

[Mr. Speaker]

municate it to the House that the writ petition was dismissed, would this House ask me to produce a certificate or a document?

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: No.

Mr. Speaker: When Mr. Karanjia wrote to me, did he file a copy of the writ petition here? Hon. Members are prepared to accept Mr. Karanjia's statement, not the statement of my Deputy-Secretary! It is rather surprising.

Shri H. N. Mukerjee: It is a matter dealt with by the court. So, we must get an authorised or certified copy. *(Interruptions).*

Mr. Speaker: It is not proper for hon. Members to go on in this manner. There is absolutely no doubt, and I have no doubt in my mind, that the writ petition was dismissed. Shri Tangamani himself—on whose behalf he went there, I do not know—says so.

Dr. Ram Subhag Singh: On Mr. Karanjia's behalf.

Mr. Speaker: It is open to any person in the world at large to go and attend the public proceeding in a court. All can go. The hon. Member Shri Tangamani took interest, and he was waiting there; he was interested in finding out what exactly the result also was. And his good friend who was there watching the proceedings sent him a telephonic message that the writ petition was dismissed.

Now, I am doubly sure that the writ petition was dismissed. Therefore, under these circumstances, I rule these other motions out of order, for the reason that there is no basis for these motions.

Now, the only point which the hon. Member raises is this; he did not press it this way; he wants an authoritative statement, and he says: let us apply for a copy of the proceedings. The Supreme Court will take its own time to give it; in the meanwhile, the ex-

tension of time that Mr. Karanjia wanted will certainly be available to him not for the purpose of enabling him to file a writ petition, but even independently of it; that will give the impression that the House does not care to execute its own orders or directions, and it goes on indefinitely, and it does not have a mind of its own. I do not want to create that impression. Of course, all reasonable opportunities must be given to a person who is an accused, if there is a *bona fide* ground; or if he expects that the Supreme Court will reverse its judgment or modify its judgment, then, certainly opportunities must be given.

That is why we did not rush through with these matters.

Under the circumstances, there is no more reason for allowing any further time. I am sure the House will agree with me that Shri R. K. Karanjia must appear before the Bar of the House, as directed in my summons, tomorrow.

Several Hon. Members: Yes.

Shri S. M. Banerjee: Is no further intimation necessary? How is he to know?

Mr. Speaker: He should know.

Let us proceed to the next business.

16.21 hrs.

MOTIONS RE: FLOOD SITUATION

Shri Goray (Poona): I beg to move:

"That the statement on the flood situation in the country laid by the Minister of Irrigation and Power on the Table of the House on the 7th August 1961, be taken into consideration".

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi (Puri): May I be allowed to move my Motion also?

Mr. Speaker: Very good. We will sit till 6 P.M.

Shri Chintamani Panigrahi: We are continuing it tomorrow also.

Mr. Speaker: We are just starting today. Tomorrow we have another discussion. So what remains today will be carried over to day after tomorrow.

Hon. Members will have 10 minutes each normally and 15 minutes at the most.

Shri Goray: We are thankful to you for having given this opportunity to discuss the flood situation in the country.

It seems that floods have become a hardy annual, but this year it seems the floods have occurred in the most unexpected areas. The statement made by the Minister on the 7th August has admitted that in States like Kerala, Madras and Mysore where normally floods do not occur, this year floods have occurred, and with disastrous consequences.

So far as floods are concerned, Government have devised ways and means of dealing with them. They have tried their utmost to minimise the evil effects of such natural calamities. We have been told that there is a Central Flood Control Board; there are other bodies also like the Ganga River Commission, the Brahmaputra River Commission, the North-West Rivers Commission, the Central and Dacca Water Commission plus the Central Water and Power Commission. All these bodies have been doing their best to see to it that the damage done by the floods is minimised, if not altogether averted. In spite of all this, we are finding that floods are taking a heavy toll of life and property spreading ruin and disaster throughout the country. Very near the place where we are meeting today, you find that the river Yamuna is playing havoc with the life of the people. Thousands of them have evacuated their houses. We are also told that a very grave situation has arisen in the eastern part

of UP and people have to leave their hearths and homes. Thousands and lakhs of acres of land have been inundated.

Orissa too had its share of these floods. We find that Mysore also was affected. In Kerala, the losses are estimated at about Rs. 3 crores and so on. I do not want to blame the authorities. But I think they should wake up and take note of the fact that all the construction work that we are carrying on and all the crores of rupees that we are spending come to nought when such floods occur. In half an hour, two hours or within a day the labour, the money and all our construction come to nothing. This is the tragedy that is being inflicted on the people almost every year.

I come from a city which has been the victim of the floods, and they have occurred I suppose for the first time in the history of the city. I would like to point out that the city of Poona which has been the latest victim, was not a victim of natural floods. It will be wrong to say that it was a calamity which could not have been averted, that it was an act of God. It was due to the bursting of two dams, one at Panshet and the other at Khadakvasla. The Panshet dam broke at about seven in the morning on the 12th July, and after six or seven hours, the lower dam, that is the Khadakvasla dam, also gave way. We must thank the army authorities, because it was they who averted a bigger catastrophe by stopping the bursting of the dam or postponing it by about five or six hours. If this tragedy had taken place in the night, I do not know what the destruction would have been and how many lives would have been lost.

I want to know, so far as disasters of this kind are concerned, whether there is any provision to give compensation to those who suffer from such losses. This has become a moot point between the State Government and ourselves. I do not want that this point should be argued from a party point of view. It is a humanitarian problem, and this is something which

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I think points to our moral obligation to the people.

It has been argued that floods being natural calamities, nobody can ask for compensation. I would like to question that assertion also, because, after all, the people depend on the Government. The people toil in their fields and factories and build their houses believing that the engineering skill that is available will see to it that they are not made victims of the floods. But if they become victims and lose everything, should we leave them to the mercy of nature? That is the question I would like to raise. I do not want to say that the Government is to be held responsible. I do not want to say that it is they who brought about the floods. I am not saying anything of the kind, but I would like the Government to take note of this question: when hundreds and thousands of people lose their property, should we not make some provision in the law by which it will be possible for these people to rehabilitate themselves?

I know food is given to them, some sort of clothing is given, some sort of huts are raised, but that is not enough. I do not know whether in America and England they can have a claim to full compensation. I am trying to find that out. But I have found out this much that very liberal rules have been made to see to it that the peasant is rehabilitated fully in those countries. It is not a question of giving him one or two dhoties, it is not a question of giving him Rs. 5 or Rs. 10 as *ex-gratia* payment. It is a question of rehabilitating him.

About the disaster in Poona I would like to say that 6,000 houses were lost and nearly 70,000 people were rendered homeless. They have lost all their property, their utensils, clothes, ornaments, everything. Factories have been washed away, schools have been washed away, schools have happened. I would like the Central Government to take a more

active part, to take the initiative, in seeing to it that some authority is created to deal with the whole situation. It is not a question of only reconstructing Poona, but it is a question of reconstructing the whole Poona area, right from Panshet dam which has now broken, to the eastern-most point downstream where you find the floods inflicted the least damage. The whole area of nearly 25 miles will have to be taken up for reconstruction.

I would like to say that most crucial problems are facing the city of Poona. Wherever floods take place, the same problems would crop up; but in the city of Poona they are occurring on a massive scale because the destruction has been massive. The first difficulty that the Poona people will have to face is the shortage of drinking water. It is true that some make-shift arrangements have been made. But, after 2 or 3 months, I do not know whether the people of Poona will get water because just now the arrangement is to get water from the Mulshi dam which is also used for generating electricity which is supplied to the city of Bombay. If you want to take away a sizable portion of the water, then, what will happen is that the generating power will come down and the Bombay factories will suffer. Therefore, we have to find out a permanent solution to this problem; and these make-shift arrangements will have to be supplemented by arrangements which are long-term in their perspective.

I would like to stress upon Government that the Panshet dam will have to be rebuilt and the Kadakvasla dam also will have to be rebuilt. Though there has been some prejudice in the minds of people against earthen dams, one of which is Panshet dam, we shall have to educate people that there is nothing inherently wrong in earthen dams and that we shall have to put up such dams. Only we would have to see to it that some more care is exercised.

I do not want to blame any authority because a judicial commission has been appointed. Who was at fault and who gave advice and all that will come out in its own time. I do not want to blame anybody. But there is no doubt about the fact that there was some sort of disarray or mismanagement at the dam which was at the point of breaking. This particular news was not conveyed to the people of Poona. That one fact stands out very clearly. People in the city of Poona, even including the Minister of Information and Broadcasting who was there in the city then, did not know anything about it. They went about their business as usual; and, all of a sudden they found that the floods had overtaken them. (*Interruption*). Boys and girls in the Maharashtra Education College were going on with their experiments in the physics and chemistry laboratories at 10.30 when the waters started entering the hall. Then they left the hall. This was the state of affairs there.

