

[Prof. Narain Chand Parashar]

one thousand metres or more because of various factors like remoteness, difficult geographical terrain, lack of essential commodities and various other facilities. Their counterparts in the State services are getting this allowance irrespective of height. The Fourth Pay Commission had recommended their case for consideration of the Government.

I therefore request the Minister of Finance to sanction H.C.A. to all such employees irrespective of height, but working in hill States/region recognised as such by the Planning Commission and end this discrimination with them.

12.31 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL) 1987-88—Contd.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shrimati Dikshit, you wanted to inform the House about something.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SHEILA DIKSHIT) : Sir, I would like to suggest that we should sit through Lunch hour because we have to complete the Supplementary Demands for Grants.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I think the House will accept your suggestion. Now, I go to the next item, that is, Item No. 15, regarding Further Discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1987-88 and also further discussions on cut motions moved by the Members on 2nd December 1987. Now, Mr. Somnath Rath, to speak.

SHRI SOMNATH RATH (Aska) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Supplementary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget for 1987-88. Sir, our budget is very much connected with the behaviour of monsoon and because of the drought situation, we have to spend about Rs. 1,500 to Rs. 2,000 crores to fight the drought situation and there is already a cut

in Defence budget upto Rs. 250 crores at a juncture when the USA Congress cleared 4.02 billion dollars of military aid and economic aid package for Pakistan, violating US regulation regarding non-proliferation of nuclear weapon equating India with Pakistan. The Pakistan Government is also getting about 100 tanks from China. It has modernised its navy with sophisticated weapons. Under this circumstances, it is to be viewed how our long borders can be defended. Of course, we have got full confidence on our army.

Sir, in the budget, there is a provision for supply of power to the rural areas. But steps should be taken to curb the loss of the power. In the villages the REC and SPA scheme that are in vogue to supply current to the rural areas, should be implemented faithfully in the States. Under this scheme, though the villages are to be electrified, I am sorry to state that these villages are not electrified. But the money has been spent. For example, I can speak about my own constituency. Money has been granted under the SPA scheme to Gram Panchayats like Koklaba, Tilising and Gereda. But the scheme has not at all been implemented so far in these areas. We do not know what has happened to the amount that has been allotted for the scheme. Similarly, the drought amount that is given to the States should be spent for the implementation of permanent schemes. If not for major and medium irrigation this amount can as well be spent on minor irrigation and of watersheds, which will also provide the relief work for the drought affected areas. Unless the amount is spent for permanent measure, we have to give year after year relief to these drought affected areas. At the same time, we must see that the drought affected areas are provided with funds taking into account the severity of drought and the funds should not be given to the States for distribution as they like. Sir, our Prime Minister has rightly said that the implementation of the scheme should be done at the district level and unless it is implemented at the district level, at the grass root level, the schemes may not only be failing but also the beneficiaries may not be receiving the benefit meant for them.

In Orissa, the Ganjam District is worst affected, and I congratulate the Agriculture Minister for having said on the floor of this House that special assistance should be given

to this district.

As far as the distribution system is concerned, it should be streamlined by providing retail sale centres. These retail sale centres must provide essential commodities to the people, but through that channel the essential commodities should not go to black market. So, I repeat that the essential commodities should be channelised through such retail sale centres to reach the people in right earnest.

Much has been said about the loan melas. There are some persons who are allergic to the loan melas and I do not know why they are afraid of loan melas. Shrimati Indira Gandhi has nationalised the banks and brought the credit to the door of rural poor. Now it is being extended to implement poverty alleviation schemes. Through these loan melas really the poor people are being benefited. We know who are the persons getting benefit from these loan melas, and I once again request the Finance Minister, Mr. Poojary, that having taken a bold step he should see that these loan melas are conducted in a wider manner and the poor people are benefited.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM NARAIN SINGH (Bhiwani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the Supplementary Demands for Grants, as the hon. Minister has not been able to make out a forceful case in support of the Demands. As I see, farmers and working class have not been treated well. The occurrence of drought and floods this year is not a new phenomenon. This is an annual feature. Of course, their degree of ferocity differs from year to year. Forty years have passed since we attained Independence, but no full proof solution to it has been worked out during this period. If the Government wants, drought can be eliminated for ever and floods too can be checked.

