

and every point raised by the hon. Members.

Now we go to the next time.

18.15 hrs.

DISCUSSION RE : SITUATION ARISING OUT OF DROUGHT AND OTHER NATURAL CALAMITIES IN VARIOUS PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House will now take up discussion under Rule 193. Shri C. Janga Reddy to initiate the discussion.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we would like to discuss in the House the situation arising out of the flood, drought and snowfall in the country.

Discussion on this issue has been held in the last two sessions but we have not been able to reach any consensus. We would have to do something after arriving at a concensus this discussion.

In this House, every hon. Member has given an account of the miseries caused by the floods, drought and snowfall in his constituency and the relief needed to mitigate it. Therefore, some rule or policy must be formulated in this respect.

One hon. Members has alleged that non-Congress Governments are not getting full assistance due to political differences between the Central Government and the State Governments. We come to know all these things through the people and the Press. This hurts us. We could not formulate a policy in this respect 35 years after independence. It is a matter of regret that we have not been able to decide what immediate relief should be granted to the States in the event of natural calamities like flood, drought and snowfall in the country. What should be the share of the Central Government and the State

Governments in the grants for relief and how much budget should be provided for this purpose ? We must give a serious thought to this.

In some States there is flood and in some others there is drought and in some State there is snowfall. Andhra Pradesh is one such State where snow falls. This year due to the rains in January, there was snowfall in Andhra Pradesh. You call it hailstorms which bring extreme cold. In our State it is called stonefall.

There are four types of natural calamities. First is drought which means non-availability of even drinking water. In the absence of water, grass does not grow, cultivation cannot take place and farming is not possible. People and cattle die without water. People have to migrate to places where water is available. We can face this drought but we should consider what measures we can take. The Central Government can make available foodgrains to the people at subsidised rates. The farmers of Punjab and Haryana can also supply foodgrains there. Sometimes the farmers of Andhra Pradesh can also supply foodgrains to those places which suffer drought. We should consider steps to provide water, to grow fodder and to sustain the cattle, but we do not do this. Water is not available in the wells. Even after boring to a considerable depth, water is not found there. We should consider what should be done in this respect. Forty years have passed since we attained independence but we could not find any permanent solution of drought and floods. Take the example of Rajasthan. Water can be drawn from Bhakra Nangal Project for Rajasthan. By digging 600 to 900 kilometre long canal or by digging wells we can provide irrigation facilities in the drought-prone areas of Rajasthan. Shri Ramarao is begging before the Centre for the assistance for Telegu-Ganga Project in order to meet the needs of water of Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh. The situation has reached this point. Provision of irrigation can be made from Kochampard high-level canal in Wararagal.

(Interruptions)

Rice is being sold at Rs. 2 instead of

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

Rs. 1 and in the scheduled caste dominated region, rice is being sold at Rs. 1.95 paise per kg.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

This is not their personal property. It belongs to the public. Rice is being sold at Rs. 1.95 per Kilogram.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Any personal remarks will not go on record.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You cannot make any allegations. That cannot be allowed. Casting aspersions cannot be allowed. You speak on natural calamities.

*(Interruptions)\*\**

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Casting aspersions cannot be allowed.

*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : It is not at all relevant to the subject under consideration.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Janga Reddy, I want to know whether you are serious about this discussion on drought and other natural calamities. Take the subject of discussion seriously and give concrete suggestions as to what can be done. There is no point wasting the time like this. You make concrete suggestions to solve the problems.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : MR. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I was talking of providing rice at the rate of Rs. 2 per kg. He has referred to Shri Rama Rao. I am replying to that. I have not done any wrong.

Sir, I submitting that some permanent solution for drought and floods should be found. When there is good crop due to good weather, Shri V.P. Singh claims that our Budget is very good. Financial position is good only because crops have been good. At present Budget is prepared on the basis of crops but I feel that Budget should not be prepared on this basis. Nature follows its own rules to provide rains. Government should arrange for the collection of that water and utilise it *(Interruptions)*. Therefore, I say that they should formulate some permanent policy to face drought, often which occurs at different places. For example, Rajasthan faces drought which Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, etc. have many rivers. Government should utilise that water to deal with the drought conditions. Government should provide funds to Rajasthan Government to bring water from Bhakra Nangal Project. A national project for this should be prepared. Such project should be prepared for Andhra Pradesh and Bihar also. The Centre is not providing funds to the State Governments for this purpose. They provide money for planned Budget. The State Governments are running the social welfare schemes by contributing amount matching the funds being provided by the Centre. Whether it is Central Government or Andhra Pradesh Government, lot of money is being spent on non-productive items but we should also consider what we can do for the economic upliftment of the poor. The problem of drought is not new. It is an annual feature. The Central Government provided funds for Andhra Pradesh in June, December, 1983 and December, 1984. They provided money because the area is affected by drought. If after investing money, work is executed as a national project, this malady can be cured permanently. Be it Telugu Ganga Project, Rajasthan Canal Project, Narmada Canal Project or any other project, the Central Government should provide funds for that so that water can be utilised in drought-affected areas. We have seen that for the last twenty years, drought has occurred every year. It occurred in Rajasthan, in Rayalseema and even in Madhya Pradesh. Bihar faces acute drought. The farmers of Bihar are very

helpless. The people of Bihar are migrating to Delhi. My friend who has described their condition with tears in his eyes shows the correct picture. The people of Bihar are more backward than even the people of Rayalseema. The people whether they are from Bihar or Rayalseema or Rajasthan are the people of India. Funds should be made available for them. National projects should be prepared to mitigate their difficulties. We should find out some permanent solution in this regard about which we never think. The drought affected people are left to the mercy of state Governments. The Budget of my state is for Rs. 1000 crores. In Rajasthan, it may be even less. Out of it 50 per cent is spent on social measures and with the remaining 50 per cent they have to arrange for irrigation, electricity etc. Therefore I suggest that for the drought affected States, Government should create a revolving fund at the national level so that the water available in various rivers may be brought to and utilised in drought affected areas. Where it is not possible to arrange such supply of water, Government will have to think of some other measures. Big industrial units can be set up there. Like the coach factory being set up in Punjab which was not needed there because Punjab is already a most prosperous State which has the highest per capita income in the country. Still keeping in view the national integration, the factory has been set up there. Therefore, I plead that where supply of water cannot be arranged even if funds are available, Government should think of other measures. We will have to set up big industries in those areas. The land available there should be utilised. A memorandum by our Congress friends including the Minister, Shri Shiv Shankar and hon. Member Shri Vijay Bhaskar Reddy had been submitted to the Hon. Prime Minister demanding that the project which are feasible to be set up there, should be set up urgently. What I mean to say is that every one whether he is from Congress or Telugu Desam or BJP wants that a definite arrangement should be made at national level to help the drought affected States. The land wherever available be reclaimed and used for cultivation by providing irrigation facilities. There should be some thinking of national level in this regard. But what happens is that

we deliver speeches (whether they are covered by the press or not) and the hon. Minister listens to them and speaks out what his staff has told him.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : I am listening.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : What I mean to say is that he tells us what his officers have given him in the note. This should be taken note of. Even after 38 years of independence we have not changed the famine code. I request him to amend it. India is a free country now. It should revise its famine code according to the circumstances prevailing here. Along with it, we should think of electricity also. As per the Electricity Act, 1910 the entire expenditure of installing poles and wire has to be borne by the farmers. Expenditure on transformers has also to be paid by them. I, therefore, want that the words.

[English]

“Service charges will have to be borne by the Consumers”—

[Translation]

should be omitted. We should supply electricity to the drought affected States free of charge as Andhra Pradesh is doing. The electricity Act should be amended and the drought affected parts should be provided the facility at the earliest. The farmers want to get their wells sunk and obtain water but they are not provided funds for installing motors.

[English]

You say we will postpone the collection or convert it into interest free loans.

[Translation]

In this way Government want to make the farmers slaves so that they always remain dependent on them. Therefore, I urge that in drought affected areas electricity should be supplied free of charge or on subsidised rates.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude. There are so many other members who want to speak. It is not that you have to take two hours for yourself. I have a long list of Members who want to take part in the discussion. I will give six minutes to each Member.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : For rural water supply, Rs. 50.00 lakhs were allotted.

[Translation]

I have made my point about electricity charges. As regards meeting the shortage of water, the Ganga-Kaveri Scheme should be implemented. Under the Ganga-Kaveri scheme, Gangawater is to be taken to the Kaveri. It will definitely be beneficial. Ganga water will purify Kavery water also. You can arrange irrigation with Kaveri water. Shri K.L. Rao had prepared a scheme. Why should not it be implemented? Once this scheme is completed, the water problem of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka can be solved. In South, Karnataka has no drinking water, in Hyderabad and Tamil Nadu there is no drinking water. Bombay has no water to drink. In Rajasthan there is no drinking water. In Jaipur people do not have water to drink. Some time in Delhi also there is shortage of drinking water. (*Interruptions*) this is reported in the press.

I shall read out the report about the prevailing situation.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You need not read out the whole report. You can just make the points given in that.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : I do not remember the points. A sum of Rs. 50 lakh has been earmarked for drinking water for urban population. What does this mean? The Central Government is

giving this to the State Government as loan advances. The Central Government is not giving as subsidy. It is giving as loan advances.

[English]

“The Non-Plan expenditure actually incurred up to 31.3.1983 against the approved ceilings totalling Rs. 291.00 lakhs as indicated above, will be met out of the margin money. The plan expenditure incurred upto 31.3.1983 against the above mentioned ceilings totalling Rs. 6586.00 margin money will be covered by Advance Plan assistance in terms of this Ministry letter dated the 25th April, 1979.”

[Translation]

Government is not giving advances, subsidy or rebate. The scheme is only to give loan advances. Even in this scheme, delays take place. I read out to him. He will be surprised. It is a Ministry's letter. It says :

[English]

“I am directed to inform you that a Central team led by Shri R.K. Srivastava, Joint Secretary, in this Ministry would be visiting Andhra Pradesh shortly for assessing the need for Central assistance requested for by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the wake of cyclone/floods during October, November and December, 1985. The itinerary of the visit will be prepared by Shri G.R. Nair, Principal Secretary to Government of Andhra Pradesh, Revenue Department, Hyderabad.”

We are now in 1986, that too in March. They say :

“shortly they are going there”. What does it mean?

[Translation]

I do not know when it will be done. In October, there were cyclones, in

November there were floods and in Dec. there were hail storms ... (Interruptions). I want to say that no date of visit has been indicated in it. He could have at least mentioned the date.

It is a letter of February. I have received three such letters. One I have in my house, the other in Hyderabad and the third one in Delhi.

This letter has been addressed to me, i.e. to C. Janga Reddy. Member of Parliament.

AN HON. MEMBER : Letter has been sent to you but no time has been indicated therein.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : No time has been indicated. Now, I have to ring him up and ask when he is going, when we should make arrangements for him, what type of arrangement is to be made. I have to write to him. I do not know anything about that. (Interruptions) I have received the letter from the Deputy Secretary to Government of India on 1st October. (Interruptions) it is not a question of one officer, The D.O. was received in December 1985. The drought hit the State in May, 1984, but the funds from the Centre were received in 1985. It comes under the 8-Point Programme of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and he is not aware of that. (Interruptions) .

I will tell you about that. Two crore rupees were given for drought-affected area. Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, listen to me carefully. A provision of Rs. 32 crores was made according to the D.O. letter received in December, 1985.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : We shall not allow you to leave after your speech.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY : There is not question of learning today. We have to sit till 10.00 p.m. (Interruptions) There, two crores of rupees have been given under the programme of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Out of the total plan advance of Rs. 32.29 crores, Rs. two crores are meant for food and nutrition, but we do not know what is food and nutrition in drought. It has been said that Rs. 2

crores have been given to Public Health Department for contingency, agricultural production, programme subsidy in inputs. They give us loan and tell us how to spend. If they give us loan, we should be allowed to spend it the way we like. Why do they ask us to spend this much on fodder, this much on water and that much on well-sinking, etc. It should be left entirely to the State Government. When they give us loan or advance, they charge interest thereon and at the same time put pressure to spend it in a particular manner. This is not proper. Two crores of rupees have been given to Andhra Pradesh to make available maize flour mixed with jaggery and papads are being given by grinding maize. What I mean to say is that the Central Government cannot put such restriction. The Central Government have given Rs. 32 crores as relief, but the State Government cannot spend it the way it wants. This is all due to the 8-point Programme of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. What for the bleaching powder is needed where water is not available? One can understand its utility in the flood-affected areas. Rs. 22.2 lakhs for medicines, Rs. 20 lakhs for bleaching powder and chlorine tablets have been provided. What is the utility of bleaching powder where water is not available. I cannot understand that. (Interruptions) Rs. 2 crores for vitamin tablets. Why do they not give a free hand to the drought-hit State to spend this amount the way they like? Moreover, our State Government sought Rs. 300 crores, but only Rs. 32 crores were given. What is the difficulty in giving loan or advance? What is the difficulty in giving the money today, when it has to be given tomorrow? Government of Karnataka sought Rs. 100 crores and they were given Rs. 80 crores. Tamilnadu sought Rs. 120 crores and they were given Rs. 80 crores, whereas only Rs. 32 crores were given to Andhra Pradesh as against its demand for Rs. 300 crores. In this connection, my suggestion is that a commission at the national level should be constituted which should adopt set criteria and should submit its report to the Central Government soon after natural calamities like flood, snowfall or hail-storm befall a State and the Central Government should give relief immediately there-

[Shri C. Janga Reddy]

After. Today, if there is a cyclone, the Central Government get the report of the expert committee only after 3-4 months. To whom can you provide timely relief in such a situation? The Centre would have to see how people live in cyclonic conditions for two months. It is at that time, that bleaching powder should be used. I would like to say that the Famine Code needs to be changed. Based on a policy, a commission should be set up at the national level and relief to the States should be sanctioned based on set criteria. The major projects in Rayalseema and Telangana and that of Ganga-cauvery should be completed early. Only then we can be saved from drought.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur) :  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the subject which we are discussing today has become a serious problem for the entire country. So far as Madhya Pradesh is concerned, there is a saying in our area, "Dubre pe do Ashadh". Two calamities have befallen us within one year. So far as drought is concerned, a major part of the country is affected by drought. Every year, about 12 eastern and western districts of Madhya Pradesh are affected by drought which poses a serious problem of drinking water in 29 districts. In spite of the fact that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh spends crores of rupees on foodgrains, fodder, cattle centres & opening of camps, etc., the State is neglected in the matter of adequate Central assistance. The Central Government, perhaps, have their own financial constraints. But two things are very clear. The first is that a minimum limit for Central assistance to be given to the State every year should be fixed. Secondly, a long term plan should be formulated through some kind of board or a policy extension organisation or corporation should be set up under the Ministry of Agriculture whereunder subsidy for irrigation and other inputs, like quality seeds, fertilizer, insecticides, pesticides, etc. or their free distribution to poor farmers could be arranged to fight the drought especially in those areas such as 12 districts of Madhya Pradesh. Crores of rupees have to be spent every year on account of drought. I hope, the hon. Members who

will speak after me will speak at length. I come from an area which is not affected by drought. But, this year an extraordinary situation has arisen in our State. Firstly, the crop was affected by frost i.e. during extreme winter the small plants start shrivelling, their leaves wither away and the possibility of their flowering become very remote. Such are the bad effects of frost. Secondly, thousands of hectares of land in our area in respect of which I shall give figures, was hit by caterpillars and thereafter it increased due to heat caused by overcast conditions. It is regrettable that the insecticides or pesticides supplied by the Ministry of Agriculture or the Department of Cooperation were ineffective. Either they were inferior or their life had expired. Whatever be the reason I cannot throw light on it as a scientist, but the fact remains that the caterpillars did not die even after the use of insecticides. The farmers had to use these insecticides repeatedly and the cost of these insecticides was so high that it was beyond the reach of an average farmer not to talk of a poor or a common farmer.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thereafter the second biggest calamity that stuck us was in the form of hailstorm. You will be distressed to know that the State was hit by hailstorm accompanied by torrential rains in December, 1985, January, 1986, 7th to 14th February and thereafter on 21st, 27th and 28th February and so big was the size of the hails that each weighed as much as 1/2 kg. In six villages of my constituency, there was not a single farmer whose house was not affected by hailstorm. They are poor farmers who live in mud houses with thatched roofs. All such houses were completely destroyed besides their crops. Thereafter, if any farmer wants to cultivate his fields again, he needs money to get his fields cleared, which he does not have. However, I am happy to state that the State Government of Madhya Pradesh immediately took relief measures and provided funds. The State Government provided relief worth 2 crore rupees on 10th February.