I want to ask the Minister one thing. When such dams are built and more are likely to be built—I am not saying that they are constructed in such a way that they would give way; but they are likely to give way—when such emergencies occur what sort of arrangement is made to see to it that the information is carried to the people quickly and efficiently?

I am told that at Panshet there was no wireless set at all and the military people took their wireless set. The Collector did not know about it; or if he knew about it, he failed to convey the information to the people. The All-India Radio did not know about it and, certainly, the people in the city of Poona did not know anything about it at all. I know that Panshet and Kadakvasla are comparatively small dams, compared to the dams which we are constructing at Bhakra Nangal and Damodar and other places. They are giant dams. But supposing a calamity like this occurred, what will happen to the people down-stream? The whole State will be washed away. (*Interruption*). Whenever you con-

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struct such dams there must be fool-proof arrangements to convey the news to the people as quickly as possible especially when there are big cities like Poona down-stream and they are likely to be involved.

The other point I want to make is this. When the two dams have been broken it is not only the people of Poona that are going to be affected; the effect will be down-stream up to a distance of say 60 or 70 miles. The entire agricultural population depends on the waters of Panshet and Kadakvasla. Therefore, we will have to find means, and that too very quickly, to erect another dam at Kadakvasla as well as Panshet. The work has to be taken up at the Panshet dam very quickly, otherwise, what would happen is this. Nearly three-fourth of the dam is still standing there, but the long canals that you have dug—about 100 to 150 miles long—will be rendered useless. Therefore, I submit in all humility and with all the emphasis at my command, that while thinking of the third Plan allocations, we will have to increase the allocation for Maharashtra, because it is impossible for that State to rally enough resources to build these two dams, because the Panshet dam may cost about Rs. 4 crores. Kadakvasla may cost another Rs. 4 crores to Rs. 6 crores. This Rs. 10 crores of additional money will be impossible for a State like Maharashtra to raise on its own. Therefore, I am pleading for extra allocation.

Then, just as you have formed an authority like the Deccan Rivers Commission, you should insist on the State Government that it should also form an authority which will deal with the entire development programme. The State Government has set up an authority which is confined to a small area. It deals with the Poona city which has been flooded. It says that it will see to it that houses are built and the area is kept clear. That is not enough. We have to deal with the entire area. That authority is too small to handle such a problem. There is the question of rehabilitating 80,000 people and hundreds of houses have to be provid-

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ed. Merely saying that a few huts are to be built by the State Government is not enough. You will have to see to it that these huts are built in plenty. The rent will be about Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 per hundred square feet in respect of these huts. Who can pay that? It is not possible for one authority alone to meet it. I know that it is a stupendous task. I would like, at the same time, to stress the aspect that if our engineers fail in this endeavour or task, then the people will get suspicious of our engineering skill itself. It is not a good thing to read in the papers every morning that a particular bund has given way or a dam has broken or there is a breach on a certain river, etc. It is not a good thing at all. It shows up our engineering profession in a very bad light. Therefore, I would like to say that it is not only the Ministry but the engineering profession as such that should sit together and consider whether they are not rather in a hurry. I have been told that they were in a hurry to build the Panshet dam. They wanted to finish the Five Year Plan in four years. It is very good, but they will have to calculate the risk involved to the reputation of the profession and also the life and property of hundreds of thousands of people who were perfectly innocent. We shall be very glad to have the dam built in four years which would ordinarily take five years, but we would not like to see that the dam gives way.

Therefore, the engineering authorities must be able to resist the pressure of the Government Ministers; even if the Ministers tell them that they must finish the work within a particular period they must have the guts to tell them that this is an engineering project and "you must not dabble in it." Because, ultimately, it is the fate of hundreds and thousands of people which is involved. It is not only a question of the reputation of the Ministers. I am not saying that such a thing happened at the Panshet dam. It is likely to happen elsewhere, and

it might have happened in Hirakud or other dams. I would say that this is not a reflection on our engineers; not at all. When a mishap happened at the Bhakra Nangal dam, I had said in this House that it did not matter, when we are building hundreds of dams certain mishaps will take place.' It is no good our saying everything when such a mishap happens that our engineers are no good and that we must have foreign experts. I am against foreign experts being called in every time. Let us make mistakes; it does not matter. The mistakes are likely to prove sometimes very costly. But I know that some of the dams which have been built by foreign experts have also broken. One of the foremost engineers in the world, Mr. Coyne of France, built a dam in France which gave way last year or the year before last, and it involved the lives of thousands of people. A whole town was washed away and perhaps of the shock, the engineer died after six months. A foreign engineer is not a guarantee against all mishaps. But I would like the engineering fraternity to take note of this fact that when they are building dams and bunds, they are doing something in which the lives and fate of thousands of people are involved. I would say that the Ministry should do everything in its power to see to it that the best hands possible are used and if any mishap happens, the people are fully and adequately compensated.

Mr. Speaker: I shall give an opportunity to each State first and then give a second round if possible. Now, after Maharashtra, I will call U.P. Shri Braj Raj Singh.

Dr. M. S. Aney (Nagpur): After one Member from a State has spoken, will not another Member from the same State get an opportunity to speak? Myself and Shri Goray come from the same State.

Shri Goray: And are of the same view.

Mr. Speaker: The hon. Member has completely misunderstood me. The floods in the various States are under discussion. All sections of the House are interested in this irrespective of party politics. A number of States have been affected. I would like to call upon one Member from each State. In choosing a Member, I shall try to give as much representation as possible to various groups. If there is time, I will give a second opportunity to the same State in the second round.

श्री बजरज सिंह (फिरोजाबाद) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, इस साल की बाढ़ ने उत्तर प्रदेश में बहुत ही भारी बरबादी की है। पिछले दिनों मंत्री महोदय ने इस बारे में जो बयान दिया, उसमें उन्होंने स्वयं स्वीकार किया कि उत्तर प्रदेश में १२६ जानें गई है, लाखों एकड़ भूमि पर फसल नष्ट हो गई है, लाखों लोग बेघरबार हो गये हैं और अब जब मैं आप के सम्मुख बोल रहा हूँ, मेरी सूचना है कि यह संख्या १२६ से बढ़ कर १४५ तक पहुँच चुकी है। सिर्फ उत्तर प्रदेश का सवाल नहीं है, अब इस तरह की स्थिति हो गई है कि जब से सरकार ने बाढ़ को कंट्रोल करने के लिये कुछ कार्यवाही शुरू की है, तब से बाढ़ की गति बढ़ती जा रही है। चाहे उत्तर प्रदेश हो, या पंजाब या महाराष्ट्र या उड़ीसा या दूसरे राज्यों का सवाल हो, हम देवते हैं कि हर साल बाढ़ की प्रगति बढ़ती जा रही है।

Mr. Speaker: I want the Minister also to take note of this. In order that some useful result may be produced, hon. Members may give concrete suggestions. Whatever has happened, the point is how it is to be controlled, etc.

Shri Khushwaqt Rai (Kheri): But we have to point out the real situation

Mr. Speaker: The situation is only a base for the purpose of coming to certain conclusions.

श्री बजरज सिंह : मैं यह निवेदन कर रहा था कि जैसे-जैसे सरकार की तरफ

से बाढ़ को नियंत्रण में लाने की कार्रगुजारी हो रही है, जैसे ही उस की प्रगति बढ़ती जा रही है।

इस सम्बन्ध में पहली बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार इस बात पर विचार करे कि इस का कारण क्या है कि एक तरफ तो सरकार बाढ़ नियंत्रण करने की कार्रगुजारी करती है और दूसरी तरफ बाढ़ अधिक घाती चली जाती है। मुझे लगता है कि इसमें कहीं कोई इस तरह की मौलिक गलती है, सरकार के बाढ़ कंट्रोल करने के तरीके में कोई गलती हो रही है, जिसकी वजह से बाढ़ घा रही है।

उत्तर प्रदेश के सम्बन्ध में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले तीन, चार साल से प्रागरा, अलीगढ़ और बुलन्दशहर के जिलों में बाढ़ घाती है। इस बार भी प्रागरा में बहुत जबरदस्त बाढ़ आई। कुर्जा के पास एक नाला निकलता है, जो कि प्रागे जा कर नदी बन जाता है। उस नदी में पिछले चार साल से इस तरह की जोर की बाढ़ घाती है कि उस के घास-पास का बो, तोन मील का इलाका रेगिस्तान बनता जा रहा है और वहां कोई फसल नहीं होती है। मुझे बताया गया है—और कुछ मैंने अपनी आँखों से भी देखा है—कि सरकार की तरफ से जो विकास कार्य किये जा रहे हैं और नाले डाले जा रहे हैं, उसका मतीजा यह है कि पानी की मात्रा इतनी बढ़ती जा रही है कि वह छोटा नाला उसको नहीं ले सकता है और इस तरह बाढ़ घाने लगती है।