In so far as drought is concerned, its impact is least felt in Punjab. Similarly, Ganganagar and three or four districts of Haryana, where canal water is supplied in abundance, are less affected by the drought and they are in a position to manage without Central assistance. What is the reason behind Punjab becoming number 1 and Haryana No. 2 in terms of prosperity ?

This is because Punjab got more water than Haryana from Bhakra Dam which was constructed on the river Sutlej. As a result, Punjab became more prosperous. Dams could be constructed on all the rivers of India, sum amounting to crores of rupees spent on floods and drought, could have been utilised for construction of dams. At present we are utilising only 36 per cent of our river water and the remaining 64 per cent goes waste by way of flowing into the sea. Had we spent this amount on construction of dams on the rivers, we could have harnessed this water also and had S.Y.L. canal been constructed by now, we would not have been in need of Central assistance. But in the absence of such an arrangement farmers are losing Rs. 400 crores annually. The portion of the canal, which was to be constructed in Haryana, has been ready for the last 10 years but the portion falling in Punjab has not been constructed, due to which the farmers have to suffer huge loss. Year after year, the assurance is given that it will be completed by the next March, but there seems to be no hope. So, if you could construct dams on the river, it will not only reduce the incidence of floods but water can also be provided to farmers for irrigating their fields, thereby bringing prosperity. Thus, the problem of 80 per cent people comprising farmers and labourers living in the villages will be solved. Here, we speak of providing help to farmers and labourers in each and every speech, but even after 40 years of Independence, condition of farmers and labourers has not improved. Even a class IV Government servants such as peon, gardener, watchman, living in cities, is better off than a farmer owing 15 kilas of land, because the latter is affected sometime by drought and sometime by floods. So, he is always in trouble. Besides, the farmers in villages are given loan at 10-12 per cent rate of interest, whereas industrialists living in the cities, who take loans worth crores of rupees, are given loan at only 5 per cent rate of interest. If some poor farmers and labourers in the villages are not at all in a position to repay the loan amounting to Rs. 4-5 thousand due against them, the police and the recovery agencies run after them, but the Government does not think in term of writing off the loans. If the repayment of such loans is waived, this will enable them to rise over the poverty line. In Haryana, an amount of Rs. 227 crores due against small farmers, labourers and artisans

[Shri Ram Narain Singh]

was written off. The step has provided them a lot of relief. Even during the British rule, when there was no welfare State, practically, it was a police State, such type of loans were written off as a measure of agrarian reforms. Sir, Chhotu Ram was the leader of the farmers. During his days, he brought about a substantial improvement in the condition of the farmers. Under that background, benefit was given to the farmers there.

You should pay more and more attention to provide canal water and electricity. In the areas where canal facility is not available electricity should be provided, because if it is done, the problems, of 80% people of the rural areas will be automatically solved. Neither drought nor floods has affected the city population. Only village population falls victims to this calamity. Every thing will be all right, if you provide these two facilities. But they are not given due priority in the Budget. Being an agricultural country top priority should be given to agriculture in the matter of providing funds followed by irrigation and power. At present, you are giving top priority to Defence, but even in the case of Defence, you are going to reduce their allocation by Rs. 250 crores so as to provide drought relief. On the other hand, there is demand for Civil Aviation. They are spending money on advertisements and festivals which is all wasteful expenditure as it neither provides livelihood nor shelter to anybody. One can think of entertainment only after one has the means to livelihood and shelter. I, therefore, request you that if you are really interested in improving the condition of the farmers, top priority should be given to agriculture, power and irrigation in the matter of providing money status quo will continue, if your intention is not so. Jai Hind.

SHRI P. NAMGYAL (Ladakh) :
Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, these Supplementary Demands comprise 26 grants relating to 16 Ministries and two Union Territories and the Finance Minister has sought an amount totalling Rs. 1780.49 crores. While supporting these Supplementary Demands, I would like to say something about three or four demands for grants. A total amount of Rs. 249.90 crores, i.e. Rs. 57.05 crores for R.L.E.G.P. and Rs. 192.85 crores for

N.R.E.P. has been sought under Demand No. (4). I think, the money is going to be spent in the right direction on this count I welcome it.

