

[Sh. S.B. Chavan]

Sir, you will excuse me, I am having a very bad throat and this is also coming as a kind of constraint in explaining the entire position to the House.

I will take care of all the points which have been made by the hon. Members. But, if there are general points - not concerning specific law and order issues of the State Governments where of course, I cannot possibly replay on behalf of the State Governments - and general policy issues are involved, I will try to answer to all the hon. Members who raise those issues.

I do not think that I should say anything more. I am again expressing my thanks to all the hon. Members for participating in the debate.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): The intelligence agencies cannot give us information in time. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs did not say anything about strengthening it. He should tell us the steps being taken by the Government in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI S.B. CHAVAN: In fact, we are collecting the information about the intelligence agencies from some of the countries where they have been facing that problem for the last almost two decades or so. In UK and other countries this problem is very much there international terrorism or that kind of organisation exists. So, we are getting the information from them. If any updating or the training of the intelligence force is required, certainly we will undertake it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have to raise only one issue. Day before yesterday when the debate was going on and when the

hon. Home Minister was also present here, we raised the issue of Tibetians.

MR. SPEAKER: No, not in this way.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Please listen to me for a moment. Clippings from newspapers of the whole world are here. What is going on in India and in Delhi is published in the newspapers of the world.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: I will talk to you about it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There should be something about it. Mr. Speaker Sir, I am ready to assure the hon. Minister of Home Affairs that if all those arrested people are released, they will not protest. I am ready to bear its responsibility.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Nobody understands the delicacy and the intricacy of this issue than you can, Shri George Fernandes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Mr. Speaker Sir, what will happen then?

(ii) **Cauvery Water Dispute**

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion under Rule 193 regarding Cauvery Water Dispute.

The time allotted is two hours. I would, request the Members to be very very pertinent to the subject. I would also request the Members to see that nothing is repeated. Certainly, we would be happy to create a condition and a climate in the House also which will help us to solve this problem. Shri V. Dhananjaya Kumar...

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Today is Friday.

MR. SPEAKER: Yes. Now there is a problem today before us. The private members' business has to start at 3.30. The time allotted for this issue is two hours. If the House agrees, we can discuss it or if the House desires, we can disperse also. I leave it to the judgement of the House.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhinagar): We can break for half an hour. *(Interruptions)*

We can re-assemble at 1.30 *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Dhananjaya Kumar may initiate the debate. We can then adjourn at 1.30 and meet again at two o'clock to take up the discussion. You may not take half-an-hour, Mr. Dhananjaya Kumar. You can finish it before.

SHRI RAM NAIK: (Bombay North). Let us start at 1.30 so that a continuous discussion can take place.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no. Let us take it up now.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Sir, at the outset, I should express my gratitude to the Chair for having allowed a discussion on one of the matters of vital importance. Today, Karnataka is passing through a critical phase.

13.02 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Before going into the details of the present dispute, I feel that I would be justified in giving a small preamble about the origin, utility and the due share of the Cauvery water far as the Karnataka State is concerned.

The river Cauvery rises in the Brahmagiri range of the water ghats in the Coorg district of Karnataka at an elevation of about 1340

m. Harangi, Hamavathi, Shimsha, Arkavathi, Lakshmanathirtha and Svarnavathi are the major tributaries joining the river Cauvery in the Karnataka territory. Kabinl which drains the eastern slopes of the western ghats in the north Malabar district of Kerala State flows through Karnataka and joins the river Cauvery. At the place where Cauvery enters the Tamil Nadu State limits, the Mettur Reservoir has been formed. Bhavani, Amaravathi and Noyyal are the tributaries to the river in the Tamil Nadu State. Cauvery is thus an interstate river with a unique characteristic geographical layout in that its upper hilly catchment lying in the Karnataka and Kerala States is influenced by the dependable south-west monsoon during the months of June to September. While its lower part lies in the plains of Tamil Nadu, served by the not so dependable North East monsoon during the months of October to December.

Sir, I should also give a few details of the basin area, the culturable area and the contribution of the basin water resources of this river Cauvery in these two major States. So far as Karnataka is concerned, Karnataka has 42 per cent of the basin area and 45 per cent culturable area. 63 per cent of the Cauvery basin area is drought-prone. The contribution of basin water resources is as high as 53 per cent in the State of Karnataka, whereas Tamil Nadu has 54 per cent of the basin area and 52 per cent of the cultural area. Sir, the contribution of the basin water resources in Tamil Nadu State is only 30 per cent.

So far as the development made in the Cauvery basin area in terms of conversion of the culturable area into irrigable land is concerned, the basin area which is brought under irrigation in Karnataka State is only 11 per cent, whereas in Tamil Nadu it is 33.5 per cent of the total basin area. In Karnataka State, we are growing one semi-dry crop by making use of the irrigational facilities from river Cauvery, whereas in Tamil Nadu, three wet crops are grown.

With this background, today we will have to examine the effects of the Intern

[Sh. V. Dhananjaya Kumar]

Order passed by the Tribunal and the consequent notification issued by the Government of India. Sir, all of us know that water is a basic necessity required for human life for cultivation, for drinking purposes, for generation of power and so on. Now, as we know in the case of sharing of waters of an inter-state river, certain basic principles will have to be observed and these factors will have to be taken into consideration. These include (1) basic facts; (2) culturable area or irrigable land; (3) contribution of quantity of water; and (4) population.

Sir, today all of us should understand that this is a humane problem. We expect the people in authority to have a human approach to this problem. For a moment I do not say that Karnataka being the Upper-river in State alone should be permitted to make use of the entire water flowing in the river Cauvery. On account of the contribution made to the inflow in the river Cauvery and on account of the very dependable South-West monsoon, I am fully aware that the interest of the lower riverine States is also to be safeguarded.

The Legislature in its wisdom has passed the Inter-State Water Disputes Act as far back as in the year 1956. A provision was made for constitution of a tribunal with the specific duties of sharing the water available in an inter-State river. One would expect of such a tribunal to take into consideration all the four basic factors which I have mentioned earlier before making an award or passing an order.

Sir, today my objection is not with reference to the manner in which the tribunal is constituted or the proceedings are conducted before the tribunal or the order or award which is rendered by the tribunal. We know that a tribunal is constituted under a statute. We are the law makers. This august House is empowered to bring about suitable amendments to a statute, to an Act if we find that the provisions of the Act cannot be properly implemented.

