

12.16 hrs.

**BRENTFORD ELECTRIC (INDIA)
LIMITED (ACQUISITION AND
TRANSFER OF UNDERTAKINGS)
BILL***

[English]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of the Brentford Electric (India) Limited, with a view to securing the proper management of such undertakings so as to subserve the interests of the general public by ensuring the continued manufacture and production of electrical equipments which are essential to the needs of the economy of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the acquisition and transfer of the undertakings of the Brentford Electric (India) Limited, with a view to securing the proper management of such undertakings so as to subserve the interests of the general public by ensuring the continued manufacture and production of electrical equipments which are essential to the needs of the economy of the country and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto"

The motion was adopted

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO : I introduce the Bill

12.18 hrs

**DISCUSSION RE: DROUGHT SITUATION
IN THE COUNTRY—Contd.**

[Translation]

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV (Alwar): At present, about 17 crore people of the country are facing famine and drought out of which 3 crore belong to Rajasthan State alone. Similarly, about 19 crore 60 lakh cattleheads in the country are affected by drought. It is true that the responsibility of making water and fodder available to the cattle is that of the State Government, but the Government of India is also equally responsible for it. Sir, I would like to say that this year, as many as 15 states besides 3 Union Territories are in the grip of drought. Never before in the last 100 years the country had to face drought of such a wide dimension. Therefore, the Government should make announcement of some specific schemes to deal with this grave situation. I am sure the hon. Minister will come forward with such schemes while giving reply to the debate in the House so that the morale of people affected by drought and famine may be boosted.

Sir, I am proud to say that our Prime Minister has taken timely and courageous steps to face the situation. He has announced a package scheme of Rs. 2 thousand crores in this regard. Now we have to ensure that the benefits of the scheme reach the states in an equitable manner and the states on their part should also ensure proper utilisation of the funds

In case of drought or floods anywhere in the country, a Central Study Team is sent for on-the-spot study of the situation. In the same way, study teams should be despatched to the various States affected by drought, floods or any other natural calamity to monitor the utilisation of funds pro-

vided for the purpose so that the funds are properly utilised and the persons affected by the natural calamities are properly benefited. Until and unless a monitoring committee is constituted, complaints will keep on pouring in that the funds released for this purpose have not been properly utilised. A number of complaints are received to the effect that many State Governments do not properly allocate the funds. To ensure that the funds are utilised for the purpose for which they are meant, it is imperative that a new Central Team is constituted

In States like Punjab, Haryana etc., wheat and rice are grown in abundance. In some other States, other foodgrains are grown in large quantities. In my view, it will be better if such states are provided paddy, rice or wheat instead of cash assistance. In this way, we can help the famine affected people in a true sense. If we provide cash assistance to the workers, it can be misused because some workers have the bad habit of consuming opium, liquor etc. If we give them their wages in the form of wheat, paddy, rice etc. and not in cash, it will reach their homes and the requirements of their families will be met. Therefore, I would suggest that in those States where there is shortage of foodgrains, assistance should be given to them in the form of foodgrains and not in cash.

The Rajasthan Government has demanded 3.5 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrains free of cost. I believe the Central Government might have given it due consideration keeping in view the famine conditions prevailing in the State. I want that the Minister should today declare the quantum of foodgrains in the House which will be provided to Rajasthan free-of-cost to deal with the famine conditions. I feel, the hon. Minister will make some announcement in view of the seriousness of the situation prevailing in Rajasthan and the demand made by the State Government.

If we want to successfully face the

drought situation and also want that the relief measures that we take in this regard are permanent and of public utility and there is no bungling in these measures, we will have to give due importance to material component also along with labour component. If we ignore the material component, then we will continue to get complaints. The only way to remove the complaints is to ensure that the relief measures that we take are permanent and of public utility and they can be inspected on the spot at any time. For this purpose, a Central Team should be constituted as I pointed out at the outset. This team should evaluate the relief works on a monthly or fortnightly basis or as it may decide. Such a Central Team must be constituted at the national level.

Apart from this, there is another major problem arising out of the fact that some of our States have a pastoral economy. Rajasthan is one of the States which mostly depends upon cattle wealth. Today, about 3 crore and 50 lakh cattle are affected by the prevailing drought conditions. You might have seen on television yesterday as to how the cattle are dying out of hunger and thirst and how the farmers, the shepherds and the cattle rearers are trying to save them from starvation. Sometimes they take them to Uttar Pradesh, sometimes to Madhya Pradesh and sometimes to certain parts of Punjab. But today these States are also facing shortages. Therefore, I want to suggest that a buffer stock of cattle fodder should be created at the national level in the manner in which a buffer stock has been created in regard to our foodgrains.

Our economy today is based on our cattle to a large extent. Hence, a buffer stock of cattle must be created. Today 20 crores of our cattle and 17 crores of our people are affected by famine conditions. If a buffer stock of foodgrains can be maintained at national level for 17 crores of people, why cannot a buffer stock of fodder be created and maintained for 20 crores of cattle? Until and unless this is done, the large sums spent on drought relief works

[Shri Ram Singh Yadav]

will not be of much help. The people of Rajasthan have to go to Madhya Pradesh, Punjab and other parts of the country in search of fodder but they are not able to get it despite spending heavy amounts in this regard. This buffer stock of fodder should be created at the national level even if we have to suffer some losses because it will have far reaching consequences

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I would like to say something about our water arrangements. The Minister of Rural Development is not present here. During the last session, he assured us that a technology mission will be set up for ensuring adequate supply of drinking water in Rajasthan. A Technology Mission has since been set up in Barmer but it is of no use for the State because water level in the State has gone down by 20 to 30 feet due to constant drought during the last four years and the Technology Mission has failed to give warning to the people, the District Collectors and the State Government that water level is going down and they should make arrangements for the supply of water by installing rigs. Why could not they give such a warning? If the Mission cannot perform its job, then what is the use of spending so much of money on it? They could have informed the collectors or the State Government about the declining level of water but they did not do so. It is a matter of great concern and it will create immense problems in future. Today, a big city like Ajmer, where foreigners also come for Haj, is also facing drought conditions and water is not available there.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, water will not be available in Jaipur also after one month. The Ramgarh Banda Lake in Jaipur has dried up. Therefore, the Central Government should provide water to Jaipur under contingency plan of Rs. 112.37 crores sent by the State Government otherwise there will be a serious water crisis and the Government will not be able to face it.

The Government of Rajasthan has demanded Rs. 25 crores for cattle conser-

vation. The Centre should give an *ad-hoc* grant of Rs. 25 crores for it and send a study team there as soon as possible. We have to wait for long for a Central Study Team. It should be sent at the earliest.