Hailstorm has again hit our area twice in March and the rain was so heavy that the total rain recorded in those areas of

Jabalpur district, which were earlier devastated by hailstorm was much more than that recorded in the entire rainy season and as a result of that whatever was left of the crops earlier was also totally destroyed. The State Government again sanctioned Rs. 5 crore as relief. Thereafter, according to the available information, the Government of Madhya Pradesh have decided to make available additional 23 crores of Rupees, so that some relief is provided as compensation against the loss suffered due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the reason why I am giving the figures of sanctioned amount is that through these figures I want to tell this august House as also the hon. Minister of Agriculture the extent of loss and destruction suffered by our State due to hailstorm and unseasonal rains. So far as the number of affected districts is concerned, more or less 35 districts have been affected. Out of 2079 Tehsils of our State, 185 Tehsils have been affected and out of a total area of 12.5 lakh hectares of land, 72,722 hectares have been affected by hailstorm and unseasonal rains. So far as damage to crops is concerned it is estimated to be about Rs. 122 crores by the officials of Agriculture department. According to the information received so far, 10 persons and 1738 animals and 13561 houses in 185 tehsils of Madhya Pradesh have been badly affected by this hailstorm. Some of the measures taken by the State Government to provide relief to the affected people include postponement of recovery of revenue, irrigation cess, bank loans and *Tagavi* loans. I want to submit that the relief that is being provided by the State Government is far from adequate. Practically speaking, it is benefiting the farmers in the State to the extent of less than 25 percent. I, therefore, strongly urge upon the Centre and the hon. Minister of Agriculture not to send the study teams to Bhopal and the drought-affected districts alone but also to the divisional, sub-divisional and district headquarters as well which have been badly affected by hailstorm.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that the farmers whose houses have been

damaged do not wait for the Government relief, but mobilise their own resources and repair their houses and if the officials reach the site when the houses have already been repaired and they report that there has been no damage, it will not only deprive those poor farmers of the relief amount but also hurt their feelings. These poor farmers should be saved from such bureaucratic attitude. I would request that when these officials visit the affected areas, the local officials, MLAs, and MPs—whether of the Congress or any other party, provided that they are associated with farmers and not the people who talk of imposing taxes on them, should also be allowed to go along with them. I do not want to criticise any particular officer but I want to point out that not even a single study team tours the area and gives a true picture of the situation. The report which is submitted by the study team is generally prepared by the BDO, Sub-Divisional Officer, Collector of the Deputy/Assistant Director of Agriculture and this report is submitted to him.

AN HON. MEMBER : The officers of the study team enjoy feasts....

(Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : We do not mind if they enjoy feasts. It is our foremost duty to give them a warm welcome. After all they are entitled to be our guest. But my only point is that the people's representatives must be associated with such teams,

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the end I would like that the Government should write off all the debts of the farmers where there has been heavy hailstorm whether they are banks loans or Cooperative loans. Sir, I would request the Government to conduct a survey in my area where there was heavy hailstorm in 1982 as well. Therefore, the Government should not only postpone the recovery of taxes but write off all the taxes and debts whether it is revenue or any other tax. The hon. Members who are associated with agriculture will bear me out that one hailstorm is enough to damage the crops and it takes seven years to make good the loss.

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

19.00 hrs.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Balkavi Bairagi has given me a couplet to support my point. I would like to read it out :

*Badal Barse Raat Bhar, Ole Gire Apaar,  
Dwar Apke Chod Kar, Jayen Kis  
Ke Dwar.*

I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY (Nalgonda): Ours is a big country having different agro-climatic zones. In one part of the country, we are witnessing drought and in other part of the country, we are witnessing cyclones and floods. These have to be arrested.

We have a number of rivers, some of the perennial rivers; and the water is flowing into the sea. In some parts of the country, there is a scarcity of water and the people are thirsty for water. In other parts of the country, we have very good rivers. They must be taken care of. Whenever water is available, it should be brought and supplied to those places where it is not available. Wherever water is available, there should be some projects; we should construct projects irrespective of any State or any part of the country. That water should be supplied to those areas where it is not available. Unfortunately, the Central Government never takes care for this. If any file comes to the Central Government for clearing that file, it takes years with the results the cost of construction of the dams goes up considerably. It is actually happening and nobody bothers about it.

In India, 70 per cent of our population is based on agriculture; they are living on agriculture. If agriculture develops, then everything will develop. Without agriculture, nothing will develop. So, you must give top priority for the development of agriculture, water development and drainage. Of course, in our budget, we see 5 to 6 per cent, they are allotting for agriculture. All the hon. members who are

sitting here are from villages and farming community, but, nobody bothers about this.

Mr. Janga Reddy said that there was a long desire for linking Ganga-Cauvery. If it is not possible to link Ganga-Cauvery, then the rivers available in South India and North India should be linked. Then only at least wherever possible some dams, some tanks can be built up. Until and unless that is done, this problem cannot be solved. If you give Rs. 30 crores or Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 70 crores to each of the State that will be a temporary measure and you cannot solve this problem.

I have been observing for the last ten years in Andhra Pradesh and in other southern States that we are facing some drought; sometimes it is minimum; sometimes it is maximum. But, every year, we are seeing drought and every year we are witnessing cyclones and floods. We have a vast sea coast. We have to take up something over there. We have to build up water reservoirs along our sea coast; that will help in preventing floods and other things in low lying areas and in other parts of the country. I am not talking of Andhra Pradesh but all other parts of the country.

This year, unfortunately, we have drought in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Karnataka, parts of Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and almost in every State. Then we are having floods. This should be taken care of. I request the hon. Minister to take care of these things because he knows the problem. There should be a permanent solution and this permanent solution can be possible only from the Planning Commission side. They should take care of it.

There is no mention in the Seventh Plan document produced by the Planning Commission about this. This is unfortunate and I urge that this should be taken into consideration. Some permanent solution should be evolved to solve this perennial problem. For this purpose some allotment of funds has to be made. This should be done.

As Shri Janga Reddy has stated, most

of the times the central team visits the State after the drought period is over, or after the rainy season has started.

AN HON. MEMBER : No.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : That has happened in the case of Andhra Pradesh. I will give you the details.

I therefore, request the hon. Minister to take up the issue and ensure that there is a permanent squad for this purpose. A permanent squad should be constituted to solve this problem. As soon as the intimation is received, within 24 or at the most 48 hours, this team should go to the drought/flood affected areas. Not that the State Chief Minister writes a letter, then they should sit and decide as to which member of the board goes and then that member is sent. The central team should be despatched forthwith; all the other things should not be discussed while sending the team. The team should go immediately and whenever there is urgency they should reach there quickly. That should be taken care of.

Another important thing is, many projects with regard to Andhra Pradesh have been pending with the Central Government. The Central Government is not clearing them. We feel that we are neglected. We are not even having drinking water in some parts of the State. Many projects which have been pending with the Central Government may kindly be cleared so that if these projects are completed the problem of supply of drinking water can be solved.

For the last several years the State of Andhra Pradesh has been witnessing severe drought. But unfortunately the Central Government has not declared Andhra Pradesh as one of the drought-prone areas. Only four to five districts of our State have got permanent water supply from the Krishna and Godavari rivers. Except the few districts in the Krishna-Godavari river belt, the other parts of the State like the Rayalaseema area and Telengana area are permanently drought stricken areas.

Now we are in the month of March and in some parts of the State there is no

drinking water at all. There is no fodder for the cattle. The ground water level has gone down. There is no water in some of the small rivers and rivulets. You must build some percolation tanks and ensure that water supply is there for all the districts. The Central Government can take up the matter and send a delegation to look into this problem.

I request the hon. Minister to take a sympathetic attitude and be kind enough to our State, because in the absence of water supply—which is the main input for agriculture—the small and marginal farmers are hard put to difficulties. Even the big farmers are affected by this.

I, therefore, urge upon the hon. Minister to release immediately about Rs. 300 crores to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please conclude now. Shri Balkavi Bairagi.

Dagaji, where are you ? When drought situation is discussed and when you say that your State does not have water, where are you ? You are always criticising the others that they are not present in the House.

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : They are not serious at all.

[Translation]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am highly obliged to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today when the House is discussing a matter of grave concern, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister to a very serious situation. He will recall—and if not, he may kindly see the record—that I had drawn his attention last year also to the fact that about one third part of our country is visited by natural calamities quite often. Famine and floods are a regular feature in our country and a permanent solution to this problem will have to be found out. Our agriculture scientists will have to find a permanent solution to hailstorms which struck the country recently. I do not wish to go into the statistical maze as the precious time of the House would be wasted and other

[Shri Balkavi Bairagi]

colleagues would be deprived of the opportunity to speak. In the month of February, out of 28 days hailstorms continued for 16 days in Madhya Pradesh. It was as if the climate had made some secret agreement with the calendar. The State Government rushed to Centre for assistance. The Centre did help, but I would like to draw your attention to a particular situation that has been created in 3-4 districts. You may say that it is not related to this matter but I would like to point out that it is related in the long run. Shrimati Nirmala Kumari is sitting next to me, Shri Jhujhar Singh might be sitting at some back bench and Shri Vyas from Bhilwara is sitting there. Mandsaur is a district which lies between Jhalawar and Bhilwara. A crop is produced in Mandsaur but nobody pays any heed to its critical state. This area produces opium. I would draw the attention of the House to the fact that entire opium crop in the district which could have helped in eradicating the poverty of the farmers has withered away. The farmer cares for each and every opium plant more than his own child. A farmer who cannot even pat his child forty times in six months, has to touch every plant an equal number of times during that period. And that very crop has withered away. We would be highly obliged to you if you request the hon. Finance Minister, on our behalf and on behalf of the people of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan to include this as crop well in the Crop Insurance Scheme.

Secondly, I would request you to instruct the Narcotics Department to issue licences for next year on the basis of damage caused to this year's yield. If nothing is produced this year what will they weigh? Buta Singh Ji, you will have to do us a favour and Makwana Ji too will have to see to our interests. You kindly recommend to the Ministry of Finance to procure the entire yield of this year and to give lease for the next year on this basis and not to cancel the lease given to the farmers. Cancellation of lease should not take place otherwise unimaginable corruption

will follow (*Interruptions*). The assessment of the damage caused to the crop should be done cropwise and not fieldwise. When you make assessment of opium crop and wheat crop by combining them, the corruption breeds. The team sent from the Centre should keep this in mind.

I am grateful to you for taking some positive steps in this respect. But as our friend from the drought affected area was saying and as the Madhya Pradesh Government have made submission to you that they needed Rs. 138 14 crore to meet the situation created by the drought but no attention has been paid to their request. Probably Rs. 5 to 7 crore has been allotted to Madhya Pradesh. The situation in Rajasthan is all the more serious because the State often falls in the grip of drought as well as hailstorms. I know this full well because the districts of Rajasthan are contiguous to my region. Rajasthan is bit by famine and disaster as well. I would request that the Agriculture Ministry should send separate teams for these two States and direct the officers to make assessment of the situation by taking into account the policies of the Congress, the desire of Shri Rajiv Gandhi and the policies of the Agriculture Ministry and the interests of the farmers. If they do not take into account these factors then they are enemies of farmers. We do not want to say anything about the feasts, they enjoy or the bungalow they stay in. But if they do not understand the problems of local people then such officers should not be sent there. I am very grateful to you. Tomorrow I will have to pass through these fields. Shri Madhavrao Scindia can give an eyewitness account. He visited the fields and was much moved by the sight of the destruction of crops. You are also invited to that place. Buta Singh Ji and Yogender Ji are also invited. We request them not to take it lightly but try to understand the pangs of the growers. I am thankful to the Government of Madhya Pradesh that they promptly came to their help. The Government of the State have done a commendable job. If you come to our rescue then it will go to a long way to assuage our feelings.

With these words, I convey my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE (Bombay North Central) Hon'ble Members, Shri Janga Reddy and Shri Madhav Reddy, deserve congratulations for raising this discussion on the situation arising out of drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country.

The damage caused due to drought and natural calamities in various parts of the country, has been a matter of concern for the whole country. Particularly the drought situation in Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra has caused a great concern.

During the year 1985-86, Maharashtra received erratic and scare precipitation which adversely affected *Kharif* crops and nearly 6 607 *Kharif* villages spread over 19 districts are drought affected. For this, the projection of expenditure was Rs. 561 crores, but I am sorry to say that the Central assistance sanctioned is not even ten per cent, It is only 52.74 crores for that year.

Apart from these *Kharif* villages, in *Rabi* season also there has been the same situation and further damage has occurred. To add to this calamity, in certain parts of Maharashtra, namely, Amravati, Nagpur, Wardha, Akola, Yeotmal, Dhule, Jalgaon and Nanded, unprecedented hailstorms occurred from 7th to 11th February 1986 and thereafter also. These heavy hailstorms have affected in all 1049 villages and the estimated damage is Rs. 1377.47 lakhs. When such a situation arises; of course, the procedure is that a Study Team goes to different parts of the country and assesses the damage caused. The experience unfortunately is that whatever is the projected expenditure or even the actual expenditure shown by the State Governments, the Study Team always drastically and arbitrarily cuts down these figures and generally the experience is that not more than ten per cent of these figures is given as assistance to the States. The

States, therefore, come in great trouble because large amounts are already spent by them. Therefore, when the assistance from the Central Government is so meagre, there is a great strain on the resources of the States. There are certain norms on which the Study Team relies. The time has come to review those norms because those norms are old. Even though the Eighth Finance Commission might have stated that those norms are satisfactory, the Central assistance that is given to the States is very meagre and does not meet the requirements of the States. Therefore, my submission is that these norms should be urgently reviewed to meet the situation. Secondly, when the Central assistance is given, the local conditions should be taken into account. For example, in Maharashtra, due to the geological and ecological causes, the underground aquifers have not been adequately recharged. Therefore, the expenses for digging a well or a bore-well are proportionately very high considering the expenses in the other States. Therefore, such local conditions should be taken into account while giving assistance to the States.

Similarly, there are certain measures which the State Governments permanently take and, unfortunately, for doing that good work, instead of giving reward to those States, their Central assistance is cut. For example, in Maharashtra there is an Employment Guarantee Scheme. It is a statutory scheme to guarantee employment to the rural masses. This scheme is there since 1972. Because of that Scheme, the assistance given to the State is less saying that the State has already got the scheme and it serves the purpose of a drought relief measure. So, the Central assistance to that extent is out and the State which is permanently doing some good work is punished for doing that work. Therefore my submission is that such local conditions should be considered while giving local assistance.