Under our constitution, we have agreed that every Act, every law that would be made will give benefit to the maximum number of people. Today the Government of India, as per the Statement made by the hon. Minister for Water Resources, has simply made a reference to the interim award passed by the tribunal and the advisory information given by the Supreme Court and it has taken upon itself the role of bringing the award into implementation. It has expressed its helplessness in so many words in the Statement laid before this august House.

Sir, I would like to pose a question to the hon. Minister. Can they simply shut their eyes to this burning problem and can they say that we are here only to see that the award is implemented in its true letter and spirit?

After all, the Tribunal would make an Order or Award but the implementation part of it, will have to be looked into by the administration or by the concerned Governments. So I would have appreciated, if for a moment, the Government of India had made an in-depth study into the directions given in the Award, as to whether it is implementable whether it is practicable and whether it would solve the burning problem. We know that for over a hundred years, the rightful claims of Karnataka were denied. All along, Karnataka was placed under stress and none of the Projects proposed by the Karnataka State were cleared by the Government of India. The Planning Commission never gave any assistance. Karnataka was put to such an embarrassing situation that it had to invest its own money for taking up the projects in non-plan sector and develop the basin area of river Cauvery and make a little progress so far as provision of irrigation facilities is concerned.

As I have already submitted, Sir, today only 11 per cent of the culturable area is under irrigation in the State of Karnataka and here comes the Order of the Tribunal, which for a moment, I would be justified in saying that the Tribunal has exceeded its jurisdiction in putting a ban or putting a restriction on the rights of Karnataka so far

as the development of the culturable area is concerned and so far as the expansion of the irrigational facilities are concerned.

Sir, the inter-State; Water Disputes Act gives power to the Tribunal only to decide as to how much share of water each State is entitled to. It is left to the individual State as to how this water would be used - whether it would be used for irrigational purposes; whether it would be used for power generation; whether it would be used for industrial purposes and how much area should be brought under irrigation, that too specially when the Government of India has not given any assistance, not even a single paise for development of the irritable land. I want to know whether the Tribunal has got such a right. It is the prime point that should be considered.

Sir, we know very well that the Tribunal has imposed the ban on the riparian State, that is, the State of Karnataka. It has remained silent so far as the rights of the lower riparian State, that is, the State of Tamil Nadu a concerned knowing fully well that Tamil Nadu has already developed 33.5 per cent of the culturable area and had brought that much land under irrigation. A blanket permission is given to Tamil Nadu to further develop the irrigable area. Today, if one goes deep into the orders of the Tribunal, the main claim of Tamil Nadu is based only on this. "Please pass an Interim Order so that our standing summer crops are saved. We have already invested so much of money. We have developed vast irrigable land. So, please pass in Order so that Karnataka are ensured the presence of so much water in the Mettur Dam. Sir, would it not lead to further complication?"

Has the Government of India thought for a moment whether such an order can be implemented? After all, the expectation was that the problem would be solved once for all. The Tribunal was entrusted with this responsibility, to see that there is a proper sharing of water without affecting the rights of the individual States.

Today we are faced with this calamity. We are hearing the news that in Karnataka the people have already taken to the streets. You know that in the history of independent India for the last forty-five years Karnataka has been a very peaceful State, the people of Karnataka are peace-loving and we have never waged a war against any authority. Especially, I would like to bring to the notice, or I would like to remind my friends in the Government of India today that Karnataka all along, has supported the Congress Party for the last 45 years. Karnataka is the land which gave political rehabilitation to Shrimati Indira Gandhi. Would you forget this for a moment?

In fact, I never wanted to bring in all these political aspects, but today the problem is one of the socio-political background and the problem could be solved only with a strong political will. I would like to pose the question whether the Government of India today has the political will to solve this problem. Today, we see that the people of Karnataka have taken to the streets. Yesterday, the people in Mandya area have ransacked the house of one of the hon. Members of this House, Shri Gowda who is sitting here and today the entire Karnataka is observing a *Bandh*, which is sponsored, which actively supported, by the Government in power. This is the same party, the Congress Party, which ruling the Karnataka State. They have declared a week's holiday for all the educational institutions today and the Indian Airlines has canceled all the flights to Bangalore. Should we not think for a moment about what is happening in Karnataka and all this is on account of the implementation of this interim award passed by the Tribunal which is, for all practical purposes, unimplementable, which would cause misery and practically it has become a question of life and death for the people of Karnataka.

I am surprised today - my friend Shri Srikanta Jena is sitting here - that when the entire country rejected the Janata Party and has thrown the Janata Party "...it is Karnataka which gave re-birth to Janata Party in 1983.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I expunge the word.*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: We read alarming news in the newspapers. The Leader of the Opposition in the Karnataka Assembly, is hand in gloves with the Government and with the ruling party in Karnataka. Should I take it that everyone of you have betrayed the people of Karnataka and killed their aspirations?

DR. RAJAGOPALAN SRIDHARAN (Madras South): So far you have been on the right track. I have been listening. Stick to your point. Do not deviate.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I know. I have got the greatest regard for the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I know the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. It is my definite information that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is even prepared today for a negotiated settlement but with a rider.**... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHINNASAMY SRINIVASAN (Dindigul): Sir, he is misleading the House. You have no right to walk about our Chief Minister... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: It is my information... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): There should be no political comments. It should not be politicalised... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Mr. Dhananjaya Kumar, though you have given a compliment to Kumari Jayalalitha, from their point of view it amounts to an allegation.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR. Sir, it is not allegation. It is a fact.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I expunge it.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Sir, I will pose a question to the Government of India. Why is the Government of India not

able to arrive at a settlement? Even today the avenue is open. We praise the hon. Prime Minister. He is an elderly statesman. He could have used his influence. He could have brought both the parties to the negotiating table. Time and again we have made a statement on the floor of the House that the Government of India should come out with a clearcut National Water Policy. It should spell out the rules and regulations under which the inter State river water could be shared. Today we read in the newspapers that the leader of the AIADMK Parliamentary Party has made a demand that the Government should constitute a Committee for proper implementation of this Interim Award. That shows, they also know fully well that this Interim Award cannot be implemented as it is for a moment... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHINNASAMY SRINIVASAN: It is not correct. We do not want any *ad hoc* Committee (*Interruptions*)

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR. This has appeared in the press... (*Interruptions*) Otherwise how will the Award be implemented? Will the Government of India send the Army to Karnataka State to see that water is released?

