

[Shri Nath Pai:]

have seen with our own eyes. I would not use the word, 'manhandle', but I must submit to you that the force applied was out of all proportion to the offence of that young girl.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH (ROH-TAK): We feel about it immensely. That young girl was thrown away like a sheaf of corn. This is something to be ashamed of.

श्रीमती लक्ष्मीकान्तम्मा (खम्मम) :
महिला गैलरी में महिला वाच एंड वार्ड
को रखना चाहिए, ताकि वह इस प्रकार
की स्थिति को सम्भाल सके।

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is what I read.

19.22 HRS.

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY: Sir, I have to report the following message received from the Secretary of Rajya Sabha:—

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Thursday, the 29th August, 1968, adopted the following motion in regard to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Lokpal and Lokayuktas Bill, 1968:

"That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do appoint a member of the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee of the Houses on the Bill to make provision for the appointment and functions of certain authorities for the investigation of the administrative action taken by or on behalf of the Government or certain public authorities in certain cases and for matters connected therewith, in the vacancy caused by the resignation of Shri Awadheshwar Prasad Sinha and resolves that Shri Ganeshi Lal Chaudhary, Member of the Rajya Sabha, be appointed to the said Joint Committee."

19-22½ HRS.

MOTION RE. SITUATION ARISING OUT OF DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN ANDHRA PRADESH, PARTS OF MYSORE AND MADRAS—Contd.

SHRI M. N. REDDY (NIZAMABAD): Before I speak on the motion, I would like to voice a common grievance shared by many members here. That is, we are finding enough time, rather a lot of time, for discussing matters like Czechoslovakia or some affidavit matter or Kantilal Desai's matter, and so on, as if the Heavens would fall down if we do not discuss them, but we are not able to find time to discuss important matters like this. I hope, the senior members will do something about this. We are, of course, young members. As a freshman, I am very much disappointed that we do not find time to discuss constructive matters. We have to devote more time to discuss economic issues, to discuss the distress and problems of the people, and should not try to get undue publicity from the press and thus waste our most valuable time. We are preparing speeches on very good issues, and we are not even told whether we would get the time and opportunity. Only the leaders and people who are very clever in getting time and opportunity are getting away with it. This should not be allowed in this august House. I would like to make this appeal.

Coming to the drought problem, I am not projecting the drought problem of Andhra Pradesh like other members. What is not realised and what is very much forgotten by many members is this. There has been the drought problem in Andhra Pradesh in some patches and parts every time. But the phenomenon of this year is that—I have gone through the records and data of the last 80 years—the drought has spread all over the State in all the 20 districts, from Nizamabad to Srikakulam. This point has not been brought to the notice of the Government and the

hon. members. It is not as if I am denying the existence of drought problem in other places. But, here, the entire State is affected. This is a phenomenon which we never saw during the last 80 years or so. I have gone through the recorded data maintained by the UNESCO in this behalf. That has to be seen. More than three crores of people have been affected by drought. I charge the Central Government and also the State Government with reluctance to act except when a deep crisis or a serious calamity overtakes us. They never wake up; they have no time for these problems. They are not free from other petty problems of politics and other things. It is only when thousands die and headlines come out that they start moving and do something. This is a very unfortunate state of affairs and a very unfortunate attitude to take for Governments.

There is a newspaper strike on and for the last few weeks people are not able to get their newspapers in any cities and towns. There is a responsibility on the press also to give correct information and place it in the right perspective so that people know about the seriousness and magnitude of the problem. I have got the *Patriot* of today with me. The whole paper contains, at least 80 per cent of it, news about Czechoslovakia and other matters which are not of direct concern to us. I do not mind if the whole of the paper were to be devoted to printing such other matter. But it also refers to Andhra's drought condition. The headlines, you will be shocked to know, is 'Andhra CM wants Rs. 42 lakhs aid'—mind you not crores.

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is a printer's devil.

SHRI M. N. REDDY: Such presentation of news instead of helping harms the cause, because people in distant and different places will have a very wrong idea and wrong assessment of the seriousness of the problem. It has mentioned Rs. 42 crores in the body of the news item in small letters.

I would like to point out that this House should also take cognisance of these serious matters and avoid foreign news of which we have had enough. When they are not themselves caring for it, let us discuss about our own problems and difficulties which we are facing.