मैं सरकार से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या इस तरह की स्थिति सारे मुक में तो नहीं है। कहीं इस तरह की स्थिति तो नहीं कि विकास का कार्य अनियमित तरीके से हो रहा हो, मुनियोजित तरीके से न हो रहा हो, इस बात का विचार करके न

[श्री बजरज सिंह]

हो रहा हो कि पानी के निकालने की अच्छी व्यवस्था हो ।

जब बाढ़ लगातार आ रही है, तब क्या सरकार की तरफ से इस तरह का उत्तरदायित्व लिया जा रहा है कि बाढ़ की वजह से जो लोग बेघर-बार हो जाते हैं, जिनका सर्वस्व नष्ट हो जाता है, उन लोगों के लिये सरकार अपनी तरफ से कोई प्रबन्ध करेगी, उनकी रोजी-रोटी की व्यवस्था करेगी, उन के गिरे हुए मकानों को फिर से बनवायेगी, उन की खेती नष्ट हो जाने के बाद उनको कोई धन्धा देगी चाहे वह खेती हो, चाहे कोई दूसरा धन्धा हो? जब कभी कोई विपत्ति आती है, तो किसानों के भलावा दूसरे क्षेत्रों में सरकार की तरफ से करोड़ों रुपये खर्च किये जाते हैं । यह दुर्भाग्य था कि देश का बंटवारा हुआ, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप लाखों लोग इस देश में भाये और उन पर सैकड़ों करोड़ रुपया खर्च हुआ । मैं उस की कोई शिकायत नहीं करता हूँ । वह जरूर करना चाहिए था, क्योंकि उस में हमारी ज़िम्मेदारी थी और उस ज़िम्मेदारी की वजह से हमें पूरी तरह से उन लोगों की सहायता करनी चाहिए थी । लेकिन हम देखते हैं कि हर साल करोड़ों किसानों की सम्पत्ति और फसलें नष्ट हो जाती हैं, लाखों घर बरबाद हो जाते हैं । उस को फिर से बनाने के लिये, उन की भूमि को उपजाऊ बनाने के लिये सरकार की ओर से कौन से कारगर कदम उठाये गये हैं? मुझे अफसोस है कि जिन राज्यों में बाढ़ आती है, उनकी असेम्बलीज में इस बारे में बहस होती है, लेकिन उस के बावजूद सरकार की ओर से एक मोटी बात नहीं मानी जा रही है कि जिन के घर-बार बरबाद हुए हैं, उनको फिर से बसाया जायेगा । जब इस तरह की मांग की जाती है, तो सरकार उसको टालती है और उस की तरफ से यह कहा जाता है कि यह सरकार की ज़िम्मेदारी नहीं है, यह तो कुदरत का तमाशा है, यह तो प्रकृति का काम है, इस

में हम कुछ नहीं कर सकते हैं । लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आज-कल जो बाढ़ आ रही है, उनमें कुदरत का कोई हाथ नहीं है—यह सब तो सरकार की गलत योजनाओं की वजह से हो रहा है । इसलिये उस को यह ज़िम्मेदारी, यह उत्तरदायित्व सम्भालना पड़ेगा कि उस की गलतियों की वजह से जो नुकसान हो रहा है, जनता के उस नुकसान को वह पूरा करे ।

मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस तरह का हिसाब लगा रही है कि देश में पिछले साल जो बाढ़ आई, उससे कितने लोगों के घर बरबाद हुए । क्या उस ने इस प्रायय के आंकड़े इकट्ठे किये हैं कि पिछले साल की बाढ़ से देश में कितने लोगों की रोजी छीनी गई और भ्रगर किये हैं, तो उन को कम्पेन्सट करने के लिये, उन को हर्जाना देने के लिये, उन की क्षति-पूर्ति करने के लिये सरकार की ओर से कौन से कदम उठाये गये हैं । इस साल की बाढ़ से जो नुकसान हो रहा है, हुआ है, उस की पूर्ति करने के लिये सरकार की तरफ से कौन से कदम उठाये जाने को हैं, यह बात इस सदन और मुल्क को बताई जानी चाहिए ।

सिर्फ यही नहीं होता है कि बाढ़ से फसल नष्ट हो जाती है और किसानों तथा दूसरे लोगों के घर बरबाद हो जाते हैं, बल्कि कई नई समस्याएँ पैदा होती हैं, बीमारियाँ फैलती हैं, पीने का पानी नहीं रहता है और दूसरी परेशानियाँ होती हैं । जब भी इस तरह की दुर्घटना होती है, तब सड़कों लोग मर जाते हैं, जिन की कोई खबर नहीं लेता है । मेरे यहाँ पचास धादमी हैं, वे मर गये और उन की कोई खबर नहीं है, कोई जानता नहीं है, सूबे की सरकार उन के बारे में नहीं जानती है और अखबारों को पता नहीं लग पाता है । इस प्रकार लोग लगातार मर रां हैं । सरकार के लोग शाब्द सोचेंगे कि देश की धावाही बढ़ रही है और उस को कम करने का वह अच्छा तरीका

होगा। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश की जनता की जिन्दगी के साथ खिलवाड़ करना अच्छी बात नहीं है। जो भी समस्याएँ होंगी कठनाइयाँ होंगी, उन को हल करने के लिये सरकार को सामने घाना चाहिए, उस को साफ कहना चाहिये कि आखिर यह जो कुछ हो रहा है उस को हम दूर करना चाहते हैं, उस की जिम्मेदारी हम भोड़ना चाहते हैं, इस उत्तरदायित्व को सम्भालना चाहते हैं, और जो नुकसान हुआ है उस को हम पूरा करेंगे। मैं निवेदन करूँगा कि सरकार की तरफ से इस तरह की घोषणा हो कि जो लोग बाढ़ के कारण बेघरबार हो रहे हैं उन को काम दिया जायेगा, जिन लोगों के मकान बाढ़ की वजह से गिर गये हैं उन के मकानों को फिर से बनाया जायेगा। यह कोई तरीका नहीं है कि ५ ६०, १० ६०, २५ ६० अनुदान की शकल में दिये जाते हैं। फिर जो रुपये अनुदान की शकल में दिये जाते हैं, क्या मंत्री महोदय कमी इम बान की जांच पड़ताल करते हैं कि जो २५ ६० दिये गये हैं किसी किसान को, वह जो उस को लेने वाला है उन तक पूरा पहुँचता है या नहीं, कहीं ऐसा तो नहीं है कि उस में ५ या १० ६० लोग बीच में हो खा गये हों? यह शिकायतें चलती रहती हैं पर कोई पूछने वाला नहीं है उस अन्याय को जो कि देश की जनता के साथ हो रहा है। चाहे कुदरत कहिये चाहे सरकार की गलत नीतियों के कारण कहिये, जो भी रुपया सरकार की तरफ से दिया जाता है वह उन आदिमियों तक पूरा पहुँच भी रहा है या नहीं जिन को वह दिया जाता है, इस को पूछने वाला कोई नहीं है। ग्राम तीर से ६० प्रतिशत मामलों में यह होता है कि वह रुपया उन लोगों तक पहुँचता नहीं है। इसलिये मैं कहूँगा कि अनुदान का रुपया बढ़ाया जाना चाहिये, काफी मात्रा में अनुदान दिया जाना चाहिये जिससे वे लोग अच्छी तरह अपना पेट पास सकें, कोई रोजी कमाने का साधन बना सकें, या अगर उन के क्षेत्र बरबाद हो गये हैं, बर नष्ट हो गये हैं, तो उस अनुदान से वे अपनी जिन्दगी चला सकें।

