

**Reimbursement of Medical Expenses  
to Staff of Food Corporation of India**

1722. SHRI K. N. TIWARY : Will the Minister of FOOD AND AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a note published in the July, 1969 issue of "Farmer and Parliament" about indiscipline rampant amongst the staff of the Food Corporation of India ;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that the monthly reimbursement of the medical expenses to the staff of the Delhi Region used to be as high as Rs. 1 lakh which has now been reduced to Rs. 10 to 15 thousand only on introduction of a procedure for verification of the medicines, introduced by the Regional Manager ; and

(c) the action being taken against the staff submitting false and spurious bills for reimbursement of medical expenses ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The figure of monthly reimbursement of medical expenses in the Delhi region showed a rising trend from December 1967 to April 1968. The figure for April 1968 was nearly Rs. 1 lakh. The procedure for scrutiny of claims was tightened from June 1968. Some apparently spurious cases were also referred to the C.B.I. for investigation. As a result of the tightening of the procedure coupled with the starting of the investigations by the C.B.I. the expenditure has come down and from February 1969 onwards has varied from Rs. 29000.00 to Rs. 14000.00.

(c) Controlling authorities are authorised to reject medical reimbursement claims which are *prima-facie* false. Some apparently spurious cases have also been departmentally taken up or referred to the Central Bureau of Investigation for an enquiry.

**Assistant Public Relations Officer in  
Children's Film Society**

1723. SHRI SHEO NARAIN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND

BROADCASTING AND COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a post of Assistant Public Relations Officer in the Children's Film Society ; and

(b) if so, the qualification required for the post and the mode of selection ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The qualifications prescribed by the Children's Film Society for the post of Assistant Public Relations Officer are as follows :—

- (1) Degree of a recognised University ;
- (2) A minimum of 3 years' experience in a film distribution/publicity organisation.
- (3) Knowledge of public relations, publicity, accounts and Hindi desirable ; and
- (4) Age below 35 years. The mode of selection for the post is by direct recruitment through the local Employment Exchange or through public advertisement the vacancy being simultaneously reported to the local Employment Exchange. In special circumstances the post may be filled by deputation of a person from the Government of India.

12-03 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF  
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Floods in Kerala, Rajasthan, Bihar and  
other States**

SHRI P. GOPALAN (Tellicherry) : Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The havoc caused by floods in Kerala, Rajasthan, Bihar and other States resulting in large scale loss of human life, cattle, crops and pro-

perty, and displacement of thousands of families and disruption of railway lines."

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : In India, floods generally occur during the months July to October. We are in the beginning of the flood season and I will be laying a Statement on the flood situation towards the end of August. By middle of July the monsoon extended throughout the country. During the third week, monsoon was active in the States of Gujarat, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. In the last week of July, vigorous monsoon conditions prevailed in Kerala and parts of Mysore, (SHRI RANGA : Now Godavari.) A significant feature of the last week is the formation of a deep depression in North West Bay of Bengal causing active monsoon conditions in Orissa and Madhya Pradesh. It is as a result of Madhya Pradesh that we go floods in Godavari. The present position in the several States affected by floods is given below :

#### 1. ASSAM.

Since the Statement on Floods was made in the reply to the Calling Attention Notice on 25 July in the Lok Sabha, there has been further fall in the levels of the Brahmaputra along its entire length and the river is below the warning stages at all points. The river Barak was, however, in floods, but it was below the warning stage on the 28th July. The floods in Rukni river, a tributary of river Barak, had caused two breaches in the embankments.