Now, the last point which I wish to make is this. There should be some permanent solution. Instead of given Central assistance every now and then, there should be a permanent scheme for such natural calamities, such as floods,

[Shri Sharad Dighe]

hailstorms and droughts. Such a permanent scheme should be drawn up as early as possible so that these calamities will not recur in future and we can meet this natural challenge from this point of view.

[Translation]

SHRI JUJHAR SINGH (Jhalawar) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, I shall be very brief and to the point and speak only about my own constituency.

Sir, when the discussion on flood and drought was held last time, I had submitted that although my area falls in Rajasthan, yet geographically it is a part of Madhya Pradesh. When we discuss about Rajasthan, it centres round mostly on desert area and our area is totally forgotten. The necessary steps are not taken in respect of that area.

I had submitted last time that the famine situation was created in our area due to the delayed rains and floods and as many as one thousand villages were affected in our area. We have not been provided any relief for the damage caused by the floods. Although relief works are in progress at many places in Rajasthan and I understand that crores of rupees might have been spent thereon but much less has been spent in my area where one thousand villages have been hit by the famine and floods. What I would like to submit is that whenever villages are hit by floods and famine, the Government should provide help fairly and judiciously and there should not be any partiality in it.

Secondly, the villages which had been affected by floods earlier, have more or less been affected again by hailstorms and heavy rains. Of course, the number of villages which have been affected is not one thousand but at least 200 to 250 villages have been affected again by the famine. Much damage has been caused to the crops thereby.

Shri Balkavi Ji and other Members from Madhya Pradesh have spoken about the crops which have been damaged.

Opium is grown in Madhya Pradesh. It is a licensed crop. Opium can be cultivated only after obtaining licence from the Government. Opium crop has been totally destroyed by the flood or hailstorm. Opium growers should be given relief on the basis of the correct assessment of the crops otherwise they will be hit hard. The hon. Agriculture Minister may request the hon. Finance Minister not to include this year's average of opium crop which has been damaged most, while assessment for issuing licences for the same. The licence should be issued to the growers on the basis of last year's average so that opium growers do not suffer.

I would also like to point out that due to the hailstorm and heavy rains, not only crops have been damaged but thousands of cattle have also perished. Hadauni is the best area for cattle in Jhalawar. A good number of them have died and there is great shortage of fodder in that area.

As regards fodder, it has been the policy of the Rajasthan Government to allot meadows around forest in small areas on contract and under this cover, the forest produce of Rajasthan is being smuggled out, causing depletion of fodder with Rajasthan Government. So proper arrangements should be made for the supply of fodder. I have already stated that Jhalawar, though part of Rajasthan, has Madhya Pradesh on its three sides. Madhya Pradesh is a surplus State from the point of view of power but there is shortage of power in Rajasthan. The expenditure on supplying power from Madhya Pradesh to Rajasthan is nominal. I had earlier told the hon. Agriculture Minister that inter state difficulties should not come in the way of supply of power at the time of famine because it causes great harm to us. So I would submit that provision of supply of power from Madhya Pradesh to such areas be made which are lying across the border and where there are famine conditions. If power is supplied and fodder is grown now in these famine affected areas for the next season, only then the cattle can be saved. So controversies among the States should not be taken into account while providing supply of power to Rajasthan from Madhya Pradesh.

I would also like to submit that in our

area water is available in sufficient quantity but it is going waste because it is not being put to proper use. On the one hand, you are including Waste Land Development Plan in the Seventh Plan and you have made provision for it also. You have given it priority. But in my area the cause of the waste land is that the available water is not being used properly. So, I would request that there should be proper use of the available water. With these words, I convey my thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, year after we are discussing in this House about natural calamities and the sufferings of the people in various parts of this vast country. Sir, this time Karnataka, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa and Madhya Pradesh are the worst affected drought areas in our country. In the case of Rajasthan and Karnataka the tragedy is much worse. It is continuously for the fourth year these two States are faced with drought situation. And in Karnataka it is reported that about 19,000 villages spread over 18 districts are severely affected by this drought situation. And as far as my understanding goes, only the Dakshina Kannada area is out of the grip of the drought situation. Rough estimates are there that the loss in the khariff crop is 38 per cent and the shortfall in rabi crop is 40 per cent and the Government of Karnataka is doing everything to tackle this situation. The Karnataka Government has already spent a sum of Rs. 252 crores to face this drought situation

Coming to Andhra Pradesh, that has already been described here. In some places there is practically no water and Anantapur District, I think, is the worst affected area & it is reported that for miles and miles you cannot see a single cattle or a stray dog. That is being reported in the papers.

Coming to Rajasthan it is the fourth successive year that Rajasthan faces this drought situation.

Complaints are pouring from different

parts of the State about the callous attitude of the authorities in dealing with this drought. None other than the Governor of Karnataka has issued a public notice about the attitude of these authorities. The Governor has publicly criticised especially about the desert districts of Jodhpur, Jaisalmer and Barmer.

These are calamities about which the whole nation is aggrieved. A State Government cannot function properly under these circumstances because the development work suffers. Take the example of Karnataka. In Karnataka most of the power projects are hydel projects and due to severe cut in the power, industries are suffering and the Government of Karnataka and for that matter, all other State Governments which are faced with the situation, are spending from their developmental funds. They are diverting their developmental funds to tackle this situation of drought and floods.

In many States, even though large amount is being pumped in for relief works, in many States many people are not getting it. We have the example of Orissa. Even the visit of Prime Minister to Kalahandi did not help the poor and the needy and the famine-affected people in Kalahandi. Reports say that more than 80 people have died. Reports have appeared in the press.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (S. BUTA SINGH) : CPM reports.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Not CMP reports. Why should you take the case of a corrupt and inefficient Government? Everywhere it is reported about the Prime Minister's visit to Kalahandi. All the national newspapers and national weeklies have reported. I hope the hon. Minister would have seen it.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY : We will supply a copy of that.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : This points to the fact that in so many places the needy people are not getting this drought relief. There should be permanent measures in dealing with this drought or flood and natural calamity. Actually the amount

[Shri Suresh Kurup]

spent in relief works are much higher than what may be needed for these permanent measures in tackling this drought and floods.

In this connection, I would like to mention the plan of the Karnataka Government that is the dryland development plan. The plan is to develop the dryland within a period of ten years at a cost of Rs. 2,000 crores.

I request the Central Government to give generous assistance to the Government of Karnataka for this vast scheme.

The public distribution system should be strengthened to tackle such a situation. In rural areas of India, there should be an efficient public distribution system. Then only the relief measures will reach the downtrodden and the needy people.

Large-scale deforestation is taking place in our country. In places where earlier this drought and water scarcity was unheard of, now these areas are affected by drought situation. This is exactly because of large-scale felling of trees and all that. I hope our Government especially our Prime Minister is well aware of it. So, urgent measures should be taken to tackle this problem.

Finally, the Central assistance given should be cent per cent.

Otherwise the State Government cannot face ..

SHRI G. L. DOGRA : Why cannot the State Governments do it ?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Where are the resources ? States like Rajasthan, Karnataka are facing drought successively for the fourth year...

SHRI G. L. DOGRA : They have the resources. This is not the honest approach.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : For the information of the hon. Member I would like to mention the recommendation of the Seventh Finance Commission. The Seventh

Finance Commission has categorically recommended...

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : Talk of the Eighth Finance Commission. It is old now.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : The Seventh Finance Commission has recommended that those States faced with a drought situation successively for the 4th or the 5th year this aid should be hundred per cent grant. That is what they have recommended. I hope the Minister knows that.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary) : I am extremely happy to associate myself in to-day's discussion on the natural calamities situation.

The situation in Karnataka is very much alarming. Since 3 years rainfall has completely failed and this year the State is very much affected. About 147 blocks have been affected in Karnataka comprising of lakhs of people. Lakhs of people have already migrated to neighbouring areas in search of employment. Cattle have been sent to slaughter houses. Most of the cattle have died for want of fodder. People are roaming here and there in search of employment. The State Government has at present provided employment for the affected people. Goshalas have been started by the State Government in each block consisting of hundreds of affected animals.

The Central Government has already sent team twice to Karnataka. After the visit of first team the Central Government was kind enough to release a huge amount.

19.37 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the chair* ]

In the beginning the Karnataka Government has made a proposal for Rs. 151 crores. As against that Rs. 53 crores have been sanctioned by the Central Government and Rs. 43 crores has already been released by the Centre. After this the Karnataka Government has suggested one more

proposal asking for Rs. 260 crores from the Central Government. Hon. Minister, Shri Buta Singh was kind enough to visit some of the affected areas in Karnataka. After his return he was very much convinced about the alarming situation and immediately he has sent thousands of tons of fodder and concentrates free of cost for the affected cattle. Such being the case, most of the wells have dried up and there is no drinking water in many of the villages. Bore wells have already dried and people are facing acute shortage of drinking water and cattle have no fodder till now. The State Government has drawn some plans to grow green fodder in some of the State-owned farms where there is water available. Therefore, in view of this I would like to make some suggestions to the Government to tackle this problem until the next harvest season.

The Centre should provide scarcity relief for deepening of the existing open wells and the bore wells also should be deepened by providing cyclonic rigs to the State Government.

Secondly, dry land development schemes like contour-bunding and nallah bunding should be sanctioned. Life irrigation—where there is perennial water and pick up dams—which cost less amount should be immediately taken up so as to give some permanent relief for the chronically drought-affected areas. At present, the employment provided is not adequate. Very often, the employment is not provided continuously. Employment is provided only for two to three days and then the work is being stopped and after 15 days again the work is started. This should not be the case. When the person is employed, he should be given continuous employment until the work is over and the next work should be taken up as early as possible.

Sir, there is a lot of delay in the payment. This should be completely stopped contractors should be totally avoided at the time of taking up scarcity works. But still we find that contractors are encouraged while taking up scarcity work. There should be proper checks by the Central Government on the utilisation of this fund by various State Governments.

Finally, I would like to suggest to the honourable Minister to give more food-grains to Karnataka State. The Central Government is ready to provide any amount of food-grains to the Karnataka Government. Still they have not sent the proposal as to how much food grains they require. The Honourable Prime Minister Shri Rajivji was kind enough to give grains at subsidised rate to the Adivasi and tribal people. In this connection I suggest that the States where we do not have tribal people, scheduled castes/scheduled tribe population and the poor-sections, should also be given food-grains at subsidised rates in the drought-affected areas. Some permanent scheme should be drawn up by the Central Government so as to give employment for another 6 to 8 months. Special schemes should also be drawn up exclusively for the State of Karnataka by the Central Government because it should not be compared with other States. Hence the situation there is becoming worst everyday. Special schemes for providing employment facility, fodder and also food grains to the needy persons should be worked out. I would also like to request the honourable Minister to visit the drought-affected areas once again especially Bellary from where I come the area is very much affected and see that some solution is found as early as possible. I would urge upon the Honourable Minister to release at least a minimum sum of Rs. 50 crores for the State of Karnataka immediately. With these words I end my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH (Guna) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the natural calamities. As the time allotted to me is short, therefore I will restrict myself to the damage caused by hailstorm, in my state and my constituency only.

Sir, the Central Government should reconsider the kind of assistance which could be provided in the event of sudden hardship faced by the people due to any of the natural calamities. In my constituency in Madhya Pradesh, recently there had been hailstorms twice and even thrice after an interval of 8 days. In certain areas in Shivpuri and Guna districts,

[Shri Mahendra Singh]

in my constituency, crops have been damaged to the extent of 90 to 95 per cent due to hailstorms. 364 villages in Shivpuri and 678 in Guna have been hit by hailstorms. About 25 per cent farms there have suffered damage to the extent of 90 to 95 per cent. I appreciate the prompt action of State Government and the Chief Minister in providing immediate relief. A sum of Rs. 11 lakh and 33 thousand has been provided as assistance to Shivpuri district. Similarly a sum of Rs. 30.83 lakh has been provided as immediate assistance to Guna district under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. Work on 144 schemes has been going on in Guna district. A sum of Rs. 37.85 lakh has been allotted for these works and 11.35 tonne foodgrains have been made available.

Similarly, assistance has also been provided for Bhopal, Jabalpur, Vidisha, Gwalior, Morena, Amba, Ratlam, Mandsaur, Ujjain, Dewas and Hoshangabad districts. The Chief Minister of our State has done a commendable job in this respect resulting in much relief to the farmers.

The Minister of State in the Department of Railways, Shri Madhavrao Scindia who belongs to our State, also visited the areas hit by hailstorms. The people of those areas have appreciated the gesture of our Chief Minister and the hon. Union Minister who visited those places at this critical hour and met them personally. I am satisfied with the steps taken by the State Administration but they have their own limitations in this regard. In such crisis, the State Government cannot help the farmers fully. Therefore, I can understand the difficulty of the Madhya Pradesh Government or for that matter any other State Government and I demand that in such a situation the Central Government should immediately send a team so that it can assess the damage and some norms should be fixed whereby farmers are provided adequate relief.

I would like the Central Government to set up a separate fund for this so that urgent relief is provided to the States. The teams which go from here to visit and inspect the areas should be supervised by the

Central Government immediately. Thereafter, relief should be made available according to fixed norms.

I would also request that where losses to the farmers are more than a 50 per cent land revenue should be exempted and not postponed. Similarly, the facility of low interest loans should also be extended in those areas.

While once again appreciating Madhya Pradesh Government for immediate relief provided by the Chief Minister to the farmers, I request the hon. Minister that he too should kindly provide immediate relief to the distressed farmers.

SHRIMATI USHA CHOUDHARI (Amaravati) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, first of all I express my gratitude to the hon. Minister and the Government for allowing a discussion on such a serious issue. We have held discussions many a time in this House about famine and the hon. Minister had been informing us about the States and the funds provided to each. This practice has been going on for a long time. But, now, under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister we want to change the trend and practice being followed for years together. It is a wrong practice that we discuss only when there has already been hailstorm. Survey is made after the damage has occurred and we try to provide some help to the affected State. This is the story of every State. I feel that whereas a very good book of these accounts can be compiled, yet they cannot improve the lives of the people. For that, the affected State should be helped in advance to formulate a longterm scheme so that the State may be able to control the situation in time. For the area which always remains drought-affected, a scheme should be formulated so that the situation, even after the famine has occurred, can be controlled. The Central Government has tried to help to some extent. Many things about several States have been said here. Here in the House when the hon. Members were speaking one thing occurred to me. The hon. Members from other States have not referred to Maharashtra because they are not aware of the situation prevailing in the State. There is no water in the desert of Rajasthan but for the people of that

area every one of us has tears in our eyes. Similarly, in Maharashtra cotton and other crops are grown and oranges are exported. Therefore, the Central Government also fixes different criteria for it thinking that when Maharashtra is demanding something let us give something. As the need is more there, therefore, fixed norms are not followed there as Maharashtra is well advanced in many schemes. It has its own production capacity and sends many plants to the Central Government. My submission is that the situation in Maharashtra is different.

In the area from where I come, the water level is going down. In this hilly area the water resources are not available so that they may be able to have drinking water and water for irrigation. Therefore, I want that two types of schemes should be formulated for that area. Where rain water is available, it should be collected and brought above the surface so that it can be utilised later on. Due to scarcity of water in Maharashtra for the last two years more than ten thousand villages are facing drinking water scarcity. For this, large scale assistance from the Central Government has been asked for but we have seen that the Central Government has not provided even 10 per cent of the assistance sought for. I want that full assistance for drinking water or for the famine stricken people should be provided immediately.

