

[Shri Saifuddin Chowdhary]

procession from Raj Path to Boat Club. Piqued by inaction of the Government, the Association had once again written a letter to PM on 10th June 1986 forwarding more than 200 letters received from the members demanding immediate implementation of their demands. The Government did not react even to this gesture. In another letter sent to the PM on 10th July 1986, the Association mentioned that they would be constrained to further their struggle if their just single-point demand is not implemented by 1st August 1986. More than 200 letters received from members were forwarded to the PM on this occasion too. Despite several attempts, the Government has not done anything concrete to solve the long standing problems of the service.

The Indian Economic Service which was set up with the great vision of Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India and with the recommendations of the expert Committee under the chairmanship of Shri V.T. Krishnamachari, the then Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission in 1961 for formulation, review, monitoring and planning of economic policies and programmes as also economic administration of the country for ensuring rapid economic transformation has been allowed to languish over the last 25 years of its existence due to gross mismanagement, administrative apathy and prejudicial approach by the cadre controlling authorities of the service. It is really distressing to note that for last 25 years since the inception of the service, there has been no cadre review, although it should have been done once in every three years.

In view of the prevailing dissatisfaction among the IES officers and the course of agitation undertaken by them, I urge upon the Government to intervene in the matter immediately and redress the grievances of the officers of this service.

(xix) Need to send a Central team to assess the damage caused by cloud bursts and heavy rains in Ladakh and Leh districts of Jammu & Kashmir and adopt remedial measures urgently

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) : Sir, six people are reported to have been

killed, many injured and wide spread damages to property, residential houses, cultivated lands, plantations and hundreds of goats, sheep and other cattle have perished caused by cloud-burst and unprecedented heavy rains in the last week of July and first week of August 1986 in many villages of Ladakh region including Bosso, Ney, Shang, Deskit, Lingshad and Fotoksar of Leh District and some areas of Zauskar and Karchey Valley of Kargil District. Some of the affected villages like Lingshad, Fotoksar and Lungnak area are lying in the most remote part of the Districts over hundreds of Kilometres from the district headquarters of Leh and Kargil and relief and assistance from the Government cannot be reached immediately. There is every likelihood of occurrence of such natural calamities in many remote areas of the region, information from such distant places may not have reached yet.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government of India for engaging Air Force helicopters to make aerial survey of the remote areas like Lingshad, Fotoksar, Yulchung-Neyrak, Tangyar-Digar of Ladakh district and Shoon-Shadey, Lungnak and Karchey nullah of Kargil district for possible occurrence of natural calamities and also for supply and dropping of essential commodities and medicines etc. to the affected people immediately. The State Government may also be directed to release relief and assistance to the affected people at the earliest. Also, a central team may be sent to Ladakh to assess the damages caused by floods and cloud-burst.

(xx) Need to ensure early sanction of licence to various Nationalised Banks and Gramin banks by the Reserve Bank of India for opening of their branches in Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una districts of Himachal Pradesh

PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR (Hamirpur) : The inordinate delay in the grant of licences to the various Nationalised Banks by the Reserve Bank of India for opening new Branch Offices has resulted in extreme frustration among the people and the places where the

Branches have been proposed by these Banks. Though the New Branch Licensing Policy was announced by the Reserve Bank of India in 1985 to coincide with the beginning of the Seventh Five Year Plan, yet many of the proposals are still pending for clearance by the RBI. Even the proposals which are submitted to the Reserve Bank after proper survey and approved by the District Consultative Committees and by the State Governments, are again sought to be re-examined, resulting in heavy delay in the opening of these Branches. The Hill Areas including the State of Himachal Pradesh are the worst affected in this regard, more so the Districts of Hamirpur, Bilaspur and Una which are still uncovered by any Garmin Bank and the District of Kangra where a number of proposals are still pending for the sanction of licences for opening new Branches by the Himachal Garmin Bank.

Now that the new 20 Point Programme has been announced by the hon'ble Prime Minister on 20 August, 1986, the role of the Banks and more so of the Branches in the rural areas for the successful implementation of the anti-poverty and various other programmes is very crucial. I, therefore, request the Minister of Finance to intervene personally and ensure the early sanction of licences by the Reserve Bank of India to the Branches of the various Nationalised Banks and the Gramin Banks proposed for opening in these four districts in particular and in Himachal Pradesh in general. The Reserve Bank of India should fix reasonable time limit say, three months within which the licences are granted after the date of the submission of the proposal by the sponsoring Banks.

[*Translation*]

(xxi) Need to approve the irrigation projects proposed for Ghosikhurd, Chandrapur, Garhchiroli and Bhandara in Vidarbha region of Maharashtra

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (Chimur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the subjects of irrigation and floods come under the State list in the Constitution and as a result of it, many projects remain incomplete due to the decisions of the local leaders. The C.W.C itself cannot take any decisions and it has to look to the State

Governments. There should be improvement in this situation. Central Government provides most of the funds for flood relief and irrigation projects. So, if the Central Government itself takes up all the responsibility regarding floods and irrigation, then on the one hand it can remove the growing imbalance between States and on the other hand situation can be improved so far as frequent and every day changes in projects due to the pressures by local leaders are concerned. It will also lead to the proper utilisation of national resources and full returns of the investments made.

The people are facing floods due to discontinuance of the work on the proposed irrigation projects of Chandrapur, Bhandara and Garhchiroli districts of Vidarbha region under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. The forests cover more than 69 per cent area on an average in the above districts. The above forest area in these districts has become a curse for the local population. The farmers there suffer losses regularly caused either by the floods due to excessive rains or as a result of famine due to rains at all. The projects of Ghosikhurd (Indira Sagar), Bawanthadi, Tultuli, Human, Sattinala and Pratapgarh have been pending with Central Water Commission for the last many years. The work on these projects was started in anticipation of approval and crores of rupees have already been spent. The population there has not been benefited in any way by this investment.

Even this year, 14 persons have lost their lives and crops worth crores of rupees have been destroyed because of floods in Chandrapur, Bhandara and Garhchiroli. The water of Godavari is raising the level of water in Vanganga and its tributaries. A dam is required to be constructed there.

Initially Ghosikhurd Project was formulated with an estimated outlay of Rs. 230 crores which has now gone up to Rs. 460 crores and if the present laxity continues, then the outlay is expected to rise upto Rs. 1000 crores. I, therefore, request the Government to grant immediate sanction to the pending projects of Chandrapur, Garhchiroli and Bhandara so that these projects could be completed in public interest.