With these words, I conclude. It is hoped, due consideration will be given to what I have said and relief provided accordingly.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Varanasi):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today when we are discussing drought situation in the country, we are feeling some relief because there has been widespread rainfall in many parts of Northern India yesterday although it is not likely to ameliorate the prospects of kharif crop in a big way. However, it has lessened the severity of heat to some extent and I feel that atmosphere congenial for accelerating the tempo of relief work has been created as a result of it

The drought situation is being discussed all over the country and I do not want to waste time by repeating all that. I want to make certain other submissions. The drought situation in the district of Varanasi is very serious. I want to thank the Central Government for sending a study team to U P immediately for assessing the situation in the State which no doubt surveyed the areas in a hurry. They, however, obtained some details about the magnitude of the drought and studied the situation to some extent.

In our district Varanasi, about 26 lakh population of 4839 villages has been affected by drought and it has been estimated that there will be a loss of 1 1/2 lakh tonnes of foodgrains during this kharif season. According to rough estimates, the losses so far have been of the order of about Rs. 45 crores. I think the losses are bound to be higher, as kharif crop could not be sown in an area of about 2 lakh, 46 thousand and 47 hectares of land. This includes irrigated as well as unirrigated areas. Paddy is a major kharif crop in our area and it is the worst affected. Nearly 50

per cent of the crops could not be sown and it has resulted in heavy losses. Paddy production is so important in our country that its non-production alone can wreck our economy. Therefore, as I have stated losses will come to more than Rs. 45 crores.

Again, apart from paddy, other kharif crops like millets, pulses, sugarcane, oil-seeds etc. have also been badly affected. Therefore, relief work should be undertaken immediately.

One important point to be considered in this connection is the fact that a constant struggle is going on between the Centre and the State Governments in regard to the funds to be granted for relief purposes. The State Governments demand more funds and the Centre is of the view that it is the primary responsibility of the State Governments to mobilise necessary resources.

Various Finance Commissions have given thought to this aspect also. No State Government is satisfied with the guidelines framed by them. The State Governments are anxiously awaiting the report of Sarkaria Commission. It is their fond hope that the Commission might recommend placing of more financial resources at the disposal of the State Governments.

The Centre provided Rs. 2800 crores to the States for relief purposes upto 1984-85 during the Sixth Five-Year Plan and before that, for a 15 year period till 1979-80, Rs. 2076.56 crores were given as relief assistance. Thus, in the Sixth Five-Year Plan, adequate funds were made available and under the Seventh Five-Year Plan, Rs. 1303.50 crores have been provided so far which is equivalent to the total allocations made during the Sixth Five-Year Plan. However, the way in which relief work is undertaken or the relief material is distributed and the extent to which assistance is provided cannot be called praiseworthy. Numerous complaints are received in this regard.

The hon. Members have discussed this

matter several times in this House during the last few days. It is not only we, the Members of Parliament, who say that we have not succeeded in our objective. Even the Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi had himself written a letter in 1985 to the then Agriculture Minister, Shri Buta Singh, saying that we have not succeeded in achieving our objectives so far as drought relief measures are concerned. I quote:

[English]

"We have not succeeded in our objective; is it not time to examine closely the kind of projects on which money given for drought is spent. The beneficiaries of the present day programme would appear to be only contractors and civil servants."

[Translation]

After this comment, I think there is nothing more to say. The Agriculture Minister should ensure that not only permanent assets are created and employment opportunities are generated under drought relief programmes undertaken with the assistance provided by the Centre but also proper arrangements are made for supply of food and fodder for men and animals.

The Eighth Finance Commission had also made a similar recommendation in 1984. The Commission had said that there are sufficient grounds to believe that funds earmarked for relief purposes are not spent properly. I, therefore, feel that criteria fixed by the Central Government in July 1986 for the relief works is far from reality. For example, the Central Government has provided Rs 4/- per person per day for running relief camps which includes temporary lodging also. Let the hon. Minister himself tell whether it is possible now-a-days to have two times meals with Rs 4/- I, therefore, request that criterion fixed for relief works should be changed. The allocation should be made keeping in view the soaring prices.

[Shri Shyam Lal Yadav]

So far as State Governments are concerned, many of them say that hundred per cent grants should be given whereas some of them are of the view that 75 per cent should be as grant and 25 per cent as loan. I request that you may provide grants keeping in view the requirements of the States.

One more important point to which the hon. Members have drawn attention and I would also like to emphasise, is that we should not differentiate between drought and flood relief. It is true that fury of floods has its own dimensions but if one has to choose between the floods and drought, then one can say that as compared to drought floods are more beneficial. Every one can imagine the magnitude of starvation, water scarcity and other difficulties caused due to drought. Therefore, the disparity in giving relief for the two should be done away with and decision should be taken according to the prevailing situation. The Eighth Finance Commission had made a recommendation to continue to follow this criterion. The Ninth Finance Commission which has now been set up will definitely reconsider this point and will see to it that this disparity is done away with.

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur): More assistance should be provided in case of drought.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I am also saying the same thing. With drought there is distress everywhere and it brings more destruction as compared to the floods. Therefore, this question should be reconsidered.

The other day there was a mention of margin money. The States have got Rs. 240.74 crores as margin money but both share it 50-50. This amount is meagre. I feel that more margin money should be made available. Then the States will be able to do much better. For the assistance provided by the Central Government, it is said that it

is in the shape of Advance Plan Assistance. Later on, you adjust that amount in the Annual Plan. This affects the State Governments. Because of the lesser funds their plan programmes are jeopardised. It is not proper. There is one more condition that not more than 5 per cent of the Annual Plan will be given as assistance to the States. Whatever assistance is given should be given keeping in view the flood and drought situation. It should not be linked with the Plan, nor should the Advance Assistance affect the Plan. I, therefore, request that you may think over it seriously and whatever funds are provided should be clearly for this purpose.

As I have said earlier, first the State Governments request and then study team visits the area and submits its report and then again the study team visits. A lot of time is wasted in this process. I am of the view that all these formalities of assessing the situation should be done away with and funds should be made available at the earliest.

It is a matter of happiness that this time study team visited our State quite early to assess the drought situation and evaluated the situation correctly and promptly. I am hopeful that this year the State Governments with the help of the Central Government will do a good job in regard to drought relief work. One party does not rule in all the States at present. Rather all the parties being represented here are having Governments in different States. When they condemn the Central Government it does not look good. After all they too have some responsibility. For the drought relief work in the States they on their own also can mobilise some resources. This responsibility falls on the State Governments as to how they utilise their resources. They should, instead of condemning others, set example for others and should show that they can arrange relief works in their States. This will be a good precedent. Instead of blaming the Central Government and shirking from their responsibility, they should do something concrete.

