बारे में विशेष ध्यान देने की जरूरत है । फारेस्ट के बारे में राव साहब से विनती है, मैंने उनसे बावनथड़ी सिंचाई योजना के लिए बात की थी, उन्होंने कहा था कि महाराष्ट्र से बावनथड़ी योजना की मंजूरी के लिए आने के बाद मैं हफ्ता भर भी नहीं लगाऊंगा, विद-इन-ए वीक मंजूरी दे दूंगा । लेकिन राज्य सरकार भेजे तब तो । बावनथड़ी सिंचाई योजना महाराष्ट्र और मध्य प्रदेश की संयुक्त सिंचाई योजना है ।

श्री पासवान जी ने और यादव जी ने बिहार के बारे में कहा । महाराष्ट्र सरकार से मंजूरी के लिये स्कीम आ जाती, लेकिन 2 साल से मैं भी खटबटा रहा हूँ, मुख्यमंत्री और मंत्री जो से बोलता हूँ उसके बाद भी फारेस्ट विभाग या इरिगेशन विभाग यहां मंजूरी के लिये नहीं भेजता है तो दोष किस को दें । उनको दोष देने के बजाय, मैं आप से रिक्‍वैस्ट करता हूँ, ऐसी योजना को मुक्त कर दीजिये जो 80 के पहले चालू थीं जिससे काम हो सके ।

जंगल लगाना भी बहुत जरूरी है । उसी दृष्टिकोण से जहां डैम के लिये मुक्त करेंगे, उनको कहिये कि इतने एकड़ में जंगल भी लगायें जिससे वहां काम हो सके और जंगल बढ़ सकें । उसी प्रकार जहां जहां सूखे की स्थिति है, उसके सम्बन्ध में मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से और शासन से

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I had already said, so I must call the Minister.

19.59 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): I have been waiting to speak for the last two days.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What can I do?

श्री केशवराव पारधी : सूखे की स्थिति के सम्बन्ध में, मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से विनती करना चाहूंगा कि आप कम से कम छोटे किसानों के हित में फसल बीमा योजना लागू करें। हर स्टेट में, हर ठिकाने पर आपको 10 एकड़ से कम भूमि रखने वाले किसानों के सम्बन्ध में फसल बीमा योजना लागू करनी चाहिए। जैसे कि सरकारी नौकरियों में बाहे वह किसी भी श्रेणी का अधिकारी हो, कोई चतुर्थ श्रेणी का कर्मचारी हो, पहली तराई को उसको तनखाह मिल जाती है, उसी तरह छोटे किसानों की खेती यदि किसी कारण-वश नहीं पकती है तो उसको कुछ मिल जाए। फसल बीमा योजना लागू न होने की वजह से आज उसके पास मजदूरी के सिवाय दूसरा कोई काम नहीं रहता है। इसलिए मेरी विनती है कि छोटे किसानों के हित में फसल बीमा योजना लागू होनी चाहिए।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपकी मारफत माननीय मंत्री जी से विनती करूंगा कि सूखे के कारण आज जैसी स्थिति पदा हो गयी है, वहीं जामवरों के लिए चारा और लोगों को पीने का पानी का भी प्रबन्ध करना है, अनाज का प्रबन्ध करना है, उसके लिए उचित धन दिया जाना आवश्यक है। जहां धान की खेती होती है, वहां के किसानों को खेती की फसल लगाने के लिए, बुआई करने के लिए भी महायता दी जाए और लोगों को काम भी दिया जाये। खेती के लिए बिजली भी पूरी मिले ऐसी व्यवस्था हो।

इसी तरह, वहां के किसानों को जो पोछे कर्जे दिये गये थे....

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

श्री केशवराव पारधी : कोषापरेटिव बैंकों से जो उनको कर्ज मिला था, उसके सम्बन्ध में विनती करना चाहूंगा कि उस ऋण को भी बसूल करने में छूट दी जाए।

इसके साथ उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, किसान और बेतीहर मजदूर संगठित नहीं है, बेतीहर मजदूरों को भी काम मिलना बहुत ज़रूरी है, क्योंकि आज उनके पास सफ़ीश्वैट काम नहीं है। ऐसी धेरी आपसे प्रार्थना है। महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने भी मदद मांगी है वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा दी जाये। ज्यादा न कहते हुए, इतना ही कह कर मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There must be some Members to listen to the Minister's reply. We had discussion for 5-1/2 hours yesterday.

What is the sense of the House? Shall I ask the Minister to reply?

श्री वृद्धि चन्द जन : सदस्यों को कम उपस्थिति को देखते हुए मेरी यह राय है कि यदि मंत्री महोदय का उत्तर कल 11.00 बजे के लिए निश्चित कर दिया जाए तो सभी मੈम्बर्स इस महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न पर सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया सुन सकते हैं....

(श्रवण)

मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि इस बहस का उत्तर माननीय मंत्री जी कल दें।

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want the Minister to reply to-morrow? No, no. It is not possible. I am sorry. Shri Chinnaswamy.

Every Member shall take not more than five minutes. It is a continuous process as in Vikramaditya story. We have to complete this to-day.

*SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY (Gobichettipalayam): Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on behalf of my party the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I wish to say a few words, participating in the discussion under Rule 193 about the drought and flood situation prevalent throughout the country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are the last speaker and then immediately the Minister.

When the Minister replies, Mr. Vyas will come and sit by his side. It means he is replying. He belongs to the ruling party and when the Minister replies he must be satisfied.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: You promised me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I keep my promise. You come and sit by the side of the Minister.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: How can you behave like that? I walk out of the House in protest.

20.03 hrs.

At this stage Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas left the House.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I am sorry, you come, along. You are a senior Member. You should not go like that. I will give you a chance. You can come again. Your protest has been noted.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Vyas can have five minutes from my time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We cannot satisfy all people.

*SHRI C. CHINNASWAMY: Sir, the entire Tamil Nadu is in the grip of acute drought and the situation is worsening day by day. 5 lakh acres of cultivable land in Thanjavur and Tiruchirappalli districts of Cauvery Delta are fast turning into arid zone. The 'rice-bowl' of Tamil Nadu may soon become the Thar desert of Tamil Nadu if immediate steps are not taken to supply water to the thirsty fields here. In Mettur reservoir there is presently 16 ft. of water, while the reservoir's capacity is 120 ft. of water. From yesterday the electricity generation has been

stopped. The people of Tamil Nadu are in great distress. The situation is so alarming that they are distraught. Therefore, as an expression of their distress and grief, the whole of Tamil Nadu is observing *bandh* today. Yesterday, Shri Maya Thevar of D.M.K. observed that this *bandh* is unlawful and it is directed against the Central Government. I would only say that his party, D.M.K., has also joined this statewide *bandh*. I wish to make it clear that this *bandh* is not directed against the Central Government. It is an expression of the distress and grief of the people of Tamil Nadu.

Shri Maya Thevar in his speech repeated many allegations that have already been made by his party against Thiru MGR and other Ministers of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. Without going into detail about, it would suffice if I refer to the question and answer given by the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs on 13-10-1982 on the floor of this House. His own colleague from D.M.K. had raised unstarred question No. 1535 on 13-10-1982 to which Shri P. Venkatasubbiah, the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs has replied that the allegations made against the Chief Minister and other Ministers of Tamil Nadu Government were examined in the light of comments obtained from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the matter was treated as closed. It would not be in the public interest to disclose the details of the allegations and the comments of the Chief Minister thereon. I don't think that we need any other certificate of good conduct from anyone else. There is a proverb in Tamil Nadu which says that the sun is not affected by the barking of the dog at it. I will not go further into this.

The 1924 Agreement on the sharing of Cauvery waters ended in 1974. Immediately if the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Thiru Karunanidhi had not remained indifferent to the issue, now this would not have such a gigantic proportion.

In reply to another question of a ruling party Member, the hon. Minister of

[Shri C. Chinnaswamy]

irrigation has stated that irrigation projects should not be constructed without the Centre's approval by the State which is involved in a river water dispute with a neighbouring State. But the Karnataka Government, without the scrutiny and approval of the Central Planning Commission has constructed 3 dams on the river Cauvery, which deserves nothing but condemnation. The people of Tamil Nadu cannot be blamed for entertaining the doubt about the complicity of the Centre in this construction of 3 dams on Cauvery by Karnataka. I request the hon. Minister to clear this doubt from the minds of the people of Tamil Nadu and this can be done only by ensuring adequate supply of water by Karnataka to save Tamil Nadu from extinction.

