

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]
Pal Singh Malik.

15.22 hrs

DISCUSSION *RE.* DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY-*Contd.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK (Sonapat): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, discussion on drought and flood takes place in this august House in every session. I would like to submit that long speeches on drought are made in this House but they serve no useful purpose. In this House, we hold discussions on various issues and then disperse without achieving any fruitful results. The addage "Nashistada, guftanada aur Barkhastad" aptly describes the situation here.

In this connection I would like to say that the Government should adopt some permanent policy in respect of the drought prone areas. As rightly stated by Members, the drought situation in the country is very acute this year. There is no water in the tanks, the water level of wells has gone down. The people are fleeing with their cattle towards the jungles and a good number of people have left their hearth and home in search of work elsewhere.

I come from Haryana. The situation there is all the more & serious. Prior to the formation of Lok Dal (b) Government in Haryana, the leaders of Lok Dal used to raise a slogan-provision of water means elimination of corruption. Now after the formation of their Government, the common people are raising another slogan to the effect that this Government believes in taking revenge and effecting transfers of Government servants. Nothing is being done in that State to fight the drought. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to pay special attention to Haryana and send a Central Team there to take stock of the drought situation.

15.24 hrs

[**SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN** *in the Chair*]

Not only that, a Central Committee should be appointed to monitor the assistance given to Haryana, so that the funds meant for drought-affected areas in Haryana are properly utilised and the affected farmers and labourers are provided relief. Besides, there should be a Central Committee to conduct the survey. Besides, district-wise Committees should be constituted and the Members of Parliament should be the Chairmen of these Committees. In this way the Member of Parliament will be able to monitor the spending of Central assistance in the district.

If such an arrangement is not made, then the huge sums of money sanctioned for the poor and hungry people will not be properly utilised. I would say that the allocation of funds should be made by the Centre, district-wise and not State-wise. The district whose loss is more should be given more funds and a separate Committee should be constituted for that district.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, like the previous years, only a few States have been affected by floods. This year and the rest of the country is facing drought. But we should find a permanent solution to this problem. Every year there is a lot of rainfall and the rain waters reach the Bay of Bengal through rivers and rivulets. The water becomes salty and unusable. I, therefore, request you to find out a permanent solution to this problem. The rain-water which falls into the Bay of Bengal may be checked from falling in the Bay and reservoirs may be constructed at a distance of 15 to 30 miles, wherein this water may be stored for being sent to the areas where it is needed.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a few suggestions more. One suggestion is about the construction of the reservoirs. Besides, suitable arrangements should be made for the purification of the water at places near the seashore. After extracting minerals from this water, the salty water may be utilised in agricultural farms and it can also be used as

drinking water... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

There is nothing more valuable than life. If life is there, everything is there. I request that this suggestion of mine may be implemented. Thirdly, some countries have made experiments for artificial rains. If it is possible, such an experiment should be made in our country as well. (*Interruptions*) If you are so afraid of the bureaucrats then you need not do anything. I would suggest that a Committee should also be constituted even for monitoring.

One thing I would like to say about the SYL canal. This canal is posing a question of life and death for Haryana. If water is available from this canal, it will be quite beneficial for our farmers. Therefore, proper arrangements can be made for Haryana by digging the SYL cannal at the earliest. At the same time, I would like to say that people of Rajasthan used to come to Haryana for fodder for their cattle. Hon. Member of Parliament from churu, Shri Narendra Budania is sitting here.

He is aware that the cattle which had come from Rajasthan to Haryana in search of fodder went further due to the non-availability of fodder in Haryana. Previously, only Rajasthan used to be affected by famines but this time it has engulfed Haryana as well.

Besides, Haryana should also be given its share from the Ganga and Yamuna waters. The waters of these two rivers remain unutilised in their later courses. If Haryana gets some share of these waters it will greatly benefit the farmers. I wish to point out that our farmers are not aware of the modern technologies. The farmers in Haryana should be trained in the latest agricultural technologies so that when it rains, they may sow late varieties of seeds.

Finally, I want to suggest that the scope of the Crop Insurance Scheme should be enlarged to cover all the drought hit areas so that the farmers and workers effected by rought may be benefited.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: There are a good number of persons to speak. This is the 4th day that we are discussing this subject. I know that this is an important subject but still we have to restrict our time. Mr. Thomas to speak. He shall speak only for five minutes.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA (Jamnagar): Sir I want to make a submission. This is a very important debate. We are prepared to sit upto late mid night also. You must give us more time. Five minutes is not enough.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Mr. Chairman, for the last four days we have been discussing in depth about the drought situation. I don't want to go into details. I would like to suggest a few measures.

Some of the Hon. Members have suggested the formation of a Relief Committee starting from the national level upto the taluk level. This Committee can supervise the relief measures. I would also like to suggest that this Relief Committee from the taluk level to the national level can also function as a Committee which can raise funds from the public who are prepared to pay.

Why I am suggesting this is that during the Chinese attack in 1962, we had the Peoples' Defence Committees which went around the entire country and collected contributions from students, from women and from other organisations. In the same way the Relief Committees which are functioning from taluk to national level can also collect funds which can be useful.

The after-effect of the present drought will be inflation. Even though we have got ample wheat and rice reserves now, the present drought will affect our cultivation in such a manner that next year there will not be enough wheat and rice. This can be dealt with only if we have got an effective public distribution system. The Government should also take measures against hoarders

[Prof K. V. Thomas]

because when there is a scarcity of food materials and grains, definitely hoarders will come to act. So strong action should be taken against hoarders. There are areas in this country which are worst hit on account of drought. In these places food material has to be supplied at a subsidised rate.

Another effective dose is in the supply of electricity. In Kerala the main electricity production is based on hydro-electric projects. There now the electricity cut has come to 40 per cent which within a short period will be 100 per cent. If 100 per cent electricity cut is imposed in Cochin which is the industrial belt of Kerala then a large number of industries can never be revived and another large number of industries will have to be closed. This is a very serious situation and Government of India has to help Kerala by giving electricity from the Central Pool.

Another problem facing Kerala is in the agricultural sector. In many of the northern States drought affects the seasonal crops whereas in Kerala it affects coconut and rubber plantations. If coconut and rubber plantations are affected by drought it takes another 6-7 years to escape from the affects of the drought. So when Government of India is rendering help to the agricultural sector then the plantation crops in Kerala have to be given special consideration.

Sir, Government of India has taken decision to have Rs. 2000 crores for immediate help to the States. Now from these Rs. 2000 crores all the States should be given according to their problems and the depth of loss. Thank you.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA (Robertsganj): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Today is the 4th day that we are discussing this subject. In my capacity as the Secretary of my party, I discussed this issue separately with the Members from the various States. I am happy that the hon.

Prime Minister has not concealed any facts about the drought-situation. I welcome the statement made by hon. Shri Makwana, our Minister of State for Agriculture in the Rajya Sabha. This time we are faced with an unprecedented drought. Such drought was never witnessed during the last 100 years.

The States of Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Orissa, Madhya Pradesh are reeling under the drought for the past many years. The condition of 48 districts in Uttar Pradesh is even worse. In this connection, I want to give two suggestions. My first suggestion is about the immediate measures and the second is regarding long-term planning.

As an immediate measure, the Prime Minister has constituted a cabinet Committee without loss of time and he himself is the Chairman of that Committee. We thank him for this gesture. This committee has started functioning. Secondly, there is need to speed up our existing programmes such as IRDP, NREP, RLGP etc. For this, the States are asking for funds. Sir, this is a great problem. It is true that some States exaggerate their demands but there are also some States which make proper demands for funds. A scientific formula should be devised for this purpose after conducting a survey and the funds should be allocated accordingly. We have to change our age-old Famine Code drawn up by the Britishers in the 18th century. Today also you give Rs. 4 per day as wages as the minimum wages according to the rules are much higher. Need of the hour is that the labourers should be paid Rs. 18 to Rs. 20 as wages. Therefore, my first demand is that the Government should ensure payment of adequate wages to all labourers in the drought-affected areas. Irrigation and road construction works should be given priority in the rural areas.

Secondly, it is seen that under the distribution system started by Late Shrimati Indira Gandhi, sugar, foodgrains and kerosene oil etc. are not available in the villages at fair prices. Kerosene oil is nowhere available at the fair price. The Government should streamline this system. Some people want

to play politics. Their designs should be frustrated. We must remain vigilant to tide over this national crisis. For this purpose a committee sponsored by Central Government should be sent to each district and constituency to ensure proper monitoring. Then only the distribution work will be carried on smoothly.

It is a matter of grave concern that even after 40 years of independence only 26 per cent of land is under irrigation. Therefore, I appeal to the Government to clear the schemes that have been pending due to the disputes between the States Governments. Similarly, the schemes pending with the Forest Department should also be cleared early. You may plant double the forests in their place but these projects should be cleared. Under no circumstances should the schemes drawn up for the tribal areas be kept pending and no obstacle should be put in the process of clearing the projects for the tribal areas.

I also suggest that there must be some control on the funds given to the States. Nowadays we can read about it in all the newspapers in the country. Regarding the Centre-State relations, it has been reported in the Press that when the States have to get assistance from the Centre, all sorts of things are said but when the States have to spend the funds, they do not bother about the directives of the Centre. Hence, some machinery should be devised to monitor it. Till we receive the report of the Sarkaria Commission, some arrangements must be made in this connection. Wherever the opposition parties are in power, they have their own political axe to grind. They need to be given the right direction. Apart from that, another significant fact calling for immediate attention is that stringent measures should be taken to contain corruption. The collectors, the A.D.Ms have become millionaires. They are competing in corruption. Shri Rajiv Gandhi is determined to root out corruption and therefore full control should be exercised on those people who want to indulge in corruption and money politics.

Communalism has joined hands with casteism. We have to guard against persons who encourage communal elements and try to gain cheap popularity. Such people have left the Congress party and are trying to gain cheap popularity by raising cheap slogans. We should not be taken in by such slogans and be on our guards all the time. We have to save our countrymen from these elements and shall have to go in for short-term and long-term planning to deal with the problem.

