

the hon. Minister that if they reconstruct them, it will be better.

The immediate problem before Orissa today is drinking water. Though the Central Government has sanctioned thousands of tubewells for providing drinking water in the villages, yet it so happens that perhaps the tubewells were not dug to the depth that was required or the water level has gone down to such an extent that almost 40 per cent of the tubewells are defunct because the water resources have gone down, though the Central Government has spent crores of rupees for providing drinking water. I hope immediately some solution will be found for meeting the drinking water crisis in Oriss. Added to this, there is shortage of power and it has so happened that perhaps 75 per cent power-cut is there in industries, villages and towns. So, a very serious situation is developing in our State. I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that there was thinking on the part of the Central Government to have some long-term measures to assist the State Government in facing the natural calamities. Every year they are spending Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores. I hope the Central Government is seriously thinking to have a kind of permanent measures to avoid this kind of natural calamities every year, for which the Central Government is spending about Rs. 500 to Rs. 600 crores.

I request the hon. Minister that permanent assets should be created for the programmes like NREP and RLECP that the Central Government is funding because crores of rupees have been spent by the Central Government. We create permanent productive assets so that these natural calamities like drought and floods are prevented.

MR. CHAIRMAN : You will continue next time. Shri Janardhana Poojary to make a statement.

17.41 hrs.

STATEMENT RE. D. A. OF
CENTRAL GOVERNMENT
EMPLOYEES FOR PURPOSES
OF RETIREMENT BENEFITS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) :
While presenting the Budget for 1985-86 I had stated that the entire dearness allowance sanctioned upto the average consumer price index level of 568 would be treated as pay for the purpose of retirement benefit for employees retiring on or after 31st March 1985. Certain doubts have been raised regarding the operation of this concession in terms of the orders that have been issued. Before the announcement of this concession in the Budget speech, dearness allowance upto the average consumer price index level of 320 was taken into account as pay for purposes of retirement benefit. Clarifications are being issued to enable the dearness allowance sanctioned upto consumer price index level of 568 to be taken into account for the purpose of retirement benefit for all employees retiring on or after 31st March 1985 with effect from the dates on which they have drawn such dearness allowance. This will be a one-time concession given to the retiring employees and no past cases of employees who had retired prior to 31st March 1985 will be reopened on the basis of this decision.

17.43 hrs.

HALF-AN-HOUR DISCUSSION

[English]

Streamlining of Gramin Banks

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpu.) : Sir, in answer to the Started Question No. 509 on 19th April, 1985 the hon. Minister of State for Finance Shri Poojary gave some information regarding the functioning of rural banks and stated therein