

[Sh. P. Kolandaivelu]

other Congress Member were also attacked on that day. Actually, chapels, paper weights and mikes were used as missiles inside the Assembly. Such was the incident which took place on the 25th March, 1989. On the 25th, the wife of late Dr. MGR, MRS. Janaki went to the hospital to see Miss Jayalalitha who was under treatment. After seeing her, Mrs. Janaki returned home. Immediately police personnel was sent to the house of late Shri MGR and the house was raised on that day. Not only that.....\*\*.....brother's shop was ransacked and thousands of rupees had been taken away and properties had been santched. There is no democracy at all in Tamil Nadu. Even thousands of our party people had been taken under arrest and even now, agitation is going on everyday. Even now public meetings are taking place everyday in order to condemn the incident which took place on 25th March, 1989.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can continue your speech on Monday. We will now take up the next item.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of order. I seek your protection. I wanted to speak on atrocities on women. My name was on the top, but I have been left out. I may please be given time to speak on this subject.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There is no point of order

(*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When we discuss this subject next time, I will call you. You can speak on the drinking water problem if you want.

16.20 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[*English*]

**Acute Shortage of Drinking Water In  
various parts of the country**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will now take up discussion on the situation arising out of acute shortage of drinking water in various parts of the country and the steps taken by the Government in that regard.

Shri Harish Rawat.

[*Translation*]

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, most parts of the country are either reeling under drinking water crisis or are likely to face it soon. The Government had made an announcement in 1980 that drinking water would be provided to all the 5,07,000 villages in the country by the year 1990. But it is regretted that the results have not been in commensurate with the money and energy spent on this. It was also said that under the International Drinking Water and Sanitation Decade Scheme, we will provide potable water to about 90 per cent of the villages and 50 per cent rural population and 100 per cent urban population will start getting clean water. I do not say that the Central Government did not provide funds for it. So far as the position of funds is concerned, a lot of money has been spent under this head and a lot of money has also been released for this purpose. If we go by the figures available in this respect, a huge sum of Rs. 2700 crores was earmarked for this purpose during the Sixth Five Year Plan and a sum of Rs. 3535 crores was earmarked during the Seventh Five Year Plan.

16.22 hrs.

[SHRI SHARAD DIGHE *in the Chair*]

I understand that if we make an assessment of the expenditure that has so far been made on this head it will be revealed that by 1990 more than Rs. 4000 crores would be spent for this purpose. Even after spending such a huge amount if you look at the situation prevailing in the States, either you take the case of Uttar Pradesh or Rajasthan or Karnataka or Tamil Nadu or Bihar, in almost all the States especially in the rural areas, the people are reeling under the grip of drinking water crisis. If the rains do not fall immediately or there will be no good rainfall this year, it will be a most difficult year for the village so far as the problem of drinking water is concerned.

Just now we are holding a discussion on atrocities on women. This too is a problem that women have to face. Today this problem is no acute in my area that people have to cover long distances to fetch water. There are villages stop hills. Women from these villages come 6 kilometres down to carry water. The entire family is engaged in carrying water. They cannot look after any other work. The State Governments release funds under the crash programme to solve the problem of drinking water, but God knows how this money is utilised. The condition of most of the schemes of drinking water run by the Water Corporation in Uttar Pradesh is very deplorable. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an instance in this context. A few days back I had the opportunity of attending meetings held in some blocks. If the meeting runs for 6 hours, 4 hours out of 6 are devoted to the problem of drinking water. There were complaints that either drinking water was not available or the schemes which were launched become defective. The Gram Pradhans and the people are in more grief. The reason is that once the scheme was put into operation, people did not pay attention to conventional sources of water such as rivulets, springs and wells. For one or two years the people get water through these schemes and thereafter the schemes become defunct. The pipes dug in the earth are left at the shallow layer and their utility is left to God. Though there is a provision to dig pipes three feet below the surface, that is not

done. The tubewells installed are defective. The distribution tanks are also defective. Cement is swindled away. A thin coat of cement is applied on the outer surface. The scheme hardly runs for a year. After one year the villagers are asked to pay tax. Tax is collected from the people, but the drinking water scheme never works. The taps run dry. If somebody makes a hue and cry or if he comes in contact with an M.P. or an M.L.A. and if the M.P. or M.L.A. comes to his rescue, the water supplying agencies spend some money and re-arrange water supply. But no attempt is made to find a permanent solution. I would like to remind the Government that it is a matter of national pride for us. We were a party to the conference that was held at Vancouver. We had made pledge in the said conference that we would provide potable drinking water to all the villages in the country within the International Water Decade. If we are not able to do so and if after 1992 and 1993 we come to know that the problem of drinking is still there in 1/3 or 1/2 of the villages in the country, it becomes a national challenge for us. We have since accorded top priority to it under the minimum needs programme. It has been accorded priority in the 20 point programme. Even after that if this problem continues to be acute, the Central Government should not only come forward to help the States, but also exercise proper check on them. It should evolve a system under which proper monitoring could be done after releasing the funds. If it is not taken proper care or proper monitoring is not done and the money goes waste, what reply would you give to Parliament in this regard and to the country as well. What will be the assessment of the people about the Government and about the Members of Parliament. The situation is not only that all the sources have dried up but also water does come in the taps. The water whatever is available is defective. It is not treated properly. There is no provision to treat the water with chlorine etc. There is no permanent machinery to look after it. The machinery that is there is only in name. Today we are thinking of devolving powers to Panchayat. In this connection I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister or Rural

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Development and hon. Minister of Urban Development that the maintenance of drinking water schemes should be entrusted to Panchayat. They should be empowered to levy taxes and utilise the tax money on the maintenance of these schemes. At the same time villages should be provided fixed amounts annually to take care of drinking water schemes. The Government cannot reach everywhere. If the Government machinery is not set up everywhere, I am afraid, this problem can never be solved. I was going to tell that clean water is not available to most parts of the country. Out of total children taking birth in the country every year, 127 children per thousand die of consuming contaminated water. About 122 lakh people in the country suffer from goitre. In Hindi it is called 'bhonga'. I do not know its English equivalent. The main reason of it is that we are not able to provide them clean water, treated water. I would like to request the Government to evolve a system in consultation with the State Governments so that the water to be made available is fit for drinking.

The situation is also acute in urban areas. A number of major schemes have since been introduced in the urban areas after the introduction of integrated drinking water scheme in these areas. But due to tremendous increase in urban population most of these schemes have become useless. What I want to say is that the population has increased manifold as compared to the number estimated at the time of preparing schemes earlier. I have been observing the population position in Delhi for last 20 years. During these years the population of Delhi has increased manifold. Definitely the earlier estimate of providing drinking water has fallen short of the present requirement. It will be of no use if some addition or deletion is made in it or any effort is made in it or any effort is made to control the supply. A few days back there was a report in the newspapers that by the turn of this century Delhi would be experiencing acute drinking water problem. We will not be in a position of supply 1/4th of water that we are supply to

them now. The situation is very acute in Madras. As compared to that, this crisis could become more serious in Delhi. The hon. Minister of Urban Development is present here. I would like to request here to prepare a long term plan in regard to drinking water problem in Delhi. A system should be so evolved that problem of drinking water would be totally eliminated in Delhi, the capital city of India. If it is not done, you will be required to install hand pumps as it is done in trans-Yamuna areas. Due to use of water from hand pumps gastro-enterities disease spread in the area and a large number of children died premature death. Due to that our heads were hung in shame. The situation is not that good in Delhi. The condition of a number of colonies in Delhi is worse. There are hues and cries in M.C.D. meetings in Delhi that water did not reach to this and that colony today. There is no question of getting water as much as it is required. Even the pressure of water is very low in M.P.S quarters. We are not getting water in the required quantity. When we are experiencing such a situation, you can well imagine the situation in other areas. Similarly, the situation is very acute in outer Delhi. A number of people working here requested me to raise the point of non-availability of water in their colonies during debate on water being held today. If I prepare of those localities it would be very long and it will consume time. Therefore, I would like to request you there should be a general review of the existing situation at that time and besides, a long term scheme should also be chalked out to solve the problem of water. We cannot meet our full requirement of water from Yamuna. Therefore, we have to go on a bit far away. Therefore, I would like to request you to tell Delhi Administration that Uttar Pradesh Government is going to construct Tehri Dam, Delhi Administration should contribute some amount for Tehri Dam. Some money should be released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, so that some cause water can be obtained for Delhi. At present you will not contribute and at the time of crisis you will ask every State Government to release some water. At that time the State Governments would be under pressure. Some State may

supply water and some States may not supply and the people of Delhi will have to suffer. I would suggest that negotiations should be held with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, Punjab and Himachal Pradesh to make arrangements well in advance. The question of providing funds should also be discussed with them.

Besides, out of the surface water available in our country, about 70% of it has become polluted. If not fully, it has been polluted partly. I think leaving aside Ganga and Yamuna, the water of small rivers has also become polluted. A long term scheme should also be formulated as to how to treat and utilise ground water for drinking purposes. Some arrangements should be made so that after negotiating with the State Governments and the Planning Body of district level, a scheme is chalked out at district level so that we may implement the same and get it executed by releasing funds at district level.

I would like to submit to the Minister of State for Rural and Urban Development that at present the maximum number of problem villages are in Uttar Pradesh and among them the villages of Hilly areas are suffering the most where there is dearth of drinking water. Because in their case the question of taking out ground water and utilise the same for drinking purposes does not arise. In plain areas if the well becomes dry, we can sink a tubewell and install handpumps. We can take water from these sources. But in hilly areas, we have to utilise only the available sources. I would like to submit that special assistance should be provided to the Uttar Pradesh Government for this purpose. The State Government has prepared a list. Last year some assistance was sought for drought programme. But very meagre amount was allocated, 1.50 part of the amount asked for was released. Similarly not even 1/100 part of the amount asked for repair was made available. I would urge the Ministry of Agriculture that the amount may be released to the Government of Uttar Pradesh according

to their requirements to enable them to solve the existing problem of drinking water in the State.

Some schemes have been forwarded by the States to the Ministry of Urban Development for World Bank assistance. A good number of schemes have been forwarded by the Uttar Pradesh. But action being taken in respect of these schemes is very slow. There are two schemes of sewer line and drinking water also. these schemes are being processed at such a slow pace that sometime a meeting takes place at State level and sometime at the level of Delhi Administration. Work is confined to convening of meetings only. During the last five years I have already raised this issue 6-7 times in the form of questions but everytime it has been said that the matter is at a particular stage. But when the amount would be released and when the matter would come to the execution stage, nothing can be said at present.

Some of the schemes which were implemented with the assistance of World Bank, have been left incomplete. The funds are required to complete them. I would like to ask the Minister of Urban Development that the proposals of those schemes which involve world bank assistance may kindly be sent to the World Bank authorities and get them approved and funds should also be made available for execution of these schemes.