If one would look at the Order that has been made, the Tribunal has said that when we say that 205 tmc water is to be released over a period of a year commencing from June to May, we have taken into account the release of water during the past ten years, that was from 1980-81 to 1989-90. Sir, interestingly, out of these ten years they have left out the quantum of water released during four years. The Order says:

"In considering these figures, we have to exclude the figures for the years 1980-81 and 1981-82, which were described by parties as abnormally good years. We have also excluded from consideration the figures for the years 1985-86 and 1987-88, which were classified to be bad years. The average

*Not recorded.

**Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

annual flow of the remaining six years work out to 205.3 tmc, which may be rounder off to 205 tmc."

That is called in Kannada language 'Kaji Nyaya'. When an arbitrator is asked to hammer out the dispute between parties, he will just say "this half you take, this half you take" without giving the basis on which he arrived at the solution.

Sir, the release of water in the year 1985-86 was only 158.28 tmc. In the year, it was only 103.90 tmc. Why could more water not be released during those years? We know that water is not a commodity, which could be manufactured in a factory.

Sir, today this Award gives a direction to the Government of Karnataka "that" you release this much of water; every month you release specified quota and that too, every week you should ensure that so much of flow is there into the Mettur Reservoir". And they have also said: "If you are not able to release in a particular week, you make up in the next week". How will it be possible?

We could not release water in a particular week because there is no availability of water. How can we release more water in the coming week so that we make up whatever restricted flow during the earlier week? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude. There are many others who want to speak on this.

(Interruptions)

SHRIV. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Today in Karnataka, people are taken to streets. They are on fast... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You need not give any explanation to them. Please conclude.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: On this, one of the most relevant factors should have weighed in the mind of the Tribunal. Water is a natural resource. If God gives

good rain, of course we can release any amount of water as it has happened this year. There is no demand from the Tamil Nadu State this year because water overflowed and water is overflowing from the Mettur Reservoir and it goes waste to the Bay of Bengal. Should it not made a provision for the restricted releases in bad years? It should have thought for a moment. Then you share the good days, should you not also equally share bad days? When there is no availability of water; should it not be equally distributed among the two riparian States?

I would like to pose a question to Shrimati Basavarajeswari. I have already said that all along Congress was supported in Karnataka. Today can our senior Members who have been elected to this august House not for the first time but for the second, third, fourth and fifth time, can face the people of Karnataka? Our hon. Minister Shri Shankaranand has created a record by continuously winning from this constituency for the seventh time. Can he think for a moment to go back to his constituency and face the people of Karnataka?...*(Interruptions)* All along we have been fighting together rising above party politics. Yesterday, Sir, I saw on TV the faces of our Congress friends who went and met the Prime Minister. I want to know the reason as to why they have left out the other friends here. Is it a party meeting? Is any preparation being made to see that Mr. Bangarappa is removed from the Chief Ministership? It is not the Members of Parliament who are meeting the President of the Congress Party, the MPs of Karnataka went and met the Prime Minister of the country...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI S.B. SIDNAL (Belgaum): Sir, let him restrict only to Cauvery. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: All these are abstracts of Cauvery and it is the contribution of these political maneuverings. That is why it is very relevant.

I would make an earnest appeal to the hon. Minister of Water Resources and also through him to the hon. Prime Minister, at

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least at this juncture, let the good senses prevail in their minds and let them make use of their good offices, so that they can bring about an amicable settlement which is acceptable to both the parties and the time is very ripe. Otherwise, I would like to remind that we will have another disturbing State in this country. Karnataka is going on the way of Punjab, Assam and Kashmir.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has said that the Leader of the Opposition and the Chief Minister are hand in glove. I could not follow for what they are hand in glove. This is a contradictory remark and this should not form part of the proceedings. If the Karnataka Assembly is referred here, then I can also refer the same thing about the Leader of the Opposition in this House. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Shri Jena, the Janata Dal State President has condemned the stand taken by the Opposition Leader, who belongs to his own party, in the Karnataka Assembly. It has appeared in all the newspapers. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Basava Rajeswari.

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank you for having given me an opportunity to participate in this discussion. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: Sir, I am on a point of order. It was agreed that we should break for lunch at 1.30 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Basava Rajeswari, you please continue your speech after lunch. Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 P.M.

13.38 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till ten minutes past fourteen of the clock

14.19 hrs.

The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at nineteen minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193

(ii) **Cauvery Water Dispute- Contd.**

[*English*]

SHRIMATI BASAVA RAJESWARI (Bellary): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Cauvery is an inter-State river and it is one of the major rivers in the southern peninsula. The area to be benefited are Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala before it joins the Bay of Bengal.

The total availability of water in the delta is 790 TMC; Karnataka's contribution is 425 TMC, Tamil Nadu's contribution is 252 TMC and Kerala's contribution is 113 TMC. There had been an agreement by the Ex-Maharajas and the British in the years 1892 and 1924 which had expired in 1974. Tamil Nadu has developed 28 lakh acres of land under the proposed project whereas Karnataka has developed only 21 lakh acres and 2 lakh acres under the mini-proposed project. There are 28 taluks which are very much affected by drought in Karnataka whereas in Tamil Nadu there are only 14 taluks which are affected by drought conditions.

Sir, as you are very well aware, we are peace-loving people and we have been known for our hospitality. We are self-disciplined people. There are quite a number of examples to show that we have been more generous; whenever there was scarcity of user and whenever crops were withering

away in Tamil Nadu, we have been giving water to Tamil Nadu judiciously. Sometimes, we have given them water for sharing of power with Tamil Nadu.

A number of friends from Andhra Pradesh are sitting here. Many small farmer of Andhra Pradesh have migrated to Karnataka and settle in the Tungabhadra area. They have purchased lands and the have become farmers. They have entered politics and business also. We have never disturbed for having settled there. It shows our hospitality to the people from other areas. So also, from Tamil Nadu, people have come and settled in the Badra delta. They have become progressive farmers there. Therefore, I would like to say that we do not want to quarrel with any one of the riparian States.

