

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: The hon. Member is very much right when he said this: "That the Interim Report said that all the four major cities should be declared as national cities. They also wanted to create a fund for Rs. 500 crores or so for the development of these four cities. They also said about the upgradation of the services, the civic bodies should also be undertaken and all that." But in the Final Report, they have changed their mind.

In the meanwhile, the Finance Commission had rejected the creation of Rs. 500 crore fund. Instead, they had identified 329 urban centres, i.e. Generators of Economic Momentum (G.E.M.). Then, 49 Urbanisation Regions were identified as Special Priority Urbanisation Regions S.P.U.R.).

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: That is for West Bengal and not for Calcutta.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Now, the hon. Member wants to know whether the Government will consider the Interim Report. When there is a final Report, I would like to know from the hon. Member, whether it is essential to go back to the Interim Report.

DR. BIPLAB DASGUPTA: An injustice was done to a Metropolitan City by the previous Government.

MR. SPEAKER: What is this? Mr. Gupta, there should be no running commentary.

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: As I understand from the hon. Member I respect him—the idea is that more fund should flow to Calcutta and other very big cities. But by declaring it as a national city alone will not create money. What is necessary is that we should have a participatory effort between the civic bodies, State Governments and the Centre to find out ways and means for developing these super metropolitan cities.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KIRPAL SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has pointed out that

financial assistance can be given to the cities under special circumstances. Amritsar which is known as the Gateway of India and has been ruined for the second time by the Congress Government after Ahmed Shah Abdali, so what can more special circumstances can be there for any city of the country than these. Therefore, I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what does the Government purpose to do for the development of Amritsar city?

[*English*]

SHRI MURASOLI MARAN: Neither this Ministry nor the Finance Ministry nor the Planning Commission has any discretionary fund to sanction special central assistance for such purposes. There is no such programme at present.

Schemes to Control Floods and Drainages in Bihar

*659. **SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA:**
SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether floods have been continuously affecting north Bihar;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps Union Government proposed to take in this regard;

(d) whether some schemes for controlling floods and the construction of drainages in north Bihar are pending with Union Government; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). North Bihar is frequently affected by floods. On the basis of information supplied by the State government, the area affected in Bihar, mostly

in the north, is about 1.5M. ha. yearly on an average.

(c) Comprehensive flood plans for all the North Bihar rivers have been prepared by the Centre and sent to State Government for formulation of detailed projects and implementation.

(d) and (e). Out of 11 projects, received at the Centre from the State (9 relating to embankment and 2 for drainage), comments have been sent on 6 projects (4 relating to embankment and 2 for drainage), 2 require cooperation from Nepal and other 3 are under examination.

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: In view of the changed political situation in Nepal, does the Government of India propose to take up with the Government of India propose to take up with the Government of Nepal the question of implementation of measures in the catchment areas and upper reaches of the rivers flowing into the Ganga basin from the Himalayas with a view to control the floods in north Bihar? Had any dialogue been initiated in this regard earlier; if so, what was the outcome of that?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: So far there has been no outcome. We are continuing a dialogue. In March 1990, we had written a letter for holding a meeting, but there is no response.

SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Does the Government propose to send a study team to study this very important problems in all its aspects? Does the Government propose to include an Environmentalist as well in that study team and draw up a long-term plan to contain the recurrence of floods in north Bihar?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: I do not feel any necessity to constitute any separate organisation or any separate study team for that, because a study has already been made. There are certain suggestions. At present, nine schemes are under examina-

tion, So, I request the hon. Member not to press for any study team being constituted. I do not feel any necessity to set up another study group.

[*Translation*]

SHRI PURUSHOTTAM KAUSHIK: As a flood control measure in respect of Ganga and its tributaries and to bring more areas, particularly of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, under irrigation and to promote water transportation, a Ganga-Cauvery link scheme was initiated during the Janata regime. Some work was also done on it during the Janata regime but further progress made in this regard during the Congress rule is not known. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Water Resources whether it is under consideration of the Government to revive that multi purpose project or the Government has completely shelved it?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the project referred to by the hon. Member, is under the consideration of the Government and we have also included it in our action plan.

[*English*]

In the near future if we get the sanction from the Planning Commission, then we will proceed further.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Sir, in North Bihar, 3 1/2 crore people are affected by floods every year. The hon. Minister has stated in to part reply (c) that comprehensive flood plans for all the North Bihar rivers have been prepared by the Centre and sent to State Government for formulation of detailed projects and implementation. So I would like to know the names of rivers of North Bihar for which comprehensive flood control plans have been prepared? what is the proposed amount of allocation for the plans and when were they sent to the State Government?

[English]

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Sir, I have been receiving many representations from the Members as well as outsiders.... (Interruptions).....I will reply in detail.

On the basis of the information furnished by the State Government, the average area affected in Bihar, mostly North Bihar, during the period 1953-88 is 1.5 million hectare.

