

insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM : I withdraw the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : The Bill is withdrawn.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is a victory for the people of India.

15.13 hrs.

#### DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

##### Re: Heavy Loss of Lives and Property Due to Natural Calamities - *Contd.*

MR. SPEAKER : Now further discussion on the heavy loss of lives and property due to natural calamities. Shri Uddhab Burman to speak.

hrs. 15.14

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. Do not stand in the aisles.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN (Barpeta) : Last time I talked about the ecological changes in the area. Erosion is one of the important and damaging things. Along with the floods, erosion, not only in the Brahmaputra River but also in its tributaries, has eaten up the cultivable land in the State. Cultivable land is on the decrease. This is creating problem in our State every year. I should necessarily request the Central Government to come forward with the implementation of the Master Plan already prepared by the Brahmaputra Board. . . *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please maintain silence.

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are already drought and floods in different parts of the country. There is flood in Kerala and Gujarat. Midnapur district of West Bengal is also being flooded. Gujarat is practically under the damaging impact of floods. But, what is seen is that the Government is not taking up proper natural disaster management measures. They are completely and practically neglected.

It is said that in the Eighth Five Year Plan, an amount of Rs. 9.00 crore is allocated for Natural Damage Management Programme. But it is seen that an amount of Rs. 2.69 crore has been spent for disaster management. This practically reflected the lethargic

attitude of the Central Government. The objective of the disaster management is to create awareness among the people regarding natural calamities. But the same is completely neglected by the Central Government and other State Governments.

I request that while we are observing the International Decade of Natural Disaster Reduction, the Central Government should come forward to see that the people are educated. Let them be aware of the disaster potentialities of a certain natural calamities.

Assam is in a seismic zone where earthquakes are very much frequent. Fear is there in the minds of the people of Assam because of the impact of earlier earthquake. Shri Negi, a famous geo-physicist maintained that every 100 years there will be a revisit of earthquake. There was an earthquake in Assam in 1897. Proper attention should be given to Assam and the North-Eastern Region to see that the people are educated. I would, naturally, ask the Government to see that preventive measures are taken against the potential danger of earthquake in this area and to see that people are educated regarding the danger of probable earthquakes in this area.

I had already mentioned this in the beginning of my speech. I have said that natural disasters like flood, erosion, earthquake, etc. have been creating a havoc not only for the present but they are also creating problems for future development. They are causing damage to the crops, infrastructure etc.

What is seen in Assam is frequent floods, frequent erosions. It is typical of this region. There is a lurking fear among the people, particularly cultivators, because whatever they produce is washed out in the floods. If we do not take preventive flood control measures and also prevent erosion, we will continue to suffer practically A sense of passivity and frustration prevails.

There is already a lot of discontentment among the people of Assam and of the Northeast because of the neglect of this region during the last five decades. This discontentment is unfortunately utilised by the extremist forces and they are creating a lot of problems. In the Fiftieth Year of our freedom, when the entire country and the House is celebrating, we should think of the price that we are paying for the neglect of this region in our economy and development in the control of flood and erosion. We have paid a lot of price for the neglect in the last 50 years. In the Fiftieth Anniversary of Independence, I think, the Central Government should be more sensitive to the feelings of the people throughout the country, particularly the Northeast. I am glad that the Prime Minister of our country has taken some interest in the Northeast and declared a sum of Rs. 6100 crore for the development of Northeast. He has also promised Rs. 500 crore for the

[Shri Uddhab Barman]

control of flood in the river Brahmaputra and erosion. But this is not enough. If only flood control is there and other things like water management is not taken up, whatever potentials which are there will not be fully utilised and the scheme would not see the progress.

So, I request the Central Government — because the State Governments of Northeast including the Assam Government are not in a position to financially manage the projects — to fund the projects already declared by the Brahmaputra Board. Therefore, I request the Central Government to come forward to implement the projects cleared by the Brahmaputra Board so that this will not only control floods and soil erosion but also generate a lot of hydro electric power. In this respect, again I request the Central Government to be sensitive to the feelings of Assam and to solve the problem since most of the people of Assam are peasants. They can cultivate a lot of land not only for the economic development of Assam but also to the national development. This will bring forward a new era for the entire country. The people of Assam also can say that they are not backward; they are not deprived; they are not discriminated and they are part and parcel of this great country. For building a New India, we can also contribute a lot.

I request the Central Government to take not only temporary measures for the control of flood and erosion, not only giving minimum relief in the name of national fund for calamity relief but they should take comprehensive measures. These temporary measures touch only the fringe of the problems. Comprehensive measures should be taken throughout the country which will go a long way to mitigate the problem of the people of this country including Assam.

There is also drought situation prevailing in certain parts of the country. Kalahandi people in the State of Orissa are practically on the streets. A lot of people are suffering because of drought situation. It is our fault. It is a criminal neglect. We are committing the crime of neglect for the creation of the drought situation. We should try to minimise it so that the crime is negated. The Central Government should come forward with a comprehensive measures so that the entire problems are taken care of. Mere discussion will not solve the problem. Discussion should be held; but that alone does not solve the problem unless some policy decision is taken and implemented.

I hope the Central Government will come forward with comprehensive measures so that flood erosion and drought situations can be controlled and people are saved from the ravages of the national calamities.

With these words, I conclude and thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA (Chhindwara) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, yesterday my friend Shri Prahlad Patel spoke at length about the earthquake in Jabalpur. I do not want to discuss it again. But I want to attract the attention of the House to a matter of greater concern. It is unfortunate for Madhya Pradesh to have such a Government and also such a Chief Minister. . . (Interruptions) Sir, the Government of Madhya Pradesh presented the Prime Minister from coming to study the impact of the earthquake. The Prime Minister said that he wanted to go early but the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh stopped him saying there were elections of his party at that time. 'You please stop, we will study the influence of the earthquake later, the Finance Minister at the Centre is saying that the report for assistance from the World Bank which was to come in the prescribed proforma from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, has not come, they have not sent it. The Government of Madhya Pradesh is of the opinion that the Finance Minister at the Centre is telling a lie and the Finance Minister says the same for the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh. The Government of Madhya Pradesh has still not been able to assess the total loss caused by this earthquake. Two months have elapsed but nothing has been done.

I want to attract your attention to this dangerous problem. There was a time when modern physics had not developed, at that time an engineer called Bhagirath brought the Ganges to India by cutting the Himalayas, and with its streams, provided water to this nation. Today it's the era of physics. Sir, Shri Mishra would say that it's not my subject. There have always been issues of floods in Assam, Bihar and Gujarat since pre-independence days to the present post-independence days. Orissa has droughts. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, through yourself I want to draw the attention of Hon. Minister to the issue of establishing a National Water Grid, which has been there from the pre-independence days. But today even that issue is no more. Today our very assets, our wealth, our natural boons have become a terrifying bane for us. I want to ask Hon. Minister as to where the issue of establishing National Power Grid has disappeared? Today the discussion is rather about bringing the foreign companies into insurance sector.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI (Kutch) : Shri Patwa, please take up the issue of narmada in Gujarat as well.

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : Where is that National Grid? Shall we be facing such calamities every year and these temporary arrangements will also continue? I want to ask the Government as to why don't they make some

solid arrangements? From which Government should we expect something? This is the Government whose Prime Minister says, 'Oh God! I am helpless. I am ashamed to be the Prime Minister.' Then before whom could we go to cry? The condition of Madhya Pradesh Government is strange and still strange is the condition of this Government. There is drought somewhere, somewhere floods, and somewhere earthquakes here. Shri Mishra is a learned man and a communist. He must have read the book Das Capital written by Karl Marx. I am sure he must have read Kautilya's Arthashastra as well. And am sure that he has read Bhartharis Neeti Shatak too.

15:31 hrs.

[SHRI P.C. CHACKO *in the Chair*]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, may I know whether there is any scientific knowledge in this country? We want to run this country on foreign loans. Fifty years have elapsed while running this country with the same attitude. Now we have arrived at this juncture. Shri Mishra belongs to the Communist Party. So he might have somehow studied the Vedas also. That is in his blood. Can these natural calamities be prevented? Did our scholars suggest any measures to prevent these calamities? Why do we shy away from looking back at our sages, saints and thinkers who enlightened this country and the world with their knowledge after spending their lives at the river sides, hermitages and in the forests. Unfortunately our generation is so blank that it has forgotten the wealth and honour of our ancestors. The average rustic farmer in the village can visualise an earthquake, rains, famine after looking at the flickering of birds. This much general science is available with us.

Our learned friends were discussing Gujarat. Government of India had entrusted the job of finding facts about the apprehensions regarding future earthquakes in the Narmada river valley to the Technology Department of California Institute of Technology by giving it an amount of Rs. four crores. An inspection was carried out before the design of the dam was ready. There are great scholars in the foreign countries. Inspection was carried out through this American institute guaranteed that this area would never experience an earthquake measuring more than four on the Richter scale. One of our scholars from Indore Shri Ram Srivastava published it in an article in 1987.

[English]

"Monitoring of seismic activity was traced in 1987."

[Translation]

The American scholar carried out the inspection and said that this area would not have an earthquake

measuring beyond four on the Richter scale. This very basin of Narmada, this section of Jabalpur with 5-6 districts had its impact. As per the study carried out by the international seismic Network, its intensity was 5.8 on the Richter scale. This was the intensity of the earthquake. There would not be an earthquake beyond four on Richter scale as per the design of the Narmada Dam; which means it was 1.5 Richter more than that. The design of the dam is such that it can bear 6 on Richter scale and this earthquake was only 5.6 on the Richter scale. Had it crossed 6 Richter scale mark, what would have been the condition of this dam and the area surrounding it? It needs reconsideration. Sardar Sarovar, Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar, Maheshwar, Bargi, Varna, Dawa all these big dams are there in that area. There is Ambadoga, Neshwarpur in Sardar Sarover dam area where the rocks have vertical faults that will have the water go down to cause earthquakes, how will you assess its gravity? That's why its reexamination is necessary. In spite of it 1994 a portion of the foundation collapsed in water and also carried away a rock with it. Two inch thick iron rod melted just like wax. We have had such an experience. There are seven hills called Kauriya near the Narmada river in Devas district of Madhya Pradesh. These hills are made of crores of 20-30 metre long quadrangular, pentagonal, hexagonal, octagonal beams of thousands of tonnes. They are said to have volcano tunnels underneath. In the light of recent discoveries does the Government feel the necessity to reexamine it? Let there be dams, utilisation of water, establishment of National Grid, and let every drop of rain give us our national wealth to bring happiness to the country, as we have the knowledge, the science and technology here. We always discuss and were discussing yesterday also. Yesterday, Shri Hazarika was talking about Assam. My request is that whatever urgent measures are there, they be taken up and with full potential.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, yesterday only our colleague Prahlad ji was saying that when the Prime Minister went there to take stock of the situation, a woman constable in her civil dress was made a part of the crowd at behest of the Chief Minister. She was asked to say that relief work is being undertaken so that the Chief Minister could get a pat on his back from the Prime Minister. But the fact is known to the entire press and public that the area has suffered a loss of nearly five to six thousand crores of rupees. Six districts have suffered heavy losses due to the earthquake which includes Jabalpur and Mandla or the most affected districts. As my colleague Prahlad ji has told us it was a summer night, people were sleeping outside their mud and thatched houses which reduced possibility of, otherwise a heavy casualty. So far as Latoor district

[Shri Sunder Lal Patwa]

was concerned. that time it was under the grip of chilly cold and people were sleeping inside their pucca houses. That was why, thousands of persons lost their lives and much attention was paid towards the district. Though the number of people died in Mandla was for less there was much loss of property. Mandla happen to be a tribal district. 95 percent population of Mandla is tribal. All the MPs and MLAs belonging to that belt are tribals. None are non-tribals. Non-tribal people constitute hardly five to ten percent population of Mandla. In view of their poor economic condition and living standards it is a fact that loss of even a thatched and mud house is loss of everything for these people. So far nobody had visited the area. It was when my friends and Shri Prahlad Patel raised the issue and made much hue and cry, only then the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh woke up and visited the area.

Mr. Chairman, Sir I will not take much time, but I would like to draw your attention towards a couple of issues or so. I support the move for construction of Narmada dam and full utilisation of its water. My friends from Gujarat may remember that when there was BJP rule in Madhya Pradesh and I was the Chief Minister, the pace of disposal of work was at its best in both states. Chimanbhaai is no more with us today. He belonged to a different party, but in spite of that he welcomed every suggestion given by me in respect of rehabilitation. There was great coordination between us. We undertook every work very expeditiously. But unfortunately the present government in Madhya Pradesh held up all works. A review should also be done on the risks mentioned in the survey report of the California Institute of Technology, otherwise this boon may turn out as a curse even bigger than Koyna for us one day. We must pay attention towards this, otherwise our future generation may not forgive us on this score.