*SHRI G.S. BASAVARAJU (Tumkur): Mr Chairman, Sir, for the last four days we are discussing the serious situation in the country due to unprecedented drought. The entire country is reeling under severe drought from Kanya Kumari to Himalayas. According to the report of the hon. Minister for Agriculture 280 to 300 districts out of 414 districts are affected by drought.

Forty years ago we achieved our independence and in spite of this, we are not in a position to stop the occurrence of drought. There was a severe famine in the years 1965. The present famine is surpassing all the previous records. In fact, we are facing a serious drought situation which is record for the last 100 years.

Our friends from the opposition benches are devoting all their time in discussing some frivolous issues instead of finding out solutions to the serious danger posed by drought. They have already wasted several days to discuss about Bofors. In fact, this morning they were pleading the cause of college and university teachers. They do not find time to solve the problems of 85% of the population who are affected by drought.

The only solution for combating the drought situation in the country is to link all the major rivers. Several Committees have recommended the linkage of rivers. We can no more afford to allow the river water to flow waste into the ocean. Proper utilisation of water resources is the only and ultimate solution to save the farmers of this country

*The speech was originally delivered in Kannada.

[Sh. G. S. Basavaraju]
from the jaws of drought. Ad hoc allotment of Rs 15 crores or 20 crores for the drought relief programme will not solve the problem of drought. Some Americans had come to our country to have talks about the linkage of rivers like Ganga and Kavery. They were prepared to spend several crores of rupees for this purpose. They visited Bangalore and they had come to Delhi also. Unfortunately they could not get proper treatment and they went back. This is really a very sad state of affair.

Mahanadi causes havoc in Orissa almost every year by its floods. If the water of this river is diverted towards the Southern States it will be boon to Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra. It will also help the projects of Telugu Ganga.

Our hon. Prime Minister is always very keen to help the States affected by drought or floods. In fact a sub-Committee has been set up of which he is the Chairman. He sanctions immediate relief at the first instance and the final allotment is made according to the need of the affected areas. Apart from this, crores of rupees are being sanctioned by the Govt of India for programmes like NREP, RLEGP, etc. But what is happening in some States? For example in Karnataka the money sanctioned for pump sets, bore wells, and for other relief measures is being misused. In Karnataka the Govt has spent 5 crores of rupees to publish some books where allegations are levelled against our hon. Prime Minister and Congress I Members of Parliament. Hence I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to send his team directly to the drought affected areas for distribution of relief fund. We can no more depend upon bureaucrats who spend most their time in Ashoka Hotels and send the report stating that every thing is alright.

My humble request to the hon. Minister for Agriculture is to provide drinking water, fodder and other facilities immediately to the drought affected rural population and to stop

their migration to different parts of the country in search of jobs. I also request him to improve the public distribution system so that it can help the poor rural masses.

Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this vital issue and with these words I conclude my speech.

*SHRI M SUBBA REDDY (Nandyal): Mr Chairman, Sir, the discussion on drought situation prevailing in the country is going on for the past 4 days. Hon. Members belonging to all parties are participating in this most important discussion. It is strange that only the Union Agriculture Minister is listening to this debate. At least 3 Ministers are concerned with this debate. Sir, other Ministers who are directly or indirectly concerned with drought are not present in the House. It would have been proper had the Minister for Water Resources was present in the House during the course of this debate. Even the presence of Minister for Energy was also essential. But except hon. Minister for Agriculture, none the other two Ministers are present here.

[English]

MR CHAIRMAN: You come to the point. You have got only 5 minutes.

[Translation]

SHRI. M. SUBBA REDDY: Sir, I am dealing with points only. Flood and drought are interlinked. They are connected with each other very intimately. For wiping out drought, the water resources have to be managed in a better way. By controlling the floods, we can also wipe out drought. Flood waters can be stored and made use of during the lean season.

Sir, kindly do not be in a hurry. We are discussing this subject for the last four days. There is no harm if I take a couple of minutes more.

* The speech was originally delivered in Telgu.

Sir, let me tell you how droughts can be averted by controlling floods and better management of water. I would like to cite an example. Sir Arthur Cotton built a barrage across the river Godavari. Prior to the construction of barrage, the entire area was constantly affected by drought conditions. After the construction of the barrage, the entire area turned lush green. Now it is most prosperous area in the State. It is just an example to show how droughts and famines can be wiped out if certain crucial projects are taken up. As is well known, Rayalaseema is a drought prone area. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru after touring the entire area, sanctioned Sri Sailam Project in order to save this region from recurring drought. But this Government is dilly dallying in constructing the project. Some excuse or the other is being found to delay the construction of this project. I do not see any reason why the Central Government should try to obstruct the construction of the project one way or the other. After all, Sir, Andhra Pradesh is very much a part of the country. Am I to understand that the construction of this project is being delayed just because it is being ruled by a party other than the Congress. Sir, there are 73 projects which are under construction in various Congress ruled States which have not been sanctioned by Central Govt. so far. Sir, I fail to understand why the Central Govt. is lethargic about sanctioning the project. It is ridiculous. This kind of red tapism and procrastination has to be avoided at all cost. All the projects pending clearance, be it Congress-I ruled States should be cleared immediately.

Sir, Sri Krishnadeva Raya, the famous emperor of Vijay Nagar described Rayalaseema as Ratanalaseema i.e. the land of diamonds. But the position today is quite reverse. The area which the famous poet Srinatha once described as just a barren land where nothing is available to eat except Jowar has now been turned into a very fertile area which is producing the finest variety of rice, thanks to the efforts Sir Cotton in constructing the Godavari barrage. If the area is not developed how can these recurring droughts be averted. Hundreds of crores of

rupees are being spend every year in providing rescue and relief operations. If this amount is utilised in construction of vital projects, it can help in averting the drought and at the same to provide us water during the lean period. Hence a permanent solution to the recurring droughts and floods has to be found. Long term measures rather than the short term measures are necessary. Construction of various projects is one such solution. If the projects are built around the country, the country can be rid of drought once and for all. The entire country will turn green. Sir, the population in the country is increasing every day. At this rate it may be difficult even to get a glass of water to drink, leave alone getting a morsel of food. Actually such a situation has already arisen. The twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad are reeling under acute shortage of drinking water. The drinking water is being brought to the twin cities by special trains from Vijayawada. Thanks to some rains in twin cities, now the transportation of drinking water from Vijayawada to the twin cities has now stopped and the expenditure on it has stopped temporarily. But the other parts of the State continue to suffer from the shortage of drinking water. Drinking water is now being supplied by lorries to the villages.

Sir, kindly permit me a few minutes more as we are discussing an important issue. I request you not to ring the bell again and again. You have extended the time of the debate for four days. Extend a few more minutes in my case.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: One minute more.

[Translation]

SHRIM SUBBA REDDY: Sir, all that has to be said has to be said. So, Sir, the situation is very grim in the State. There are about 3000 tanks which were constructed during the days of Srikrishna devaraya are in a dilapidated condition now. They were not repaired even during the days of British. All these tanks have to be repaired. Irrigation

[**SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY**]

has, thus been completely neglected in our area even to this day. Our State Govt is receiving a step motherly treatment from the Centre. It is due to the farsightedness of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Bhakra Nangal Dam came into being. But for Bhakra Nangal Dam, Punjab and Haryana would not have been so much prosperous as they are today. So how can this Government control famine without developing irrigation facilities. We have plenty of water resources. The only thing is that we have to tap them. There are floods every year on river Godavari. If Polavaram project is constructed, the floods can be averted. Many villages are being washed away and enormous loss both to life and property is taking place every year during the floods. Polavaram project is the remedy for controlling the floods on Godavari. In addition to the loss, the Govt is spending huge amount on relief measures. Hence all this unnecessary expenditure and loss can be avoided by taking up the Polavaram Project. Hence once again I plead for the early clearance and execution of Polavaram project. Also I repeat that permanent solution to the recurring droughts and floods is to take up the construction of projects which have not been cleared so far and are under various stages of construction in States. The Minister himself has given this information in the Advisory Committee. At least these projects should be cleared at once. The acute distress of drought is already evident in many parts of the country. There is no reason why the permission should be delayed any more. I do not know what the Planning Commission is doing. They should identify the important projects and clear them at once. If the projects of national importance are not taken up by the Centre how can the States, with their meagre resources can execute such projects. The expenditure involved in the construction of these projects runs into thousands of crores of rupees. If a single rupee is not allocated for these irrigation projects in the Central budget, it is very difficult to imagine the early completion of these national projects. We are borrowing millions of crores of rupees from foreign countries every year. Similarly we should

borrow money for early execution of all the projects which are of national importance. The loans can be repaid through the returns we get from these projects. Let me cite an example. Sri Sailam project in Andhra Pradesh is estimated to cost Rs. 400 crores. If the project is completed early, it can fetch a revenue of not less than Rs. 200 crores on electricity alone. In two years time the entire expenditure of Rs. 400 crores can be recovered. So the Govt should adopt this policy. There is no harm in borrowing some more money and invest it in the projects of national importance. By adopting this approach, the people in the country can be saved from droughts and floods permanently. Sir, a crow that goes to Kashi may come back but no paper which is sent to the Centre by the State Govt will come back.

Sir, we achieved independence 40 years ago. These 40 years of independence has not witnessed much progress. There is not even a single project for which a foundation stone was laid during the past 20 years. Barring the projects constructed during the days of Nehru, no new project has come up in these years. It is most regrettable that the country has not seen any progress.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy please conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI M. SUBBA REDDY: Sir, I am concluding. I expected that the two Ministers who are directly concerned with drought would be present in the House. Sir, I am coming to the last point. Instead of importing corn oil from United States worth Rs. 3000 crores, it is better to encourage our farmers by providing them irrigational and other facilities to grow corn here. It will save foreign exchange and provide the farmers enough encouragement. With these words, I conclude my speech.

