

श्री सुखदेव प्रसाद वर्मा: सभापति महोदय,  
मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूँ ।

“कि यह सभा गैर-सरकारों सदस्यों के विधेयकों तथा सऊल्पों सम्बन्धी समिति के 49वें प्रतिवेदन से जो 18 दिसम्बर, 1974 को सभा में प्रस्तुत किया गया था, सहमत है ।”

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question is.

“That this House do agree with the Forty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 18th December, 1974”

*The motion was adopted*

16 41 hrs

#### SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GUJARAT), 1974-75—Contd

SHRI D. P. JADEJA (Jamnagar): I am grateful for giving me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. I had an opportunity only the other day and I wish now to state one or two points for the consideration of the honourable House and the Hon. Minister.

Sir, the other day the honourable Deputy Minister for Finance informed the House that the problem relating to Gujarat in general and the water problem in Jamnagar is being handled by the State Government.

They are aware of the serious situation that has arisen there and, as a means of relief to the State, with a population of 3 lakhs, Government has thought of spending almost Rs. 50 lakhs this season in bringing water to this city by tankers.

Now, Sir, all that I want to ask the Government is that there was a

scheme which was only three times more expensive than this water tankers scheme that you are going to have this year, and it would have been a permanent solution for this city. I may tell the Government at this moment that this scheme is not being considered in the next five year plan also. I mentioned the other day that Jamnagar had been facing a drought situation and it is for 11 years out of 14 years. Still water problem is not being taken as seriously as it should have.

I request the Government to reconsider this issue. As far as the drought-affected areas of Gujarat are concerned, top priority to the medium and minor irrigation schemes should be given and should be taken on hand. Not only that. They should even be prepared to waive certain technical objections that have always come in the way of our country's development projects. The second point, and I shall conclude, is about the marine wealth that the coast of Gujarat offers to this country. A survey conducted has reported that the richest fishing ground in India is off the coast of Saurashtra.

SHRI B. V. NAIK (Kanara): And Karnataka too.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA: May be. The centre decides to develop 2 fishing harbours in every State throughout the country irrespective of the potentiality of the State. Considering the long coastline that the State has I would like the Government to reconsider this issue and give Gujarat its rightful claim of having at least six fishing harbours on the coast of Saurashtra and South Gujarat. I say this mainly because there is ample proof of the potentialities there. Our Fisheries Department and our naval forces which are on the coastline have sighted and even caught hold of several foreign trawlers operating in this area. That is the real proof about the richness of that coastline. I

would make a plea with the Central Government in taking this opportunity of requesting them to have a force and let us find out by what means we will be able to save our coastline at least 18 miles by seeking that as our territorial water. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

**SHRI P. M. MEHTA (Bhavnar \*):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, this House will recall that there was a steady and progressive Government in the State of Gujarat. But, it was broken by the ruling party to achieve their selfish narrow political ends. Thereafter in the Assembly election 1972 the people of Gujarat gave them a very good and comfortable majority. They got 140 out of 152 of the strength in the House. Shri Ghanshyambhai Oza took over the Chief Ministership. But, he had been thrown and kicked out by his own party men. Thereafter the second Government was driven out by the people because it was a corrupt and inefficient Government not caring for the people.

They could not give a stable Government that has put the Gujarat State into a miserable condition today.

There is a programme of employment; unemployment is mounting up—educated and uneducated youths go from door to door for employment. But, there are no new avenues for them because the progress of Gujarat has become stagnant. Sir, today the people of Gujarat—especially the poor people, landless labourers and workers—are passing through untold suffering. Gujarat has been hard-hit by successive droughts and floods. People are not getting adequate quantum of foodgrains. What is supplied to them through the public distribution system is only 1 kg. of jowar, 2 kg. of wheat and 200 grams of rice per month. The open market price of these essential commodities is so high that these people cannot buy from the open market.

Government has so often declared that prices are coming down but it is simply a political propaganda. Prices have not come down in Gujarat. They are rather going up day by day in Gujarat. There is acute shortage of essential commodities and this Government had not cared to give the required quantum to the State of Gujarat. The requirement of Gujarat is 50,000 tonnes of foodgrains per month and the other day the Minister told the House that they had raised the quantum and are giving 78,000 tonnes to Gujarat. This is only half of the requirement. Therefore, I demand that immediately they should rush foodgrains to the people of Gujarat so that they may get at least 5 kg. of foodgrain per month. The Government had assured 8 kg. foodgrains to the labourers and the workers working on relief works. They are not giving that much of foodgrains to those people who are working in the open on these relief works.