The total number of breaches in the Brahmaputra Valley so far is 32. In addition, there was one cut. In the Barak valley, there were four breaches and one cut. The damage due to floods in the State up to 25th July, as furnished by the State Government, is as follows :

1. Total area affected	8.8 lakh acres
2. Population affected	10.64 lakhs
3. Value of crops damaged Rs.	1.31 crores
4. Cattle lost	1.183
5. Human lives lost	5
6. Houses damaged	21, 253
7. No. of villages affected	2,574

The State Government have taken necessary measures for relief and evacuation of the people affected by floods. A sum of Rs. 8 lakhs has been sanctioned by the State Government for gratuitous relief, Rs. 68,000 for subsidy, Rs. 20,000 for test relief, and Rs. 70,000 for seed loans.

#### 2. BIHAR.

There were medium to high floods in Burhi Gandak, Bagmati and Kamla Balan and Kosi during the second and last weeks of July. On the Burhi Gandak, the old embankment near Bariarpur in Motihari Block was eroded, but no damage occurred as the retired embankment had already been constructed. Some villages and areas in the inundated portion in upper reaches of the Bagmati were inundated. Although the river Gandak was in low floods, due to erosion of river bank, eleven thatched houses along its bank in Madhubani block of Champaran District were damaged. Floods have subsided now.

Detailed information regarding damages is being collected by the State.

#### 3. KERALA.

There were incessant and heavy rains from 20 July onwards accompanied by whirlwinds and storms which lasted for about a week. As a result, there were floods in all the rivers, inundating vast areas. The districts severely affected were : Cannanore, Kozhikode, Mallapuram, Palghat, Atleppy, Kottayam and Quilon. In Alleppey District, large areas of Kuttanad were flooded. In Kottayam District, Palai Town was cut off from the rest of the area. Traffic was interrupted in many places. The floods have now subsided.

528 houses and huts collapsed and another 1965 were partially damaged. Due to collapse of a school building at Karanavam, 14 children lost their lives. In all 27 people died and more than 200 were injured. 36,750 families were affected and 21,450 were evacuated. Damage has also occurred to standing crops. The total damage has yet to be assessed.

The State Government took relief measures such as evacuation of families, providing free rations, cash grants etc. in

[ Dr. K. L. Rao ]

all the affected areas. Prompt action was also taken to give medical aid to the injured persons. An amount of Rs. 15 lakhs has been made available by the State for relief measures.

#### 4. RAJASTHAN.

The Ghaggar River has been in floods since 18 July. The maximum discharge at the Rajasthan Feeder Syphon was 4,552 cs. on 21st July. The floods are now receding and the discharge has fallen to about 3,100 cs. on 29th July. The water was not diverted into the diversion channel as some work yet remains to be done. Therefore, the Ghaggar waters are allowed into the original course. The flood waters have reached about 10 miles downstream of Suratgarh. The rail traffic between Suratgarh and Rangmahal has been interrupted due to breaches in the Railway embankments in the Bikaner-Bhatinda Section. This is expected to be restored by first week of August. No other damage to property and loss of life has been reported.

Due to heavy rainfall on 26th July in the catchments of the tanks in Jaipur District, there have been breaches in three irrigation tanks.

Since preparing this statement I have received this morning some information about Orissa. The southern parts of Orissa had very heavy rainfall in the last two or three days, particularly in the Koraput and Ganjam Districts. As a result, the Rishikula river in Ganjam District and some of the infalling streams into the Chilka Lake are in floods. The right side embankment along this river has been breached. As a result of the breach as well as spilling of the river due to floods, Aska town on the left side of the Rishikula has been affected.

In Koraput District, the Indravathi river, which is a tributary of the Godavari, is also in high floods, but due to breakdown of communications, details of the flood situation have not been received by the State Government.

The Mahanadi is also in floods due to heavy concentrated rainfall in the lower catchment. The discharge at Cuttack is about 9 lakh cusecs and it is expected to go up to 9.6 lakh cusecs. This heavy discharge

is likely to cause some drainage congestion in the lower delta. A close watch is being kept on the situation to take measures as required.

There has been no unusual flood so far in the Brahmani, Baitarni and Subarnarekha and the other northern rivers.