The amount which Central Government provide to the small and medium cities in the form of assistance or loan, a very small amount has been released for the cities of Uttar Pradesh. For the last ten years. I have been requesting to take up work in Pithoragarh. The problem is that I am tired of making requests for the past ten years. It is quite possible that as many as ten Ministers must have changed within this period. I have addressed about 200 letters to the Ministry of Urban Development, but of no avail. That city has not been taken up so far. At present, the number of medium and small cities have gone very high in Uttar Pradesh. They have become slums. If you go by National Highway No. 24, you will find that a number of

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new towns have come up which do not have any sanitation facility. The entire garbage of the city spread over and damage the National Highway. The vehicles passing through the road also suffer damage. The effluence of factories takes the shape of a pond adjacent to road and it become a problem for the passers by. The adjoining villages also face this problem. In this connection, the Central Government should formulate some scheme in consultation with the State Government so that these small and medium cities can be developed. More financial assistance should be provided for this purpose so that the towns may develop rapidly.

At last, I would like to request the Central Government, Minister of Agriculture and Minister of Urban Development through you that it is a human problem, it is a question of nation's prestige, we must take it accordingly. It is not a matter of centre-state or a matter of one state to the other, it is a problem of the whole of India, it is a problem of entire rural areas, it is a problem of women who have to spent their maximum time in fetching water. I would like to submit that a long term scheme should be chalked out to solve this problem. The list of those problem villages is with you, you should make available funds for those villages. Where the drinking water projects are incomplete, State Government's should be provided with funds to complete them. Where these schemes are not operating efficiently, funds should be made available to make them viable. A long term scheme for the entire nation must be chalked out and should be implemented with the cooperation of State Governments to provide fresh and safe drinking water. With these words, I move this motion before the House for consideration

SHRI RAMSINGH YADAV (Alwar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of drinking water supply is a national problem. This problem is required to be solved not on state-level but on national level. Keeping in view the human needs, drinking water is a basic requirement for the existence of human being. Constant

efforts right from inception are being made to meet this requirement. The Government of India and State Governments have made special efforts in the region. Efforts are being made to solve the problem of drinking water through National Technology Mission on Drinking Water, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme, Minimum Need programme and foreign collaboration is also being sought to deal with the problem of drinking water supply in urban areas, but in spite of this, lot of money is still required. The result of huge investment is not upto the mark. I would like to request the hon. Minister that first of all this thing is required to be looked into. A huge amount has been sanctioned in the budget, lot of money has been given to the States also, yet the result is not more than 75-80 per cent in any State. What is the reason behind this? Whether any monitoring has been done to find out the reason?

Sir, as has been mentioned in the Annual Report, a provision of Rs. 7000 crores has been made for Technology Mission. 130 desalination Centres have been identified, which are situated in Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, West Bengal and other States. As far as their progress is concerned, details of their progress have not been seen in the Annual Report or anywhere else. After doing so much work and investing a lot of money and talking the services of experts in this field, success has not been achieved in the Plants of desalination Centres so far. What is the reason? Kindly look into it. You have identified 55 sub-Missions under the National Technology Mission on Drinking water. As far as I know, three sub-missions have been identified in Rajasthan. These are in Barmer, Nagaur and Churu. The performance of these mission is commendable. The function of these missions is to find out as to where the water can be available and what arrangements can be made. But there is a need to make them more dynamic and expand them. Till now, only some States have been benefited. Whether you will expand it further? I would thank the experts of Technology Mission, especially Mr. Sem Pitroda, because he has accorded highest

priority to drinking water in the Technology Mission. Four fields are covered under this Programme. These are Telecommunication, Immunisation and Literacy Programme and the fourth programme is also very essential in view of the necessity. The results could not be achieved according to the expectations of the nation with regard to drinking water supply. I would also like to ask the reason as to why the amount sanctioned during the year for this purpose and the amount released as mentioned in the Annual Report is not being actually utilised? Would you get it examined? During the year 1985-86, a provision of Rs. 11 crores was made under Minimum Need Programme in Rajasthan but the actual expenditure has been only Rs. 9.51 crores. Similarly, in the year 1986-87, a provision of Rs. 15 crores was made, though the expenditure of only 14.48 crores has been shown. During the year 1987-88, a provision of Rs. 23.80 crores was made while the actual expenditure was only Rs. 21.03 crores. Similarly, for the year 1988-89, a provision of Rs. 27.03 crores has been made and out of which only 24.36 crores has been spent so far. What is the reason that after sanctioning so much amount, it has not actually been spent. I want to know whether there is a shortage of drilling rigs and experts or the State Government does not want to spend the money. What is the reason that the money has not been utilised even in a State like Rajasthan? There are 35 thousand villages in Rajasthan State out of which 30 thousand and 400 villages have been provided with drinking water supply facility so far. Arrangements for drinking water has not been made in 4 thousand 5 hundred villages. Drinking water is not available within the circumference of 2 k.m. There is a target of supplying drinking water in every village by 1990. What concrete steps you are taking to achieve the target. Rajasthan Government has been demanding drilling rigs and money continuously. They have submitted Contingency Plan also. Money has not been made available so far for the Contingency Plan made for 201 towns and 35 thousand villages. Study Team visited Rajasthan. According to the Study Team, water level in some places has fallen below fifty-sixty feet.

When this is the situation of ground water and the water schemes started by the Government have stopped providing water, why does not the Government take steps for deeper boring of tubewells? What hindrance is the Government facing due to which it is unable to fulfil the demand of Rajasthan Government? Is it correct that even U.S.S.R. had extended an offer a few days back to help the Indian Government in solving the problem of drinking water? Earlier also, 6 drilling rigs had been sent to India by Russia, some of which have been sent to Gujarat and Rajasthan. Since Russia wants to give assistance from expertise and financial point of view, has the Government formulated any plan or project in this regard so that special equipment or technical assistance could be imported from that country? I would like the hon. Minister to give this information while replying to the debate in the House. There are many such villages in Rajasthan, where water is absolutely brackish. It is essential to de-salinate it. Will the hon. Minister name the plant in our country which are meant for de-salination of water? Has the Government identified those places in Rajasthan where the Government is going to de-salinate the brackish water? On an average, the groundwater level in every State in India has gone down by 50 feet. This is the view shared by both the hydrologists as well as the States. What steps is the Government taking to tackle this problem especially in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal? Besides, what special schemes have been formulated to solve this problems in other States affected by the same problem? One lakh 50 thousand villages in India are such where drinking water is not available upto a distance of 1.6 kilometer. In this direction, the Government should give special priority to those villages and solve their problem through special projects and with the help of the State Governments. The U.N.O. has adopted the decade from April 1, 1989 to March 31st 1990 under the International Water Supply Programme. Under this programme, some financial assistance or technical assistance may be received from the U.N.O. Will India get that assistance? The hon. Minister may kindly give detailed information as to what

[Sh. Ram Singh Yadav]

programmes have been formulated in this regard and what special action has been taken in this field. Further, have the State Government been helped on these lines? I gather that in order to solve the problem of drinking water, the Rajasthan Government has spent Rs. 621 crore during the past 40 years. They have taken up two schemes namely Beesalpur scheme which is meant for Beawar, Ajmer and Kishangarh and the other is Indira Gandhi Canal scheme which is meant for Jodhpur. It is estimated that an amount of Rs. 64.37 crores on the first scheme and nearly Rs. 42 crore on the second scheme will be spent. The work on both these schemes is going on at a low speed due to shortage of funds. How much funds will the Government allocate for these schemes in the current year? Will the Government take steps to accelerate them? A study team was sent to examine the problem of drinking water and the members of this team visited my constituency, Alwar also. The team found that there are in fact such villages, especially in the southern and western parts of Alwar which are facing the acute problem. Alwar town itself is suffering on this account. Will the Government provide the maximum number of rig machines and financial assistance in Rajasthan in accordance with the report presented by the study team in order to solve the problem in Alwar and adjoining rural areas? I know the hon. Minister takes keen interest in this area and both he as well as his department have done commendable work. However, in the coming two-and-a-half months, i.e. from May to July 15th, till the arrival of monsoons, this problem takes a serious form in Rajasthan, Gujarat and other parts of the country. Keeping that in view, the Government should not hesitate in incurring expenditure and provide maximum financial assistance to the State Governments, so that they could solve this problem. A few days back, we, the M.Ps of Rajasthan met the hon. Prime Minister. I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for having given the assurance during his visit to the State, to provide technology mission to Rajasthan. Today, three drinking

water technology missions are functioning in Rajasthan. The work in all the three missions is commendable. I thank the hon. Prime Minister for having taken the help of technology mission is solving this problem. Especially the efforts made by him in this field in Rajasthan, not only during drought but also in solving the problem of drinking water are exemplary. When we the M.Ps met him on Monday, we requested him that it is essential to allocate funds worth Rs. 45 crore for urban areas and Rs. 75 crore for rural areas in Rajasthan during the year 1989-90. We also presented a memorandum to him. I would like to reiterate that in accordance with that memorandum, a total of Rs. 120 crore, i.e. Rs. 45 crore for urban areas and Rs. 75 crore for rural areas, should be immediately allocated to the Government of Rajasthan. The hon. Minister should take the request of the M.Ps seriously and send the approval to the Rajasthan Government immediately so that they are able to solve the problem of drinking water.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the problem of drinking water is serious in the whole country and almost every state is affected by it. My submission is that Government should take it seriously and should make efforts to find a solution to it by formulating projects with the help of the State Governments. With this hope and confidence, I express my thanks to you.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA DATTA NARASIMHARAJA WADIYAR (Mysore): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak in respect of drinking water shortage not only in villages but also in towns and large cities in this country. It is really unfortunate that though we are at the fag end of the 20th century, we still seem to be facing acute water shortage and especially in the summer months, we find a large number of people in villages as well as in large cities queueing up near water taps, hand pumps and tanks to collect water for drinking purpose and other utility purposes. This has become a national phenomenon. The reasons for this problem are

many. One of the main reasons for this problem are many. One of the main reasons that can be attributed for inadequate supply of water is silting up of river beds, dams and tanks due to soil erosion caused by excessive deforestation. And this has led the water table receding considerably and in the summer months, there is a great deal of pressure on the population for drinking water. Hence, I would strongly submit to the Ministers for Urban Development and Rural Development that the rivers, tanks, etc. which are silted up should be desilted on a large scale so that the water table which had receded does not recede further. Also see pages in tanks, river beds, dams, etc. can be prevented by taking adequate measures, such as undertaking regular repairs and maintenance of dams, tanks, etc.

Further, a massive water distribution system has to be undertaken in villages, towns and in large cities. A massive afforestation scheme has to be undertaken, especially in the catchment areas so that perennial water supply is assured.

17.00 hrs.

