

[Shrimati Parvathi Krishnan]

ment made by the Prime Minister and the decision taken to have the judicial enquiry into the incidents at Agra and I conveyed to him also the sentiments of the whole House as expressed this morning including the personal sentiments of Shri Vajpayee. I am happy to tell you that he wished me to convey to the House the fact that he appreciated very much the very prompt manner in which the Prime Minister has intervened in the matter. He wished me to convey his deep appreciation of all the support that has been given to him from all corners of the House this morning and in view of the fact his request has been granted, he has taken the decision to withdraw his hunger strike.

14.19 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—Contd.

FLOODS IN UP, ASSAM AND BIHAR—Contd.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): I had covered the first question raised by the hon. member.

दूसरा सवाल था कि स्टडी टीम भेजनी चाहिए। स्टडी टीम उन प्रांत में भेजी जाती है, जहां बाढ़ आती है।

[Mr. Deputy-Speaker in the Chair]

जहां जहां से भी मांग आती है कि स्टडी टीम भेजी जाए, वहां स्टडी टीम भेज दी जाती है ताकि जो कुछ उस प्रांत में हुआ है। उसका एसेसमेंट किया जा सके और उस एसेसमेंट के बाद अगर कोई मुनासिब कार्यवाही करने वाली हो, मदद देने वाली हो, वह दी जा सके। हमें जहां से भी ऐसी मांग आयेगी, वहां पर स्टडी टीम भेजी जायेगी, इसमें कोई दुविधा की बात नहीं होनी चाहिए।

माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि गंगा कमीशन का दफ्तर पटना के लखनऊ ले जाना चाहिए। उन्होंने कोई बहुत दलील तो नहीं दी है कि उसको क्यों लखनऊ ले जाया जाए। पटना गंगा दरिया के ऊपर है और एक इम्पार्टेंट जगह है—इम्पार्टेंट तो लखनऊ भी है—लेकिन पटना सेंट्रल प्लेस है। इस दरिया के जरिये यू० पी०, बिहार और बैस्ट बंगाल में बाढ़ आती है और उन तीनों स्टेट्स में फ्लड-कंट्रोल का काम होता है। उसके लिये पटना एक सेंट्रल प्लेस है और इसलिए वहीं यह दफ्तर बना हुआ है। अगर इस दफ्तर को वहां से शिफ्ट किया जाएगा, तो पटना वालों को दिक्कत होगी और वे एतराज करेंगे। इसलिए इस दफ्तर को वहीं रखा जाना चाहिए।

श्री उपसदन : मैंने शिफ्ट करने की बात नहीं कही है। मैंने कहा है कि उसका एक सब-ऑफिस खोला जाए।

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला : माननीय सदस्य ने ड्रेजर इस्तेमाल करने की बात भी कही, जिससे शायद कुछ फ्लड-कंट्रोल हो सके। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि ड्रेजर का काम बहुत ज्यादा कीमत पर होता है। यह पॉइंट्स वगैरह छोटी जगहों में ड्रेजिंग करने के लिए इस्तेमाल होता है। जैसे, कलकत्ता में दुगली दरिया को ड्रेज करने के लिए कांटीन्यूएसली ड्रेजर का इस्तेमाल किया जाता है। अभी हम ब्रह्मपुत्र में दो ड्रेजर ले कर गये थे, जिनमें से एक को इस्तेमाल कर के देखा है। उसका कोई अच्छा नतीजा नहीं निकला है। जितना ड्रेजिंग होता है, उतनी मिट्टी और घा जाती है और हर साल सिल्टेशन बढ़ जाता है। उससे कोई लाभ नहीं हो सका है। हमारे पास ऐसी कोई इतिला नहीं है कि बुनिया में कहीं किसी बहुत लम्बे दरिया में ड्रेजिंग का काम किया गया हो। हाँ, छोटी छोटी जगहों में—वहां बन्द बनाना हो, मिट्टी हटानी हो—उससे काम लिया जाता है।

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY** (Mangalore): Sir, we have heard the sorrowful saga of the flood-affected people of UP, Bihar, Assam and other parts of the country. But as you know, from 1953 onwards upto 1976, about 29 High-level Committees have been appointed. They have been set up to find out ways and means of having an effective control over the floods but no action has been taken. I agree with the sentiments expressed by Shri Ugra Sen but I feel that the Minister has made the statement in a casual manner. It appears that nobody is serious about this flood situation. You just imagine the condition of about 10 lakhs of people in UP who are affected by the floods and nearly 1,000 villages which are marooned. Still, we feel no serious action has been taken by the Minister. I also feel, Sir, that there is nobody to wipe the tears of the people. I also support the views expressed by Shri Ugra Sen about the sentiments of the people and about the grievances of the people of U.P. Bihar, Assam and other parts of the country.

As you know, as per the latest press reports as also the news over the radio, we have heard that number of villages are marooned. Lakhs of people are affected. Under these circumstances I want to know whether any relief work has been undertaken. Even if the relief work is there, is the operation being done on a war footing? What are the relief works undertaken by the Government? Is the Government going to direct the State Government to suspend the realisation of the land revenue? What are the immediate, short-term and the long-term measures which the Government is going to take to control the floods?

**SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA:** Sir, so far as the flood situation is concerned, I have already mentioned all the details about the marooned villages, about the number of villages affected, about the number of areas

affected, the number of population affected, etc. All those details have been given by me.

The only question that has been asked by the hon. Member is this:

He asked: What relief works are we going to arrange?

Now, relief works generally are being arranged by the State Governments. If they want any assistance from us in any areas, for example, if they want us to send them some supplies of a particular item we do it. If they want wheat or some rice in some area, we shall supply it.

Last year, for example, we simply baked bread to some villages where the villagers were marooned. That was taken by the helicopter and dropped. Some camps—health camps—first-aid etc., were also organised. Wherever they asked us for any assistance, we shall be glad to provide that. The work of evacuation is going on and boats have been sent to those villages. Military was also called in some areas. The work is going on.

श्री उपसदन : इस संबंध में मैं एक निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि नियम 184 के अन्तर्गत बाढ़ पर बंधन हो जाय क्यों कि इस पर माननीय मंत्री जी का पूरा वक्तव्य नहीं हो सका ।

**MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You have already asked the question. It is over. It is now too late to raise the matter. You had your say. Mr. Ravindra Varma.