Due notice should be taken of the danger forewarned for different places including Dewas and Sardarpur. Mr. Chairman, Sir, have we ever thought of the the basic reasons as to why those natural calamities occur? Nature is not a curse, it is a boon. Nature has created the human being. Nature wants the human being to live provided he does not disturb the nature. After all what sins we have committed during the last fifty years? There is no errors and commissions in the accounts of nature. Nature keeps account of every inch. Floods come because we have very mercilessly ruined our natural resources and in return we are bound to get punishment. Forests have been destroyed. Deforestation has taken place on large scale. Then, how the flood water can be controlled? A lot of poisonous smoke is being released in the air. Due to indiscriminate construction a lot of changes are taking place in the nature. Big dams are being built. There is mismanagement of our

water resources and live stock. Our wild life is being eliminated. There can be no excuse for these wrongs. Nature settles all the scores evenly. I would like to draw attention of Mishraji that until he remains in this office, I do not know how long Shri Mishraji is going to remain in this office and probably you also do not know in this regard. . . (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : If you do not know then how can I tell you? If we have to quit, it would be because of you people only. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : The Minister is a hardcore communist. So, he must have read Karl Marx but there must be a Ramayana in his home as well. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Patwaji, you have very little time to conclude. I think you have some more points to speak on. Please speak on those points.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNDER LAL PATWA : I will take only a couple of minutes or so. I would request the hon'ble Minister to take note of the basic reasons behind the natural calamities also. Let us not confine our efforts to immediate measures only, for if we turn a blind eye to the root causes of the natural calamities such as mining, deforestation, damaging the environment etc., then we are bound to face the dire consequences thereof.

Neglect has been shown towards Jabalpur earthquake incident. That day also I requested the hon'ble Prime Minister to take some adequate measures as a loss of nearly five to six thousands of rupees is discernible to everybody there. But the Government of Madhya Pradesh has assessed the loss of property worth only nine hundred crores of rupees after a resurvey. The state government has assessed a loss of nine hundred crores of rupees and has demanded only two hundred and fifty crores of rupees but the centre has given a grant of merely forty crores. Please save Madhya Pradesh from such a pitiable condition and provide adequate fund to the state Government. Please get the matter assessed through your level and extend help to the social workers who are involved in the rescue work. Let us make our all out efforts to reduce the sufferings of quake hit people as much as possible. With this request, I conclude my speech.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now Shri B.K. Gadhi to speak. Before he starts, I want to inform the House that we have

to take up the Item No. 18, Discussion under Rule 193 regarding the public distribution system at 4 o'clock.

*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY (Mandsour) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, it would be better if we finish this debate first and then start the other.

*[English]*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, my humble submission is that this discussion on natural calamities may be continued. Let us dispose of one at a time. We are discussing the natural calamities under Rule 193 from yesterday. My humble submission to the Chair is that let it be continued today. The new thing regarding public distribution system can be taken up tomorrow or day after tomorrow. Let this important matter on natural calamities be discussed today. . . *(Interruptions)* This is our unanimous request.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think I cannot deviate from the list of business. You know that it is before you and at 4 o'clock or whenever this discussion is over, whichever is earlier, we have to take it up.

*[Translation]*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Otherwise, it will keep on pending like this. This is a very important issue. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Sir, before you give your ruling, please allow me for a minute.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI (Banaskantha) : Sir, may I start my speech? . . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the point is that it is true that the discussion on public distribution system is slated at 4 o'clock. What is likely to happen is that this discussion under Rule 193 would not be completed and there will be a break. When to continued it? The discussion on natural calamities and the discussion on public distribution system both will spill over. I submit that if we can complete this discussion on natural calamities today and take up the other discussion under Rule 193 on public distribution system tomorrow or even some other day, that would be proper because at least one important debate would be completed. The discussion on public distribution system can be taken up tomorrow.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Yes Sir. Otherwise the fate of this important issue will not be decided.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, with the agreement of the entire House, such things can be decided.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this matter is Under the rule 193 and is related with human feelings. Life and property of crores of rupees have been lost at large scale at various places in several States. Therefore, representatives of each and every State want to speak about their States. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The thing is that until the House decides I cannot deviate from the list of business. There is another important thing that is the half-an-hour discussion at 6.30 p.m. We are supposed to take it up.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : That is another thing.

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have to take it up from 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m. We cannot deviate. Even this discussion will not be completed by 6 p.m. We are supposed to take up the half-an-hour discussion from 6 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, I submit that it is from 6.30 p.m. to 7 p.m. We can complete this by 6.30 p.m. Please allow this to continue.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Sir, the whole House is unanimous on this request. This can be discussed upto 6.30 p.m. I think the whole House is unanimous in this regard. The hon. Minister is also giving his consent.

*[Translation]*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion would be made about the entire country. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Minister is agreed with us.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We are in favour to phase it out.

*[English]*

Sir, I am of the opinion that we can take them up one by one. If necessary the discussion on public distribution system can be taken up on any other day. Prolonging this discussion this way may not be good.

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, it should be completed today.

MR. CHAIRMAN : If that is the sense of the House, I will convey it to the hon. Speaker. Anyway, let the discussion continue upto 4 o'clock. I am not giving a ruling on that. We have the list of business before us. We have to go by that.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, instead of a discussion on matters of floods etc. we are having a very comprehensive discussion on natural calamities. I will confine myself only to the flood situation in Gujarat and some other parts of the country.

It was the blackest nights and days in the last week of June for Gujarat, particularly, the North Gujarat. It is an arid zone area which has got no drainage system as such. The entire season's rainfall took place there within 24 hours. Therefore, it brought a great calamity not only to the people of that part but also to the cattle, huts and dwelling houses of the people. In that area, seven districts, that is, Gandhi Nagar, Ahmedabad, Mehsana, Surender Nagar, Sabarkantha, Kheda and Banaskantha were affected. The toll of human lives is more than 215.

It was one of the severest natural calamities. I am happy that our Minister of Agriculture has visited Gujarat. He also agreed that it was really a national calamity. Therefore, I am putting his words which he spoke before the Press that it was a national calamity.

The loss that has been estimated by the Government within the parameters which are not all comprehensive is that there occurred a great damage to infrastructure, roads and buildings which was to the tune of Rs. 242.83 crore. The irrigation projects were badly affected causing damage to the tune of Rs. 133 crore. The Energy and Power Department suffered a loss of Rs. 49.88 crore because most of the sub-stations failed and lines were disrupted and the posts were uprooted. Although there was a great flood, people were deprived of drinking water. Therefore, in the area of water supply, the Department suffered a loss of Rs. 7.10 crore. The Agriculture Department has assessed the damage at Rs. 83.50 crore, but I do not agree with them. There was a colossal loss to the agricultural community and the loss could not be less than Rs. 1,000 crore in these districts which were affected by the torrential rains and deluge. In the urban areas, the loss is of Rs. 98.30 crore. The Health Department had to spend about Rs. 5.50 crore. The damage to the huts and houses which have collapsed or damaged is to the tune of Rs. 40 crore. Thus, the Government estimate is - I am talking about the first flood that came in North Gujarat and some parts of Saurashtra - that there was a loss of Rs. 665 crore.

Subsequently, we have also got two more floods recently, about three or four days back where one river water has changed the course and two big villages have totally disappeared from the scene because the river changed the course. For that, the estimates made by the Government put the loss at about Rs. 100 crore. I am afraid that that is too low a figure. When they would ultimately assess the situation, the loss would be much more. Even

as per the information supplied to us by the hon. Minister on flood in Gujarat, more than 10 lakh huts, small houses and *kuchcha* houses have been damaged, more than 225 lives have been lost, more than 10,000 heads of cattle have been perished and the loss in total estimation could not be less than 1,500 crore.

This is the extent of the calamity. What is the help given by the Government? Till now, Gujarat has been given not over Rs. 100 crore as assistance. They have given only Rs. 82.86 crore. This is not even one-tenth of the losses that had occurred. The Government says that they have provided a budget of Rs. 700 crore to the National Calamity Relief Fund for a period of five years. When we cannot estimate the damage which is caused by natural calamities like this, then how can you disburse some small amount of money? The amount of money given as help has to be enhanced. Even yesterday the Government has come up with Supplementary Demands for Grants. They should make more funds available in the kitty of the Ministry of Agriculture to go to the succour of these affected people, because after all the people affected by this natural calamity are the poorest of the poor who are living in *kuchcha* houses and in the *jhuggi-jhonpadi*. The crops of farmers have been totally affected.

Sir, when we say that agriculture is the mainstay of this country's economy and the agriculturists who are more diligent and industrious in a State like Gujarat suffer this kind of a damage, setting aside all the norms, a very generous attitude has to be adopted by the Government of India and go to the help of these affected people. But what are they doing? In some cases, when there is a bomb blast they gave Rs. One lakh per person as compensation to the family of the deceased, in another case of an accident they gave some other amount as compensation. But when there is a natural calamity of this magnitude where more than 225 people have died, what have they given? The State Government had announced only Rs. 25,000/- per person as compensation to the family of the deceased. I think that in this case also, besides assessing the losses caused to the crops and properties, the loss of human lives must be compensated and the family of each of the deceased person should be given at least Rs. One lakh, because his entire family has been rendered destitute due to his death and they have lost all their wherewithals.

The entire Public Distribution System which is meant for the poor has been disrupted. The people had to be evacuated to safer places by helicopters and the people had to be given food packets by helicopters. When such a situation is there and when the people have been marooned in such a fashion, then it is very difficult for them to come back to their normal life, because they have lost

everything that they have earned in their life, including their houses, wherewithals, household items, furniture etc. When such a calamity occurs, it was not the fault of any human being. In one day, in some place the amount of rain fall was about 31 or 32 inches and subsequently, as I stated earlier, the new deluge had come which had further accentuated the people's difficulties.

Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture that something should be done immediately. If he does not do anything, then the people living in six or seven districts of North Gujarat and Saurashtra, which are mostly arid and D.P.A.P. areas, would not be in a position to come back to their normal life for the next 15 years. Then, what for this Government and the State Government are there? Ultimately, the aim and object of the Government is to go to the succour of the people, to ameliorate their conditions and to improve their conditions when their houses and properties have been destroyed overnight by nature's fury. In that case, we cannot confine ourselves to the parameters laid down by the Government to render assistance.

Sir, when Shri Sundarlal Patwa was speaking he was mentioning about Bagirath. I have never heard anything concrete about the history of Bagirath in this country.

16.00 hrs.

He said that it was a legendary thing. He might have brought the Ganga or the Ganga might have come to India naturally. We do not know about it.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Gadhviji, it is four o'clock now. Please resume your seat for a minute. Is it the sense of the House that we should continue with this discussion? If we decide to continue with this discussion under Rule 193, then we will take up the other discussion under Rule 193 tomorrow, that is, the need for streamlining the Public Distribution System. It has actually been slated for discussion at four o'clock today, but we will take it up tomorrow.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That will come in tomorrow's List of Business. I cannot say that now. It will be postponed to tomorrow.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Has this change in the List of Business been decided in any meeting?

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why, I have taken the sense of the House.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The House was unanimous on this issue.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : I was given to understand that both the things will continuously go on.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Panigrahiji, you were not here when we had a sufficient discussion on this point in this House. We have decided by the sense of the House that we would postpone this discussion to tomorrow. Shri Gadhvi, you may please continue now.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : This year, as compared to other parts of the country, the effect of this flood situation is severe causing a lot of damage in Gujarat. As I said earlier, we appreciate that the hon. Minister of Agriculture visited the State. About a month and fifteen days have passed, but other than giving cash to the people to sustain, no other relief has been given for building their houses or huts or anything else. How can the people live for month without a shelter over their heads?

The Central Government team has come, and I am surprised that the team has recommended Rs. 100 crore more to the State. I do not know whether they have got any knowledge about the condition of the people living in this country or not. I wish that team revisits the State and have a pragmatic look. What is the factual position at the village level, they should find it out. This amount of Rs. 100 crore is just a pittance when the loss is more than Rs. 1,000 crore as per the Government estimate and more than Rs. 1500 crore to Rs. 2,000 crore as per the local estimate, which is more correct.

I would urge upon the Government machinery to have a pragmatic look and a positive response to the demand made by the State Government. In the name of National Calamity Relief Fund and State Calamity Relief Fund, several strings and shackles have been put for the release of funds. The earlier system was much better when more than one hundred per cent grant used to be given for such natural calamities.

Patwaji was saying that they do not mind if there is a national policy on irrigation, but there should be reconsideration on the Narmada Project. It is like inviting you for food at my place and then saying 'I will have to reconsider whether you should be given a *chapathi* or not'. He was putting forth that kind of an argument. These double standards are the obstacles in the way of development of the rural areas of Gujarat. When such calamities occur, then whatever small efforts we have put in to develop the State come to a nought and everything will come to a nought.

I know that the Finance Ministry would be a stingy miser. In your kitty, I am told, there is hardly a balance

[Shri B.K. Gadhvi]

of Rs. 200 crore out of Rs. 700 crore allocated under the Five Year Plan. But there is a Supplementary Demand process. Right now, you can add more money. Please do not worry about the deficit because inflation, as per your claim, is down. Therefore, even if the inflation goes up by a half or one per cent, let us not bother about it. Please give more money for these people and please give more funds and have something more in your kitty.

There is a largescale demand. There is a great demand from Bihar, Assam, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Many other areas have been affected. You should be happy that for ten successive years, you have got a good rain in this country. That is why, to give more money and more help to poor people in the rural areas would not be out of place and improper. What about the cities even? In cities like Ahmedabad also, the poor people, the hutment dwellers, have been badly affected. Sanitation is in a very bad shape. There are many schemes in the area of rural development like Indira Awas Yojana, Kutir Jyoti and others. Let there be a Committee in the Central Government to coordinate the assistance which is being given to the poor people and for rural development. All this help should have a common channel to reach the affected people, if you have a constraint for money. But in my opinion you should not have a constraint for money because this Government does not care for money in other areas. Why should they care in this area of giving flood relief?