Arrangements have been made by the State Revenue Department for relief measures in Ganjam District which has been severely affected by floods.

**SHRI RANGA** (Srikulam) : What about Godavari ?

**MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER** : The calling-attention notice concerns only three State.

**DR. K. L. RAO** : Due to heavy rains in Madhya Pradesh and Orissa the level of Godavari has gone up and lower Bhadrachalam Town has been affected. No further damage has been reported.

**SHRI P. GOPALAN** : Sir, we table these calling-attention notices on this subject not only to seek information from the Government about the flood situation in the country as such but also to seek information about the type of relief measures the Government has undertaken in the affected States. This subject does not come exclusively under the Irrigation and Power Ministry and, therefore, it would have been much better and proper—it would be doing justice too—if the Prime Minister had made a statement on this very important subject. It is a misfortune that she has not the time to make a statement on this subject.

Last year also we had a discussion here on this subject and replaying to the debate then the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Dr. Rao, assured this House that effective measures for checking floods would be undertaken by Government. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what steps Government have taken in this regard since then.

This year also we are discussing the havoc that has occurred in various parts of the country due to floods. As usual we are facing the danger arising from this misfortune. It is a pity and a tragedy that in this rocket age when man has landed on the moon our ministers are not even facing

Nature and Nature is allowed to pay any havoc on the lives and property of human beings in this country.

My State, Kerala, has again been very seriously affected this year also. The Minister has given an account of the grim tragedy that has occurred in Kerala. About 528 houses and huts have collapsed there and 1,965 are partially damaged. Due to collapse of a school building in Karanavam, my information is that more than 16 children have lost their lives and hundreds of children are still undergoing treatment in the hospital for the serious injuries sustained during this disaster.

In short, Kerala is now in the firm grip of a near panic condition. That is my information. Therefore, I would like to know from Government, in view of this frequent occurrence of floods in various parts of the country, whether Government have considered the need of having a permanent flood relief machinery to give effective and timely relief to the people or the victims of this attack of Nature. I would like to know whether the State Government of Kerala has made any request to the Central Government for any relief in this regard and, if so, what is the amount asked for and what is the amount sanctioned to the State Government.

Then, I would like to know whether the Government have ascertained the gravity of the near-famine conditions prevailing in our State and, if so, what are the details thereof.

Further, I would like to know whether the Government have come to realise even now that the State Governments are incapable of meeting the challenge of unforeseen calamities like this with their depleted coffers and, if so, would the Central Government take upon themselves in the responsibility of meeting such calamities of nature?

Lastly, last year, when the floods took place, the Central Government said that a team was being sent to various parts of the country to make a proper survey of the situation. May I know whether any such team has been sent to the affected areas and, if so, what are the details of the assessment made?

DR. K. L. RAO : The hon. Member has put a series of questions. I will try to answer them briefly. Firstly, about relief, it is true that the Irrigation Ministry deals only with the assessment of flood damages and flood control works and the question of relief is dealt with by the Home Ministry and the Finance Ministry. That is there. That is in regard to relief.

In regard to the question that when the man has gone to the moon and, therefore, you should be able to control floods, it is the other way about. Man can go to the moon but the control of floods completely is not possible. It is not possible to control floods to the hundred per cent extent. All that we can do is to ensure reduction in the flood damages. As long as the rains are there, as long as man wants water for his existence, as long as there is need for water, the floods cannot be avoided completely. Therefore, the question of man's going to the moon is entirely different to that of man's controlling natural forces.

The hon. Member said that 16 students have lost their lives. I have given the information as received from the State Government. Actually, last night, I got teleprinter message covering 12 pages from the State Government. I have arranged and given this information. I am told, 27 persons have died including children. I think, the information that I have got is correct.