I do not wish to repeat the appeal to the Central Government for some crores of rupees. That is there admitted. But I want one matter to be immediately investigated. This phenomenal drought has occurred in the State for the first time. There should be an investigation, scientific research carried out, to find out how this drought has affected the entire State. This has not been the case during the last 100 years. They should go into this matter and find out the remedy. They should take measures to avoid recurrence of this type of drought all over the State. If it is confined to one part, food can be rushed from other parts. But in the present case, the whole State is affected.

There is another thing. Hon. members should know that we regularly import rice—this has been so during the last four or five years—about 6 to 7 lakh tonnes of rice at double the cost from various countries, paying dearly in foreign exchange. Of all the foodgrains, rice is a very scarce and precious commodity even in the foreign markets. But half of this quantity is supplied by our State to the rest of the country. That is now cut off.

Apart from that, what about the $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores of people there who themselves do not have any rice? They would not have rice for the next three or four months. That aspect of the problem has also to be seen. Even if Rs. 42 or Rs. 45 or Rs. 50 crores are given, is it possible for the State Government to spend the whole in constructive and fruitful measures? You can give away money and doles to various persons and increase their purchasing capacity so that they can go and buy in the black market. But

[Shri M. N. Reddy—Contd.]

what I want to stress is that in giving assistance, the Centre should have a long range view.

In this context, I would like to make certain practical suggestions, certain things which are more precious, more necessary than money. We badly require rigs for drilling. This is a specific proposal. These rigs should be given by the Centre on loan from the Geological Survey of India, ONGC and the army and other sources. Rigs are also available with UNICEF. These can be airlifted from UK and other places immediately. There is no use of giving funds and loans without giving the necessary equipment to use these funds in a practical and constructive manner. Foreign exchange should be released for the purchase of rigs, spare parts for commissioning these rigs. The Geological Survey of India should loan the services of geologists and geophysicists for locating suitable site for drilling wells as also a large contingent of technical staff like drillers. There are no drillers in Andhra. In addition to drills, it is necessary that the Central Government gives technical assistance in the shape of trained drillers for boring these wells in the shortest possible time. I should also like to suggest that private contractors, financed by banks, should be asked to undertake boring of tube-wells.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are going into too much of details.

SHRI M. N. REDDY: Apart from this, jeeps and trucks from army disposal may be provided to accelerate the execution of relief works. It is impossible to execute any relief measures all over the twenty districts without the necessary facilities. Therefore, I once again appeal to the Central Government and the hon. Ministers who are here not to wait for the reports of the study teams which they are going to send. It is your own Government, your own Chief Minister. Please read the news

papers. Believe what the Members of the Parliament, Congress and Opposition, say. The study team will go there on the 15th or 16th of next month. You must give some amount immediately and make an assessment of the total requirements after the study team's report is received. The equipment is much more necessary. It should be treated as we treated Bihar last time. Full central assistance should be given. If Andhra picks up, the agricultural economy of the country will pick up. Otherwise, it is fraught with many dangers to your own political future. I am putting it very plainly before the House.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): I do not want to take the time of the House unnecessarily. Hon. friends from all the parties are of one opinion that the Government of India should seriously think of overcoming these drought conditions. One year there is drought, one year, there are floods. I come from the granary of Andhra Pradesh West Godavari district. But 75 per cent of the West Godavari district is without water and the people are suffering without water. All the necessary information had been submitted by the Andhra Government, in a more elaborate manner than any speeches here could do. Our Finance Minister and the Agriculture Minister Shri Jagjivan Ram also visited our State and people have great hopes that they would come to their help. It was called Anna Poorna. Its Chief Minister, Andhra Chief Minister is now in the streets of Delhi with a beggar's bowl running from one Minister to another Minister, from morning till evening. If he goes to the Prime Minister she is asking him to go to the Finance Minister. If he goes to the Finance Minister he says: let us see what the Production Minister and the Agriculture Minister and the P.W.D. Minister say. I only request that all of them together should come to the rescue of Andhra Pradesh. It is good not only for Andhra Pradesh but for the whole of our country.