De-silting of rivers, tanks and pumps has to be undertaken. Maintenance of handpumps and water taps has also to be undertaken on a regular basis and water has to be provided throughout the day. In bigger cities, we find that water comes only for two or three days in a week. There are various rivers which overflow during the rainy season and most of the water flows away into the sea. This water can be channelised into watersheds to be utilised in summer when the water table generally recedes. There is also great need to expedite the plan of de-salination of brackish water so that potable water could be provided to the people. Then the urban water supply system has also to be undertaken on a war footing as in most of the urban areas we find that there is a great shortage of water supply. Especially the city of Bangalore has been facing a great deal of water shortage. Though there are two stages of Cauvery water supply scheme that have been introduced and the third stage is

also under way, unfortunately, there is still inadequate supply of water. Hence I urge upon the Minister to kindly see that these projects are expedited as early as possible.

Villages and Taluka headquarters in the northern districts of Karnataka are in a very bad shape. Even district headquarters such as the districts of Raichur, Gulbarga and Bidar do not have adequate drinking water facilities. There is plenty of water in the southern parts but unfortunately due to the fact that it is not harnessed properly most of the water goes waste. Most of the tanks and rivers are also polluted. This causes various diseases like encephalitis due to high content of chlorine in the water. Hence I urge the hon. Minister to kindly see that adequate measures are taken in this respect.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what he is proposing to do to prevent the receding of the water table in the country as a whole and does he propose to declare the water resources as a national grid so that the water which is in excess in one State could be diverted to States which do not have adequate water and then supplied to them.

I would also like to know whether the Minister would seriously consider undertaking the desilting of water tanks, dams and river-beds in the country and would take measures to prevent pollution of rivers and tanks, which is also causing various problems to the local population. Especially certain districts of Northern Bihar and certain districts in Madhya Pradesh have acute shortage of water. Hence, surplus water from other parts should be diverted and stored in watersheds to be used in these States.

In Northern part of Karnataka, especially during summer, there is acid content in the water that is available. So, I would like to know from the Minister what steps he would take to see that this problem is eradicated.

There is a National Technology Mission on Drinking Water and there are also various schemes under the 20-Point Programme.

[Sh. Srikanta Datta Narasimharaja Wadiyar]

So, I urge the Minister that these schemes be implemented and the various bore-wells, taps, tanks and mini water supply schemes be renewed so as to provide adequate water, especially to the people of Karnataka.

I would also urge upon the Minister to complete the various water supply schemes that have been on the plan of the State Government of Karnataka. The third stage of Cauvery is incomplete. It has to be expedited. Schemes for water supply to Bangalore city and also the extension of the water supply to Mysore city have to be completed as the new extensions do not have adequate water supply system. This is causing great strain on the population.

I would also request the Minister to kindly see that the various canals that have been undertaken are completed so that in future this problem could be prevented.

There is also a large number of old canals which once used to serve as canals for supplying drinking water. I feel that in the present context these canals should also be renewed so that adequate supply of water is provided to the people who are affected by these canals.

Urban water supply system has to be undertaken on a war footing and a longer-term plan for utilisation of excess water, especially during floods, has to be undertaken.

Industrialisation has caused a great deal in strain and has also been using a great deal of water. Hence, without the industries suffering, we should also see that adequate water is made available to the people.

I would also urge upon the Minister to kindly undertake the programme of afforestation because this seems to be one of the major causes for inadequate rainfall and also for soil erosion which has greatly contributed to the silting of various tanks, rivers and dams. This has led to receding of water

table in most parts of the country, especially in Karnataka. Sir, I would also urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to prevent pollution of rivers and tanks in Karnataka. I hope the hon. Minister would kindly look into the points made by me and tell us what he would do in this respect. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI GOPALA KRISHNA THOTA (Kakinada): Mr. Chairman, Sir, even after forty two years after independence, we have failed to provide drinking water to our people living in the villages. It speaks of the failure of the Government in proper utilisation of water. Eighty percent of the water is still going waste. It is time for the Govt. to properly assess its performance. The Government should at once try to identify the defects in the policy and take steps to rectify them. Proper water management is essential for the development of the nation.

Water is very essential for the survival of not only human beings but also for every living being. Man requires water. Chattels and other animals also require water. It is the prime necessity of a living being. Water is equally essential for agriculture. Even for generation of hydro-electric power, water is the essential component. Such is the importance of water. Industries do need water. Hence providing water to human beings and cattle, agriculture and industry is very important. It calls for a proper water management. The progress of the nation is very much dependent on proper utilisation of water.

Dr. K.L. Rao and some other eminent engineers have suggested in the past various schemes for utilising the water properly. Dr. K.L. Rao suggested a garland canal system for the country. (*Interruptions*) Almost everyone is aware of the benefits of this scheme. Ours is a very big country. While some parts of the country get washed away in floods, some other parts reel under acute drought conditions. Floods and droughts are a recurring phenomenon. somewhere it is too much of water and some where else it is acute shortage of water. Hence in order to

\* Translation of the speech Originally delivered in Telugu.

save the country from these natural calamities. Dr. K.L. Rao has proposed garland canal system linking the northern rivers with the rivers in the extreme south. If implemented, this scheme will provide to be a boon to the country. We can tame the rivers like Brahmaputra which over flow every year causing lot of damage and divert the excess water of these rivers to other parts which starve of water. Hence the entire country will be benefitted by this scheme. But this scheme still remains only on paper. This scheme of linking up of major rivers still remains a distant dream.

Sir, only two districts in Andhra Pradesh were identified under technological mission on drinking water. At least 8 districts in Andhra Pradesh constantly reel under drought. All these eight districts are acutely drought prone. All these eight districts should be selected under the programme. Andhra Pradesh is widely known as the state of rivers. But the tragedy is that though we have many rivers, there is a constant scarcity of water. In fact scarcity of water in Andhra Pradesh is much more than in other States. Godavari is a very big river. Unfortunately no effort was made by the Central Government to harness the Godavari water. In addition to the river water, there is a plenty of underground water in adjacent areas according to the opinion of scientists and engineers. This underground water is yet to be exploited. The exploitation of underground water in this area is the primary responsibility of the Central Government. Much of the Godavari water is now flowing waste into the sea. Polavaram and Ichhampalli projects are two important projects on river Godavari envisaged for better utilisation of its water. But unfortunately these projects have not been cleared as yet by the Central Government. More than seventy percent of Godavari water is flowing waste into the sea. The same water could be utilised once these projects are executed. Hence I plead for the early clearance of these two important projects. These projects would benefit not only Andhra Pradesh but also adjacent states. Hence the clearance of these important projects should be delayed any more. Sir, these important

projects should be taken up and executed as national projects by the Central Government. The State Government is too poor to execute these projects on its own.

Now two thirds of the money of allocated is being spent on utilisation of surface water only. This is not proper. Money available for exploiting the underground water resource is quite negligible. As everyone knows, we have a plenty of underground water which is yet to be tapped. Hence more money should be allocated for tapping underground water. This may we can help the people in the areas where there is no surface water. Towns and cities in the country are expanding too fast. Urbanisation is also going on very rapidly. Municipalities, Municipal Corporations and Panchayats do not have sufficient money to supply drinking water to the people. As a result the drinking water problem is becoming more and more acute. Hence sufficient funds should be allocated to them for providing drinking water. In all the municipal areas the population is double and sometimes Trouble to the population they had at the time of independence. It is becoming increasingly difficult to provide drinking water to the increased population continuing with the old schemes. They need rapid expansion. There are plenty of water resources. yet they do not have money for taking up any new scheme for supplying drinking water to more people. Hence I request the Central Govt. to provide sufficient money to the municipalities and Panchayats for taking steps to provide drinking water in accordance with their population.

Finally, Sir, I request the Central Government to set up a National Drinking Water Board which can properly monitor and coordinate various activities undertaken to provide drinking water to everyone in the country.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak and conclude my speech.

SHRIMOHD. AYUBKHAN (Jhunjhunu):  
Mr. Chairman Sir, I rise to express my view on the problem of drinking water. The whole

[Sh. Mohd. Ayub Khan]

of Rajasthan is reeling under the acute problem of drinking water. The crop has been good in Rajasthan this year but barring a few areas, the rains have not been good enough to let the ground water level rise and, thereby relieve the people of the problem of drinking water. The problem of drinking water has been most severe in Rajasthan this year and the people are pining for water. My submission is that if a scheme for 35 thousand villages and 210 towns is not prepared right now and if the funds requested by the Rajasthan Government are not approved and allocated, the people of Rajasthan will have to face a big problem. The Indira Gandhi canal passes through the neighborhood of my constituency, Jhunjhunu. If the Central Government does not take this work, in its own hands, the Rajasthan Government will never be able to complete the work because this is a very big project and the Rajasthan Government is already short of resources. Drinking water can be made available to Jhunjhunu through the Indira Gandhi Canal. The problem of drinking water is particularly severe in that area. There are some areas in my constituency where people have to go as far as 6 to 10 kilometres to fetch water due to the problem of brackish water. If water of this canal is made available to Jhunjhunu for drinking purposes, this problem could be solved there. The Khetri Project is operating there which draws 2.5 million gallons of ground water. The Hariyapa Canal is a distance of 13 kilometres from there and if water for this project is taken from that canal the present practise of fetching ground water will be stopped. Its benefit, thus, will be that the water level of wells will rise and people will get some relief from the problem of drinking water. Khetri and Udaypurwati are hilly areas and the water level there has receded and use of drilling machines is a problematic affair there. It being hilly area, the problem of drinking water is very acute. I would request that keeping in view the problems of the hilly area, a scheme should be formulated for it at the earliest and drinking water should be made available to the people. This will be possible only when the water of Indira Gandhi

Canal is made available there. During machines should be sent in my area at the earliest so that people could be benefited. Some people have sunk tubewells by using motors. At places where people use motor, the flat rate is Rs. four thousand. A person pays this amount, but he can get water for hardly 2-3 hours. This rule should be amended and the flat rate should be charged in accordance with the time for which the motor is used. A survey should be conducted to find out the cause of leakage of ground water in our area. The people associated with the technology mission say that the flow of water in that area is in the reverse direction. A survey should be conducted for this as well. Deep tubewells should be installed at places where ground water is available so that the people could get water. The problem of water is very acute in Rajasthan. Livestock is the mainstay of the people of Rajasthan and if the cattle itself drink saline water, it faces numerous problems. The problem of drinking water is particularly severe in my constituency Jhunjhunu. A dark zone has been declared in Chidava and Udaipurwati, meaning thereby that there is no ground water there. However, the fact is that water is present there. In this situation, they should get the facility of sinking wells. So far, they are deprived of this facility. My submission is that they should be relieved of the dark zone so that the farmers there could get assistance from the Government to sink wells. Ponds and bunds should be constructed at places so that the rain water could be stored. Approval for constructing bunds over the nullahs should be accorded especially in Udaipurwati and Khetri which are hilly areas so that the water level could rise. There is a village named Bagoli in my constituency. As the land in that village is under the forest authority, bund cannot be constructed. This has created acute water crisis in the area. If the Government sanctions its construction, the problem of water can be solved and water can be made available for irrigation purposes as well. I would like to urge that the Central Government should take over the Indira Gandhi Canal project and also accord early sanction to the demand amounting to Rs. 130 crores put forward by the Rajasthan

Government. Rs. 45 to Rs. 55 crores have been demanded to tackle the water crisis in the urban areas and Rs. 75 crores have been demanded for tackling the same in the rural areas. This demand should be met at the earliest. The survey team has already submitted its report and Government should make arrangements accordingly so that the people of Rajasthan could be saved from the acute drinking water crisis prevailing there.