With regard to the permanent relief measures, it is quite true we have got to take a large number of permanent relief measures. We have spent Rs. 200 crores in the last 14 years in the country on the flood control works. If you want to have a complete relief for the flood damages, we have got to spend at least ten times the amount, that is Rs. 2,000 crores before we can say we have been able to control floods. We have got so many big rivers in the country, Ganga and Brahmaputra, such big and mighty rivers and all these rivers as compared to one river in the United States. They have got only one, Mississippi river. We have got a large number of rivers. Therefore, flood control in this country is much more difficult and it also involves a lot of expenditure.

Then, in regard to the question of

[ Dr. K. L. Rao ]

Central assistance, a circular has been issued by the Finance Ministry saying that every State, according to the Fourth Finance Commission, has to spend a certain amount and, beyond that, they have to write to the Central Government and the Central Government gives 75 per cent of it of which 50 per cent is by way of grant and 25 per cent by way of loan. That is all laid down.

I can quite appreciate that the State Governments have not been able to assess damages. It is all very difficult to go about ; all the communications are upset. Therefore, it takes sometime for them to find out and assess correctly and then write to the Central Government. So far we have not received any request from any State so far.

DR. KARNI SINGH (Bikaner) : As my call-attention notice was based on the floods in Rajasthan, I confine myself to that State.

The question of floods in northern Rajasthan in the Ghaggar belt has been raised on the floor of this House by me ever since 1961. The hon. Minister had given an assurance—I think, it was last year—that two schemes were on the anvil : first, the short-term and the other, the long-term ; the short-term scheme had been implemented and the long-term costing about Rs. 4 crores or so was going to be taken up very soon. In spite of the fact that this assurance was given on the floor of this House, Ghaggar is once again flooding vast tracts of arable land in Rajasthan and has reached the Suratgarh Farm, and breached the railway lines once again. I do not know whether the hon. House knows that Rajasthan, particularly northern Rajasthan, is a peculiar part of the country where when floods end the famine begins. The discharge of water from the Otu reservoir comes and floods the Ghaggar belt. So, it does not necessarily follow from heavy rains in Rajasthan. Therefore, floods have become a perennial source of nuisance to the farmers of this part of the country. I would like to know whether the long-term scheme has now been implemented and if so, why are these Ghaggar floods still taking place.

The second part of my question is this : Last year we had raised the same question

here suggesting to the hon. Minister as to how best we could utilise the flood water ; instead of throwing it into the sand-dunes in the south of Suratgarh Farm, we could utilise it through a new canal in Churu District of Rajasthan to irrigate this area and also supply drinking water in the brackish water area.

The third part of my question is this : In Sawai-Madhopur last year and this year also severe floods have taken place. Also in southern Rajasthan last year there were very bad floods. When this question was brought on the floor of the House, the hon. Minister made a statement to say that flood control in Rajasthan was being given high priority. I would like to know what steps the Centre and the State Government propose to take to control these floods in southern Rajasthan and also the Sawai-Madhopur district of Rajasthan ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The hon. Member said that Ghaggar was still in trouble despite the fact that we expected that it would become a thing of the past. What actually happened was this. Actually we had undertaken the Ghaggar Division scheme which involved Rs. 4½ crores, but the revised estimates have gone up and another Rs. 1½ crores would be required before that project could be completed, before we could feel confident of diverting the entire water into the sand-dunes. That is how it was not tackled this year. The amount of water that has come so far has been very little, only about 4,000 cusecs as against 20,000 cusecs ; in fact, five times more water would have come. I still expect some more water to come. Even for these 4,000 cusecs, the engineers were not able to divert because they could not complete the diversion scheme for want of finances this year. When I asked them about it they told me that they got only Rs. 30 lakhs this year as against Rs. 1½ crores. I shall try to find some finances and see that this work is done. I would submit that I heard that 4,000 cusecs were a blessing for the people of Rajasthan in the Ganganagar area, in Hanumangarh and in Suratgarh areas. The hon. Member said that when floods end the famine starts. If you want to drive away the famine, you must have some water in that area ; a little water there will be useful.