At the time of the Janata Government, the Tribunal has been constituted and that Tribunal has given an interim order. I do not want to go into the details of it. After the Tribunal has given its interim order, the Karnataka Government has passed an Ordinance to protect the interests of the farmers of Karnataka. Then, the Central Government has referred the matter to the Supreme Court asking its opinion and the Supreme Court has given its opinion. With due respect to the judiciary, the Central Government has published the interim order of the Tribunal in the official gazette and after the gazette notification, you might have read in newspapers as to what is happening in Karnataka. The people of Karnataka have come to the streets, crores of properties have been damaged and schools have been closed for seven days. The airlines have been stopped and there is a total *bandh* in Karnataka today.

Sir, now, I would like to give a few points about the tribunal's interim order. The Cauvery water dispute between the States of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka has been there since long. A number of expert teams and fact-finding committees were appointed by the Central Government from time to time. But the question still remains unsolved. The Cauvery Waters Dispute Tribunal has

passed an interim order on 25.6.1991. No tribunal has given an order either in the country or in the world so far. The interim relief granted by the tribunal is one outside the jurisdiction. There is no finding on the question of jurisdiction in the order of the tribunal. The interim order of the tribunal does not come under the provisions of the Inter State Water Disputes Act of 1956. This cannot be construed as an order under section 5(2) of the Inter State Water Disputes Act, as according to the Tribunal, there has been no investigation of the matter referred to it by the Government of India.

The Tribunal has no right to give the order. It has only the right to place the report before the Central Government. The order passed by the Tribunal is not coming under section 5(2) of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act. The Tribunal has passed an unilateral order by which the interests of the upper Riparian States have been ignored and only the interests of Tamil Nadu are taken care of.

The unilateral decision to allocate a fixed quantity of 205 TMC of water at Mettur dam to Tamil Nadu has not taken into consideration the availability of water, the needs of Karnataka and also the availability of water in Tamil Nadu and also the wastage of water in Tamil Nadu.

While fixing to give 205 TMC of water to Tamil Nadu every year, it has ignored the consequences to the extent that Karnataka would suffer both in good year as well as in bad year. The Commission has not considered the committed uses in Karnataka to preserve the rights of the parties and the balance of convenience. It would have been proper for the Tribunal to have taken into consideration the existing and committed uses in Karnataka in comparison to the existing uses in Tamil Nadu.

After the Tribunal was formed, the Government of Karnataka has not altered or deviated the course or the flow of river water for the benefit of the State. The Tribunal has asked the Karnataka Government to stop all the ongoing projects but not put any such

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condition to Tamil Nadu. Sir, to release water weekly, monthly or fortnightly is impracticable. It is not possible to supply water to mettur dam either fortnightly or weekly when there is no availability of water.

These are the legal aspects which I have mentioned. I would like to say what best we can do to solve this problem. Now I will go to the practicality as to how the Tribunal at the time of finalising the Revision Petition filed by the Karnataka Government or at the time of giving final judgement should consider all aspects.

The cropping pattern in Karnataka has not changed. As you are well aware, we are using the water very judiciously. More so, in some of the district. water is being used for dry crops like mulberry, ragi and other crops whereas Tamil Nadu is using water continuously for three crops during the year, for summer paddy also. In this connection, I would like to say that cropping pattern, if necessary, has to be changed. The problem arises when there is no water or scarcity of water during summer. Before we take a final decision, we should be in a position to know how best we can change the cropping pattern. Under the new agricultural research programmes, there are good crops which can give very good remunerative price for the farmers. But our farmers know growing paddy and sugarcane only which need a lot of water. Now it is proper time, the technical people should come forward to show how best we can grow other crops which are more remunerative which are capable of using only a little water for very little duration. Such crops like oilseeds and pulses are very much remunerative and these can be considered during the summer.

Till now we have built various projects for the purpose of irrigation. Regarding water management, we have not taught our farmers. Our people should also undergo proper training for water management and judicious use of water supply which we have not done so far. Water is being let out throughout day and night and water flows

again and it goes into the sea and the entire land becomes saline and again we ask for reclamation. It is high time that training for water management is given and judicious use of water supply should be implemented in these projects before the problem arises. There are a number of agro-based industries, bio-gas plants.

The rice mills are very much dependent on the agricultural crop. What are we going to do when there is no water? What happens to these industries? Do you mean to say that the industries should go sick? I want to ask a particular question. We have to safeguard the interests of the industries which are established in that region.

It is very necessary that the tribunal, before it passes the final order and before the review petition is finalised, should also take these things into consideration.

As regards unemployment, how many labourers are dependent on these projects? Whenever there is irrigation, you know that labourers will be migrating to that area to irrigate the areas and to get employment and they are assured of employment. As there is scarcity of labour in the affected areas, they are getting much more than the minimum wages which are given by the Government. What are you going to do with this labour? Are you going to send them back? These things have to be thought over.

Regarding localisation pattern, more or less we have built the dams as a protective measure. Now it is our turn. Everybody should have a share in the water. Therefore, water should be given to the existing crops and the crops should be protected and more area should be irrigated. More farmers will be benefited. These points should be thought of by the Government.

It is better we take expert opinion on the rotation and block system of which we have not thought so far. It is very much necessary. The persons who benefited much from the sugar cane crop always enjoy. But what about the tail-enders? Do they get water?

Hundreds of acres of land have been auctioned by the Government. They have become bankrupt as they have become regular defaulters. They invested lot of money. We have not taken care of the tailenders or the people who have not been receiving the water. On the one side, some people are becoming very rich. On the other side, people are dying and they have become defunct. Most of the lands in Karnataka have gone to the Government. What justice are we going to give? Therefore, we should think of rotation and block system. In doing this, we will be doing justice to the farmers who come under the command area

I have requested the Prime Minister to have an amicable settlement without affecting both the States. We hope that the Prime Minister will come forward and make the parties sit across the table and see that an amicable settlement is reached. We, Members of Parliament, have met our Prime Minister and he was kind enough to hear us and he has assured us that we will have an amicable settlement as early as possible.

I came to know that Ms Jayalalitha has also agreed to sit for negotiations. It is a good suggestion.

Now come question are filed by the Karnataka Government and before a final decision is given, it should be considered promptly and carefully, taking into consideration the practicality of the situation there.

An amicable settlement should not be delayed. It should be expedited and a final decision should be given as early as possible taking into account the seriousness of the Karnataka people. The four million people of Karnataka are very much affected by this order and the situation in Karnataka demands that the sentiments of the people of Karnataka should not be disregarded

With these words, I once again request the Prime Minister and the Irrigation Minister to see that a settlement is reached as early as possible without affecting both the States.