इसी के साथ-साथ कुछ ऐसे कारगर कदम उठाये जायें कि जहाँ लगातार पिछले चार पांच वर्षों से ज्यादा पानी था रहा है छोटे नालों और नदियों में वहाँ के लोगों की रक्षा की जाये। क्या कोई ऐसा तरीका नहीं अपनाया जा सकता जिससे कि उन छोटे नालों और नदियों का पानी बड़ी नदियों में इस तरह से डाला जाये जिस से कि लाखों एकड़ जमीन जो बरबाद हो जाती है, हजारों मकान जो गिर जाते हैं हर साल, उन को बचाया जा सके? प्रखिल भारतीय पैमाने पर अगर कोई इस तरह का सर्वेक्षण किया जाये कि जो छोटे नाले, नदियाँ और ड्रेन्स हैं जिन की वजह से बाढ़ें आ रही हैं उन को किस तरह से बड़ी नदियों में डाला जा सकता है, तो मैं समझता हूँ कि लाखों एकड़ भूमि को बचाया जा सकता है, हजारों घरों को बचाया जा सकता है और हजारों प्राणियों को बचाया जा सकता है, इस बाढ़ के प्राक्कमण से जो हर साल हमारे ऊपर होता है। मैं चाहूँगा कि सरकार की तरफ से इस पर गम्भीरता से विचार किया जाये, सरकार देखे कि कहाँ-कहाँ पर उस से गलतियाँ हुई हैं। कहीं ऐसी बान तो नहीं है कि अधिकारियों की गलती से, सरकार की नीतियों की गलती से, अधिकारियों के निरक्षर गलत तरीके से हो रहे हैं, और अगर हो रहे हैं तो फिर उस की जांच-पड़ताल की जानी चाहिये, और जांच-पड़ताल कर के ऐसे लोगों की सजा देनी चाहिये जिन्होंने इस तरह के काम किये हैं। मुझे निश्चित रूप से मालूम है कि कम से कम मेरे इलाके में उत्तर प्रदेश के, बुन्देलखण्ड, अलीगढ़ या इटावा में कुछ नदियाँ इस तरह की हैं जिन में लगातार छोटे-छोटे नाले पड़ते हैं, छोटी नदियाँ गिरती हैं, जिन के कारण बाढ़ें आती हैं और जिन से लाखों एकड़ जमीन बरबाद होती है, हजारों मकान बरबाद होते हैं और बहुत से आदिमियों की जानें भी उन में डूबने से चली जाती हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि देश के अन्य भागों में भी ऐसा ही हुआ है। इसलिये सरकार को कोशिश करनी चाहिये इस को देखने की कि सरकार की नीति की

[श्री ब्रजराज सिंह]

बजह से, विकास कार्यों के सुनियोजित ढंग से न होने के कारण तो कहीं बरबादी नहीं हो रही है। भ्रगर हो रही है तो जिन की गलती से ऐसा हो रहा है, उन के खिलाफ कार्रवाई की जाये। पहले तो इस का इन्तजाम किया जाना चाहिये कि यह चीज न हो, और भ्रगर इस तरह की चीज होती है, बाढ़ आती है, तो लोगों की दवादारू का इन्तजाम होना चाहिये, भोजन का इन्तजाम होना चाहिये और यह देखा जाना चाहिये कि बाढ़ के उतरने के साथ-साथ वहाँ कोई बीमारियाँ तो नहीं फैल रही हैं। मुझे लगता है कि आमतौर से इस पर ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है जिस से कि लाखों की तादाद में आदमी बीमार पड़ जाते हैं और उन की खबर लेने वाला कोई नहीं होता है। जब यह एक वार्षिक बात हो गई है बाढ़ आने की और उस से हजारों अन्य मुसीबतें पैदा हो रही हैं गांवों-गांवों में और सहरो-सहरो में, तो ऐसी स्थायी योजना बनाई जानी चाहिये जिस से कि लोगों का कम से कम नुकसान हो, लोगों को कम से कम हानि हो और वे इन मुसीबतों को अच्छी तरह बर्दाश्त कर सकें।

तो एक तो अनुदान काफी मात्रा में दिया जाये। जिन लोगों के घर गिर जाते हैं और वे बेघरबार हो जाते हैं, उन के घरों को बनाया जाये, बाढ़ के दिनों में उन को बिना मल्य खाना दिया जाये, उन के लिये फी किचेन्स कायम किये जायें, और बाढ़ नियंत्रण के कामों में जो गलतियाँ हों उन को दूर किया जाये। जिन लोगों की गलतियाँ हों उन को सजायें दी जायें, ऐसा इन्तजाम किया जाये जिस से कि भविष्य में बाढ़ आने की आशंका ही न रहे, कम से कम इतने बड़े पैमाने पर न आये और भ्रगर कभी बाढ़ आ भी जाये तो कम से कम उस की ठीक ढंग से सूचना दी जा सके जिस से कि लोगों को अपनी जानें बचाने का मौका रहे। मैं जानता हूँ कि सरकार इस तरह के कदम उठायेगी जिस से कि भ्रगले साल इतने बड़े पैमाने पर बरबादी न हो जितने बड़े पैमाने पर हर साल होती है और जिन लोगों की

बरबादी हो रही है उन की और ज्यादा बरबादी न हो। जिन लोगों की बरबादी हो गई हो, उन क मकान बनाये जायें, उन को ज्यादा अनुदान मिलें और जिन किसानों की फसल बरबाद हुई है उन का लगान माफ हो और उन की भूमि को फिर से उपजाऊ बनाने के लिये कदम उठाये जायें जिस से कि वे अपनी जिन्दगी को नये सिरे से चला सकें।

श्री प्र० सि० वीलता (मज्जर) :
 अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह जो सालाना तूफान या फ्लड का मसला है वह दरहकीकत कौमी तरक्की का एक मसला है।
 What I mean to say is.....

Shri Goray: Now that is better.

Shri P. S. Daulta: ...that crisis of the perennial is the crisis of the growth of the nation. We build roads. We build canals. We build railways and dams. Somewhere a dam gives way and sometimes a town grows up, just as Delhi is growing and naturally the way in which the flow of water used to be is blocked. The way we are progressing, we are creating these problems. So, my first suggestion is that the Central Flood Control Board should have a complete survey throughout India and those survey maps should be provided to all departments, such as, the Canal Departments in the States, to the PWDs and all that. If this is done and there is some co-ordination, there will be use for the Central Board; otherwise it is not utilised properly.

Every flood is tragic. The Poona flood is tragic; the U.P. flood is tragic. The Rohtak flood is tragic. We did not know what would happen in Poona or in U.P., but we did know what would happen in Rohtak after full one year's previous warning. Last year, during these very days we had flood in Rohtak because water from Ambala and Karnal had been diverted to Rohtak and the natural flow of

Rohtak waters which used to go to the *Jamuna* had been blocked because of some industrial estate this side or some the growth of Delhi city. There is colony on that side. In this way water which used to go since the olden days from drain No. 8 or from drain No. 6 has stopped going to the *Jamuna*. That has flooded Rohtak and a part of Delhi.

Last year when the hon. Prime Minister saw all that flooded portion from the air, I was with him. He was pleased to say that floods cannot be stopped, but they can be regulated. He enquired why this water could not go to the *Jamuna*. I said, "because engineers do not want to work and a plan is not accepted." A site plan was drawn up. That is with the Ministry. According to that drain No. 8 will be diverted to the *Jamuna* this way and drain No. 6 will be diverted this way. But for full one year we could not make a drain 16 miles long. Crops worth Rs. 2 crores were ruined last time in Rohtak only. Fortunately, this time water did not enter Rohtak Town and so the flood this year has not got so much publicity as it had last time when water entered the town's streets. Many pressmen and newspapermen had gone there and had taken photographs and Rohtak news would again have come in the front page. But the damage this time is far greater than it was last year. I will request the hon. Minister to have some sort of investigations.

I do not know how this democracy will work. I have doubts now. Everything is done by the military. People are developing an idea that only the military can cope with everything. This civil administration is giving up a poor account of itself. In this way we are endangering democracy itself. For full one year the engineers and all these departments could not have a drain 16 miles long. The Pakistan press laughed at this drain. They used to say through the

radio and the press, what is Government of India, what are they doing, a naia, they could not control. After full one year, we are where we were then. Can't we find who are the men who are guilty for this? Certainly those people who go to the High Court for writs and stand in the way of the digging of this drain are responsible. But, these engineers?

17 hrs.

I accompanied the hon. Minister for Education to my constituency. He was told that the contract was given to the Bharat Sevak Samaj. If this drain work was given to Bharat Sevak Samaj or Sarvodaya Samaj, this was not to be executed. The department should take these things seriously and not please one samaj or another samaj. They should get the work executed through proper agencies.

So far as relief is concerned, I would say one thing. Today, I noticed this from the *Statesman* from Delhi. I speak on behalf of Delhi also because that rural area is adjoining to my constituency. The authorities said, for the last three years, they have been given full concession so far as land revenue or other assessments are concerned, and so they cannot have it this time because they have been given three times. If you go on flooding every year their fields, every year you shall have to give concession. That is no reason that because there were floods in the previous years and so concession cannot be given this year.