What I am worried is, in the coming three months, whether Ghaggar will remain at that level or whether it will bring more water and whether we can make use of the diversion. I am sending a team of officers to inspect and see whether, with a certain amount of money, we could complete the diversion scheme.

In regard to Sawai-Madhapur and other areas, generally these are areas where there is no rainfall, but last year and this year there was some rainfall. I have asked the State Government to send a scheme which will be useful, which may be of any assistance, to avoid the flood damages, and I am awaiting that.

**SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR (Quilon)** : It has become a regular feature that half the country is always in the floods and the other half is always in the drought. I am very sorry the Minister in his statement and lamentation says as if he was attacking. He is a scientist, He is an eminent engineer and in view of the fact that very serious famines have occurred and in view of the statement that 5 to 6 lakhs have been spent, I would like to know what happened to Prime Minister's relief fund which was a regular feature in the country in the past and whether any money was spent. What happened to the central Government sending some advance amount to meet the exigencies of the moment and arrest the overall damages.

**DR. K. L. RAO** : In Kerala, unfortunately, the damages have not been so much as floods in the river but due to the very heavy rainfall. In Kerala it is really the poor financial condition of the people. We hope with the construction of some of the dams over the rivers the severity of the floods will be reduced. As regards the relief measures, as I have already submitted, as soon as the State Government makes a request that is generally accepted. As the hon. Member said, probably it may not be necessary even to send a team straightaway to place the money with the State. But still we do require some request from the State and I think it will be coming in a few days.

**श्री भोगेन्द्र भा ( जयनगर )** : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, अफ़सोस की बात है कि बिहार के

बारे में थोड़ी सी खबर दी गयी और सारे मामले को राज्य के भरोसे छोड़ दिया गया, जब कि आज वहाँ राज्य में कोई सरकार ही नहीं है, विधान सभा वहाँ की स्थगित है। इसलिए राज्य सरकार का भी जिम्मा इन्हीं के जिम्मे, इन्हीं के माथे पर है। और इसीलिए उम्मीद की जाती थी कि मंत्री जी सूचना तो देंगे। क्या कदम उठायेंगे उस बारे में सूचना दें या न दें। तो एक तो सूचना नहीं दी, और दूसरे राज्य सरकार के नाम पर इस प्रश्न को टाल दिया जब कि इस समय वहाँ कोई सरकार नहीं है।

इसके बाद जो पूरे बयान में बात देखी जा रही है और जो जवाब दिया है, जो कारगर कदम उठाये जायेंगे सरकार की ओर से उसको इन्होंने वित्त या गृह विभाग के जिम्मे छोड़ दिया है। बार-बार यह मसला आया है, बाढ़, सिंचाई और विद्युत का मसला देश के लिये अहम मसला है लेकिन इस विभाग का कोई मंत्री कैबिनेट रैंक का नहीं है। अगर यह बात हो कि मंत्री जी विशेषज्ञ हैं इसलिए कैबिनेट में नहीं हैं तो मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि कांग्रेस पार्टी के अन्दर ऐसे लोगों की कमी नहीं है जो पूरी तरह से निर्दोष हों किसी भी ज्ञान से। लेकिन इस विभाग को कैबिनेट रैंक मिलना चाहिए। नहीं तो जो कृषि के लिए, सिंचाई के लिए, बाढ़ के लिए, विद्युत के लिए जरूरत होती है उसके बारे में काफ़ी कठिनाई होती है।

जहाँ तक बिहार का प्रश्न है, मानसून के चलते कुछ बरसात ज्यादा हो गयी या कम हो गयी इससे बाढ़ का मसला नहीं है।