16.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Reddy, you please resume your seat. Why do you waste your time. I have already told you that nothing will form part of the record. Please sit down. Yes, Mr. Rath.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska): Mr. Chairman Sir, we are facing the worst drought of the century. It has created an unprecedented situation. It must be tackled with great care and caution. There will not be lack of funds. But what is required is proper organisation, direction, planning and supervision. Or else, all the relief measures will fail.

It seems relief package worth Rs. 200 crores is being finalised by the Finance Minister. Rs. 250 crores are already given to different States. On the Eastern side, our State Orissa is the worst affected by drought. But we are shocked to find that not a single farthing is given to our State.

In Orissa, my district, Ganjam is the worst affected area. Sir, we do not know how much relief is allotted to Orissa. The Hon. Minister should reply to it. Our Revenue Minister had met the Agriculture Minister and the Finance Minister and had given a memorandum asking for a modest sum of Rs. 60 crores, to start with. It is a very serious matter. The Government should give Rs. 60 crores pending finalisation of the report of the inspection team. This drought will have serious consequence on our economic condition, planning, rise in prices, inflation and also foreign exchange reserve. Last year we imported edible oil worth Rs. 614 crores. We do not know how much foreign exchange was incurred on the import of edible oil. Of course it is a relief. We have got 23 million tonnes worth of foodgrains in Food Corporation and State godowns. But now it requires to be seen as to how best it can be distributed so that it can reach the drought affected people. It is not only a simply matter for the drought management to release funds, but it

must be seen how best it reaches the beneficiaries. It is not that we should now think of raising crops which require less water but how best to supply the certified seeds of those crops to the cultivators which is the major issue.

I would request the hon. Minister to reply to this question as to what steps have been taken by the Government to supply certified seeds of those crops to different States, besides fertilizers? Measures to meet drought conditions on a long term basis have been discussed in the House. Water is the most important input for agriculture. Linking the different rivers in the country for irrigation has not yet been done. Even in the States, the river basins have not been surveyed and linked. When you ask the Central Government which is giving assistance and is even funding, with the help of World Bank, the different irrigation projects especially major and medium irrigation projects, you are told that it is the job of the State Governments to implement them in time. People become sad spectators, when it takes years to implement the projects, and the Government becomes a mere silent spectator.

We have put questions in the House, and the Minister of Water Resources has said that it is the look-out of the States. When we ask the States, they say they do not have funds. Ultimately, the people of the country are bound to suffer. So, it is high time that some supervisory agency is created to see that the funds allotted to different States for these major and medium irrigation projects are implemented in time, and not wasted.

16.06 hrs.

[SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI
in the Chair].

Similarly, leave alone the foundation seeds, even certified seeds are not available. When funds are allotted to different States, spurious seeds are given to the cultivators. Instances are not rare. Also, as suggested by some hon. Members, the funds allotted to the States, should not be

[Sh. Somnath Rath]

allotted to the States as such; they must be allotted district-wise, and the MPs should also be taken into confidence. The States should be asked to call a meeting of MPs to discuss the matter. The advice of bureaucrats alone will not solve the problem, and be effective. Not only funds to be allotted, but the spending of the funds also is very important. These must be looked into by the MPs.

In my constituency and in the Ganjam district, I may inform the hon. Minister that there are only two major irrigation projects, right from the British days—viz. Bhanj Nagar and Sorda. They have become silted. No other single major irrigation project has been constructed in that district after independence. This district is a purely agricultural one. There is only one medium irrigation project which has been completed, viz. Daha. All the irrigation projects and reservoirs in Orissa and in the Ganjam district have insufficient water for irrigation. So, they cannot irrigate the crops standing on some irrigated lands. You can imagine what the net result would be. There would be 90% crop failure in Orissa. Now it is 70%; it will rise to 90%.

I want to inform the hon. Minister that the cost of Harabhangi project has gone up from Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 40 crores. Money is available, but that is not being spent for years. The State Government should be asked to implement it, because funds are available. Where funds are available, they must spend them immediately.

There is another project, Bhagua, construction of which has not been started, practically speaking, for the last 15 years. The officers and engineers are there. Their salaries are being paid regularly. But till today, the rehabilitation work has not been started. I hope the hon. Minister will reply to me. If for 15 years the rehabilitation work is not started, what will be the fate of those people? The villages which are going to be submerged are suffering very much. They have represented to the State and to the Centre through their local MLAs and MPs.

But there is no response.

There is another project, Khairbanki. The foundation stone for this Irrigation Project has been laid years back. Engineers and officers are there. Their salaries are being paid, but work has not started so far.

People pray now in Orissa to God of Rain Indra for water. Are they to pray to foundation-stone for water which was laid many years ago? The less I speak about minor irrigation the better. In the State, in the District of Ganjam, irrigation projects, worth the name have been constructed. On the other hand, existing minor irrigation projects have been silted and require renovation.

No importance has been given to lift irrigation. The amount has been diverted to other things which has been discussed in Ganjam DDB for years together by MPs and MLAs, but of no effect. Water sheds are the best remedy to meet the drought situation as well as to prevent soil erosion and raise the status of the ground water level. I would request the hon. Minister through you to see that a meeting of the Soil Conservation Department of the State be called and instructions given to see that water sheds construction programme should be implemented on a large scale. It is not only minor, medium and major irrigation projects but these water sheds will be of immense help to the agriculturists.

The public distribution system has failed in the District of Ganjam and the cooperatives are in a defunct stage. The individuals take undue advantage and sell essential commodities in blackmarket for their own benefit. So, the public distribution system in the State should be streamlined because drought, middle men resort to blackmarketing and hoarding and the prices of all the essential commodities rise. So, stress should be given to this aspect to see that all the essential commodities should be distributed to people through cooperative societies.

The relief measures and irrigation system should be taken on a war footing. Of

course, the Central Government is there to supplement the efforts of the State Government, but if there is no administration in the State, who will suffer; it is the people who will suffer. So, it is the duty of the Central Government also to see that the people should not suffer. Steps should be taken to set up supervisory agencies to see that it is implemented in right earnestness.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Lal Vijay Pratap Singh.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja): Madam Chairman, in this house continuously.....

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you. I will call one by one. Please resume your seat.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): You kindly ensure that every member should get an opportunity to speak.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call one by one.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please Pisten to me. I will call one by one. There is a list. I have been calling according to that list.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): We protest against this.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you standing like this?

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA (Jonjgir): I am on a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: What is your point of order?

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: He has got this privilege in the House to speak. When he has been called by you to speak, why he is being obstructed by other members not to speak? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): We have been suffering for the last so many years.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat. I will call one by one. There is a list here. As per the list, I am calling. Each member is allowed to speak only for five minuts so that we may be able to accommodate all the members who want to speak. I will try to call one by one. Why do you waste the time of the House?

SHRI RAM SINGH YADAV: The Chair has no right to tell the Member, "You are wasting the time of the House" unless the Chair hears the Member. That is also a privilege. (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I did not hear you.

SHRI RAMSINGH YADAV: Please hear. This drought situation is a national calamity which is faced today all over the country. Therefore, it is not a question of list. There is a great confusion and great enxiety amongst all the Members of the House. They must be given a chance to participate. Therefore it should be deleared from the Chair that everyone who wants to participate be given a chance.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What is your ruling? (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: My ruling is, there is no point of order. You have directly questioned the Chair by asking whatever you want to ask. That is not the procedure. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHAIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Madam Chairman, we would like to know whether you are going according to the list

[Sh. Chairanjilal Sharma]
that has been given.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is a list here. I am going according to the list. You cannot ask whom I should call. There is a list here. As far as possible I call according to it. I have heard you. I know your feelings. I can understand them.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: Are the Members going to be called according to the list or is there any pick and choose method? *(Interruptions)* We have given the names four days back. *(Interruptions)* What is the criterion you have adopted? We represent 6 lakhs of people here. The Minister has said, "Allow them to speak". *(Interruptions)* We cannot be silent spectators.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I request you all to resume your seats. There is a list there. It is not compulsory that I should only stick to the list. I can call other Members also. *(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: You are not allowing those to speak who come from drought affected areas.....*(Interruptions)*

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Vyas, you are an elderly Member. You please resume your seat.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT): I would like to inform the hon. Members that we are going to continue this debate till 6 p.m. today. If Members do not feel satisfied and everybody had not had a chance, then we will continue it tomorrow also. But, please, if you make interruptions.....*(Interruptions)*

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS: We gave

our names four days ago but our turn has not come while others have been allowed.

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Madam is on her legs. Please listen to her, what she is saying.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: Mr. Vyas and other hon. Members,

[*Translation*]

We understand your anxiety. Our effort is to give chance to every State turn by turn. For example, Haryana had not got the chance and now Member belonging to that State was called to speak. Everyone will get the chance. Some might get early and some late. I would request you to keep your cool, other-wise you will be wasting the time of the House. You are taking your own time.

(Interruptions)

[*English*]

SHRI D.P. JADEJA: We have a suggestion. All those Members who were called yesterday they could talk for 20 to 25 minutes. But.....*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will call you all.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Madam Chairman, there is a controversy going on between the Congress Party and the Parliamentary Affairs Minister. Have we come here to witness it? If they want to say something, they can come to you.....

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: There is no controversy going on. You please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Whoever wants to speak, they will be given time.

SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT: I would appeal to the House to kindly continue with the debate.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Why are you interrupting him? Mr. Vyas, don't interrupt. Let him speak. I will call one by one.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAL VIJAY PRATAP SINGH (Sarguja): Madam Chairman, I would like to say that this is the severest famine of this century and we have to face it. It is a fact that thanks to the able leadership in the country, we have sufficient stock of foodgrains and we are sure that we will not have to encounter any difficulty at this critical time. Even in view of this difficult situation arising out of the famine, some points come to our mind. It is a matter of satisfaction that in view of its seriousness, our Government have constituted a high level cabinet committee which would definitely prove effective. Even then there are some points which increase our worry and I would like to express my views about them.