Tamilnadu has only one perennial river and that is Cauvery. If Cauvery dries up, the whole of Tamilnadu dries up. In Karnataka there are many perennial rivers. By constructing these three dams without the approval of the Central Planning Commission, the Karnataka Government seems to be determined in denying Cauvery water to Tamil Nadu. I request that the Central Government should intervene immediately and get adequate water supply for Tamil Nadu. So far only 10 T.M.C. of water has been given. We want 20 T.M.C. more water to save the standing Kuruvai and Samba crop from getting withered. The Centre should ensure this water supply from Karnataka Government.

The Experts Committee had approved Suruliyar Project many many years ago. The Kerala Government has not yet given its consent. If this project is implemented, then lakhs of acres in Tamil Nadu will become fertile. Presently the Suruliyar water is going waste into the sea. I request that the Central Government should take it up with the Government of Kerala and get its consent for Suruliyar project.

In many areas of Tamil Nadu there is acute paucity of drinking water. In the capital of Tamil Nadu, Madras there is acute shortage of water. The Tamil Nadu Government has taken adequate steps on

war footing to solve the drinking water crisis. While speaking yesterday, Shri Maya Thevar pointed out that the Veeranam drinking water scheme was given by the AIADMK Government. I would say that this is far from truth. This scheme was dropped in 1976 when Tamilnadu was under Presidential Rule.

Sir, the Tamil Nadu Government has sent 15 days back its report on drought to the Central Government. I am surprised and shocked to see the denial of the Centre in this matter. I demand that the Central Team should be sent immediately to Tamil Nadu for assessing the extent of damage due to drought and for recommending substantial drought relief assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu. Before I conclude, I would say that the twin disaster of drought and flood can be solved only by linking Ganges with Cauvery and I appeal to the Government of India to examine this project seriously.

SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL (Ahmednagar): Mr. Deputy-Speaker. Sir, I am very much obliged to you for having given me an opportunity to express my views and feelings about the present situation and conditions of flood and drought.

Today, the country is facing calamities from two sides. From one side, there are floods and, from the other side, there is drought. If we take into consideration the period from 1979 to 1982, we find that most of the States like Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal, Madhya Pradesh, some districts in Uttar Pradesh and other States are affected practically more than 20 crores of people are affected by drought; more than 346 lakhs of hectares of land are deprived of the yield of crop and lakhs of cattle starve and die.

Here in India, the farmer's economy is mainly based on the power-driven bullock-cart. When there is a drought, the first victim of drought is the cattle of the farmer the child, the old man, the feeble and the pregnant woman. This story is repeated every year. The areas are the same; the condition of the rain is the same; the nature of the rain is repeatedly

the same. It is erratic; it is irregular; it is uneven. That is why the experts are not in a position to define "drought". It depends on various factors, like capacity to hold moisture, the regularity of rain, the long spell of time between two showers and so many other factors I am not going to elaborate on these factors.

What I want to point out is, mainly, the drought-prone areas, the drought-affected areas, are now identified. They are chronic areas and the sorrows and worries are the same. The relief which we envisage is practically the same. There is a very poor meagre relief. Some benefit by cancellation of interest, some postponement of recovery of debts; some work here and there. But as soon as the year begins, the same story and the cycle is repeated. If this is going to be the state of affairs, I think, the nation is avoiding the responsibility towards those who are unfortunate to have been born in the areas which are chronically drought-affected and which are known as drought-prone areas.

There is another calamity, the calamity of floods. The rivers are not in a position to keep the waters and the areas are inundated. The floods destroy the property, the crop, the cattle and the life. The story is repeated again and again. Are there not other countries where they get less than 3 inches of rainfall annually and still they are able to harness all the resources of water? They channelise their rivers and, not only that, they have been successful enough to change the course of rivers. They have built huge dams and channelised water and irrigated land. Is it not possible to do so in this country?

Is our country not having the advanced technology by means of which we can avoid the calamities that are being faced by crores of people every year. For the last three years, we are repeating the same story. We request the Government to do this and that.

The Government of Maharashtra has asked for Rs. 131 crores to meet the drought situation.

The story is repeated every year. What I feel that the nation should think twice about the seriousness of this calamity and find out ways and means of meeting the challenge of floods and drought which the country is facing.

It is very necessary for the nation to have a new look at this issue.

So far as the temporary measures are concerned, there are so many measures.

In Maharashtra particularly, the water level is going down and down. Up to the depth of 300 ft and more water is not available through rigs and bores. The directions of the Government are that if water is not available within the limits of 1-1/2 Km then the bore should not be made available and the water supply should not be made and it should not be declared as a drought-affected village.

It is well-known that the village woman early in the morning goes to the well carrying a pot for 2 Km on her back, brings water to the house and does all the cooking work. She walks a distance of 5 Km to reach her work place and she works hard there throughout the whole day. After reaching home in the evening, she will be very much tired. But again she has to take the trouble of carrying the pot on her back to fetch water from the well in the evening also to do cooking. By the time she goes to sleep late in the night, she will be damn tired. This is the unfortunate lot of the village woman. Do you think that the village woman should face all these hardships because she happens to be a farmer's wife?

How did we manage the situation when hundreds of refugees migrated from Bangladesh and tried to seek shelter in our country? Did we not provide them all the facilities and services? Then, how is it that the unfortunate village woman is left to her fate to cover a distance of more than 2 Kms to fetch water and to go through all this drudgery?

It is stated that the medium and minor irrigation works should be expedited. But we have been asked to meet the expenses of irrigation projects within the DPAP. The DPAP has been allotted very paltry amount. Is it difficult to spare funds to

[Shri Chandrabhan Athare Patil]

expedite minor and medium irrigation projects? There is need to change the policy.

The State Government should be given adequate assistance and facility to meet the expenses of the minor and medium irrigation projects.

श्री कमलनाथ झा (सहरसा) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, सदन में राष्ट्रीय जीवन में जो संकट आया है, उस संकट के संबंध में सदन में चर्चा हो रही है। हमारे विरोधी पक्ष के कुछ मित्र इस वक्त भी इससे राजनीतिक लाभ उठाने का प्रयास कर रहे हैं, जैसे कि उनकी यह नीति बन गई है। बराबर जबकि वहां पर कैबिनेट मिनिस्टर मौजूद हैं, सारी उसकी जिम्मेदारी है, लेकिन उसको राजनीतिक रूप दे रहे हैं। मुझे बड़ा अफसोस है कि इतनी गम्भीर समस्या पर हम लोग सदन में विचार कर रहे हैं, लेकिन विरोधी पक्ष के रिफ्लेक्टाइज्ड सीडस के सुझावों से हम लोग वंचित हैं।

आज इस मौके पर बाबू जगजीवन रामजी का सुझाव हमें मिलता, उनके अनुभव हमें मिलते। चौधरी चरणसिंह के सुझाव और अनुभव मिलते। चन्द्रशेखर बाबू का अनुभव मिलता, अटल बिहारी जी बाजपेयी जी का अनुभव हमें मिलता, बहुगुणा जी का अनुभव हमें मिलता। लेकिन इस संकट की स्थिति में इन बड़े-बड़े नेताओं से यह सदन वंचित रहा है। (व्यवधान) आप जब बोलते हैं, तो मैं चुपचाप सुनता हूँ। (व्यवधान)।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे इस बात का बड़ा अफसोस है कि हमारे कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने बड़े स्वीपिंग ढंग से कह दिया कि 36 वर्ष के इस स्वराज्य

काल में कुछ हुआ ही नहीं है। जब हम स्वतंत्र हुए थे, तब 35 करोड़ की आबादी थी और आज 70 करोड़ की आबादी है। 1943 में बंगाल में जैसा अफाल पड़ा था और 40 लाख लोग मारे गये थे, क्या आज हिन्दुस्तान में कहीं अफाल पड़ता है? आज हम हिन्दुस्तान से बाहर अनाज भी भेजते हैं। लेकिन कभी संकट आता है तो बाहर से अनाज खरीदना भी पड़ता है। इस तरह से आप जेनरेलाइज कर के इंडिया की पिक्चर को धूमिल न कीजिए, हमारी उपलब्धियों को छिपाइये नहीं। आप केवल अपोजिशन करना जानते हैं, आपको जनता से कोई मतलब नहीं है। (व्यवधान)

आज देश में जो संकट है, उस संकट के समय देश की जनता की तकलीफों को केन्द्रीय सरकार के सामने रखने का आपको अधिकार है। यह हम कंसीड करते हैं। चाहे कहीं की भी राज्य सरकार हो, बंगाल की हो या कहीं की भी हो, वहां जनता की भावना को अभिव्यक्ति मिलनी चाहिये। चाहे कोई भी पार्टी हो, कांग्रेस पार्टी हो, या अन्य पार्टी हो उसको सदन के सामने जनता की कठिनाइयों को रखने का अधिकार है लेकिन Every right has a corresponding duty.