Therefore, I would suggest that the assessment done by the Central team for Gujarat is inadequate and, therefore, the team should be sent again because there is again a second dose of flood in Gujarat. The estimates made by the team are not proper. They should be based on factual conditions obtaining in Gujarat and the Central Government should release the funds immediately from the National Calamity Fund to the tune of Rs. 500 crores right now.

We have called upon the Agriculture Minister — unfortunately I was absent on that day — to impress upon him that Gujarat needs more help. We have submitted a memorandum also explaining the factual position. There is no question of submitting a memorandum again.

[Translation]

There is no need to explain the situation as Mishraji himself has witnessed the situation. He has said that it is a big calamity. And now it is a National Calamity, that is why help must be provided accordingly. I know that Mishraji is aware of the situation of rural areas and affected people who are in pitiable condition. Then he should be liberal in this regard and should be liberal to farmers and the

people of rural areas. There was a time when you and former Prime Minister were talking about farmers with comments that he was a son of farmer, a brother of farmers, a father of farmer etc. At least keeping in mind all that legacy son of soil should help that farmer who has died in Gujarat.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wind up.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I am learning Hindi.

[Translation]

Son of farmer, son of soil, culture.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : We spent two hours speaking on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : That is why I am requesting you that atleast Rs. 2000 crores should be provided to Gujarat.

Today, a matter of related with insurance was discussed, but for the good the Bill has been withdrawn because crop insurance is nowhere.

[English]

It is only loan insurance. Why do you not go into that aspect? It is not crop insurance at all. Who is insuring the crop? Only loans are issued and loans are available to a very few percentage of the peasantry. I wish that when these natural calamities are occurring in some part or the other of the country every year, we should have an agency like the GIC which can certainly go into the aspect in a comprehensive manner in terms of the crop and see whether the farmers have obtained loans from cooperative banks or commercial banks or from any other financial institution. But there should be comprehensive crop insurance for every crop of the farmer. If that happens, then certainly farmers can withstand the fury of the natural calamities. So, please change this from loan insurance. It is a wrong nomenclature that it is a crop insurance.

I would request the Agriculture Minister to pay proper attention to the submissions which I have made and certainly give more quickly and urgently the succour needed to the Gujarat people who are affected very badly by these floods.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI (Sitamarhi) : Hon'ble

Chairman, Sir, flood and drought have become cronic disease for India. Our country is predeminently agriculture country. That is why we depend on agriculture. Sometimes our agriculture is damaged by flood and sometimes by drought due to which problems are rising in the country day by day. I was in the Tenth Lok Sabha and still a member of Eleventh Lok Sabha and I have witnessed that we discuss at natural calamities during each Session of parliament and announcement of declarations are made after discussions. State Governments also make demands. But it does not yield any fruitful result. In case of implementation it is said that it is a State subject. And after report from State we will look into the matter.

[English]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Mr. Chairman, I am happy to let this House know that today the Minister of Agriculture has released Rs. 86 crore from the Natural Calamities Fund to Gujarat.

[Translation]

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is the place where we make discussions. When the funds allocated goes to the ultimate beneficiarie that it is misappropriate by middle men. And as a result thereof genuine persons are deprived of facility. Hon'ble member Shri Gadhvi had talked about Gujarat. There is a flood in the various parts of country at large scale. Today, during question hour Shri Ramashraya Prasad Singh an M.P. from Bihar has told that there was a sudden flood due to which children are submerged and the people are surrounded by flood water. But the administration is inactive. Mr. Collector is not performing his duty well, there is no arrangement to save the people. I hope that Minister will look into it. Because it is a matter of urgent importance. People are surrounded by flood and children are submerged into the flood and administration have failed to do anything. Because on "Jail Bharo" movement is going on. (Interruptions) Administration is involved with "Jail Bharo" programme. Therefore it is requested to Minister to look into the matter and take action.

16.13 hrs.

[COL. RAO RAM SINGH *in the Chair*]

The relief code to combat with flood and drought is age old and was made during British period which is applied still today in each and every situation whether it is flood, drought or earthquake of Jabalpur or Latur. Only this century old code is being implemented. And it is failed to provide relief to all poor persons accordingly. The issue is being discussed in the House here. I demand that with the opinion of the House, a timely approach should be

made to change the relief code and the Government should bring about a comprehensive relief code, so that the loss of life and property of the poor may be compensated. The Government should do it so that we need not discuss this issue in each and every Session. We find that natural calamities are discussed during each and every Session. But the issue is confined to discussions only and hardly Rs. 15 out of Rs. 100 trickles down to the deserving and real beneficiaries. I, therefore, demand to bring about redical change in the relief code and seek direct control of the Centre on it.

Gujarat has been discussed just now. Many persons lost their lives in the Jabalpur earthquake. Many others have been injured. Only those who were sleeping outside their houses, because of summer time, could survive. Lator also met with the same fate. A suitable policy should be framed regarding the natural calamities and the relief code be changed. Floods also figured in the discussion here. I hail from Sitamarhi in Bihar. Its neighbouring constituency is Madhubani, which is represented by the Hon. Minister. Madhubani witnessed severe floods. But no relief work is being done there yet. It rained heavily the entire week. Consequently, thousands of houses have collapsed in several districts of Madhubani, Darbhanga and Sitamarhi areas. Neither any account has been kept nor any action has been taken in this regard. Even today 15 districts of Bihar are reeling under flood. Flood water has entered the Jahanabad constituency at yesterday night. Would the Hon. Minister send a central team there to assess the situation and provide funds from the centre as a remedial measure? Moreover, I would like to know whether monitoring at the Central level would be done and the collapsed houses of the poor, who did not even got a plastic to save themselves from rain and took shelter at schools and other places, would be rebuilt. Would the Government compensate the loss of livestock and property caused due to rains? Would any arrangement be made for the redressal of the complaints of farmers? I, therefore, demand from the Government to send a central team to Bihar to assess the situation and provide at least one thousand crores of rupees for this year. Last year also Bihar suffered from devastating floods and the Government of Bihar had demanded only Rs. 1200 crores, whereas the loss suffered amounted to thousands of crores of rupees. The Government of India did not provide the full amount. However, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister who made an aerial survey of flood affected area in Bihar. We had also accompanied him and the provided funds as much as possible. But it is regrettable that whenever this issue is raised, it is termed as a State issue. Funds, released either from State Calamity Fund or the Central Fund are not utilised properly. Not only last year, but also during 1987, Sitam: : witnessed severe floods. That time the

[Shri Nawal Kishore Rai]

roads constructed by the PWD and roads in the rural areas were damaged and therefore, we could not reach many blocks. Sitamarhi is district headquarter. The roads in Bajpatti, Sursan and Fulbarsa areas which have been damaged due to floods in 1987, have not been repaired even today. The roads get closed even after mild showers. The roads are still in a dilapidated condition. The funds were provided from the centre but the roads could not be repaired. The funds were released. Last year also...

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude. You have put forth all the points, and the Hon. Minister has noted them.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Sir, I am just concluding but I would like to draw your attention towards one or two important issues.

The funds released last year which were meant for distribution among the poor have not been actually given to them. The funds meant for removing starvation in Sitamarchi, Madhubani and other blocks have not been distributed fully. Paddy is harvested in the month of Agrayayan and at that time wheat was being distributed there. It was not distributed at the appropriate time. I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that the Government should ensure and check that the funds allocated are utilised and the poor in all the blocks are benefited. It should also be ensured whether the construction of huts has started which were scheduled to be constructed under the Indira Awas Yojana. Moreover, during his previous visit to the State of Bihar, the Hon. Minister had promised to provide Rs. 500 per hectare to farmers as compensation. On the basis of the rules and regulation of the Government of India, the Hon. Minister had promised at that time but the farmers of Bihar have not been paid a single paisa as compensation even after over one year. The Government of Bihar asserted that the Union Government did not provide funds. When we raised the issue here, the Hon. Minister referred to rules and stated that farmers were to be paid Rs. 500 per hectare by the State Government from both the State calamity fund and the Central fund. But this amount was not given to the farmers. I would like to seek clarification from the Government through you as to why the announcement made by the Hon. Minister in Madhubani was not implemented? The facilities which were to be provided to the farmers by the Government of India were not provided. Who is responsible for this negligence?

Sir, the people of North Bihar are ruined particularly by floods. According to scientists, if appropriate measures are not taken in near future, the population of the area will certainly be destroyed and nobody will survive those devastating floods. There are 13 rivers of the Adhwara group. A huge quantity of flood water corners from Nepal

in rivers like Baghmati, Kamla Balan, Kosi, Gandak etc. Through you I would like to demand from the Government of India to hold discussions with Nepal. The dialogue initiated earlier has been halted and it should be revived. Scientists opine that an Indo-nepal Water Commission should be constituted and whatever necessary high dams should be constructed Adhwara group of rivers like Ramnagar Ramaiya, Baghmati, Nunthar, Kamala Balan and Sheesha pani which originate from Nepal. Thus arrangement should be made to prevent occurrence of flood, and to make arrangements for irrigation and power generation. Then alone North Bihar could be saved from floods. Moreover, all the rivers in North Bihar should be desilted so that they retain maximum water and North Bihar is protected from the affliction of floods.

With these words, I request to check the utilisation of amount of the previous year, compensate the loss suffered by the poor due to floods this year and reconstruct the houses of poor people which had collapsed during floods and provide adequate relief to them. With these words I conclude.

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the common man, farmers in Gujarat, Bihar and other areas and the State Government suffer huge losses which the State Governments cannot compensate. Hon. Agriculture Minister is very well aware that Haryana is a very small state. Haryana was not producing foodgrains as per its requirements in 1966 when it was formed. We used to get one lakh tonne foodgrains from the Government in Delhi. Due to the efforts made by the farmers of Haryana and the electrification of villages and installation of tubewells and lift irrigation facilities at various places Haryana has obtained the second place after Punjab. At that time half of the Haryana State used to reel under drought condition and the other half faced floods.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, you originally belong to Haryana. If you see the level of land in Haryana and observe the topography you will find that the area beginning from Himachal, Chandigarh side is very slopy and the area located in the middle of the state is low lying. Similarly the area of Rajasthan adjoining to the state having your constituency also, the level in that area is very high.

The level in the middle area has come down to the level of 600-700 feet. In the even of heavy rainfall in Himachal Pradesh, Rajasthan or Chandigarh the rainy water from both the areas flow down to Haryana. Just now there was a mention about the floods in Gujarat and Bihar during 1995. I would like to say that Haryana was the most affected State by the floods in 1995 which suffered a loss of two thousand crore of rupees. The Central Government had sent a team to assess the loss suffered. The Government of Haryana had put a demand of 1004 crore

rupees as assistance before the Central Government. The farmers in Haryana could not manage grow three-four crops continuously in the 18 lakh areas agricultural land. Near about one hundred and seventy five lost their lives and near about 3000 cattles were lost. I through you Sir, want to tell the Agriculture Minister that at that time 65 thousand tubewells were rendered out of order and they could not made operational for about two years. The central team sanctioned a grant of 39.41 crore rupees and a loan of 300 crore rupees to Haryana. In 1996 when we were about to be said the first instalment of this short term loan, the floods occurred again.

On 24-25 June, 1996 within 48 hours there was a rainfall of 500 m.m. in Haryana which reflects the gravity of the rainfall. As I have already submitted that due to excess water flown in the Sahibi river of Rajasthan 2500 cusec water was released in a night which resulted in collapse of our two big dams named Rawwali and Kameda within a night affecting the whole area of Mewat, Faridabad, Mahendragarh and Gurgaon.

Sir, through you, I want to convey the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that the economy of small states which do not have a vast economy and do not have any other solid source such as harbours, means of business, etc. through which Government could earn revenue worth thousands of crores, are rendered paralysed once they becomes victim of drought or floods with in two-four years. Mishra ji had talked to the Government of Haryana and Punjab in the past. I wish to convey through you Sir, that we have been sanctioned a short term loan of 300 crore for the loss suffered in 1995, this loan may kindly be converted into grants and Master Plan on this subject may be prepared for the whole country. Gujarat suffers alone in the event of floods and Bihar alone suffers in the event of floods but if any Master Plan would be prepared, then the surplus water whether it is rain water or flowing from mountains or any other place could be diverted to such other areas where there is no water, where wells had dried out or where no water for irrigation. I would request the Central Government to prepare a Master Plan so that the problem of floods could be solved forever and the water could be made available to the drought prone areas.

SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS (Kalahandi) : Mr. Chairman Sir, today we are discussing about the natural calamities. There was a famine in Orissa last year and Kalahandi, Bolangir, Sambhalpur, Naupada, Padampur etc. areas were affected by it. Discussion on this issue continued for two days. Our Minister of Agriculture also went there. He declared it as a national calamity. A few day earlier it was dry there but there was a rain for two three days. It seems we may be saved from the famine immediately. Hon. Minister of Agriculture is a very

experienced person and is very learned in regard to India. Every year thousands crores rupees are spent for assistance in the event of national calamities. I do not know as how much money is spent on this. We have achieved independence fifty years ago. We are going to celebrate 50th anniversary of our Independence. Why do not have we chalked out the Master Plan so far? We should have chalked out a Master Plan after indentifying flood affected, famine and drought prone areas. Why do not we make some efforts to prevent flood and famine forever? It is very unfortunate that the poor people living in villages are the most affected one. We only indulge in discussions but are unable to control it. We are competing with the world in the race of development. India wants to progress but I am sorry that we are unable to control it. It must be controlled. India can progress if we are able to control starvation, poverty, helplessness and natural calamities.