I would say that this Rohtak affair is one in which investigation should be done—not judicial but certainly a departmental enquiry, or some Chief Engineer or some big engineer from the Central Board may go and find out what it is that prevented the drain of 16 miles being dug from there up to Jumna.

With these words, I conclude. I thank the hon. Minister who went twice to that area to see that. I would request again that it should be found out who are responsible for this. When

[Shri P. S. Daulta]

they knew last year that this water will come in the rainy season, they could not complete out a scheme which was drawn on plan in one year. There is no hope that they will do it next year also.

Shri Narasimhan (Krishnagiri): The statement of the Minister, laid on the Table some days ago, makes an honest attempt to give a factual report of the whole matter. It is interesting reading. It covers a vast field. In this respect and in so far as floods in the Madras State are concerned, there have been debates in the Madras Assembly and there has been a good deal of newspaper information. There is a general feeling both in the Assembly and outside that the flood damages have been grossly underestimated. I would like the Minister to look into the matter and see whether there has been any such thing. That is the general feeling. Losses have been sustained both by the Government and the people. Probably, the Government have confined themselves to the losses which the Government institutions have suffered.

Shri Tangamani (Madurai): The Madras Government estimated the loss at Rs. 1 crore.

Shri Narasimhan: The other estimate seems to be half a crore. It must be remembered that both the people and the Government have sustained losses. Long term remedies and short term remedies are necessary.

It is high time that we use whatever God in his mercy gives to the southern rivers. The main river is the Cauvery. It is not a jeevanadi as it is called in Sanskrit. It does not flow with water throughout the 365 days of the year. It is full when there is flood and it is dry or semi-dry when there are no rains. Occasionally as it has happened now, God, in his mercy gives more water to test the capacity of the people and the Government, to see whether we utilise those rare opportunities to our bene-

fit or not. If, instead of that, we allow the situation to be converted into great loss or damage, it is really a sorry state of affairs.

The flood in Mettur, this time and the water that passed through Mettur is the highest since the dam was constructed. The dam is there for some decades. This is the record flood in its entire history. The dam happens to be in my district. Actually in my constituency, at a high level, long ago, a dam was thought of. It was even thought that the Cauvery river, with a dam at that site, may be diverted to the River South Pennar, adjoining, some 50 miles away. The engineers then visualised it. Even in the course of the meetings which we had in the consultative Committee, in the papers submitted, this matter is referred to. In the papers of the Ministry, this matter or rather the historical nature of it, has been referred to. It is now suggested both by competent engineers and officials and by statesmen including Shri T. T. Krishnamachari that a dam at Hogenakal, a few miles higher up of Mettur would help conservation of water in the Cauvery during the flood season; and it could also help to easily divert the water to the South Pennar River. The contour is not adverse. It will also act as a kind of safety valve to the Mettur Dam itself. Every time, water is full in the Mettur Dam, though they do not admit, all the engineering authorities are a bit nervous about it; naturally, being the guardians of Government's property and people's party, they are a bit nervous. When the dam capacity is reached or very nearly reached, they just open the shutters, sometimes a little too soon even, in order to be on the safe side. That being so, this suggestion of an additional satellite dam for Mettur Dam should be seriously considered by Government.

There are also necessary measures pending in the Tanjore District itself. There are canals of the Coleroon river

and the Kattalai dam and many other things which are generally affected when water is flowing in such huge quantities. The necessary measures in Tanjore and Tiruchirapalli district should also be taken up at any early date.

In the matter of the use the waters of the Cauvery river, which happens to be a river common to two States, there is a kind of dispute going on. I am referring to the dispute between Madras and Mysore. On this occasion, I request the Ministry to see that an amicable settlement is arrived at between the two States on the question of water distribution and that one or two more dams are built. Now, as a result of the dispute between the two States, the matter is left hanging, and when God in His mercy gives water, we are not able to use it. The Krishnarajasagar dam in the Mysore State was also full of water, and the extra water was allowed to pass. The Mettur Dam was also not able to contain it. Both these dams are not adequate for the purpose. The third and fourth dams are not being constructed because of this dispute partly. I hope that all these disputes would be resolved. Instead of allowing these tragedies to create misery and sorrow, and instead of our making a laughing-stock of ourselves in the eyes of God, it is very necessary that the good offices of the Central Ministry should be used and all the disputes settled, and one or two more dams of a satellite nature built on the Cauvery river.

Mr. Speaker: Now, Shri Surendranath Dwivedy. I wanted to call one Member of the Communist Party from Orissa. Anyhow, I have called Shri Surendranath Dwivedy.

I would like to know which are the States which are affected by floods.

Shri Maniyangadan (Kottayam): Kerala has been seriously affected.

Shri Shankaraiya (Mysore): Mysore also has been greatly affected.

श्री बाल्मीकी (बुलन्दशहर) रचित
अनुचित जातियों : उत्तर प्रदेश में सब से
ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ है ।

Shri S. M. Banerjee: U.P. is a very big State.

Mr. Speaker: Very well, I shall call one Member from Kerala and then from Mysore, and then I shall come again to Orissa.

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy (Kendrapara): I want to place a few facts before the House. Formerly, we were hearing that only States like Orissa were being affected by floods, but now it is an all-India problem. After Independence, probably more States are now affected by floods than before. It is good that although it is a State subject, the Central Ministry has taken some steps to co-ordinate and regulate the activities. But the point is that probably in this country, after Independence, people die more as a result of firing or of floods.

Mr. Speaker: Why does he bring in the question of firing here?

Shri Surendranath Dwivedy: I want to ask the Ministry whether with the experience they have gained in the course of these few years, sufficient attention has been paid in the Third Five Year Plan to see that these damages are reduced. Practically no account has been taken of these dangers because it is admitted that whatever amount of money we may give for development projects, as is said in Orissa, every five years floods come. Whatever development projects are undertaken during five years are washed away by floods. The floods have come almost after five years. We had them in 1955, then in 1960.

So I should have thought that more money would have been provided in this Plan. Actually, in the Second Plan, after it was pruned, out of the Rs. 56 crores that were provided, according to the statement of the Minister, only Rs. 48 crores were spent. I want to know why the Rs. 8 crores were not spent. Was it because the States were not prepared to spend the

[Shri Surendranath Dwivedy]

amount or was it because that in some States where proper investigation had already taken place and they wanted money but it was not provided and so things were not done? In this Plan, only Rs. 61 crores have been provided; actually, we should have made provision for much more than this.

As regards the flood havoc in Orissa concerning the Hirakud Dam and dams of that kind, there has been a doubt in the minds of the people whether such dams actually give protection against high floods. The Minister himself has in the course of his statement admitted:

"There is a general impression that our dams, which were intended to store waters not only for irrigation and generation of power but also to absorb some flood waters have not got adequate cushion to absorb such waters".

Now specially in the case of the Hirakud Dam which is a multi-purpose project, it is feared now that the dam has been silted. I tabled a question on it to the Ministry and the reply given was 'no'. But it has been officially stated in Orissa that the Hirakud Dam is likely to be silted. The deposit of silt is raising the river bed with the result that floods occur even when the rainfall does not exceed the annual average. They say that the floods in the Mahanadi in recent years, including the one earlier this month, were not caused by increased rains.

Now, the dam is being silted up. Secondly, I am told the capacity of the Hirakud Dam to store water is much more reduced. For the sake of power generation, they have to store more water. Therefore, they do not discharge that much water at other times which would have emptied the reservoir, so that they could store more water during the rainy season.

On account of the Chipilima project, this has been done.

I want to ask one question because this has been mentioned in the statement itself and also debated in Orissa. When on the 10th July there were high floods and there was danger of the water reaching the maximum point of the dam, and the dam itself was in danger of being washed away and the engineers wanted the water to be released, the Chief Minister, it is stated, issued orders to the effect that the water be stored in the reservoir. He himself made a radio broadcast on the 9th July or so warning the people about the danger ahead. He ignored the advice of the Chief Engineer. We were lucky that the catchment area did not bring that much of water which was coming previously, but he himself in that very statement said that in spite of their best efforts, they could not do anything, that the dam was going to be washed away, that the people should remove themselves to safer quarters etc. That was his statement. Actually the facts prove that the situation was not as dangerous as all that. In such a situation, what is the attitude of the Government of India?

It is stated that this was prevented, but they have avoided mentioning the name of the Chief Minister. Can a Minister, in such a situation, override and ignore altogether the expert opinion and do whatever he likes, for his political purposes?

Then, especially this year, there is no arrangement for the dam authorities to know how much water is likely to come. It has been stated by the Chairman of the Flood Enquiry Committee which has been set up in Orissa in an interview, that actually this year during the flood threat, only two forecast telegrams were received, one on July 1 and the other on July 12, giving warning of rainfall in the catchment areas. And the real danger was on the 10th July. In between, these people had no information at all.