जब दिल्ली की सरकार कहती है कि बफ़र स्टॉक बनाओ, लेवी में अनाज इक्कठा करो जिससे कि संकटकाल के समय में हम देश की भूखी जनता को खिला सकें तो आप अपनी छाती पर हाथ रखकर कहिये कि क्या किसी पार्टी के नेता ने इस बारे में कोई स्टेटमेंट दिया है। आप जनता की तरफ से बड़ी-बड़ी वकालत करते हैं, लेकिन क्या

सेन्ट्रल गर्वनमेंट को बफर स्टॉक बनाने में हिन्दुस्तान की किसी भी पार्टी ने मदद की है अगर की हो तो बतलाइये। (व्यवधान) यह डैमोक्रेसी है। यह अपोजिशन नहीं है, डैमोक्रेसी नहीं है। डैमोक्रेसी में अपोजिशन भी चलता है और कोअप्रेषन भी चलता है। लेकिन आपने तो सिर्फ एक ही प्वाइंट सीखा है कि अगर सरकार कोई अच्छा काम करे तो कोअप्रेषन न करो, नान-कोअपरेषन करो, अगर जनता पर तकलीफ आये तो उसकी सारी जिम्मेदारी सरकार के ऊपर लाद दो। (व्यवधान)

I am not charging anybody on any point.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे बहुत से मित्रों ने अपने-अपने बिचार रखे। मैं आपका ज्यादा समय न लेता हुआ इतना कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार सरकार ने जो आपको मेमोरेण्डम दिया है उसके ऊपर हमारे मंत्री महोदय सहानुभूतिपूर्वक विचार कर के राज्य सरकार की पर्याप्त मदद करें क्योंकि हमारी स्टेट का दो-तिहाई हिस्सा आज सूखे की चपेट में है।

कोई धमकी देकर, आंख में धूल झाँक कर उनको बरगलाया नहीं जा सकता। वे दिन रात कोशिश कर रहे हैं और परिस्थिति को सहानुभूति से देख रहे हैं। हमारी नेता श्रीमती इंदिरा गांधी भी इस समस्या के प्रति सजग हैं और जहाँ भी आवश्यकता है और जहाँ तक सामर्थ्य है भारत की जनता को भूख से मरने नहीं देंगे। ऐसा हमारे मंत्री जो का संकल्प है लेकिन घपला करके, आंफड़ों को बढ़ाकर बताके यदि हम चाहें तो इस बारे में मंत्री महोदय पूरी तरह सजग हैं, इनकी योग्यता और क्षमता से आप सब वाकिफ हैं।

अंत में एक विशेष बात की ओर मैं ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूँ। जै। कि माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा, शार्ट टर्म के बारे में मैं सहमत हूँ। उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, भारत वर्ष की बहुत सी उपलब्धियाँ हैं, कृषि के क्षेत्र में हमें उपलब्धि मिली है। लेकिन बाढ़ और सुखाड़ की समस्या का हल करने के लिए हमें शक है कि हमें कामयाबी मिलेगी। इसके लिए बेसिक बिकिंग की जरूरत है। आप देखेंगे कि जैसे-जैसे समय बढ़ता है, किसी भी प्रोजेक्ट की कास्ट बढ़ती है। “जस-जस सुसरसा बदन बढ़ावा-तस दुगन कपि रूप दिखावा।” इसलिए मनी फैक्टर को सामने रखकर यदि हम बोजनाएँ बनाएंगे तो शायद हमको कामयाबी नहीं मिलेगी। इसलिए बेसिक बिकिंग की जरूरत है। नेशनल इशू बनाकर तमाम बिरोधी पार्टियों, सरकारी पार्टी, भारत वर्ष की जनता, किसान और मजदूरों के सहयोग से बाढ़ और सुखाड़ का मुकाबला किया जा सकता है। इसलिए बुनियादी डिपार्चर ट्रेडिशनल लाइन से करना होगा। एक बेसिक डिपार्चर करना होगा। लोग बड़े इंजीनियर का नाम लेते हैं। तो मैं इंजीनियर हूँ नहीं, लेकिन दूसरे देशों में, दूसरे समाजवादी देशों ने हम से कम समय में और हम से इफेक्टिव ढंग से पीपुल्स कोअपरेषन से इस प्रॉब्लम को हल करने की कोशिश की है और हल किया है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से आग्रह करता हूँ कि हमारी भी क्रांतिकारी पार्टी है। इस बुनियादी सवाल को हल करने के लिए बुनियादी तौर पर राष्ट्रीय आधार पर सभी दलों का सहयोग लेकर हमको मूव करना चाहिए तो कोई ऐसी समस्या नहीं है, जिसका समाधान न हो सके। मुझे आपने समय दिया इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not propose to tax on the patience of you, nor of any Member of this House...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Either direct or indirect tax

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Direct tax is more than the indirect tax.

Sir, the statement under consideration today surveys the damages caused by recent floods in different parts of the country and also the severity of the drought in different parts of the country. There is no doubt about the fact that the flood damages are extensive and the severity of the drought in different parts of the country is also extraordinary. But I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the fact that unlike on the earlier occasions, now the Minister has not tried to conceal the magnitude of the problem. He deserves congratulations from the House that he has not concealed the extensiveness of the flood and the severity of the drought. He is not guilty of concealment, but he is guilty of one thing. Sir, that he has failed and failed miserably to take necessary step for providing relief and succour to the victims of flood and drought. Sir, he has not only been able to provide speedy relief materially for the food and drought victims, but he has also shown his indifference towards projecting policy instruments or policy frame-work so that the people can also fight back this menace of drought and flood. Therefore, the question is that those who are sitting on this side of the House cannot have a arochial outlook or sectarian outlook or provincial outlook. What we can do is that we can share the sufferings and agony of the people of different States. Naturally as I do come from the State of West Bengal, it becomes incumbent on my part to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the severe drought situation now prevailing in this State. In one word, I would say that the situation in West Bengal is very grim. It is very grim because there are certain facts which the hon. Minister should know and I propose to apprise him of those facts.

Sir, more than 50 per cent of the 'anitam' crop is going to be lost. As a matter of

fact, the average production of this crop in West Bengal is about 50 lakh tonnes, in normal period. This time, according to the West Bengal Government's expert opinion, it shall not exceed more than 25 lakh tonnes this year. Even 50 per cent of the crop which is still in the field and which has not yet been perched, will get perched if there is no last moment rain. There was a proposal or there was a dream of hope that water from DVC, Kangsabati and Mayurakshi reservoirs will be released so that the standig crops could be saved. Another hope was that water from Tenughat was very much expected. But unfortunately not only water from Tenughat reservoir was not released but the Bihar Government—it was reported—said that water from DVC, Kangsabati and Mayurakshi reservoirs would not be released because water in those reservoirs was far below the optimal level. Therefore, the situation is very grim. As the hon. Minister has conceded I am thankful—13 of the 15 districts of the State is under severe spell of drought. You can very well imagine that the progress of transplation would be very tardy, would be very slow. In Purulia, the transplantation is 25 per cent less than in the normal period, in Burdwan, it is 30 per cent, Midnapore it is 50 per cent, in Birbhum it is 25 per cent, Bankura it is 20 per cent. Malda, it is 40 per cent, in Howrah, Hooghly and 24 Parganas and Murshidabad, it is 30 per cent. In all these districts, it is below the mornal transplantation. You can very well imagine what remains for the State of West Bengal. Apart from the present grim situation, in the coming year the situation would be all the greater and it will be more grim. Today the rationing system in the State is on the verge of collapse. It is on the verge of collapse according to the information available from the Government of West Bengal. Only 90000 metric tonnes of foodgrains are in store in the State which is just sufficient for two weeks. Sir, you will be surprised, shocked and astonished to learn that out of this quantity of 90000 metric tonnes of foodgrains which is in the stores 40000 metric tonnes are of quality foodgrains which can be distributed for consumption. That is not fit for human consumption. It has also been reported by the Government of West Bengal

that about 80,000 tonnes of Australian wheat—I am using very unassaulting word—is contaminated and is a health hazard. While on the one side there is a complete depletion of the stock, on the other side, whatever is there in the stock is not issuable. You can very well understand the difficulties of the people of the State. Even the hon. Minister was apprised of the situation.