During last discussion also I had put forth my suggestion regarding Kalahandi. There is no dearth of rivers. Deforestation is taking place in my area. We do not have regular rains. It remained drought affected from 1936 to 1955-66. Similar situation prevailed from 1986 to 1989. There was a devastating famine last year. No cultivation is taking place there. The land has been dried up. Recently there has been rain. If the water from Indravati Dam would not be released then there maybe famine again. I request you to kindly direct the Department of Agriculture in Orissa to release water from Indravati dam for farmers within the next 15 to 20 days. I have requested to cover the medium plans in the ninth plan. It is under process but I do not know whether it would materialise or not? There were three major projects such as Sangum River Project, Ret River Project, Udanti River Project.

It would be better to construct dams on these rivers. It would cost maximum 700 or 800 crore rupees. If dams are constructed on these rivers the situation of famine would not arise in Kalahandi and Nawapara in future but you are not ready to construct dams. I raised this issue for one hour last time. Heavy loss was suffered due to this and many people were killed. I do not want to go into the details of the situation prevailing there because you say it is being reported in publication [English] that everybody likes a good drought."

[Translation]

This issue is being raised just for fun sake and there is nothing serious in it. We are representing our constituency here. Last time also I have told that we come here to express the hopes and aspirations of the people. We feel sorry if no attention is paid on hopes and aspirations of the people. It remains in proceedings only. No action is taken thereon by the Union Government and

[Shri Bhakta Charan Das]

the State Government. It is a matter of great concern. You are aware of the plight of the farmers in Kalahandi and Nawapara. They have sold hundreds of their cows. Hundreds of their Buffalo died last year. The farmers there are trapped in heavy debts. They could not repay their loans. Today the farmers are not in a position to plough their fields. Banks are not sanctioning loans properly and the cooperative societies in villages have become defunct. I do not know whether any efforts have been made or not to revive them. The Government have decided to implement the crop insurance scheme and the Minister for Agriculture will tell us how for it is effective. If this scheme is not implemented our crops will be destroyed due to floods and fertility of land will be depleted. Therefore, I request that the crop insurance scheme be implemented properly. We will be able to save our farmers from this Comprehensive Insurance Scheme.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there could not be any other major work in this country than to protect agriculture. We are alleging each other here, we are wasting time in unnecessary discussions and there is nobody in the Press Gallery to witness it but yesterday when there was political activities the people associated with Press were present in the Press gallery. Now the discussion is on natural calamity. Therefore, if we are not serious about it how does it will reach to the people in villages? We shall not be able to protect our land till foreign investment and establishment of multinational companies continue in the country. We are polluting our environment by this. In spite of incurring thousand of crores of rupees we shall not be able to save our country. Through the Minister for Agriculture had struggled a lot in his life, he is giving priority to foreign investment. If he do not want investment he should step down. Recently the Minister for Agriculture has been to Bhubaneswar and has experienced natural calamity and if nothing is done for the State it would be rather most unfortunate. I respect him very much as he has struggled a lot in his life. The Government should ponder over the fact that whatever way the Government want to invite foreign investment in this country it would not benefit the country any way. I have raised this issue here so many times and last time I was so disappointed that I made my mind to resign from the Lok Sabha. Only alternative is employment or business to earn livelihood but there should be a way out to feed our children. We have come to Lok Sabha to highlight the problems in our Parliamentary Constituency but the Government is unable to do anything to solve those problems and as such this discussion is unfruitful. I urge that the hon. Prime Minister be requested to protect the agricultural land and the entire House should cooperate in it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, funds are required for insurance scheme. It will require thousands of crores of rupees and out of which one thousand crore rupees are incurred annually. Apart from the Union Government State Governments also provide funds but it is not known how much they provide. We will formulate the programme here and than ten thousand crores rupees will be spent thereon and then stop funding it. Whether it will do the needful we must think on it.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the chance to speak.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Member has raised very valuable and thought provoking points. I must congratulate him.

[Translation]

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion on a very serious matter has been started in the House. During the course of this discussion since yesterday I have heard views of so many hon. Members. I am sure that the hon. Minister for Agriculture will definitely give a reply to this discussion. This issue was discussed last year in this House and I remember if not full a part of the reply given by our hon. Minister for Agriculture.

Today a specific question has been raised about Madhya Pradesh. The Member who has initiated this discussion has told us as what happened in Madhya Pradesh. It was national calamity An M.P. from Madhya Pradesh, Shri Patelji has informed the House about the number of people killed, the number of house damaged and number of people rendered homeless in the State due to the earthquake occurred in the state. The first earthquake in the State occurred on 22nd May. Its intensity was measured 6.1 on the Richter scale. Its epic centre was about twenty kilometre from the Jabalpur. Second time the earthquake struck the state on June, 4, 1997 and its epic centre was about twenty kilometre north east of Jabalpur and its intensity was measured 4.2 on the Richter scale. Thereafter on July 15, 1997 earthquake again struck the State and its centre was also 90 kilometre away from Jabalpur. It was measured 2.9 on the Richter scale. In addition to this some settlement shocks were also experienced. About 23 tremors of earthquake were experienced. Tremors of earthquake are being experienced regularly. What is all this going on? I recall in my mind that earthquake struck surrounding areas of Lator in Maharashtra on September 30, 1993 in which thousands of people were killed. Perhaps such a devastating earthquake did not occur during the past hundred years

in the country and people were not killed at such large scale. There is a need to go into as to why this is happening in our country. It is not so that earthquakes are occurring in our country only and does not occur in other countries of the world. Earthquakes occurs all over the world but frequency of earthquake has increased in our country and if we concentrate on this and take some measures I am sure that we will succeed. The country has attained 50 years of Independence. During this period earthquake has stuck up in so many States in the country and all over the world and so many people have been killed and lot of loss has been suffered therein. Where any new centre has come up? It is my apprehension that the centre of earthquake in Maharashtra was in Koyana Dam and from 1961-62 the earthquakes started in Mumbai city and in the entire Maharashtra. After that their scale also increased more.

[English]

Every time, it is a national calamity. There is no doubt about that. But every time, the centre of the earthquake is being changed.

[Translation]

It is going to another place leaving one place. Whether it can be treated with any scientific study, it is my first question. Whatever happened in Jabalpur and all the things discussed here from that I understand that whether any of the party, whether it is the government of any party, whenever such disaster comes, it must not be seen from party level, it must be looked from the humanity point of view and the money should be distributed to cover the loss in the same spirit. I believe in such things. What should be the system of governance there may be some difference in this ideology but to service human beings and their requirements as per my views no party will do such things that he is congressman give him more, he is communist then give him less, he belongs to Shiv Sena don't give him any thing, if someone says like this then I must say that it is politics and there should not be any politics in the distribution of relief money. It is my contention and I would like to talk with that point of view. Union Government have given only Rs. 40 crores to Madhya Pradesh so far. But how much loss occurred to it I have figures with me in this regard, it has suffered a loss of about rupees three thousand crores. This whole money will not go from contingency fund, But the money given and the number of people who suffered loss, how much money you have given to each family out of that, it would be good if you furnish information about that in this House. You were talking about the money given by State government that there are different ways, after considering the families, someone has been given rupees three thousand, someone

has been given rupees one thousand five hundred, someone has been given something and someone has been given a bit more than rupees two hundred fifty. I would like to submit only this that if some family has suffered less loss then it must be given less money, if the houses of all are destroyed then at the time of giving money it must not be thought as to which party he belongs. Who is M.P. there, who is M.L.A. there, who has been elected and to whom the vote is given. [English] This entire episode becomes entirely different.

[Translation]

It must not be there. Whether any MLA or MP, if the people of that area are in some trouble then it is necessary to provide them assistance, whether it is state or Centre and from that point of view they need to be attended to.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this earthquake had affected other places also. But I am talking about Madhya Pradesh otherwise whether it may be any state of our country, all must be seen with one angle. Just now flood was being discussed here, discussion on Gujarat was being taking place here. Whenever rain comes the situation of flood arises yesterday I have seen flood in Yamuna and when the flood comes then all the works pertaining to removal of animals, shifting of residents, to save the loss of lives started. So I want to say that if there is possibility of flood then why the preventive action is not taken in that direction. Why people are allowed to settle on the banks of river. It should not be so. Loss of life is the loss of humanity, animals also die in it. There should be some arrangements to prevent this flood and it is the responsibility of the government to see how the loss occurring from flood be reduced to minimum. Today after 50 years in this country we know the flood prone areas. Whenever we think about flood the names of Assam, Cherapunji and Dibrugarh come in our mind.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the name of Brahmaputra river comes in our mind. When we talk about flood, Gujarat State comes in our mind where rivers faces plenty of floods there. Whenever we remember flood, we also remember the Yamuna river. We have not learnt any lesson from the situation arisen in the country from flood. We have not made any arrangements in the country to prevent the flood water in the entire country.

[English]

This is the net result of it.

[Translation]

We have a Sanskrit phrase- "Akashat Patitam Tog, Yatha Gachati Sagrag", It means the water falling on earth from sky, that didn't remain in land at all, that all goes

[Shri Madhukar Sarpotdar]

in Sea. The poverty in the country cannot be removed until. We could not make arrangements for the prevention of this water and use it for agriculture, for drinking purpose and other means.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, just now one Hon'ble Member has rightly said that the poverty in our country cannot be removed until and unless the farmer of our country is not placed properly. He is fully justified in saying this. This country can never make progress till we will not fulfill the requirements our farmer, not provide water for irrigation purposes and other facilities. This is cent percent right. It is our duty to look after farmers, arrange necessary infrastructure for them.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have full map of the entire country in my mind after arriving at this place. I am seeing the scenario of entire country from here. I have also travelled in many states. Therefore, I would like to bring this in the notice of Hon'ble Minister through you that we have not given the treatment required to be given, we have not given comparative study, due to that drought situation generally takes place at the drought prone places and continue to give assistance. Flood prone areas generally faces flood situation government continue to provide assistance there. Earthquake prone areas suffer from this calamity repeatedly and we continue to provide assistance. The loss to country and people means loss of life and property continues to take place. When we feel thirsty we start digging well. This causes heavy loss to our country and our people. This is the condition of our country.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have travelled to some other countries. I have seen there that there way of working is different from that of our. If we adopt their way of working, then I am sure that our country will make progress. If we try to that the problem of our country after carefully study then thousands of crores of rupees of our country going in assumption, will be saved.

[English]

If we invest that money into the developmental programmes of this country then, I think, our country will prosper very rapidly.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, discussion under rule 193 is likely to start just now. Under this rule discussion on rupees 8 thousand crores disbursed in this years Budget by Govt. of India for the upliftment of poors in the country is likely to take place. The money, earmarked for poors in the Budget, whether that could reach to poors, whether their development could take place, I don't know this but many such cases have already taken place in this country where

the money on assistance earmarked in the Budget for the poors in the country could not reach them and when the time for its disbursement comes, someone has taken it and the poor remained neglected from this assistance. This is the major problem in this country.

Mr. Chairman Sir, our one hon'ble Member from Madhya Pradesh was speaking on the same problem that thousands of poor tribals were put to loss due to an earthquake there. Today, they have no house to live, no clothes to wear and no food to eat. They are on roads with poverty-stricken. They are crying for help but the government is not paying any attention towards them. We should provide relief to them, forthwith at such a crucial time. At this time, we should not see who is an M.L.A. and M.P. from that area. It has been culture of this country to provide help immediately to the people struck by calamities. It is our duty.

Mr. Chairman Sir, while talking about civilization and culture of this country, I am glad to say that I have been listening to Minister of Agriculture Sh. Chaturanan Mishra. He is an excellent orator. It seems to me that he has studied a lot but I feel that the people of this country will be happy if the benefit of his study and nobility is provided to them. There is no use of holding discussion until the conclusions arrived at after discussion are not implemented. Their implementation is the main thing. I see that flood affects the country every year and we hold discussion in Parliament on it and allegations are levelled on each other. We discuss it and then forget about it. Remedial measures are not taken. It is not the way to solve the problems.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I think that when we are aware of the fact that flood affects our country every year, we must take preventive steps in advance to check such natural calamities. There is no need to hold discussion in this regard. If we identify the problem then only we can solve it by taking appropriate measures. In this way, such problem can be removed from all over the country. As in the case of military, if some country is going to attack on our country, there is no use of asking the military-men to bring arms from market at that time. If our enemy has malafide intention and we have any apprehension that our enemy can attack us at any time, then our military forces will not ask for arms. They will say that our enemy has such arms and ammunitions, Therefore, they should also be equipped with such arms and ammunitions's so as to enable them to encounter their enemy at any time. Our government machinery should be evolved like our military forces. Government should think about all the preventive measures in respect of flood, earthquake arson etc. and implement them properly.