Now, I would like to invite the attention of the hon. Minister to another point. You have created infrastructure under various schemes such as N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. in different States. In my own constituency, a number of school buildings have been constructed. A good number of link roads as well as small bridges have been constructed. After their completion, they are transferred to concerned departments. For example, irrigation canal is transferred to the Irrigation Department and roads, etc. are transferred to P.W.D. Department. Similarly, schools are transferred to the concerned department. Two days earlier, I raised the same issue under Half-an-Hour discussion. The Agriculture Minister had replied that so long as it was under their charge, there was no problem, but as soon as it was transferred to the concerned department, they became responsible for its maintenance. But what happens in fact is that as soon as a project is transferred to the concerned department, natural calamity befalls or school building collapses due to some reason or the road gets damaged in which case the concerned departments do not own responsibility saying that they do not have that asset or they do not have maintenance grants. The maintenance grants are given for assets which are created by the P.W.D., but maintenance grants are not given for the assets created under N.R.E.P. and R.L.E.G.P. after their transfer to the concerned departments. I am not aware as to what is the position in other States but I would like to say about Jammu and Kashmir, that they do not have maintenance grants for such assets. After one or two years, they get damaged due to rain, floods and other natural calamities, as a result of which they are completely destroyed. Therefore, I would specifically like to bring it to your notice.

One thing I want to say about telecommunication services. Although you have not demanded much under this head. Yet I would like to avail this opportunity to draw the attention of the hon. Minister, through you, that automatic exchange at Leh, which was scheduled to be completed this year, has not been completed. I fail to understand as to why the Government is not completing

it, when equipment and other material have already been brought. Secondly, a satellite station was scheduled to be commissioned this year at Kargil, for which land, money and requisite materials have already been provided. But I do not know as to why P and T Department is sitting over it. As a result, the area is facing a lot of difficulty in the matter of tele-communication services. Therefore, while availing of this opportunity, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister that he should apprise the Minister of communication of this problem.

Similarly, the Government have sought an amount of Rs. 9 lakhs for the Defence Ordnance factory. This amount is totally inadequate. In this regard, I would like to say that the ordnance units, particularly the 3rd Infantry Division has all along been plagued by employee dispute.

All the local unskilled labourers are removed and unskilled labourers from plans are permanently absorbed in their places. We want that local people should be employed and unskilled labourers from other places should not be absorbed. Local people are objecting to it since they feel that they are the victims of injustice. I would like to request the Government that the Minister concerned may be asked to take steps in the matter. Another point I would like to mention is about the Army expenditure in that part of the country. It needs to be curtailed. There is leakage to the extent of crores of rupees in ordnance units. The Government should look into it as the nation is passing through financial constraints.

The Government have made a provision of Rs. 500 crores to be transferred to States in the form of assistance. Besides, the Government is going to release a sum of Rs. 50 crores for flood and drought relief measures. In this connection, I would like to say that the monitoring machinery is needed to be strengthened. The funds provided by the Centre, are not being utilised by many of the States for the purpose for which these have been allotted to. These are being diverted to other items instead of being spent on flood relief measures.

Regarding education, I would like to say that you have introduced reorientation

course in the new system of education. The teaching course upto primary level is for two weeks only. It is too small a period. The teachers in my Constituency are only Middle or Matric pass. Therefore, they find themselves unable to understand this new system. In order to have full benefit of it, the duration of the course should be increased. There are 6 schools in my Constituency where the Head Masters are Middle pass. In such a situation, only God can help us. The result of Higher Secondary examination was 3% last year. Teachers are only Middle pass and they are unable to grasp the reorientation Course due to shorter period. Therefore, the duration is needed to be increased.

With these words, I support the Demands for Grants.

*SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA (Lakhimpur) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we are discussing the Supplementary Demands for Grants. There has been no economic development in Assam after 40 years of our independence. There is no industrial growth in Assam. It is a matter of great regret that Assam is lagging behind in all spheres.