In all, nine schemes are under examination in Ganga Flood Control Commission. Out of this, Koparia Kursela embankment scheme, Extension of right Kamia embankment, Dumri Chappra embankment scheme and Trimahani Kursela embankment scheme have already been examined and comments sent to the State Government.

The two schemes (1) Adhawara Flood Control Scheme Stage II and (2) Adhawara Flood Control Scheme Stage III could not be taken up for processing as it requires cooperation of Nepal.

Sir, Parman Flood Control Scheme, Nagar embankment Scheme and Badalaghat—Nagarpara Embankment Schemes were received in 1989, very recently, before four to five months. And they are under examination and scrutiny with GFCC, Ganga Flood Control Commission.

SHRI KS. S. RAO: Sir, it appears from the answers given by the hon. Minister that their purpose is only just to answer and not to go into the details and find a solution for it. It is quite unfortunate that many of the Ministers do not go into the details or make a through study before coming here.

MR. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI K. S. RAO: The answer given by the hon. Minister gives that 1.5 million hectare is being affected by these floods and the calculated loss comes to about Rs. 2,000 crores. Apart from this, the loss due to

damage to the communications, roads, manpower, livestock must be another Rs. 2,000 crores. The total comes to Rs. 4,000 crores. If the same amount of Rs. 4,000 crores were to be spent in constructing some dams or projects, not only Rs. 4,000 crores can be regulated but some more benefits can be achieved. But then the answer is, 'no resources'. I can understand it.

Sir, in regard to digging borewells, we are involving the farming community to share the entire burden. And for that, we are giving a loan to them. Can the Government not think in terms of asking the farmers to share the cost of these projects which they may not be able to give initially but they will clear the loan at a later stage? Then entire resources are available in the country like technology, manpower and all that. The only thing required is application of mind to use this scheme. So I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government thinks in terms of finding out resources by asking the farmers to participate and take up these projects?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: It is definitely a good suggestion and we will definitely see if it can be worked out.

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has not given a satisfactory reply. I, alongwith some members from North Bihar, would like to know about two or three points regarding North Bihar. Firstly, we would like to know about the amount of expenditure incurred during the period 1985-1990 under the head of flood control relief. Secondly, what is the extent of loss of life and property and damage caused to crops, during the last 5 years and thirdly whether the Government of India had entered into negotiations with the Government of Nepal on the condition that if they construct a dam or a barrage on Kosi river, then we would supply them electricity and charge the Government of Nepal for it. What obstacles have come in the way of Government of India in this regard? Have the Gov-

ernment of Nepal charged any amount for saying the life and property? However the construction of dam has not been undertaken to this date. I would like to know the reasons thereof from the Government.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully agree with the suggestion of the hon. Member that a project for constructing a dam on Nepal border should be formulated. But the Government of Nepal has not given their reaction and reply in this regard. We are discussing it with them. So long as the Government of Nepal does not agree, it cannot be undertaken. It is a good project, a power house can be built on their side of the border.

MR. SPEAKER: The Government should pursue it.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: We are pursuing it. We have sent them a letter on 16th March but we have not received any reply so far. So far as the damage is concerned.

[*English*]

The total expenditure upto March 85 was Rs. 281.36 crores. Relating to Bihar, the expenditure during 1985-86 was Rs. 39.41 crores, in 1986-87 Rs. 47.34 crores, 1987-88 Rs. 43.40 crores; 1988-89 Rs. 51.96 crores, 1989-90 Rs. 40 crores and anticipated outlay for 1990-91 is Rs. 40 crores. The annual average flood damage of Bihar is as follows: Area affected: 1.49 million hectares; population affected: 6.66 million, Human lives lost: 87, cattle lost: 949, cropped area affected 0.68 million hectare, houses damaged 157,591, value of damage to houses: Rs. 11.51 crores, value of damage to crops—Rs. 58.37 crores, value of damage to public utilities—Rs. 32.11 crores and value of total damage—Rs. 101.99 crores.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER: Next question, Shri Chiranji Lal Sharma.

.....(*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seat. Mr. Yadav, please take your seat.

.....(*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: Now we will be having a discussion on the Demands for Grants relating to this Ministry. You can take part in that discussion to make your point. But now for the time being, please take your seats.

.....(*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: The discussion on the Demands for Grants of this Ministry is listed for today itself. So you may please take your seat.

.....(*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: Please give notice.

.....(*Interruptions*).....

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Chiranji Lal Sharma.

[*English*]

Sardar Sarovar and Narmada Sagar Projects

*660 **SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether contradictory statements by Government on the Sardar Sarovar dam on the Narmada river have created confusion among the people;

(b) if so, the precise decision taken by Government on Sardar Sarovar dam; and

(c) whether the decision of Government in this regard is final?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) No contradic-