The hon. Minister has made a statement somewhere—I shall not mention the name—that the Central Government has become over-liberal towards the State of West Bengal. I do not want to joint issue with him, whether he is liberal, over-liberal or whether he is not liberal. On this count I do not want to joint issue with him. Taking for granted that he was liberal and even over-liberal, I would only ask him, what is the harm if he becomes equally liberal now when the people of West Bengal are in the grip of drought and need immediate succour and relief?

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: West Bengal would not like him to be liberal but radical.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: So far as the longterm programme is concerned it is not possible for me to spell it out here, but I would request the hon. Minister to meet the situation in West Bengal immediately and provide them succour and relief, so that the people of West Bengal can survive. It is a question of survival at the present moment.

Several points have been mentioned by Com. Samar Mukherjee and Shri Tridib Chaudhuri and I would only like to add to some of the points which require the immediate attention of the hon. Minister. He says that he was over-liberal but I have got here a statement from the Food Minister of West Bengal where he says that out of the allotted quantity in the last eight months, 11000 tonnes of foodgrains has not reached them because of transport bottlenecks. I think the hon. Minister would agree with what the West Bengal Government says. In order that the allotted quan-

tity of foodgrains reaches West Bengal, 4.5 rakes of grain are necessary every day, but you have been able to provide 2.2 rakes a day for that purpose. It has been admitted by Shri Mallikarjun today that it is a fact. Privately also, you would agree to it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Privately you agree to so many things which you are not saying now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is not a question of agreeing, but helping the people of West Bengal immediately.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Private discussions should not be mentioned here.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: How will you support the private sector?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: It is all public sector. He says that it has not been possible to get more than two rakes a day, when four rakes are necessary for a day. Shri Mallikarjun is reported to have said that there is no difficulty in placing at your disposal four rakes a day provided the Food Secretariat, or the Ministry ask the Railway Ministry to place those four rakes a day at their disposal. I don't want to join issue. I only say the West Bengal Government says that you please supply 3.7 lakh tonnes of Wheat and rice for the coming few months and make arrangement for four rakes a day. And if it is not possible for you to supply the rice, we are prepared to accept wheat. Please accept the suggestion. If I remember correctly, in his speech only the day before yesterday, the Hon. Minister said that the wheat production this time was an all time record. It is 36 million tonnes, as far as I remember.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No, it is 37.8 million tonnes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: And in addition you have imported 2.4 million tonnes from America. I don't know whether you are going in for further import. But in such a comfortable situation, you cannot just go away by saying that our stock is not as promising which cannot enable the Central Government to rush wheat to West Bengal. Therefore, Sir, there is no

[Shri Chitta Basu]

argument from your side. And when you say that you have become liberal, I would say, that you have overliberal, to save the people of West Bengal. And if you cannot, then there is an alternative. The West Bengal Government has suggested that it should be allowed to purchase foodgrains from surplus states from within the country. When you are at liberty to import food from America and Australia, are we not patriots, are we not the people of India? Five crore people of West Bengal are part of India. Is it not a fact? We grow jute and because of jute we lose a very huge quantity of foodgrains. Is it not a fact? And because of jute you earn foreign money, and you are punishing us when we are allowing you to earn foreign money and you are on the other hand punishing us by not giving us adequate or equivalent amount of food. If you don't have large stock, which you do not agree and say you have enough food stock and you can help West Bengal, but you don't, I implore upon you to allow the Government of West Bengal to purchase wheat from Punjab and Haryana which are the surplus States and which are willing to supply. If you don't supply and don't allow the State Government to purchase, then what is the future for us? I don't want you to be radical enough to take such a radical position, but have a humanitarian approach at least.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have to be rational.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Yes, become rational. I am not talking irrational. I am very much rational. I am not irresponsible. I am also a responsible person.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: You maintain the rationing system and we become rational.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Therefore, our immediate needs are:

- (1) 3.7 lakh tonnes of wheat or foodgrains should be given.
- (2) There should be supply of four rakes a day.
- (3) There should be drought assistance up to the extent of Rs. 100 crores.
- (4)

Purchase of rice and wheat from other surplus states should be allowed. (5) A study team should visit the State of West Bengal.

Sir, he is a miser in the sense when he has described the extensiveness of the floods, severity of drought, he has spent only Rs. 113 crores.

Then, Sir, there has been a stoppage of overdraft. How can a State manage in a situation of this nature when you have stopped the overdrafts and when you have been miserly in rushing food. Therefore, Sir, not only in the name of humanity, but on the basis of right also you should help us when we are part of India. We grow jute; and in exchange for that, we lose our foodgrains. We also grow tea. Therefore, it is not a question of wheat; It is not a question of mercy; it is a question of the right of the people of West Bengal. I am here not only to plead, not only to make a plea for mercy; I am also here to make a demand on behalf of the five crores of people of West Bengal. Therefore, I want that the Government of India should make an adequate response in the time of crisis through which we are passing.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): Thank you, Sir, for calling me before time, when probably only three Ministers are present in the House along with me.

This very important subject of relief for drought and flood-affected areas has been debated for two days. We have taken more than eight hours. There are two sides to the question: one is preventive measures that Government is taking, or has been taking in the past or intends to take for the future, to mitigate this recurring misery from which people suffer. The other is the palliative side of it, which comprises relief sanctioned from time to time in case of calamities—and the various other programmes which have been continuing, to try and minimize the suffering from these two natural calamities—flood and drought.

My hon. friend Mr. Kedar Pandey has given a detailed statement yesterday in reply to the various points raised by hon. Members. There cannot be two opinions about the need for expansion of our irrigation system, if we have to save the people who are suffering from floods year after year, and also from drought. Hon. Members would agree that we have given a very high priority in this Plan for flood control measures. The figure was mentioned by Mr. Kedar Pandey: as against Rs. 976 crores which were spent during all the previous Plan periods for this Plan period alone, for these five years, a sum of Rs. 1045 crores has been allocated. Similarly, for agriculture and irrigation, the allocation for the current Plan, out of a total sum of Rs. 97,500 crores or so, is about 25 per cent. It is about Rs. 13,000 crores for agriculture; and another sum of Rs. 12,000 crores as outlay on irrigation. Irrigation has been given this high priority. (Interruption) The target is very high: 3 million hectares of land to be brought additionally under irrigation every year from surface water and ground water. Almost 50-50. For the total period of five years, 14 million hectares; but for the remaining two years, we have fixed it as 3 million hectares per year, and we have shown that this target can be achieved because during the past years, on an average 2.6 or 2.7 million hectares have been provided irrigation. I would not like to go into the details of this subject, because enough has been said by the hon. Minister of Irrigation; but I agree with the hon. members' suggestions for speeding up work on the various projects that have been delayed. The need is imperative and the Government is trying its level best to see that funds are found for speedy completion of the projects which is the only way to provide relief in the long term for areas which are dry and which suffer from drought.

The other side is the measures for relief and the other schemes that we are implementing. It is only with this purpose of saving these areas from the suffering from drought that we have undertaken DPAP schemes. Every block is allocated Rs. 7.5

lakhs from central share and Rs. 7.5 lakhs are to be found by the State, it is 50 : 50 matching basis. Similarly, there are desert development programmes for dry areas and the various other schemes and national rural development schemes to find employment for the people and to create durable assets for the rural community whereby they can save villages against various vagaries of nature. Bunds can also be constructed. Village roads can be constructed. Water supply schemes can be implemented.

Then we have the minimum needs programme for which a large sum is allocated for various things including drinking water supply scheme, accelerated rural water scheme. I would not like to give the details about all the allocations that are made from year to year to the States. But the work is going on though not perhaps at a speed which the hon. members and I myself and my colleague would like to be.