श्री जी० बॅकटस्वामी (सिद्धिपेट) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बड़े अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि पार्टी से मेरा नाम दिया गया मगर मेरा नाम हर बार काटा जाता है स्पीकर के हाथों से। बड़ा बेदरद विक्टिम हूँ मैं इस हाउस का। मुझे यह कहने पर आज मजबूर होना पड़ा है। इस सेशन में दूसरी बार मेरा नाम इस तरह से किया गया। मैं जब तैयारी कर के आता हूँ और जा कर पूछता हूँ तो मेरा नाम कटा रहता है। हम पब्लिक की तरफ से एलेक्ट हो कर आते हैं, किसी की जागीर से नहीं आते हैं। हमें पब्लिक को जवाब देना पड़ता है कि क्या हाउस में जा कर आप हमारे लिए करते हो? हमारी इस कंडीशन में आप वहां बात क्यों नहीं करते हो? हमें बराबर जवाब देना पड़ता है। इसलिए हमारा नाम जो काटा जाता है, इस का ख्याल होना चाहिए।

मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ, मेरे आन्ध्र में आज एक आग लगी हुई है। आन्ध्र के 151 ताल्लुके उजड़ गए हैं और 18 हजार गांवों में भूख की आह ही आह भरी हुई है। पूरी तरह से ऐग्री-कल्चरल प्रोडक्शन कर के अपने ही प्रदेश को नहीं बल्कि सारे देश के दूसरे हिस्सों को भी अन्न सप्लाई करने वाले प्रदेश का किसान आज आसमान की तरफ देख रहा है और प्रार्थना कर रहा है कि हे भगवान, हे खुदा, कुछ न कुछ बारिश तो कर दो ताकि हमारी काश्त हो और हमारा प्रदेश, पहले की तरह, अन्न से परिपूर्ण हो जाय अन्नपूर्ण जैसे इस का नाम है, उस नाम को न मिटाओ। पब्लिक तो भगवान और खुदा को बारिश के लिए याद कर रही है, पूजा कर रही है। और आज इस हाउस में पार्लियामेंट के एक एक मेम्बर के यहां की गवर्नमेंट को, मिनिस्टर्स को, प्राइम मिनिस्टर को ललकार-ललकार

कर, चिल्ला-चिल्ला कर पूछने के बाबजूद भी, इस स्टेट में भूख से जूझने वाले काश्तकार को मदद करने के लिए ओप कुछ देना नहीं चाहते और यह बड़ी आसानी से जवाब मिल जाता है कि हम जरूर गौर करेंगे। जहां 50 करोड़ की जरूरत है, मैं तो यह चाहता था कि गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया के मिनिस्टर्स वहां जा कर घरना मारकर बैठ जायें जैसे बिहार में बैठ गए थे उसी तरह से बैठ जायें। अगर आन्ध्र प्रदेश में प्रोडक्शन में ज्यादाती हो वह केवल आन्ध्र के लिए फायदा नहीं है, बल्कि पूरे देश के लिए फायदा है....

श्री जगजीवन राम : बिहार में कौन जाकर बैठा था?...

श्री जी० बॅकटस्वामी : अगर नहीं बैठे तो वहां भी गलती की है...

श्री जगजीवन राम : गलती क्या की है? वहां गवर्नमेंट नहीं है? गलत बात क्यों कहते हैं?

श्री जी० बॅकटस्वामी : मंत्री जी ने मेरे कहने के मतलब को कुछ और अन्दाज़ में लिया है। मैं माफी चाहता हूँ। लेकिन जहां पर अकाल पड़ा है, फिर मैं एक बार कहना चाहता हूँ सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के मशीनरी को वहां पर के कंसट्रेंट करना चाहिए और वहां पर भूख और अकाल को दूर करने के लिए प्रयत्न करना चाहिए। आप देखते हैं कि जब बार होती है तो सारे देश की जनता के दिनों के अन्दर एक आग सी फैल जाती है। तो जहां पर भूख और अकाल पड़ा है वहां की जनता के अन्दर भी वही जोश और वही जजबा रहता है कि इस अकाल को किस तरह से दूर किया जायगा।

इसलिए मैं यह सजेशन देना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे कई मेम्बर्स ने रिग्स के लिए कहा है, पुराने रिग्स के लिए

[श्री जी० वेकटस्वामी]:

कोशाश करनी चाहिए। जो फारेन एक्सचेंज के लिए एक बहुत बड़ी आड़ हमारे बीच में पड़ी हुई है, वह दूर की जानी चाहिए। एलेक्ट्रिक करेंट की तरह हमारी मशीनरी जगह जगह पहुंचनी चाहिए। जो भूख से परेशान-हाल हैं उन को किस तरह से राहत दी जाय उस के लिए मेरा सजेशन है, सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के मिनिस्टर्स मिसअन्डरस्टैंड न करें, क्योंकि मेरी कांस्टीट्यूएन्सी के अन्दर आज दो-तिहाई हिस्सा पूरी तरह से काश्त नहीं हुआ है। वह जनता आकर मुझे से पूछती है कि हमारे लिए क्या कर रहे हैं, हमारे लिए क्या स्टेट गवर्नमेंट से दिला रहे हैं। चीफ मिनिस्टर साहब से हम ने पूछा, डेलीगेशन लेकर गए तो उन्होंने बता दिया कि यह मेरा हाल है तो प्रजा का क्या हाल होगा? इसलिए मेरा कहना है कि जिस तरह से बिहार में इतनी तबाही और बरबादी होने के बाद हमारी तरफ से ऐड और मदद का इन्तजाम हुआ, वैसा मत कीजिए। पहले से ही हमारे आन्ध्र प्रदेश, हैसूर, राजस्थान और जहां जहां भी ड्राउट कंडीशंस हैं वहां पर सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ज्यादा से ज्यादा धन दे कर, ज्यादा से ज्यादा फंड्स दे कर आने वाली जो खतरनाक हालत है, उस हालत से बचाने की कोशिश करे।

MR. CHAIRMAN: I should conclude the discussion here and I should like to call on the Minister to reply to the debate.

SHRI G. S. REDDY (Miryai-guda): Sir, I would like to ask one question of the Minister.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Let him finish his speech. Then the hon. Member can put his question through me.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, there has been a very useful and enlightened discussion in the House and I am thankful to the large number of hon. Members who participated in this very useful debate. But, at the outset, before I go into the major problems of the issue concerned I would like to say that some hon. Members—Shri Nambiar and Shri Patel—tried to bring in politics in their arguments.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: They subsist on them.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE): Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a submission that Government of India, when we had drought situation of a much larger magnitude, when Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat were involved in a larger drought situation and there were non-Congress governments in some States, the Centre never discriminated, never looked at it from the point of view whether it was a Congress government or a non-Congress government in those States, and whatever help was needed was rushed to them. After all, we are all Indians and we have to be guided in these matters by some broader principles. So let Shri Nambiar not have any doubt or suspicion in regard to the approach of the Centre.

SHRI NAMBIAR: We are thankful if that is so (*Interruption*).

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Sir, I was going to submit that some hon. Members made a little exaggerated references that there have been some starvation deaths in some areas. Shri Narayana Rao just now said that perhaps thousands of people have died. We have so much experience of handling the drought situation now that, let the hon. Members not have any apprehension, whatever may be the magnitude of the problem we shall be in a position to tackle the situation and we

shall see that nobody in the country is allowed to starve for lack of food. As the hon. House is aware, for instance, when Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, to which I made a reference just now, had a much severe drought and many foreigners at that time thought that we may not be in a position to handle the situation, we did not allow anybody to die of starvation at that time. Even now, in regard to the current drought situation, here and there there were references in the Press about drought situation and starvation deaths. We made references to the State Governments and no State Government has indicated to us that there has been any starvation death.

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM: In the printed statistics form there is no column to show starvation deaths. What can they do?

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: Every case is investigated.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Unfortunately, our country is so vast that in some part or the other we have a difficult situation every year. Take the case of last year. Human memory is very short. When we had a record production in our history even then, last year, there were parts of our country where drought situation had developed. For instance, last year drought situation did develop in Orissa, in some parts of Andhra and Mysore. We did take the necessary steps then to see that necessary assistance was rendered to State Governments.

This year, the present situation is causing us some concern. I entirely share the concern of hon. Members which has been expressed on the floor of the House because, after all, when drought situation develops human suffering necessarily follows. In our country agriculture is the main business, the main profession, the main means of earning and a large number of farmers naturally suffer when drought conditions develop. In a drought year not only the farmers

suffer but the section which suffers most is the landless labour because they do not get any employment. That is why if in any part of the country drought conditions develop it engages the attention of the State Government and the Centre.