The crop of paddy is grown mainly in the Kharif season. You very well know how much water is required for the paddy crop. For a good paddy crop, at least 1200 mm rainfall is required. It is not required at one particular time, but it should be 200 mm in June, 400 in July, 400 mm in August and 200 mm in September. If there is rainfall in this proportion, we can expect better crops. But what we find is that at some place the rainfall has been 20 mm, at some places it is 17 mm and 50 mm at some places it is 17 mm and 50 at some other place which is grossly deficient for a paddy crop. It is not sufficient to release the foodgrains from the buffer

stock to meet the situation. We will have to see how we can deal with the famine which always occurs after every alternate year.

There is another important point. If we see the Budget of First Five Year Plan, we will find that as much as 22.34 per cent allocation had been made for irrigation but I regret to say that now this has been reduced to 9.4 per cent. If we make provision like this, how will we be able to deal with the famine. We will have to make proper provision to combat the famine and will have to fix the priorities. In my view there is need to spend more funds on irrigation.

I consider famine as a natural calamity but if we are alert and utilise our capacity to the maximum, we can overcome this situation. There are a number of countries which have overcome this kind of situation. There is so much underground water that if we utilise it, we can irrigate entire land in the country.

Madam Chairman, you know that there are 45 districts in Madhya Pradesh out of which there is drought in 44 districts. According to the Government report, a sum of Rs. 260 crores is to be provided to meet this situation. This Rs. 260 crore is no small amount.

This year a sum of Rs. 226 crore has been provided in the Central Budget to deal with the famine which is not sufficient even to meet the requirement of Madhya Pradesh. You can very well imagine that when two third part of the country is in the grip of famine, how can we cope with the situation with this paltry amount. We will have to consider all these things seriously so as to solve this problem of famine for ever.

I would like to submit one more point. Madhya Pradesh has not received the *ad hoc* amount which the Central Government grant it. This should be released to Madhya Pradesh immediately. Similarly mobile shops should be sent to help the poor in those villages and bazars which are in the grip of famine. This should be arranged. It is

[Sh. Lal Vijay Pratap Singh]

very essential to provide items like Kerosene oil and Cloth there.

Madam Chairman, as many as 23 thousand tubewells are required to be sunk in Madhya Pradesh to combat the crisis of drinking water. You can well imagine that if we do not instal these tubewells,, the problem of drinking water will become all the more acute and it will be very difficult to solve it.

Madam Chairman, as you are aware, if the drinking water is not purified, water-borne diseases spread on a large scale and the possibility of an epidemic breaking out is not ruled out. Therefore, I would request that this arrangement of purifying water should be made while making provision of drinking water. The Government has set a target to supply drinking water in all the villages by 1980. This should be done on a priority basis and more and more tubewells should be installed for the purpose.

In this context, I would also like to submit that the recovery of loans taken from bank, school fees etc. should not only be deferred but should be written off completely so that we may get some relief.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI NARENDRA BUDANIA (Churu): Madam Chairman, we have been discussing the severest drought or famine of this century for the last four days. I have been told by the people that our country was affected by such a severe famine long back. Our elderly people do not want to be reminded of that now. In our country the condition of famine is very grave. It is a matter of great concern for all of us. Almost the entire country is in the grip of famine with the result that the people are very much terrified.

I have been elected from Rajasthan. the situation in Rajasthan is very serious. The purchasing power of the farmers and the persons of the weaker sections of the society has been almost finished. The people there

do not have any means of livelihood. The farmers, the workers and the persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society are running from pillar to post in search of employment. The condition of the cattle is also similar. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the economy of the farmers in Rajasthan depends on cattle. The milch cattle in Rajasthan are very famous but their condition is deteriorating day by day. The cattle are dying for want of fodder and water. We will have to look into all these things very seriously. I would like to submit to the hon. Agriculture Minister that certain areas of Rajasthan have been suffering from drought for the last three to five years. Some desert areas are continuously in the grip of famine for the last five to six years. You can just imagine as to what would be the condition of a state which has been suffering from famine for the last 5 to 6 years continuously. You should extend special help to Rajasthan. I would appeal to the Government that the Central Government should provide 3.5 lakh tonnes of wheat to the State Government immediately as demanded by if so that famine relief works could be undertaken by the State Government. The State Government has sent a scheme involving a sum of Rs. 112 crores to the Central Government for providing drinking water, which should immediately be sanctioned.

It would not be good, if I talk of my constituency, but I would like to point out that I have been elected from an area which has continuously been in the grip of famine for the last 6 years. When there is rain in other areas and foodgrains are produced, at that very time there is problem of drinking water in my constituency. Even after 40 years of independence, the people in my area have to depend on rain water for drinking purposes. When an area has been facing famine condition continuously for 6 years, you can very well imagine as to what would be the position of drinking water and employment opportunities there. There are no means of livelihood there. Till date not even a single famine relief work has been undertaken in Churu. Not even a single labourer has been provided job in an area which has

been facing famine for the last 6 years. There is acute shortage of water, therefore, you can yourself imagine the plight of the people there.

Through you, Sir, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that Rajasthan is the worst affected state in the entire country and similarly my area in Rajasthan has been worst affected by famine. Therefore, there is need to pay special attention towards it. I was talking about water. There is saltish water in more than half of my constituency and wherever there is sweet water, its level has gone down very deep and therefore, its availability is almost nil, we have formulated certain schemes for providing drinking water. I would like to express my thanks to the hon. Prime Minister that he has approved a lift scheme for my area. Water would be made available to my area from the Indira Gandhi Canal. But it would be possible only when efforts would be made to solve this very serious problem on war-footing. If efforts are made on war-footing, only then the work on the canal and the Lift Scheme could be completed and people would be able to get drinking water. Similarly, Rigs in adequate number would have to be made available to those areas where sweet water is available, so that tube-wells could be installed there to supply water to the villages through pipe lines and other means. The condition there is very bad, the fields have dried up and people do not have any other means. In such a situation arrangements would have to be made to provide maximum quantity of drinking water in my area and until other means are made available, water should be supplied through tankers. I would like to urge the hon. Agriculture Minister that while providing funds, special attention should be paid towards Churu. The plight of cattle is very pitiable in our area. If you visit my area you will find the cattle on the verge of death at various places. You will find some cattle already dead, some of them would be in a miserable condition. There is neither fodder nor water for the cattle. A survey team of the Central Government should be asked to visit my area to ascertain the condition of the cattle. Through you, Sir, I would like to

apeal to the Central Government that arrangements should be made immediately to provide fodder in my area.

So far as farmers concerned, their condition is also very pitiable. Their purchasing power has almost finished, they do not have any source of income and a large amount of dues are pending against them. Keeping in view their condition, their loans should be written off. I would also not like to forget to mention that keeping in view the serious drought, the Prime Minister has constituted a cabinet committee on drought and it is also working. I express my thanks to him on behalf of the people of my constituency and on my own behalf. I would also like to express my thanks to you for giving me time to speak.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hanamkonda): Today we are going to celebrate the 40th anniversary of our independence, but on the other hand we have not been able to provide drinking water to our people. If we want to tell the people about the 40th anniversary of our independence and centenary celebrations of Nehruji, the people in the country-side demand that first of all, drinking water should be supplied to them. Though we are an independent country, yet we have not been able to supply drinking water to all of our villages. Even after 40 years of independence, we depend on nature for water. I would like to know as to what progress we have made. The nature has harmed us in two ways. On the one hand, Bihar and Assam have experienced unprecedented fury of floods, and on the other, elderly people in Delhi say that they had never experienced so much of hot weather i.e. a temperature of 40 or 42 degrees celsius in the month of August during the last 100 years. The Government is not at all bothered about it, instead it is busy in celebrating 40th anniversary of independence. Discussion of Bofors had taken place for 4 days in the House. You might have also read in the news papers that in Bofors case, commission was paid to the foreigners and not to Indians, but it has not been disclosed as to who has been paid the commission. Just now a Member has said

[Sh. C. Janga Reddy]

that the Members of the Opposition are not very serious about the drought situation. We do want to meet the situation created by drought. Two or three days back, some farmers from Haryana met the Prime Minister and they also submitted a memorandum to him. The Prime Minister told them that there was no shortage of foodgrains and the godowns were full of foodgrains. I am also aware of it.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Are you discussing on drought? What is that you are discussing? Why don't you come to the point? Time is very short. Please give some suggestions.

[Translation]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: I agree that there is sufficient stock of foodgrains in the godowns of F.C.I., because when we talk of famine and floods, then I should admit that there must be adequate stock of paddy, rice or wheat in the warehouses of the Food Corporation of India, but you should also see that the Government has to spend an amount of Rs. 2,000 crores by way of subsidy per annum on maintenance of this stock of foodgrains. I admit that with a view to meet the challenge of floods and drought, some stock of foodgrains must be maintained, but we must see as to how much is being spent on its maintenance. If we spend that much amount to solve the problem of drought and floods permanently, it would be in our better interest. But we do not think in that direction. It is possible that drought continues for two or three years and floods also occur almost every year at one place or the other. In the circumstances, if we provide some incentives to the farmers and encourage them to produce more by paying them more remunerative prices and writing off their loans, we would be able to face these natural calamities in a proper manner. Our farmers are facing all sorts of difficulties these days. He cannot afford to admit his children in colleges. Due to various debts his economic condition is deteriorating day by day. Even

then he produces foodgrains for the people of the country. I would like to know if there is drought, would the loans or dues against the farmers be written off, whether the Finance Minister or any other Minister would make such an arrangement if the drought occurs this year also. I would, therefore, like to request you that some permanent measure should be taken to meet the challenge posed by floods and drought which occur every year in the country. On the one hand, the people in Assam and Bihar are facing troubles due to floods and on the other, the people living in U.P., M.P., Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and other States are not getting even drinking water due to drought. I would like to suggest that the project to link the Ganga with the Cauvery in accordance with the recommendations of the K.J. Rao Committee should be given serious thought. Today morning when Shri Shankaranand was replying to the questions, he said that the project was not feasible as it was not economical. But I would like to submit that if it was not economical, then some more amount should be spent and arrangements should be made to find some permanent solution to the problem of the drought and the floods. It is possible that you might have to spend some additional expenditure, but it would permanently solve the problem of floods and drought which occur every year and there would be double benefit.

