

- (iv) Need to sanction Rs. 50 crores to Andhra Pradesh for relief measures in the flood affected areas and need to start an institute of "Disaster Management" in the State.

DR. CHINTA MOHAN (Tirupati) : The death toll due to the unprecedented cyclone hit caused floods in Godavari last week has risen to about 150. Thirty lakh people have become homeless and the loss of property is about Rs. 900 crores. Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and Tamil Nadu coastal areas have been very prone to floods, cyclones and drought since 1976. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Central team and the Prime Minister visited the flood affected areas. There should be revolving fund to meet such disasters. For providing immediate relief, another about Rs. 50 crores may be sanctioned to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh. An institute of 'disaster management' may be started at Tirupati for training the personnel for rehabilitation of the victims.

- (v) Demand for more financial assistance to Assam for implementing flood control projects.

SHRI M. R. SAIKIA (Nowgong) : Sir, Assam has been suffering from serious problem of floods and erosion since long, which has been badly affecting entire economy of this backward State. The great threat being posed by erosion to the existing flood control structure as well as habitation and cultivation areas around Deorighat Matmara, Singra, Muklamara, Howlighat Chunari, Baliukuchi, Fafirganj, Sough Salmara, Deogharia and also some other parts of the State call for immediate anti-erosion measures. But with the present trend of annual allocation of Rs. 13 crores under loan assistance for flood control works of the Brahmaputra Valley, it is not possible for the State Government to venture upon costly projects to prevent erosion and floods. Lack of funds is the only constraint in confronting this problem of erosion and floods in the State. The economic development of this backward State depends upon the solution of the problems of erosion and floods.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to extend more financial help for implementation of some flood control projects to tame and harness the extensive river system of Assam.

- (vi) Necessary measures needed to improve the condition of cotton growers.

SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH (Surendranagar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, despite the fact that it has been admitted that India produces more cotton than what can be absorbed in the national or international market at economic rates, no real steps have been taken to ameliorate the conditions of the growers. No cash compensatory scheme has been given for exporting cotton nor any real incentives given to those farmers who will switch to growing other types of crops. Therefore, I request the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

[Translation]

- (vii) Need to start drilling at Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Bikaner in Rajasthan for discovery of oil and gas.

SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN (Barmer) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, under Rule 377, I would like to draw your attention towards a matter of public importance. 28600 sq. km. area of Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Nagaur, Ganganagar and Jodhpur districts in Rajasthan has been assigned to the Oil India Limited for drilling and discovery of oil and gas.

The Oil India Limited has conducting a seismic survey of this area in collaboration with a French Company. The latest method of "bibroesis" was adopted to carry out the said survey.

This survey reveals that there is every possibility of the availability of gas and petroleum under a depth of 3500 metres below the ground level in Rajasthan.

The Indian Oil Limited has to start the drilling of wells for exploring crude