I will conclude by stating two or three things. Because of this drought prices are steeply increasing. I would request the Central Government that it should take some effective steps to check the prices. Foodgrains, edible oils and pulses have become costly. Edible Oils should be distributed properly so that their prices may come down. At present, mustard oil is being sold at Rs 30/- per kg. and pulses at Rs 11/- per kg. Prices of the vegetables too have skyrocketed. There is dire need to check this trend. The Government should pour in commodities in larger quantities in the market and these should be properly distributed through fair price shops. This is the responsibility of the State Governments. I hope they will pay full attention to it.

Similarly, there is a big crisis of potable water also. The Central and the State Governments should collectively find out the solution to this problem. I recollect that the Central Government had said that by the end of this decade, every village will have drinking water facility but we find that the progress of sinking tubewells under the drinking water schemes in the rural areas is very tardy. For example, the proposal of installing two tubewells in our area has been pending for the last two years. Correspondence between the State Government and the Central Government is going on. Had this proposal been implemented, drinking water problem of atleast 20 villages would have been solved. What is required most is to find out as to how this work can be accelerated. I also request that irrigation sources should be properly utilised.

Lastly, I would like to say one thing more. I request that the Central Government should immediately provide the funds or the foodgrains demanded by the U.P. Government for drought relief so that the State Government may meet the requirements of the people there and augment the sources of irrigation.

One thing more. Ample funds will be required for the proposed Ganga-Kaveri

Link Scheme but when there is no water in Ganga—water remains in Ganga only during floods and for the other months the Ganga remains without water—and if whatever water is there is supplied to the canals, then people in the Kaveri river area will say that millions of rupees have been spent on the project and as such we should be supplied with water.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: When there is excess water, you allow it at least at that time.

[Translation]

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: To what extent you will be able to control water? Water will ultimately flow down to the sea. Even now there is not much water in Farakka and we are holding discussion with Bangladesh. I am very sorry to say that today what remains of Ganga is only a drain with muddy water. In such a situation you cannot give shape to this project.

With these words, I appreciate the efforts of the Government. I am confident that it will work more vigorously in future.

[English]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN (Jabalpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, for the last five days, speaker after speaker from all corners of the country has been expressing anguish, anger and anxiety over the most catastrophic situation prevailing in the country today due to drought. While many parts of the country are affected by severe drought, it is also very unfortunate that in some other parts of the country, even floods have been devastating the country's rural economy. While conceding that there are heavy losses due to floods, I maintain that the anxiety and worry of the day is drought. In some of the States such as Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh drought has assumed menacingly large proportions resulting in heavy losses of men, material and crops. It goes to the credit of our Prime

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

Minister that the Government of India have immediately swung into action. They have constituted a Sub-Committee at the level of the Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister himself to make sure that the Government of India, the Agriculture Ministry and the other Ministries associated with the rural economy gear themselves up to fight the havocs of drought. A large number of speakers have dwelt on the statistical importance of losses. I would like to restrict myself in the first part of my speech on the largest State of the country as an example—the Madhya Pradesh as anywhere else also, monsoon has failed us totally. The kharif crop has been more or less come to noughts. Out of about 140 lakh hectares of kharif crop planned, at least 10 per cent has not even been sown. In those fields, where it has been sown, the crops are withheld and the farmers had to resow the crop, somewhere twice and somewhere three times. This is the state of monsoon. This is the state of the largest State of our country.

So far as the crop position is concerned, a farmer can sustain no loss because as it is, his inputs cost is increasing and even if he gets a normal crop, he does make a marginal profit. Unless the crop is a bumper one, it is very difficult for a farmer to pay back his loans and leave aside the loans, even the interest on loans. You can very well imagine the havoc created in the homes and lands of the farmers when there is a drought. The worry of the agriculturists today is not only the kharif crop but what will happen to their rabi crop. Because once the water table comes down, all the private and Government sources of irrigation dry up, whether it is a dugwell, shallow tubewell, tubewell or other perennial sources of irrigation like major works. And the state of major works with slow rate at which progress is being made all over the country has been very truly described by all my predecessor speakers.

So far as drinking water is concerned, it

is a matter of great shame that in the last forty years, we have not been able to provide the same. I do not mean to say that efforts have not been made. The efforts have been made but probably there has been some impediments between the intention and the realisation of providing drinking water to every village in the country. That may be because of lack of proper equipment or I consider the second reason as more valid, i.e. complete indifference by people, bureaucrats in particular, who head and man various machineries, whether it is at the Central level or whether it is at the various State Government levels. Be it the Secretary; be it the Deputy Director of Agriculture; be it the junior most Engineer of the Public Health Department or whosoever he may be. The association with the pains of the people in the villages for drinking water has not been in the hearts of these people who are implementing various schemes of drinking water. We all realise that the Government of India has less money. We all realise that you are giving as much money as possible. We also realise that if a State asks for Rs. 260 crores or Rs. 246 crores, you will not be able to give more than Rs. 14 crores or Rs. 16 crores. We know that; but whether these Rs. 16 crores are also being spent priority-wise in the correct manner who will see this? It is not for the farmer. It is basically the job of the Government.

Now I come to fodder. There are some States; and some of our own people—I am not blaming any politician—have played havoc with our forests, with our grazing lands, so much so that today there are some States which have to send thousands and lakhs of their goats, sheep, cattle and camels to other States, and devastate these crops, particularly the kharif crop of adjoining States. Not that they do it out of intent; they do it out of inevitable factors. (*Interruptions*) In centuries gone by, it did not affect us, because we had enough. Today, we have not got enough; because we have not got enough, we feel the pinch. Otherwise, we are as hospitable as anybody else. Your cattle are

most welcome. But a stage has come today when, in my own area of Jabalpur and the west of Jabalpur, there is a typical system whereby crops are being damaged because of lack of grazing land in the adjoining States. So, Government will have to ensure that grazing grounds are also given priority, when they think of cattle and when they think of fodder.

So far as Central assistance is concerned, I will not waste my time in emphasizing it upon the Agriculture Minister, because all my friends have said that. I fully associate myself with all the feelings that have been expressed by my honourable and some of the most learned and elder friends. I only want to get... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolsapur): Why don't you demand repatriation of money from foreign countries?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: The trouble with you, Mr. Somnath Chatterjee, is that you mix up things: when we are talking of drought you are thinking of foreign countries. When we speak about foreign countries, you are thinking of drought. That is the whole trouble.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: You are bemoaning the financial inability of Central Government to help you. Therefore, I am saying that money is available. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: You are very much far away from the scene; so you do not know what is happening in the villages (*Interruptions*) I want to suggest some long term measures which Government should take up seriously. So far as the present situation is concerned, Government knows as much as anyone in this House knows that the situation is grim. I am confident, and I think all my friends sitting in this House are confident, that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, this adverse situation created by nature will be fought by us. We have full confidence in him. But what about the long term measures, because what happens is that

we seem to be living from crisis to crisis. We have been managing the situation one year after the other. I think that to fight droughts,—some of the hon. Members have said that the rains will probably be scantier and scantier year after year—water resources whether above the ground or under it have to be studied, and the sources will have to be created.