Then, before I go to the other facts, I would like to submit that scarcity relief is technically a State subject. After all, we have to be guided by the constitutional provisions of our country. So, hon. Members should realise that States have necessarily to take steps. I am not suggesting that the Centre should absolve itself of its responsibility but, technically speaking, it is a State subject. May I submit here that all the State Governments are behaving with considerable responsibility in this matter? In fact, they are very keen and alive to this problem and they do take steps to see that necessary relief is provided in the drought affected areas. This is our experience of not only Andhra Pradesh or Mysore or Madras but all State governments in the country.

This year, unfortunately, there has been deficient rainfall in many parts—some of the Southern States, Rajasthan and a few other States. For instance, in coastal Andhra Pradesh there has been deficient rainfall to the extent of 46 per cent, in Telengana 40 per cent, Rayalaseema 42 per cent, Madras 55 per cent, North Mysore 20 per cent and South Mysore 17 per cent. West Rajasthan is also affected by drought because of the deficient rainfall. But it is too early to know the exact position.

I went into the previous drought situation and the history of deficient rainfall in our country, particularly in Andhra and Madras. I have found, for instance, that in Rayalaseema in 1899 there was deficient rainfall to the tune of 84 per cent in July and 37 per cent in August, but in September the position improved radically and there was surplus rainfall to the tune of 33 per cent.

AN HON. MEMBER: What is the use of having rains in September?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am not suggesting that will remove all the difficulties. I am only saying that we should not take an alarmist view of the situation. I am going to come to what we are doing and what we have to do. I am coming to that. I am trying to explain the position so that we may have a balanced view of things.

Telengana area is not normally subject to drought like Rayalaseema. But, unfortunately, in Telengana this year there is very deficient rainfall, as I have already submitted.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: You say that Telengana is not a drought affected area. Once in five years it is affected by drought.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: But not like Rayalaseema. That is all what I said. Even in Telengana the rainfall is unfavourable due to climatic conditions and many other reasons. But I was only saying that in Telengana in 1928 the rainfall was deficient to the tune of 17 and 30 per cent in July and August and in 1938 it was only 13 and 12 but because of the rains in September the surplus was 31 and 61 per cent.

The same is the story about Madras, Mysore etc. I am making this statement to show that we are watching the situation very carefully and we are trying to tackle the basic problem which is as a result of deficient rainfall. The problem of drought has mainly two aspects. Because, there are certain tracts of our country which are subject to recurrent drought and, naturally, if we have to find permanent solution to these problems we have to see that two types of remedies are provided. First of all, long-term solutions should be evolved so that in those areas where human suffering is very much we are in a position to give necessary relief to these people. So, from the point of view of long-term relief we have

to take certain measures and also watch the situation as it develops. Till the long-term measures are completed, we have to take some short-term measures.

Now, there seems to be an impression with the hon. Members that we are not taking any long-term measures. Professor Ranga is unfortunately not here. May I submit that the government has during the last few years, in fact in the post-independence period, taken a number of steps to see that long-term measures are adopted to give relief to those areas.

SHRI NAMBIAR: Is there any master plan?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I am coming to that point. For instance, a number of major irrigation projects have been taken in many of the States. I have before me a list of such irrigation projects—Upper Krishna, Gataprabha, Malaprabha, Tungabhadra and so on. I am referring only to the long-term projects. When these projects are completed, naturally they would give relief to this area.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: But these are very very long-term plans.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: The question is whether the Government of India is doing something from the point of view of a long-term plan to meet the situation.

In Andhra Pradesh, for instance, Pochampad, Nizamsagar, Nagarjunasagar and Tungabhadra cover some of the drought-affected areas. In Madras, Parambikulam and Lower Bhawani cover some of these areas.

SHRI M. N. REDDY: Nizamsagar was constructed by the Nizam. Do not take the credit for Nizamsagar.

SHRI RANDHIR SINGH: The Nizam also was an Indian.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: There is no question of taking credit. These are the schemes.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Then, take the case of Rajasthan Canal. The Rajasthan Canal would cover some of the worst Rajasthan areas and would really provide relief to the people who are always subject to recurrent droughts.

These major and medium irrigation projects, I am told by Dr. Rao, would broadly cover 25 to 30 per cent of these areas in the long term.