I would like to request you that arrangements should be made to supply surplus water to those areas where there is drought. If there is surplus water in Bihar, it should be supplied to those States where there is drought. I am not talking of importing water from the Bofors company of Sweden. If people in Bihar are facing difficulties due to surplus water it should be supplied to the Southern States by linking the Ganga and the Cauvery rivers. If you formulate a plan to link all the rivers of the country with each other, you would not have to depend on the nature. Even if there is no rain for three or four years, there would be no difficulty. People in Delhi are facing a lot of difficulties due to hot weather. One of my friends was telling that a large number of Members are

present in the Parliament House and the Central Hall these days, because these are air-conditioned and whereas there is no electric supply in the houses. If there would have been electric supply in the houses, the members would have slept in the houses. It is very hot in the month of August. If the hot weather in Delhi has crossed all the records of past 100 years, the only permanent solution could be found by linking the Ganga with the Cauvery. Whatever funds you allocate for the schemes like the N.R.E.P. and the R.L.E.G.P. fifty per cent of the funds are pocketed by the contractors. How many people get employment by such schemes? whatever amount you spend would be utilised better, if the schemes are formulated for permanent solution of natural calamities. It is all right that whenever there is drought or there are floods, we discuss the situation in the House and provide some help to meet the situation, but we do not think in terms of its permanent solution. Many projects in Andhra Pradesh like the Polavaram, the Telugu Ganga etc. are pending because the State Governments do not have the requisite resources to construct them of their own. The Centre should provide funds for all these projects.

To solve the problem of this type of drought we will have to implement the Ganga-Cauvery Scheme. They both should be connected and an authority be set up for them as also for all other rivers like Krishna, Godawari and Ganga. If we do not solve the problem in this way, if disputes between the States continue and if these projects remain stalled for years together, then the cost will go on increasing and no State Government will be able to construct dams on them. I, therefore, feel that an Authority should be set up on a national level for all big rivers and dams be constructed on these rivers on priority basis.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate. In fact, one has to wage a war to get an oppor-

tunity to speak in a debate of this nature. In a way, it is quite a serious situation and I would request you kindly not to be unkind by ringing the bell but to give me about 10 minutes time at least.

Some time before, Members have got 10 minutes, 20 minutes, one hour or 45 minutes. Anyway, I will come to points also and talk sense.

I had the fortune or misfortune, I cannot say, of handling one of the worst droughts in Orissa. Famine situation was there in 1975 and as Minister of Revenue I had handled that situation.

Undoubtedly this is a very very bad year, the worst year and we have the greatest calamity of this century and I, from the core of my heart, congratulate the Prime Minister that, before anybody in the country had requested him or demanded of him, he, on his own, realised the gravity of the situation and constituted a Cabinet Sub-Committee. Before anybody in India could demand on this, Prime Minister Shri Rajivji himself realised the gravity of the situation and he has also formed the Committee and the Committee is meeting regularly and they are thinking of taking several measures.

Probably, the Agriculture Minister is going to make an announcement about some package of relief measures and some grants which are going to be released to different States.

At the same time, I would request hon. Minister of Agriculture to be as serious as the Prime Minister in handling his own Ministry. I do not see that seriousness in Agriculture Ministry because the report that he has submitted does not sufficiently reflect the real situation that is obtaining in different parts of the country.

Particularly with regard to Orissa, I would emphatically say that even after the Minister of Revenue had personally talked to Agriculture Minister here, a faulty report has been presented in the Rajya Sabha. Even after it

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was presented here and pointed out that has not been corrected. I can quote many things from the official statements also. In the 'Times of India' it is given out:-

"According to an official estimate, 262 districts out of 407 districts have been hit by drought. The Agriculture Research Institute has found that sowing has been affected to the extent of 70% in UP, 55% in Madhya Pradesh, 25% in Andhra Pradesh, 50 per cent in Bihar, 45 per cent in Orissa and 20-30 per cent in other States. At the same time, among the States worst-affected are Haryana, Rajasthan, U.P., Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh. But in spite of all these things, in the report, Orissa finds a place on the better side of having normal rainfall. What could I say! I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister in this regard now... (*Interruptions*) Further, I would like to stress that the Prime Minister's seriousness should be reflected in the working of the Ministry of Agriculture. I do not know as to how such a wrong report and such a wrong picture has been painted about Orissa in the report. Even after the Revenue Minister's discussion with them, they have not corrected the report before they went to the Rajya Sabha with that. The official statement about rainfall in Orissa in June says that it was 87.3 mm as against an average of 213 mm in June. June is a very vital month for sowing operations, as far as Orissa is concerned. In July, it was 245 mm as against an average of 350 mm. There is less rainfall of 65% in an average, in June and 35% less rainfall in July. In spite of this fact, they have not painted the correct picture here. Anyway, now, I would request the hon. Minister to rush a Central Team to Orissa where the picture is very gloomy particularly in the background of the backwardness and historical backwardness. People who live below the poverty-line are highest in the State of Orissa. It is one of the States in India where the highest number of people live below the poverty-line. Orissa is an unfortunate State to be visited by natural calamities every year in turn by floods and drought and

cyclone. Is it not a fact? Therefore, a Central Team should rush there and liberal assistance should be given to Orissa, after talking to the State Administration, as desired by them. So, before the Minister goes to announce his first instalment of assistance, I would request him to reconsider it overnight and include Orissa in the first list. Otherwise, it will be grave injustice done to Orissa.

Now, I would like to come to other things. You know very well about the non-availability of certain important items. Because of drought, there is scarcity of drinking water, fodder and foodgrains. Of course, it is a redeeming feature that we have more than 23 million tonnes of foodgrains in our godowns-State Godowns and Central Godowns. But what is required is the proper distribution of such things. You have to streamline and strengthen the public distribution system. Otherwise there will be artificial scarcity of certain items. They will not reach the people even though they are in plenty. At the same time, there will be unemployment also. Then, we have to think of the purchasing power of the poor people. Foodgrains may be available. But, without purchasing power, the poor people, the poor farmers, marginal farmers, agricultural labourers, all will perish. This is a very challenging task, a Himalayan task and an herculean task to organise all these things, to make the drinking water reach the places where the poor villagers live, to make the fodder available to the farmers.

The next point I would like to make is regarding unemployment. Also, you know very well about the prices of some of the vegetables, milk etc. It will lead to great crisis. Further, necessary raw-materials will not be available. Again, it will lead to unemployment-industrial unemployment-because industrial production would be greatly hampered due to non-availability of raw-materials. So, it will be difficult to run the industries also. This is a gloomy picture which is going to take place. There should be a national policy, as far as this issue is concerned. It is great irony in India that millions of cuases of water is allowed to flow

down the ocean unutilised. The water is flowing down to Bay of Bengal. On the other hand, we have severe drought elsewhere. People are perishing in Bihar, Assam and West Bengal due to flood. About 20000 people perish every year in floods; 80000 cattle perish; one million houses get damaged every year in floods. Again, 10 million acres of standing crops get affected. On the other hand, the drought-affected area has been expanding in spite of our achievement to double the irrigated area during all this period since independence. Still the irony is that the drought-affected areas is going on expanding year after year, and this year it is the worst. Naturally, there should be a national water grid which should be thought of. It is a very big task, I know. To arrange for funds for that, it is a Herculean task. But at the same time let us think of the situation, let us think of a national water policy, national water grid. Let us make a beginning and connect the Ganga with the Mahanadi and then with the Godavari, the Krishna and the Cauvery. There was a scheme envisaged, but that was not implemented. I know, the Minister will be releasing money. The Prime Minister is very much concerned. But mere allotment of money will not do. The Government of India is going to release thousands of crores of rupees. But who are the agencies who will spend the money? Tackling drought rests with the States. What is the health of the State administration in different States, how well the different States are administered, all these are known to us. How they are implementing our 20-point programme, we have been discussing here and we have been expressing our concern over the fruitless and wasteful expenditure. That is why, I say that allotment of money is never a guarantee for fruitful expenditure, for effective expenditure, for fulfilment of physical targets.

I endorse all the suggestions given by the Members for drinking water, fodder and all other things like how loans should be made available to agriculturists, and so on. This is just a beginning of this distress. The drought situation will continue upto the next harvest, 1988 harvest. Only if there is a good harvest

in 1988, this distress will gradually disappear. We have to take both short-term and long-term measures.

There should be a national policy evolved, and while formulating the policy, they should consider all these aspects; drinking water, fodder, rigs, how the foodgrains should be distributed, how the public distribution system should be strengthened, employment, free feeding centres-of course, there will be a section of people who cannot work and who have to be fed by us-, mid-day meal for children, austerity measures, conservation of water, alternative use, austerity in using power, etc., etc. Why should air-conditioners be used? Let the Agriculture Minister set an example by himself not using the air-conditioner right from today. That will be a good example for the whole country. Let us divert this power from use for luxurious purposes to agriculture, to operation of pumpsets, etc., used by the farmers. Let the emphasis shift from industry to agriculture and also to dry-land farming, and other things. Emphasis should also be laid on the environmental side and on maintenance of the ecological balance. It is as much a man-made calamity as a natural calamity.

I would make one more request. Almost every day we discuss here about junior engineers' strike or teachers' strike or the doctors' strike, and every time the opposition Members as well as some of us here bring pressure on the Government to accept their demands. Now the time is such that it calls for a political will, for determination. We have to keep the morale of the people of the country-side quite high. Otherwise, it would lead to the deterioration of this nation. At this time, at this juncture, when we are facing a national crisis, the biggest of the century, should we not make an appeal-all of us, all political parties-to our bureaucracy, to our employees, that they should do their best so that the sufferings of the people are minimised? Let there be no strike, let there be no agitation, during this period. All political parties should agree to it.