I also want to add that every year the Central Government provides assistance worth Rs. 250 to Rs. 300 crores as famine relief for the entire country. If this amount is used for formulating a long term programme, perhaps such remedial measures would not be necessary every year. As the time is limited, I would therefore, like to submit that I come from Vidarbha. He has also mentioned about Amarvati. In Vidarbha, in certain districts of Marathwada and certain districts of Khandesh i.e. in the 7 districts from the Amarvati to Jalgaon, there has been hailstorms recently. During the last month itself, more than one thousand villages have been affected. Fifteen persons have died and forty persons have been injured. Not only the crops in several hectares of land but the orange

trees have also been damaged. They have submitted certain schemes. I am grateful to the hon. Finance Minister that he has spoken of crop insurance scheme in the Budget. I thank him for that but I want to add that presently in Vidarbha not only orange, banana and other fruits have been damaged, but many other trees also have fallen. Therefore, all kinds crops of farmers should be insured. It may be thought that perhaps there will be difficulty in implementing this scheme but if we want that there should again be a green revolution, the Central Government should provide for crop insurance for all kinds of crops grown by the farmers. Moreover, I demand something for vidarbha also. After the last two hailstorms, there has been heavy loss. I, therefore, want that the State Government's request for assistance worth Rs. 14 crores should be increased to Rs. 20 crores or even more. If Government provides funds for the backward areas of Amaravati and Khanja, that will go a long way for the people of the area.

With these words I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

\*SHRI BHADRESWAR TANTI (Kaliabor) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to take part in a discussion on the situation arising out of drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country. Drought and other natural calamities do occur in each and every year in our country. This is not a new phenomenon; but the question is what effective steps have so far been taken by the Central Govt. to stop this menace. We find that every year thousands of crores of rupees are spent by the Govt. of India in the name of relief work to the flood affected people and the drought effected people. Now it has become the practice for the Government of India to release a huge amount of money when there is any such natural calamity in different parts of our country. I do agree that the Government of India is spending a huge amount of money every year.

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\*The speech was originally delivered in Assamese.

[Shri Bhadreswar Tanti]

So far as Assam is concerned it is a border State of our country with so many problems and flood is the greatest enemy for Assam. Sir, with great regret I beg to submit that the relief given to the people of Assam is very inadequate and not in time. In the name of relief whatever fund is allocated by the Government of India, the lion's share is misused by the unscrupulous people who are on the helm of affairs. Sir, here I want to give one example. If the House, properties and standing crops of a family is totally destroyed, the Congress-I Government was in power at that time, they used to give only one blanket, one mosquito net and a sum of rupees fifty or so. That also was done just before the time of elections of the last State Legislative Assembly and Lok Sabha undermining and degrading the human values. Sir, you can well imagine the pitiable condition of those retired people. In a civilised society like ours the whole family does not sleep together. On 5th June, 1985 the Merapani Village on Nagaland-Assam border was attacked by vagabonds and 1800 houses were burnt down and more than 500 peoples were killed. The then Cong-I Government in Assam issued only one blanket to each of the families just before the last Assam Elections and thereby towered the human values in the name of relief.

The next point I beg to submit is that when the flood is over, then only the State Government machinery start work at a snail's pace. In the name of relief, a sum of Rs. 50/- to Rs. 500/- is given to a family. Sir, the next point I beg to submit is there in the Kaziranga area when a wild elephant kills a man only 50 rupees is given to his kith and kin as a compensation and that money also is not given in time. (Interruptions). This should be increased from Rs. 50/- to at least Rs. 5000/.

Another point I want to make is that on the border of Assam and Nagaland at Mera-Pani village where so many Assamese villagers were killed brutally. The then Congress-I Government turned a deaf ear to all these incidents. After the installation of new AGP Government in Assam

immediate steps have been taken to give at least some compensation to the kith and kin of those brutally murdered. Assamese villagers. For this purpose a huge amount of money is necessary. But the State exchequer is in a precarious condition. Therefore I would like to request the Central Government to provide at least Rs. ten crore so that compensation may be given to the needy persons. I fervently request the Central Government to extend a helping hand to the people of Assam so that there might be some contentment among the people of Assam.

Sir, I am an elected member from Assam. Therefore I have got every right to express my views here in this august House. I feel extremely sorry that so many senior members from the treasury benches are shouting like anything while I am making my maiden speech. Sir, 5th June 1985 is a red letter day in the history of India so far Merapani is concerned and I think such incidents will never occur in future in any part of the globe. At least 500 men, women and children of Merapani village were butchered by Naga people. The then Assam Government did not come forward to help those victims immediately. It is a matter of shame. Now AHP Govt. has come to power in Assam and we are trying our level best to do the needful to wipe out the tears of those wretched people. Sir, is it not the duty of Government of India to help Assam at the time of need. The Central Government always talks of national unity and integrity. But is it the way to enhance the national unity and integrity in this manner? Sir, the people of Assam are very peace loving. It is known to the whole world. We are sacrificing so many things for the sake of the nation. Sir, may I ask you one question — what has been given to Assam for the last 38 years? The mighty Brahmaputra is causing havoc every year in Assam. Time and again we are requesting the Central Govt. to provide sufficient funds so that floods may be controlled. Unfortunately we are getting always a step motherly treatment from the Centre.

The Central Government has constituted a Brahmaputra Control Board but that is only on papers. It is like a white

elephant. Thousands of crores of rupees have been spent by the Central Government but there is no ultimate result. For so many years Assam is being neglected in all spheres. I would like to request the hon. Minister to consider the points raised by me and at least one hundred crores of rupees should be allocated for the effective flood control of the mighty river Brahmaputra. I would like to draw your kind attention that if Moriakula erosion is not checked immediately, the entire Bokakhat area will be submerged into the mighty Brahmaputra soon and hundreds and thousands of poor peasants will become homeless. Once again I thank you for giving me the opportunity and with these words I conclude my speech.

20.00 hrs.

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I also want to express my concern on the drought and natural calamities.

In 1984-85 twenty three districts were affected by drought in Madhya Pradesh. This year 12 districts are facing severe drought of which 7 were in the grip of drought last year also. Mr. Chairman, Sir, out of 20,102 villages of these 12 districts, 13508 villages are in the grip of drought. The population of these 12 districts is 11 million. Out of this, 80 lakh people are victims of this drought. There are about 1,30,00,000 cattle heads in these districts out of which 1,05,00,000 are starving to death. Half of the districts in the State are tribal districts. 29 districts are facing acute water shortage. So far as drought relief is concerned, the State Government and the Central Government have spent Rs. 75 crore and Rs. 51.11 crore respectively. About 5697 relief works are in progress wherein 3,03,000 workers are working daily.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw Governments attention to my constituency particularly to Jhabua district where drought has been a regular feature during the last 15 years. The district has a population of 8 lakh of which 85 per cent are tribals. Every year, the area is affected by drought. The meagre relief provided by Government does not help much.

The desert of Rajasthan is advancing towards Madhya Pradesh and until some major step is taken to check it this problem will remain. Therefore, relief works will have to be undertaken on large scale. The problem of drinking water is there. As long on we are not able to provide drilling machines the people will not get drinking water. Nor will fodder and water be available for the livestock. Out of an 8 lakh population of the district, only 1 lakh have got some employment and about 2 to 3 lakh workers are still idle. This being a drought affected district some such schemes should be formulated as would provide them relief to the people. Even during British rule if a district was hit by drought, they used to provide relief to the people by constructing railway lines and dams or undertaking forest development schemes, but today the practice is that Central Government merely sends some study team to the affected areas and provides funds immediately on the basis of study report. But I would like to say that money is no solution to the problem. Government should conduct a special study of the affected districts and identify the factors attributable to recurring droughts. Unless a scientific survey is conducted as to how the drought areas can be converted into greenary, there can be no improvement in the situation. Today, 12 districts of Madhya Pradesh are in the grip of drought. A day is not far when it will turn into a desert.

I would like to request particularly the hon. Ministers Shri Buta Singh and Shri Makwana to visit my constituency and see for themselves the flight of these districts. Ground water is not available in the area even at the depth of 300 ft. Therefore, there is need for providing drilling machines which can drill a depth of 400 or 500 ft. so that drinking water is available to the people and cattle.

Many people do not get jobs under the relief works programme. Old and weak people are unable to do the same amount of work and therefore they should be provided such work as they can do.

Just now, some hon Members spoke about hailstorm. I was in Delhi when this occurred. I would have thanked God

[Shri Dileep Singh Bhuria)

if it had fallen in my constituency, as it would have at least provided drinking water. 12 districts in our State are drought hit. The Hon. Prime Minister had recently visited the entire district and seen for himself. He visited each and every tribal hamlet. He saw how the people were fighting with death. They do not have food for one meal even. I, being their representative do not want to describe their plight here. I have given a separate notice demanding discussion on drought when I should get at least half an hour to speak so that I may be able to describe the position obtaining there in detail. I request the hon. Minister to look into their problems and resolve them. Today, those who are struggling for their life, are not able to earn even Rs. 10 a day. Thousands of degree holders want to be employed as daily wagers. Such is their plight. I had to say a lot, but being a disciplined soldier of the party I will not take more time. With these words I conclude.

SHRI G.L. DOGRA (Udhampur) :  
Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is an issue which is discussed every time in this House. Someone or the other raises this issue for Sardar Sahib or Shri Makwana. Have they ever bothered to think of the country's larger interest... (*Interruptions*) whenever excise duty or indirect taxes are proposed and the question of Finance Commission is raised they always make much hue and cry and take away more money than interest. The States misappropriate Government funds and do not provide any relief to the poor. When they indulge in such bungling, they should also be ready to face the consequences... (*Interruptions*) The country is going to dogs and nobody knows why the control on finances has become ineffective. We do not know why there are weak Ministers at the Centre and whosoever makes a hue and cry, gets as much as he likes. It has been observed that these days the number of water disputes is increasing on the pretext that water of a river passes through a particular State and therefore, it belongs to that State only. Such things are meaningless because if for instance, a cow passes by my house, it does not mean that

it is mine. If a truck goes *via* Punjab, it does not mean that it belongs to Punjab. Such issues should be faced bravely. It is for the Central Government to ensure assistance to each State. If any State Government commits any wrong it should be removed irrespective of the party to which it belongs... (*Interruptions*). There are Departments like the Ecology and Forest Departments etc. They get legislations passed but their implementation at certain places proves detrimental. Water may not be available in the South because the forests of Madhya Pradesh are being denuded indiscriminately. If Himalayas are denuded where from will we get water? Have they ever considered how floods occur? There is a tributary of Ravi in our area. There used to be less than 50,000 cuses of water even during worst floods but during the course of four years, it has increased to 1-2 lakh cusees of water because the mountains have been denuded (*Interruptions*). My only submission is that the inflow of water in this tributary has increased from 50,000 to 1,50,000 cusees during the last one year alone thereby resulting in extensive damage in our area. The only reason for this is widespread deforestation in the area. There are large parts of hilly and plain areas in our State. Everywhere the situation is the same. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to make arrangements to provide water in these areas.

The most important thing to be done is to instruct the Agricultural Universities to identify the crops that can be produced in particular areas and insist on growing these crops in those areas. Afforestation should be undertaken on a large scale to bring rains which would provide green cover, which in turn would help in improving the situation... (*Interruptions*).

I am emphasizing these points I consider them very important. If you think any of them is not worth considering you may kindly delete it. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to direct the Agricultural Universities to work in this direction. They should examine as to what should be grown in which region of our country. If we continue growing rice everywhere without regard to other crops,

we cannot make much headway. There is need to adopt a fresh approach because at present even potable water is not available in sufficient quantity & the water table is going down. Therefore, keeping in view this problem, we will have to adopt this approach. As a result of deforestation, the water table is going down. Merely granting funds those who clamour for it will do no good. Though I wanted to speak more on this issue, but I conclude in deference to the wishes of the hon. Chairman. I am not at all satisfied. I do not know whom I should thank.

[English]

In deference to the Chair I sit down; but this is unfair. Otherwise we are prepared to sit for the whole night.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA (Jamnagar) : Sir, I am grateful for this opportunity that you have given. I will repeat certain things which I had mentioned about three months ago, during the Winter session.

But before I do so, I would like to congratulate the Government as far as relief works are concerned. Cattle camps have been started with Government aid, by the philanthropists of Gujarat. These projects are going on satisfactorily there. But the serious situation today is this : I come from that part of Gujarat, viz. the western part of Saurashtra where there are no perennial rivers for at least 500 Kms., no tanks which can last for the whole summer, and no sub-soil water. Where are we going to get water from ? It is an area which covers a population of at least 30 lakhs. These 30 lakhs of people, a few months later, will have no source of drinking water. I said this three months ago. I repeat it.

I also say that a time will come in May or June when these 30 lakhs of people will have to migrate. Suggestions have been given. Is the Government going to consider taking up these proposals ? There is a proposal to bring water by railways to Rajkot. You are thinking of it. But it is an expensive proposition. But why bring water from Gujarat into Saurashtra ? Why not bring drinking water by the Shipping Corporation of India's spare oil

tankers? You can bring this water to the ports, because Saurashtra and Kutch have the maximum number of intermediate ports. You can bring drinking water by tankers alongside, in the ports, from where you can fill up your railway tankers, and bring water to the affected areas. This is the only way by which you will be able to save that area.

As far as Saurashtra is concerned, we have no sub-soil water. You are not going to bring water through pipelines. I do not want to see people migrating, to the extent of 15 or 20 lakhs.

Tubewells have been dug. I am sure Government is aware that 60% of them are failures. There is no water available. In the remaining 40% water is there; but most of them will dry up within two months. Tubewell is no alternative for providing drinking water to Saurashtra. With co-ordination between the Shipping Corporation of India and the Indian Railways, you can help this drought-affected areas of western Saurashtra.

I had given a proposal that municipalities in the coastal region, municipalities affected by drinking water problem, should use saline water for their flushing system whereby there would be a saving of 40 per cent of the drinking water of that area.

Today, the drinking water has been rationed. The municipality where it was giving water twice a day, now they are giving it once in three days and that too as a ration. There are towns in the coastal areas where we are getting water at Re. 1 a bucket. We have had still five months to go. I had also mentioned that de-salination is the process we could make use of. Now this can also be done by wind energy, and Saurashtra and Kutch are the most ideal areas in the whole of India along the part of the Tamilnadu where it can be done by wind energy. Let us start moving in this direction whereby, God forbid, if there is a bad year next year, at least, something can be done.

There is a system called RPO which can be made use of in those remote areas where we do not get drinking water from any other source. Why not we make a

[Shri D. P. Jadeja]

thorough study on that? If the cartages are to be imported, let them be imported now, because importing them at the last minute is not going to help. I know it is a little expensive affair, but considering when you cannot give water in any other way, this is the only way where you can give drinking water to these remote villages.

The summer has just started; the heat will also start coming in in another month or so in these areas where we do not have even drinking water. The sanitary conditions are very bad and they are so bad that within a month or two, you will have disease spreading in this area. Let us have a health squad; let us take health measures to see that disease does not come into this area; and along with disease anti-social elements will also raise their heads. People need protection; they have started migrating on their own wherever they can go and whoever can go. But, what about their property? What about those people who are left behind? Anti-social elements are in collusion with the people in power there. They should not harm those innocent people of Saurashtra and Kutch region

SHRI V. S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Karnataka has had the misfortune of reeling under very severe scarcity condition for the fourth year in succession. This year, it is the worst in the living memory.

Many members have now realised the seriousness of the scarcity. Already two hon. members, one from Karnataka and one from Kerala have explained about it. Out of 19 districts, 18 districts are affected by drought and out of 23,000 villages, 20,000 villages have been affected by drought. Another unusual phenomenon is that even the Maenad region, which used to get plenty of rain every year, even that has been affected.