Similarly, there is acute shortage of drinking water in many parts of the State. Well before time we had demanded that they should collect some tankers and supply water to the village of low source of water by tankers. But they failed in doing so. There is no fodder and thousands of cattle have perished and many more are moving towards slow death. There will be an acute shortage of milk in the near future.

Sir, they say they will start relief works. The total requirement to provide employment is to the extent of 12 lakh people and today they have provided employment only to three lakh people. This is the manner in which they are helping the people. Sir, people are starving. They have no foodgrains. They have no purchasing capacity. They have no employment. This Government is totally indifferent and careless to the people of Gujarat. Sir, to meet this serious situation of scarcity and drought, Gujarat will require Rs. 200 crores and the Gov-

[Shri P. M. Mehta]

ernment has given only Rs. 13 crores and under the pretext of the recommendations of the Sixth Finance Commission, Government is shirking their responsibility. Sir, they should give adequate funds to the State of Gujarat because today Gujarat is under the Central administration. The administration is run by the Advisers to the Governor. What can the poor Advisers to the Governor do? It is beyond their reach. Therefore, it is the duty of the Members of Parliament today, in the absence of an Assembly in that State to demand that the Central Government should rush fodder, provide tankers for the drinking water and should make adequate allocation of funds to meet this scarcity situation.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR (Ahmedabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, during this week this is the second time we are able to focus the attention of this hon. House, and through it, of this hon. House, and through it, of the whole country on some of the outstanding and burning problem facing my State, because Supplementary Demands for Grants have come for the second time during the same week. My first point is that, whatever happens to the rumour about the snap poll for the Lok Sabha, we all in Gujarat are very keen that the elections for the new State Vidhan Sabha, take place as have been scheduled to, sometime in February or March 1975, because the present six months extension of President's Rule will come to an end sometime in March 1975 and the elections, therefore, must take place prior to that. But, if the elections are coming, I would like to stress that it is no use having elections if they are not to be held in proper atmosphere. Sir, if the elections are not held by a machinery which is independent of the executive, if the Government, if the Central Government through the Gujarat State Administration uses the election machinery, the State

Power and the bureaucracy and other means at their disposal for getting votes, then, these elections will remain more or less condemned, and they will make a nonsense of all that we say that we stand for parliamentary democracy and duly elected representatives of the people. Therefore, while I am one with the other Members for the demand of early elections and constitution of a new Assembly as early as possible, and not later than February or March 1975, I would also like to say that the elections should be held in a proper atmosphere and in a cleaner atmosphere. I hope that in the meantime, between now and that time, Government will not come forward with any Ordinances. This is not only true of Gujarat but of the whole country. Today is the last day of the Winter Session of the Lok Sabha and I am afraid that Government may already have in their store a few Ordinances because their habit is, in the recent past, that they are almost waiting for the Parliament Session to be over and they come out with a crop of ordinances. If that is their thinking, that is complete negation of Parliamentary democracy. This is point number one.

Secondly, I would like to stress with all the seriousness and sincerity at my command that Gujarat today is in an extraordinary situation. My friend Mr. Sequeira was saying that half of the State is in drought. As a matter of fact, the danger is that by the time January or February 1975 arrives, we shall be finding nearly two-thirds of the villages of the State being declared as drought and scarcity affected villages. It means, out of nineteen districts in my State, as many as fourteen or fifteen will be hit by drought and scarcity. Yet, my friend Shri Pranab Kumar Mukherjee the Minister of State of Finance and his senior colleague go on telling us—in fact, their other colleague the Deputy Minister said so a little earlier this week—that

although they have sympathy for Gujarat. they have no money for Gujarat.

What is this kind of sympathy unaccompanied by money to a State which has for the last 14 years given a very good account of itself in regard to following a sound fiscal policy in the administration of Gujarat? Every single paisa, almost every single paisa, has been spent economically, wisely and properly. There is hardly any charge of corruption.

