

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under Ruler 377 I would like to raise the following matter of public importance. The Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal, in its award, has allocated 0.50 million acre feet of Narmada water for irrigation in the desert areas of Barmer and Jalore Districts of Rajasthan.

The Government of Rajasthan have proposed to irrigate 99033 hectares of arable land in these districts with Narmada water but the project report is yet to be submitted. Therefore, the Central Government should put pressure on the State Government to expedite preparation and submission of the project report.

According to the present construction schedule, the main canal in Gujarat upto Rajasthan border is likely to be completed by the year 1995-96. The Rajasthan Government are pressing for its completion by June, 1991.

Being the representative of the aforesaid area, I earnestly urge that the desert and border areas of Barmer and Jalore districts, which are starved of water, should be supplied Narmada water by 1991, so that the land there, which has been craving for water for thousands of years, could be irrigated.

Looking at the above mentioned massive plan for the aforesaid backward, border and desert areas, the Central Government should also extend special assistance to the State Government and the State Government should make adequate provision during Seventh Five Year Plan so that work could be done on a warfooting and the districts of Barmer and Jalore could be made available Narmada waters for irrigation and the entire desert area could turn into greenland.

- (vi) Need to safeguard the interest of those tribal families who have been residing on forest land before the Forest (Conservations) Act 1980 came into force.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM (Kanker) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, under rule 377 I

wish to draw Government's attention to the following matter of public importance.

The Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 is a significant and praiseworthy measures taken by the Government of India. The pace, at which the forests were being denuded in the country, was seriously affecting the ecology and the environment. If the Government of India hadn't imposed restrictions on the felling to trees, the country would have been left with no forests by now.

Under the above-mentioned Act it is essential to obtain Central Government's permission for using the forest area for other proposes. Prior to the enactment of this Act, the people had settled down in the tribal, forest and reserve forest areas and had been engaged in agriculture for ten years or more. There are thousand of such cases in the entire tribal belt. There is no reference in Forest Conservation Act to the people who had settled on the aforesaid forest land and in the reserve areas prior to 1980. Thousands of tribal families in the country are being harassed and forced to leave in forest land by the Forest Department. Since the Act is silent about such cases, it has become a seroius problem for the Forest Department.

I would request the Government that the people, who had settled down in the forest areas before the enforcement of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, should be either allowed to remain there or resettled elsewhere so that they are saved from the harassment by the Forest Department and the Deparment's problem is also solved.

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL)
1986-87—*CONTD.*

[*English*]

MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS—
Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We now take up further discussion and voting on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs. Shri Sultan Salahuddin Owaisi.