Rajasthan is in the grip of severe famine conditions. The people of Rajasthan will for ever be grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for having granted an amount which is unprecedented during the last 40 years. That is why, it became possible to save the livestock as well. If due attention is not paid to the water problem, the situation will take a critical turn. Therefore, the Central Government should meet the demands of the Rajasthan Government at the earliest. Water of the Indira Gandhi Canal should be supplied for solving the drinking water problem in my constituency and for irrigation purposes in Jhunjhunu. Some other districts of Rajasthan such as Barmer and Jaisalmer are also reeling under acute shortage of water. If work is not undertaken in every district in a planned manner, the livestock of those areas will be affected by water shortage. Therefore, I would urge the Government to pay attention in this direction, so that the water problem could be solved.

With these words, I conclude and thank you for giving me time to make my submission.

[English]

**SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY** (Katwa): Sir, a very serious situation is now prevailing in the country due to shortage of drinking water in many parts. If you have seen various Press reports, then the picture becomes very alarming. I have before me the *Hindustan Times* of 8th May, 1989. They have given a report as to in how many States, the crisis has become very severe. I find, Tamil Nadu as one among them. Several parts of the State are reeling under

shortage of water. They say, with the rainfall being 3% less than normal the ground water level has gone down considerably. They have also referred how in Madras city and Madurai, the supply of water is for alternate day and not daily or for the whole day. It has been there for many years. It has been a perennial problem. No solution could be found over the years in the past.

There is a report about Orissa also. The whole of Orissa is under the kind of drought-like situation. Districts Bolangir, Kalahandi, Keonjhar, Mayurbhanj, Koraput, Sambalpur, Sundergarh and Phulbani are affected. There is no water. Rivulets have no water; ponds have no water. From the tubewell, you cannot get water because the depth has gone down. All the cities and towns are affected. People are living in a very serious situation.

In Bihar also, the situation can be gauged from the fact that the State capital, Patna is reeling under water crisis. According to official sources, against the daily requirement of 840 lakh gallons of water, the supply is 350 lakh gallons. The report suggests an acute water shortage in Dhanbad, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Dharbhanga, Saharsa, Kathihar and Purnea districts.

In Kerala also, the crisis is there. This is the third year in succession that they are not having any rain and people are suffering. About Rajasthan, the other hon. Members how have preceded me have spoken. Rajasthan also has this perennial problem. What steps we have taken in the past to see that, when there is failure of monsoon, there is provision to meet the minimum requirements of the people for their drinking water. I will come to something where the Government can play a vital role of safeguarding the interests of the people and providing the people with drinking water. Even in the failure of monsoon, we have the role. Due to deforestation, it happens. We should not do that. How would you motivate the people to go for afforestation? There are many schemes. But that are not being implemented sincerely. When we travel across the coun-

[Shri Saifuddin Choudhary]

try, we can find many trees which we planted have dried up and leaves dried up. No life is there in dry land. It is just a sign of death. Why is this kind of thing happening? Who planted those saplings and plants? Who are the authorities and agencies who are supposed to water them? You can get water at least in certain parts. But nobody is to look after the trees and they die due to this kind of neglect. Due to less concern about environment, due to lack of culture also, some times we are suffering from our own mistake making.

In Uttar Pradesh, also the report is there. Kanpur is getting only 270 million liters of water a day, compelling the people to consume water unfit for drinking purpose. Himachal Nagaland and some other states are affected. In my State also, in West Bengal, I have a report that most of the districts in West Bengal have been affected by severe kind of water shortage this year. In some districts, the deficiency in rainfall has been to the extent of 90%. Water level has gone down up to 20 feet from normal level at many places. Most affected districts in Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Midnapore, Burdwan, Malda, West Dinajpur, Murshidabad, Hooghly and North Bengal. 120 lakh people in 1,471 villages or 196 blocks, 32 municipalities and four notified areas are severely affected. The rabi crop is now severely damaged due to the non-availability of water. We have confidence in the State Government there. They have taken up the issue very seriously. The Ministers in the State Government are going to the villages. The Administration there has been toned up. There is a panchayat which is also acting to provide drinking water. Where the normal tube wells are not working, they are planning how to dig tube wells deep there to get water and they have allocated money. I find that Rs. 11 crores are being released for augmentation of drinking water resources. The Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs. 50 lakhs. Some more money has been given. It is not a political question. They want the Central Government to help them in meeting the crisis and they have requested the Central

Government to release their share of marginal money amounting to Rs. 11.87 crores. This is a very human question. No politics are there. Both the State Government and the Central Government should see, how in this peculiar situation, they can stand by the people. There may be serious crisis in many areas where you just cannot have water, even deep tube well. There you have to meet the problem differently. There may be certain areas where if you have deep tube well, then water can be available. But the money is the question. Is there any plan by which we can immediately recognise acute water shortage area where deep tube well can solve the problem there? We must then sanction money to meet the situation.

We are facing this problem of water shortage due to various reasons. Everybody has referred to them. 75% of the water runs away. We cannot use it. Why can't we use it properly? How are we trying to augment our capacity to use it? In earlier days, may be thousand years ago, there was a system in our country whereby in every village, we were having tanks for drinking and for cultivation. Now that tradition has gone. We are now talking of many schemes like NREP, RLEGP and the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana etc. I want to know in how many villages the new ponds have been dug. In how many villages in our country the old ponds were deepened? This is a very vital question. These ponds not only give drinking water and irrigation water but they help you in economic activity. We can have fish culture there. Certain unemployed people can get jobs. I am sorry that I find in many places ponds which have lost their depth. Just in the beginning of summer they dry up. Here we require a kind of motivation. It is very important. In that panchayats can play an important role.

We have our canal system for irrigation in certain areas. There are suggestions given by experts that this water management outlook has to be changed in certain areas. We have to undertake a different kind of irrigation system, the sprinkler type of system in order to avoid wastage. The concept of

economic use of water has to be put into the culture of our people. When we find that many parts of our country reel under severe drinking water shortage, we have to think as to how to create the habit among our people to be very careful in using water and not to waste it. We have to study carefully all these systems and see as to how to face that situation.

Sir, there are certain failures on the part of the Administration. Certain projects are undertaken. They are all time-bound projects. But they are never completed in time. There are delays. These projects can be used for drawing drinking water also. But they are not at all completed in time. There is criminal wastage of funds. 10-12 years are wasted. The people continue to suffer. The Hon. Minister knows as to how many projects are not completed in time. Just before me, the hon. Member from Rajasthan spoke about the Indira Gandhi Canal. Is there any urgency on the part of all of us to see that that Canal work is completed? Rajasthan is known as a water-shortage state. The completion of the Indira Gandhi Canal would help them very much. Everybody knows that. What kind of urgency do we attach to it? We have to see that that project is completed in time.

Sir, I would say that it is not only due to failure of monsoon that we suffer from this water shortage but there are other reasons. Of course, last year we had suffered very much. There were six severe droughts from 1966 to 1988. In some states drought continued for three more years in succession. But after a certain period of time, we get rains. But what kind of water management we should have whereby we can meet that situation? What kind of contingency plans can be made whereby we can adequately store or reserve the water when we get rains? This aspect is a very important one. There are many ideas given by experts like linking of Ganga and Brahmaputra. I do not know what happened to those suggestions. Nobody can hear anything about that. There are so many ideas of linking many of the North-South rivers. Of course, there is the question of resource. But then we have to

have the resources collected. This is very important. After 42 years of Independence people do not get drinking water, what to talk of having a safe drinking water for everybody by 1990! How can we claim providing all these things to the people? I am not going into the statistics given by the hon. Minister. How many villages are problem villages? How many villages are not having any source of drinking water? It has been mentioned that 1,50,000 villages are there where people have to go more than 1/1/2 KMs. to get drinking water. We must know how the people are suffering to get water. Can we maintain ourselves when there is no water? Let us leave the animals for the time being. They die when there is no water. Even now also people are taking contaminated and polluted water. So, these are very important issues. Of course certain scientific aspects have been mentioned. It may be for Tamil Nadu and Rajasthan that they have said. We have got our water technology mission. In the Television it looks very live. The question of desalination is a very important question. What kind of research is being done in this country? How will you make it cheap? A large quantity of sea water can be used after desalination. I do not know about it. Many other countries are doing it. Technology means what? How to make it cheap? We have to renovate technology. If that is required, then how do you do that? We have to consider this aspect our variously. In many areas, with a certain amount of initiative and with more allocation, this drinking water shortage can be met and immediate steps have to be taken. If we want to get rid of this kind of a situation, then we have to have very concrete long-term planning. I have no grudge against the Water Technology Mission. I wish them all success that they go in a right direction and they succeed in providing drinking water to the people. We have all the good wishes for them. But then the question is that in many areas, we have to have the participation of the people and particularly in the field of afforestation. This is very important. I believe, in this emergent situation that has occurred today, there may be State Governments who are trying to meet the situation. They may make some demands to the

[Sh. Saifuddin Choudhary]

Central Government. You should not waver in helping them.

SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY (Kurnool): We should have a permanent Drinking Water Board.