There is unemployment problem in Assam. This problem has become acute. It is a matter of great regret that there is no industry in Lakhimpur which is my constituency. It has been declared no industry district. Even then no industry has been set up so far. The river island Majuli is an Assembly constituency which falls under the Parliamentary constituency of Lakhimpur. In order to go to Majuli we have to cross two big rivers or the mighty river Brahmaputra. Recently there were devastating floods in Assam. The relief amount for flood victims given by the Central Government is too little. It is a matter of regret that some Ministers of Assam had to stage dharna at the Boat Club seeking flood relief for Assam. If Central Government does not extend a helping hand towards Assam, in that case there will be severe problems for us. There has been great loss to the standing crops. There is huge sand deposits on the soil as a result of which it is next to impossible to undertake cultivation there. It is a great loss to the farmers.

There is an air field at Lilabari in

[Shri Gokul Saikia]

Lakhimpur district. Itanagar, the capital of Arunachal Pradesh is very near to Lakhimpur. We were under the impression that Lilabari air field would be upgraded and air-bus facilities will be provided there. On the contrary Fokker service has been cancelled and Vayudoot service has been started in its place. The public of Lakhimpur are very much dissatisfied over this issue. Medical facilities are lacking in Lakhimpur district in comparison to other places. People of Lakhimpur are agitating for this. For better treatment either we are to go to Dibrugarh or to Gauhati which is a very costly affair and it is beyond the reach of common man.

The railway line goes through the heart of the town of Lakhimpur. When a train passes through there is lot of inconvenience to the road traffic causing immense trouble to commuters. Because all the schools, colleges, hospitals and business establishments are located on either side of the railway line. They cannot reach their destination in time.

There is an electricity project known as SUWANSIRI-BHERUKHAMUKH project. Unfortunately there is some land dispute as a result of which work of the project could not be started. Had the work on this project started not only we would have become self sufficient in electricity. In order to tour the whole parliamentary constituency of Lakhimpur one has to cross the mighty Brahmaputra three times. If some one is to go to Sadiya, Jorhat or Dibrugarh, there is no bridge over the Brahmaputra. I had demanded several times that least two bridges should be constructed to help the poor people of my constituency. This should be done on priority basis ; otherwise the people will have to suffer. There is a scheme for Nav Yug Vidyalay by the Central Government ; but it is a matter of great regret that we are deprived of this facility.

Last year a scientist named Bapte made an announcement in the national newspapers that there would be severe earthquake in Dhemaji and its surroundings. He was of the opinion that the earthquake will take place in Assam and Dhemaji town and sixty feet depression will be caused all over. As a result of this forecast, people of Dhemaji

left their home incurring huge loss to their property. Ultimately there was no earthquake. I therefore request the Central Government that they should restrict such type of baseless announcement and the guilty should be punished adequately and if need be, such persons should be arrested under National Security Act.

After being elected as MP, we came to Delhi. Since MP flats were not available at that time, we were asked to be accommodated in the Assam House. Where we were staying there in the Assam House, I was issued a letter dated the 11th May 1986 by the Resident Commissioner, the text of which follows as under :

"Sir, as you have in continuous occupation of a VIP suite for a long time it is causing inconvenience to visiting VIPs from Assam. The Governor of Assam is visiting Delhi from 13-5-86. The entire VIP block consisting of Room No. 18, 17 lounge will be required for him.

You are, therefore, requested to vacate the suite occupied by you before 13-5-86."

On 11th this letter was issued and I was asked to vacate the suite occupied by me by 13th. In this way I was harassed ignoring my genuine difficulties.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Regarding quarters, do not raise in this House. (*Interruptions*)

This is not related to the supplementary demands. It can be raised in Assam Assembly and not here.

SHRI GOKUL SAIKIA : Another thing I want to point that recently Shri Santosh Mohan Dev, Minister of State, Communication visited Assam and some employees wanted to see him ; but they were denied interview. The employees wanted to place their grievances before the Minister.

The telephone system in Assam is in bad shape. Immediate attention is to be given in order to improve the telephone facilities. Our Post Office building is very old which was constructed by the British. It is to be renovated.

With these words I conclude my speech. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity.

13.00 hrs.

SHRI BANWARI LAL BAIRWA (Tonk): Mr. Deputy-Spaker, Sir, I am really grateful to you for giving me time to speak despite the fact that a limited time is available for the discussion. I rise to support the supplementary Demands for Grants. Time being short, I shall try to be very brief.