We are spending crores and crores of rupees on big irrigation projects. They have virtually become sources of corruption. I do not mind if they were sources of corruption 20%, and sources of irrigational water 80%; but they have become the other way about. We should go in for small *nullah* closures, small deep tube wells, shallow tube wells, and for as many as possible small irrigational projects which could take on even 50 to 100 acres of land, and give 2 to 3 waterings to each crop.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): What about linking Ganga and Kaveri?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Now I come to subsidies.. (*Interruptions*) Some of the States have given a total exemption from all loans to the tune of about more than Rs. 270 crores.

I do not know whether they have got the Finance Minister or not. God helps that State. But I personally feel that genuine small farmers in the country must be identified first and then exemption must be given to them. The hon. Minister has as much experience in agriculture as is my age. He knows that there are 50 per cent bogus marginal farmers who have become marginal farmers in the name of their wives, children, dogs, cattle, servants, to get benefits of various subsidies. Now those people must be identified so that genuine small farmers get the benefit of subsidy and exemption of loan and interest; whatever it is. (*Interruptions*)

About dry land cultivation, I am sorry to point out that our research on dry land cultivation is very slow. If we know that our cultivation in year to come will have to be

[Shri Ajay Mushran]

more and more on dry land, more and more paucity of water, we must quicken, whether it is generating seeds for dry land or whether it is bringing up a crop to grow in about 60 days and not 90 days. This research is going on very slow and this is going on in places which are far away from agriculturists places. I personally suggest that this research must be given an impetus.

If we do not speak about environment, we will be doing the greatest disservice to the farmer. It has been said many times in this House and even in the films which we have seen in the Central Hall and all over the country by the Environmentists that because of denudation of forests this situation has come.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No, forests have gone. What do you know about them? Tomorrow, you cannot bring forests immediately. That is a long term order.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: I personally feel that forests must be declared protected areas; if necessary, the improvement on forests should also begin side by side with the State Governments and by the Central Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. That is a long term measure. There are so many things involved. What about the immediate solution? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: In the end, I want to say that when we became free, we were 350 million people. Today we are 770 million people and we are facing drought. How big this drought will be when we will be about 2000 millions. Now a stage has come when with fighting drought the importance of family planning must be also taught to the people in the villages. In the last but one years budget there was a single sentence on family planning in the whole budget speech of the then Finance Minister. Last year, there were about four sentences.

AN HON. MEMBER: Who was there?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: Don't worry? You are always worried about the personality. I am thinking of ideas; you are thinking of people. In the last year's budget, there was no mention about family planning. You will have to give a very serious thought to it because you may have another 200 million mouths by the turn of the century. So, I personally feel that this time people should be told about it; people have been told about it. But unless you associate it with hunger, privation and anxiety of a farmer, you will not be able to persuade them. You have to motivate them. Today a person is motivated better to have a small family than he is interested to have a bumper crop.

13.00 hrs.

I only want to appeal to the Government of India through you and to the hon. Minister of Agriculture that whatever money they give today, they are not giving to fight drought; they are giving to associate themselves with that section of society; which is 80 per cent of this country and that society about which you always speak, you always lay stress on every economic matter in the country.

India is an agricultural country and you do not do anything about it. You have got to give them money and make sure that you are an army of workers, you do not call them bureaucrats, you should have an army of workers who will be paid by the Government to do the job. They must do the job in the fields. If necessary the Agriculture Ministry and the departments in the various States should be seen more in the villages rather than in the Secretariat or the Ministry. I am very sure that in his reply the Hon. Minister will announce more assistance to the States so that they can fight the drought. For example in Madhya Pradesh, nearly one crore of rupees is the amount being spent every day for relief measures. Four hundred towns are affected, 1,000 villages are affected and the Government of

Madhya Pradesh is spending one crore of rupees on relief measures to fight the drought. If a State Government is spending so much, and if you give a total of Rs. 16 crores, you yourself will feel bad. You give the money, you have the monitoring cells and associate all the Members of Parliament in whose constituency drought is having a havoc will go out of their way to make sure that each and every penny you give is spent for the help of farmers who are affected by the drought.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I want to make a request to our Agriculture Minister and Water Resources Minister, that both of them should discuss and see how we can get rains through the satellites. We know about the forests. But now wonderful systems are there. You can make use of the modern techniques to get some rain. That is the only thing which you can immediately do. About forests we know. You cannot do it now. It will take time. That is why I am suggesting this.

13.03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.*

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after
Lunch at seven minutes past Fourteen of
the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

DISCUSSION RE: DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—*Contd.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI D.P. YADAV (Monghyr): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have not remained Member of Parliament for a short duration since 1970 till now. During these 16 to 17 years I think there has not been such a long discussion on the drought or floods. This shows as to how much this House is concerned about the drought and also as to what should we do.

[*English*]

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS (Tezpur): Still you do not get publicity in the national press. That is the tragedy.

[*Translation*]

SHRI D.P. YADAV: I am happy that you have allocated so much time that every Member without his party affiliation can narrate his experience and can also give suggestions on the problem and also as to what the Central Government can do on the basis of those suggestions.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not think I will be able to give some different suggestion than what all the Members have given. I would only suggest that a list of all the suggestions given right from Shri Indrajit Gupta to the last participant in the discussion should be prepared. The Government should make its position clear as to what it cannot do but whatever is within its power to do it should do. The list thus prepared may be circulated for the benefit of the Members. The list should also contain the information about the suggestions accepted or not accepted by the Government and the action taken by the Government on the suggestions accepted by it. After two or three months the results of the action should be evaluated and circulated to the MPs in the form of a booklet. I will consider it a great service not only to the House but to the country as well. It will prove to be a check on the officers also because they will keep in mind the assurances given by the Minister and act accordingly.

Whenever the question of funds comes, the Government feels embarrassed. I have also some experience of this sort. I have seen that money is not the only thing which is required to run the country. If the administration is streamlined, particularly if the hon. Minister decides that whatever commitment is made is to be fulfilled then there will be no difficulty for him to fulfil it. It is

[Shri D.P. Yadav]

not a question of funds; nor it is a question of means; it is a question of implementation. If the implementation is not good, it will be of no use even if you give crores of rupees. It is like a blotting paper which will go on soaking all the funds that are given to it. Whatever amount is given, it will be absorbed by it. We must take steps to safeguard against it.