SHRI SAIFUDDIN CHOWDHARY: Shri Ayyapu Reddyji has suggested that we should have a permanent National Drinking Water Board. Well, that is a very good suggestion. Maybe, they can coordinate with Water Technology Mission. That is a very good idea. We can think of this kind of an idea. But the main question is that we have to use our resources effectively. Otherwise, where you have a drinking water crisis, do you understand how the economy is harmed, how the agriculture is harmed? You do not talk about irrigation. The crops are damaged. And that has its effect on the industrial production and ultimately the total economy will be in the shambles. When we talk about drinking water, we do not talk only about the drinking water but we talk about the vital question of economy. With the cooperation of Central and State Governments, I believe, we will take certain steps that will help in tackling the situation and fighting the crisis that has emerged in our country. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR (Durg): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the drinking water problem is gradually taking a critical shape throughout the country. Rainfall is gradually decreasing as compared to what it was 25 to 30 years ago. In many areas either there has been no rainfall at all since the past several years or it has been scanty. That is why, the areas which were completely dependent as on rain-fed irrigation system some 30 to 35 years ago have to depend on tubewell, handpumps etc. today. Within these 30 to 35 years, the number of tubewells has risen to 35 lakhs in the country and the number of wells and handpumps has gone up to over 50 lakhs. Thus, our farmers who used to depend largely on rainfall previously are

more dependent on ground water now. One reason behind this phenomenon is the increasing silt deposits on the river-beds which has resulted in the reduction of the depth of the rivers. The example of Yamuna river can be cited in this regard. The present depth of this river is 12 to 14 feet less than what it was in 1950, and the river's water holding capacity has been reduced thereby. It is common knowledge that rainfall graph has been showing downward trend during the last few years and it may slide further in future on account of the rapid deforestation. The rainfall pattern has also been affected. There is heavy downpour for 3 or 4 days and thereafter, we experience complete dry weather for months together. Besides, the rains also do not come on time. I think, there is only one solution to the problem. You may go around the world and you will find only one solution to this problem. If you go to Africa, you will find that the Britishers built dams on the rivers in the countries which were under their combination, and in contrast, wherever the French ruled, they constructed rapids which we call *Stock dams*. The Congo river which flows through five countries, can be taken as an illustration in this connection. More than 40 rapids have been constructed on the Congo river alone and I have myself seen them. We call them *stop-dams*. Today it is essential to construct such rapids on the French pattern. The construction of dams on all the rivers in the country is a difficult proposition and will give rise to many problems. Of course, they serve a useful purpose but a lot of funds are required for constructing dams and, besides, lakhs of poor people have to be displaced and they are rendered homeless and without any means of livelihood. It is always assured that they will be rehabilitated somewhere and funds, land, etc. will be provided to them. But sir, I have seen at many places, right from the Bhakra-Nagal project to small dams that they are not rehabilitated anywhere but are simply ousted. No one is able to appreciate the problems of those outsees. The only way to solve this problem is to construct a large number of dams on the pattern of the Congo river. The construction of *Stock dams* on big rivers will require heavy expenditure whereas such

dams on small rivers will involve expenditure in the range of 3 to 5 crores depending on the span of the river. This is less than what is required for the construction of dams. 25 to 30 or 40 stop dams can be constructed on each river. It will not only check the rapid decline of water level but will also raise the level of water. In addition, in view of the large scale silt deposits due to land erosion and other factors, it has become essential to set up an organisation such as the Dredgers Corporation of India for clearing the river beds on the lines of the one set up for dredging the Suez Canal. It is essential to set up a similar organisation for the Calcutta Port so that constant dredging and clearing of the river-beds is ensured so as to check their silting and sedimentation. Therefore, the Central Government should take the responsibility of constructing Stock dams on every large river. I know that the setting up of the Dredgers Corporation of India will involve a vast expenditure running into thousands of crores and besides, it is also a very difficult task but it will be comparatively cheaper than that is spent every year on tackling the drought or the water shortage problem and for providing relief assistance to the people. At the same time it will remove their difficulties. This can be illustrated by expenditure incurred to tackle the drought situation last year. It was the worst drought of the century and there can be no doubt on the point that Shri Rajiv Gandhi has been a very far-sighted person in extending maximum financial assistance to every drought affected States, be it Rajasthan, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh or Karnataka. Funds were liberally granted wherever it was felt necessary. I cannot give the exact figures but according to my estimates, about Rs. 5,000 crores were provided as relief assistance by the Centre last year. This enabled the State Governments in saving the people from starvation and from the horror of near famine conditions. When arrangement can be made for providing Rs. 5,000 crores in one year, then Rs. 1000 crores can also be initially spent for the setting up of the Dredgers Corporation of India which can be expanded gradually. I would like that similar corporation should be set up in every state and

particularly in Madhya Pradesh whose topography is such that the central part of the State is quite lofty as a result of which most of the rivers emerging from there flow into the adjoining 7 States. It is good that water of all these rivers is utilised, but if the Dredgers Corporation is set up and dams are constructed on all these rivers to hold back water, it will help considerably in solving the drinking water problem in the States. In Madhya Pradesh, only 17 districts were affected by drought earlier but now the situation has deteriorated so much so that 20 to 22 districts are reeling under the water-shortage problem and in some districts it has taken a very critical turn. I cannot state the position of other States accurately because I do not have proper information but it is a fact that 20 districts in Madhya Pradesh are seriously affected. The State Government had demanded Rs. 40 to 45 crores or perhaps 50 crores to tackle the situation, so that the drinking water problem could be solved.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to submit through you and through and Minister of Rural Development that the Centre should not delay allocation of required funds for tackling the drinking water problem in the State. The sooner this is done, the earlier will be people get its benefits. The people will get relief within this year itself and they will not have to suffer acute crisis of water during the months of May, June and July. You are not aware as to what type of water people are drinking in the rural areas these days. They are drinking the worm-infested water of the ponds. The hon. Minister of Rural Development is also present here today alongwith some of his other colleagues and I would like that the Central Government should provide funds immediately to the State Governments which have demanded the same for tackling the water crisis irrespective of whether the Ruling Party or the Opposition is in power in the respective States. One thing which I would like to point out, in particularly, is about Madhya Pradesh. The State Government as well as the people want that a big dam should be constructed on Indiravati river in Bastar district. Similarly, a big dam should be constructed on river Narmada.

[Sh. Chandulal Chandrakar]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in connection with proposal for constructing major dams on Indirawati and Narmada rivers, I would like to submit that if you want to convert Madhya Pradesh into a desert in the next 50 years, you may go ahead with those projects and if not, they must be shelved. In place of dams, large Stock-dams may be constructed. It will help in storing water and water can be supplied to the people through the lift system. Besides, Sal trees are grown in large numbers in the Narmada delta. Mr. Chairman, Sir, you may be aware that the Sal trees are found only in 3 countries in the world namely Thailand, Bangladesh and India. A 70 year old Sal tree has the capacity of water storage equivalent to a well. What is special about it is that it collects and stores water during the rainy season and release the same during the summers.

Trees as old as 150 years are there in that area. It is easy to fell the trees, but nobody bothers to plant them. I don't want to get into a controversy by pointing at those who fell them or those who reap the benefit. But I would like to submit that the poor people suffer heavy loss due to the felling of trees.

Sir, 20 to 40 years ago people believed that one could easily get pure water and air, but these two things are likely to become the most precious things in the near future.

I would reiterate to constitute Dredging Corporation of India and construct a stop dam on every river. With these words I think you for giving me an opportunity to speak.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we are discussing the problem of drinking water. There is no doubt that the population of Delhi has increased rapidly and at present the total population is more than 80 lakhs. DDA acquired land in rural areas and developed residential colonies like Rohini, Vikas Puri, Paschim Puri and many others, but the water supply remained as it was before. Therefore, the people residing in these colonies often

face the problem of water scarcity. I would like to Government to get Delhi's share from Bhakra and a new plant should be set up at Haiderpur at the earliest which should get more water from Yamuna and that water should be supplied to fulfil the requirements of people. Similar, Sir, you may be aware that Ganga water is also supplied for drinking purposes in various parts of Delhi like New Delhi, South Delhi, Mehrauli etc. DDA has developed a number of residential colonies towards Babarpur and the people of those areas often complain of water scarcity. A plant should be set up in that area and more Ganga water should be brought so that the requirements of the people in these colonies is fully met. However, I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister for installing a number of tubewells and handpumps during drought last year; which is helping the people a lot at present. Water is supplied also through tankers in those areas which are running short of water-supply but inspite of all these measures the increasing population in Delhi is putting heavy pressure on the existing water supply. Resettlement colonies developed during the reign of Shrimati Indira Gandhi get half the water supply these days due to the shortage of drinking water though earlier they used to get uninterrupted water supply. Many tube-wells were installed in a number of J.J. colonies and unauthorised colonies but the water from these sources is not as good as that of Ganga and Yamuna. My submission is that Haiderpur Plant should be set up at the earliest and another plant in rural area-either near Gohana canal or Nangloi should be set up in order to provide adequate water supply to the growing population. We want that they should get sufficient water to meet the basis necessities like bathing, cooking etc. Sometimes it happens that the taps go dry and we are deprived of even a bath. Persons like me, keep on waiting with a hope, that, I will go to Parliament only after taking bath.

Adequate funds should be sanctioned to Delhi Administration and labour should be arranged so that the work is taken up immediately there. Water is the basis necessity of

life. Animals in rural areas also need water to survive.

You know there are no rains these days and the ponds in rural areas have dried up and there is no water for the animals. My submission is that the water supplied for irrigation purposes from canals in Haryana, should also be supplied for ponds so that the animals can take more water and give more milk.

I have made these requests so that the hon. Minister of water Resources allocates more funds to Delhi so that 4 more plants can be set up. Besides, water supply should also be increased and a separate quota for Delhi should be fixed to meet the water scarcity.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion. We should make immediate efforts to meet the scarcity of water in Delhi.

[English]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. NAMGYAL): Sir, since many hon. Members want to participate in the debate I request that the time of the House may be extended by one hour.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time by one hour?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SHRI V.S. KRISHNA IYER (Bangalore South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am happy that we are discussing a very important and one of the burning problems of our country because the common man wants to know whether this august House is concerned about his welfare. Drinking water is the basic necessity of every individual, animal and plant which has life. We have adopted a national water policy but, unfortunately, we do not have a drinking water policy for our country. After 42 years of Independence and

after seven Five Year Plans nearly one-third of the villages in our country are reeling under water scarcity.

18.00 hrs.

It is necessary that this should be tackled on a national basis. We are discussing this subject here because it is not a State subject or a Panchayat subject; it is a national subject. Drinking water is a national problem. Therefore, it is very appropriate that we discuss it here. We should have a national drinking water policy.

One of the solutions for drinking water problem is that all the pending irrigation projects should be completed at the earliest. Many of the irrigation projects in our country could not be completed for want of funds. The State finances are very very limited and they cannot complete these projects out of their own finance and that is why many of the projects which were scheduled to be completed within 3-4 years could not be completed even after 20-30 years. My suggestion is that all the major irrigation projects in our country should be treated as national projects and the Centre should take that responsibility.

Nearly one-third of the villages of our country do not have drinking water. In many of the villages, people have to walk many kilometers to bring water particularly when there is drought situation. We have been reading about that in the newspapers as also seen in the media, television etc. The situation in Rajasthan, Maharashtra and Karnataka particularly during drought is very very bad. This is a problem which should be tackled on war footing.

In Karnataka, for four consecutive years, we had drought problem. Similar was the situation in Maharashtra. I would be failing in my duty if I do not remember one person, who was the Rural Development Minister in Karnataka, Shri Nazir Saheb; he died very recently and Shri Poojary also knew him. He did yeoman service in providing drinking water to 25000 villages of Karnataka. Most

[Sh. V.S. Krishna Iyer]

of the villages got drinking water supply due to this untiring efforts. He is otherwise called *Nir Saheb*; *Nir* means water in our language.