I hope, the Minister for Agriculture knows better. He knows better the severity of the drought condition in Karnataka because on the 14th of January, the hon. Minister air dashed to Karnataka; and he

visited some of the drought affected districts and also discussed with officials, opposition leaders and the Ministers. But what is required is the result of his visit? We have yet to see what the result is going to be? Of course, the central study team, which was expected, would visit there soon; came very recently only on the 24th of last month.

It must be said to the credit of the Government of Karnataka, that government has taken up this challenge with courage and confidence, and they are doing all that is necessary on a very gigantic scale to give relief to all the affected people. The House may be surprised to know that the Government of Karnataka has been spending at the rate of Rs. 1 crore every day just to provide jobs to every one in the affected area;

The thrust of relief measures has been to give employment to all those who are in need of it and supplying fodder to cattle. One crore of cattle have been affected. The Government of Karnataka have built about one hundred cattle sheds, each shed containing one thousand cattle population.

The Karnataka Government has also taken steps to provide drinking water to all the areas where drinking water is needed.

As I have already said, this is the fourth year in succession that the State is facing a drought! What should we do if the Central Government does not come to the rescue of the State Government and who else will help the State Government?

Some of the hon. Members were saying that these calamities should be treated as national calamities, whether it is in Bihar or Rajasthan. We want them to be treated as national calamities, wherever they occur. Our country is one. For administrative convenience the country is divided into several States, but in these respects like natural calamities the Central Government has to come to the rescue of the State Governments.

One more point, Sir. I will be very very brief. For the past four years, since 1983, the State of Karnataka has been

facing a drought situation and the central assistance sought by the State Government has been nearly Rs. 858.50 crores and the ceiling fixed so far by the Central Government for all the four years is Rs. 162.50 crores and the actual amount paid so far is Rs. 90.86 crores. As you stated correctly, the assistance has been only of the order of ten per cent. What should the States do? You can very well imagine the plight of the State, when for the fourth year in succession not a drop of water is there in many districts. The loss in terms of money for the Karnataka State is to the tune of Rs. 2,000 crores, because of loss in the production of crops, industrial production, loss of revenue loans, etc. How can any State Government—even the most prosperous State Government cannot—survive in a situation? So, I would earnestly request the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who has recently visited the State and to consider the memorandum submitted, by the State Government in December 1985 asking for Rs. 271 crores and further, after the central study team visited the State, the State had requested for an additional assistance of Rs. 77 crores. That is to say, this year alone, the State Government has requested for an assistance of Rs. 348 crores. This assistance, as one Member had suggested, should be a grant. I would also request the Minister for Agriculture that he may kindly note it that the Eighth Finance Commission has specifically stated that when a State has been reeling under famine or drought for the last three or four years continuously more assistance should be liberally given. The assistance should be—whatever is given—a grant, not to be adjusted in the Plan assistance, or marginal money. It should be given as a grant. The State Government plans have suffered a set-back because the assistance for drought is adjusted towards plan expenditure. This is my earnest request and I also urge that the State Government should be given an immediate assistance of sum of Rs. 50 crores. I am sure, the hon. Minister will realise the plight of our State and the Central Government will come to our rescue and release at least Rs. 50 crores immediately.

Lastly, this sort of drought occurs every year and some permanent solution is

absolutely necessary. I have been a legislator, for the past sixteen years, and we have been discussing the matter in the legislatures also. I suggest that an expert committee may be appointed at the national level to find solution. There should be a national water grid. That is a must. We should pursue projects like the Ganga-Cauvery link or the Garland Canal etc. There are so many other schemes also which have to be pursued.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ram Pyare Panika.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would not like to repeat what my colleagues have said at length on natural calamities particularly on drought, floods and hailstorms. But, I would certainly like to associate myself with the feelings which they have expressed here.

I would like to draw your attention towards Uttar Pradesh. I recollect that during 1982-83, there was acute drought in the country affecting 33 crore farmers. But, Uttar Pradesh was not provided assistance even of a single paise on technical grounds. The Central Government is, perhaps, going to formulate a model memoranda. They may do so but they should keep in view those States which have not received any assistance during the last, 3-4 years on technical grounds. This year Uttar Pradesh had demanded Rs. 553.53 crore to meet the drought situation. You will be surprised and sorry to know that Uttar Pradesh has been ravaged by the floods also. The new Chief Minister of the State, Shri Veer Bhadur Singh, had just assumed office but he dealt with the situation with great courage and determination. But due to constraints of resources, the farmers and the poor had not received adequate relief. As against our demand for Rs. 1273.87 crore, we have received only Rs. 128.27 crore which is entirely inadequate. Uttar Pradesh is a large State and one fifth of the total population of the entire country lives here. 47 districts out of 57 districts of the State have been badly affected by floods. We do not ask for more assistance to meet

[Shri Ram Pyare Panika]

the situation but what other States are getting, Uttar Pradesh should also receive.

Besides, schemes should be drawn up on permanent basis under D.P.A.P. to deal with the drought situation. One part of Mirzapur district, which I represent, is affected by floods while the other parts is affected by drought and sometimes our region is affected by hailstorms also. Thus, the situation there always remains bad. A number of schemes have been drawn up in this connection. Under D.P.A.P. Schemes for irrigation, particularly for tubewells & lift irrigation, were formulated for some blocks. Moreover, the State Government had submitted a number of schemes for hilly blocks some years back including sidhara-ghat project and three other projects for banks of river Ganga, but no money has been released for the same by the Centre till now. The Janata Party Government had excluded some blocks from D.P.A.P. But, now Marihan, Lalganj and 3-4 other blocks should be included in D.P.A.P and the problems we are facing should be solved. Moreover, a number of schemes in regard to drought have also been submitted. A lift canal scheme for Murenadih and Kusuma Scheme have also been submitted. Prompt action should be taken to fight drought. Long term measures and short term measures will have to be taken to ward off such calamities. Government should implement the suggestions pertaining to the long term schemes. In our region, 34 barrages were constructed. The land of the farmers was acquired but command area could not be developed due to constraint of resources. The need of the hour is that all the projects in the whole country, on which work is in progress for the last 8 to 10 years are completed. I am very grateful to the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, for his visit to the tribal areas. A number of schemes have been launched in different States to sell wheat and rice at Rs. 1.50 per kg. to the poor. We want that this scheme should be expanded further and implemented in those areas which have been affected by drought whether they are in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka or in any other State. It should be ensured that wheat and rice are sold at this rate in

States which have been affected by floods and other natural calamities.

Recently, I had visited four tehsils of my district. There are 3-4 points in regard to that. Fifty per cent of the schemes for drinking water have not been implemented due to the non-availability of resources from the Central Government. The tribals are unable to make use of such schemes because of these small defects.

Secondly, the problem of drinking water is before us since 1972. It is a coincidence that the Government has given top-priority to it now in the Seventh Five Year Plan. I would request the Central Government that they should give maximum assistance to the States and ask them to complete the schemes by formulating time-bound programmes.

Thirdly, in Madhya Pradesh water is not available even at the depth of 300 to 400 ft. Apart from Barmer in Rajasthan, the situation, particularly of Jhabua in Madhya Pradesh is also very grim. Similar is the condition prevailing in a number of districts in Karnataka and Orissa. So, for drinking water, it is necessary to make available deep-boring machines, which are becoming very popular, for the benefit of the people.

Fourthly, I would like to draw your attention towards the public distribution system in all these areas which is not working properly in the States. Kerosene oil, rationed commodities and items of daily consumption are not available. The Central Government must monitor the distribution system. I recall that the late Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi, had given a 12-point programme but it is not being implemented by any State. The hon. Agriculture Minister should ensure that it is implemented fully. The Government should give maximum assistance to the States to meet the challenge of floods, drought and hailstorms.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI JAGANNATH PATTNAIK (Kalahandi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am the only Member participating from the State which is always under the grip of natural calamities, that is, Orissa. Also, I am the representative of a constituency which has become an important national event nowadays in the national press, that is, Kalahandi. One of my friends from those benches has commented about the starvation death, without any basis, without any authentic information. So, I appeal that while dealing with human problems, we should not comment anything which is based on political motivation.

Simultaneously, I want to draw your attention to the district of Kalahandi in a national perspective because there is a greater need today to evolve a strategy and an operational approach for the elimination of poverty and eradication of regional imbalances, and for this I appeal that Orissa should be the laboratory and should be treated as a special category State, unlike Assam and Jammu & Kashmir. Kalahandi should be the national laboratory to eradicate poverty. It is a challenge for the whole Government and for the whole nation.

There are many historical reasons for poverty in that area. The progress of literacy, the progress of development was ushered in that area only with the concept of five-year planning of Congress under the dynamic leadership of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru. After that, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, out of sympathy, out of sorrow visited that district when there was a drought in 1966, and by virtue of her deeds, she is today regarded as the mother among those poor people. Now our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi has also visited that area and after his visit he himself has appointed a committee which is monitoring the progress, not only of Kalahandi but also of all those hilly districts which are inhabited by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and which are drought-prone areas. Although many development programmes are going on there, but in spite of all these efforts the area is not able to develop. It cannot

march forward unless there is improvement in the spheres of communication, irrigation and electrification, which is much below the national average and for which adequate Central assistance is needed.

I appeal to the Government that there should be area planning and micro-level district planning in all these districts. I feel that we should not go into the argument what is a State subject and what is a Central subject. But we should make all-round efforts. There should be micro level planning with adequate and liberal assistance for the all-round development of Kalahandi district. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the need for declaring the drought period for the whole year and not merely from cessation of the rain to the normal period of the crop. All the year round should be declared as drought-affected. You should declare emergency so that no economic activity takes place outside the Government apparatus. Assured work and assured wage for the whole year should be ensured. Marketing network and assured credit should be assured to these people. There should be a complete ban on commercial utilisation of forests except for irrigation projects. Otherwise these areas will not be developed. All water resources should be tapped. There should be dry farming development with utilisation of modern technology. Drought resistance seeds should be adopted. Government insurance scheme should be implemented. There should be more allocation for promoting dry-land farming, soil moisture conservation, afforestation, livestock development under DPAP programme. All these programmes should be there. Small and marginal assistance programme should be given more importance.

My last point is this. There should not be any distinction in giving of Central assistance between drought, flood, hailstorm fire and earthquake. Central Assistance should be given 100% as Non-Plan Grant. The entire expenditure of the natural calamity should be of the Centre. The Planning Commission has suggested that in case of States which have had drought for more than 4 or 5 successive

[Shri Jagannath Pattnaik]

years, the entire assistance should be considered for being given as a Grant. Cooping this in view, the entire Central assistance now provided for the State of Orissa should be converted into 100% grant. My last point is this. There is a Supplementary Memorandum from our State for the last year's flood which is amounting to Rs. 88 crores. There is a Monitoring Committee appointed by the Ministry of Agriculture which should go to Orissa immediately and recommend Central assistance. I appeal to the Government to have a special outlook in all these matters. There should be district level area planning with adequate and liberal Central assistance for a district like Kalahandi so that this district can achieve national progress. With these words I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer): Chairman, Sir, Rajasthan is the worst drought-affected State in the country and my constituency Barmer is the worst drought-affected area in Rajasthan. The Thar desert lies in Barmer and Jaisalmer. There is acute shortage of drinking water. Famine conditions in that region have been prevailing for the last five years. There has been no production of foodgrains in that part of Rajasthan. The present famine situation is the worst in this century. The Rajasthan Government as well as the Central Government are giving us assistance in this hour of crisis. But it is too inadequate.

The Rajasthan Government had asked for assistance for Rs. 580 crore—Rs. 350 crore for famine relief works, Rs. 50 crore for animal husbandry, Rs. 20 crore for nutritional programme and Rs. 74 crore for the provision of drinking water. The Central Government have sanctioned only Rs. 98.65 crore as against the demanded assistance of Rs. 580 crore. Out of this sanctioned amount, we have received only 48.7 crore. For providing drinking water, we have been given Rs. 36.23 crore as against our demand of Rs. 74 crore. We have received wheat worth Rs. 47 crore under N.R.E.P.

What I want to say is that in Rajasthan, out of 27 districts, 26 have been affected by famine. Two crore and ten lakh people and three crore cattle heads in 26855 of the total 33,000 villages have been affected by the famine. The Government have started famine relief works. In Barmer district 25000 labourers and in Jaisalmer district, 60 thousand labourers are engaged in the relief works. I have come to know that in Rajasthan a total of 5 lakh labourers are engaged in relief works whereas 2 crore 10 lakh people have been affected by the famine. In other words, only 2.5 per cent people have got relief in the form of wages. A condition has been imposed that only one person from a family will be engaged on work whether the number of family is 10 or 15 or 5 This condition has affected many people and there is discontentment among them on this score. Besides this, a condition has also been imposed that no relief work will be undertaken in the 50 Km.1 area of the canal area whereas no departmental work is going on in the canal area. What I mean to say is that there is need to open more relief works. If 2.10 crore people have been affected by the famine, then 20 lakh people should be given jobs in famine relief works. The State Government have provided fodder for 3 crore cattle heads and the Centre has also given assistance in this respect. But only a sum of Rs. 3.69 crore has been sanctioned for fodder. In the districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer including my constituency, the number of milk cattle like cows is 5 lakh. If fodder is arranged for them then for Barmer, Jaisalmer and for my constituency only about Rs. 6 crore will be required whereas for the entire Rajasthan a sum of Rs. 3.69 crore has been provided. I think that demand made for Rs. 50 crore is a very genuine demand.

Similarly, we requested the Central Government to provide Rs. 300 crore for employing 20 lakh persons. You have not treated famine on the same footing as floods. These are single-crop areas and in famine, people suffer from ailments & die. Cattle-heads also perish in thousands. Even then you provide assistance under advance plan. When you provide assistance under

advance plan, then the entire assistance given to Rajasthan is utilised in these areas. Construction of roads under the advance plan is undertaken in these areas. This causes dissatisfaction and people from other areas demand that eastern-region in Rajasthan should be separated from the State. Therefore, I request that for that area special help should be provided. In the reports of the Seventh and Eighth Finance Commissions, it has been clearly stated that if the famine has been occurring continuously for 4 years or 5 years—and Rajasthan has been in the grip of famine for the last 8 to 10 years, Barmer and Jaisalmer districts have been facing famine for the last 9 years—cent per cent assistance should be provided to the affected State. Therefore, we should be provided cent per cent assistance. If you do not do this, then we should be provided assistance under non-plan, by treating famine and floods at par and as in the case of floods, 75 per cent relief should be provided for famine also.

Secondly, at present recoveries are being made. Under the cooperative loans scheme, short-term loans have been converted into mid-term loans but mid-term loans have also become due. Either these should be converted into long-term loans or otherwise these should be rescheduled because the cooperatives are recovering the loans even in this situation. Similar is the case with commercial loans. The commercial loans given to weaker sections are being recovered. The loans are also given to the people who live below the poverty line. They are also given loans under I.R.D.P. These loans are also being recovered. These should not be recovered in this way. If these loans are recovered during famine, the consequences will be dangerous. The fields are being auctioned. It is necessary to stop such recoveries. The Government of Rajasthan is trying to deal with famine but unless the Central Government provides special assistance. The State Government will not be able to face the national calamity. I request that famine relief works should be undertaken, special relief given for cattle because economic life depends on them. In this way our area should be saved from the calamity of famine. With these words I conclude.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the subject we are discussing relates to the whole of India, be it Andhra Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan or Bihar. This problem is a continuous one. Every year we discuss this problem in this House and leave the matter there. Our Government also, after expressing its views on the points raised, goes to slumber. Why has this problem become perennial ? 70 per cent of the people earn their livelihood by cultivation. Today the cultivation is in such a state that many people are not in a position to do it. In such a vast country, there are floods, drought, hail-storms and other natural calamities at different places. Because of this, about ten thousand families of the marginal farmers go below the line of poverty every year. On the one hand, we talk of bringing the people above the poverty line and, on the other, people are going fast below this line. If this process continues, then people could not be brought above the line of poverty. In our area, Jahanabad, in Bihar there has been continuous drought. Across the Ganga, people in Madhubani, Champaran, Darbhanga and Motihari are facing the problem of floods every year. We belong to South Bihar where there are constant floods or drought. Last year, not even a grain could be grown in Kurthat Karpi, Jahanabad of Gaya district and Masori division of Patna district. Relief work has also not been started there. I want that such a project should be started as a national project. The two schemes sent by Bihar have been pending with the Central Government for the last 10 to 15 years. One is Mohane dam project and the other is Punpun Dargha project. We had informed the hon. Minister and the hon. Prime Minister also about these projects. Mohane dam project has been pending since 1975 and the second, Punpun Dargha project has been lying with the Centre since 1980. No decision has been taken about them. Had they been finalised and included in the Seventh Five Year Plan and funds allocated for them, the problem of floods and droughts in Gaya, Patna, Hazaribagh and Nalanda districts would have been solved for ever. In Punpun division every year floods occur.