To-day 70 per cent of the country's level surface has been affected by drought. Whether it is the Government of Shri Rajiv Gandhi or somebody else, it is not possible for him to supply water and make all other facilities available to 70 per cent areas through some mechanical method or any other method. It is not at all possible. For this, Mass Awareness Programme and Conservation of Resources Awareness Programme should be launched. In the case of water resources or energy resources, a mass awareness programme must be launched. It may not so happen that the Central Government may go on allocating funds to a State and the people of the State may not be ready and the funds might be squandered. This will strengthen both the parties.

We should have the knowledge of our duties towards the nation and the resources may be utilised properly. My third suggestion will be that we should hold weekly meetings of all Central Government Departments, inter-disciplinary teams and missions. With the help of computers, we should fix the duties and functions of various Departments and ascertain from them their suggestions and action programmes launched by them. Every Department should hold its inter disciplinary meetings and each Department should have representation on it. You need not assign duties to different Departments. On the contrary, the views of different Departments should be sought about the duties to be assigned to them. Thereafter the Minister should try to co-ordinate them. All the on-going schemes should be completed on war footing. It should not be so that money is invested on them like fire fighting.

There are a number of schemes which should be completed by massive deployment. Hon. Member, Shri Satyendra Narayan Sinha is not here, but while repeating his views, I would like to say that to-day there is imperative need for augmentation of water resources. It is because our earth has become billion years-old and during this period due to the pressure of run-off on the rivers, rivers have become shallow and their mouths have narrowed. This was not the situation hundred years or one to two thousand years ago.

In earlier times, there were some ditches at some places. Water used to accumulate in those ditches. This water used to change into ground water through percolation method. But now the situation is different. Now siltation has taken place in rivers and rivulets. In my opinion, the funds that are spent on manual labour under R.L.E.G.P. or N.R.E.P. should be utilised for digging by mechanical methods also and those rivers etc. should be deepened by applying dredgers and scrappers. The ponds etc. when deepened will have more capacity for storage of water. The funds provided for R.L.E.G.P. should not be linked with mandays. It is all rubbish. It has nothing to do with mandays. We should mean business. We should develop resources and create the assets. Once assets are created our infrastructure will build up and we will be able to provide employment directly. This is what I would like to suggest. Hon. Minister should seek the opinion of the Department of Irrigation, Ministry of Water Resources about the use of small ponds as water reservoirs. In fact water conservation is your main task and Water Conservation Technology is available with you. It depends on you as to how much use you can make of it. As a matter of fact, you have got the Central Ground Water Board. There are State Ground Water Boards also. The I.I.Ts and the Central Regional Research Laboratories are also there. There is no dearth of technology. But there is lack of initiative to put it into practice. At the same time you are not able to pursue it and leave the country to chance. This would not serve the purpose.

The nation may have to pay dearly for a small lapse on the part of the Minister. Alertness on the part of the Minister can prove a boon for the development of the nation. We should do our work with all promptness and sincerity however small it may be.

There has been a discussion here on fodder tanks. Here one thing should be taken note of. In the case of automatic cutting of crops, all the straw goes waste. If somebody suggests that big grazing grounds should be developed for the cattle in India, it will not be possible to do so in view of the conditions prevailing here. In this country per capita availability of land is only 0.5 acre as such it is not possible to develop large grazing grounds. At least in Bihar, Uttar Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh etc. it is a remote possibility. Therefore, whatever land is available, fodder should be grown on it and the fodder available in the form of straw, cakes prepared by molasses or urea should be stored by adopting scientific storage technology. There is no dearth of food godowns in the country. Cattle feed godowns should also be constructed along the roads and railway lines so that they could be utilised in the case of an emergency. This task should be entrusted to nationalised banks also. The practice of allotting funds to the State Government and asking them to construct godowns is not healthy. This should not happen. We should ask all the nationalised banks to have fodder godowns or fodder banks and general godowns in their respective areas and they should operate those godowns in their locational areas, only then the purpose would be served. Money should not only be kept in Banks, but should also be used for operating food-grain banks. It should also be considered as the capital of the bank. This is my submission to you.

Many Members have spoken about forests. The more we talk of giving protection to the forests here, the more these are being destroyed by the unscrupulous persons. Though there is a law for their protection, yet it is not effective. Therefore, the

moot point is how to check those employees who are indulging in destroying the forests. In the end, I would like to give one suggestion. Many hon. Members have demanded that Rigs should be supplied to their areas and this or that should be done. All those rigs which are at present lying in Bihar, Bengal and Assam should be sent to border areas, needy areas and critical areas after making them mechanically fit and up-to-date and if need be, assessment should be made by Central Ground Water Board to ascertain the requirement of rigs. My third suggestion is regarding canal lining, sprinkler irrigation, augmentation of tube-well system and drip irrigation. All these methods of irrigation should be utilised for agricultural work and fodder development programme should be undertaken along the banks of Rajasthan-Canal. The technology for fodder development should be made use of.

With these suggestions, I express my thanks to you.

SHRI BAPULAL MALVIYA (Shajapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have been asking for time to speak for the last three days, but I have not been given any time so far. It has pained me. It appears that people are given time by seeing their faces. It is not proper. All Members are equal here. No Member is senior or junior here. We are sitting here for the last three days and you are not paying any attention to me.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am giving a chance to you. I will call you.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK (Cuttack): I thank you, Sir. At last I am given a chance to speak on this subject and I am stressing the words 'at last' because I do not know whether you can understand the feelings of the people of my State. I request you not to ring the bell soon.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have to ring

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

the bell at 2.30, whether I am kind or not. I know what you want to state.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): Sir, Agriculture Ministry is not taking cognisance of the points made here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is going to intervene.

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Sir, the country is passing through the unprecedented and worst drought in the last one hundred years. Sir, I am to state here that my State was not mentioned either in this House or in the Rajya Sabha as a drought-hit State. It was not mentioned by the hon. Minister. I would like to state that in my State the rainfall in April-July is normally about 670 m.m. This year it was about 359 m.m. The deficit is still wider, if one considers the crucial period, that is, between June-July when the rainfall was very poor. In June, 87 mm. against 213 m.m. and upto the end of the third week of July, only 99 m.m. against the rainfall of 351 m.m. Sir, the scarcity and scanty rainfall affected the crops not only in five or six districts, but all the districts of Orissa and day by day, the area is being added to the list of districts under severe drought.