Then, I may refer to the second aspect because in many of these areas major irrigation projects are not possible. Then what is to be done? In such areas we are trying to give importance and priority to minor irrigation projects. For instance, percolation tanks, small tanks, digging of wells, tubewells—these are some of the schemes which are being implemented in these areas.

If we look at the outlays which are going into it from the Plan sector as well as from the institutional sector, we find that much larger outlays are going into the implementation of these schemes.

Then, the Government of India has given considerable thought to the problems of these areas. For instance, in 1966 at the initiative of my Ministry a conference of the Chief Ministers of some of the States, which are subject to recurrent drought, was convened and considerable thought was given to the problems of the drought-affected areas; in fact, the conclusion was arrived at in that Chief Ministers' Conference that a national plan alone would be able to rehabilitate these areas.

"To formulate a meaningful plan it will be necessary to take up immediately an intensive geological and natural resources survey, both water and mineral available, in these regions. This will have to be done on a priority basis. In the expeditious completion of this survey, full advantage should be taken of international agencies and experts and of latest methods like aerial photography etc." Subsequent to the conference of Chief

Ministers this matter was examined both in the Planning Commission and in my Ministry. A number of steps were taken.

Taking into consideration the limitation of resources the Government of India has taken a decision. First of all, we have requested the State Governments to earmark the hard core of these drought-affected areas. How to define hard core has also been suggested to the State Governments; that is, areas which are subject to drought every three years have been defined as the extreme hard core of the drought-affected areas. There are other areas also which also need attention, but the hard core areas should receive our attention first.

From that angle some plan has been formulated and we have addressed all the State Governments to formulate a plan so that the necessary projects in those areas—major, medium, minor irrigation, tubewells etc.—are undertaken in these areas, some mineral surveys are also carried out and some afforestation and soil conservation programmes are carried out in these areas.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Has anyone of these hard core projects been implemented in any of the States?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: This has been done this year. We have addressed the State Governments to formulate a plan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What about the resources? Will the Central Government give it?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As I have said, there are limitations of resources, but the approach of the Central Government in regard to the formulation of these plans is that Plan ceiling will not come in the way and Central assistance will flow to these plans beyond the Plan ceilings. What should be the quantum etc., is a matter of detailed examination.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO JOSHI: Is there any specific example

[Shri Jagannatha Rao Joshi]

where this pilot project has been implemented?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We are very keen.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: Let them first send the pilot projects. They can be implemented only when they come from the State Governments.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: I was submitting about the second aspect. As far as immediate relief is concerned, we also have a very practical approach. Many of the Members have suggested that we have no special machinery to look into these problems. That is not a correct appreciation of the situation. In fact, we have well laid down principles in order to meet similar situations. As soon as we receive a report from the State Government about the developing drought situation, a Central team visits those areas. Shri Narayana Reddy said, "Why should a Central team go?" After all, some details have to be examined; some financial outlays have to be worked out.

SHRI M. N. REDDY: I have never said that they should never go. You should not wait... (Interruption)

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: Nobody waits for them.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: May I intervene? The States Governments are free to start the work forthwith because in every State Government's budget, according to the Finance Commission, a certain sum has been provided for natural calamities. So, they can start the work immediately with that money. As to what further assistance is required, that will be determined later.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As mentioned by the hon. Minister, as far as the taking up of the relief works is concerned, the Centre does not come in the way. In fact, the Finance Commission has gone into

it and has also suggested a particular pattern. The State Government are requested to provide in their budgets a certain amount for this purpose. For instance, Andhra Pradesh is expected to provide for Rs. 75 lakhs; Madras—56 lakhs and Mysore—Rs. 33 lakhs. As soon as the expenditure is expected to go up, even before the State Governments undertake some relief work, we do not come in their way and the Central teams work out the requirements of the States.

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: They have started these relief works. But they are stranded for want of financial help from the Centre. At this juncture, the Government of India should come forward to help the States.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: Why don't you have a little patience? You hear him. Why do you say you know much more than him?

SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: I know the hardships of the people.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: We also know their hardships. You might be knowing of one State. But we know of the whole country.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: As soon as Central teams go into details, they work out the realistic requirements of State Governments and they prescribe ceilings. Then, a liberal assistance is provided. For instance, 50 per cent is given by way of grant alone—it is not loan; it is outright grant—and 25 per cent is provided as loan and the rest 25 per cent is to be provided by the State Government. If any State Government has any particular difficulty, even the ways and means advance is provided by the Centre. It is not that these things are not looked into. If the State Government has any difficulty, the ways and means advance can be given to the State Government by the Centre. Therefore, no relief activity should suffer for lack of financial resources. May I submit for

the information of the hon. Members that as far as the drought situation is concerned, we will make every effort to see that genuine drought relief activities do not suffer for lack of financial resources?

Apart from the financial assistance, etc., we also meet the food requirements of the States. For instance, to Andhra Pradesh, in August, we supplied about 15,000 tonnes of wheat and 8,000 tonnes of milo and, in September, we have allocated 15,000 tonnes of wheat and 5,000 tonnes of milo. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had a discussion with the hon. Minister and it was indicated to him that if Andhra Government wants more coarse grains, etc. to meet the drought situation, we will see that the reasonable requirements of Andhra Pradesh are fully met. To Madras also, we have supplied, in August, 32,000 tonnes of wheat and 8,000 tonnes of milo. In September also, we have allocated 35,000 tonnes of wheat and 6,000 tonnes of milo. To Mysore also, in August, we allocated 30,000 tonnes of wheat, 10,000 tonnes of milo and 2,000 tonnes of rice although in regard to rice, there has been some difficulty.

SHRI M. N. REDDY: Is it subsidised?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We give to the State Government. In September also, 30,000 tonnes of wheat and 10,000 tonnes of milo has been allocated for the requirements of Mysore. I think, the State Governments, in regard to these allocations, are quite happy with our approach to these problems.

Then, last year also, in Mysore and Andhra, there was a drought situation. The Central team went there and prescribed some ceilings. Out of that amount, Rs. 3 crores of loan and Rs. 1.5 crores of grant have been provided to Andhra Pradesh and today Rs. 1 crore more has been released in favour of Andhra Pradesh. For Mysore also, Rs. 1 crore more has been released today.

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Then some hon. members raised questions about rigs for Andhra Pradesh. As soon as we heard of the drought situation developing in Andhra Pradesh, the hon. Minister was good enough to depute our Secretary, Agriculture, to Hyderabad to examine the position himself. He went there, he had discussion with the Chief Minister and representatives of Andhra Pradesh Government and submitted a report, and on the basis of that, we are taking action. As far as the ordinary requirements of rigs are concerned, they are manufactured in our own country, but we have assured the Andhra Pradesh Government.....

SHRI CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Famine will not wait till then.

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: We have assured the Andhra Pradesh Government that, if they want to import rigs, we are prepared to support their claims for foreign exchange. Already the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture has written to the hon. Minister of Industries that the demand of the Andhra Pradesh Government for 50 rigs, which are not manufactured in our country, should be allowed; the rigs should be allowed to be imported immediately and necessary foreign exchange should be given.....

SHRI M. N. REDDY: Can't the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, supply these when they can supply rigs for oil works?

SHRI ANNASAHIB SHINDE: My hon. friend is very impatient. I may tell him that for the last one year we have been persuading the State Governments to place orders. But I do not know what are the difficulties of the State Governments. When the drought situation was developing in Andhra Pradesh, I myself went to Hyderabad and discussed with the Agriculture Minister. Immediately a decision was taken to shift one unit of E.T.O. from Bihar and other areas to Andhra Pradesh, and

[Shri Annasahib Shinde]

that is doing a very fine job, and as a result of that, in Anantapur District, it has transpired that water is available; very encouraging results have been obtained. We are trying our best to see that as a result of ETO operation and as a result of the activities of the State Government, some permanent solutions are provided to meet the drought situation in Andhra Pradesh.....(Interruptions) We are exploring all possibilities to see that the equipment is available. We will do all we can. But the State Government will have to get the concurrence of the other State Government wherever the equipment is available.

I do not want to go into the other details. I have indicated the position. At the end, I would assure the House that we need not take an alarmist view of the things. The situation is under control. We shall see that the maximum relief is provided to the people. After all, they are all our brothers and sisters, and everything will be done by the Centre to help the State Governments.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: This motion of mine has been before this House for the past more than three hours. I must congratulate the hon. Members who have participated for having kept up the level of the discussion transcending all political barriers and highlighting the importance of this problem. I should also thank the hon. Minister of State, Shri Annasahib Shinde. I hope, he will bring 'Anna' and become an 'Annadhata'. Hon. Minister, Shri Jagjiwan Ram, was also here and at crucial moments of the discussion, he brought to hear his vast knowledge of this stupendous problem, and they have assured the Andhra Pradesh Government and also the other State Governments who are involved in this critical situation.