हमारे लिए बाढ़ एक लाजिमी मसला है, सूखा भी एक साथ और बाढ़ भी। हिमालय पर बर्फ के पिघलने से बाढ़ आ जाती है। वर्षा यहाँ न घाने से सूखा भी रहता है। बाढ़ और सूखा यह दोनों अलग बगल मसले हमारे सामने रहते हैं। दरअसल यह स्थायी मसला है। गंगा से लेकर पूरे नैपाल की सरहद तक यह गंगा के कटाव का स्थायी मसला है। हर

[ श्री भोगेन्द्र भा ]

साल दर्जनों गाँव जोकि मौजूद थे वह लापता हो गए पूरी तरह से गंगा में चले गए । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय क्या इस गंगा में बाढ़ से होने वाले कटाव को रोकने का कोई स्थायी उपाय करने की सोच रहे हैं ताकि हम उस कटाव को रोक सकें और जैसा कि कुछ राज्यों में गंगा के कटाव के बारे में किया भी गया है ?

दूसरे जो उन्होंने बतलाया कि बूढ़ी गंडक के तटबंध के टूटने से जो भयंकर बर्बादी व जान-माल का नुकसान हुआ तो उस बर्बादी का उन्हें पहले से अंदाज़ क्यों नहीं हो सका ? उसकी देखभाल की जिम्मेदारी गवर्नमेंट के ऊपर थी और वह समय रहते उसे क्यों नहीं रोक सकी और क्या उसके लिए जिम्मेदारी निश्चित की जा रही है ताकि उस लैप्स के लिए जो लोग जिम्मेदार हों उनके खिलाफ़ मुनासिब कार्यवाही की जा सके ?

इसी से सम्बद्ध एक बात यह है कि जितने भी तटबंध हैं, कोसी के, गंडक या अघवारा के इन सभी तटबंधों की देख भाल के लिए सरकार ने क्या पूरा-पूरा इंतज़ाम किया है और क्या सरकार उस बारे में आश्वस्त है और सदन को आश्वस्त करा सकती है कि उत्तर बिहार के तटबंधों के टूटने का खतरा नहीं है और उसकी ज़रूरी देखभाल व मरम्मत कर ली गई है ?

जहाँ तक स्थायी इलाज का सवाल है सरकार को पता है कि अघवारा योजना के लिए बाढ़ नियन्त्रण के साथ साथ सिंचाई योजना को मिला करके चलने से ही आवश्यक रोकथाम संभव हो सकती है । लेकिन यह खेद का विषय है कि वैसा न करके सिर्फ़ बाढ़ नियन्त्रण ही का काम करते हैं यह खर्चा भी बंका जाता है, लाखों एकड़ ज़मीन डूबी रहती है, कोसी तटबंध की काफी ज़मीन बिलकुल

डूबी हुई है । बाढ़ का मसला है उनके पूरे घर में पानी है । लोग बाँध के ऊपर बैठे हुए हैं । जब ऐसी हालत है तो मैं मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इस समस्या के स्थायी इलाज के लिए बाढ़ नियन्त्रण सह सिंचाई योजना के रूप में अघवारा योजना को भी चालू करवाने के लिए जो जनता की वहाँ माँग है उसे मंजूर करने की स्थिति में है या नहीं ?

एक अन्य चीज़ मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ और वह यह कि बाढ़ और सूखा यह दोनों मिले हुए मसले हैं । उसके सम्बन्ध में पुरानी योजना थी, कोसी के लिए एक बड़ा बराज बनाने की योजना थी लेकिन वह टल गयी । उससे विद्युत भी मिलेगी और बाढ़ पर भी पूरा नियन्त्रण होगा । कई लाख एकड़ का कोई 25 लाख एकड़ की सिंचाई का मसला है । उस कोसी बराज की योजना को पुनर्जीवित करने के लिए क्या सरकार विचार कर रही है जिससे कि लोगों को इस बाढ़ और सूखे से हमेशा के लिए मुक्ति मिल जाय ?