I want to know whether Government has any arrangement of wireless sets or other methods, so that not only the dam authorities but the people also know that water is likely to come to a certain extent.

Again, the Enquiry Committee itself has said that at present they could know only the inflow into the reservoir because of the gauges provided at different points but were unable to anticipate peak points.

This is a thing which should be seriously considered. The Hirakud Dam, for instance, which was specifically constructed to prevent high floods to Orissa, is practically not serving that purpose, and because of its multi-purpose nature, we are laying more stress on power production, and so people are affected more by the flood, and the danger is much more today because in ordinary times the water is not discharged, and when it comes it comes in high quantities which not only causes damage to the houses and villages, but the people are never warned beforehand.

It has been stated that when these high floods occurred in Orissa, an engineer—his name is Dhir perhaps—immediately visited Orissa and submitted a report to Government. I would like, to know whether in his report he has given a detailed account of the entire development in the fortnight 1st to 15th July, how it occurred etc

It has been admitted by the hon. Minister in reply to a question and by the Governor in his Address to the State Assembly recently, that Hirakud alone will not be able to protect the people of the delta area from floods, that another subsidiary dam which was included in the original Hirakud project, namely the Tikarpara dam, should be constructed. It has been stated in reply to one of my questions that the Enquiry Committee is going into the matter, and as soon they get the report, they will consider it. Let not the Government

make the people think that they will be able to protect the delta with Hirakud dam alone if they are not in a position to do so. I would therefore like to know specifically whether within the allotted amount at their disposal, i.e., Rs. 61 crores provided in the Third Plan, they will be able to provide money to the State of Orissa for constructing the Tikarpara dam. How much time will this Enquiry Committee take to submit its report? Will it be possible to take up Tikarpara Dam within the Plan period?

Lastly, I would again submit that it is high time we reconsider the whole scheme of these multi-purpose dams. Wherever flood protection is the immediate need, we are trying it up with power production and thus the main problem is allowed to be neglected.

About the controversy in that area, I think it will be taken up in the Orissa Assembly. But I am concerned only with this matter whether the Chief Minister should ignore and override the expert opinion in order to suit his political purpose or hobby—in a matter which affects thousands and lakhs of persons. I want a clarification in this matter. I want the Central Government and the Chief Ministers of States to sit together—this has happened in Orissa today and it may happen in other States tomorrow and it will cause any amount of damage to the country and people—and think seriously about it. This is a very serious matter and the Government should apply its mind very seriously to it.

Shri Maniyangadan: Floods are annual occurrences. This year the calamity was terrible and so far as the State of Kerala is concerned, for the last nearly 40 years there was no such calamity. The question is whether these floods could be controlled or whether the damages that occur as a result of these floods could be minimised.

It is true that rains could not be controlled. If we look to Kerala, we

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find that this year there were unprecedentedly heavy rains in the nully areas of Kottayam and Palghat districts. In the Kottayam district the Periyar and Pampa rivers gave rise to very serious damage. There were also land-slides and other things. All these are given in the statement of the Minister and I do not want to repeat them.

But I want to impress upon Government that the flood protection measures that are said to have been taken have not resulted in any benefit. It is said that about Rs. 61 lakhs are included in the Third Plan for flood control measures in Kerala. But, I may submit that unless they are properly examined and scrutinised by experts these measures are not going to benefit the people. A small bund here or a wall there is not going to give any relief. I would submit that in the construction of the power projects in Kerala, especially the Pampa and Idikki schemes, the idea of flood control must also be there. Floods damage the crops of thousands of acres in Kerala. The heavy rains that pour in the western ghats flow down very quickly and go to the coastal regions. It is not flowing into the sea because of the tidal waves. So, all these aspects have to be taken into consideration. We must consider how the water that remains without any outlet to sea during the monsoon season in the low-lying or the coastal regions of Kerala could be discharged into the sea. There is a scheme called the Kuttanad Development Scheme as a part of which the Thottappally spillway has already been completed. A regulator at Thannirmukkam is now under construction. But I would submit that it is moving at a very slow speed. I think this was a scheme which was started in the First Five Year Plan, but hitherto, it has not yet reached completion.

Then, drainage is a very important thing in Kerala. Some scheme must be evolved by which the flood waters

would be controlled and proper drainage could be arranged; in the lowlying regions of Kerala near the coast, there are thousands of acres of land lying below sea-level and cultivation is conducted there. Water is being pumped out for cultivation every year. If proper steps are taken to control the floods and conserve the water which could be let out in summer, two crops could be raised there. So, proper care ought to be taken to see that the water which the rain brings is properly conserved and used. The water that Nature gives us should be properly utilised and the richness of the country could be enlarged.

I do not want to go into the question of damages that were caused by the floods. But I may submit here that unprecedented damage has been caused this year. Thousands of families have been rendered homeless. Hundreds of lives were lost. Of course, the State Government immediately went to the rescue, and I have to congratulate the Kerala Government and the Kerala State for the immediate and prompt steps taken in regard to the relief measures. The Prime Minister also has contributed considerable sums from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund for the relief measures, and on behalf of the people of Kerala, I shall utilise this opportunity to convey to him through the House the gratitude of the people there.

I may submit that the Pampa and Periyar valley schemes, besides other rivery valley schemes, must also be taken up separately and proper schemes for the purpose of controlling the floodwaters taken up. The waters must be preserved and utilised not only for the present scheme for power production but must be utilised for other purposes. Schemes must be evolved so as to cater for all such needs.

Next, I may turn to another problem that is peculiar to Kerala. That

is the problem of sea erosion. Sea erosion in Kerala has now converted about more than a furlong of land into sea throughout the length of the coast. This has been continuing for several years. Of course, effective steps were started only very recently. This is a peculiar problem of Kerala. It is so serious that the whole burden should not be left to the Kerala Government alone to be tackled. In a statement made by the Minister, it is said that as the benefits from flood control, drainage and anti-waterlogging schemes sometimes overlap and cannot strictly be confined to one single purpose, it has been decided that schemes for flood control, drainage and anti-waterlogging and also anti-erosion should form one group in the State Plan under the head, "Irrigation and Power." I can understand schemes for flood control, drainage and anti-waterlogging being clubbed together and brought under irrigation and power. But I cannot understand how this anti-sea erosion work comes under this scheme. I stress this, because the problem is so immense that the resources of Kerala are not sufficient to provide any effective remedy against that. The coastline of Kerala is about 400 miles and it is estimated even in the booklet published by the Government themselves that more than 200 miles of the coastline are to be protected from sea erosion. For that sea walls and groynes have to be constructed and the estimate is said to be Rs. 15 lakhs per mile.

In the second Plan, some money was allotted for that. In the third Plan, it is said that about 25 miles of the coastline would be protected by construction of sea walls and groynes. Out of the 200 miles that have to be covered, a small portion of the work is being done and the whole cost is now borne by the State Government. I understand the State Government also on several occasions requested the Central Government to share at least a portion of these expenses.

I submit that this anti-sea erosion work should not be clubbed with the other schemes of flood control. This is not a question of flood control. This is a portion of the country being eaten away by the sea every year. In the north it is China attacking India and in the south we find the sea slowly eating away portions of our Motherland. I submit it is a national problem, the prevention of which could not be done by the State Government alone and it should not be clubbed with flood relief and other measures. It should be considered as a national problem and the Central Government should take it up as a Central subject.

In the Minister's statement, it is said that water resources development including flood control is a State subject. But anti-sea erosion work is not a State subject; it does not come under water resources development or flood control. It is actually a question of defence of territory. The resources of the State Government are not sufficient to meet the problem and so it has to be met by the Central Government. I am told the State Government has requested that 50 per cent of the expenses should be met by the Centre.

Even last year, several areas were eaten away by the sea. Near Manassery near Cochin, the sea has been advancing by about 100 to 150 feet during the monsoons and receding by 80 to 130 feet with the result that we lose 15 to 30 feet every year. This is a very thickly populated area. Coconut plantation is very abundant there and there are also paddy lands. Moreover, there is the railway line and the highways run along this area. If this is allowed to continue, the safety of all the valuable institutions in the coastal strip and the interests of the inhabitants will be jeopardised. Last year, the Calicut-Mangalore railwayline was threatened with serious danger due to heavy erosion at Thalal. So, this is a very serious problem. It has to be viewed with all the seriousness that it deserves by the Central

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Government and the State Government should be given adequate aid for the prevention of this erosion.

Mr. Speaker: Shri Shankaraiya—that finishes one round. Then I will call the Deputy Minister and after that other hon. Members.