Shri Subramaniam was saying that a lot of money spent in the name of natural calamities and drought goes waste and they do not want that money to be spent like that, and therefore for plan purposes, he will give advances. We require at least Rs. 125 crores, if not more. Are we to understand that Government are suggesting that the Rs. 125 crores which we are going to need will come only under the plea of this plan or that plan programme, which means that other things will go down and we will not be spending money in giving succour and relief and comfort to the scarcity-stricken people? Therefore, I charge this Government that they are deliberately taking shelter under the totally inadequate and disastrous recommendations, as I described them in this House, of the Sixth Finance Commission's recommendations, and for their saying that they are not prepared to give any amount to the Government and people of Gujarat. This will be a tremendous sin, a black deed, for which they will never be pardoned. So, Sir, when today is the last day of this winter session of the Lok Sabha I hope the Minister will come out not only with a gracious word of sympathy but a very welcome word of concrete help in terms of the crores of rupee required for scarcity relief.

I have three more points to urge. One is about Harijans. They are in great distress. Only three days back, I read a report in *Jansatta*. Ahmed-

abad, where their own reporter in Rajkot has given a long report of how a Harijan young man, an employee of the State Government, was almost beaten to death—fortunately he did not die—by a police constable. Later on it was found that this was because of certain prejudice against the Harijans. This is happening everywhere, in many places not only in Gujarat but in the whole country. Therefore, when you talk of social welfare—there are some Demands under Social Welfare—please look at the problem of the Harijans.

About these Demands, I find one thing of interest. There is a Demand under Legislature Secretariat. The Prime Minister says that they are all for respect of the Chair, the authority of the Chair. But this Congress Party appointed the Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly which is dissolved—but the Speaker continues to be Speaker: I am referring to Shri Raghavji Leuva—to the Chairmanship of the *Ad Hoc* Pradesh Congress Committee! This is their respect for parliamentary democracy!

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: He says he continues as President of P.C.C.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: To make a person the head of the *Ad Hoc* Pradesh Congress Committee who also happens to be the Speaker of the Assembly—these are their norms of parliamentary democracy and respect for the independence and impartiality of the high office of the Speaker!

SHRI B. V. NAIK: Has he not resigned?

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: He was forced to resign.

SHRI P. M. MEHTA: He says he continues as Speaker.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: He continues as Speaker. Here is the Speaker of the Gujarat Assembly concurrently functioning as the President of the *Ad Hoc* Pradesh Congress Committee. This is atrocious.

There are some Demands under Agriculture. I want to say a word

[Shri P. G. Mavalankar]

on that. For the Sardar Patel Krishi Kendra at Dantiwada in Banaskantha District there is a provision of Rs. 40 lakhs. I hope to see that the particular campus at Dantiwada is developed as soon as possible.

Shri Sequeira has already mentioned that there has been a lot of disturbances and unrest in various educational campuses in my State. I have been demanding of Government particularly the Education Ministry, to place on the Table the V.V. John Committee Report. But nothing is happening. I only get the same reply that the Government of Gujarat are still considering it. I want it to be laid on the Table. We must know about the various problems in the various Universities in Gujarat. Merit scholarship to the tune of Rs 8 lakhs is not being given to the merit scholars on the plea that they have not had the exams.

There were no examinations last year and so how could they appear? You must give them the amount on the understanding that they would do as well at the next examination as they did in the last examination

17 hrs.

Lastly I want to say that the consultative committee on Gujarat had met only four times. I demand that the fifth meeting must be held, not for one or two hours but for two days, and that should be held in Ahmedabad so that the people of Gujarat may feel that the parliamentary committee is having a sense of involvement with their problems. Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya knows that the Home Minister promised but went back on his promise. The next meeting should take place in January, 1975, not in January, 1976 in Ahmedabad for two days.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI  
PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE):  
Almost within two days we are having  
an opportunity of discussing the

problems of Gujarat again on a batch of supplementary demands for grants amounting to Rs. 7.48 crores. I appreciate the concern of the hon. Members regarding the difficult situation through which the people of Gujarat are passing. But the very fact of bringing a second batch of supplementary demands would indicate that the Government was alive to the problems and wants to help the distress-stricken people of Gujarat in whatever way possible. Rs. 4.99 crores of this amount would be out of Central assistance and one of the important projects would be to provide assistance to the Government employees who are getting less than Rs. 850 per month as salary to buy foodgrains during the harvest season. The quantum of assistance would be two months total salary or Rs 500 per head, per officer, whichever is less. I do not think that it would be sufficient to meet all their needs but whatever is possible within the limited resources available is being done.

Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya said that consultative committee meetings are not being held frequently. Another hon Member has some observations and he replied to the point and he said that within six months from June, 1974 three meetings had already taken place.

SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR: For half-an-hour, two hours, some hours

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I think that Shri Dinen Bhattacharyya and Prof. Mavalankar are Members of that consultative committee and if they wanted to sit for longer hours nobody would have prevented them. What I say is that if necessary there would be more frequent meetings. The Ministry of Home Affairs who are directly responsible for convening these meetings would take care of it and would pass on the feelings of the hon. Members to my colleague in that Ministry. I would like to point out only a few steps which have

been taken for giving some relief to the drought stricken people of Gujarat. It has been pointed out that not adequate employment opportunities have been created. Nobody would deny the fact. In fact, practically the problems which the people of Gujarat are facing are more or less identical with the problems of the other areas also. Of course, there may be some difference in the degree and in the quantum of the sufferings but their very basic nature—problem of unemployment, problem of scarcity, problem faced due to rising prices—is almost identical in almost all parts of the country. I would like to point out that under the President's rule certain steps have been taken to ameliorate the sufferings and miseries of the people.

Number of persons for whom work has been created.	2,59,616
Number of persons, particularly disabled persons, infirm and persons of old age to whom cash doles have been given	23,227
Number of villages which have been provided with the water supply by tankers.	117
Number of old wells being deepened.	31
Number of new wells being charged.	5
Number of tubewells given	358

I do not feel that these figures are adequate and to a considerable extent these have rendered any relief to the people. But at the same time I feel that some steps have been taken and it would be our endeavour to take more effective steps within the limited resources available to us to see to what possible extent relief could be rendered to the people of Gujarat.

Most of the points mentioned by the hon. members have already been discussed in this House on the 17th itself. Therefore, I need not repeat these points.

With these words, I hope that....

**SHRI P. G. MAVALANKAR:**  
Not only good words, but concrete action.

**SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:** Whatever is possible within the limited resources available to us would be done and except that it is not possible for me to give any blanket assurance to the hon. member. I hope that the money for which the approval is sought would be given. Even this amount of money would be helpful to the people who are suffering in Gujarat. Therefore, without any amendment let the hon. House pass this grant.

**SHRI H M PATEL (Dhondhuka):** The Minister has concentrated his remarks only on what is provided in the Supplementary Grants but he has not attempted a serious answer to the various points raised by the speakers. He should have attempted, for instance, to explain in some greater detail—why it is that the adherence to Sixth Finance Commission's recommendation is a must? Why do you not consider that human suffering must have somewhat greater priority than the recommendations of a Commission. Why is it that you think that the recommendations that the States Development Plans must be accomplished first and that you must spend your money on them? Do you seriously consider that the development plans are all located and will benefit the areas in which there exist scarcity conditions? If that is not so, how do you expect the scarcity to go—by implementing the development plans? Therefore, I would strongly urge the Minister to consider this plea that, however important the Sixth Finance Commission's recommendations may be and they are very sound to my mind also but there has been the co-incidence of scarcity coming along in the very first year of the decision of the Government to accept those recommendations. One of the underlying assumptions of those

[Shri H M Patel]

recommendations was that you would accumulate funds over a period of good years and had some time elapsed between the acceptance of the recommendations and the arrival of scarcity conditions, the State would have had more resources, to meet the situation created by the scarcity conditions. This should be borne in mind. When your own officers have also accepted that to relieve the scarcity conditions substantially more sums than what you have so far provided will be necessary why are you not providing more money?

SHRI P M MEHTA The other day I had suggested that the implementation of an important work viz Bhavnagar—Talapore B G Railway line should be taken up. The Government of Gujarat had assured to make good the deficit if any, occurred in the sixth year, according to the criteria laid down. Furthermore they have assured land free of cost. What prevents its implementation?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE All these points were discussed on the 17th. In order to save the time of the House at the fag end of the session I did not touch those points.

MR CHAIRMAN I will now put the demands to vote.

The question is

"That the respective Supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Accounts and Capital Accounts shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of the

State of Gujarat to defray the charges which will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 1975, in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof—

Demand No	14	15	8	8	14	16
	51	53	55	56	59	60
	62	69	71	71	77	85
	91	94	95	102	109	
	116	118	124	131	and 146	"

The motion was adopted.

1713 hrs

GUJARAT APPROPRIATION (NO 5) BILL\* 1974

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE) Sir I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1974-75.

MR CHAIRMAN The question is—

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat for the services of the financial year 1974-75."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE I introduce† the Bill.

I beg to move†

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the

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†Introduced/Moved with the recommendation of the President