[English]

If that is done, it will not be necessary for this House to

deliberate upon these subjects under Rule 193 year after year. Let us start by solving one problem every year. Let us ensure that we can do much better work from this august House. That is my humble submission.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Pathak, I want to say one thing before you start. At 6.30 p.m. the half-an-hour discussion raised by Shri Jag Mohan has to be taken up. And there are still 18 Members left who want to speak. I particularly request all the hon. Members that we must give some of our back-bencher friends a greater opportunity to speak. They do not have any opportunity to speak and this is a very good occasion on which we can give it to them.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : I shall be brief, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Whether Independent Members will not be allowed to speak. (Interruptions). They should also be given a chance.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is why, I request that only one and a half an hour is left and there are 18 Members who want to speak. I think that all these Members can be accommodated if you avoid the repetition and speak to the point. It is my request. Thank you. . . (Interruptions). They want to take the benefit of back-benchers inspite of being first bencher.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Mr. Chairman Sir, since 4.00 P.M. yesterday this House, from where the country is ruled, has been holding the discussion on the loss of lives and properties caused by natural calamities in the various states of the country.

16.58 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

I have been a member in this House since last eight years continuously. Every year we held discussions on this issue. It is but natural that natural calamities will occur in this country. Our science and technology is not so much advanced as yet to check such natural calamities. We have our own compulsions and limitations. Our country is so vast that in the north there are Himalayan ranges and thousands km. far away in South Neelsagar touches its feet. In the east, there are forests of Kohima and in Kuchch there are all deserts. Our country is very vast in terms of land and population and it has all the blessings of nature. And when nature deprives it of its blessings, destruction plays it havoc - be it the earthquake of Jabalpur, be it the flood of Gujarat or famine of Orissa or Himachal Pradesh. I have heard during discussion that it has affected nine states. Crores of people have been directly affected. I do not want to repeat, it. The members from all states have submitted their points. Gujrat is the most affected state. About 260 people

died there. Lakhs of acre fertile land has been destroyed.

17.00 hrs.

As many as 8 districts have been affected. Ahamdabad, Khera, Banaskantha, Mehsana, Sabarkantha etc. all these districts have been destroyed. 80% area of my constituency inspite of falling under Ahamdabad city was immersed under water twice in a month. There is no time to tell about their problems and even to give the figures of loss suffered. Every state suffered a loss to the tune of 1000-2000 crores of rupees. Gujarat State alone suffered a loss of about 1500 to 2000 crores of rupees. I would like to come only the main point, which has perhaps also been stated by my dear friend Shri Charandas that how would we deal with these natural calamities.

I came here ten years ago after serving in a State Corporation. The budget of the corporation was related to civil amenities. I have been going through the Budget of the House for last eight years. It is based on the old English pattern of.

[English]

Allocation of Budget to the various Ministries, allocation of Budget to the various Departments.

[Translation]

Only formal discussions are held and amounts to the tune of Rs. 1000-2000 crores are allocated to this or that department. We have not made any financial provision for the solution of the basic problems of our country. I fully agree with Shri Charan Das that if one of the satellites is not launched, work is not carried out on 3-4 infrastructural projects, and cellular phones and colour televisions are introduced here after 10 years, it would be okay, but if we fail to protect the people of India from natural calamities, the celebration for Golden Jubilee of Independence is meaningless. How can Gujarat celebrate the Golden Jubilee of Independence when 250 persons have been killed there? How can Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh Haryana and Purvanchal celebrate with lights, decorations and crackers? Such celebration is meaningless. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I only want to say this to you. My hon. friend Shri Gadhavi has furnished complete data in this regard. I do not want to mention them. In Ahmedabad, Mehsana and Kheda each suffered loss of Rs. 200 crore was. Now what can we say except for asking for funds. That will only be adding insult to the injury. The Government will grant an amount of Rs. 60 to 80 crore whereas the actual loss amounts to Rs. 1500 crore.

Before I conclude, I would like to put forth two demands in the House. The entire cabinet and the House will support me in this regard that do not stick to the budget allocation.

[Shri Harin Pathak]

Yesterday, the Members of Parliament from Gujarat meet with the hon. Minister Shri Mishra. He told that he has Rs. 700 crore only for five years. So, how could he distribute Rs. 140 crore all over the country. I fully agree with him, but it is up to the House to decide. We should not abandon this matter merely after discussing it under Rule 193. We will compel the Government to provide Rs. 25 crore, but this should not be provided to any one State. Is this August House prepared to decide that the Central Government will provide the entire fund to compensate the loss suffered by affected persons in case of any natural calamity in any part of the country. Then only something fruitful will be done.

I visited one of the houses in my constituency where a girl was to be married. She had a mud and thatched hut in Khediar Nagar. Water had entered into the hut. The sister of the girl was weeping. Her father had purchased four mounds of wheat with borrowed money. It was destroyed in water. No official from the collector's office went there. To how many persons cash will be doled out? Is cash dole a joke or giving compensation a joke? If we cannot meet the demands of each and every State, please do not make a joke of it. This is very humble request that such discussion has no meaning. Calamities do occur and you have your limitation. Any Government can come to office. I am not talking about the state. Natural calamities will occur, but are we really prepared to combat the calamities? Whenever the calamities occur, a survey should be conducted by the Centre in accordance with the demand of the State. It is a matter of great pleasure that Shri Mishra had rushed to Gujarat immediately. He toured my constituency. In Mehsana, he expressed his anguish that it was a national calamity.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : This is the game of Shri Pathak and Shri Mishra.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : It is the game of nature. It is unfortunate that you take the game of nature lightly. Lakhs of people die and lacs of acres of land is destroyed. The farmers are in deep sorrow, but you are making jokes. We all should share this agony. If we cannot control this game of nature, we should at least give a healing touch such as financial assistance to the victims. The Government must renovate the mud houses which collapsed during the floods. Wheat should be supplied to that house where the girl was to be married. Otherwise, our presence in the House is of no use. Fifty years have passed since Independence, yet we have failed to uplift the poor and the downtrodden. There is no systematic planning for development. 80 percent public of the country are still suffering. I do not want to discuss these things but at least

in the time of natural calamity, one must avoid playing politics.

Sir, I would like to demand from Government, through you, to set up a Committee in this regard. Thereafter, decision should be taken by the Cabinet that whenever there is any natural calamity in a State a Central team should be sent there and cent per cent compensation should be paid to the state. Otherwise it will be merely a joke. Gujarat has suffered a loss of Rs. 1500 crore and if a grant of only Rs. 100 crore is given, how the outstanding amount of Rs. 1400 crore will be managed? It is not merely an issue of financial loss. It will tantamount to playing with human lives. We are celebrating the Golden Jubilee of our Independence and it is the right time either to take a decision or to control the calamities. But we neither have the capability nor adequate technology to control them.

It is true that even with latest technology, earthquakes will occur. It may be Latoor or Jabalpur or anywhere else. Rains come and even dams cannot stop the floods. Rains do not come with prior information. Sometimes this also becomes a joke. The weather men report about completely dry weather in coming day. All India Radio, which comes under the portfolio held by Shri C.M.Ibrahim, informs about completely dry weather, but rains come just after four hours of the announcement. We are not able to control the vagaries of nature.

I, therefore, request the Government to take a decision regarding the loss of human lives, livestock, huts and other property due to the natural calamities in the respective States. Gujarat has suffered loss of at least Rs. 1500 crore. Loss to the tune of Rs. 200 crore has been incurred in Ahmedabad city. Now it is the time to rebuild those collapsed houses. The State Government is not in a sound financial position and the Central Government should take decision now. You were right to point out yesterday that the surplus funds lying with various Ministries should be collected and spent on the States affected with natural calamities.

This would enable the poor of those affected State feel happy on the occasion of celebration of Golden Jubilee of Independence on the 15th of August. With this very request, I express my thanks for providing an opportunity to speak here.

[English]

SHRI K.P.SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : I would like to thank the hon. Speaker, the Business Advisory Committee, my Chief Whip and yourself for this opportunity.

I remember in the last three decades, I am only doing:

[Translation]

work is thy duty, reward is not thy concern.

[English]

For thirty years, I have spoken every year at least twice on natural calamities not only in the country in general but particularly in my State, Orissa. The constant companions accompanying such incidents are drought, flood and cyclone. This year, I am grateful to the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Chaturanan Mishra because in answer to my Question No. 84 on the 29th of July, he had given a very candid and transparent answer.

This was also mentioned by Shri Nitish Kumar yesterday. I will not go through the whole answer. 'Five States, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh were affected by hailstorm and nine States, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal in varying degrees were affected due to rains and floods.'

The News report says, '...Karnataka, Kerala, the whole of North-East and Assam is grim and critical'. Then Jabalpur and the surrounding areas, as has been brought out by Shri Prahlad Patel and others, had one of the worst earthquakes. But here in the answer it is written, 'of medium intensity, on 22 May.' Now the cat is out of the bag.

In the next para he says: "Government of India and the State Government undertake long term programmes to mitigate the adverse impacts of natural calamities". For fifty years, they have taken a long-term plan. What is the allocation for Calamity Relief Fund for 1995-2000? In 1995-96, Rs. 1130 crore; 1996-97, Rs. 1197 crore; 1997-98, Rs. 1263 crore; 1998-99, Rs. 1320 crore; and 1999-2000, Rs. 1384 crore. So from 1995 to 2000, a total of Rs. 6304 crore is being allocated for calamity relief. That means the Government is convinced that the calamity is going to increase.

As far as floods, earthquakes and hailstorms are concerned, if they bit you between the eyes, you can see the damage. But drought is also a natural calamity which has been totally left out from the reply of the hon. Minister:

There is a very nice article in '*The Times of India*' — 'No one cares a fig for a drought'. The same thing has been told by the Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organisation, who had come here to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of contemporary studies on Climate, Climatic Changes, Variability and Predictability.

Agriculture is our basic industry and occupation not only of this country but of the entire globe. The world is

concerned. We are signatories to that. It is not that we are not aware, it is not that the Government of India is not aware, but in the reply the entire basket or the ball has been put in the court of the State Government.

Therefore, I cannot share the same sentiments of Shri Prahlad Patel, the mover, a very senior politician and a former Chief Minister Shri Patwa or my friend Shri Nitish Kumar. The infortunate Chief Ministers are not responsible whether they are sleeping in the night or whether they are getting out of the stupor by the long power of Shri Prahlad Patel. As far as I know, the Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister, the poor guy works for 18 to 20 hours a day. He gets hardly four hours to sleep. He has been a valued Member of this House. But I am glad that the lung power of Shri Prahlad Patel could wake him up from his stupor.

Sir, the entire thing lies in the court of the Planning Commission which has authority without responsibility. They have allocated this and now Shri Chaturanan Mishra, the Agriculture Minister or his distinguished predecessors or his distinguished successors who are going to be in the years to come.

Therefore, the Planning Commission has not seen to it. Today it is only the Minister of Agriculture, who is present here. In the Answer, he has also mentioned that the Ministries of Rural Employment, Rural Development, Health and so many other Ministries also give help to the State Governments, whether it is 75:25, 50:50 or 25:75 basis. It is just a question of statistics. I would like to say what Gladstone had said: "Lies damn lies and in statistics."

The other day I was seeing a document, a Government document being prepared for the Members of Parliament. In the Quinquennial Survey from 1972 to 1997, every five years it had been indicated that the people living below the poverty line in Orissa is anything between 56 per cent and 78 per cent but the various Chief Ministers, whether of my party or any other party which has been in power, have been saying that they have reduced it. Now, to add insult to injury, the public distribution system which is going to be discussed and my hon. colleague, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi is going to speak on that has been reduced from the 1st of June 97. Now, for a State having 55 per cent or 78 per cent of people living below the poverty line from the famous Kalahandi drought of 1965, when 1200 people died of starvation, and the then Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi visited it till Shri Deve Gowda, eight Prime Ministers had visited it. After that, Central teams had gone there. There had been debates in Parliament and lot of promises were made. The last year's requirement was Rs. 577 crore but we got Rs. 50 crore by the end of March. The present Prime Minister had this to say that the Orissa Government could not spend the money. Shri Harin Pathak,

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

Shri Murali Manohar Joshi and seven Members of the BJP had gone there. They were told that the Orissa Government does not have the infrastructure. Shri Deve Gowda had also said the same thing.

Now, you know that this is happening. We cannot drop it into the court of the State Governments and say, 'All right, we have given 75 per cent'. I am glad that Shri Chaturanan Mishra has given three out of the four instalments to all the State Governments. But the fact is that drought is a cancerous disease. You cannot see it. It is not evident. It eats into your vitals and an impoverished Orissa, for the last thirty years, have been suffering from drought, floods and cyclone. It has broken the backbone of the economy and most of the rivers are untrained. Only 19 per cent of the water resources of Orissa is harnessed, or husbanded. Sir, this is the first thing that should be done, if the hon. Minister of Agriculture is interested, that the food production must improve. Food production has reached its plateau. This has been mentioned even in the last meeting of the Consultative Committee of the Ministry of Agriculture in the report of the Standing Committee. I cannot understand one thing. The Departments of Agriculture, Research and Education want a sum of Rs. 3,600 crore. They are getting a sum of Rs. 1,320 crore from the Planning Commission. The Standing Committee of Parliament, which consists of 45 Members belonging to all parties, said that it should be one per cent of our agricultural GDP whereas we are giving 0.01 per cent. This is a farce being committed on Parliament. It is a concept which is being shown to Parliament because the views of Parliament, for the last three decades, as my experience and that of my colleagues, some of whom are much senior to me, goes to show that they have been neglected. He were colleagues together in the Fourth Lok Sabha whereas Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Shri G. Venkatswamy and Shri Inderajit Gupta have been here much longer than us. They have been here for the last four-and-a-half decades. Every year we are discussing this subject with equal venom, with equal sentiment and with equal emotion. Therefore, as I said, it is [Translation] work is thy duty, reward is not thy concern. [English] Nothing is going to come out of it because in this whole process, we have seen that it is the Planning Commission which dictates and it is we, the Members of Parliament, who keep on fighting here in Lok Sabha and in Rajya Sabha. It is like: "Water, water everywhere; all the boards did sink; water, water everywhere; not a drop to drink." This is the position as far as Orissa is concerned.