[Sh. Sriballav Panigrahi]

I also suggest that a meeting of the NDC be convened immediately. Let there be a Central observer posted in every affected State.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: This is a very useful point, Madam.

17.00 hrs.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please resume your seat.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: We have to fight it out on a war-footing. That is why, the Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi while talking to a delegation, while talking to thousands of farmers who came from Haryana and Punjab the other day, said that all of us have to jointly do it. Government alone cannot do it. This is an opportunity for us to do something for the people who are suffering. The entire world is looking at it how we are going to face this. Let us not politicalise this issue on account of drought. We have to do it.....

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Let the MPs head Relief Committees in their constituencies. The Collector should be made responsive to him. And also, let the BDO be made responsible for any starvation death. Foodgrains and money be kept at his disposal. There should be proper planning, proper manpower, material resources, human resources and cooperation from all sections. We have to face this crisis without making it political. To overcome the crisis, there should be determination, there should be political will, unity, cooperation between Centre and States, between political, parties, voluntary organisations, social workers etc. Thank you.

SHRI D.P. JADEJA(Jamnagar): Thank

you for giving me this opportunity. Madam, I will be very brief and will not touch the subjects which have already been mentioned. I would also request you not to ring the bell too often and do allow me to speak.

Madam, as we all know, drought situation throughout the country is bad. Some are experiencing this year, some have experienced it last year. But, there are places, as has been mentioned, where for the past 3 to 4 years, the situation has turned from bad to worse. Now, it has been our experience because I come from an area where we are experiencing that for the past four years, there is lack of coordination between the Central Government and the State Government and the local bodies who are supposed to implement all these programmes. I will give you one small example. I come from a coastal area where we have 3 bad years out of 4. But even in the fourth year, when it is a good year, drinking water is a problem there. Central Government very kindly considered giving us Reverse Osmosis Units to this coastal area. They passed them last year and they were supposed to have been implemented this year in summer but so far not a single unit has come up there. That is what I call a lack of coordination between Centre and the State and the local bodies. I would request the Government to make an enquiry to find out who is responsible for not allowing the benefit to go to the people concerned.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER- *In the Chair*]

17.04 hrs.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have certain areas in the country where the rainfall, as usual is, is less. It should be our endeavour, our duty to see that in such areas especially whatever we get by the rain should be stocked at whichever place it is possible and to see to it that small rivulets and small rivers should not be allowed to let their water go waste. There should be, what we call 'rain water harvesting structure' whereby you would store the water according to the local conditions.

I would like to emphasise on one point that we will not succeed in our operations unless we get the people's support. It is the people who are concerned. It is their consciousness which should be aroused. They should be made to feel the importance and the seriousness of these programmes. It is for this reason that I would request that the Government should make plans and programmes where people from all walks of life, from different spheres, from all political parties and voluntary organisations should be made to understand the seriousness of saving, and utilisation of water and the awareness of environment and ecology.

There is one more point that I would like to raise over here and that is that whenever there is a drought, everybody asks for drills. We go in for drills. May I know what is the result that we have achieved? I can tell you that in my area, that is Kutch and Saurashtra in the western part of Gujarat, more than 60% have been failures at the first attempt at drilling and even in those tubewells where we did get water have also gone dry within a few months. So, the result has been a failure because the drilling has not been done in a scientific way. We have not surveyed the areas, we have not done a scientific survey of the sub-soil resources of water. It is at this stage that I would request the Government to make use of the international satellite programme. If we don't have the knowhow, get it from abroad to find out where the sub-soil is, how deep is the water and to get that water what type of equipment is required. If you require multi purpose drills which are not available in India, I would request the Government to import them also because I am told, I hope I am wrong, by the international weather pundits that the next two years may be even worse than what we are facing today. God forbid, if such a thing had to happen, I don't know where we would stand.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE
(DR. G.S. DHILLON): Who are your pundits?

SHRI D.P. JADEJA: They are not my pundits, they are the international weather

pundits.

I would like to know from the Government whether they would allow the import of multi purpose drilling equipment from countries with whom we have bilateral agreements. It would be easier to get it from them if we don't have that kind of equipment with us.

Installation of Reverse Osmosis and other desalination units is a must in the coastal areas. It is a must in those areas where the salinity is very high. This is the only alternative which can provide drinking water in those parts.

I would like to mention a very important point about the coastal areas. The coastal regions would include parts of Orissa also where they don't have enough rainfalls. In the coastal regions we have small towns and big villages as well as cities, where the drinking water problem has always been very acute. Why can't we think of double pipeline in those areas? Why can't we think of making use of sea water for the sanitation purposes? If you want an example, I would mention the name of Mithapur in Jamnagar District in Gujarat which has introduced this system 40 years ago. Today they are able to save 40% of their fresh water just by allowing the sanitation to be used by salt water. This should be a programme of the Central Government, State Governments and the local bodies combined. I would request the Central Government to give all sorts of financial assistance because the local bodies cannot afford it. But when we talk of drinking water, this is one source that we should consider seriously.

Recycling of the used water is done only in metropolitan cities; but now we have to introduce this system in smaller towns and municipalities also. Desalination is something that we have been talking for the last fifteen years. Evertime we put a proposal, it is said that it is too expensive. I agree that it is expensive. But desalination is the only alternative in the coastal regions. Why not experiment on desalination through wind energy which is absolutely free? Why are we

[Sh. D. P. Jadeja]

not trying to find out whether this sort of modern technology can be brought to India?

I would like to know whether the Government is considering bringing drinking water to parts of Saurashtra and Kutch by trains and ships.

Now, Sir, the area is facing a real crisis and because of lack of water some industries have closed down and more are going to be closed down and the owners of these industries are shifting to other cities and will have a nice time there. It is the industrial worker who will have to suffer. Have you any programme to supplement the work for the industrial workers in the urban areas? Non-governmental voluntary agencies and recognised trusts should be given relief from the excise duty, etc. If they bring modern technological equipment for drought relief works in the affected areas. In these drought affected areas we should have programmes whereby we will be able to save the wild life.

Sir, Gujarat is going to be given 2 lakh tonnes of foodgrains. Gujarat is being given foodgrains at a proportion of loan and grant. Our demand has been that everything should be grant and not loan.

I would also request the Government to give a sizeable amount for the drinking water problem because of the serious nature of the problem over there. A mention to this effect should be made by the hon. Minister in his speech as to how much you are going to give to Gujarat for drinking water problem.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER (Ghaziipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, drought is now yielding place to famine. The situation being faced in a major part of the country, for which it has been rightly said, has not been witnessed during the last 100 years. The Government is gearing up its machinery to deal with this situation and we appreciate the measures being taken by it but at the same time we want that these measures should be imple-

mented in letter and spirit. The schemes being formulated in Delhi or the State Capitals have not so far reached the areas for which they are intended and undue delay is being caused in this regard. Soon the relief is provided, better it will be. This should not be further delayed otherwise its results will be sorrowful.

All the hon. Members spoke about their respective areas and States. Everywhere it is the reign of misery and distress. Therefore, I would like to tell the hon. Agriculture Minister that the problem is serious and it is becoming all the more serious because the drought and famine have now affected the biggest State i.e. Uttar Pradesh. This State has a population of 14 to 15 crores and it not only produces for itself, but also contributes substantially to the Central Pool. If Uttar Pradesh remains self-dependent, Punjab and Haryana can supply foodgrains to all the parts of the country. If Uttar Pradesh does not meet its own requirements, then the Central Government will be in difficulty. It will become difficult for the Government to control the situation.

You have a stock of 23 million tonnes of foodgrains and if you start supplying it to Uttar Pradesh, this entire quantity will be consumed by it. Therefore, there is need to pay the maximum attention to Uttar Pradesh.

Day before yesterday, I had been to three districts, namely Ghaziabad, Bulandshahr and Aligarh of Western U.P. In these areas farming is as good as in Punjab and Haryana. The Western part of Uttar Pradesh produces the maximum quantity of foodgrains. Now-a-days dust storms are blowing there. There is a network of canals there but is no water in them because Ganga river does not have the needed quantity of water to feed these canals for the purpose of irrigation. The canals in Uttar Pradesh have almost gone dry. In Allahabad the Ganga and Yamuna meet and there is not much water there that irrigation facilities can be provided but the power needed for this purpose is not available in the State. Power is

made available only for 4 or 5 hours at the most. Canals and tubewells, both Government-owned and private are there but these tubewells are not operating properly for want of power. In Uttar Pradesh irrigation is done through canals only in Western part. The remaining entire State depends on power for irrigation and power is in acute shortage there.

If even now you are able to supply power to the entire Uttar Pradesh then there can be good produce in eastern U.P. and it would mean a great relief of the entire State. In that case, Uttar Pradesh will cease to be a burden on you. But for that you will have to take quick action.

At present there is all the greater need to produce foodgrains in Uttar Pradesh. If it is not done, the State will become a burden on you and then you will not be able to supply foodgrains to Rajasthan, Gujarat and other States to the desired extent and we may have to face a very critical situation. I, therefore, request the Government that there is still time when Western Uttar Pradesh can be provided with power for tubewells so that the fields may be irrigated. If there is no water in the rivers for the canals, we will not be able to irrigate, but by providing power, eastern U.P. can be brought under irrigation.

