

This is a human problem. I would urge the Government to give its urgent attention to the problem and to provide adequate medical and financial assistance to the State Government of Uttar Pradesh to meet the situation and also to control the spread of the epidemic.

12.30 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

- (vi) Financial assistance to Tamil Nadu to meet the heavy losses caused by recent rains and to provide relief to the people

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam) : The recent rains lashed Tamil Nadu in November 1985 causing heavy damages to properties and loss of hundreds of human lives. Tanjore and South Arcot are the paddy growing areas and Tanjore is the granary of Tamil Nadu. The paddy crops are submerged in water causing extensive loss to the agriculturists worth crores and crores of rupees. In Tamil Nadu more than 350 tanks were breached and many villages have been washed away. The second big tank in Tamil Nadu, Maduranthakam Tank, suffered a 45 metre breach resulting in the flooding of nearby villages. Maduranthakam has been cut off from adjoining areas due to damages to roads and railway bridges. The total loss is very very heavy because most of the channels and roads have been breached and school buildings, Government buildings were collapsed due to the recent floods.

The people of Tamil Nadu and the Government appreciate the action taken by the Prime Minister of India who also visited the rain affected areas and the assurance that an expert committee would be visiting Tamil Nadu immediately in order to assess the damages. The Tamil Nadu Government is taking every step to provide all relief to the people on a war footing. Government of India is requested to grant an aid of more than Rs. 120 crores.

- (vii) Need to stop further retrenchment of Indian employees of Chukha Hydel Project, Bhutan and rehabilitate the retrenched employees

SHRI ANANDA PATHAK (Darjeeling) : About 2700 Indian nationals working in

Chukha Hydel Project in Bhutan for the last 6 to 13 years are feeling insecurity of service since the recent abrupt and arbitrary termination of services of 90 employees without prior notice and without providing any compensation. The project was initially started by the CW and PC, Government of India during the period 1973-75 and the entire project was manned by the CW and PC of India. The first batch of employees numbering about 260 were appointed by the said commission. Subsequently an Authority consisting of the representatives of the Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan was constituted and named as Chukha Project Authority to administer the project. The Authority appointed a large number of Indian nationals in various categories of staff. They were deployed to work in a very remote area where there was no communication with any part of the country and they had to undertake arduous nature of works without commensurate and adequate remuneration. They have devoted a substantial part of their life for the successful completion of the project, but now they are being thrown out of employment when there is no opportunity for them to secure alternative employment at this stage.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to consider the plight of these retrenched Indian employees of Chukha Hydel Project and take necessary steps to stop further retrenchment of employees, rehabilitation of retrenched employees in any project in India or Bhutan, review the service conditions of these employees.

- (viii) Need to amend the Pension Rules by extending the facility of Central Government Pension to all freedom fighters irrespective of the period of imprisonment undergone by them

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (Cannanore) : It is noted that several genuine freedom fighters have not been able to obtain Central Government pension mainly because of the strict formalities to be fulfilled and also because the onus of proof lies heavily upon them to prove that they had undergone imprisonment for a minimum period of six months.

It is absolutely unfair to determine a person's eligibility to freedom fighters'