

(iv) Steps to meet water scarcity in Khandwa (Madhya Pradesh)

SHRI KALICHARAN SAKARGAYEN (Khandwa): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the level of underground water in District Khandwa of Madhya Pradesh is steadily going down for the last five years. There has been scanty rain for the last few years in this district. In a few parts of this district, drought condition has been prevailing for the last three years or more. The rivulets which unusually had the water flow even in March become dry in the month of December. The water level in the wells, which were the main source for small irrigation and drinking water, has gone down and in most of the wells water has dried up completely. In most of the tubewells which were installed by the Government for supply of drinking water, enough water is not available in them and as a result, there is a serious crisis of drinking water for human beings as well as cattle. If ground water level is not raised to the earlier level, a serious famine condition may develop in this district.

Therefore, I request to the Central Government to start work immediately on warfooting through technological mission and other modern devices to solve this problem of water crisis and implement only such schemes with which level of underground water could be raised.

(v) Provision of water connections to residents of Mangolpuri, Sultanpuri, Nagloi and other J.J. Colonies of Delhi at a minimum fee.

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (Outer Delhi): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the Government had allotted plots of 25 sq. yards to the poor workers in 1975 and thereafter they were also provided with water and electricity at certain places. There are certain localities in Delhi such as Mangolpuri, Sultanpuri, Nagloi and Jwalapuri where sewer line has not been laid so far which is leading to unhygienic conditions and mosquito breeding places which may cause Malaria in an epidemic form. The D.D.A. has now put a condition for the residents of these localities that they would be provided with water connection only after their furnishing a no objection certificate from the Slum Department

(D.D.A.). Earlier there was no such condition, for getting a water connection. Already 50 per cent of residents have been provided water connection on a payment of Rs.4.50 only without producing no objection certificate. So, I request the Government that it should direct the D.D.A. not to compel the people seeking water connection to furnish no objection certificate and to provide them water connection at the minimum fee of Rs. 450/-. So that these poor people may get clean drinking water.

(vi) Short and long term measures to check floods in Bihar.

[English]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Kishanganj): Bihar faced unprecedented floods in 1987—unprecedented in intensity and in extent of damage to life and property. But the damage was underassessed and the administrative response and the relief and rehabilitation programmes have been inadequate; limited resources were provided and limited areas covered. Free ration was limited to one week and that too did not reach the distant villages at all or reached them very late. No grant for repair or reconstruction of houses has yet been provided. *Ex gratia* payment in respect of loss of life is yet to be paid in many cases. The infrastructure particularly roads and highways, culverts and bridges are yet to be rebuilt. Agriculture credit, distributed through primary cooperatives with great fanfare has been thoroughly mismanaged. Due to selection of beneficiaries through a centralised computer installed in Patna, the State capital, less than 5 per cent of the applicants received loan in time for Rabi sowing. Fertilizer was distributed so late that the cultivators purchased it by one hand and sold it by the other, at 25 per cent discount. Instead of certified seeds, a mix of ordinary grain was supplied resulting in poor germination and differential rate of growth in the same plot.

The flood affected people have lost their Kharif crop and the much publicised Rabi campaign in these areas has ended in fiasco. Nature may help but some blocks in flood-ravaged districts face a scarcity situation.