श्री बाल्मीकी : अष्टम महोदय, इस के पहले कि माननीय सदस्य कुछ कहें, मैं आपसे प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि मेरे क्षेत्र में, खास तौर से बुलन्दशहर में फ्लड से विशेष हानि हुई है। उस पर नें थोड़ा सा प्रकाश डालना चाहता हूँ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : मैं आपको अवकाश दूँगा।

Ch. Ranbir Singh (Rohtak): The same with my place.

Mr. Speaker: I will call all hon. Members who are interested.

Shri Shankaraiya: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is most unfortunate that Mysore has been the victim of flood havoc in an unprecedented manner this year. It is not for the first time that Mysore is experiencing this flood havoc. But the damages have been very serious this time, and the Government is in the full know and possession of all the facts. As regards relief works, rehabilitation works and other things, I am not going to say anything. The Central Government will in consultation with the Mysore Government give adequate relief to the flood victims and help in rehabilitating them to the greatest extent possible. The Mysore Government by itself is not able to give all the relief and rehabilitate them, it is only the Central Government that can do it and the Central Government should be liberal enough.

As regards control of floods, fortunately—or unfortunately—Mysore has been in a happy position to give birth to most of the important rivers in the south—Cauveri, Tungabhadra and Krishna.

Coming to the river Cauveri, it is said that the water of Cauveri is utilised to the last drop and very many dams and anicuts have been constructed. In Mysore there is the Krishnarajasagar. It is meant more for irrigation and also for control of floods. Unfortunately, it is not enough. In Madras we have the Mettur Dam, Bhawani and other things. In addition to these, there are other tributaries coming to Cauveri—Hemavti and Kabini. Although the Government has recently constructed one dam, in Kabini, the havoc that has been caused in Mysore is such that it is irreparable. Many lands have been washed away. Besides standing crops and villages being washed out, many lands have been scored out, many families have been ruined and they are not in a position to make a living. Unless some relief is given by the Central Government by way of giving them land, giving them habitation and other things, it will be impossible for them to make a living.

One suggestion I would make in this connection, before I go to the other points, is that most of the villages on the banks of this river Cauveri should be asked to vacate because—this is not only the first time—from 1924 onwards, when there was the heaviest floods in the whole of India,—subsequently also every three or five years we are having these floods, in 1953 also many villages on the banks of this Cauveri were washed out and there was considerable damage which resulted in a good deal of discussion in the local Assembly—these villages have been suffering whenever there were floods. This time it was on an unprecedented scale and the havoc done cannot be estimated at all.

The Mysore Government has got many schemes in order to make use of this water. There has been agreement between Madras and Mysore Governments. Unfortunately, on account of friction between these two

Governments many of the schemes have been stopped. The Mysore Government has sent up several schemes—Harangi, Kambadakada at Coorg, river Lakshmana Tirth, Hemavati etc. All these have been held up. If these schemes had not been held up, not only much of the wasteland could have been brought under cultivation but the flood catastrophe could have been averted to a great extent because of diverting the water through different channels much havoc could not have been done to Mysore. It is not only Mysore, Madras also has been affected thereby. I wish to request the Central Government to see that some kind of agreement is brought about between the Mysore Government and the Madras Government to see that the water is utilised in the best interests of the whole country. It will be not merely in the interests of Mysore; it will be to the benefit of the whole country; if the land is made cultivable and paddy and other crops are grown, it will ensure to the benefit of the whole of India. Therefore, many of the schemes which have been withheld should be sanctioned immediately and given effect to.

Coming to Tungabhadra and the rivers adjoining Bombay, considerable havoc has been done this year to Dharwar district. My hon. friend, Shri Datar, the Minister of State for Home Affairs, knows the whole thing, because he comes from the adjoining area and his constituency has also been greatly affected by the floods. Some schemes for this river have been submitted by the Mysore Government and I hope Government will do the needful in the matter.

Coming to the Krishna waters, 75 per cent of it is in Mysore State. Though so many schemes about this river have been submitted to the Central Government, not even one scheme has been sanctioned. Unless some measure is taken to control floods at the catchment area itself, they will not be able to control the floods havoc in other parts. Now,

not only is the water allowed to be wasted, but the catchment area suffers on account of unprecedented floods. On account of the differences between Andhra State and Mysore State, these schemes are being held up and as a result of that Mysore is suffering a great deal. The sufferers are not only Mysoreans but others also, for we are the citizens of India and we are equally interested in the progress of Andhra. But Mysore should get at least a fair share of development. Let it not be allowed to suffer on account of floods and other things when others are allowed to utilise its waters. Of course, we are not grudging giving help to others. Andhra is equally a part of India. So, let things be done in a way which is satisfactory to both and is in the interests of the country. Let the differences between the two States not come in the way of the execution of the river valley schemes. Let the Central Government take a strong attitude and see that the matter is settled amicably. There is no use waiting for the report of the Gulati Commission which has been appointed. All the facts are in possession of the Government. If only some action has been taken in the Second Plan period itself, these floods could have been controlled to a very great extent. So, I would request the Central Government to see that many of the schemes which have been submitted by the Mysore Government, and Mysore has been the victim of the greatest floods this time, are sanctioned immediately so that at least hereafter such floods are prevented.

Even today we are hearing news of heavy rainfall in Coorg. Water level is rising in both Hemavati and Cauveri. I do not know when it will end. When the fury of the Gods is visiting Mysore, if the Central Government also is not favourable to us, especially when it is a State which has given birth to so many important rivers, and if we are allowed to suffer like this, I do not know what we can do. So, I hope that the Central Government will come to some quick

[Shri Shankaraiya]

understanding and will bring about pacification between Madras and Andhra on the one hand and Mysore on the other so that these things are settled quickly.

Mr. Speaker: I am now calling on Shri Hathi. Other hon. Members will be called the next day.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: I have to move my motion today.

Mr. Speaker: Yes, he may.

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: I have to move that motion because both the motions are to be taken up together. So, I beg to move:

"That in view of the experience gained from floods of 1959, 1960 and 1961, the flood-controlling capacity of the Hirakud Dam be taken into consideration with a view to take necessary flood-control measures in the Third Five Year Plan to control floods in Mahanadi."

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): Sir, I am thankful to you for drawing the attention of the hon. Members to the fact that it will serve a useful purpose if they put concrete suggestions which could be taken into consideration by the Government, rather than dealing with individual flood-affected areas. I am also thankful to hon. Members for putting actually concrete suggestions, how they could be considered and should be considered by the Government. I am therefore not dealing with individual States or with individual areas, but from the speeches of hon. Members I have jotted down the various suggestions which they have put forward and which need be considered.

In a general way the first suggestion that was made by Shri Goray and Shri Dwivedy was about the efficacy of the dams that we are constructing. A point was made out whether the dams that are being

constructed as multi-purpose dams serve the purpose of floods protection or whether they are utilised for irrigation and power and flood protection benefits are sacrificed at the cost of either generation of power or of irrigation. That is really an important point which has to be considered. We have thought that flood protection benefit which has been estimated at the time of constructing a dam should not be sacrificed at the cost of power generation or of irrigation. We are also thinking whether in future if we think that more head or more level of the reservoir is required for power generation we could not construct a dam of a higher height so that the purpose for which the dam is built, namely, flood protection, is not sacrificed at the cost of generating power. That is an important point which Shri Dwivedy has made out. I may say that the Flood Enquiry Committee has been appointed in Orissa.

17:48 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

Shri Chintamoni Panigrahi: Can you raise the height of the Hairakud Dam?

Shri Hathi: I am dealing with all the points including Shri Panigrahi's which he has raised. We have appointed the Flood Enquiry Committee in Orissa. That committee will look into this question, namely, whether it is sufficient cushion. As hon. Members know, originally the reservoir level was to be kept at 590 feet. Then for power generation we thought that it might go up to 610 ft. That means the cushion was reduced by 20 feet in order to have more power. Whether we could not generate more power by another thermal plant and keep the reservoir level at 590 feet only or not could be considered. If we could not raise the height of the dam now, we could find out another way. But this is a matter which the Committee will look into.

I am only mentioning the general points raised and not individual projects. The second point raised in this particular case was about the other dam at Tikrapara. About that also the Orissa Government has asked the Central Government and the Central Water Power Commission is investigating into this particular dam because that will, in that case, lessen the flood damage in Orissa. So that is one important point which was made by Shri Goray and Shri Dwivedy.