Kharif crop has already been lost. Rabi can still be sown but for that supply of power will have to be augmented. Then only you will be able to increase the production of foodgrains.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are going to complete 40 years of our independence but we have not been able to find any permanent solution of the natural calamities like drought and floods. Providing relief only during floods and drought is not going to be of much use. Ours is a vast country and one part or the other of it always remains affected by the floods or drought. For example, in eastern U.P., in certain parts of Madhya Pradesh and Bihar, drought and floods come in the same year. Therefore, permanent solution of these problems should be found out. I feel

that there can be one solution to both the problems. We will have to prevent the overflowing waters of the rivers to the sea. We are not short of waters. Only thing is that it should be controlled. With this control we can check floods also. Actually, we have not been able to utilise available water properly. We provide crores of rupees as relief but can't we formulate a scheme for proper management of water so that the floods and drought both may be controlled. For this, we will have to draw up a permanent scheme. Fire broke out and you extinguished it but you took no steps to see that the fire does not break out again and you may not have to spend time, money and energy to extinguish it. As such, we should take necessary precautionary steps so that we have not to spend and suffer again. Therefore, our first priority should be as to how to control drought and floods.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thirdly I want to submit that drought has posed a great danger to the cattle also. They are not getting fodder. Earlier if certain parts of a state were facing drought, fodder used to be sent from the other parts of the State but if the whole state is reeling under drought, wherefrom the fodder will come? For this, you will have to formulate a scheme under which arrangement will have to be made for supply of fodder even from quite far off places. Otherwise it will be difficult to protect the cattle heads.

SHRI VIR SEN (Khurja): Are you talking of this year or for the next year?

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: I am talking of every year. The hon. Member is right in saying that we should take immediate steps for this year.

One thing I want to say about the assistance also. Central Team will visit the areas and submit its report after taking stock of the position. Then the hon. Minister will consider it. If need be, Cabinet may also consider it. By that time either the nature will become kind or everything will be lost. Therefore, what is needed is prompt action. Your team

[Sh. Zainul Basher]

will go and visit Lucknow, Varanasi, Allahabad and will come back via Ballia, Agra, Ghaziabad etc. after visiting the entire state within two days. Then it will submit its report. All this will take time. What is, therefore, needed is that relief work should be started immediately. Only then people will be benefited. There is no need to be miserly in this respect. If the State Government sends an estimate of Rs. 400 or 500 crores, you provide just 14 or 15 crore rupees. That is not going to serve the purpose. If at all you are to provide relief, provide it full. Otherwise do not give it at all. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: If not full, provide at least the half.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Why should they give half?

(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can make a suggestion. Everybody is insisting that the Centre is not able to give timely assistance for the drought because the team has to go on a visit. You can suggest, the Centre give the permission to the State to spend the money and let them pay a visit if they are not properly spent for that purpose.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): Sir, in the reply the Hon. Minister will deal with this point but because you have raised the point, let me clarify. As the issue is raised by the Deputy Speaker, let me clarify. There is a provision of margin money. It is not that the State is left high and dry. There is a provision of margin money. When they utilise it, they can go to the Centre and write immediately for ways and means advance and in final assistance all these things are adjusted. So, there is the provision of the margin money; there is the provision of the ways and means advance.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nowadays drought is a very common feature, so, everybody is demanding that the margin money should be increased.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Let me clarify that also. Whether it is a fact or not but at present Government is not concerned with the margin money. It is the Finance Commission which decides it. The Eighth Finance Commission has increased it from Rs. 100 crores to Rs. 240 crores. Now, the Ninth Finance Commission can increase it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Some provision has to be made; otherwise it will be difficult for the States to overcome this situation.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: I agree with you, Sir. The Minister has given clarification but the State Governments would not come to know as to how much they are going to be allotted. Whether the Central Government is going to allot Rs. 100/200/50/15 crores. So, how will they utilise the margin money?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It is given to them; it is their money.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is right that you are giving money on their demand but unless you sanction it how will they know? So, I would say margin money has to be increased.

[Translation]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if they spend the margin money, how do they know as to how much amount you are going to adjust and whether you will allocate that amount to them again or not or will you stop the practice of over draft or do something else? The State Governments have been facing these difficulties for the last two to three years.

[English]

SHRI BIPIN PAL DAS: U.P. is the favourite child of the Government of India.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Let them conduct survey and if the State is not satisfied they can grant more money.

[*Translation*]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: payment to U.P. is not stopped.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: It is U.P. where payment is stopped first of all.

(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: The U.P. State was given only Rs. 14 crores.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: Our total ceiling is less than Rs. 400 crores. He is demanding more than the ceiling money. We have hardly Rs. 4000 crores for the whole country.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The State allocation can be increased.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Sir, the Minister has clarified that U.P. was given only Rs. 10 crores and I was saying that it was given Rs. 14 crores.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: It was over and above the sanctioned amount.

[*Translation*]

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Uttar Pradesh is being given step motherly treatment.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: In the Budget itself, you should increase the allocation.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you I request the hon. Agriculture Minister to sanction the demand of the U.P. Government, whatever may be the amount.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.S. DHILLON: We will be doing a lot for you.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Rs. 100 crores are much less, the Government of U.P. has been disheartened.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): The Chief Minister is in trouble.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Madhya Pradesh has asked for Rs. 250 crores, but Uttar Pradesh has asked for only Rs. 100 crores.

DR. G.S. DHILLON: You think there is much money in our pockets which you want just to take out.

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: Whether it is in your pocket or not, but you will have to provide relief to the poor, you raise the funds from anywhere you like...

[*English*]

You may beg or steal, but you should provide relief to the people. That is your job.

SHRI C. MADHAV REDDI: Only beg or steal! No borrowing I suppose!

SHRI ZAINUL BASHER: I am not bothered about what they do. I am only concerned with the relief to be provided to our people. And that relief should be provided as early as possible. I conclude with these words. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Balkavi Bairagi. Let us hope at least that his poetry will bring rain.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, I am very grateful to you for giving me time to speak. Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture, Shri Dhillon and

[Sh. Balkavi Bairagi]
the hon. Minister of State, Shri Makwana,
towards this matter in brief.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI
(Khalilabad): It is flattery.

SHRI BALKÁVI BAIRAGI: It is not flattery. I am a supporter, not a not a flatterer.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT: You will have to prove it.

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: I may perhaps express the whole problem in two lines:

*"Aakash ke bharose kab tak jiyoge bhai,
Surajki dhoop hai kab tak piyoge bhai"*

We are the sons of the soil. We form Government on this land and run the Government on this land. I request the Government of the land to run the Government depending on the land and not on the sky. Our forefathers wrote, "Sujalam, Sufalam", If you understand the meaning of 'Sujalam' you will understand a lot.

All the feelings expressed by all the sections of this House are alarming. I myself have returned after visiting my constituency and I can say that whatever has been said, is much less. Much more could have been said because the situation is worse than that. The farmer is concerned; the businessman is concerned; there is recession in the market; the land has dried up; the clouds have come and disappeared without bursting the weather has become uncertain; all calculations have gone wrong the crop has been ruined; there is no fodder for the cattle; and the future of ensuing crop is bleak. I want to say a few things towards which attention may please be paid. I see a ray of hope there. A few days ago the Prime Minister said that there was no shortage of foodgrains by the grace of the farmer. We want only this much from you that whatever the Prime Minister has said must be proved through the state governments. It is now for you to prove it. Food-grains are to be sent to those areas

which are drought affected and where these are needed by the people. If you can do this, it will be a great help to us. After all how many persons you will compensate. When I visited my constituency, two such persons came to me whom I can never provide any relief. One of them is a water proof shoe seller and the other is a umbrella repairer. Due to lack of rains, there is no demand for water proof shoe and same is the case with the umbrella repairer, their shops are closed. Since there is no rain, they do not get food. Now it is up to you to decide after all wounds of how many persons you are going to heal. However, I want to say two or three things more.

First of all I am drawing your attention towards the code of famine which has been there since the British days. If possible tear it and throw it away because during those days drought used to occur rarely. But now-a-days, it is visiting us frequently and we have established a relationship with it. This is the reason that we cannot make a true assessment of drought in terms of that code. Your collectors have a feeling that if they write the true situation they will lose their jobs. Your S.D.Os, Collectors and Patwaris consider themselves to be the culprits as if they are not allowing the rains to fall. I cannot understand as to why their hands start trembling while stating the fact that the crops of the farmers have been destroyed. It is my submission that directions may be issued by the Government that they may send a true assessment of the situation. They should not cut the throats of farmers and poor labourers in order to save their jobs. Otherwise those people will get neither their insurance money nor relief. I would like to thank the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh for his proper handling of the situation prevalent in his State. Many of our colleagues here also mentioned about the situation prevailing in Madhya Pradesh and I hundred per cent agree with the views of the State Minister of Agriculture and express my thanks to him. In Madhya Pradesh 44 districts have been affected by drought. Our Chief Minister without waiting for anybody, himself jumped into the fray and started the relief works with Rs. 80 crores in hand. In my district where there used to be

32 inches rain-fall, there has not been 8 inches rainfall this year. There is no water at all in that district and next year's crops cannot at all grow. There is a saying, "Ka Varsha jab Krishji Sukhane" (What is the use of rain when the crops have dried up). Even if there is rainfall now, what will it bring for us. Now it is also meaningless. But we are sons of that soil that is visited by many calamities but we have never admitted our defeat and now also we will face it bravely. Therefore, first of all you may please pay full attention towards the insurance claims. You should see that the insurance money which has become due to the farmers is paid without any hesitation after making a true assessment. It may also be ensured that it is proved through your relief works that this time you are carrying out the relief works by relying upon public representatives and not relying upon bureaucrats. You have to prove it. I have to say the same thing about fodder also.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to express my thanks to Pandit Motilal Vora for taking a cabinet decision that if there is any complaint from a single individual that the relief provided by the Government has not reached him and if there is any starvation death the collector will be held responsible for that. If relief is distributed evenly this time, it will give me a great pleasure, but it called for strict directions which may be issued by you. We come here having been elected from all sides by your grace and by the grace of the public. Therefore, you must show us this much regard that when we return to our constituencies, we are able to say that we have reported your problems there and as a result thereof whatever we have brought for you, it may be distributed among all of you equally. Please give us an opportunity to prove it. I do not hesitate to say that if you rely on the Collectors, Commissioners, S.D.Os and Patwaris and sit tight, you will not be able to remove the difficulties of the people.