After the last year's unprecedented drought, when 26 districts out of 30 districts were effected, this year we have the Secretary of the Ministry of Science and Technology, who has been very kind enough to give us a letter, which

has been quoted by Shri Nitish Kumar, who said that this will be the tenth normal monsoon for India.

Out of the 35 geo-climatic zones, 28 have received more than adequate rainfall. Therefore, what we M.Ps are saying will be thrown into the waste paper basket and what statistics this Report will show will be accepted by the Government of India.

Now, the State Government of Orissa, through the D.R.D.A., has done a house-to-house survey and found that 43 lakh families are living below the poverty line. They were getting 35 kgs of foodgrains. But from 1st June, 1997, it has been reduced to ten kg. of foodgrains per family now and to 32 lakh families only by a random sampling method of Planning Commission. (Interruptions). Nobody bothers about natural calamities here, as the paper report says.

Now, what do we do? We are signatories to a lot of international organisations. We are committed to those principles. Have we taken any steps to reduce the incidence of floods, cyclone and drought? The technology is available. We have abandoned our old ancient traditions of water husbanding by small tanks, damming of rivulates and we have gone in for, as some Member was saying, huge dams and all that. When there is plenty of rainfall, dams are useless, when there is no rainfall, then again they are useless.

A lot of conferences were held here. I am told that the Lal Bahadur Shastri Academy has been commissioned by the Ministry of Agriculture to prepare a Policy Paper on reduction in disaster, so that disaster management can be done. It is no use giving only doles and more doles because these are diversions from development and does not add decreation of permanent assets or to the economy.

The other point is that Agriculture must be considered as an industry. Then, only the same facilities which are being given to Industry can be given to them. The agricultural environment, particularly in India, being so interlinked and the seasonal changes also affects it because of the degradation of the environment. Therefore, our farmers, who have been traditionally used to certain patterns of farming, certain seasons for harvesting, their entire planning, etc. is going haywire. Today, we have an impoverished population which is getting more impoverished although they are below the poverty line.

Sir, the completion of the major, medium and minor irrigations must be taken up. It cannot be left to the State Governments because it is the Planning Commission which is at the root of it. I know that the Ministry of Agriculture has been trying its level best. So also, I have knowledge as a Member of the Standing Committee of Railways as to how much effort the Ministry of Railways is putting in,

in this regard. But the cancerous growth of drought and famine must be understood by the Planning Commission which has an authority, without responsibility.

The last point is that since we are all talking of *swadeshi* we must encourage the traditional methods of water harvesting and water conservation.

As far as Gujarat is concerned, they have an excellent system of conserving the 15 inches of rainfall which they are getting. He also used to have this system in tribal areas of Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and portions of West Bengal. But this has been given a go-by.

When we are stressing on micro level planning; decentralisation of power to the people, etc., here is a Government controlled by nine Chief Ministers and 14 conglomerates of regional parties. So, I do not wish to complain here. I am only pointing out because I read a very nice caption in Bhatinda Airfield, 'Never complain about your problem, half the people do not understand, the other half is glad that you have got them.' So, I am not complaining. I am only saying that the Government is aware and it is conscious of the problems. But they are coming to us and pleading their helplessness and this helplessness will not do.

I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIVANSH SAHAI (Salempur) : Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak. Jabalpur has suffered a heavy loss due to earthquake in the recent past. But the amount of financial assistance extended by the Centre like a drop in the Ocean. I demand that this amount be raised substantially to provide adequate relief to the quake hit victims in Jabalpur. The Poorvanchal districts in Uttar Pradesh including Deoria, Padruna, Balia, Mau and Azamgarh have been facing the flood havoc for the last 50 years. Flood situation is worsening year after year in these districts due to excessive silt on river beds. I have repeatedly raised this issue in U.P. Assembly and in Lok Sabha also but so far no concrete measures have been evolved to combat the flood situation. A sum of rupees ten thousand crore have been spent in these districts for flood control measures and to provide relief to the flood affected people. Two crores of rupees have been spent on Burhi Gandak for flood control and relief measures but it has yielded no results. The officers who are deployed to look after the work in the areas hit by natural calamities must discharge their duties honestly. But it is a pity that their joy knew no bound when relief amount is sanctioned by the centre. I have observed this fact. When two crore rupees were sanctioned for Burhi Gandak, there was not even a single officer or personnel who did not earn less

than ten lakh of rupees out of it. The entire amount was swallowed by the people working there. A wooden dam was constructed on Ghaghra river in Deoria district to stop the water flow but when water came it could not sustain its current and was finally washed away in the river water causing a wastage of Rs. 65 lakh to the Government. Financial aid extended to combat the natural calamities has become a source of earning for Government officers. There are one thousand families in Poorvanchal districts living on the river banks. Every year their homes are washed away by the flood water. There is a law which provides that villages settled on river banks should be shifted somewhere else but the Government have failed in providing safety measure to these people. When I was in U.P. Assembly and used to sit in opposition, I raised this issue and demanded that this law should be replaced. Five thousand villager which are settled on river banks are washed away by flood, Water every year. There is a village by the name of Parsiya, Devar in Deoria. On one night, a poor man of this village, who was sleeping on river bank, was washed away in flood water. The water level rose, all of sudden; and there was no way out for him. Water is flowing above danger mark in Pindi village. Katilwa villages in Deoria has been washed away by the flood water. Persia village is on the verge of destruction. Flood is likely to play havoc in almost 100 villages this time. These are two dozen villages in Deoria alone. There are about five thousand villages inhabiting on river banks in entire Uttar Pradesh. The present law is not adequate for these five thousand villages. Flood safety measures are not adequate for these villages. How to save these villages on river banks Government say that they have not got any adequate law to save these villages by shifting them elsewhere permanently. Those who want, can go anywhere else. But the point is that how can these people leave their homes and hearths in which they have been living since ages. A huge amount, nearly Rs. ten thousand crore, has been looted in about 8 to 10 Poorvanchal districts in the name of dam construction. It has been observed that flood situation is worsening year after year and with this flood expenditure is also increasing simultaneously.

The hon'ble Minister should look into this matter. May I know from the Government whether they have got any survey conducted to ascertain as to why flood situation is worsening rather than improving every year? I want that a survey should be conducted in this regard. The Government of Uttar Pradesh should be asked to evolve some concrete measure to save the riverside villager from flood destruction. It has been observed during the last five years that soil erosion is increasing in our rivers. More and more silt is depositing in riverbeds. The flood relief extended by the Centre is not reaching the affected people or the same is usused by the persons coming in between

[Shri Harivansh Sahai]

the chain. While working in flood hit areas. I have observed that victims who are entitled for 20 kg. of wheat are getting only 5 to 10 kg; that too is weighted dishonestly. My demand is that a probe should be made into the amount spent in the name of flood relief work in Deoria, Balia, Azamgarh and Padrouna districts during the last year. At the same time, effective and concrete steps should be taken to provide safety to the Poorvanchal districts from flood havoc in future.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Still these are four Members who will speak which would be followed by the hon'ble Ministers' reply. I have received few more names. If a Member takes only five minutes only then we will be able to cover every member. Initially there were a few names on the list but now I have received more. Now Shri Joachim Baxla.

SHRI JOACHIM BAXLA (Alipurduar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, following your request, I will finish my speech within five minutes.

Natural calamity, famine, flood, earthquake or drought hit some or the other state of India every year and the victims are common men and poor people. As my earlier speaker said, we are discussing this issue not only in this monsoon session but during the last monsoon session also we discussed this issue at length. I, a newly elected member, think as to why we discuss this issue every year?

I was expecting that my earlier speaker would ask for the result of the previous discussion which was held in last monsoon session. I was also expecting that he would speak on the steps taken to solve the flood related problems of people but nothing happened. Nobody spoke on these issues. But still I hope that our Agriculture Minister is fully seized of the matter and he knows how the people of different states suffer because of flood and other natural calamities.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I represent Alipurduar Parliamentary constituency which is in the neighbourhood of Bhutan. There are small hills in Bhutan where dolomite extraction is underway due to which trees are being felled which is resulting in erosion and finally leading to heavy silt on various river beds including Pagali Bhutan, Raidug, Busara, Sankash, Tursha etc. This is the main reason why the people of that area are hit by the flood every year. Whenever monsoon arrives there, people feel scared as they know the devastating effect of the flood inaction on part of Government for their proper rehabilitation. The Central assistance which they deserve is not granted to

them. Situation in Jaigaon city bordering Bhutan is very delicate. At the same time there are several places in Jalpaiguri and Kooch Bihar which are usually hit by Monsoon flood and thus exposed to various inconvenience. Their crops are completely destroyed and or there is no crop insurance scheme. They get nothing as compensation. On the occasion of 50th year of our Independence, we wish and expect that our country achieve on all round development in every sphere but I am not sure enough about the fulfillment of our hopes and dreams.

The hopes of farmers convert into despair, because they know that at the time of loss of their crops, no one would come to their rescue. I would like to request the Minister of Agriculture that special attention should be given to this area. I would like to say that when we discuss this subject every year, why should not a Master Plan be prepared for it? I request that chairman of Planning Commission and all other members of National Fund for calamity relief be informed on this issue. Chairman, Vice Chairman and Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission are its Members and five Chief Ministers and two Union Ministers are nominated by the Prime Minister. I request all these Members to pay special attention on this issue atleast in this Golden Jubilee year of Independence. We were going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee year of Independence of 15th August at the historical Bux fort in our area. Where the freedom fighters were held captive. A programme was scheduled to be held to honour all the 25 freedom fighters. But the roads were damaged due to floods. The bridges damaged in 1993 are yet to be reconstructed. If this is the condition of the bridges on the National Highways then you can well imagine the condition of that historical site.

Therefore, instead of honouring them on 15th August, we will do so in November. By that time we can have that road repaired. As there are several speakers, I will not take much time. Each years this issue is discussed and keeping its importance in view, we will pay attention in formulating a Special Master Plan or Master Policy for this. We can not control such natural calamity completely. But the Central Government can atleast formulate a programme to educate our people to cope with this, to face this. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

17.41 hrs.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Coochbihar) : Mr Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Shri Singh Deo and comrade Buxla have already said that every year we discuss about natural calamities in this House and every year we make some sorrow statements that so many people have died and so many houses have collapsed etc. We are really discussing

here the only point as to how much the State Government will get from the National Calamity Relief Fund. I do not know what is the policy of the Government to give assistance from the National Calamity Relief Fund.

Sir, I must say that the Government did nothing for the last 50 years since Independence with regard to tackling the natural calamities like flood and drought. There was no Master Plan or special project etc. You are also a senior Member of this House and you know, during the time when Shri Morarji Desai was the Prime Minister there was a plan to link all the important rivers in the country. There was a proposal for Ganga-Cauvery link so that we would be able to control flood and at the same time give relief to the drought affected areas. But nothing has been done in this regard. There was a report submitted by the Committee headed by Shri Man Singh and that report was placed before this august House in the year 1966, but the Government did nothing about that report. Then, there is Brahmaputra River Board which has given so many recommendations, but no action has been taken on those recommendations.

Sir, we have developed our science and technology only to give a timely warning that a cyclone is coming or an earthquake is coming. But what about drought? I have been a Member of this House for the last 21 years and every year we are discussing the drought situation in Kalahandi area of Orissa. It is a shame for this House and it is a shame for India that we have allowed this kind of a drought to prevail in a particular area for the last 15 or 20 years.

Sir, we are all really interested with the Non-Plan money which is given for the relief works. I should thank Prof. Madhu Dandavate, the Deputy-Chairman of the Planning Commission, who, while paying respects to Netaji Subash Chandra Bose in his Birth Centenary Year, had said that during pre-Independence days it was Netaji who first thought of setting up a Planning Committee headed by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru

Prof. Madhu Dandavate said that we should give more stress on the Plan and not on the non-Plan. We have got so many projects. In my area, there is a project, that is, the North Bengal Master Plan. Based on the Man Singh Committee Report, a plan has been prepared. The implementation of the North Bengal Master Plan—the Tiesta River Barrage Project—would not only control the river but it would also serve irrigation and power generation. In the year 1976, it was started, and now we are in 1997. Twenty-two years have passed since then. The West Bengal Government has got very limited funds. They have spend Rs.500 crore so far. But the Central Government did not spend even a single paise. Only a few years before, they have given Rs. 100 crore. If this Plan had been executed

properly, then more foodgrains would have been produced and it would have created 60,000 man-days. But the Government is not taking any care of that.