Sir, Rajasthan is facing the calamity of famine. Having severity of famine in mind, our Prime Minister, first of all visited Rajasthan. He undertook extensive tour of the State and felt that the situation is very grave in Rajasthan. The rainfall has been below average in 26 out of the 27 districts and 36,636 out of 38,000 villages, say about 3 crores of people have been badly hit by famine conditions. We are not getting cooperation from the Centre to the extent we had expected. We are facing shortage of drinking water, food, foodgrains and fodder for the cattle. Our basic economic structure is based on cattle but there is no fodder for them. This is the biggest problem. If our cattle perish the economy of Rajasthan be ruined ever. There was a provision of 100% subsidy for the transportation of fodder but now it has been reduced to 75%. I would request the Government to increase the subsidy to 100% so that cattle feed position could improve. Some assistance per cattle should also be given to the farmers. A farmer has to keep at least one pair of bullocks for which fodder costing Rs. 30 at the minimum is needed per day. Beside bullocks, a farmer has to keep some cows, buffalows and goats etc. But he cannot maintain these cattle from his own resources. The Government should provide certain amount of assistance so that cattle could be saved.

Secondly, I am grateful to the Prime Minister for according approval to the Bisalpur Dam Project. This project runs in two phases. In the first phase, arrangement for drinking water is to be made for Ajmer, Beawar and Kekri districts and in the second phase, irrigation facilities to Sawai Madhopur and Bundi districts etc. are proposed to be

provided. I am really grateful to the Prime Minister for this, but I would like to request the hon. Minister of Finance and the Minister of Planning that immediate arrangements should be made to provide relief to the farmers since construction of canals will take time. Some project should be started there to enable the people to get employment. If the work on canals is started right now, people will get some relief as they will be employed there. The water can be made available to us by the time the second phase is completed. Otherwise, the water will be utilised if the canals are not constructed in time.

Another important thing I would like to mention is that the Government have constructed very big dams during the last 30 or 40 years and the only objective of these dams is to make water available to the farmers for irrigation. The Government have constructed dams in a very large number for the purpose and the farmers were not asked to pay anything. But on the other hand we are being subjected to a discriminating policy in this regard. This needs reconsidered. The assistance or loan which the Government provides to the small farmers is totally inadequate. A sum of Rs. 40,000 is needed for constructing a well in Rajasthan. Is it possible for a small farmer, having two hectares of land, to spend an amount of Rs. 40,000? I request the Government to make such an arrangement that every small farmer is provided with a well for irrigation purposes. A provision of subsidy or loan may be made for big farmers, otherwise the Government would not succeed in its plan. Lastly, I would request that the arrangement to provide fertilizers, water and fodder must be made immediately.

***SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO** (Chikballapur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the supplementary demands for grants for the year 1987-88 presented by our Government.

There was severe drought in many States and in some States there was unprecedented floods and cyclones. These unfortunate incidents have posed additional burdens on the Central Government and the State Governments as well.

Droughts and floods are the regular

[Shri V. Krishna Rao]

features of our country. This year the drought situation is very serious and it has affected most of the States. The only solution for this perennial problem of droughts and floods in the country is to link Ganga and Kaveri rivers. Every year our Central Government is spending thousands of crores of rupees to provide relief to the people affected by drought and floods. Instead of spending huge funds every year it is better to link Ganga and Kaveri rivers and to complete other major irrigation projects which are pending before the Government for a long time. By doing this the dream of the farmers of our country would become a reality. This stupendous work has to be completed under able administration of our leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi.

In Karnataka the programmes like NREP, RLEGP and other have not achieved desired success. The drought relief programmes are not helping the affected people satisfactorily.

Even today many of the villages in Karnataka do not have drinking water facility. These villages do not have school buildings and electricity has not reached those villages. They lack transportation facility also.

Many districts like Kolar, Tumjur, Bellary, Chitradurga and other in my State are reeling under severe drought. The condition of the people of the villages in these districts is miserable. They do not have drinking water. The crops in these districts have been destroyed due to drought. The future of the farmers is indeed very gloomy. If the State Government can't tackle the situation then the Centre should intervene and help the poor farmers in Karnataka. I reiterate this point and request the Centre to rescue the hard hit farmers in my State.

Bore wells have to be dug throughout the drought prone areas of Karnataka. Upper Bhadra project has to be completed at the earliest. The completion of this project would provide water to 31 lakh hectares in that area for irrigation. This alone can solve the problems of the farmers who are affected by natural calamities almost every year.