As it is going to be in the national interest, one should not prosper and the others should not suffer. We should sit mutually across the table and take the expert opinion. Whatever is available, it should be shared between the two States.

SHRIMATI CHANDRA PRABHA URS (Mysore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the vital issue of Cauvery Water Dispute.

I would like to remind the House that this Cauvery Water issue need not have been allowed to create such a law and order problem and human problem in Karnataka. After all, the Cauvery is a sacred, life-giving river for both Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. From 1924 to 1974, an agreement prevailed. That agreement was also not scientifically drafted for an equitable distribution of water. That agreement was made when the erstwhile British rulers were there. That was a treaty made during the Viceroy's period, who had the headquarters at Madras province.

Sir, we the people of Karnataka, though live in the upper riparian area, are the most sufferers, the most-affected people. We are peace-loving people, most generous and most hospitable people. In my constituency alone there are about 20-25 per cent of farmers who hailed from Tamil Nadu. They are owning lands there enjoying the benefits from the Cauvery River. They also work as agricultural labourers. They are allowed to stay there and share the water for irrigation, live with prosperity and peace.

Now I would like to remind the House about one thing. I want to bring this to the notice of the other colleagues here from Tamil Nadu also. When Shri M.G. Ramachandran was the Chief Minister even after 1974, - at that time itself the period of agreement was over - when Shrimati Indira Gandhi was the hon. Prime Minister of Indira, at that time my late father Shri Devraj Urs was the Chief Minister in Karnataka and the matter was never allowed to be taken to the judicial purview or to the streets. Even when Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime

[Shrimati Chandra Prabha Urs]

Minister, it was never allowed to be taken to Courts. I am telling this very painfully. It was never done so. They used to share joy and sorrow, drought and bountiful waters. In the Cauvery River, water was available in very large quantities. They used to have cordial talks. A give-and-take policy was adopted at that time. They adopted the policy of live and let others live. There was an harmonious atmosphere which prevailed there. They used to share the water equitably that was available at the appropriate time. Whenever water was requested, it was given more generously to them. Most unfortunately, the matter was taken to the Court of Law during. Shri Vishwanath Pratap Singh's regime at the Centre and because of the non-cooperation of Shri Karunanidhi with the Government of Karnataka. I do not want to make those remarks to politicise the issue. But this is the fact. Unfortunately, this political decision was taken at that time. Since then, the Cauvery Water issue was heated up and it became turbid.

During the time of Shri M.G. Ramachandran and Shri Devraj Urs, Shri Devraj Urs himself had made a practical survey of the issue. They came to an understanding that a practical survey should be conducted on this issue. There was an agreement drafted for an amicable solution. Further, the other day, we discussed this issue with our hon. Minister of Irrigation. He also mentioned about this. They had created an atmosphere to bring about an congenial atmosphere to settle this matter amicably, peacefully and with an understanding with each other. There is a survey made available for equitable distribution of the Cauvery Waters at that time it was almost agreed upon and it was about to be signed by both the Governments. Unfortunately, there was a change in the political atmosphere. President's rule was proclaimed in Karnataka and that could not be implemented at all. That could not be given effect to. Whatever be the arithmetical jugglery here, the interim award of the Tribunal cannot be a permanent solution. The Cauvery is a sacred River for us.

The issue should be settled amicably and peacefully, with an understanding. It could not be given effect to, as there were political changes. There was Governor's rule. Knowing well that it is a burning problem and the grave situation which the farmers are facing in Karnataka, the Tribunal had awarded the interim order, which had been questioned again in the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court has given its opinion and it is being gazetted by the Central Government. The time has not run out and even now, we can discuss his issue and can come to an amicable and peaceful settlement. We request and appeal to both the Chief Ministers of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu to sit along with the Irrigation Minister here at the Centre and to sort out the problem scientifically and practically and to equally distribute the Cauvery water among the two States.

Sir, nature has come to our rescue this year. Otherwise, we were suffering from drought for the last five to six years. This year, nature alone has given us a ray of hope and it has sorted out the problem for which we have been fighting for and the excess water is going to the Bay of Bengal. But it cannot be a permanent solution. The statistical figure of 205 TMCs of water to be released was mentioned by the Tribunal for a particular period. But scientifically and practically, it cannot be implemented. There is no use of passing such orders. It could be sorted out only through the intervention by our hon. the Prime Minister. We, as Members of Parliament, again cooperate in any talks which can be negotiated peacefully by sitting a cross the table. I hope that our hon., the Prime Minister, who is an elderly statesman and an experienced person, would take the initiative to call upon and give proper guidance and directions to both the States, to sit together and sort out this matter.

Lot of violent agitations have been taking place in Karnataka; the students and the people are on the streets, and properties worth crores of rupees have been damaged. The matter should not be allowed to go on, till a number of deaths take place and immediately something should be done about it, for which we all extend our cooperation.

Otherwise, we will have to rethink again on this issue and go for a peaceful agitation, if the necessity arises. I hope that situation will not arise by the intervention of our hon. the Prime Minister and the Irrigation Minister.

I request the Centre to settle the issue amicably and peacefully. We have all been living together like brothers so far. The same feeling should prevail once again and a peaceful atmosphere should be created. I once again appeal through you to the Government of India to come forward for negotiations and settle this issue amicably.

PROF. K. VENKATAGIRI GOWDA (Bangalore South): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I arise to speak in pain and agony, with tears in my eyes, about the dispute between two friendly, neighbourly States namely, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. My predecessor, who just now spoke has given the gist of the dispute, and has given the statistics of the dispute and facts of the dispute. He also gave the legal picture of the dispute. I do not have to repeat that for repeating that would be to take the time of the House. The unfortunate problem of Cauvery water dispute has created a crisis in Karnataka. This crisis is multi-dimensional. In the first place, there is a crisis of confidence in the objectivity of the Central Government.

In the second place, there is crisis in the relations between two neighboring friendly States - Karnataka and Tamilnadu. In the third place, there is crisis in Karnataka itself. What are the causes of this crisis?

Last week, on the 5th of December, an all-party delegation of MPs and MLAs of Karnataka met the Prime Minister in his residence. I was in the delegation. This delegation apprised the Prime Minister of the problems of Karnataka. Karnataka has been asked to release 205 TMC of water to Tamilnadu. We told him the sufferings that the people of Karnataka will have to face in that event and also requested him to arrange for peaceful settlement of the dispute between Karnataka and Tamilnadu. The Prime Minister gave a patient hearing and appeared to be sympathetic to Karnataka's case.