I would like to state that paddy crops are worst affected. Upto 3rd week of July, the paddy coverage was 60% of the targeted 40 lakh hectares, the non-paddy crop coverage was 36%, of 21 lakh hectares. Sir, above all this, long dry-spell has affected the vast stretch of land. Sir, every year Orissa is exposed to the vagaries of monsoon. It is exposed to one or two or even all the natural calamities. That is why with the irrigation coverage percentage of 17 only, the State is facing all kinds of calamities every year and it has the highest poverty line. You can well imagine how it can be disastrous to the economy of the State. The drought was much feared because it effects the crops and people slowly and

silently and makes the population suffer until the next harvest. The drought condition differs qualitatively from other natural calamities. So, Sir, anti-drought measures both long term and short-term, should be taken. We are glad that our hon. Prime Minister has set up a Cabinet Committee to continuously monitor the drought situation and lay down guidelines and measures to be taken immediately. Besides, the on-going projects should also be continued and completed as per the target. Vast irrigation potential which is already created should be utilised fully. Sir, for the Rangoli Dam, the reservoir has already been completed. But the right and left sides of Rangoli dam have not been taken up for construction and because of not taking up this work, a number of Blocks and many sub-divisions could not be irrigated. Moreover, there is a huge loss of fertility of the soil. There is a loss of top-soil and water which are taken away during floods. So, to minimise this loss, we have to carry out as extensive as possible, works like contour trenching, contour bunding, so that the work should be taken up, as well as the labour intensive work should be taken up. In Orissa, it has been proposed to take up water-harvesting scheme to fight adequately the calamity of drought as well as to provide labour intensive work. It has also come in the paper. Why I am saying this is, the concerned Minister has not taken it up so seriously yet it has come in the paper:

"Orissa has taken up drought relief in a serious manner and has taken up labour intensive water harvesting schemes, the most relevant and useful programme in fighting the calamity of failure of rains."

The contingency plan for every State has been drawn up. Supply of mini-kits of seeds should be made. Alternate seeds should be supplied in adequate quantities. 100% subsidy for the fertilizer should be given because now the farmers are in poor economic condition and if the subsidy is not provided, they will not be able to

purchase fertilizers on their own, Scientists have suggested that additional dose of fertilizers should be given for the areas where the water is assured. So also is pesticide. Pesticides should also be distributed to the farmers. Besides this, public distribution should be strengthened. Food grains should be supplied at subsidised rate. More food grains should be supplied to the States both for public distribution system and open market, that is, 'heat' marketing the States have enough stock of food grains. Otherwise the price will go up and in order to control the price, both the things that is for public distribution and 'heat' marketing have to be looked into. There should be depots for fodder supply to cattle-heads. There should be a scheme for providing adequate drinking water and for that adequate number of rigs should be supplied. As mentioned by other members, States like Gujarat and other States also suffer from the scarcity of water, drinking water. We have to see that scientific approach is evolved to solve and tackle the growing demand of ground water. Proper management of water balance like sea water for non-drinking use and ground water for drinking purposes, basin studies etc., has to be taken up. This should be taken up during the drought season scientifically. Scientists say that 10% of water is meant for drinking and 90% is spared for regional development. Scientists say that there should be a legislation for the drawal of water and control over such drawals. This should also be looked into. There should be emergency feeding also. There are many people who cannot work like old people and children in the age group of 0-6 years. They require emergency feeding. This year expansions of ICDS project to various blocks has been stopped. I request that this scheme should be extended to other blocks also.

In the present situation, it seems that the Plan outlay will have to be cut down and the momentum in the economy has gathered will be lost. The Governments of backward States, especially Orissa, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are under pressure. If they are not given sufficient

Central assistance to tide over the situation, the economy will be shattered and development will not be affected. The VIII Finance Commission has laid down that the drought relief is to be treated as loan or advance Plan assistance. I submit that this should be treated as grant. The Centre should depart from the normal procedure of fixing a ceiling of expenditure for drought relief. The margin money should be increased. Because of the limited resources, there is, no doubt, in this present situation, every State will have to divert the development fund. This has to be taken up seriously. Backward States will suffer most and the regional imbalance will not be removed. All these things should be taken into account.

After looking at weather behavioural pattern, we feel scientists should bring out the results of their study. I read in the newspapers about this. There must be an expert study of the peculiar behaviour and the change of the weather and monsoon. First of all, it was said that there is a thick layer of snow in Himalayas and it did not help pressure in the Bay of Bengal.

Secondly, the Antarctica region affects Indian monsoon and there is a climatic change this year and yet no scientific relationship has been established.

Pacific Ocean affects Indian monsoon and this year there is high temperature. By now we should have monsoon but half of the monsoon season is already gone. Scientists say now the temperature of this Pacific Ocean is lowering down. I do not know whether we can be hopeful of the monsoon or not.

An expert study should be made of these things. Agriculture should be given more prominence in the Seventh Plan.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Yogendra-Makwana is intervening. It is not a final reply. It is only intervention. You can continue the discussion on Monday.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): We also start speaking.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak. I am allowing on Monday.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: I am not going to yield now. There is no question of yielding.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: On Monday, you can speak. How can I allow all Members at a time? I am not denying anyone. I am giving a chance to all of you. Let the intervention be over. If time permits, one or two persons can speak. Otherwise, they can speak on Monday. I never said that the discussion is over. Please take your seats. Listen to Parliamentary Affairs Minister.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We will be covering all points. All are interested.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Final reply is Minister's. He will take your points.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G. S. DHILLON): I will not reply unless you speak.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHIELA DIKSHIT): Please listen for one minute. Many Members still want to speak and we are fully aware that there are difficulties in all the areas. This debate has been going on for the last four days and as I said yesterday also, sooner or later every Member will get an opportunity to speak. We would extend time for this purpose, but at this moment, Makwana Saheb is only intervening and hon. Minister, Shri Dhillon, would give the final reply. This debate will go on till Monday. First you people would speak and thereafter the hon. Minister would give his reply. *(Interruptions)*

I understand the difficulty of Shri Mal-

viyaji, but like you other Members are also sitting in this House. As I have already said sooner or later all of you will get an opportunity to speak. This is a must. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We are prepared to speak later, but the question is that some hon. Members have got difficulties in their areas and States, for which the Members would want a point-wise reply. The difficulty is that if the hon. Minister of State intervenes, he would cover the points of only few Members and the senior Minister would speak about policy matters and our points would remain uncovered.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No. It is not a policy. Makwanaji, you please carry on.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH (Chatra): On first day only three members could participate in the discussion and it took two hours. On that day more Members should have been covered.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What do you want? Do you want to speak? I will allow you. Please wait. How can I call all the Members at the same time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI YOGESHWAR PRASAD YOGESH: We are trying to speak for the last five days...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Everyone is trying to speak. Not only you. Every

Member is trying to speak. What can I do? Please tell me. Makwanaji, please carry on.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Listen. Don't waste the time. You are wasting the time. We are going to take up the Private Members' Business at 3 O'Clock. Therefore, the Minister is going to make some point now. I will allow you on Monday.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can speak on Monday. Within the two days, nothing is going to happen.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We would like to be assured that our points will also be covered in his reply.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why I am giving you time on Monday.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: We are certain that the Minister will cover only policy matters...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not like that. The Minister will reply i.e. Dr. Dhillon will definitely reply to your points also.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I cannot understand why there is so much agitation.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: Sir, I am on a Point of Order.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The Minister is on a Point of Order. Please take your seat.