[Shri Ramashray Prasad]

The Central Government should immediately give sanction for construction of embankments on Punpun river and Phalgu river so that work on these schemes could be started. Both these schemes have been pending here for quite a long time and the Central Government has not so far considered them. If the Central Government sanctions both these schemes, and allocates funds to save the people from the floods of Punpun and Phalgu, the people will get a big relief and they will be saved from the ravages of floods for ever & the Government will not have to spend crores of rupees every year on relief works. Not only this, appropriate arrangements for irrigation will also be made and this problem will also be solved.

But this Government and its policies are anti-farmer, anti-worker and this is the glaring example. Had this Government been not anti-farmer and anti-worker, it would not have kept pending the schemes relating to agriculture for so many years and would have given thought to the fact that every year innumerable families of the farmers are ruined and irreparable loss of life and property takes place. The farmers have been driven to the brink of starvation. That is why I say that this Government is not the protector of the interests of the farmers and workers.

In the Asian Continent, China is the biggest country. There also floods and drought had become a regular feature and Government there did not pay full attention to it. The result was that the people overthrew the Government, the farmers and the workers buried that Government and a new Government came to power. The new Government paid full attention and solved the problems of floods and drought once for all. Therefore, our Government too should bear it in mind that the farmers and the workers of this country would not tolerate this Government for long. On the one hand, there are the problems of famine and drought and on the other, the condition of the farmers and workers is going from bad to worse. I, therefore, once again request that sanction for Punpun Dargha Project

and Mohane dam project should be given immediately and work entrusted to the Bihar Government after allocating the funds so that the problem is solved and proper arrangements are made for providing irrigation facilities.

SHRI MANOJ PANDEY (Betia) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I come from North Bihar where we have the biggest legacy of natural calamity in the shape of floods. Regarding floods, I had raised many points during the last session also and had seen the hon. Minister in connection with the problems of Bihar.

The flood problem can be broadly divided into three parts—pre-flood period, and post-flood period. If we go by this classification, then the maximum work should be done before occurrence of floods and that is of taking anti-erosion measures. Where floods come due to erosion, anti-erosion measures should be taken. There are programmes like R.L.E.G.P. or N.R.E.P. under which there is provision for afforestation. There are different types of plans through which we can prevent erosion with afforestation. I request that such areas should be identified which are affected by erosion and where floods are caused by erosion. Afforestation programmes should be implemented speedily in those areas.

Secondly, I want to say something about protective Bunds, though it is not directly connected with the Agriculture Ministry. Unfortunately, these Bunds constructed in our area during floods are destroyed within a year or two and are washed away by flood water. Therefore, no permanent solution has been possible.

Thirdly, so far as the question of constructing small dams and reservoirs is concerned, I would like to say something with special reference to North Bihar where up-stream rivers like Budhi Gandak, Bhagmati, Kosi and Kamla-Balan flooded every year.

21.00 hrs.

Sir, to our north is Nepal and all rivers originate from Nepal. When there is heavy rain in the catchment areas, floods

are bound to occur. Therefore, Sir, I want to say that small reservoirs should be constructed in upper regions for storage of water which can be utilised for irrigation or generation of hydel power. This can be done in some of our areas adjacent to Nepal.

Sir, we can do one thing more during pre-flood period, i.e. to construct mini-dams. By doing so, we can decentralise the irrigation system which at present is centralised. Thus, we can have a separate irrigation system for each Panchayat. Not only that we can also have a separate power supply system through these dams for each Panchayat.

Sir, another point which I want to raise is in connection with the funds being released for relief operations. Last time also, I had requested the hon. Minister that the mode of this relief should be changed. In response to my query whether the hon. Minister has received any request for assistance from Bihar Government, he had replied in the negative. When I asked from the State Government in this regard, I came to know that out of the marginal money given by the Central Government, about Rs. 17 crores had already been spent by them during floods, but due to non-availability of vouchers for that amount, the State Government could not submit certificates for that amount and as a result of that more funds could not be made available to them. The hon. Minister is, perhaps, aware that Bihar Government has since submitted the certificates. Therefore, I would request that more funds should be allocated to Bihar Government soon under this scheme as they are badly needed in the State.

Sir, there is urgent need for a drainage scheme. Embankments are also necessary. This work can be completed by financing it under R.L.E.G.P. Apart from this, a Flood Area Development Programme should also be prepared so that more funds could be allocated for minor flood protection schemes and drainage scheme so as to provide a separate flood protection and drainage scheme for each Panchayat so that the Panchayats also prosper.

Sir, the foremost task during the post-

flood period is rehabilitation. Very little work has been done in the matter of rehabilitation in Bihar. Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I want to submit that we should have 'flood houses' in Bihar also on the lines of Andhra Pradesh and some other States which have their own flood houses. These flood houses have been constructed at places far away from the flooded areas so that the people could be sent to those 'flood houses' during floods, where they can live upto 4—6 months. Such a scheme has not been formulated in Bihar so far. I would request you, Sir, that if such a scheme is submitted by the Bihar Government to the Centre, it should be given immediate approval and more funds should be allocated for this purpose.

Sir, another point which I want to make is about soil conservation. It has shown no results in our State. Government have taken a number of steps for soil conservation, but these steps have not yielded any results in Bihar. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister that he should extend maximum assistance in the matter of soil conservation to the Bihar Government.

We have a tributary named 'Masaan' in our area and there was a very old scheme to construct a dam there. Although this subject is not concerned with Agriculture Ministry, yet I would mention that with the construction of Masaan Dam, the quantity of water in the Budhi Gandak would be reduced by 40 per cent and as such it would give protection from floods. I would request the hon. Minister to extend his cooperation in the completion of this dam. I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA (Hoshangabad) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, many members have already spoken on natural calamities and have covered many aspects. Therefore, I do not want to take much time.

The hon. Member who spoke before me and is sitting opposite mixed politics with natural calamities and it appeared to me that he was trying to make political

[Shri Rameshwar Neekhra]

capital out of it and shedding crocodile tears. He would neither help the people nor himself nor could he get any relief for them. He had said that whenever such a calamity befell, he draw the attention of the Government and that natural calamities were being discussed every year whatever we said fell on deaf ears of the Government.

I want to point out that Government is not complacent. Keeping in view the Wastness of the country and limited resources, the Government try to do more than what is possible and as a result of that, today our farmers are able to face the natural calamities and prepare themselves afresh for the next year. I am of the view that the Government is not inactive. But such Members do wait and pray to God to send another natural calamity so that they may get a chance to speak on it again in Parliament and keep themselves busy. It appears that they do not go deep into the problem on which they speak nor do they try to see what Government does. Instead they indulge in politics. He had said that Government's policy is anti-farmer. But the way people used to die of starvation before 1947 and famine used to hit...

AN HON. MEMBER : The hon. Minister will give this explanation, why is he doing that.

SHRI RAMESHWAR NEEKHRA : Sir, I am saying so because I have also heard of it. I am a member of the same party which has contributed to the progress and development of this country. Had the policy of Government been anti-farmer, Babu Jagjivan Ram would not have written in his autobiography that there was a time when he went to other countries, but people there did not want to meet him. He used to beg for wheat and they very cleverly used to give red wheat to our country which was not worth eating ?

Today, the situation has changed to such an extent that when Shri Buta Singh ji goes abroad, he takes pride in saying that we are supplying wheat to African countries and exporting wheat to other countries

also. There is no starvation in our country and we have plenty of foodgrains.

I did not want to bring politics into it, but since he had spoken like that, I also wanted to reply to him.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to make a speech on such natural calamities, but at the same time I would like to draw your attention to the distress in Madhya Pradesh in the wake of successive natural calamities since 1984, such as, drought, hailstorm, frost and attack of caterpillars.

Again, there was drought in 1984-85 followed by excessive rains and floods. As it was not enough, the State was hit by forest and caterpillars and thus the farmers were left with nothing. The situation now is that almost all districts of the State have been hit. You will be surprised to know that out of a total of 289 Tehsils in the State, 185 have been hit by hailstorm. Over 28,000 villages have been badly affected and 35 lakh acres of land is in the grip of crisis. Due to caterpillar menace, frost, hail and cold wave there was damage to the tune of Rs. 150 crores in Madhya Pradesh. The hails which damaged over 35,000 houses weighed upto half a kilogram each.

21.10 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJASWARI  
*in the Chair*]

All the houses have been damaged. More than 5,000 heads of cattle and 20,000 persons have died. According to the State Government estimate, the damage is to the tune of more than Rs. 150 crores. Nothing can be more unfortunate for the country than the fact that politicians should bake their cakes in the fire of farmers' misery and thus make political capital out of it. I would request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to Madhya Pradesh. One hon. Member was asking why most of the Members from Madhya Pradesh are being allowed to speak. I would, therefore, remind him that it is so because the State is worst affected by famine and other natural calamities. I thank the Chief Minister of

Madhya Pradesh, through this House, for mobilising all available resources to provide relief immediately. He issued orders to write off interest on cooperative loans and helped in all possible manner. But the hon. Minister might be aware that there is a limit to provide relief, as the resources of the State Government are limited. We have been able to withstand this setback but we are unable to march ahead on the path of progress. I, therefore, urge upon the Central Government to send a study team immediately to the affected areas and pending its report, let the Centre allocate funds according to the demands made by the State on the basis of this findings of its own study team.

The Central Government should immediately implement the long-term schemes as suggested by Smt. Usha ji. Last year, Crop Insurance Scheme was introduced in some districts and I request that it should be extended to all the districts. As a previous speaker has rightly pointed out, inspite of the use of pesticides the caterpillars were not entirely destroyed. I would also request Government to take strict action against the officials and punish the guilty so that such things do not recur in future.

With these words, I thank you and request that maximum relief should be extended to our farmers.

**SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL** (Kopargaon): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. The area I represent is historically a drought-prone area. I come from Ahmednagar. You are aware that that district is always in the grip of famine. Some people are under the impression that Maharashtra is not generally affected by drought, but I would like to point out that one third part of that State is always affected by it. 14 out of the 29 districts are historically drought-prone. Presently, 21 districts in the State are seriously affected by famine. Over 1,50,000 people are famine stricken. 12,000 villages of the State are facing acute drinking water problem. The Maharashtra Government has pressed into service 300 rigs for drinking water. Even at the depth of 300 ft.,

potable water is not available. More than 11000 villages are faminestricken. After 15 days drinking water will not be available in over 20,000 villages out of the 40,000 villages in the State. Out of the total plan outlay of the State, over Rs. 80 crores have been spent on drinking water supply. The plan provision for EGS was Rs. 80 crore and the Government has already spent Rs. 70 crores on this account. Over 1,50,000 people are still working in my constituency in the name of relief work. Out of the 6,00,000 workers working throughout the State, 1,50,000 are working in Ahmednagar alone. About 5,50,000 workers were engaged during the 1972 drought and today their number has increased. At present 4,00,000 to 4,50,000 workers are engaged in border districts of Maharashtra in relief work. There has been famine in four districts of my constituency for the last four years and there is acute scarcity of water at many places. There are no arrangements for irrigation. I, therefore, request you to at least make some provision for drinking water supply. I would like to point out that water is being sold for Rs. 2 per bucket in Pathsi Shivgaon in Tehsil Shrirampur. Water is brought through tankers from a distance of at least 10 to 15 Kms. Diseases spread as a result of impurities in the water. I request the Government to provide medicines in large quantities to check the spread of diseases. Besides, there is need to review the guidelines issued about the scarcity because famine has become a regular feature in the area for the last two to four years. Therefore, there is need to provide more facilities to the State to tide over the situation. The farmers have not been able to sow crops as a result of drought and consequently the farmers are migrating from the villages. Where will they go? If they migrate to cities they shall have to live in slums and Government will not be able to provide employment to all of them. 200 villages in Maharashtra are facing acute water scarcity. I would urge upon the Centre to provide maximum assistance to the drought and famine affected areas under the new water management policy. It is necessary to change the norms.

I would like to point out that the Central Government had sanctioned merely

[Shri Balasaheb Vikhe Patil]

Rs. 7 crore for drinking water supply while the State Government has already spent Rs. 80 crore on this account and by the end of March, the expenditure on this account is expected to reach Rs. 125 crore mark. Therefore, I request the Government to pay more attention and make sufficient provision for it. Besides, we have come to learn that the Centre has allocated Rs. 52 crore for employment schemes, though Rs. 200 crore will be spent on this account. Under these circumstances great injustice has been done to Maharashtra. I request the Government to raise this amount so that the people get some relief.

In the end, I would like to make a submission regarding credit facility. I demand that a Drought Commission be set up at the national level. Central Team visits the drought-affected areas and submits its report. There will be no need for it. A permanent plan in this regard can be drawn up. Besides, I would like to submit that there should be a separate credit system for drought-prone areas. The loans of farmers are converted into medium-term loans because of continuous famine for four years. Due to incessant famine, the farmer is not able to make payment of recovery. In case of a single default, complete recovery is made in lump sum. How will he be able to mobilise resources under such circumstances? I therefore, request the Government to formulate a separate credit policy in respect of drought-prone areas. Till then, the farmers can not be helped. If you wish to help the farmers in the real sense, then long-term credit facility should be provided to them. Otherwise what happens is that their household articles and oil engines are auctioned to recover the debts. Besides, there should also be compulsory crop insurance scheme for the drought-prone areas, so that, at least the farmer is saved from being ruined and is not forced to leave his village. I would like to reiterate that at present one third of Maharashtra is famine-stricken.

In the end, I would say that those persons who have cows and buffalows and sell milk, should also be provided loans.

The recovery of that loan, which has been provided to the owners of cows and buffaloes, should be made at a later date. Under the new scheme, loan has been provided to those farmers and workers who deal in the sale of milk. They should be given assistance to procure fertilisers.

With these words, I would request that Maharashtra Government should be allotted maximum fund, as demanded by them.

SHRI JANAK RAJ GUPTA (Jammu): Madam Chairman, in this session of Parliament, some colleagues have raised the issue of damages caused by the natural calamities. I would say that not a year passes when such a damage is not caused. The hon. Member, who preceded me, had suggested that the Government should formulate a programme to check such calamities. I think these calamities can not be prevented altogether but these can, of course, be minimised. It is issue that inspite of spending a lot of money every year on the measures to meet the situation, neither the farmer gets relief nor any solution is found out. Our hon. Ministers, S. Buta Singh and Shri Makwana Ji and very competent and courageous. If they take initiative then a lot can be done in this direction.