The other day, when a question came up as to what would be the fate of the Farakka, the Ganges, the Bhagirathi and the Calcutta Port Trust, then it was decided to have a river from the Sonkosh to the Ganges. One of the cabinet Minister of the Central Government, I must mention here, said that he would take Rs. 7,500 crore and he was ready to pay for it. Why is it so? The Tiesta Project is there in the same area, but the Government is not even able to spend Rs. 100 crore whereas it is ready to spend Rs. 7,500 crore to control the river.

In Assam, there are always floods. There was a proposal long back, in the First Year Plan, to have a Brahmaputra-Ganga canal, which would not only control the floods but also generate power from that. But nothing has been done. A survey was made at that time. The estimated expenditure at that time was Rs. 900 crore and I do not know how much it will be now. I hope that it would come up in the Plan. Fifty years have already passed, so let it be another ten years more.

On 25th July, 1997, in reply to Question No .313, hon. Minister stated that Andhra Pradesh asked for an assistance of Rs. 2,819.37 lakh and an amount of Rs. 235 lakh has been paid to them; Assam asked for Rs. 415.91 lakh, and it has been paid an amount of Rs. 37.58 crore; Kerala asked for Rs. 342 crore, and it has been paid an amount of Rs. 41 crore. Rajasthan asked for Rs. 321 crore and it has been paid an amount of Rs. 130 crore. In respect of Rajasthan, it is a much better figure. I do not know what is the reason. In comparison to other States, it is a much better figure. West Bengal asked for Rs. 309 crore, and it has been paid an amount of Rs. 39 crore. I do not know what is the policy or the criteria of the Government to give these funds to the State Governments. Will the hon. Minister state as to wherefrom the money will come? It is a question of relief. Who will pay for it?

What is the policy of the Government in regard to giving relief to victims whether flood victims, drought victims or earthquake victims? How will this money come? Who will fill up the gap? All these questions may please be answered by the hon. Minister.

SHRI C. NARAYANA SWAMY (Bangalore North) : Respected Deputy Speaker, Sir, the august House has been discussing the various aspects relating to the problem of floods, droughts and other natural calamities including the occasional earthquakes which we have in our country. Some of these problems have been recurring with constant repetition in many parts of our country. We have floods in States like Assam, Gujarat and many other parts, almost every year and we have droughts in certain other parts.

[Shri C. Narayana Swamy]

and especially in the State of Orissa, the place Kalahandi is well known in our country. We have been thinking of *ad hoc* measures to combat the situation whenever it arises. But very little planning perspectively has been done in our country to prevent the recurrence of these evils which have been greatly affecting the lives of our people and causing loss of thousands of crores of rupees in this country. We have facing a situation in this country where in some places there is abundance of water and in many other places there is acute scarcity of water even for drinking purposes.

I come from a place in Karnataka where that area is completely described as dark area and where no financial assistance is available for any sort of irrigation facility. A reference was made by Shri Amar Roy Pradhan that when Shri Moraji Desai was the Prime Minister of our country, there was a plan for linking the rivers of the North with those of the South, especially Ganga Cauvery linkage and I believe there was also a plan and estimate prepared to find out the volume of funds, that would be required for taking up this enormous task. We also have in our country inter-State river water disputes. Every day waters inundate the land, sap the fertility of the soil and join the seas without irrigating any area. The damage caused to the soil, the loss of fertile top soil, cannot be compensated by just money. It would take hundreds of years to bring back that soil to the same level of fertility that was before the floods. I am sure that we must think in terms of long range planning. We have enormous water resources in our country. This linkage of rivers, whatever may be the cost, will solve the problem of drought in many parts of our country and will enable the cheapest mode of inland water transport within the country and it will result in increased agricultural production for the country. What is the relief that the Governments give to tackle this problem?

Naturally, the State Governments are not in a position financially to combat the situation. The Central Government hitherto had been giving assistance to the States. Whatever little money that the States were getting, they were getting it as Advance Plan Assistance to be deducted later in their Plan allocation. This year, I must compliment the Government, especially the Ministry of Agriculture or more particularly the hon. Minister of Agriculture that the Government has been highly responsive to the needs of the State. Very laudable efforts have been made to release timely funds though there have been demands for release of more funds from certain parts of the country. Even there is a reference that the other Departments of the Government are also involved in the matter of rehabilitation. I have to express my views here that when rehabilitation work is taken up after the occurrence of a flood, when

construction of houses is taken up, the normal annual allocation under that category in any Department is diverted to meet the situation. As a result, the implementation of the Plan programmes in other areas in the same State suffers. Technologically, we have achieved a lot of advancement. Now, there is the possibility of getting forewarnings of cyclone. We even have the satellite imagery whereby we can find the underground rock formations, the movement of rocks etc. It will enable us in a way to forecast the incidence of earthquakes.

Also, we have to have a National Water Policy whereby the excess water is utilised in places where it is most required. Now, the run away water has to be tapped. The State Governments, within their limited financial capacity, will not be in a position to tap it through construction of dams and other methods. Therefore, the Union Government must take upon itself this task. It should have a national policy, form a way of financing the requirements of irrigation in the country. It must be done in a phased manner and in a time-bound manner also. In times of natural calamities like floods and cyclone, the immediate assistance by service organisations, the non-Governmental organisations and the local organisations is immediately available. We have to thank them for their timely assistance. The involvement of the industrial houses in the attempt to rehabilitate the people in those affected areas must be done in a more organised way. The Government should, I think, think of ways of getting their assistance for the relief activity. . . (Interruptions)

Finally, since the problem of floods and drought is a common phenomenon in our country, I suggest that a permanent arrangement should be made to make funds available to the States in such crisis situations.

With these few words, I thank you for giving this opportunity. Now, I conclude.

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR (Begusarai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was waiting for a long time. We are facing natural calamities year after year. Day before yesterday, I have returned from my constituency and after witnessing the problems of the people, I can say that only God knows how they are living. It is difficult to say how they are alive and what they are eating. The situation of flood in Lakhi Sarai, Shekhpura, Navada and Nalmola is the same as was 20 years back. People could not come out of their houses. People are living on trees. Facility of medicine is not there. If someone is sick or bitten by snakes, he is left to his fate. There is no water to drink and no food to eat. This is the state of affairs there. When I talked to collector about

this, he replied that he has not received any direction or financial relief from the State Government which he could distribute among the flood victims. What an alarming situation is this.

Same is the situation with regard to soil erosion and due to this erosion people are migrating from that place year after year. There is no plan as to where they will settle. People are settled on the roads, on the land of others and they are going from pillar to post. Mr. Minister knows it and I want to tell the House that people continue to live in their houses because they are surrounded by water and they are unable to go anywhere. The situation is more serious in our Tal and Diyara area. No developmental work has taken place after independence. There was no dearth of speeches, but Tal and Diyara in Bihar has been deprived of any concrete developmental work. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take some steps to avoid such situation.

In brief, I would like to say that we can face the problem of flood by using scientific methods in a planned way. But no such plan has been implemented there till today. We have not done any permanent or temporary work there. And if some permanent work has taken place, the result is that barrages were broken suddenly and hundreds of families were rendered homeless. This time also thousands of houses have collapsed due to heavy rain and many people have died but no relief was given to them. At least 100 people have died due to flood in boat tragedies in Bihar. Earlier boats would submerge in the flood waters and now buses are also submerged. But there is no relief available. I would like to demand the Government to provide relief.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : I am concluding Sir, I know that you will not give me more time. Whereas the Members speaking in the last should be given more time. In Bihar, it is said that the one who is first gets more chances and who is at last gets least chances.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You are not the last one. There are many speakers.

SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : The damage caused by natural calamities should be compensated by Union Government. If I ask to the Minister that the amount released by the Union Government goes to the State Government of Bihar then it goes to the districts and further it should reach to the affected people. But it is doubtful whether this amount reaches the affected people or not. In the reply the Minister will say that this is State State and will leave and us to die. I would like to say that it is a State subject but Chief responsibility lies with the Union Government. You cannot escape by only saying that this

is a State subject. The Union Government have to bear the responsibility.

The other thing which I want to say is that our crops have been damaged. Paddy and other crops have been damaged due to the flood. A Crop Insurance Scheme was announced in this very House. Will the farmers of Bihar be benefitted by this Crop Insurance Scheme? I have been informed that when a Member had asked about crop insurance, the Minister of Finance had said "No insurance". The reason is the paucity of funds with the Government. I demand the Government that Crop insurance scheme should be implemented properly. I would like to say one more thing in this context that register has not been maintained for the money meant for relief item. There is no clear cut criteria for giving relief. Whether it is based on population or area, is known. On what criteria Government of India had released this amount? Equal amount has been distributed between Assam and Bihar. I can produce figures that less amount has been given to Bihar, while more damage was caused there. Therefore, I would like to request that the Government should pay attention towards the allocation of funds. Attention may be given towards the development of Tal and Diyara area because it faces devastation every year and also people die here. Every year many people drown in the river, die due to snakebite. I would like to request the Government of India to save the people from losing their lives. I would like to say another thing that people would die of snake bite, diarrhoea as there are no medicines available. Hospitals have been opened in big cities but we cannot save the people in rural area from dying of diarrhoea as there are no medicines. I have given 5000 rupees out of my fund to the collector to purchase medicines for treatment of snake bite, to purchase D.D.T powder and spray it in the well. So, this is the situation prevailing there. Therefore, I would request the Government to save the people there. Thank you for giving me an opportunity have to speak.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, as usual, Kerala was hit by the floods this year also and this time quite unprecedentedly within the last 25 years, it was very heavy rain with the resultant floods, the loss of which estimated by the State Government of Kerala was more than Rs. 1,000 crore.

Sir, we have lost more than 100 people this time due to the floods. Eight out of 14 districts have been affected badly by it. They are Trissur, Palakkad, Malappuram, Kodikunnil, Wyand, Kasaragod and Idukki.

In Idukki, there was a landslide. That itself has taken away about 17 lives, the precious lives. Even the roads

[Shri E. Ahamed]

have been blocked and the movement of the people have been put to difficult position.

This is a recurring phenomenon in our State. Quite unfortunately the Government has not evolved any policy to save a State like Kerala from this recurring phenomenon of floods.

We do have a very long coastal area where the sea erosion is a usual phenomenon. The Government of India has not envisaged any project to save the coastal areas of the State of Kerala. We have been spending crores of rupees for the security of our borders, to save them from other countries. But we have not done anything to save our coastal area from the sea and the sea has been eroding it considerably, with the result we lose whatever precious little bit of land that we have.

This time I have seen personally what happened to the district which I represent in this House, Malappuram. I have myself visited many of the house where the people have lost their precious lives. Seventeen persons have lost their lives only in the district of Mallapuram where I myself know that there has been a loss of crops worth Rs 10 crore. But the Government of India has given a total of only Rs. 10 crore. Anyway, I am very much thankful to the hon. Minister. But they ought to give much more because this is a small State.

I am happy because the Minister is taking a positive stand. In my district of Mallapuram which I represent in this House, there has been a loss of 8271 hectares of land. It is destroyed. Nine thousand families have been affected. I have seen for myself dozens of houses completely collapsed, destroyed. One hundred houses have been completely collapsed, 1143 houses have been partially damaged and 12404 families have to be rehabilitated. This is only in one district.

So far as Mallapuram district is concerned, this is the first time that such a heavy loss has been sustained due to floods. Trissur, Palakkad, Kozhikode, Vyanad, Cannanore, Kasaragod and Idukki, all in the northern side of the State, have also been affected. Idukki is full of hilltracks where there has been a land slide occurring all the time. I would like to ask the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether the Agriculture Ministry is not in a position to prepare a project taking into account all these recurring phenomena of land slide, floods, etc. in a small State like Kerala. We have to discuss about it every year urging the Government to please do something. Our situation has been such that if there is a drought, we will come here for drought relief; by the time there will be a rainfall and we will then have to come here again for flood relief. This is the state of affairs

in so far as our small State is concerned. Therefore, I avail myself of this occasion to urge the hon. Agriculture Minister to take a very positive and sympathetic stand in so far as the State of Kerala is concerned.

With these few words, I thank you once again.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKERS : Honourable Members, now I have the names of six members with me, but it is yet to be concluded. Some of these members have sent their names just now. It is not possible to give them an opportunity to speak. Now I would request the honourable Minister to give the answer.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Representatives of all the parties have expressed their views. Now it is left to the House to decide.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI (Shimla) : I am sorry that the names have not been given but we have the right to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Representatives of all the parties have been given an opportunity to speak. They have already spoken.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : So you are concluding it on your own. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House decides to conclude then it is alright. However, representation of every party has been made.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the House decides, we can continue it tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : We have been sitting here since morning. (Interruptions)

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, kindly allow him to speak as his area has been badly affected due to flood.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You see that honourable Members of all the political parties have already spoken. Nobody from A.G.P. has yet spoken because the name has been given only today.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : You may kindly invite him also.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will decide. [English] I do not mind it.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We have discussed for more than five hours on this subject.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please cooperate. Let the honourable Minister reply.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the House decide.

(English)

I do not mind it. Please take your seat.