DR. G. S. DHILLON: Sir, yesterday, we wanted to make some announcement about some *ad hoc* grants. I wanted just to get up to inform the House and not to make any Statement. Certain points were raised

and I could not speak. It has been stated that I could say anything at the time of my reply. I accepted it. Further, if we make a statement in the Press, outside, then a question will arise: "when this House is sitting and the Motion is going on why did you make a Statement outside the House? That is why I tried to inform. Now, we are withholding that. The States could have been informed. Even, yesterday, they have lost the time. So, I found a way out that Mr. Makwana should make that Statement in his intervention. Otherwise, there is nothing behind the scene.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am really thankful to you for allowing me to intervene in this historic debate which is going on since the last five days. I say historic because even in a debate that is in our Demands for grants, we hardly get not more than two days. But in this Motion which has been moved under Rule 193, this discussion is going on for the last more than 5 days... *(Interruptions)* I am agreeable with the hon. Members that the situation is very bad this year. The onset of the monsoon was delayed by two days in Kerala; 21 days in Eastern States; 28 days in the West U.P., Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat. Monsoon has been weak and its advance has been slow, erratic and truant. Out of the 407 districts, the reported rainfall has been normal in 145 districts, deficit in 110 districts and scanty or no rain in 152 districts. This gives the gravity of the situation as to how the monsoon, this year, is very bad. It is because of this reason that you, in your own wisdom, have allowed this House to discuss this problem at length and for the last 5 days, this is continuing and the hon. Minister of State of Parliamentary Affairs has said that on Monday also she will allow the debate to continue. One hon. Member, I think, Smt. Jayanti Patnaik, while speaking, tried to give different reasons as to why the monsoon is so weak and so bad this year. She said about the atmosphere in the Pacific Ocean. I

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think, particularly, she was referring to the phenomenon—El-nino—which is created due to the warm water current off the Peru Coast in the Pacific Ocean. That is one of the reasons which she referred to. There are other reports also from the United States Agency for International Development and from some leading meteorologists and they have also said that the monsoon in this part of the world is becoming weak every year. In one analysis it is said that from 1850 the monsoon had remained constant for 40 years in this part of the world whereas it had increased in the European countries, and from 1890 it has decreased by ten per cent in this part of the world. So, there is a decreasing trend, and the monsoon is so weak this year that out of the 35 meteorological sub-divisions only nine have had good rains this time and the rest of the meteorological sub-divisions have had either deficient rains or no rains at all. This position can be compared with the year 1966 when ten meteorological sub-divisions had normal rains out of the 35 whereas 25 had less or no rains at all. This time 26 meteorological sub-divisions have had no rains or less rains. In spite of this, there is an edge over the situation this time because in 1965-66 only 30.90 million hectares were under irrigation as against 64 million hectares this time. Also the food situation was not good during those days whereas this time we have 23 million tonnes of foodgrains available with us. This is the change when we compare the situation in 1965-66 and the situation this year. It is because of this that certain problems arise. Which are those problems? If we classify....

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE
(Rajapur): Drought

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA:
Drought is the problem, of course. But it has other problems also. Drought' is one word consolidating all the problems. We have the problem of drinking water, the problem of employment generation, par-

ticularly for the vulnerable sections of the society, the problem of conservation of energy and irrigation system, both canal and tubewells, the problem of fodder and animal welfare, the problem of provision of food for the vulnerable sections of the society, the problem of preserving the crops which have already been sown by our farmers. How to meet this situation? Because, the monsoon is very weak, as I said. Also water in our reservoirs is not sufficient. I have got here with me the Report of the Ministry of Water Resources. They say that a quick analysis of the available data of 1987 indicates that the overall position with regard to storage in 47 important reservoirs monitored in the Central Water Commission is about 70 per cent of what it was at this time last year. Particularly hard-hit are the reservoirs of Ram Ganga-25 per cent of the level of last year; Pong Dam-45 per cent of the level of last year; Tungabhadra-52 per cent; Hirakud-55 per cent; Koyna-58 per cent; and Rihand-66 per cent. This is the situation so far as very important 47 reservoirs are concerned. That is why, the situation, as everybody has said, is bad. And what are the crops which are affected? 58 per cent of the total foodgrains comes from the kharif season, that is, the south-west monsoon. And 55% of the total oilseeds come from the Kharif season. Now this is hard hit. The cereals which are worst affected are rice, coarse grains, pulses, groundnut, soya-bean and sesame. In terms of percentage if we see, then it is varying from 32% to 66%. So, the crop, that is particularly the Kharif crop, is not in a good position. If I can say about the particular individual crops, then rice is a major crop of Kharif season. In major rice growing States the position is satisfactory or average except in the States of U.P., Assam and Tamil Nadu. In Haryana also the position is reported to be satisfactory. But irrigation facilities are available for supporting the crop. This is the position so far as paddy is concerned.

So far as coarse grain is concerned, the position of jowar, maize, ragi and other millets is satisfactory or average in most of

the major growing States. However, Bajara crop is likely to suffer the most as no State has reported the condition of the crop as satisfactory.

So far as pulses are concerned, the position is satisfactory in Eastern and North-Eastern States.

Out of major pulses growing States, the position is unsatisfactory in U.P. Rajasthan and Karnataka. In other States it is reported average.

So far as Soyabean is concerned, the major groundnut growing area is my State particularly the Saurashtra area of Gujarat and it is hard hit also. In this area only 20% of sowing has been done because the farmers want to preserve their seeds and therefore, only 25% of the land is sown under this crop. Therefore, the prospect of Kharif groundnut is very bleak. And the condition of the crop is also very unsatisfactory in U.P., Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It is reported to be average in Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka and Rajasthan.

So far as Soyabean is concerned, it requires very low rains at least six or seven inches. This crop is also affected because of the severe scarcity of rain.

Regarding Sesame the condition is reported to be satisfactory in 4 States, average in 3 States and unsatisfactory in 6 States. This is the position of the major Kharif crops.