Sir, hon. Minister, S. Buta Singh Ji has visited almost every village of my constituency and he knows that there are hill areas as well as plains in that State. Crops could not be sown this year due to erratic rains and snowfall in some areas resulting in heavy losses. In Jammu and Kashmir State, the conditions from Jammu to Ladakh are such that the people are finding it difficult to earn their living. They are left with no source of income. There are no project or industry in that area so that people may earn a living. I would request that the Government should give maximum relief to the people of hilly areas, Poonch, Rajori, Kishtwar, Leh and Kashmir Valley and other areas. Except maize and pulses nothing is grown in the hilly areas. Even these have been damaged due to the rains. So the Government should be directed to supply wheat, rice and maize etc. at cheaper rates to the

farmers who have suffered heavy losses so as to provide them some relief.

I would like to suggest that the recovery of all types of loans, whether these are cooperative loans or loans given for purchasing fertilisers etc., should be waived in these areas where crops have been damaged. I would like to make one more request about the hilly areas. There is no doubt that foodgrains and other kinds of relief are provided to the people of hilly areas where such damages take place. But it would be better if permanent solution is found out to meet such situations by setting up industries etc in these areas. These hap-less people live in border areas, in hilly areas and in the plains. When they are affected by such calamities, even fodder is not available to the cattle. These areas should be given priority.

With these words, I hope that Government will provide maximum relief to the people in these areas liberally.

[English]

DR. V. VENKATESH (Kolar) : Madam Chairman, today we are discussing a very serious problem facing our country. To tell you frankly, the people in the rural areas are very much affected particularly by the drought which is a recurrent phenomenon in our country. Natural calamities like drought, flood etc. are occurring in different parts of the country every year. While one part of the country suffers for want of water, the other area is in trouble because of floods and many people die. Still somewhere else in between, other natural calamities are taking the lives of the rural people.

In fact, a systematic study of the rainfall in this country would indicate that there is a cycle for every ten years. If in a particular part, there is more rainfall now, in the same area there would be severe drought conditions after ten years. Why has the Government not come forward with some concrete proposals to overcome this sort of natural calamities on permanent basis ?

The Government should be very serious about this matter as the rural people

are very much affected. As we know, about eighty per cent of our people are living in the rural areas. The measures being taken by the Government are only temporary measures. For years together, the Government has been coming forward with relief measures to meet the current situation, but no work has been done to find a permanent solution. What is this ? Are they not aware of the real situation ? Throughout the country, there is either the drought, flood or any other natural calamity in different parts. But the Government is not coming forward with any concrete proposals. We have got old laws in this country as far as the famine is concerned. Why have they not come forward with a legislation for proper implementation of these measures ? Some long range plan is required in this country very urgently. Not only that, in the planning system also there must be a provision for these calamities, like floods, droughts etc. There must be a special provision to overcome these natural calamities.

So huge amount of money they have been spending only for a temporary relief. What is this ? The Government's money they are spending, without proper plan on this relief work. Why this Government is keeping quiet ? There are lot of resources which can be made use of to overcome this drought situation and also the flood situation. The rivers are overflowing in one part of the country and in the other part of the country, there is not even a drop of water. That is the condition. We can link these South Indian rivers with the North Indian rivers. Already some hon. Members have suggested here that linkage of rivers from North to the South and from West to East should be considered thereby we can get permanent relief from the floods as well as the droughts. By means of this, water supply for both drinking purposes and also for irrigation purposes can be served. In addition to this, employment to the rural people can also be given, particularly, who are completely depending on the farming. By means of this, about 80 per cent people of our country will be largely benefited. The hon. Members have also stressed upon the generation of electricity. Due to floods and droughts, the resources for

[Dr. V. Venkatesh]

generation of electricity is not at all there, and the losses incurred by the country is very high.

We can improve inland water transport system by linking these major river systems. I do not know why the Government is sleeping on this issue for a long time. I want the Government should come forward to have more dry land farming systems in this country. In the drought prone areas, there are certain districts particularly in our country, which are completely dependent upon rainfall and they don't have any river also. When in such a condition why is not the Government coming forward to establish industries? I am talking about my constituency—Kolar—which is chronically affected by these natural calamities for centuries now. There is not a single river running there. So why the Government is not coming forward to establish certain industries so that the rural people can earn their bread? That is my point. As far as Karnataka is concerned, the other hon. Members have already expressed their Viewpoints. Successively for the last for years, we have been suffering a lot. You know pretty well, very recently the hon. Minister had visited Karnataka. We visited only few places and that too for few hours only. How can he assess the situation? Then, afterwards, he had sent a team also. I want to tell you Madam, that the team has travelled throughout the State. I came to know that the leader of the team was mentally affected due to the seriousness of the situation in Karnataka. I came to know that he has been already admitted in the hospital. In those conditions, the humanitarian consideration is very much required. The Government even after sending the team to Karnataka, so far have not yet released any funds. You know pretty well that, everyday, we are spending Rs. 1 crore for relief work in Karnataka.

As far the cattle wealth is concerned, it is a most important wealth of the nation which are dying without proper fodder, without proper drinking water. Once the cattle wealth is lost, it is very difficult for a farmer to regain it. It may take 10 to

15 years to regain it. So, he is mainly dependent upon the cattle wealth. Once it is lost, neither Government nor any body in this world can provide the farmer alternative cattle. Therefore, it is a very serious matter. The cattle feed and cattle camps have already been started in Karnataka and they are doing a lot of work in order to preserve the cattle wealth. The Government should come forward immediately to release at least Rs. 100 crores, particularly for Karnataka alone. I don't know why they are waiting for so long.

As far as drinking water policy is concerned, I want to give you one more suggestion. The hon. Minister should consider the nationalisation of irrigation system because one State will come forward with one proposal and the other State will come forward with other proposal, say in regard to irrigation facilities. Therefore, this Government should come forward and take up this irrigation system as well as the forests. Deforestation is every where going on. The policies of the different Governments differ from State to State.

Therefore, the Government of India should come forward with a common code for controlling this deforestation.

[Translation]

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA (Vidisha) : Madam Chairman, for the last two years, many parts of the country have been facing natural calamities due to the erratic behaviour of monsoon. At first, drought occurred which was followed by flood. Then there was hailstorm and after it the menace of calamities struck. I do not recall whether calamities struck the country before in such a sequence.

The conditions created by the natural calamities are the same everywhere, whether it is Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan Bihar, Andhra Pradesh or Maharashtra. Here I would like to draw your attention towards Madhya Pradesh where already 12 districts are affected by severe drought. The Centre and the State Government have done a commendable job by providing prompt relief to the farmers, harijans,

adivasis, agricultural labourers and others and creating job opportunities for them. Many relief works have been started in these areas. I am happy to state that relief works have been started promptly in these 13,500 villages which were hit by drought last year. The State Government has spent Rs. 75 crore on the relief works to date. Against this amount, the contribution of the Central Government has been of the order of Rs. 51 crore. The State Government has sought Rs. 53 crore from the Centre so as to continue the relief works like construction of roads, stop-dams, ponds, creating job opportunities etc. upto the end of June. The Madhya Pradesh Government should be provided maximum funds in view of their needs.

So far as hailstorm is concerned, a number of hon. Members have already drawn attention towards it. However, I would say that 9037 villages of 185 tehsils have been hit by hailstorms, 10863 villages of 34 tehsils by frost and cold wave and 7778 villages of 69 tehsils have been affected by the caterpillar menace. Standing crops worth crores of rupees have been damaged due to hailstorm and other natural calamities. The State Government has sought about Rs. 20 crore from the Central Government so as to provide economic assistance to farmers to make good the loss suffered by them, to supply fertilisers or foodgrains and seeds and to provide taccavi to the farmers. The State Government has sanctioned Rs. 7 crore to start relief works in those areas where such works could be started and where prompt assistance could be provided to the affected people. I would like to extend my whole-hearted thanks to the Chief Minister of the State for his having realized the difficulties and hardships of the people and wherever possible he started relief works there and even now these are continuing.

Recently, our Central Government had sent a Central team to the affected areas to make on-the spot study. The hon. Agriculture Minister deserves thanks for it. I understand that the team must have submitted its preliminary report to the Central Government by now. According to a rough estimate, Madhya Pradesh

needs an assistance of Rs. 44-45 crore immediately.

In the end, my speech will remain inconclusive if I do not say anything about Vidisha and Raisen Parliamentary constituency. I would like to bring to the attention of the hon. Agriculture Minister that in Vidisha, 4395 farmers of 219 villages have been hit by hailstorms and out of a total area of 438500 hectares, 31831 hectares land has been affected by the natural calamity. Similarly in Sihore district, 9275 farmers of 309 villages have been hit and a total of 52122 hectares of cultivable land has been affected by natural calamity. In the same way, in my constituency Raisen, 432 villages have been affected by heavy hailstorms. A number of 29956 farmers have suffered loss due to the hailstorms and about 68477 hectares of land has also suffered due to this. I, therefore, would like to intimate the hon. Agriculture Minister that in the entire area damage worth Rs. 4 to 5 crores has been caused.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN : This is nothing. In Madhya Pradesh, much damage has been caused.

*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA : I am saying about my Vidisha Parliamentary constituency. In Madhya Pradesh, damage worth Rs. 1.25 crore or Rs. 1.50 crore has been caused. We should be allocated maximum funds to meet the situation.

At the last, I would suggest that long-term policies are required to deal with the natural calamities. As Shri Manoj Pandey suggested, we should construct stop dams and small dams under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. so as to increase the retention power of water in the water areas. If this is done, we would be able to make available job opportunities there and make best use of water for agricultural purposes.

Sir, similarly regarding crop insurance scheme, I would like to say that in all such areas where the means of irrigation are limited and the farmers grow crop only once in a year, where only 4.5 per cent to 10 per cent irrigation means are available

[Shri Pratap Bhanu Sharma]

and Rabi crop is the main crop and where hailstorms also damage the Rabi crop and where wheat gram, Masoor and Tewara are grown, crop insurance scheme should be enforced so that the farmers' interests are saved and we are able to make available to them the economic assistance in proportion to their losses.

Madam Chairman, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli) : Madam Chairperson, I congratulate Mr. Janga Reddy for raising the discussion on drought and other natural calamities in various parts of the country. I do not know why we call drought and floods as natural calamities? This is not the first time that we have had to face these calamities; we have been facing these calamities all these years. If it is a calamity, this calamity is due to the failure of the planners who could not envisage these things. Is it not a fact that in early 40s when we faced Bengal famine and subsequently after partition when the irrigated area was transferred to Pakistan, we were short of food; we had to import food under PL 480. So, we thought that we must grow more and that is why we speak about the Green Revolution.

In this Book "Emerging from Poverty" Mir. praised us; he congratulated us especially India for the Green Revolution. How is it that a nation who could produce food for itself cannot give water to the people? The country has census after every ten years. The population has doubled after 1947. How is it that you did not give them water? Is it not a failure of the Planning? Who is responsible for this?

We speak of cattle wealth; we depend on cattle because our farming depends on them. We need milk; that also we get from them. Not only that, even for composed manure, we require cow dung. Don't forget that? We cannot feed our cattle. We do not have fodder banks.

How is that? What is wrong with our planning that must be looked into today?

We think of having major projects. All right. Today, when Mr. Daga asked a question, the hon. Minister, Shri B. Shankaranand said that the original cost of 108 major projects was Rs. 3,400 odd crores and now the estimated cost is Rs. 16,000 crores. Is that the way we conduct ourselves? Is that the way we plan and execute our plans? If there is something wrong, then, I think, we must correct our steps; we must plan properly and then go ahead. Can we not have small projects as was suggested by somebody? Let us try to plug small streamlets, *nallahs*. thereby silting will also be lessened. People will get immediate benefits. They do not have to wait for years together; they will immediately get benefits; they will reap benefits and the silting problem will also be reduced. Your cattle will get more drinking water. People will also get more drinking water.

At the Planning certain level we will have to do some re-thinking, and these things should be brought under execution. Now, I come to Maharashtra. My predecessor Shri Sharad Dighe has already spoken about it. In 1985-86 we had scarce precipitation. In 1984-85 we have faced the same thing. We have got nearly 11,000 villages which are without water. The Government of India has kept a criteria that in problem villages or difficult villages, the distance which one has to cover for water should be one mile. Even today village women have to go for longer distances for water, they carry one or two pitchers on their heads—of course we cannot expect them to carry more. Nor is water available at nearer places. Last year we celebrated what is called the Women's Year or some such thing. But we could not give them water!

AN HON. MEMBER : Not last year, the year before last.

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD : May be the year before last.

In Maharashtra thirty lakh or more tribals are there and they live in hamlets

away from the villages. When you provide one source of drinking water you have to provide another in the hamlet which is generally one or two miles away. We have to take these facts into consideration as they are in all revenue villages, and there are some more hamlets. In my own constituency, there is a revenue village which has fourteen hamlets. In the Seventh Five Year Plan they have all to be given priority for providing drinking water, which should be done even earlier. I pray that it should be taken up earlier. In fact, we should be informed also. I would request the Government of India to face—rather to pay a penalty to the State Governments for their faulty planning.

We ask you Rs. 500 crores, you gave us Rs. 50 crores, or even much less than that. Are you joking? You are only humiliating us! In Maharashtra there are district plans. Planning which was started earlier, some 25-30 years back. How is it that you forgot about these district plans. Why did you allot some funds for them? It should be the responsibility of the centre, to look to these things. Maharashtra asked for more money. You gave them only 10 percent. I do not blame the bureaucracy. They are instigated by the politicians. In fact, it is the politicians who tell the bureaucracy to delay their visits. They are told from here, from Delhi, when to go. They delay sending the teams.

I remember, I had asked Rao Birendra Singh some-time back to send a team, when we had a flood. I asked him, "When are you sending your team? Can I intimate my State Government?" Then he said, "No, no. I will let you know!"

Therefore, I say that, whether it is Mysore or Haryana or Punjab it has to be done forthwith. Is it the way that you look into their problems? This is what I feel. It is awful.

I think it is high time that this Government reviews its policy and realise the difficulties that the State Governments have to face.

Thank you very much for giving me so much time,

[Translation]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Madam Chairman, Rajasthan is in the tight grip of famine this year and about 2.5 crore people have been affected thereby. The hon. Minister also represents our area and I think his area Jalora has been affected but no help has been provided to the people there. The help provided is too insufficient to keep body and soul together. Cattle from Rajasthan have gone out of Rajasthan in lakhs but wherever they go they are pushed away, be it Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh or Haryana. No State provides water to the cattle of Rajasthan.

(Interruptions)

I am enumerating the difficulties being faced by us. Our difficulty is that no one allows our cattle to come to his area. Recently, 25 thousand cows had passed through our village and from wherever they passed, they found no water in the wells and ponds. Not to speak of fodder, they do not get even drinking water.

Shri Buta Singh, I want to tell you that people of Rajasthan are on the brink of starvation. So far, the Government has been maintaining that it will not let anybody die of thirst or hunger but this time thousands of people are going to die of hunger because so far the Government have provided only Rs. 48 crores. For the last 4 years Rajasthan has been facing famine, on which every year we have been spending between Rs. 100 crore and Rs. 200 crore. The hon'ble Minister is well aware of the financial position of Rajasthan. It is not in a position to spend more. Therefore, if you want that people of Rajasthan should remain alive the Government will have to accede to the demand made for Rs. 580 crore. If you do not provide this money, the blot will come on you, on Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Government. You try to launch poverty—alleviation or other programmes. Therefore, my request to you is that you should take timely steps and do not let the bad name come to Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Shrimati Indira Gandhi did not let any one die of starvation. Therefore, I appeal to you that if you do not provide help in time, then it is very sure that due to severe famine in Rajasthan, thousands of people

[Shri Girdhari Lal Vyas]

will die and the blot will come on Shri Buta Singh and his Government. Therefore, arrangements should be made well in time.