There are constraints, financial constraints. Afforestation is another part of the programme which has to reduce the fury of floods and it has been given a very high priority. Plantation has been increasing. Social forestry schemes are being implemented by the States in right earnestness. The Prime Minister herself is taking perhaps the greatest interest in afforestation and maintaining the environmental ecological balance in this country; and this has been given a new direction under her leadership. She herself heads the various bodies; she is holding charge of environment and ecology; and recently when we requested her to address the Forest Conference which I am calling in a few days' time, she readily agreed in spite of her very busy programme. Most of the important cases are brought to her notice; and it is only with her interest in the matter that we have been able to save most of the land under forest that perhaps would have been diverted for other purposes. The degradation of forest land has to a very great extent been reduced.

[Rao Birendra Singh]

Before I go to the points raised by hon. members individually, I would like to give some information about what the Government has done so far on the reports that have been received from various States.

Some of the members have said that the Government is slow, the reports are not processed speedily, the reports of Central teams take a long time to be put up before the Government and for decisions to be taken. I would like to remove these apprehensions. The reports regarding drought on a considerable scale were received by the Government from the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, Orissa, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Rajasthan also, as is reported now, is suffering from drought in some districts. It is unfortunate that it is for the fourth or fifth year in succession that in some districts of Rajasthan the people are suffering from severe drought. We were expecting a very good crop in Rajasthan this year. Probably it would have been an all-time record, but for the failure of the monsoon in the month of September. Just one or two showers and Rajasthan would have had a surplus stock of foodgrains. But unfortunately in Rajasthan, as also in other parts of the country, rains failed in September and our hopes were belied. But the situation is not so bleak as it has been made out by some hon. Members. Some of the States have very good crops—Punjab and Haryana in most parts. Also, in some other States, parts of the country have good crops. At the same time, we have good stocks of foodgrains. There should be no worry on account of shortage of food in the country and all talk about starvation deaths taking place, perhaps, is not warranted at this time. Nor are the reports correct, to the best of my information. I share the anxiety of hon. Members and I know that as people's representatives they are very much concerned and they have taken a very keen interest in projecting the sufferings and the needs of the people in their respective areas and also about the country as a whole. The Government also shares their concern. But it is not that they are oblivious of these facts.

Nor is it that we are complacent. The situation is being watched and it was perhaps more with that end in view, than the future needs that would accrue, that we imported foodgrains from the United States. At that time probably hon. Members were not very happy about the imports. But now if I ask some of them on the Opposition benches, they probably would advocate for more food imports; but I do not think at the present time we consider it necessary. We shall wait for the coming crop, the *rabi* crop.

Large amounts of money have been given to the States to help the farmers to raise the *rabi* crop. The order of the total short term loans this year, for *kharif* and *rabi* has been about Rs. 250 crores which is very high. We distributed Rs. 113 crores for *kharif* alone and the rest, out of Rs. 250 crores has been allocated to the States for *rabi*. The farmers would be able to buy seeds, fertilizers and pesticides and other things. We hope, with the efforts of the Central and State authorities, if enough power is provided to the farmers for their tubewells and if my colleague in the Ministry of Irrigation sees to it that water from the reservoirs, as far as possible, is released for raising the *rabi*, there should not be difficulty, in my view, in meeting the situation. We have seen a much worse period than this in 1979-80. And we managed the whole situation without importing any foodgrains from outside. After that, we had acquired some experience, some expertise and some confidence. Though I agree that the situation this time has been compounded on account of the flood and drought accruing in seriousness simultaneously in parts of the country, the Central Government has taken speedy action.

For drought, Andhra Pradesh sent us a memorandum on 30th of September. And the team would be visiting there within two-three days. We have not taken long in deputing a central team.

A memorandum was received from Bihar. From 20th to 22nd of September, our central team visited the State. The report of the central team was received

within a week. Hon. Members would now be convinced that delays do not take place in these matters. And the report of the central team has already been discussed by the high level committee on 13th, two days ago. A decision has now to be taken in the Finance Ministry and the relief will be sanctioned within a few days time. But there is a margin money available with the State and with that, the State can start the relief work. Apart from that, when I visited the State, 10,000 tonnes of foodgrains was ordered to be released as a special case, to see that the people get their supplies of foodgrains in flood affected areas.

The team has visited Maharashtra on receipt of the memorandum from that State. And the visit of the team did not take much time. From 3rd to 6th our central team visited the State. Their report should be available to Agriculture Ministry in a few days time. Immediately it will be processed and placed before the high level committee.

For Orissa, the report of the central team was received on 7th of this month. It will be discussed by the high level committee. Probably, it has been discussed today, the 15th, within five days of the receipt of the report from the central team. Orissa has also been helped otherwise as an interim measure. The Prime Minister visited that State. Rs. 15 crores have been sanctioned immediately as advance money.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Did they ask for Rs. 60 crores?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I would not go into that. If you like to know what the States demanded, that is a different matter. I will stick to drought situation. But Orissa asked for Rs. 57.93 crores against drought.

Many hon. Members have talked about the drought conditions in Tamil Nadu. The situation is being watched by the State Government. This is the report we have received. We have not received any memorandum from that State so far. I do not know what you expect the Cen-

tral Government to do when the State Government itself wants to watch the situation further.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Tamil Nadu may be watching when you are giving assistance.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I will come to that.

U.P. has been very badly affected, no doubt, from drought. 46 out of 57 districts are drought-affected areas. The Central team visited the State between 20th and 24th and the report of the team, which has been received already, will be placed before the High Level Committee on the 19th—the date has been fixed—and the relief will be sanctioned.

West Bengal has already received the Central Team and the relief sanctioned is Rs. 24.77 crores or so.... (*Interruptions*) I agree. I do not say that the situation has not worsened after that. That was the report for the pre-monsoon period, when the rains were expected. The rains failed in West Bengal. I entirely agree that West Bengal is also one of the badly affected States.

Madhya Pradesh has not sent us any memorandum on drought. Rajasthan also has not sent any memorandum for the post-monsoon period.... (*Interruptions*) But it does not mean that they are not discussing the matter with us. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh saw me. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan also discussed the situation there with me a few days back.

SHRI TRIDIB CHAUDHARI (Berpore): The West Bengal Government wanted another Central Team to go there.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I do not know whether the Central Team should be absolutely essential there. We can discuss the matter here also. Our officers could call the West Bengal officers. The Central Team has already visited that place. On receipt of a memorandum for the post-monsoon period, we can decide what should be done. But we should get a full report from the West Bengal Government.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : मैमोरेण्डम प्रापको न दिया हो, प्राइम मिनिस्टर को दिया हो।

राज बोरेंद्र सिंह : बहु भो मेरे पास पहुँच जाएगा। प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब को दिया है, तो उसके ऊपर भी उन्नी तरोक से बिचार होगा।

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY (Calcutta South): You have admitted that the situation in West Bengal is very bad. But then you say we can consider whether the team should go there or we should discuss, that you are waiting for the full report and all that. We know that it will take some time. In between, what do you propose to do to alleviate the suffering of the people, by the State Government maintaining the rationing system? After all, starvation..

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: If you have got patience for some time, I will come to that.

Some States suffered from floods also. Andhra Pradesh wanted some assistance. Since the damage was not reported to be of a very large extent, the State were advised that they could meet the expenditure out of the emergent money at their disposal.

To Assam we are sending a team. It should be visiting the State between 18th and 21st of this month. Then we shall see what relief is to be given to Assam.

So far as Bihar is concerned, the Central team has already visited the State, the report has been received and it has been considered already by the High Level Committee.

Madhya Pradesh has sent a memorandum on flood. It has not sent any memorandum on drought so far. The memorandum of Madhya Pradesh Government will be discussed here in a meeting of the inter-ministerial group or perhaps it has already been discussed yesterday. I have not yet received the report; we shall see whether Madhya Pradesh also deserves some assistance.

Karnataka got floods twice. A memorandum was received after the first wave of floods and then again, after the second wave of floods they asked for an amount of only Rs. 99 lakhs against damages in the first wave and Rs. 19 lakhs for damages in the second wave. The Central team has not been deputed to Karnataka, but the matter will be discussed or has been discussed in the Inter-ministerial Group and assistance even without the Central Team visiting the State can be given if we know exactly what is needed. Orissa also suffered from floods.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Have you received any memorandum from Maharashtra about drought?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: About Maharashtra we have not received any memorandum.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: He will not send.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We are awaiting. No memorandum from Maharashtra on drought has been received so far.