इसी संदर्भ में मैं कहना चाहूँगा कि पश्चिमी कोसी नहर की योजना जैसा कि सदन को ज्ञात है कि 3 बार दुर्घटनाएँ हो चुकी हैं । देश में दूसरी कोई ऐसी योजना नहीं है जिसका कि उद्घाटन तीन बार हुआ हो, जिसका कि उद्घाटन तीनों बार बड़े-बड़े लोगों ने किया, हमारे स्वर्गीय प्रधान मंत्री श्री लाल बहादुर शास्त्री ने किया । बाबू जगजीवन राम ने एक बार किया और बिहार के मुख्य मंत्री ने किया । कहने को इस योजना का तीन बार उद्घाटन हुआ लेकिन अभी तक उसकी शुरुआत नहीं हुई है । बार-बार राव जी जाते हैं और बयान दे देते हैं कि यह हुआ और वह हुआ लेकिन अभी तक वह चालू नहीं हुई है । आज हम जो वहाँ के लोग हैं नेपाल सरहद के लोग हैं वह जानना चाहते हैं कि नेपाल सरकार को भी योजना से फायदा है तो क्या बात है कौनसी बात नेपाल सरकार चाहती है जो यह

नहीं कर पा रहे हैं जिससे कि कोसी की बाढ़ का पानी भी कोसी नहर में जायेगा, उसके लिए कौन सी बात नेपाल सरकार चाह रही है जो कि इनको देने में कठिनाई है जिसके मिलने में विलम्ब हो रहा है और जिसमें कि यह बाढ़ और सूखे दोनों का मसला मिला हुआ है इसके बारे में मैं मंत्री महोदय का स्पष्ट उत्तर चाहता हूँ ?

साथ ही साथ मैं एक सवाल और सरकार से पूछना चाहूँगा। बाढ़ अभी खत्म नहीं हुई उसकी शुरुआत है तो इस दो, तीन महीने के लिए केन्द्र से अथवा राज्य सरकार के जिम्मेदार अधिकारियों की ओर से क्या इंतजाम किया गया है जिससे लोग आदवस्त हो सकें और पहले से एक फोरवार्निंग एक जानकारी लोगों को मिल सके कि बाढ़ आ रही है ? हिमालय में बर्फ पिघलती है, वर्षा होती है और बाढ़ चली जाती है तो इसकी पहले से वार्निंग देने के लिए चेतावनी देने के लिए सरकार क्या कोई इंतजाम करने जा रही है जिससे कि लोगों को पहले से उसकी खबर मिल जाय करे ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The hon Member has suggested some changes in the Ministry in order to get more funds, and I wish him good luck in that.

As regards North Bihar, I can straightway say that the Government of India have spent more money on flood relief in North Bihar than in any other part of India including Assam, and we have really done very goodwork in North Bihar in regard to flood control work, and the work done there is probably the best one for which we can take credit ; and we are thoroughly competent to deal with the North Bihar rivers. In fact, only last night I contacted the Secretary of the Bihar Government and he told me point-blank that there was no flood of any magnitude in that State so far. In the face of that, I do not know how the hon. Member has accused me in so many words.

Of course, if there is any river anywhere in any part of the world, it is bound to go this side or that side and cause

erosion. Erosion can never be stopped from any river and there is nobody who can stop erosion by any river, because that is impossible. As regards Burhi-Gandak, we have taken the necessary steps, but in spite of that, erosion will be there at some place or other. For example, in Assam, one-third of Dhubri town is gone and no one could help it, because these things are natural. As long as we have the rivers, we have to face these things. We cannot have the rivers and at the same time refuse to cater to the characteristics of those rivers.