This problem of water scarcity becomes acute when there is no underground water; and the water level goes down. It is a very serious matter. Borewells are also of no use. There is no other source of water. When the water level goes down, what should be done. We should try to conserve water. The only course would be that they have to depend on Monsoon and the rain water. The question is how to conserve rain water. There is so much advance in technology. I am sure, the hon. Minister Shri Poojary will give his special attention to this problem. Rural water supply is very important. When the water level of the underground water goes down, what should be done, that needs to be seriously considered.

Sir, I come from a hundred percent urban constituency. I was also Minister of Rural Development in my State for some time. It appears that the Rural Development Ministry at the Centre is a Ministry for Rural Development for Delhi alone. Thirty percent of the population is in urban areas. Will you kindly quote and example of any city or town, which is self-sufficient in water supply? I find that every town, every metropolitan city or other city is suffering from water scarcity, particularly when the summer sets in. In Bangalore city, we are facing that scarcity. Though we have three water schemes there, Thippa Gonda Hali and Kaveri, State 1 and 2, yet in many areas we do not get sufficient water. There is a lot of disparity in our country; while some people get 100-150 liters per day, there are others, who do not even get one litre per day. The State Governments are doing better in this regard but their hands are very tight. They do not have enough funds. The Hon. Minister for Urban Development must pay his attention to every town and city in our country. I would say that the top most priority should be given to the drinking water. For the rural areas, the Rural Development Minister is taking care.

In Bangalore City hundreds of crores of rupees are spent on the water schemes. We have been requesting the Central Government since long time, I think I myself have made several requests, even in the time of Nehru several requests were made for providing adequate funds but unfortunately not a single paise has been accorded from the Central Government for the Bangalore water scheme. In Bangalore we have so many industries and so many defence establishments are there. Now, we have taken up the Cauvery- III project which requires crores of rupees but for that also the Central Government is not providing any fund. It is the responsibility of the Central Government. Drinking water is one of the basic necessities. Man cannot live even for a day without water.

My last point is that Sir, we are wasting a lot of money on the development of beautiful parks. I am not saying that parks should not be developed but what I am objecting to is that the filtered or treated water should not be used for this purpose. I have seen water flowing like the tanks in the parks. I would like to know whether it is treated water or just raw water I think you should have a separate line for watering the park.

I am sure the Minister will give attention to these aspects. He should take up all the big cities and solve the drinking water problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosa): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for providing me an opportunity to speak. Though my name should have been called much earlier in the serial still I am grateful that you have done justice.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Sir, I have a point of order. One hon. Member said that the Chair is following some serial number. I want to know from you what is the meaning of the serial number. As per rules,

it is the discretion of the Chair to give a chance and call a member to speak. It is the whips who intimate the names to the Chair. How can there be a serial number? Is the Chair bound by some numbers? To know that.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are right. The list is for the guidance of the Chair. Ordinarily, we follow it. But we have got a discretion.

SHRI BRAJAMOHAN MOHANTY (Puri): Regarding changing man into women and *vice-versa*, up to that extend I hope your discretion is not extended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not claiming that.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH: From his own experience the hon. Member has spoken.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: It can be proved that nature provides 100 times more water than the actual requirement of man. We are getting 100 times more water than our actual requirement for irrigation and for drinking purposes both for man and animals but unfortunately PHED and flood control department have not succeeded in meeting the water scarcity. So far our Bihar is concerned, floods occur every year in Bihar and after two months the people face drought. Water comes and flows away. There are many rivers and dams too but the dams cannot stop the flow of water. Therefore, I urge the Government to make such arrangements that water is available for drinking, for agriculture and for the cattle and that there remains no scarcity of water.

So far as question of sinking tubewells is concerned, there are many villages inhabited by Harijans, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes where the Government have installed a good number of tubewells. But we cannot blame Government for this because there are such officers who sink tubewells at places where they are not required and do not sink them where they are needed. They

have been installed at the places where big people live. Therefore the Government should issue instructions that such arrangements should be made at the places where they are required. Bihar is facing drought at present too and our Harijan ladies have to go to distant places to bring water in our area. So far my constituency is concerned, it is a flood prone area but even then at present there is drought. There are floods in Raosera, Haseenpur, Baheri, Sangthi etc. even now. When we visit our areas people complain that they do not get water. Sanctions have been given for sinking tubewells but they have not been installed. This is the condition and money is not being properly utilised. If such condition prevails and the scarcity continues, villagers will not be able to bear it for long. Water should be available there at all times. In the past water used to remain clear in ponds and rivers. Water of the wells also used to be clean. This is a permanent solution but after installation of tubewells the situation has deteriorated. No body fetches water from them now. Earlier water of the wells used to be hygienic. In the drought prone States the wells should be repaired and made deeper and silt should be removed from ponds and rivers, only then there can be a permanent solution. So far my constituency is concerned, there are 2-3 schemes. There will be no scarcity of water for irrigation as well as drinking if they are completed. They are very important schemes. There are two rivers named Kamlabalam and Bagmati and also Gandak too which cover long distant but then become dry. If they are made deeper, the scheme is there, money has also been sanctioned but no body knows as to why they are not made deeper. The water is so clean there that it gives much relief after drinking. But they are not being made deeper. They are deep at some places and shallow at others. I urge that Kamlabalan river which dries up at certain places, should be made deeper. Similarly there are Gandak and Bagmati rivers which pass through my area. There are floods, droughts heavy rainfall, scarcity of rainfall, all things happen there. If the problem of the drinking water is to be solved, the rivers will have to be made deeper. Ponds

[Sh. Ram Bhagat Paswan]

should also be made deeper. The distant places look like a fair where ladies from Harijan and scheduled caste settlements go to fetch water. You will have to look towards such places. Our Government has done a lot of work for scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and had paid much attention to them. But arrangements should be made at all places where water is required.

I will also like to say that there are certain areas like Gurudwara Rakab Ganj, Pant Marg and Talkatora road in Delhi where water is supplied by Delhi Water Supply and Sewage Disposal Undertaking. There too, water is supplied for two hours in the morning and one hour in the evening. Complaints are made regarding non-supply of water, they are noted and left unattended. Water supply is not made. This problem should also be solved.

The level of underground water has gone very low in our South Bihar. There is a necessity of making immediate arrangement for water. The authorities should be asked to purchase tubewells and make the rivers deeper so that water continues to be available at all times.

With these words, I am grateful that I have been allowed to express my views.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): There is drinking water crisis all over India. Orissa is facing the worst drinking water crisis in recent years. There is no pre-monsoon rainfall in some districts. It is less by 80% to 90%. There is a remarkable decline in the water table in the rivers. There is no flow of water in the river Mahanadi and other rivers. The small, shallow tubewells are not working at all. The lack of rains and all-round water scarcity are affecting the crops, as well as power generation.

In some districts, water is not only not available; but people drinking polluted water

have died in large numbers, because of disease. There is the spread of diseases in some districts, and the news has appeared that at Paradip, a bucket of water is selling at Rs. 2/-. There has been a serious water scarcity, due to scanty rain during the last seven months. I would tell Mr. Poojary this: because Government has taken the responsibility of supplying drinking water to problem villages, they should not now be satisfied with dealing with problem villages along. A situation has occurred when there is scarcity of drinking water in all the villages. The policy of the Government is this: during the 7th Plan, it envisages that efforts would be made to cover the entire rural population with the provision of safe drinking water during the Plan period. I give stress on three phrases, viz. 'entire rural population', 'safe drinking water' and 'during the Plan period.' So, these three words are very important. Of course, the provision for the rural water supply sector in the 7th Plan is Rs. 3454.74 crores. For the Minimum Needs Programme it is Rs. 2253.25 crores, and for the Centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme it is Rs. 1201.22 crores. Besides these, there are other normal programme also. It is said that during natural calamities like drought, funds are given on for sinking wells. But why has this condition arisen throughout India, inspite of heavy amounts said to have been given to all the States? For example, it is said that from 1981 to 1986, the total amount given is Rs. 1,19,171.11 lakhs.

The Minister has stated on the 14th March, 1989, as follows:

"A target of full coverage of 32698 problem villages with safe drinking water facilities has been kept for 1988-89. In addition, 18500 partially covered problem villages will be fully covered in 1988-89.

The National Technology Mission on Drinking Water has been set up."

When all these measures have been taken, why there has been a scarcity of water

through out the country? It is for this reason. When we sink a tubewell, it does not reach that depth with the result that when underground water level goes down, it becomes defunct. The tubewells are not sunk upto a particularly level from where the water will start coming, though huge amount has been spent. It has been stated in the reply that a huge amount has been given by the Government. In spite of all this, the crisis is arised. The tubewells do not reach that depth from where the water starts coming; they stop sinking tubewells before the water starts coming. The contractors and others take away money without doing anything. During summer, when the water strate goes down, the tubewells become defunct. So, steps should be taken to see that wells are sunk upto that depth so that during summer also water is available.

It seems that the Government of India has stopped the programme of supplying drinking water to villages through pipes. Though rivers and rivulets pass near the villages, the policy being to have tubewells only in villages. When we have tubewells alone, at present, sweet water could not be supplied in some villages. But if we supply water to the villages from rivers and rivulets, sweet water will be available and the sand bed can be utilised as a filter also. So, I would request the Minister through you to re-consider not only to have tubewells in the villages but also the pipe system for supplying drinking water.

For the development of the semi-urban area, the schemes are framed by the Central Government to give the necessary aid. But not a single town in N.A.C. has been benefited in my constituency, Aska under this scheme; not a single N.A.C. has been recommended by the Orissa Government to Central Government to implement any of the schemes under the development of the semi-urban area. In reply to my question, the Minister has said that the demand should come through the Orissa Government. As representatives of the people in Parliament, we urge, we request the Minister to see that injustice should be done to any State. We

spek here for the benefit of the people. Government should take the initiative. When I am speaking on the Floor of the House, it should be, taken into consideration. The Government should not say that the recommendation should come from the State Government and only then they will implement the scheme. By saying so, they are putting the cart before the horse. We speak on behalf of the people whom we represent and no further application or petition is necessary. When we speak in the House, the Minister concerned takes note of our points; the officials in the gallery also take notes of our points. They should see that all the central schemes are implemented not only the recommendations of the State Governments but also at the request of the Members of Parliament also. Or else, there is no use of our speaking here; Lok Sabha is not a talking shop. So, necessary steps should be taken.

I once again request the Urban Development Minister to see that sufficient funds are given under this scheme for semi-urban areas to Aska Parliamentary constituency. Tanks have dried up in Orissa—pardon my repeating—and shallow wells have become defunct. Tubewell water is not coming and so also in the other wells there is no water. There is no water in the rivers. Under these circumstances the situation should be tackled on a war footing. People have died because of drinking polluted water. Diseases are spreading. Under these circumstances I would like to request Mr. Poojary and also the Urban Development Minister to provide sufficient funds to the Orissa Government to meet the situation and to see that drinking water is made available for renovating the tanks, sinking tubewells, giving water through pipe system to the villages situated on the side of the rivers. If such steps are not taken on a war footing, the situation may be very grave and will go out of control. There may be many more deaths and it must be averted at this juncture, giving priority.