Ultimately he said "don't wage a legal battle, for legal battle will take a very long time, it is time consuming and also it would embitter the relations between the two States." He also advised us to come to a settlement across the table. We accepted his advice and assured him that we would abide by it.

Unfortunately, four days later the Central Government gazetted the award of the Water Dispute Tribunal. This is the cause of the agitation. The people of Karnataka feel that the Central Government treated them very badly. They also feel that the Central Government has played the politics of survival because the minority Government in Delhi wants the support of the Tamilnadu MPs. Therefore, in order to placate the feelings of Tamilnadu MPs, to placate the feelings of the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu, the Central Government sided Tamilnadu and made haste in gazetting the notification in the official gazette of the Government. This is another cause of the agitation.

What is the gravity of the agitation now? The people of Karnataka feel that they are wronged. Karnataka is on fire. They feel that Delhi has set fire to it. People of Karnataka have started burning buses and lorries. They are also burning buses and lorries of Tamilnadu, bearing Tamil names on their way to Bangalore and Mysore from Coimbatore or Madras city.

There are several Tamilians who are farmers in the Cauvery basin areas. Their interests are also affected. Thousands of farm labourers who have hailed from Tamilnadu are also facing problems. They feel threatened. There are thousands of hotel workers, building workers in Bangalore and they feel that they are not safe in Karnataka. Already the people of Karnataka have threatened to assault the Tamil Population in Mysore, Mandya and Bangalore.

Yesterday the house of an MP in Mandya was ransacked and they tried to set fire to it. The police had to open fire, with the result five persons were killed on the spot. Newspapers say that they were injured; but

[Prof. K. Venkatagiri Gowda]

it is not so. Because I got telephone calls from Bangalore, Madya and Mysore that five deaths have taken place. The police say that they were only injured. Furthermore, the people of Tamilnadu who are working in Karnataka do not feel safe and have begun to flee from Karnataka.

The people of Tamilnadu may indulge in reprisals. When this happens, there will be an inter-State war and this does not sugar well for the federal structure. Already several States which feel wronged by the Centre are demanding fiscal autonomy and other types of autonomy. If Karnataka continues to be wronged in this manner, Karnataka may also demand autonomy. Already in India there is, what is called, the Baltic syndrome. Such is the tendency of the States in India at present. Before long, Karnataka may also be affected by this syndrome. Therefore I appeal to the Central Government in the interest of the federal structure, in the interest of the unity and integrity of the country not to pursue this present policy, but arrange for a settlement between Tamilnadu and Karnataka. Call the Chief Ministers who are compliant, make them sit across the table and come to a settlement. We are now releasing 167 TMC of water to Tamilnadu.

But the people of Tamilnadu demand the release of 205 tmc of water. These are two extremes. They must come to an agreement; arrive at a consensus and settle the issue amicably. If it is done, the two friendly States will be friendly and the relations between the people of Karnataka and the people of Tamilnadu will be good. Otherwise, Karnataka will lose patience and Karnataka may become another Assam or Punjab in South India. South India is normally a peace-loving place. So also, the people of Karnataka are peace-loving. If Karnataka is subjected to this kind of treatment any longer, it may not be surprise if Karnataka becomes another Punjab. It will also demand secession from the Indian Union. But that should not happen. We have to protect the unity and integrity of the country.

The Prime Minister is a great statesman and he should intervene in the matter and call for the meeting of the two Chief Ministers and other officers to discuss the matter and settle it amicably, in which case the relations between the two States will be good, cordial and peaceful. That is the only way. If that is not done, the war bells will ring and the Central Government should be careful.

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA (Mandya):
Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank Mr. Deputy Speaker, the Central Government and also all the Members of this House for having given me this opportunity to discuss this very vital issue of sharing the Cauvery Waters.

Sir, I need not go into all the details of this and it is sufficient if I submit and bring to the knowledge of all the hon. Members of this House as to what has happened after 1924 Agreement, when the British was ruling the State. A lot of injustice has been done to the people of Karnataka and they were not allowed to take even a cup of water from it. Only in Mysore area where *Maharaja* was ruling, they were able to construct only one single dam. After that we were not able to construct any dam.

Sir, as we know, there was an Agreement in 1924. The entire world knows and the country knows that a lot of injustice has been done to the people of Karnataka and I need not refer to this point again.

In that 1924 Agreement, there is a provision which says,

"After the lapse of 50 years, that is in the year 1924, the States-concerned should sit together, review taking into consideration the facts and conditions prevailing at that time".

Accordingly, we are under the impression and we are under the firm conviction that 1924 Agreement is no longer in existence and there is no sanctity attached to that Agreement.

On the other hand, the friends from

Tamilnadu argue that Agreement is still binding and they are entitled to get the entire Cauvery water. That is not so. On that presumption, we have taken up several projects at our own cost. But so many projects are pending here. The Tamil Nadu Government has all along been opposing the clearance of these projects by the Central Government. But now our point is, whether the tribunal constituted at the instance of Tamil Nadu has power to pass an interim order. There is no provision for issuing an interim order in the inter-State water dispute. After the expiry of 1974 agreement, we know river Cauvery is an inter-State river. All the States concerned have a right over its water to make use of it to the extent possible. Keeping that point in view, our Government was prepared for negotiations. All the concerned States have discussed it. Even the Central Irrigation Minister has discussed with all the concerned officers, technical officers and with the other Ministers concerned. Several meetings have been held to settle this dispute amicably.

We know that we are all Indians, whether we are from Karnataka or from the other State. We are all brethren. We know that the river waters and all the wealth of this country have to be distributed proportionately, that is, according to the needs of each State. With this background in mind, we wanted to settle this problem amicably.

The tribunal has passed an order which cannot be implemented. We are challenging this in the Supreme Court. As I said earlier, I do not want to give an explanation how the Karnataka people have suffered or how injustice has been inflicted on the people of Karnataka. Several petitions are still pending before the Supreme Court and a revision petition is also there before the tribunal. Our difficulties are not being taken into account. The tribunal has not taken into consideration the monsoon season. And it does not understand from where the river Cauvery starts and where it ends. The river flows from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu and not from Tamil Nadu to Karnataka.