[Translation]

When would the honourable Minister reply? He may require at least 12-13 minutes for this. We have to take up another subject at 6:30 p.m.

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : Kindly allow some time for me too.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It can only be given if it is postponed for tomorrow.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Kindly take your seat. Your views have been recorded.

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : There is no other way out. It should be concluded today.

[Translation].

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : I protest. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please sit down now. Please cooperate.

[Translation]

SHRI K.D. SULTANPURI : You should allow me to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You see, there is the only one way out that the House would decide and it would continue tomorrow.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, it has been once decided to conclude it today.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It should be concluded today but it cannot be in this way. If you are in a position to answer in two minutes, I would not mind it. As honourable Members would also look forward for a answer.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I would have no objection if the honourable Members are not willing to hear the reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is alright. You may please begin.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, I whole heartedly thank the honourable Members who have participated in the debates on this issue. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please also have to keep in mind the sentiments of those honourable Members who could not get an opportunity to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRI.D.SULTANPURI : This is injustice to us. Please give me time to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you are allowed to speak, others will also ask for their turn and then it will continue till tomorrow. In such a situation, it is for the House to decide what is to be done.

SHRI K.D.SULTANPURI : We are saying that we should be given time to speak.

[English]

SHRI SIRBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, there are many hon. Members who want to speak.

[Translation]

MR.DEPUTY SPEAKER : Five hours have already been spent on this.

[English]

There should be some limit.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, crores of rupees have been wasted.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What is the consensus of the House, tell me?

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There is a very strong demand.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At 6.30, next item will be taken up.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : There is a very strong demand from different sections of the House. Let the discussion be completed today and the hon. Minister can reply tomorrow. (Interruptions).

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Half-an-Hour Discussion can not be stopped because this is in today's agenda.

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA (Kanpur) : Sir, I have a suggestion that it should continue up to 6.00 P.M. and after that we can sit for half an hour more.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Sir, kindly listen to me.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : At 6.00 P.M. Half-an-Hour Discussion will start after that if you want to sit upto 7.00 P.M., I have no objection.

(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGAT VIR SINGH DRONA : It should be finished today. [English] Let the Minister reply tomorrow.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I too have some programme. I have to go to meet the Hon'ble President.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : As he said, it should be completed today.

[English]

The hon. Minister can reply tomorrow before lunch and after that other items of business can follow. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Honourable Minister may reply tomorrow.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : For tomorrow there are other subjects also.

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have to follow you. If you wish I am leaving the House. My Minister of State will be present here. . . (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It cannot continue till tomorrow.

[English]

The discussion should be concluded today.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : The people are suffering from natural calamities in all the States. Let everyone be allowed to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All the Members of Parliament cannot be covered.

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED : Sir, it is a very serious matter. So this House would like to hear the reply from the Hon. Minister. . . (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is all right.

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am ready to reply, but it is for the House to decide. I will speak only for ten minutes. . . (Interruptions) I will reply, if you give me even ten minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH (Kannauj) : O.K, you give reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is alright, then let the Minister give this reply.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am very grateful to those honourable Members who have participated in this debate and given effective suggestions. Those who have criticised, have done so in a positive way. I am thankful to them. So far as the amount of relief and the quantum of loss suffered is concerned, we have circulated the figures already. Therefore, I would not like to repeat it. The rainfall is also shown in the map. I would not like to waste my time in all that. As regards, the questions raised by you

about your respective areas, we shall send a written reply to you after inquiry. I want to discuss only those questions which have been raised today.

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : Please listen to me.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please listen to the hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The first thing which has been raised by most of the Members is that these calamities must be checked permanently. I respect their views, and

I am also pondering over that subject. We are going to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of our Independence. Under these circumstances, we should initiate the effective measures from this very moment. I would like to tell you that we have meritorious engineers and advanced technology as well. We may not have enough resources. A study has been conducted to link the rivers of South India. Similar study about North India would be completed by the end of this century. The main thing to understand is that flood and drought are the two faces of the same coin because flood comes first followed by drought. Therefore, both the problems should be tackled simultaneously. I want to say clearly that the politicians themselves are the biggest problem. I am a politician too but it is clear that if you want to link these rivers there will be a problem that each and everyone will say that he will not allow water to be taken away from his region. Just now my hon. friend from Assam made a mention about it. The Brahmaputra plan in Assam will incur Rs.1 lac crore. If we start it right now, it will take 20-25 years to complete. But scheme has been formulated to start this project and work on technological and financial aspects has been completed.

If we construct dam on the tributary then only we can do something in regard to the main river. There is a difficulty in it. If a dam is constructed on a portion of Barak river, some fields in Manipur would get submerged. A resolution has also been passed in this regard in the Manipur Assembly. When we call a meeting of the Chief Ministers, they don't turn up. They ask us as to why they should come when their areas are getting submerged. The situation is same all over. You are the masters this country. A resolution should be moved and passed here in this regard and every one should make his contribution. A National grid should be constituted because water is the wealth of the nation. If we could provide water from one place to other, we would be able to combat the drought.

Friends from Assam have raised some questions. Rs.500 crore have been allocated in the Ninth Plan so that

work could be started first on the river. This comes under Bodo region. Whatever the problem we are facing, it is before you. We are ready for this. A task force has been set up for the said purpose and the country has been divided into five regions. The study on these five regions is going on. The National water Development Agency is

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH PRABHU (Rajapur) : Why is the centre not using its emergency powers in such situations?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I cannot say anything on that. That is too much. You must have voluntary organisations for that. I cannot do it with military etc.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH : Please tell something about earthquake because discussion has been started from this topic only.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You please listen to what I want to say. I don't want to give stress on the figures. The study has been completed and the Administration as well as the engineers are ready for this. You have created this situation during the last fifty years. Every one should be allowed to work in this 50th anniversary of independence and the political situation should be cleared.

[English]

The only stumbling block is political disunity.

[Translation]

If we could assure this then we all would move into the 21st century in a better way.

Now, I shall take up crop insurance. First we have started setting up a project. The Finance Department have some objections on this project and as a result thereof it has been held up. There is a problem in it and the problem is that when the State Government sends a report, a central team goes there and makes assessment. The assessment of both these teams varies widely. The hon. Member, Pathak ji has said that when his State demanded Rs.3500 crore, only Rs. 85 crore were provided but when the other State demanded Rs 30 crore they were provided Rs. 60 crore. The central team first goes there and makes assessment. The Committee of secretaries holds a meeting and then the funds are approved. Today, we have provided Rs. 86 crore to Gujarat. The central team had visited Gujarat. We have provided Rs. seven crore to Sikkim. We could not provide the funds to Kerala because we have just received the report from there. The Committee of secretaries has not yet assessed it. As soon as the committee makes assessment, I can assure you that we would provide funds to Kerala also. We would extend full

[Shri Chaturanan Mishra]

cooperation to those states which are hit by floods. We have shortage of resources. Whatever has been provided during the last five years is before you. We have issued instructions to the secretaries to ensure that the central team and the State team would work together in order to submit unanimous report regarding the extent of damage caused and the extent of assistance needed. The Minister faces a lot of problems when the reports vary because if I am the Minister according to one Article of the Constitution then he is the Minister of State as per the other Article of the same Constitution. We can't say that report submitted by them is not correct. Therefore, we should find out a way out so that only one report is submitted.

Hon. Members have pleaded to take some measures to deal with earthquakes in future. We can't stop earthquake nor we can give prior information in that regard. In this world of science, no one could make any discovery in this regard. . . (Interruptions) Please have patience. I have called a National Seminar in this regard on 18th February. We have invited the scientists from Japan and America. The scientists from other countries have also been invited. We also invite you to the said seminar. Now, I am not debating. I am giving you a solution. We invite you to attend the seminar on 18th February, which will be attended by the people from all over the world and if you have any solution with you, give it to me and we will adopt it.

[English]

Have you understood my point? The Japanese are experts in this field. I have invited them. They are coming here. You also come.

[Translation]

Secondly, I would say that Japan has created community awareness regarding this and keeping this in view our department as well as other departments have also made some assessments regarding earth quake. Our department would also collect the details at the earliest and we would publish a booklet in this regard for all. We have issued instructions that this booklet should be translated and supplied to the earthquake prone zones. Earlier maps were provided regarding rains and now the same would be provided for the earthquake. The hon. Members should check up their regions. We got the information that 730 persons have been killed during the current year.

[English]

I am giving you the figure for the entire country.

[Translation]

But what we should do? We have issued orders in this

regard. We have satellite information and there is meteorology department and C.W.C. We have asked both these departments to furnish the complete information through the satellite. The computers have been set up on four sides so that all the Chief Secretaries, Relief Commissioners could send the information.

[English]

In case there is any default, action will be taken against the officer who is at fault.

[Translation]

The second thing which I want to say about the earthquake is that the houses that would be constructed in earthquake prone areas should be earthquake-proof. Suppose there is a threat of earthquake in Delhi and if the earthquake strikes in old Delhi then I think no one will survive because the houses have been constructed in such a fashion which can't ensure safety from earthquake. We are providing Japanese assistance for undertaking repairs of such houses. The officials of the concerned department would undertake this work. The major problem is regarding storm. Last time I had informed the House that we have received 0.31 million dollars from the F.A.O. We have provided walkie talkie to those who undertake fishing in boats so that they could move to safer places as soon they get information regarding a possible threat in the high seas.

In addition to this, we are holding talks with the State Governments to construct check dams at places where there is a threat of rains so that the flow of water could be firmed in the catchment areas itself in order to check the rain water entering other areas. If the hon. Members submit any scheme in this regard, I shall take the necessary steps.

Our friends from Kerala, Sikkim and Darjeeling have said about landsliding. D.R.D.O. under the Ministry of Defence has ordered that a review would be conducted in those area which are prone to landsliding. We asked the Ministry to check these areas before the starting rains and issued directions to the Collectors to review it every year. Though when such situation arises they only do formalities and say that there are no foodgrains available and try to get boats when there are floods. We asked them to repair all the dams and check the reservoirs so that they can be warned before hand.

One question has been raised about glaciers. I would like to inform you that we talked with the Government of Nepal and I would like to say on the basis of the information, received from the Government of Nepal.;

[English]

Sir, I would just like to quote from the Report:

"... From the brief parametric studies reported above, it appears that the flood peak is likely to be in the range of about 4000 cusecs and the time of arrival of the flood after the breach is about 12 hours."

[Translation]

All will be died with in twelve hours. Therefore, we have taken up it for further studies as to what arrangements we can make. Our friends from Bihar and Shri Nitish Kumarji has raised the point of melting of Himalayan glaciers. If you wish, we can circulate the report in this regard so that you can go through it. What can we say to the State Government in this regard? As we have been voted by the people to power similarly they have also been voted to power by the people. You say that they create disturbances. You tell it to the people because you are in their contact. We can not punished them... (Interruptions) We have given you a chart, you can go through it.

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : It is about calamity relief fund only. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We have given rupees 45 crores for earthquake affected areas in your region also. We asked ICAR to repair the building of Jabalpur University. . . (Interruptions) Please listen to me.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete his reply. Half-an-hour discussion is still to be taken up.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The HUDCO is providing 30 crore rupees for this purpose separately. There is a provision in Indira Avas Yojana etc. that those houses should be constructed first which are damaged. All the departments have been geared up to do this work. Some friends have raised the question that relief fund was set up during the British rule. I would like to say that it is not hundred year old. Its guidelines have been prepared five year ago. Rupees 50 thousands are being given to the dependents of every deceased person from the Prime Minister's relief fund. All other aspects have been covered in these guidelines. Some States give rupees 20 thousand and others give rupees 25 or 50 thousands.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : It takes a lot of time for release of funds from the Prime Minister's relief fund.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We will release fund only after receiving information of death from the District Magistrate. . . (Interruptions) We give compensation to the even to these person who is bitten by snake during floods. If there is delay that can speed up through negotiations.

Due to time constraint I am concluding my point. (Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRABHUSHAN SINGH : You do not want to listen to us.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am hearing you since yesterday. The time allotted to you is over. Now it is time for us to speak. . . (Interruptions)

A question was raised here that construction of dams causes environment pollution. As per the scientific report submitted by the Government if proper precautions are taken than there is no danger to the environment. Due to shortage of time I will speak in brief. Please let me conclude. I regret that I could not reply to the points raised by several Hon'ble Members. . . (Interruptions) Rest of the Members can send their points in writing to us and we will send reply to them.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Heavy losses have been occurred in Konkan region of Maharashtra due to floods. That region is also required some relief.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The State Government has not sent any report. You please give report, we will definitely provide relief.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The Hon'ble Minister has already said to send your queries in writing and he will sent back reply thereof.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the House would take up Half-an-hour discussion. Shri Jag Mohan.

18.39 hrs.

#### HALF AN HOUR DISCUSSION

##### Re: Fire Incident in Uphar Cinema in Delhi

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I would like to begin where the hon. Home Minister had left. You would recall that I had enquired whether there is a Stay Order in this case for the last 14 years or not.

I had also indicated that in 1983, when I happened to be the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, there was a fire accident in what was known as Gopal Towers, a multistory building located in Rajendra Place. Of course, helicopters and other equipment were pressed into service and people were rescued. One person die in that horrible fire accident. Thereafter, I launched a drive and got inspected all the public buildings including cinema houses, high-rise buildings and places of public gatherings. As a consequence