Lastly, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Agriculture that he has declared some areas as grey in his records. I admit that wells have been dug in those areas but the level of water there has gone

down. Now the problem is that neither the NABARD nor the Government will give any loan to the people of 'grey' areas for doing something there. Then what will be the fate of ensuing crops? It is my submission to you that you may change the records wherein you have declared some areas as grey areas and make some provision so that you are able to grant loans in these areas. The level of water in the wells in those areas has gone far below. There is a well known saying in our Malwa region; "Dug dug roti, pug pug neer" Now that very Malwa region is totally in the grip of a very grave situation. Though the people do not want that their loans be written off, yet they are demanding some assistance from certain sources from where it is available whether it is a nationalised bank or a co-operative bank because of their miserable plight. Necessary directions should also be issued to the NABARD, the nationalised and cooperative banks for advancing loans to these people. You may please have some mercy on these sons of this soil and protect them. We request you. It is our right also. If you have any sympathy and commitment; if there is any strength in the resolution of Shri Rajiv Gandhi, then it is high time to prove the same.

With these words, I expect a lot from you and having faith in you, I would like to assure the sons of this soil that they should not feel restless because our Government is very vigilant and is prepared to wipe out their tears by rising above party lines.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD (Hingoli): I am happy that the House is discussing the drought conditions throughout the country. In my State, after every 2 or 3 years, we have to face drought conditions. I do not know why we have not been able to find out some solution, which can be applied during such periods.

As I have said on an earlier occasion, is it not possible for us to have minor irrigation projects to have village tanks, wherever possible? If we have minor tanks, we can

[Sh. Uttam Rathod]

also have wells which can get water later on. Instead of spending more money on major schemes, if the same amount is utilized for minor tanks as you will find them in Andhra Pradesh, and in the Bhandara and Chandrapur districts, they can give some relief to people.

Secondly, the point was raised just now by Shri Zainul Basher about fodder banks. We have warehousing godowns where we store foodgrains. Why can't we have fodder banks? We must have fodder banks. If we have them, the same fodder can be utilized, transported and given as cattle feed. I think it is high time that we do this.

Thirdly, regarding the work that is to be provided to agricultural labour, I would say that more and more works should be taken up by Government to give employment. If there is no crop in the field, the agriculturist will not be able to give employment to agricultural labour. So, it is the duty of the Government to take up more works, so that people can go and work there, and earn their livelihood.

We have stored foodgrains. But when they are distributed, on most of the occasions it is seen that their quality becomes very much deteriorated. For this purpose, fumigation should be done properly, and all precautions to preserve foodgrains should be taken.

Lastly, I would say that Maharashtra had last year asked for a very big sum. We were given a very paltry sum. I do not know why Central Government thinks that we are giving exaggerated figures to it. In spite of asking for it several times, they took a very long time to send their Central team. Why don't they have a permanent Central team which will go to all the areas simultaneously, to estimate the extent of drought, and give figures to Government? I have seen it during the time of Rao Birendra Singh. Mr Singh had told me once that he would be sending the team the next day, but he took over 21

days to send his team. Such things should not happen in future. The State Governments are fighting the drought, and we should encourage them. If we do not do so, people will be frustrated, and ultimately the Government will lose its credibility.

So, I once again appeal to Shri Yoegendra Makwana and our hon. Minister to see that they will be prompt in giving relief money to all the States which are facing the drought conditions very badly.

[*Translation*]

*SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA (Vishnupur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today we are discussing the severe drought conditions prevailing in many parts of our country. Sir, our country is mainly an agricultural country where 70 to 80 per cent people are dependent on agriculture. In such a country because of the fact that the agricultural system and facilities have not been properly developed, it is a shame that we have to discuss floods and droughts in the House year after year even after 40 years of independence. To combat floods and droughts fully proper and adequate steps have not yet been taken. Some measures of course have been taken here and there but that is not adequate to provide full protection to the people. Some irrigation schemes have been implemented no doubt but a lot remains to be done. There are many projects which have not yet been taken up and there are some projects which need further development or improvement. We are going towards the 21st century with computerisation etc. We have taken long strides towards scientific and technological advancement but they are not being utilised for improvement of agriculture and to help the farmers. Many irrigation projects which were drawn up are hanging fire for a long time many of which have not yet been given final clearance. During the Question hour today, in reply to a question the hon. Minister said that due to lack of financial resources many irrigation projects could not be taken up. Sometimes they say that the State Govts are responsible for some projects. So, under

* The speech was originally delivered in Bengali.

some excuse or other important projects are not being taken up. If these are neglected then the devastation caused by floods and drought will recur year after year.

Sir, in West Bengal we find that in some areas there is drought and in some other areas there is flood. The poor people are suffering untold misery. In the districts of Midnapur, Bankura, Birbhum etc. severe drought conditions are prevailing where-as the districts of Jalpaiguri, Cooch-Behar etc. are reeling under devastating floods. To combat this situation some schemes and projects were forwarded to the Central Govt. But nothing has been done about them as yet. I will specially mention about Bankura. The "Kangsabati" project has been implemented there. But this project is not benefiting Bankura district much. Some other districts like Midnapur, Hooghly etc. have benefited to some extent from that project, in combating floods. Bankura is a drought prone area. We have seen that every two or three years this district is affected by severe drought. The 'Upper Kangsabati' project was drawn up for that area and was forwarded to the Central Govt. But till today we do not know what happened to that or how much money will be provided for that project by the Centre. The Prime Minister and some Cabinet Ministers have made statements that not a single individual will be allowed to die on account of the drought, and wide publicity is being given to that. But Sir, the condition of the Central Govt. today is very shaky. The bureaucrats and officers of the Govt. are not confident how long the present Govt. will stay in power. That is why the officers are not taking up any work earnestly and seriously. They have become indifferent. In this situation the people are in a very helpless condition. What do we see in Delhi itself? We see that there is severe drought, there is shortage of water and electricity. Prices of all essential commodities are sky-rocketing. All commodities of daily necessity like milk, bread etc. are not available in the market. The traders are looting the public. This is the condition in Delhi, the seat of the Central Govt. The Central Govt. cannot do anything when this is the condition in Delhi itself, you

can well imagine what will be the condition of the common man and poor farmers in other parts of the country. I do not think that mere discussion of these problems in the House or a few good things said by the hon. Minister will help solve the problem. Drought and floods cannot be combated like this. The Central Govt. should hold discussions with all State Govts. and all should fight together this menace of drought. This must be fought on a war-footing. With that Sir, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the House is discussing a very important subject, which has been demanded by hon. Members from all sections of this House. In this House, very often repeatedly this kind of discussion on the drought, flood or famine has been taking place. It has become a regular feature in this House to discuss such matters.

Rainfall is almost nil this year and I think in the last one hundred years we have not seen such a rain-less year. We are fortunate that in our godowns we have enough of grains. Otherwise this drought is going to have a devastating effect on the economy and the effects of it may be felt for many years to come.

Our Prime Minister has taken an effective measure, in setting up a Cabinet Sub-Committee to chalk out an effective programme involving all the elected representatives in this House and the legislative assemblies in the States. I am coming from such an area where we have never experienced drought or flood or famine. But in Andamans, for the first time, it appears in the history of Andamans they are facing drought this year. My friend Mr. Bhakta was raising it in the meeting of the Island Development Authority. Therefore, when people are looking to the needs of the people of the main land, the needs of these far-flung areas and Islands should not be forgotten. This is my fervent appeal to the Agriculture Ministry, which is headed by able Ministers.

[Sh. P. M. Sayeed]

Shri Zainul Basher just now was referring to the flow of funds from the Centre to the States. Agriculturists are expressing their helplessness because the funds available to them are very meagre. Now, especially, in the political arena different States are ruled by different parties and as these meagre funds given to different States, this may create some grievances in the minds of people. Suppose it happens to be Congress (I) ruled States. They may say that they are favoured or even if any other State other than the ruling party at the centre, if they are given what is more due to them, then there may be some allegations that their due is not given. This is a national problem. All of us will have to be above the party line and see that relief is given to all the States according to their need in time. If a Central Team takes forty five days or two months, then there is no meaning in it. Immediately, a permanent team must go to the States affected and they must give their report within twenty days. On the basis of which funds should be given to different States. My point is this.

Relief Committees have to be formed as monitoring agencies. There should be permanent monitoring agencies. This should be headed in the Districts by an M.P. and in the Talukas by an MLA. The monitoring agencies must be formed by the Prime Minister. Therefore, whatever funds available should be distributed according to the need. States affected badly must get more money. That is the immediate task.

Sir, during the last forty years, we have seen many droughts and floods. What have we done? I think we have to do a lot more in this direction. I think, some years back there was a talk that northern rivers should be linked up with the southern rivers at a cost of Rupees ten thousand crores with the help of the World Bank.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU (Gobichettipalayam): Ganga Cauvery Project.

SHRI P.M. SYEED: Yes. Some years back, it was costing Ten thousand crores. I think it is high time that the Government must come forward with this scheme whatever may be the monetary aspect. We must see that the rivers in the north and the south should be linked so that both drought as well as the flood could be controlled. Please throw some light on this scheme, which was there in existence. This project must be reviewed and given a concrete shape.

I do not want to take more time of the House. Sir, at the District level, the Collector must be the convenor and a Member of Parliament should be made as the Chairman of the Relief Committee or the Monitoring Agency. Some two and a half years back, eighty five MPs have signed and submitted a memorandum to the then Finance Minister Mr. V.P. Singh, to this effect. At that time, he was a Minister here DRDA Agencies are there.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU: Why do you mention the name of Shri V.P. Singh. Now he is not a Member of this House.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: If you object to it, then I will withdraw that part.

Therefore, what I say is that the Members of Parliament must be made the Chairman of the Centrally Sponsored schemes like DRDA, Food for Work, at the district level and the Collector must be made the convenor.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: If there are two Members in one district, what will happen?

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: The other Member may be made the Co-Chairman. Because of this drought, the agricultural labour is the worst affected. Therefore, the activities under DRDA, NREP, IRDP, RLEGP must be

given further fillip so that the agricultural labour which is thrown out of jobs, must find jobs.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

18.01 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 14, 1987/ Sravana 23, 1909 (Saka)