SHRIPIYUS TIRAKY (Alipurduars): Mr. Chairman, Sir, drinking water problem is a national problem and many times it has been

[Sh. Piyus Tiraky]

discussed in this House. It has come up once again now.

One thing I should like to mention in the House. As election issues we have been taking so many issues such as 'Garibi Hatao' and eradication of poverty etc. But why do we not take up this issue also as an election issue. "Fresh drinking water to all"—this must be one issue for elections and it will have a good effect on all the people, to have drinking water at their place.

Another names for water is life. And if you say that we cannot supply our population with fresh drinking water, it is bad. Number of diseases are also spreading due to dirty water being drunk. We in our country worship the rivers, especially the holy Ganga. But we never bother about the pollution of our rivers. There are burning ghats by the side of our rivers, drainages are there which empty the sewage into the rivers. We always forget that the holy Ganga is also polluted and that there water is not at all fit for drinking. There are also many industries and the refuse is going into the rivers all over India. All the rivers are getting polluted. So, there must be a check on the industrialists who are throwing that refuse into the rivers to see that it does not reach the river without any treatment. There should be some check on the industrialists also so that they also show some interest in the matter.

Also, essentially it is a problem all over India in the cities and in the villages also. We have a number of villages. It is mentioned in this report that there are 5,82,971 villages. Surely, it can be known as to how much money is required to supply drinking water to each of the villages. An estimate of the money required can be made. It is mentioned in this report that there are 3,347 villages which are problem villages and their main problem is provision of drinking water. So, very easily it can be checked and it can be found out which village has not yet been provided with fresh drinking water. If there is a political will, it can be easily solved be-

cause many problems have been solved when the political will has been shown. I ask: is this an election issue as in the case of 'Garibi Hatao programme'? Why do you not say that by such and such date we will be able to provide fresh drinking water to all the people in the country? Many Members from both sides of the House have expressed their desire that our poor people must get fresh drinking water.

[SHRI SOMNATH RATH *in the Chair*]

18.31 hrs.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that most of the districts of West Bengal have been affected by severe drought. Worst-affected districts are Purulia, Bankura, Birbhum, Midnapore, Burdwan, Maldah, West Dinajpur, Murshidabad and Hooghly. 129 lakhs people in 14717 villages of 196 Blocks, 32 Municipalities and 4 Notified Areas are severally affected. The West Bengal Government had asked for immediate release of their share of margin money amounting to Rs. 11.87 crores. The amount is not much. The Government of India should be liberal in this regard and should provide drinking water to the people of West Bengal. The West Bengal Government has only asked for immediate release of Rs. 11.87 crores. All the resources are with the Central Government. The State Governments do not have their own resource or cannot raise money as they are not controlling banks and others. Every time, it is the Union Government which releases the funds and the Ministers are visiting the drought affected areas. A liberal attitude should be taken by the Union Government and it should see that the money should reach in time especially in hilly areas because to fetch water, one man is employed everyday. Our country is a vast and a big country. We should not be afraid about it since the resources are also vast. Ours is a rich country with poor people. Many resources are there in our country. We have to exploit the resources. For instance, much has been talked about Brahmaputra Ganga project. A huge amount of Brahmaputra water is going into the sea and we are unable to

exploit the water for the purpose of irrigation or drinking purpose or any other purpose. So these projects must be taken up so that we can utilise Brahmaputra water for drinking, irrigation, navigation and other purposes. We have not yet exploited enormous resources of water. Our river bed is going up because of the indiscriminate cutting of trees from hills and hillocks in the country. Social forestry and other schemes which come under other Ministries should be encouraged. The people should be taken into confidence. They should be given the charge of villages where afforestation is being done. Unutilised land must be brought under forestry. Then only we can escape from drought and other vagaries of nature. But the most unfortunate part is that we are polluting our rivers without bothering how much harm we are doing to the nation.

Once again, I request the hon. Minister to release funds to the States so that they may be able to go on with the projects that are in hand for implementation.

[*Translation*]

\*DR. PHULRENU GUHA (Contai): Sir, I will not take more than five minutes. We are today discussing here the shortage of drinking water in the country. Water and air are the two most important things in the life of man. A man may live for some days without food but he cannot live without water. He falls ill without water and in most cases he dies. Without water we cannot cook our food, we cannot take bath and clean ourselves, we cannot clean our houses, filth accumulates, boils and various skin diseases develop on our bodies and we fall sick. For want of water, tanks, rivulets and even rivers dry up in some places. About tubewells Sir, I do not know about the condition in other places but in the area where I come from most of the tubewells do not work. After working for a few days only, most of them go out of orders. As a result, very little water is available during normal times but at the time of drought not a drop of water is available. In my constituency, Sir, there are some places which have been called 'Non tubewell areas'. In

those areas I have not been able to do anything for supply of drinking water in the last four and a half years in spite of all efforts. Those who came before me also tried and failed. For non-availability of water goats, cows, bulls, buffaloes and other domestic animals suffer and perish. As the tanks and rivers get dried up, crop production is affected. Crops wither away for want of water and a very serious situation develops. The farmers face a miserable situation. Vegetable production also suffers. Whatever little is produced becomes so costly that the common people cannot buy them. It is beyond the purchasing capacity of the common man, who suffers in every way. For the last two days I read in the West Bengal newspapers that the relief minister has said, "I have not declared drought in West Bengal". But the Finance Minister said that there is drought. Really there is drought in West Bengal. I do not know why the relief Minister has said that there is no drought. I do not want to go in that question either. But I do know that there is drought in West Bengal. I will request the Central Government and the Government of West Bengal to hold talks immediately on this issue and to take all necessary measures expeditiously to combat the drought situation.

Sir, when there is shortage of water, the worst sufferers are the women folk. They have to bring water from long distances with great difficulty. At the time of drought, their condition becomes unbearable. What sufferings they have to undergo is only known to those like me who have worked without them. It cannot be described in words. It is not necessary to speak at length on the problems of shortage of water. India is a country of many rivers and rivulets. Ponds and tanks exist all over the country and we have a very long coastline with the sea washing the shortages. But I regret that in spite of all this we are facing drinking water shortages all over the country. Therefore, as I have said many times earlier, I repeat that we shall have to frame a national water policy to solve this problem. I request the Hon'ble Minister to consider this seriously and to take all steps to formulate a national

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

[Dr. Phulrenu Guha]

water policy at the earliest. Unless and until that is done this problem of shortage of water will come before the country off and on and the people will suffer. With that Sir, I conclude. Thank you.

**SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT** (Nagpur): Hon. Chairman, Sir, very important subject is being discussed at present in this House. In fact, problem of drinking water is causing worry throughout the country. Scarcity of water is being felt every where in the villages as well as cities. I want to draw your attention that a slogan of food, clothing and housing was raised in our country after independence. There is no doubt that food, clothing and housing are necessities but pure drinking water and clean air are greater necessities. Less attention was paid to this problem otherwise the present situation would not have developed which we are facing. In spite of constant efforts made by the Government, drinking water in required quantity has not been made available.

Increase of population is the main reason for this problem in cities. No apparent result of the efforts made by the Government is visible in the cities owing to increasing population. Population of Nagpur city, my own constituency, which is situated in the centre of India, was 4 lakh 40 years ago, it has increased to 20 lakhs now and every thing has gone astray. Water is not being made available to the people. Our Finance Minister visited Maharashtra recently, he was to attend some programme, people came to know that the Minister would pass through their area. The ladies surrounded the Minister's car holding empty pitchers in their hands and Minister was shown black flags. This incident indicates the severity of the problem. You can assess the seriousness of the problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, nine districts of my area are most affected with the problem of drinking water. These districts are Nagpur, Akola, Yavatmal, Buldana, Amravati, Garhchiroli, Chandrapur, Bhandara and

Wasim. All the small cities and villages under these districts are facing scarcity of water and there will be critical situation in next three months. Therefore, I urge the Government that something should be done on war footing. I may say that the hon. Minister has visited Nagpur four times and I had made a request three months ago that in summer season the problem of drinking water would become more critical in our area. The same situation is prevailing now. The schemes submitted by the State Government have not been completed so far and there may be some bottlenecks. Sometime a mention is made about world bank and at some other time some other reason is given. Therefore, I urge that a telex should be issued today to the Chief Secretary and the Urban Secretary of Maharashtra Government to report immediately and ask them to start work on war footing to make arrangements for supply of water to the aforesaid area.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, it was proposed to supply water through tankers from distant places to the areas where water was not available. But this promise has also not been kept by us and the supply of water has still not commenced. In this connection, I urge that the Chief Secretary and the Chief Minister should be asked to explain the reasons as to why the work has not been done so far. If they lack funds, kindly provide them funds, from the centre because it is a serious problem.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the Government provided 50 percent of funds for the installation of tubewells in the remote areas and villages for meeting their requirement of water. But these tubewells large not working. These tubewells had been installed at a very low cost. The resources meant for this purpose have not been properly utilised. The contractors did not drill the earth to the required depth. The engineers too who were entrusted with the work of quality checking of the drilling did not do it properly and sanctioned the bills of the contractors. That is why that today these tubewells are not working. I would, therefore, request the Government to

blacklist the contractors who did not do the work properly even after getting the full amount paid to them and also to take action against the engineers who did not carry out the test check properly. The matter may please be enquired into and the defaulters should be punished. I would go to the extent of asking you to conduct an enquiry in respect of the tubewells installed during the last 5 years and take strict action against the defaulting contractors and engineers.

Secondly, I would like to know as to what has happened to the Garland project proposed by Shri Rao Saheb. We have not been able to implement the said project. We have been spending in crores of rupees on relief works for the last 25 to 30 years. If we calculate the total amount spent hitherto on this account, it will be a very huge amount because all these years, we have been providing funds to the areas that come under drought. Had we spent all this amount in lumpsum a little earlier, the problem could have been solved with the expenditure of much less an amount and the problem would not have become so acute now. It, therefore, calls for serious afforest on our part. It needs to be considered seriously and you will have to launch a major scheme at the national level to meet the requirement of irrigation and drinking water. There is no other way out for this.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to cite an instance. In the U.S.A. once a situation had arisen when the water level of certain lakes such as Superior, Michigan, Erie and Ontario Lakes, which were navigable earlier, had gone down by six inches. Though the U.S.A. was not in a position to bear the expenses of construction of an ambitious dam, it constructed the dam and tried to maintain the water level of these lakes. Then why cannot we do that? So far as the question of resources or funds is concerned, the Government can take money from the public. The people in this country are prepared to give for it. Every citizen of India will give money for this purpose. I would like to request the Government to do something or the other in this regard.