Secondly, there is lot of difference between the help given during famine and that given to cope with the fury of floods. The hon. Agriculture Minister should understand this that when there is famine, both the crops are destroyed whereas in the flood-affected areas at least one crop is definitely grown and for meeting flood situation, you provide 75 per cent subsidy. But in the case of destruction of both the crops during drought, you do not provide any subsidy. The total amount is given as loan. It is not justice. In drought, a farmer is pushed 7 years back. He spends all his earnings of 7 years to bring up his cattle and children. Such is the severity of famine but you do not provide any subsidy for it. In the case of floods, if one crop is damaged, the next crop grows in abundance which makes up for the entire loss suffered earlier. On the other hand, during famine he has to suffer a lot which should be kept in mind.

As against Rs. 200 crore demanded for drinking water, you have given Rs. 32 crore. What can be done with this amount? In the whole of Rajasthan, including your own constituency people are dying without water. All the handpumps and tubewells have gone dry. Out of the 27 districts, not a single district has been declared as famine-stricken, though in all the districts, handpumps and tubewells have gone dry. Unless you provide new machines to Rajasthan, how will the drinking water be provided? Therefore, you should provide funds as demanded and also the machines. At the same time. You should also provide fodder for the cattle. Transportation charges for the fodder will be borne by the Government of India in toto but if there is no fodder, what will you transport? Therefore, fodder should be arranged to save the lives of 3 crore cattle-heads so that famine-hit people and cattle of Rajasthan may get some relief. Otherwise, they all will be doomed. To save them from ruination, they should be provided fodder and drink-

ing water. People should be provided with employment or else they will die of hunger and thirst. They should be given assistance to the tune of Rs. 580 crore, even if it is in the shape of loan, so that the people of Rajasthan may remain alive.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI KAMMODILAL JATAV (Morena) : Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Members of this august House are quite concerned over the situation and both the hon. Ministers, Sardar Buta Singh and Shri Makwana, are here to listen to them.

The Members from Madhya Pradesh have acquainted the House about the situation obtaining in Madhya Pradesh but I want to tell him about my constituency, Morena Specifically. On 13.2.1986, a big hailstorm lashed the area and badly damaged the crops of wheat, mustard, gram, etc. The Chief Minister of the State, Shri Bora, has provided sufficient relief for this. Shri Scindia has visited Guna, Sheopuri and Morena, etc., for which he deserves congratulations. I would request the hon Minister to provide assistance for initiating relief work in Morena constituency. I would like to invite his attention to one more thing. There are many people there who have neither agricultural land nor any other means of living. They are mere share croppers. The Land owners will get relief but the share croppers. The Land owners will get relief but the share croppers should also get some assistance. The people who have to go to work after covering a distance of some 20 to 30 kms. have no means. They should also be given some assistance. I urge upon the hon. Minister to give full assistance to such people.

With these words I conclude and thank you giving me time to speak.

SHRI R. S. KHIRHAR (Sitamarhi) : Madam Chairman, today the House is discussing the natural calamities. I fully agree with the views expressed by our colleague, Shri Rathod, on the subject. It is a fact that the ravages of natural calamities increase with hailstorms and excessive rain, but the main reason for the bene-

fit not reaching the people is faulty planning and non-implementation of the schemes. My state, Bihar, is a glaring example of this. When I talk of Bihar, I would like to divide it into two parts Southern Bihar, where Chota Nagpur, Palamu and Gaya are located, comes under rainshadow area and this part never receives sufficient rains. It always remains under the grip of drought. I want to mention three major schemes of that area. These are—Koyal Karon Scheme, Tilaiyya Scheme and Oranga Reservoir Project. All these three schemes are important schemes and were taken up after independence, but they have made no headway as yet. The future of these schemes is dark. The Second part of the State in North Bihar wherefrom I have come. Sitamarhi falls in Bagmati area. I would also like to mention three schemes of this area. These are—Kosi, Bagmati and Gandak Projects. These three schemes have also been left to their fate for the last 15 years. Out of nine districts, the villages of four districts of Sitamarhi, Samastipur, Madhubani and Darbhanga have been washed away in Bagmati floods and there is no trace left of 75 of them. From the information gathered, I have come to know that the State Government had sought Rs. 10 crores for this scheme in 1985, but the Central Government gave only Rs. 85 lakhs. I have also come to know that out of these Rs. 85 lakh, Rs. 32 lakhs are spent on establishment alone. I want to know how far monitoring can be done with the remaining amount and to what extent the scheme can be implemented ?

Madam, since our hon. Agriculture Minister is present in the House, I would like to tell him that it is gross injustice to the farmers. I can give proof in support of my contention that prior to commencement of work on Bagmati Scheme, there used to be intensive cultivation of paddy in Sitamarhi, Motihari, Darbhanga and Madhubani districts and the paddy so produced was sufficient to feed entire Bihar. But, now the future of these districts is dark and that area is turning into a desert.

I would like that either Government should not take such major projects in hand and if they are started, these should be completed under a time-bound programme. Otherwise, they play havoc with

the fate of the people. I have mentioned the Bagmati Project here a number of times and have requested that more funds should be provided for the completion of this project. For this purpose, funds should be allocated according to the time-bound programme for its completion. Otherwise, the project may be abandoned and the land under it vacated. If the land is vacated and if the river is allowed to take its natural course on even ground, the farmers can be left to their fate to fend for themselves.

With these words, I request the hon. Minister to pay attention to the points I have raised, especially, in regard to the assistance for the Bagmati Scheme.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora) : Madam Chairman, Members of almost all the States have presented the cases of their respective States before the hon. Minister of Agriculture. I would admire the hon. Minister and the officials of his Ministry for the fact that inspite of limited resources at their disposal, they have shown a sense of urgency and deputed study terms urgently to provide prompt assistance thereafter. If at all there is any need to plead one's case before anyone, it is perhaps before the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Finance. A total allocation of Rs. 2,000 crores has been made to the Agriculture Ministry for natural calamities during the Seventh Plan. Out of that allocation, as has been stated by the Minister in reply to a question, the Centre has already distributed Rs. 1042 crores to different States. If they have spent so much money in the very first year, then judging from past history which is full of natural calamities, how will he be able to meet the demands of various States in the coming years, because we cannot say that natural calamities will not occur in the years to come. Therefore, I would urge upon the hon. Agriculture Minister that, keeping in view the situation, he should plead his case before the planning Commission with the cooperation of all of us and should seek more funds so that we might not call him miser when he is so liberal.

There are many areas in the country which remain under the grip of either

[Shri Harish Rawat]

drought, flood or earthquake or cyclone. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister to identify such areas with the assistance of Planning Commission and various other organisations. It should be seen that such calamities do not hit those areas again and again and if at all the natural calamities do strike, a national plan should be formulated to provide assistance to the affected people and a special fund should be created for implementation of this plan. The fund so created should be utilised not only for providing assistance but it should also be utilised for implementation of works needed for controlling flood and drought. The funds should be provided under a long-term plan for this specific purpose.

My friend, Shri Manoj Pandey, has said that the floods in Bihar are caused by rivers which originate in Nepal. Thus, all the plains area in some way or the other are linked with hilly areas. When we talk of implementation of schemes of flood control in hilly areas or of taking measures for land conservation or development of catchment areas, the people take it as if development work is being taken up in that area. The people think that we are talking about special development programmes for that area. I would request the hon. Agriculture Minister that if Government wants to control floods in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, they will have to start the cure from the originating points of rivers and special funds for this purpose would have to be provided by treating it as a national requirement, otherwise it is not going to be of any use. As regards drought in Karnataka we do not want to treat it on party lines. We understand that sympathy of one and all is with the people of Karnataka and they should be provided maximum relief. But, the same type of situation prevails in other States as well and I would request that full attention should be paid to them also. The hon. Minister has assured in this House that Government are going to appoint a committee to review the norms for providing funds in the wake of natural calamities.

Has the report of that committee been submitted or not? If so, kindly let this House know what are the recommendations of the Committee?

I would also like to submit to the hon. Minister that Uttar Pradesh was not getting assistance proportionate to its size and population and also to the number of representatives it has in Parliament. It appears, we are not able to plead the case of Uttar Pradesh properly. In 1985-86, Uttar Pradesh Government had sought Rs. 543 crores, but the Centre gave only Rs. 51 crores, Rs. 1273 crores were sought for flood relief but only Rs. 128 crores were given. I think, if we compare this with other States like Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Karnataka, they were given much more. Rs. 134 crores were given to Kerala as flood relief, whereas a state of the size of Uttar Pradesh was given only Rs. 128 crores. I would like to add that Uttar Pradesh should not be given such treatment as may give an impression to the people of that State that injustice is being done to them. The State Government of Uttar Pradesh has done a commendable job in the field of flood control. They have also done well in starting relief works in drought-affected areas. But I have to complain that the hon. Minister has been miserly in the matter of sanctioning relief and has not favourably considered the case which the State had submitted seeking grant. I do realise his financial constraints and my sympathy in that regard is with him, but must once again register my protest with him for being miserly to Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI MURLIDHAR MANE (Nasik):  
Madam Chairman, the House is discussing drought situation in the country for the last 4 hours. I come from north Maharashtra which is presently in the grip of acute scarcity. I recall that in 1972 in similar circumstances in Maharashtra the House had discussed the situation and the Centre had allocated some funds. Shri Rathore has rightly pointed out that the situation which has arisen in the State, is not a natural calamity but is due to lack of proper planning. I understand that

Maharashtra had demanded Rs. 561 crores to deal with the drought condition but the Centre has allocated Rs. 52 crores only for that purpose, which is a very meagre amount. Crores of Rupees are spent on relief and other developmental works but the output is always nil. In my opinion Maharashtra is worst affected in this regard. The people are not getting even drinking water. Due to scanty rainfall the water level in the reservoir and the dam has fallen and as a result the entire crop in that region has failed, and there is no water to irrigate even the Rabi crop. Thus, there has been extensive damage in the area. The severity of drought is expected to increase in the months of April and May next.

Many Members had asked for Central assistance to Maharashtra. The first team was led by the Minister of State for Agriculture, Shri Yogendra Makwana himself. The second team was led by Shri Srivastava. The third team which paid a visit on 10th February, was led by Shri Sikander. I would like to know whether they did not see that there was acute scarcity of water or serious unemployment problem in the area. I want to know from Shri Buta Singh ji why there is delay in implementing the reports of these teams? I believe that the teams which went to Maharashtra must have submitted factual reports. Funds should be allocated to the affected areas according to the recommendations of these teams. Government should take up a one-point programme to provide drinking water facility wherever it is possible by raising embankments or other means. Water should also be provided for irrigation. The Maharashtra Government had demanded Rs. 124 crores from the Centre to provide employment to the people of drought-affected areas but the Centre has allocated a meagre sum of Rs. 21 crores. The same is true of water supply for which the State Government had demanded Rs. 42,72,00,000 but only Rs. 9 crores were sanctioned. This amount is inadequate and therefore, it should be increased. The IRDP and NREP schemes can be of great help if they are re-surveyed for drought-affected areas. There are people who own 40 acres of land, yet they are unemployed because of drought. If they go to find

work under the Employment Guarantee Scheme of Maharashtra Government, there also they do not get work due to large scale corruption. Schemes whereby productive work could be done should be launched, for instance, small irrigation projects. The productive work should ensure proper utilisation of men and resources. Maharashtra is facing serious drinking water problem and acute shortage of fodder. Special attention should be paid in this direction and more and more funds should be allocated therefor, lest my children say that despite the exhortation of their father as M.P. nothing was done. Such perspective planning should be undertaken so that the coming generations feel that something positive was done by us. With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

DR. G.S. RAJHANS (Jhanjharpur) : Madam, I wish five or six research institutes would have been set up to identify the causes of natural calamities that have been befalling our country repeatedly since independence. I am of firm conviction that these are not natural calamities but man-made calamities in which the vested interest is at work. It should be examined thoroughly whether with the amount spent by different States on relief works since Independence natural calamities could not have been contained? I shall be brief. Drought and floods are regular features in Bihar. The area north of the Ganga is affected by unprecedented floods while south of it is always in the grip of serious drought. Promises are made to improve the situation but they are never kept. During the last session also I made repeated pleas to do something for north Bihar which was facing unprecedented floods. But Shri But Singhji informed me that as the Bihar Chief Minister had not written to him anything about it he could do nothing in regard to providing assistance. When I came to know that inspite of the repeated requests and discussions for two consecutive days, we were being deprived of Central assistance only because there was no such request from the State. I was virtually in tears. Incidentally, the Bihar Chief Minister was in the Capital those days. I told him that he had left us in the lurch and that whenever I visit my

[Dr. G. S. Rajhans]

constitency the people say that I do not take up the matter to the Centre. Now when I raised the matter in the House I was told that the Chief Minister had not even sent any request to the Union Minister. However the Chief Minister said that it is a little known fact that funds which are received by the State are not given by way of grant but given as a Central loan and the Union Government keeps on pestering the State Government till it recovers the entire amount. Our State is poor, so where shall we bring such a heavy amount from? The Centre is also aware that North Bihar particularly Mithila region is affected frequent floods. It should find some permanent solution to this problem. If there is any misunderstanding between the Bihar Chief Minister and the Central authorities it should be amicably resolved in the larger interest of the people of the State.

During the last session also, I had drawn the attention of the Government to the fact that floods strike north Bihar, particularly Mithila region every year...

S. BUTA SINGH : The hon. Member has said that fund given as advance are recovered in full. At the moment we are discussing situation arising out of floods. I agree that only 75 per cent of the relief amount given for floods is treated as grant. The difficulty is not that which the hon. Member has pointed out. The main reason was that the Centre was not receiving bills from the State for the expenditure incurred by it. There is no provision for the release of funds before the receipt of bills.

DR. G. S. RAJHANS : Madam, I fully agree with the hon. Minister that some permanent solution to this problem should be found and Bihar should get the entire relief amount by way of grant instead of as loan. Rivers like Burhi Gandak, Bagmati, Kosi and Kamala originate from Nepal. If a reservoir is constructed in Nepal itself—I had made a request to this effect during the last session also and Shri Shankaranand had assured me in

writing that the matter had been already taken up with the Nepalese Government and that some progress had been made in this regard and I have also come across in the Nepalese newspapers as well that such a proposal is under the active consideration of the Government—it would not only check the recurring floods in our area but also help in generating sufficient electricity for distributing among Western Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and so many other areas. It would also bring prosperity to these areas and to Nepal. Though our hon. Minister is taking it very seriously but I would like him to direct the State Government also to find a permanent solution to this problem.

In the end, I would make one point more. Most of the 'bunds' constructed on different rivers in the State are of cement concrete but the Kosi embankment is 'kuchcha' and some times rats and jackals cause breach in it resulting in unprecedented floods in the area. I, therefore, invite the hon. Minister to accompany me to this area during floods and see for himself how the entire area looks like an ocean and people have to put up in water for 8 to 9 months in a year. They lead a subhuman life. I, therefore, urge upon him to view the problems of the area compassionately and sympathetically. We are facing many agonies, difficulties and difficulties. Silting is one of the serious problems there. Relief measures are not going to solve the problem unless something is done to control silting, North Bihar, particularly Mithila will continue to be exposed to floods and poverty will go on increasing. I, therefore, once again request you to find some permanent solution to the problem.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : Since the hon. Minister will need at least one hour to reply, I suggest that he may be called on Monday.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes, the House stands adjourned to meet again at Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 7, 1986.

22.22 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, March 7, 1987/Phalguna 16, 1907 (Saka).*