The hon. Member has talked about the Western Kosi Canal. That is not the subject-matter arising out of floods. But I would like to tell him this, because he seems to be under the impression and he has been repeating it often that the construction of the Western Kosi Canal can stop all floods in the Kosi, and the floods in the Kosi will be all gone. That is entirely wrong, because the Western Kosi Canal can only take about 7000 cusecs, whereas the Kosi floods have got an intensity of about 7 lakhs cusecs. So, some little quantity in the canal will not be able to have any impact on floods. It is not for flood control work that we are undertaking the Western Kosi Canal, but for irrigation purposes. The Darbhanga district is a heavily populated area, and we are fully conscious that that area has got to be irrigated. At the moment, lands there are not being irrigated, and we want to have those lands irrigated ; the Western Kosi Canal will be able to irrigate about 7 lakhs acres. That is why we are going all out to get the work sanctioned as early as possible. The first 22 miles lie in His Majesty's land in Nepal, and that too, very fertile land. Therefore, it takes some time for us to enter into an agreement with the Nepal Government. They have been asking us to have certain things done. We have already accepted and I have been expecting that any time we would get the sanction of the Nepal Government. In fact, even two days back, I wrote to our Ambassador in Nepal to expedite the sanction of that project. So, it is not as if Government are not anxious about it. We are fully alive to the whole problem, but when another friendly Government is concerned, we have got to be very careful in our discussions, and we hope that we shall get sanction early.



SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Peermade): I too agree with my hon. friend Shri P. Gopalan that unfortunately the hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power cannot give any reply to our pertinent questions on this occasion because we are very much interested in the relief measures and the support that we should get from the Central Government. All the same, I would request him to convey our suggestions to the concerned Ministers and take up the matter in all earnestness on our behalf and on behalf of the House with the Prime Minister and the Food Minister especially.

As far as Kerala it concerned, the statement itself makes is very clear that out of 10 districts, seven districts are severely affected by floods. Floods are a natural occurrence, but this year's floods are something unprecedented. That is why I am sure that our Government are going to request the Central Government for adequate assistance. Their request might not have reached the Central Government at this time, but we have seen news in the newspapers that they are approaching the Central Government.

The most important help needed at this moment is additional foodgrains. In most of the areas, thousands of families had been evacuated, and Government have decided to supply them with free ration at least for a few weeks to come till they can go back and settle down and take up their own work there. During this lean period, the rationing system in Kerala is also very much hard-pressed. So, we want assistance from the Central Government by way of additional foodgrains.

So, I would request the Irrigation Minister, because he represents the Government of India at this time, to take up this matter immediately with the Food Minister and also with the Prime Minister and do something in the matter. I would like to know whether already any discussion has taken place and whether there is any effort on the part of the Central Government to help the State of Kerala, because this in an unprecedented situation, by supplying additional foodgrains, apart from monetary help.

DR. K. L. RAO : I shall pass on the suggestion made by the hon. Member to

Finance Minister, the Prime Minister and the Food Minister I would also request the State Government to send in their requirements immediately.

12.40 hrs

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

### Aircraft (Amendment) Rules

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL  
AVIATION (DR. SAROJINI MAHISHI) :  
On behalf of Dr. Karan Singh,

I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications under section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934 :—

- (1) The Aircraft (Third Amendment) Rules, 1969, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1045 in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 1969 together with an explanatory note. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—1444/69.*]
- (a) The Aircraft (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 1969, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1370 in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 1969 together with an explanatory note. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—1445/69.*]

### Notifications under Employees' Provident Funds Act

सिचाई तथा विद्युत् मन्त्रालय में उप-मंत्री  
(श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : श्री भागवत भा  
आजाद की ओर से मैं निम्नलिखित पत्र सभा-  
पटल पर रखता हूँ :

- (1) कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि अधिनियम, 1952 की धारा 7 की उप-धारा (2) के अधीन निम्नलिखित अधिसूचनाओं की एक-एक प्रति :
- (एक) कर्मचारी भविष्य निधि (दूसरा संशोधन) योजना, 1969 जो दिनांक 28 जून, 1969 के भारत के राजपत्र में अधिसूचना संख्या जी० ए० आर० 1510