The same is the case about Orissa.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: That is not a part of *rashtra*. That is '*Maha Rashtra*'.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The State suffered from two waves of floods. The report of the Central Team has been received and it has probably been discussed already today by the High Level Committee.

About the State of Uttar Pradesh, the Central Team has already visited the State and the report of the Central Team will be discussed on the 19th of this month.

These are the various reports about the States suffering from flood and drought which are being processed.

I am sorry. Maharashtra has sent a memorandum.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: After the expansion of the Cabinet?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Maharashtra has sent a memorandum, the Team has visited the State between 4th and 6th of this month, but the report is awaited. The report of the Team has not been received. Maharashtra has already been visited by the Central Team.

SHRI CHANDRABHAN ATHARE PATIL (Ahmednagar): The Maharashtra Government has submitted a memorandum asking for Rs. 131 crores to meet the drought situation.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Yes, Rs. 131 crores, out of that Rs. 27 crores or so is for drinking water supply. (*Interruptions*). We shall see how much can be sanctioned because we go according to certain norms.

Hon. Members would agree that primarily it is the responsibility of the State Governments. The State Governments raise their own revenues. On the one side there is increasing talk about the autonomy of the States and interference by the Centre unduly, but when there is any calamity and suffering, the State Governments want to throw the entire blame on the Government of India. (*Interruptions*). But the Government of India has to work within certain limitations. The Government of India's exchequer also is not unlimited.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : राज्यों का सब पैसा तो आप ले लते हैं ।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Drought is always in the State. That will never be in the Centre.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I would not like to go into questions which have been discussed earlier also, on many occasions, about the production in agriculture, how we have increased it, what measures we have been taking to increase the production further, our distribution system and all these things. But one very important point which Shri Kamal Nath raised should go home at least at this time. It is different that you forget again after some time. But when it is a question of procurement, building up of buffer

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stocks with the Centre, some very responsible leaders of the opposition go to the extent of saying or exhorting the farmers not to bring their foodgrains to *mandies*, not to sell to the Government agencies. Then where do you think the Central Government can build its buffer, by raising crops on the roads in New Delhi?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Unless they get some reasonable price. Subject to the condition कि रीजनेबल प्राइस किसान को आप दें । विदेशों में आप दो सौ दे सकते हैं लेकिन अपने देश के किसान को डेढ़ सौ भी नहीं दे सकते हैं ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Would you ever understand, Mr. Paswan, the economics of food policy?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Yes.

आपकी इकोनॉमिक्स के कारण ही तो देश की यह दुर्दशा हो रही है । हमारी इकानॉमिक्स के मुताबिक चलें तो पांच साल में देश ठीक हो जाए ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: And the foodgrains then can be sold by the farmers at Rs. 200/- a quintal, as probably you would like to demand for political considerations and then everything would shoot up and the Central Government would have to bear a subsidy of Rs. 5,000/- or Rs. 10,000/- crores to supply to the consumers at the rate that you would like them to be supplied.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : आपने देश के किसानों को आप सबक सिखाना चाहते हैं कि देखो तुम नहीं दे सकते तो विदेशों से दो सौ रुपया दे कर भी हम मंगा सकते हैं ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I know more about kisan than you. I can challenge you.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: You are now a Minister and not a kisan.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I live entirely on my agriculture. Probably you may have some other income. But I find these prices are remunerative and I do not have any irrigated land either. I know what is good for the farmer and what is enough. This is a different thing—talking about higher prices.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I will give you a very happy experience because you and Shri Kamal Nath rightly raised that point. Last time when there was a famine in Maharashtra, at that time we were in Socialist Party and we took out processions from various villages urging people, in national interest, to give more levy and organise them and then the Chief Minister had congratulated our party for doing all this.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am grateful to you. I wish some of us could learn from you. Some of these gentlemen could follow in your footsteps. One has to be responsible even in politics.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : जमीन की सिंचाई नहीं हो रही है तो हम जिम्मेदार हैं, फ्लडिंग के लिए हम जिम्मेदार हैं, पापुलेशन बढ़ रही है तो हम हैं, डाउट के लिए हम हैं, आप खाली सरकार चलाने के लिए हैं ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Were you not one of those who said—do not bring sugar-cane to the factories, do not bring foodgrains to the mandies, do not sell to the Government agencies. If you are serious about that, do you have any claim on Government stocks?

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Yes.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No. I would come to some of the points concerning various States particularly mentioned. I would ask for your permission to deal first with West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: They are large in number.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am grateful to them. They have taken a lot of time of the House in the discussion. They are also prepared to listen. If only the number of Members present were the indication of the sufferance, West Bengal is the worst sufferer.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: For the last two days they are present.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Mr. Samar Mukherjee, Mr. Chitta Basu, Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee and many other friends from West Bengal and some friends from other States like Mr. Harikesh Bahadur and Mr. Paswan have taken up the cause of West Bengal. They have raised a question about the Central Government....

AN HON. MEMBER: The Prime Minister's visit.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The Prime Minister's visit is a different thing. That is not a part of the relief—whether it is the Prime Minister herself or the Prime Minister's Ministers or the machinery under her that looks into the matter, it is the same thing. Ultimately....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Minister, don't go on record that the Prime Minister's visit is not a relief.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The Prime Minister's visit—if she could find time, I shall be very happy. For that, I am with you. Whenever she gets and finds time, she is visiting almost every place where she thought that people were suffering. And your appeal has certainly reached her and your Chief Minister from West Bengal has also met her and must have requested her. Let us see during these busy days in front of her whether she can find time.

Sir, one very important point—most of the hon. Members have made a suggestion and it is accepted that irrigation must be extended. Those States which are suffering from flood and drought have the lowest percentage of irrigated land. Wherever irrigation has been sufficiently increased, the floods have stopped or reduced at least, or drought has also been mitigated.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: You were telling something about West Bengal which we have raised.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: West Bengal has complained that NREP work has been stopped already. You, Mr. Hari-kesh Bahadur, you have also stated about Bihar that in Santhal Parganas, NREP has been stopped. I do not know how hon. Members could make such a statement that NREP work has been stopped. We are releasing funds. We are releasing food-grains for NREP. This is very much a programme that is being implemented—National Rural Employment Programme. It is a very beneficial programme. NREP and IRDP are....

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Excuse me for interruption. Let the Minister say what is the difference between NREP and Food-for-Work Programme. In Food-for-Work Programme, 4 kilos were given. There is only one kilo under NREP.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Food-for-Work Programme has been re-named as National Rural Employment Programme with greater emphasis on employment of the people—and not distribution of cash doles and food-grains. That is the difference. There were no norms under that programme which you undertook. Even 5 kilos of food-grains were given to one worker and if there were 4 or 5 of them, all of them came for work in a day. It means, 25 or 30 kgs of food-grains which would be taken by them. Would they be able to consume it in a day? These were all sold in the black-market. There was no point in the programme. (Interruptions.) Now, we have streamlined this programme. One-third of the component would be in kind—up to 1 k.g.

One person cannot consume even 1 k.g. None of you can.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: I made a different point that the work had not been undertaken in various States.

श्री राम विलास पासवान : एक आदमी
एक किलो नहीं खा सकता है, लेकिन एक
परिवार में पांच आदमी रहते हैं ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: It is wastage of money. That was all wasted. Now the programme is being implemented in the right way. 60 per cent of it is for wages and 40 per cent is material so that durable assets are created in the villages. Not that just the work is done and it is washed off and the officers, the people, who are supposed to be looking after this programme can also make something out of it.

Now, the programme is streamlined. The guidelines have been provided. I am glad, even West Bengal has agreed to implement the programme according to our guidelines through the panchayats and others. The district steering committees have been formed. I am going to give figures about West Bengal. They would again say that there is a dispute about figures. But I do not know how I can accept their figures.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Don't accept our figures; you give us more.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: If you do not give any account, we go on giving even then. Is that a reasonable attitude?

On 1-4-82, in the beginning of the year, according to our accounts, West Bengal had Rs. 13.38 crores out of the NREP funds unutilised. The certificates of utilisation have not been sent to us. They have not sent accounts so far. It is October now and this amount is outstanding from 1st April.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE (Howrah): I am explaining the difficulty. This scheme is conditioned with a matching grant. If they give Rs. 50, the State

[Shri Samar Mukherjee]

Government has to give Rs. 50. If the State Government finance is not in hand, the scheme may be delayed. You try to understand the whole thing. It is not that you have given Rs. 13 crores only for free expenditure. It is a matching grant.