The rainfall has not been taken into

consideration. It does not rain there for all the 365 days nor does the river flow for all these days. The river flows from July to December and during the other months, this river remains dry. The tribunal has passed an order to give water to Tamil Nadu during all the months in an year. This cannot be implemented. When the MPs from the concerned States met our learned Prime Minister, he advised us that it was a vital and sensitive question and it could not be solved by courts. We are prepared for negotiations. Let us have a meeting for negotiations so that this problem can be solved amicably.

15.00 hrs.

Sir, we MPs approached the Water Resources Minister, Mr. Shukla and submitted a memorandum to postpone the notification. But I do not know what prompted him to notify it early. Even though four days ago we met Mr. Shukla, he has hurriedly published it in the Gazette. And as soon as people came to know about it, there was lot of agitation. There was police firing and violence. A bandh had been declared by the Karnataka Government today. Yesterday, curfew was also imposed. So, it is the duty of the Government of India to call for the concerned State Chief Ministers to the negotiation table to hold negotiations in the interest of the country. Shri Venkatagiri Gowda has already stated that a lot of people are suffering. Yesterday, an unrest mob entered into my house and demanded my resignation and also of the MLAs of the state. We are the representatives of the people. How can we function as legislators or as representatives of people when a mob enters into our houses? We have no respect in the society and people do not respect us. Sir, you know that only by the confidence of the people, we have been elected to this House. I have been elected to Parliament for two terms and also six terms in the Assembly due to the confidence of the people on me. And now, people have entered my house and have asked for my resignation. Why should I resign? I am not here to raise my hand to save this Government. And I am not prepared to raise my hand and save this Government. When people who have elected

[Sh. G. Made Gowda]

me for the last thirty years are demanding my resignation, I cannot keep quiet losing my self-respect. If the Government of India fail to bring an amicable solution by way of negotiations, I am ready to quit this House. We are working for democracy in the interest of unity and integrity of the country. This issue should not be settled by court. So many decisions of the court have not been still implemented. Shri Dhananjaya Kumar has also pointed out that the order cannot be implemented. Our people have already locked the doors of the dams and they have taken the law into their hands. And you cannot implement this order. Sir, this is a very serious matter... (*Interruptions*)... History shows that no Government can survive by going against the wishes of the people, be it Congress Government or JD Government, if any Government neglects the wishes and welfare of the people, than it will be thrown out whatever be their objectives or principles. When people are agitated and dissatisfied, no Government can survive. Whatever Principles there may be, they will remain only on paper. People will never tolerate such things.

I humbly submit that this is a very serious matter. Through you, I request the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is an experienced man. He understands the problem. Several times, he himself has stated that sensitive issues such as these, should be discussed and amicably decided out of court. Now we are ready and our Chief Minister is also ready for negotiations. Through you, I once again request the Prime Minister to call a meeting of all the concerned States. Not only Karnataka, but there are four States which are concerned over this issue. Let the Prime Minister call the concerned Chief Ministers to a negotiating table and settle the matter amicably in the larger interests of this country. Otherwise our people will rebel and no Government under such circumstances can undo the damage done.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Now that the real danger is

posed to the Government, I hope it will wake up immediately.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): What about you? Will you not resign? Will you be sitting here?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Your Party is not interested in solving the problem. You only want our resignations.

SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: If the people are agitated and if the Government fails to bring out an amicable solution, all of us, all the 24 Members from Karnataka will be forced to resign. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam: Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, river Cauvery is an inter-state river, flowing through the State of Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. For Tamil Nadu, Cauvery is the only major river available. All the other rivers in Tamil Nadu are very minor and they are not perennial. Irrigation in Cauvery basin in Tamil Nadu is very ancient. It is more than 2,000 years old. About 80 per cent of the canal irrigation in the State is dependent entirely on Cauvery. The rights of water in Cauvery basin in this State are protected by the agreements of 1892 and 1924. The fate of millions of farmers of Tamil Nadu and also the fate of food production in the State hinges on the continued availability of water in this river. So, it is a life and death problem for the farmers of Tamil Nadu.

The 1892 agreement ensures continued protection for prescriptive rights, already acquired and actually existing at any point of time. The 1924 agreement concluded under the provisions of the 1892 agreement.

Soon after the States reorganisation, Government of Karnataka embarked on new projects such as Kabini, Hemavathi, Harangi, Swamavathi and other projects and started constructing the reservoirs without obtaining the consent of Tamil Nadu as stipulated in 1892 agreement which was

reiterated in the 1924 agreement. The Government of India have also not cleared any of these projects. The Government of Tamil Nadu requested the Government of India to constitute a tribunal to settle the dispute in the year 1970. The Government of India convened meetings of the Chief Ministers of the basin States to examine the scope for a negotiated settlement of the dispute. But no agreement was reached in these meetings. From 1974 onwards, Karnataka started immediately abrogating the 1924 agreement and intercepting the flows legitimately due to the State of Tamil Nadu and impounding the same in their newly constructed dams and letting only the surplus waters. Bilateral discussions between the Chief Ministers of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka were held. But the talks could not bring about any settlement.

During President's Rule, bilateral talks were held by the Government of Tamil Nadu with the Chief Ministers of Karnataka. But those discussions also failed to bring about a settlement on narrow down the differences. Thereafter, the Government of Tamil Nadu supported the prayer of Tamil Nadu farmers who filed a writ petition in the Supreme Court in 1983 requesting for issue of directions to the Government of India to refer the dispute to a tribunal. The Supreme Court on 4.5.90 issued directions to the Government of India constituted a tribunal to settle the dispute. The Government of India constituted on 2.10.90 the Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal.