I wanted to mention one point. In the course of this discussion, many

suggestions were made, especially by Shri Ranga and the other friends. The sum and substance of the suggestions made is that there should be a national plan and also a committee or a commission to deal with this stupendous problem. Shri Ranga has also said that there should be a National Insurance Fund, there should be a Master Plan, and these problems, as and when they come, should be tackled very effectively, be it famine or drought. I hope that this aspect of the matter will be borne in mind. Shri Shinde has told us about the recommendations made by the Chief Ministers of some States who met at Tirupati. Also the Planning Commission's efforts in this direction are there.

One point I wanted to mention to Shri Jagjiwan Ram. Though the rains may come in September, they will be of no use. I will illustrate it.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: Drinking water.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH:

Drinking water problem may be eased. But I want to say this. The Lord of the clouds, Indra, once commanded that no cloud shall drizzle in Rayalaseema. There was a deaf and blind cloud. It could not obey the command of Lord Indra. So it was taken to task. Then that cloud said: 'I have also done more service than the clouds which have not showered rain because whatever seeds have been put by the ryots have been washed off by me'. So while rains in September may help ease the drinking water problem, agricultural operations will not get any benefit from them.

In this connection, I want to make a suggestion to Shri Jagjiwan Ram. In my constituency of Karnool district under ILTD, tobacco cultivation is there on a large scale. Since there is no crop that could be sown even if the rains come, except tobacco or jowar in some areas but now they

have very much restricted that area and that has deprived the ryots of even a cash crop because groundnut has failed—I would suggest that the area be extended and tobacco be grown so that temporary relief may be given to the agriculturists.

Coming to the supply of foodgrains to the Andhra Government, I very well appreciate the spirit behind what Shri Shinde said, but the real problem is that though the Central Government are eager to provide foodgrains, milo or jowar, the Andhra Government is not in a position to purchase these grains. This aspect of the matter has to be gone into. Also the subsidy portion of the grain must also be given.

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM: The pattern is there.

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH: Many commissions have been set up and there is no lack of data so far as famine eradication is concerned. From 1890 till 1959 and even to today, there have been several commissions set up. Shri V. Subba Rao has also submitted a report. There is the Rayalaseema Development Board's recommendation. All these are there. I would earnestly request the Minister to evolve a national policy so that by the time we come here next session, Government should have taken all possible steps of giving assistance to the States and long-range relief measures such as irrigation projects, minor irrigation and medium irrigation projects would have been initiated. I am sure Government will also requisition the necessary rigs, and also provide the necessary foreign exchange to the State Government and other Governments which require to import them. I am glad that Government have given assurance that they have already taken some steps in this matter.

I thank you for the opportunity given to raise this discussion and I also thank all the hon. Members who have participated in it.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I should like to know whether some hon. Members would like to withdraw their amendments to this motion in view of what the hon. Minister has said? Those who want to withdraw may say so.

SHRI J. MOHAMED IMAM: I beg to withdraw my substitute motion.

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA: Because of what has been said, I beg to withdraw my substitute motion.

SHRI T. M. SHETH: I withdraw the substitute motion moved by me.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Have the hon. Members leave of the House to withdraw their substitute motions?

The substitute motions Nos. 1, 3 and 5 were by leave withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, I have to put to vote the other motions. Is Mr. Tenneti Viswanatham withdrawing his substitute motion?

SHRI TENNETI VISWANATHAM: I am not withdrawing. My resolution is the most beautiful resolution; it cannot be withdrawn.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall put your substitute motion to the vote of the House.

The substitute motion No. 6 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Jyotirmoy Basu, Shri Dinkar Desai and Dr. Karni Singh have moved substitute motions. But they are not here. So, I have to put their substitute motions to the vote of the House.

The substitute motions Nos. 2, 4 and 7 were put and negatived.

20-13 HRS.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 30, 1968/Bhadra 8, 1890 (Saka).