SHRI AZIZ QURESHI (Satna): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are holding a discussion on the shortage of water. Due to this shortage of water and supply of dirty water where it is being supplied, people will fall ill and die. The hon. Minister of Urban Development is present here. I would like to draw here attention to this problem. The water being supplied by the N.D.M.C. to general public as well as to M.Ps will cause people fall ill and die. Yesterday when I opened the tap at my resident at 31, Canning Lane, I found that in place of water mud was coming through the tap. There was not a single drop of clean water. Due to this we were not able to take bath, prepare our food or clean the utensils. If this deplorable condition is there with the M.Ps, it cannot be imagined what difficulties the common men in Delhi would have been facing. May I ask the Government if they have no control over the N.D.M.C. Does not the N.D.M.C. fall within their jurisdiction? Has the situation in N.D.M.C. gone out of their control? The Government should pay attention to it. If the Government is not in a position to pay attention to it, the Members of Parliament would themselves think about the measure to put the functioning of N.D.M.C. in order.

Just now it was stated that the ground water level all over the world has gone down. If you make an assessment of the situation prevailing in the world, you will come to know that the level of underground water is going down throughout the world.

Just now, the point of tubewells was raised here. Our able hon. Minister, Shri Poojary is present here. He has very skillfully organised loan melas in the country. I would like to request him to display his capability in this field also. Let him conduct a survey and assess how much groundwater is available there in our country. Drilling for tubewells should be undertaken only after a survey has been conducted in this regard as crores of rupees have been spent up on the installation of tubewells, but 50 percent of them are lying out of order. The reason is that tubewells were installed without assessing the quantum of underground water available.

[Sh. Aziz Qureshi]

Besides, water got through the tubewells is not drinkable. I would like to say that action should be taken against all of them who are responsible for this, no matter if he is a Government officer or a political leader. Let them be made accountable as to why crores of public money were wasted. Such a situation should not be allowed to repeat in this country.

I would like to make a submission about my constituency, Satna. It is a very poor and backward area where there is no industry in the public sector. There are the factories of Tatas and Birlas only. In the last meeting of the Planning Commission as well as in the meeting held on the 20 point programme, I had got a decision taken that the water being supplied to Birla Group of factories in Satna should now be supplied to the general public. The factories of the Birla Group of Industries can meet their water requirement by having their own separate tubewells. But it is unfortunate that upto now no action has been taken in this regard. Water is all along being supplied to Birla Group of Industries and the people have been facing hardships. I would like to say that the Government should pay attention to it and lay down a policy under which all the big industries in the private sector having a large capital investment and resources would not be supplied water and they would be asked to make their own arrangements for water. The entire water will be supplied to the general public so that people could get some relief and may tide over the problem of water crisis.

Similarly, a scheme to supply water to Bhopal from river Narmada is also lying pending since long. I would like to urge upon the Government to pay attention to it and provide water to Bhopal, the capital city of Madhya Pradesh. I would like to express my thanks to you for allowing me the time to speak.

[English]

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ (Baramulla):

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is no time. But I would tell you how the planning has gone wrong. After the demise of Jawaharlal Nehru we should have re-allotted priorities on the close of Third Plan which we did not do and in my opinion Jawaharlal Nehru was right. He had lived longer, he would have reviewed the whole structure and re-allotted priorities for the future plans. We have gone wrong, we have done a patchy development, a lot of credit goes to the Government, whosoever was there, as we have achieved a lot in various fields, but when we see the list of priorities, it is a national shame that after 41 years of Independence we are just discussing how to provide drinking water in the rural areas or even in some urban areas to solve this problem. The basic needs are food, clothing, shelter, health care, education and drinking water. Even energy comes after drinking water. So, something has gone wrong. We wanted to achieve everything possible under the sun and therefore, a lot of money had been wasted. I had a chance to go to the National Institute of Rural Development, Hyderabad, and I understood the dimensions of wastage of our water resources. There is no time to explain that. So, I must, Mr. Chairman, straightaway come to my constituency which is Baramulla consisting of two districts, Baramulla and Kupwara, and I want to inform this august House that 65 percent of the people in these districts Baramulla and Kupwara—have no drinking water, pure water, which you call 'safe water' not because of the negligence of the State Government, but because of paucity of funds, appeal to the Central Government through you, Sir, that a special scheme should be devised for my constituency because there are dry areas where 65 percent population has no drinking water. And there is another justification because the Government of Jammu and Kashmir or the people of Jammu and Kashmir have not received adequate share from the funding so far as your entire public sector is concerned. We have 0.07 percent. So, we deserve a better deal.

Secondly, I want an All India survey for the whole country. There should be an all India survey to determine, to indicate the

status of various States so far as drinking water is concerned. It is not that there is imbalance. That is at the national level. Some States have got more funds because some men and women came to Parliament and became Ministers from these areas and they have been selfish, nursing their own constituencies.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Your constituency is also a part of India.

*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ: Sir, imbalance is there. But within a State there are areas where there is no drinking water, in urban areas people have been served better. Somebody was pleading for urban areas, I must say our rural population is suffering because of pollution and all kinds of things. Now, Sir, on the basis of an All India survey, kindly consult experts. I do not know whether the Ministry is taking note of what is happening in this country, how we are deficient in water resources, how water is being wasted. On the basis of that All India survey, I request the Government of India to issue a White Paper on this problem and explain to the country as to what the Government will be doing within a decade. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

\*SHRI HARIHAR SOREN (Keonjhar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing the drinking water problem. It is really a matter of great concern that many parts of India are faced with severe scarcity of drinking water. Many Hon'ble Members have pointed out about the drinking water problems in different parts of the country. As time at my disposal is very short, I would not like to go in detail. I do not wish to say about all over India. I would like to confine my speech on drinking water problem in Orissa.

Sir, the drinking water scarcity has posed a serious problem in Orissa. Almost every part of Orissa is faced with this problem. The hilly areas of the State like Keonjhar, Phulbani, Kalahandi, Balangir and Sundargarh

are faced with this problem every year during summer. But this year, the drinking water problem has become very acute in coastal districts of the State too. The Government of Orissa has made various arrangements to provide adequate drinking water in the villages. We have tube wells, shallow wells and deep wells etc. in our state. Besides, there are certain areas where people depend on river water. Despite all these facilities we are facing acute drinking water problem this year. There are various factors responsible for the acute shortage of drinking water in Orissa during the year. The first reason is that we have no rain in the state since last 8 months. Prior to that there was scanty rainfall in some areas only. The ponds, rivulets wells etc. are dried up. In many areas the water level has gone down. The wells which were dug long ago are not being maintained by the people. Deep wells were dug by the Government in different villages during the second and third plan period. Now, the State Government is not taking any step to renovate those wells. Most of those wells are filled with silts. Similar is the condition of the village ponds. The Govt. had indemnified problem villages in each state including Orissa. All the problem villages have not been supplied with potable drinking water so far. Tubewells were installed in many villages during 6th and 7th Plan period under centrally sponsored schemes. Proper care was not taken to deepen the soil while installing tubewells. As a result of that water is not coming through those tubewells even in pre-summer.

Sir, the situation is worse in my constituency. I come from Keonjhar district of Orissa. It is a mineral rich hilly district. It is necessary to make the soil very deep and then the tubewells should be installed. Because the water level is somewhere at 40 ft. to 50 ft. or even more than that below the surface. Most of the tubewells installed in that district are not functioning. The drinking water is coming through some tubewells and as a result of that it is not fit for human consumption. Therefore the people are depending on other sources for drinking water. The Government have made certain criteria for installing tu-

\*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Oriya.

[Sh. Harihar Soren]

bewells. One tubewell is to be installed in every revenue village where the population is between 250 to 300. Sir, in my district the situation is different. All the villages are not thickly populated. The population is not even 250 to 300 in some villages. As it is a hilly district the people are scattered here and there. The distance between one village to another is somewhere 2 to 3 Kms. In such cases one tubewell does not cater to the need of 2 to 3 villages. Moreover the people have to walk 2 to 3 Kms to fetch a bucket of water. So the criteria should be relaxed. One tube well should be installed in every revenue village. One tube well should be installed in every ward or Basti. Then only we will be able to provide drinking water to every people. There are many villages in my district which are located in inaccessible areas. We have not been able to instal tube wells in those villages. They do not have wells. So, they depend on spring water for drinking purpose. The spring water is not hygenic as it is very much polluted these days. The people who consume spring water suffer from different water-borne diseases. The tribals are mostly the victims of the water born diseases. Therefore it is very necessary to ensure potable drinking water in those villages. It is very necessary to install tube wells in those villages on priority. There are many villages where the people from all the communities live. Both upper cast people, Harijan and Adivasies live in the same village. Suppose a tubewell has been installed in a ward where upper caste people live, but it is not installed in the area where Harijan or Adivasis are living, in such cases the people do not get drinking water agitate over the issue..So it is necessary to install tube wells in all the basties, where Harijan Adivasis or upper caste whosoever live there.

Sir, if the present dry spell continues and there is no rainfall till June, the people will not be able to tolerate the summer. If proper arrangement is not made to provide drinking water to every village they will die like insects. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to make immediate arrange-

ments to repair the tubewells and shallow wells which are defunct. I request to the Government to provide adequate fund to the State Governments so that they will be able to ensure potable drinking water supply to everybody. With these words I conclude my speech.

SHRI KEYUR BHUSHAN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, without giving an expression to the feeling of concern of the entire country, I would like to express my own concern here before the hon. Minister Shri Poojary who is a responsive person. I am fully confident that he will fully release my agony, and take suitable measures to ameliorate it. Though there has been rainfall all over the country this year, the Raipur division of Madhya Pradesh, which I represent here, has unfortunately been experiencing the worst ever famine of the century this year. In the entire division, there was drought throughout the year. Some people have migrated from the area. Even today, the situation is very critical there. Of course, drought relief works have been launched on a large scale in the area, but the drinking water crisis is very acute there. Our hon. Prime Minister had visited that area where the people apprised him of their deep concern for water. They explained that with the launching of drought relief work their problem of earning livelihood has been solved, but the position of drinking water is very grim. Our hon. Chief Minister Minister has also made a request to sanction Rs. 45 crores for this purpose. The amount will be spent not only in Raipur but also on the adjoining districts where the problem of drinking water has assumed such dimensions that it needs attention. I, therefore, request the Government to pay attention to it. Water available in the dam in that area is being supplied to Raipur which is expanding very rapidly. Its population has now touched the mark of 10 lakhs. The water from the local dam is supposed to meet the requirement of this vast city as well as one of the largest steel factories of India at Bhilai. We demand a sum of Rs. 22 crores to meet the water requirement of Raipur city. I also request you to ask the Ministry of Steel and also convey our request to them that they should make

their own separate arrangements whether constructing a separate dam for it or in some other ways to meet the water requirements of the steel city. I would also like to request you to arrange rig machines and send them to my area and also give money for the purpose so that water could be made available for the cattle dying for want of water in that area and save them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned to re-assemble on Monday, the 15th, May 1989 at 11.00 a.m.

19.00 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, May 15, 1989/ Vaisakha 25, 1911 (Saka).*