In Karnataka the ayacut and utilisation which was 6.83 lakhs acres and 177 TMC in 1971-72 is reported to have increased to 13.78 lakhs acres and 312 TMC as on 1990-91. Karnataka has proposals to increase the ayacut and utilisation still further to 26 lakhs acres and 465 TMC. As a result of Karnataka's unauthorised interception of flows due to Tamil Nadu, the inflows into Mettur have been progressively coming down. The steep fall in the inflows into Mettur has caused great distress to the farmers and farm labourers and to the State year after year the loss of production of food and power and the farm labourers are

suffering without adequate work to sustain them. Restoration of the flows of the Cauvery in accordance with the provisions of 1924 agreement is imperative to relieve the sufferings in the Delta and revive the agricultural economy in the region. Both States placed their facts and position to the tribunal and argued their cases. The tribunal after hearing their arguments, passed an interim award on merits on 25.6.91 and directed the State of Karnataka to release 205 TMC of water from its reservoirs to Tamil Nadu on monthly pattern from June to May. But the Karnataka Government refused to honour the interim award of the tribunal. On the other hand Karnataka promulgated an ordinance to nullify the interim order of Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal. It is violative of the Constitution. At that time there was a great unrest in Tamil Nadu. A total *Bundh* was observed in Tamil Nadu. One of our ministers, Shri Ramamurthy also resigned from the Cabinet to reflect the sentiments of the people of Tamil Nadu. But, Tamil Nadu accepted the verdict of the tribunal just to obey the orders of the Court, though the legitimate right and the actual requirement of Tamil Nadu is more than 205 TMC of water.

Then, the Government of India referred the Interim Order of the Tribunal to the Supreme Court for its legal opinion. Under Article 143 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court, after hearing both the sides has struck down the Ordinance issued by the Government of Karnataka as unconstitutional and upheld the Tribunal's Interim Award. The verdict of the Supreme Court is unambiguous and clear. Karnataka, this time, also refused to accept the verdict of the Supreme Court and has chosen to file a Review Petition which is against the harmonious existence of the States under a federal structure. To uphold the federal structure of the Constitution and to maintain the harmony among the States, States must have faith and trust in the verdict of the Court. From our side, we wish to be cordial towards Karnataka.

Our Chief Minister wants to maintain cordial relationship with Karnataka. But on

[Sh. P.G. Narayanan]

the contrary, Karnataka Government always defies the Court on this issue. Now, the Government of India, on the direction of the Supreme Court, notified the Interim Award of the Tribunal in the interest of justice. Now, Karnataka is defying the Government of India also. The Government of Karnataka is blaming the Prime Minister for having notified the Interim Award. At this stage, Karnataka side wants negotiation for an amicable settlement. In the past, several bilateral talks were held and all the time talks have failed. Our past experience proved that bilateral talks between the two States will not be useful in arriving at an amicable settlement.

So, we have no faith in the bilateral talks. Our Chief Minister will not accept for talks with Karnataka Chief Minister at this stage. We want proper implementation of the Interim Award. I would request the Government of India to constitute the Implementation Authority without delay for periodic release of water as per the direction of the Tribunal. So, our Chief Minister is not ready for talks now because the Chief Minister of Karnataka was not ready for talks when our Chief Minister was ready for talks. It is unfortunate that there is unrest and tension in Karnataka. Tamil people living in Karnataka are being attacked. The properties of Tamils are being destroyed. What crimes have they committed? They are not responsible for the present situation. It is the Karnataka Government which is responsible for the present situation because, the Cauvery issue was mishandled by the Karnataka Government. The fundamental right of every individual to stay anywhere in India is enshrined in our Constitution. A large number of Tamil People are living in Karnataka for their livelihood. It is unfortunate that Karnataka Government is not taking proper steps for protecting the Tamil people.

In this connection, I would again request the Government of India to constitute the 'Implementation Authority' without any delay, for periodic release of water, as per the

directions of the Tribunal. We are very particular about this, and at the same time we have full faith in our Prime Minister. If he wants to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers of two States, we are ready to attend the same. If our Prime Minister invites our Chief Minister for talks on this issue, she will definitely participate in the talks without detrimental to the interests of Tamil Nadu. She is ready to cooperate for maintaining a cordial relationship with Karnataka.

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Chandrashekhara Murthy. There are many hon. Members who have given their names to speak on this subject. You have hardly ten minutes.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHARA MURTHY (Kanakapura): I do not know whether I can finish my speech before 3.30 P.M.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRIRANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): If I may submit, there is a statement that the hon. Minister for Labour, Shri P.A. Sangma has to make with regard to the *Nav Bharat Times*. If he does not make the statement now he misses the time before the Private Members' Business starts, and he will not be able to make the statement in Rajya Sabha and the House has specifically said that the statement be made today itself. I will be obliged if that statement is allowed to go on record.

Then, I have also another request to make, that this discussion may continue after six O'Clock if the House agrees, after the Private Members' Business is over. Normally the Private Members' Business is taken up from 3.30 to 6.00 PM. That time is not disturbed because the Treasury is attacked if that is disturbed. Therefore from that point of view, I personally request that the Chair might permit Shri P.A. Sangma to make to the statement. He has already given notice of it.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: I may be allowed to begin my speech at six O'Clock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can begin now and speak for five minutes.

SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Sir, this is not the first time that this issue has been raised and discussed in this august House. Since three decades this issue has been discussed several times without coming to a finality. Today we are discussing this issue with pain and agony. Karnataka and Tamil Nadu are the two major States using the waters of Cauvery river.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can continue afterwards.

Shri P.A Sangma to make a statement.

15.23 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

The Times of India Group of Newspapers

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI P. A SANGMA): Some Hon'ble Members had raised in the House the issue relating to steps being taken by the management of Times of India Group of Newspapers and in particular in respect of publication of Nav Bharat Times. A section of the Press has also reported that M/s Bennet Coleman & Co. of the Times of India Group had decided to close down the News Bureau of Nav Bharat Times and to covert it into a translated version of the Times of India. The report also stated that a number of news persons would be retrenched. Some of the journalist bodies too reportedly have protested against the developments.

2. The management of the Nav Bharat

Times has also following the above, come out with a clarification in the Press that the newspaper reports were "Unfounded". The management have further stated that they have only sought sharing of group editorial resources across the group publications to enhance the value of each publication in the Group while continuing to retain its identity.

3. While the Government would not wish to intervene in the internal matters of newspapers establishments in the interest of freedom of the press; should there be any violation of law, it shall ensure due action as may be specifically called for.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): You allow us for two minutes. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister is pro-management.

[English]

There has been serious violation of labour law. I can give you an example. Kindly allow us for two minutes. This is one-sided statement. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

I would like to request you to allow me to speak on this issue too. (*Interruptions*)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, just a minute. Whenever a Minister makes a *suo motu* statement, then clarifications are not allowed. This is what we have been following so far.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: The Minister has stated that there has been no violation of labour law. There have been violations of labour laws. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Please allow me to speak for a minute.