Secondly, we are not doing the job through contractors. Where the panchayat is in charge of using this grant, they are preparing detailed reports. So, there is natural delay by the panchayats sending back these reports. The work is not done through the contractors. The contractors can immediately give reports which are not genuine. But panchayats reports are genuine. That is why there is delay. But it should not be taken as an excuse that because the reports have not been submitted, in time all subsequent grants have to be stopped. That is the main complaint.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I am sorry I cannot take this argument also as an excuse for not sending the reports because every other State is doing it all over the country..... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: They are doing it through contractors... (Interruptions)

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: All the details are being collected and the reports will be submitted by December.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Every State is doing it through the panchayats. If every other State can send the certificates in time, why can't West Bengal? I do not accept that position at all.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: In U.P., it is done through contractors.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: It is done through the panchayats.

RAO BINRENDRA SINGH: The only irregularity in U.P. was that funds for NREP, were distributed to Departments, to undertake works in the villages. Now, that has been stopped under our instructions. They are not doing it any longer. We insist that the works must be done by

involving the panchayats. That is being done all over the country and every other State is sending reports in time. If they supply us the accounts, if they give us utilisation certificates, then there is no problem. We do not insist on certificates for full utilisation. It is only for 50 per cent utilisation to enable us to release further sums for the next quarters. But they have not done it. Yet, they keep on shouting all the time that the Central Government is responsible; it is discriminating against West Bengal. West Bengal has to its share Rs. 6.74 crores out of two quarters of NREP. That is our share. We have to give Rs. 6.74 crores to West Bengal. That is the balance. They have got R. 13 crores and odd. They may have utilised. I do not say that has not been utilised. But certificates should have been furnished. It is now 6-7 months. Even after this year started, after March, no Certificate has been submitted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, yes. Let the Hon. Minister say.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: You give an assurance. Now, this is acute crisis. On this technical argument...

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: But this has been going on for the last three years. For the last three years, in this House, it is the same thing. Nothing new. Every time you raise this question, every time I request you to observe the rules.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: Unfortunately, no Member from UP is here on Treasury Benches. Otherwise, I would have asked him whether any work is done in UP or not. From UP and Bihar, from both these States, there is no Member. Otherwise, I would have asked them. False Certificates are being given in place of actual certificates.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Either this Certificate or that Certificate. They want only a Certificate!

No Government can follow one procedure for one State and another pro-

cedure for some other State. They will have to follow the same procedure for all States.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The same programme continues.

SHRI HARIKESH BAHADUR: They are doing the work. That is why they are not able to...

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Now it is admitted that they are not giving further money.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: In our books, they should have, if we release this amount, Rs. 26,86,00,000 for employment generation in West Bengal. Let them send the Certificates. We shall release the amount. There is also 9,000 tonnes of foodgrains additional, for NREP, straightaway. Why are you not asking for it? But you at least...

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: My point is you have kept pending the release of all these stocks.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: You have to follow the rules.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Yes. Here it is technicalities. When people are dying, you are harping on technicalities.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: People are not dying. Why did you not observe the rules then.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I told you the difficulties. You have to understand them and Chief Minister has given a categorical assurance.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I will make this concession as a special case for West Bengal. You give me an assurance on behalf of the West Bengal Government that by such and such date, Certificate will be given.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I give assurance. You relax this technical difficulty.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No. You give assurance that these accounts which have not been furnished for more than one year or two years or three years, you

will send a Certificate by such and such a date, I will get this amount 9,000 tonnes of foodgrains released.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Very good. I also assure you.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: What do you assure you?

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: I am repeating on the basis of the assurance given by the Chief Minister—he has even told the Press Conference that you have given this assurance—I assure you that these accounts will be submitted within a reasonable time, by December.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: By December?

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: That the Chief Minister has told you.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: All right. Then we will release this.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Very good.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right. You don't wait till December. He does not wait till December!

Yes, The Hon. Minister has agreed to release it on the assurance given by Shri Samar Mukherjee.

SHRI SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: It is almost an IMF conditionality.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: All right. You can take it that 9,000 tonnes of foodgrains have been released and the other amounts also will be released. But we shall see. ...

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That is the greatest achievement of this debate!

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: This is only against NREP. This is additional. Your normal allocation is different. Normal allocation of foodgrains for West Bengal is 2,50,000 tonnes.

By all calculations, we found that this was a sufficient quantity for West Bengal, normally. But now, if you have a serious drought, we shall see how far we can increase it.

[Rao Birendra Singh]

Regarding movement of foodgrains, your allocation is for this current month 2,50,000 tonnes. In August, the movement was good, 2,75,000 tonnes was moved to West Bengal in August.

In September, it has slightly come down. But, even then, it has come down to 2.45 lakhs or 2.50 lakhs tonnes. It is almost the same total allocation for West Bengal. So, you cannot say that on account of movement, West Bengal has not been able to get its foodgrains allocated to it.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: No, Sir. Two rakes are going. That is what the Chief Minister has complained. My friend, Shri Mallikarjun, can verify it. He told me to-day that it is correct that only two rakes are going regularly.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): The position is this. As the Minister has said, 2.5 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains ought to be transported; whether they are being transported by four rakes, five rakes, two rakes or ten rakes that is immaterial.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Their request is that it should be regular so that the foodgrains can go to Calcutta regularly. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Minister of Railways must talk about rakes and not about foodgrains.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: The complaint is whatever is allotted that is not reaching. That is the main complaint.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I cannot understand how they are able to mislead you about the foodgrains. Somebody is misleading you from West Bengal. I will give you the figures. I say that the movement in September was at least of the order of the total allocation for West Bengal. Apart from that, there—are are about 4 lakhs tonnes of foodgrains in stock in West Bengal. So, there should be no difficulty. The shortage will only be a few thousand tonnes. We are responsible to see that what is allotted to you is made available to you. You should be satisfied with that. (*Interruption*) You are, perhaps, under an impression that the allotted quantity is not being made available. That is what you mean. It is absolutely wrong and I can even give you the figures right from January this year. The allotment was 35,000 tonnes for the public distribution system. The offtake was 54.7 thousand tonnes. In February, 1982 the allotment was 55,000 tonnes but the offtake was 53,000 tonnes. The allotment for flour mills (wheat) was 35,000 tonnes but their offtake was 39,000 tonnes—4,000 tonnes more. Similarly, the position for the other months is as follows:

Month	Allotment.	Offtake.	
March 1982	60,000 tonnes	35,000 tonnes	
April 1982 . . .	57,000 tonnes	34,800 tonnes	
May 1982 . . .	60,000 tonnes	50,000 tonnes (for PDS & Droller Flour Mills)	
	35,000 tonnes	33,000 tonnes	
June 1982 . . .	60,000 tonnes	59,500 tonnes (500 less)	
July 1982 . . .	60,000 tonnes	72,000 tonnes	

The offtake is 12,000 tonnes more than the allotment.

SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: From this, you will understand the nature of the demand.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: How can you lift more than what we allot? It is again the generosity.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, what was the demand from West Bengal?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The demands are not always acceptable. The demand from them is now as much as 3.75 lakh tonnes whereas we are allotting 2.50 lakhs tonnes, which is the highest in the country.

Again in August,—Mr. Chitta Basu, Please hear it,—against allocation of 60,000 tonnes 75,400 tonnes were lifted. Against 35,000 for roller flour mills, the off-take was only 21,000. For that you are not responsible, nor are we. If the Mills want, they can take it. And the Mills cannot be left out. They know how to get it from the FCI.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Your own State's wheat and rice also will be there with you. It will be added to that.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: So, this shows that what they say is absolutely unfounded. Whatever is allotted is made available. The off-take is in many months, more than the allotment. It is on account of this relaxation for whatever was left off that has been allowed to be lifted.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: What about Rajasthan?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I think I have dealt with West Bengal.

PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: One point. The West Bengal Government has reduced the ration in Calcutta by one K.G. If everything is all right, how can you explain this, since you are giving the figures?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Ask your Government.

PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Your statistics must be wrong. Otherwise why should they reduce the ration? No Government can do it. You will not do it. If it is available how can you explain it? There must be something wrong.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: There is nothing wrong. The only thing that is wrong is, you are always politicking.

PROF. SATYASADHAN CHAKRABORTY: Reducing ration in our own country, in our own State!

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: West Bengal is over. Now, Rajasthan.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Every hon. Member must feel assured that all the foodgrain stocks that we maintain are for the poor.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, that is correct.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: How can we allow anybody to starve? We are not going to send it outside. We collect it from the people. We distribute it for the people. But we have to at least see to the genuineness of demand from each place. There is no discrimination in the case of any State. We did not allow any starvation deaths to take place in 1979-80 and we are certain that there will be no starvation deaths. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Chitta Basu, there are 22 States in India; we have covered only one State. All the other 21 States are yet to be covered.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I think it was Mr. Harikesh or Mr. Paswan who said that one starvation death had taken place in Vaishali.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: In my constituency.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Harikesh only said that.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Out of the whole country, they could cite the only instance of starvation death in the constituency of Mr. Paswan in Bihar.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Even that you should not allow.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: After enquiry we have found this. We have got the report from the Collector that this man died of disease and sickness. (*Interruptions*) After visiting his home, the enquiry report was sent, that there were foodgrains in the house. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Paswan does not know. He has not visited his home, but the Collector has.

श्री राम विलास पारवत : आप यहाँ से क्यों नहीं भेजते हैं आपका (व्यवधान कलेक्टर या वीडोओकभी नहीं कहगा कि वह स्टारवेशन से मरा है आप अपनी एजेन्सी को वहाँ भेजिए (व्यवधान)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We do want any starvation death. We don't wish. We don't want any starvation death to take place in India.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: There were also plantains planted in the house. (*Interruptions*) Bananas, plantains. They were planted and bananas were there and the fruits were there still hanging. The foodgrains were in his house. How can you say that there was a starvation death? (*Interruptions*)

Now, Rajasthan is another State which has been badly affected.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: What is the allocation for Rajasthan?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Rajasthan has got the maximum relief from the Government of India. I admit that Rajasthan has been suffering badly, but look at the amount of relief also sanctioned for Rajasthan. A total amount of Rs. 184.23 crores has been sanctioned for Rajasthan during 1979-80, 1980-81, 1981-82 and 1982-83. For this post monsoon period, no Memorandum has been received from Rajasthan.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: I want to know the allocation of wheat.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Recently my Ministry has discussed a few points which Rajasthan raised. An amount of Rs. 23.80 crores was sanctioned in February, 1982. It was for generation of employment for 19.18 lakh mandays. Now, Rajasthan Government wants that apart from this, whatever the additional

amount has been spent by Rajasthan. that should also be sanctioned. Our practice is to remain within the ceiling sanctioned. We cannot take the actuals into account. That is not possible. Otherwise every State will start saying that we have spent so much more and the Centre should also sanction that amount. After full consideration of the situation, sanction has been issued and that is to remain within the ceiling laid down. Then Rajasthan requested for Rs. 40 lakhs for drinking water supply to cattle and Rs. 12.21 crores for drinking water supply for human beings which were to be spent by 30th of September, 1982. For that, the period should be extended upto March. This was one of the requests made by Rajasthan.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: What about the allocation and distribution of wheat?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: You will be glad to know that we have agreed to extend this period. If Rajasthan is so badly in need of this money; why did they not spend that money within this time? We have decided to extend the period upto March. Now, about 24,000 tonnes of wheat was sanctioned in January. The quantum has been gradually raised. For September, wheat, allocation is 27,000 tonnes.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: It is too meagre a quantity compared to the population of the State. You must consider this point.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: But the public distribution system is not expected to look after the entire need of every man in India.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN: But you have given 2.4 lakh tonnes for West Bengal.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The situation in West Bengal is different. In Calcutta, statutory rationing is there. It is on a different footing. It has been done on the basis of rationing. But for the rest of the country, supply is available both from the free market and also through public distribution system.

SHRI CHANDU LAL CHANDRAKAR (Drug): In Madhya Pradesh, particularly in Chattisgarh district, there is a

shortage of rice. Rice supply is very poor.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We have also been increasing rice supply to Madhya Pradesh from time to time. On the request of the Madhya Pradesh Government, we shall again look into their needs. The Minister saw me only this morning and the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh also saw me two or three days ago. We are looking into the needs and shall also see what other assistance can be given to Madhya Pradesh.

Orissa has again very badly suffered. Perhaps there is no hon. Member from Orissa present, and, therefore, I need not say much about it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Nityananda Misra is there.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: When there was cyclone, 56 crores of rupees were immediately sanctioned for relief. 15 crores of rupees advance Plan assistance has been given. I have given information of what we are doing in the report regarding drought and flood in Orissa.

I will now leave some of the States and go to Tamil Nadu and Orissa. I have one grievance against these two States. Again you will probably say that this is not the time. So many Members from Tamil Nadu have complained that foodgrain is not available there. When they expect something from Government of India, you would please agree that the Tamil Nadu Government should have cooperated with the Government of India in food policy. They procured rice anything between 4.5 and 5 lakh tonnes last season. They did not hand over anything to the Centre on the ground that they will manage their food requirements. If they keep all that they procure, and they do not hand over anything to FCI, how can they put a claim on the Government of India? Even now as on 1st September they have got in their stock 3.76 lakhs tonnes of rice. They are keeping their stock and they are putting a demand on the Government of India.

Similarly, the State Government of Orissa refused to hand over anything to the Government of India for the Central pool, and when we asked them, they said that they would manage their food situation. They wanted it to be left to them. We said: 'O.K., you are off our head, and you look after your own food requirements.' But in June they started demanding. We do not know how they utilised their stock which they had collected. If the States do not contribute anything to the Central pool, how can we find it possible to meet the requirements of all States from Punjab and Haryana alone. Then, there is the question of West Bengal Members asking for permission to purchase foodgrains from Punjab and Haryana. They do not know the implications. That will be at a higher price than the procurement price. The States would charge as they like. And then when the procurement season comes, why should they not keep everything to themselves, why should they sell it to the Government of India or the F.C.I. if they can charge higher prices from the other States?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can permit the State Governments to procure foodgrains. If the Chief Minister of West Bengal is influential enough, he can speak to his counterpart in Andhra Pradesh or any other State and procure rice if it is available. He can even take it on loan.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: We do not permit that; they cannot get.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Affluent States will pay more price and the poor States will suffer.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Those people who have sold their foodgrains to Government at procurement price, how would they feel when the State Government and the traders make money by selling it to the other States at higher prices? The surplus States give us most of the foodgrains. These State people will suffer because prices will shoot up; there the consumers will suffer. Therefore, we have to be very careful in the matter. After the floods, we allowed Orissa to purchase 10,000 tonnes from Andhra Pradesh Corporation as a special case.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: On this we agree with you.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Of course a case can be considered on merit individually, but we do not like this policy, nor would it be in the national interest. If we allow all States to buy and sell freely, then what is the use of the FCI being there and the Central Government adopting some responsibility. There will be no food management at all and everything will go topsyturvy.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Then you have to meet the needs of West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has explained the proposition.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: The proposition is, either you meet the requirements of the State or allow the State Government to purchase. This is the thing.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: In the end, I would only appeal to the Hon. Members not to create a psychology of scarcity and create panic. We are not only hopeful, but we are confident that there will be no difficulty in meeting the requirements of the people; there will be no question of starvation at all. The Central Government will give the maximum assistance to the people of the States, who have been suffering. But at the same time the States also should come forward and grow enough foodgrains

for their needs. Every State should try to become self-sufficient. Of course some States have difficulty. Their climate does not allow.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: All States can never be self-sufficient.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Yes, all States cannot be, but to some extent they can.

There is now a craze for raising plantation or cash crops like the sugar-cane. Why should they always go on increasing the cash-crop production? Foodgrains is a thing which the country needs always and it will be in short supply in the entire world. And India is in a very fortunate position. It has a very suitable climate. It has a very large area that is cultivable, more than even the large countries have. And there is plenty of water underground as well as on the surface. We can certainly be a granary of the world if our plans succeed, if all people cooperate, if everybody wants to raise production and takes interest in agriculture. I hope a day will come when India will get out of this muddle and all these difficulties.

22.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Saturday, October 16, 1982/Asvina 24. 1904 (Saka).