The other important point was made about haphazard flood planning and that there should be a planned planning for flood protection. That is another point which has been seriously considered by the Government. We think that the emergency measures or short-term measures which we have taken up to now are for the purpose of giving immediate relief so far as embankments or other measures in the villages are concerned. But, as we have mentioned in the statement, real benefit would accrue if there is one plan for one river basin. The whole river basin has to be investigated. A long term plan, as we have stated as early as 1954 is the only remedy, that is, one plan for one river basin.

That leads to another problem. There are inter-state rivers. All the States may not be interested in flood protection. Therefore, we have thought of establishing River boards. Whenever there are inter-State rivers, there should be a Board which would look to the development of the basin as a whole, would investigate into the various flood protection, irrigation and power projects, soil conservation and everything. Then, they should prepare one scheme which would be a real remedy. Otherwise, haphazard schemes would mean, an embankment in one place might adversely affect another area. That should be avoided. It is for that purpose that about 8 months ago, we have already taken action and we thought of establishing six major River boards for the major river systems in the country. That

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would give the real solution, of course, in addition to the benefits that have accrued as a result of the short-term measures.

Then, the third point was the silting of reservoir. I may say that the Hirakud reservoir is not being silted as rapidly as is the information of the hon. Member. Even then, it is necessary that oil conservation will have to be taken up immediately. Unless you take these soil conservation measures, there is every possibility that the reservoir would be silted up earlier than it is seen today. It is necessary that the River boards should take up soil conservation. Apart from measures in the Mahanadi Catchment area, soil conservation work has to be taken up. That is an important suggestion which we have already taken into consideration and on which we have already started action.

The other point that was raised by the hon. Member from Punjab was the question of drainage. This question is as important as checking or training the river. Because, if there is no proper drainage, the water which collects in one area goes to the other area and it does not find room and it is all inundated. Taking the example of Kerala, 82 inches of rain in one particular place in one month was experienced, while the average rainfall was only 23 inches, with the result that the low-lying areas were all inundated. There was no proper drainage. In addition to that, there were high tides in the sea which stopped the water from the land going into the sea. Both these things combined and that was the main reason why there were heavy floods in Kerala this year. The heaviest flood was recorded in 1924. Kerala did not experience this sort of flood after that. Unless you have proper drainage, training of rivers or building embankments would not help Kerala. All the co-ordinated actions have to be taken simultaneously. Therefore, drainage by itself is an important major flood protection measure. In

[Shri Hathi]

the past, we have sanctioned a number of drainage schemes. Of course, each State has its own problems. We cannot have one remedy for all the States.

For example, in Orissa, this year's flood was not there because of not having a dam. On the contrary, I should say that the dam prevented excessive floods in the delta. But for the dam, the damage would have been much more. It is the flood resisting capacity of the dam that has definitely saved a major portion of Orissa. But for that, perhaps the whole of 15 lakh cusecs would have flown right into the delta and would have damaged the whole area. Therefore, each area has its own problem.

Shri Goray raised another point. It was that we have spent crores of rupees and still they are wasted in two or three days floods. I may however assure the House that the flood protection measures which we have up to now taken have not failed except in two or three cases. I can cite the example of Dibrugarh. We have seen how Brahmaputra was devouring that city. At every wave, 10,000 or 15,000 cubic feet of land fell down. The amount of Rs. 4 crores which have been spent on Dibrugarh has protected that area. I may also remind the House that the Dalaighat Spur has distinctly protected the area concerned. There is no doubt about that. If there is a bit of breach somewhere here or there, that is a different matter.

Coming to the flood protection measures, I can say that the measures that we have taken have protected the area. It is a different matter that we have not been able to cover the whole country and protect the whole area. For example, in U.P. it has not been possible to tame all the rivers, and to have all the embankments that we wanted; and, for some time perhaps, it may not be possible, and, therefore, it may even take time to protect this whole area. So far as

the works that have been carried out, however, are concerned, we can say that by and large, the works have proceeded well, and they have given us benefit.

Then, my hon. friend referred to the Jamuna and the present breach which has naturally been attracting the attention of everybody. It may be mentioned that in 1955-56, as a result of the heavy floods, the whole of Shahadara was in danger. Then, a bund was constructed in 1956, with the result that Shahadara was saved. Then, we raised a marginal bund at a cost of Rs. 15 lakhs on the left-hand side, and that has given protection to the Shahadara village. What has happened this time is this. There is no breach in the Shahadara bund or in this marginal bund. But, as hon. Members of the House are perhaps aware, there is a river Hindon which is utilised for supplying additional water to the Jamuna in winter, and that has cut through. Right from the Delhi railway bridge up to the Okhla weir there is a bund. At the end of this, there is a regulator and then an earthen bund. This bund is being maintained by the U.P. Government. On the night of the 20th August, there was heavy rain, and there was heavy wind; and because of wind action,—it was not the Shahadara bund that gave way, but—the regulator there and the earthen dam attached to that portion gave way, and water entered into that cut; that water then pushed against the other bund, and some breaches were made in that embankment, with the result that there was danger to the colony; but the breaches were immediately plugged.

श्री बास्मीकी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस प्वाइंट को हिन्दी में कहने की कृपा करें ताकि मैं भी समझ सकूँ और बुलन्दशहर जिले में बाढ़ द्वारा हालि पर प्रकाश डाल सकूँ।

Shri Hathi: That had also affected the Bulandshahar district. Probably that is what my hon. friend wants to point out.

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : जो वह बोल रहे हैं उसको आप समझते हैं।

श्री बाल्मिकी : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आप की आज्ञा से थोड़ा सा निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि बुलन्दशहर जिले में बाढ़ से भारी हानि हुई है।

उपाध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य बोलने का समय मांग रहे थे तो उन को कह दिया गया था कि परसों उनकी बोलने का अवसर दिया जायेगा। अभी तो मंत्री महोदय को अपनी बात समाप्त कर लेने दी जाये।

Ch. Ranbir Singh: The hon. Member wants the hon. Minister to speak in Hindi.

Shri Hathi: This had affected certain villages, about 20 villages in the Bulandshahar district of U.P.

Ch. Ranbir Singh: Shri Balmiki wants the speech to be made in Hindi.

Shri Hathi: When the Shahadara bund was constructed, eight villages from Delhi had to be shifted; necessary grants and loans were given to the people to shift, and all other precautions were taken then. Even now, relief measures have been taken. The people who have been marooned are being shifted to the higher places, and all steps are being taken in this regard.

The other point which my hon. friend Shri Braj Raj Singh had raised was in regard to the giving of financial assistance. He asked 'Of course, the floods come. But what about the poor people? What about drinking water? What about medicine? What about water supply? What about the

repair of their houses?' I may draw the attention of hon. Members to the fact that the State Governments are giving financial assistance to the extent of fifty per cent. for giving grants for all these purposes. And all the points raised by my hon. friend are therefore covered. For example, he asked 'What about work to these people? What about doles? What about relief works? Nobody gives them anything' and so on. But I would like to point out that the State Governments are entitled to spend money for this, and 50 per cent. of this will be given by the Centre as financial assistance.

18 hrs.

Hon. Members will be interested to know what are the things for which Central assistance is given. There are concessions in regard to the supply of food. He was asking about food supply—either cooked or otherwise. There is weekly cash payment for purchasing necessaries, including food. Then there are cash doles, free or concessional supply of seeds, free or concessional supply of fodder, free or concessional supply of medicine, measures for prevention of cattle epidemics, provision of drinking water, where necessary, provision of transport facilities for goods to be moved and repairs to houses damaged by floods, subject to a maximum of Rs. 300. Then there is expenditure on test relief works undertaken preferably as an alternative to gratuitous relief.

These are things touching the common man. When people are affected, people ask, what about their houses, what about their food, how do they get medicine and so on. These are the various items in respect of which cash assistance is given by the State, and 50 per cent of the expenditure is borne by the Central Government.

Another question raised was about the Cauvery waters dispute between Madras and Mysore. This is a big

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question. I only wish to say one sentence about it. The Minister of Irrigation and Power has met both the Chief Ministers and they have agreed to work out a settlement between themselves.

The other point raised by Shri Goray and also by Shri Surendranath Dwivedy was about forecast or warning about floods. That is also an important issue. We have issued instructions and we have taken steps to that effect. In cases where this is not being done, there should be an efficient service for pre-warning, because whenever there is likely to be flood in the lower area people should be told so that even if we cannot minimise the danger, at least people would be warned so that they could shift to higher areas.

We have also issued instructions to the States concerned that there should be a co-ordinating officer to whom all the information should be passed on. He would be there all the time during the flood season so that in times of calamity he can be there to attend to all the needs of the people concerned.

These are the general points which hon. Members raised to which I wanted to reply.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker: This discussion will be continued day after tomorrow.

18.04 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, August 29, 1961/Bhadra 7, 1883 (Saka).