Sir, therefore, number of measures have to be taken by the Government and the Government of India has taken number of steps. In the later part of my speech, I will give the account as to how we started in April 1987 and how we are proceeding further.

Sir, I have with me some figures which I want to share with the Hon. Members for this recent drought, particularly for drinking water, Rajasthan is given Rs. 21 crores out of which Rs. 13 crores for rural areas

and Rs. 8 crores for urban areas. Gujarat is given Rs. 11 crores—Rs. 8 crores for rural areas and Rs. 3 crores for urban areas.

AN HON. MEMBER: Is this an *ad hoc* relief?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Yes, this is *ad hoc*. Madhya Pradesh is given Rs 6 crores—Rs 4 crores for rural areas and 2 crores for urban areas. Haryana is given Rs 3 crores, Rs 2 crores for rural areas and 1 crore for urban areas. Punjab is given Rs 2 crores—Rs 1.5 crores for rural and 0.5 crores for urban areas. Maharashtra Rs 2 crores—Rs 2 crores for rural areas and nil for urban areas. Orissa Rs. 1.40 crores for rural areas. Tamil Nadu is given Rs 4 crores—Rs. 1.50 for rural areas and Rs. 2.50 for urban areas. In all Rs. 55.40 crores are already given to the States. (*Interruptions*)

These are the amounts which have been given to the States which have sent the preliminary reports. We are assessing the situation with the different State Governments. This is an *ad hoc* amount given to the various States but then we are in the process of receiving the memoranda and reports. The hon. Prime Minister has given a direction that our officers should go to all the States wherever the rainfall is less and assess the situation whether the memorandum is received or not. When we will receive the memoranda, a regular team will go but even then the preliminary assessment has to be done and, therefore, the officers are directed to visit the States, prepare the report and submit to us so that it can help us as to how we can make mid-term corrections to the contingency plan which we have prepared for the State Governments. (*Interruptions*)

Members may quote any figure from their State Government that this is the request made by them but I know the figures on the basis of the request made by the State Governments to me officially.

Sir, yesterday and during the last five days a number of Members have raised a

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point about the Famine Code and they said that the Famine Code should be amended. It is hundred years old and it is out-of-date. They also mentioned that today we are governed by the Famine Code. That is not correct. There is some mis-understanding and lack of information with the hon. Members. I want to give the details about the Famine Code. It will take some time and, I hope, you will bear with me. *(Interruptions)*

Sir, if this running commentary is allowed to go on then it becomes very difficult for me. My senior colleague will be replying to the debate on Monday and you can seek any number of clarifications. He will be able to reply to all of your queries.

Sir, I was talking about the Famine Code. The first Famine Code was prepared on the lines of a draft by the Government of India in 1883. This was based on suggestions made by the Famine Commission in 1878 but before final publication the draft was amended in the light of experience gained during the famines of 1896 and 1900.

The revised draft was eventually approved by Government of India and published in 1905. The word used in the body of the code for the conditions prevailed was 'distress'. Later on, in the year 1913, the word used was 'famine'. In 1918, this was substituted with word 'scarcity'. The Famine Code was revised and issued as Scarcity Manual in 1932. This was reprinted in 1938 with amendments issued up to the end of 1936. After the reorganisation of States in 1956, it was again revised. In this edition, an attempt has been made to utilise the experience gained in the scarcity of 1956-57 in order to revise the entire strategy of dealing with scarcity so as to bring it into conformity with the circumstances of an independent country, a socialistic pattern of society of ideals of a welfare state.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Mr. Minister, the definition of starvation is not changed now!

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, even now the Famine Code is followed. There are a number of changes made during the course of so many years. If you permit, I can give the history of the famine in this country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not necessary.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: But as you have given less time, I don't go into it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Not necessary.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Sir, finally in 1980, we circulated a draft manual for famine, that is, for scarcity. That was ultimately implemented by all State Governments. Even then, we have now appointed a committee under the chairmanship of a Joint Secretary and Additional Relief Commissioner—Department of Agriculture and Cooperation. This committee will again review everything. They will produce a model manual which will again be circulated to the State Governments for adoption and they can have their new manuals.

Now, Sir, in an hour of crisis, particularly when natural calamity occurs in a particular State, how to deal with it? A number of Hon'ble Members said that the State Governments have nothing. That is not correct. There is a system of margin money. Earlier also, when some hon'ble Member was speaking, I said that during the Seventh Finance Commission period, the margin money was Rs. 100.55 crores. It has been increased to Rs. 240.75 crores. Now this amount of Rs. 240.75 crores is at the disposal of various State Governments. They can utilise it whenever there is a scarcity. If this is utilised, then there is a system of 'ways and means advance'. They can request the Government of India for ways and means advance and we can extend it to the State Governments. If they require more, then they have to come forward to the Government of India for more money as a ways and means advance. Meanwhile, they can prepare their memorandum and submit it to the

Government of India. It will be considered and the Government of India can give relief to the State Governments.

Sir, if I give the figures, during the Sixth Plan period, we have provided only for drought Rs. 1,373.36 crores to different States. As against this, during two years and four months of the Seventh Plan period we have already given Rs. 1,303.58 crores. It is just equal to the amount given for drought during the entire Sixth Plan period. So, the amount of relief is increasing every year because of the bad years year after year.

We have to take a number of steps. Now, there are long-term and short-term measures which Government of India can take. So far as the long-term measures are concerned, the main is irrigation. If irrigation is provided, then we can mitigate the difficulties of our farmers. We can reduce the intensity of the drought. Therefore, from the First Plan, the highest priority is accorded for the creation of irrigation potential. In the First Plan, Rs. 446 crores were provided. As against this in the 7th Plan Rs. 17861 crores are provided, forty times more than the First Plan. This is the priority the Government of India is giving to the irrigation. Therefore, from zero we are today having nearly 67.5 million hectares under irrigation. This is the potential we have created which comes to nearly forty-five per cent of the land under agriculture, that is 142 million hectares. This is sixty-four million hectares. This is the priority which is given to the irrigation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may please continue on Monday.

15.00 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS'
BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

[English]

Thirty Ninth Report

SHRIMATI PATEL RAMABEN RAMJIB-
HAI MAVANI (Rajkot): I beg to move:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 12th August, 1987."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House do agree with the Thirty-ninth Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 12th August, 1987."

The motion was adopted.

15.01 hrs.

CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL*

(Amendment of Article 74, etc.)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India".

The motion was adopted.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I introduce the Bill.

DOCTORS AND ENGINEERS (BANNING
OF MIGRATION TO FOREIGN
COUNTRIES) BILL

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bel-
lary): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for banning of migration of doctors and engineers to foreign countries.