

this month an engineer opened the sluice gates when the water level suddenly rose and consequently the bridge was washed away. Shri Virendra Singh paid a visit to that area on the 7th of this month. I would like to give the names of villages which are affected. Means of transportation have collapsed. The Engineer committed a blunder by opening the sluice gates. The capacity of the reservoir is 880. According to rules, some sluice gates should have been opened in the month of August. Had it been done the bridge would not have collapsed, and damage worth crores of rupees could have been avoided. The Engineer was careless and opened twelve sluice gates and as a result the bridge collapsed and several villages were destroyed. Some of the villages are - Bhairva, Khadia, Shaktinagar, Mishra Rehata, Vispur Purankhas, Jogichaurea, Dibulganj, Veena, Khadeeya, Kakri, Dudichua and Chilka Tad. Many other people along with me paid a visit to these affected villages and saw the ruined houses. They were once uprooted when the dam was to be constructed and now once again they have got uprooted. They have not so far got the compensation from the Project authorities. The Chilka Tad village has been destroyed for the fourth time. I would like to demand, through you, that the Harijan and Adivasis whose houses have been washed away should be provided more ration and fuel. Besides, the project authorities should be asked to provide them houses, education to their children, drinking water facility and electricity. Because of the collapse of the bridge of Rihand dam the entire population of Anpara, Shaktinagar, Vindhya Thermal power etc. and Bedan area of Madhya Pradesh are in dire need of foodgrains and fuel. Sir, I would request the hon. Minister of Railways to start a special train to Mirzapur and Varanasi so that foodgrains and other items could reach the needy urgently. The Central Government should take up the construction work of the destroyed bridge on a war footing. The people of this area have got a meagre compensation whereas those living in the area falling under Madhya Pradesh got a good amount.

MR. SPEAKER: Now Shri Bhubaneswar Prasad Mehta's name will go on record.

SHRI BHUBANESHWAR PRASAD MEHTA (Hazaribagh): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to the lack of irrigation facilities in Bihar. Not even a single inch of land is irrigated through the dams which have been constructed either by D.V.C., Central Government or the Bihar Government in Chhotanagpur or Santhal Parganas district. So far only 3 percent of the total land in the State has got irrigation facility. Not even single person belonging to those families whose land has been submerged has got employment. Hundreds of villages have been submerged but nobody has got employment in lieu thereof. Siwane Reservoir Scheme, Devkali Reservoir Scheme, Donmashya Scheme and Tillaya Upper Canal Project in Hazaribagh district are pending with the Central Water Commission. There are pending unnecessarily and the commission is not approving them. Sir, I want to submit to the Government that Chhotanagpur, Santhal Pargana and Jharkhand are in Bihar are predominantly Adivasi areas and these have been neglected for quite sometime particularly in respect of irrigation I demand that a Master Plan be formulated to provide irrigation facilities to these areas and they should not be neglected anymore.

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PAT-TANAYAK (Bolangir): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to draw your attention to the bridge connecting Bolangir and Kalahandi districts which is being constructed for the last 22 years but has not been completed so far. I feel there might not be any bridge in India or even throughout the world which might have taken 22 years and yet was incompleting. I do not know who is responsible for it - the engineers or the State Government but we have to face the consequences.

Secondly, there is an Ordinance factory in Bolangir where thousands of workers from Kalahandi district come and work. They earn their bread after lot of hard work