I hope the hon. Minister would do his best for the completion of long pending irrigation projects to ameliorate the difficulties of the farmers in the country. Once again I support the supplementary demands for grants and with these words I conclude my speech.

DR. DATTA SAMANT (Bombay South Central) : Sir, a provision of Rs. 23 crores has been made to meet the losses of NTC mills. In this House I am asking for a discussion on the entire textile policy. Even Haribabu of Maharashtra INTUC has passed a resolution to study this because lakhs of textile workers and even the power-looms in the country are suffering. The losses in the NTC mills are mounting. In the last three months 21 mills in Gujarat have closed and 70,000 workers are on the road. They are just locking out the thing. I do not know what Gujarat Government is doing! Now INTUC has decided to launch a strong agitation because 70,000 workers are starving. On 15th of this month in Bombay we are planning strong agitation of 'jail bharo'. There is absolutely no planning. The modern mills and Swan mill of Goenka are closed. All new mills are closing. Textile mill of Gwalior is also closed. The whole textile industry where 9 lakh workers are working everybody is demanding that Government should take over these mills. You are giving the opportunity to the employers to make the mills sick and then Government should take it over. Let us stop this bad thing going on in this country. I would appeal to the Government to take-over all the textile industries. Some mills are doing well. Even their interests have changed. They want to sell the land. In spite of giving them loans to the tune of Rs. 750 crores again you are meeting their losses of Rs. 23 crores. This is a vicious circle. Black-money is generated and everybody is suffering in this country.

Similar is the situation in respect of jute mills. Another thing is giving this backward subsidy for industries to the tune of Rs. 50 crores. I am not against it. Industry must develop in the backward areas and concessions should be given. No what type of concessions you are giving? You are giving them electricity, holiday from income-tax and sales-tax, etc. There are lot of concessions. Every State is giving such type of concessions to the same industrialists who

have ruined the workers and the economy in the cities. The same people who have closed the units. The same people are the owners of the jute mills. The same people are the owners of shipping mills. The same people are running your cement industry and everybody is coming to you saying I have gone sick. In privatisation what type of economy you are doing !

It is a big joke with this country. They are generating black money. You are helping them by giving them concessions.

Now the cement industry is sick. You will reduce their taxes. Are you going to change this ? We are just extending a lip sympathy here to the poor people saying that we are doing something. These big people are literally draining the economy. I am appealing to the Government that at the time of giving subsidies to the sick industries in the backward areas, at least you must put some restrictions. The existing industries whether they are in Ahmedabad, Bombay or any other town should not be closed down. The Birlas are now closing its factory Kores (India) in Bombay to get concessions like excise duty and then shifting it to another place. Is it industrialisation ? The existing big industries are being closed down and shifting to backward areas.

During the last three months, the Chief Ministers of four States, namely, U.P., Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and Goa, came to Bombay. They called all these employers like a son-in-law and each one of them said : Come to my area and I will give you everything likewater, electricity. A labour is available at Rs. 10 a day.

Sir, who is at gain ? All these 30 big industrial houses in this country are gaining because of concessions from the Government. Unless these basic concessions, which you are giving, are stopped, nothing will come out.

Then, subsidies are given on fertilisers, etc. For whom are you giving all these non-Plan subsidies ? Rs. 750 crores were provided for in the budget. Now it is an additional amount of Rs. 300 crores. The Government is very keen to give subsidy to the big people. All the facilities are extended to the big people. You are talking and discussing about poor people. Some fertiliser units are run by the Government while

others are owned by big people. Mr. Chidambaram is running one in Madras. He is closing another industry. He is making a big profit. Another is owned by the Birlas. They say : the electricity rate, etc., has gone up. So, you give us more subsidy. But are these subsidies passed on to the farmers ? Has the rate of fertilisers gone down in this country ? It is your strange way of giving the money in the name of subsidies thinking that your subsidies will be passed on to the poor people of this country. When the prices of oil had gone up, you gave large sums of money for import of oil.

You may consider these Supplementary Demands logical. But in view of the above, I strongly oppose such type of Supplementary Demands which do not help the poor people of this country.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, I rise to support the second batch of Supplementary Demands for Grants for the financial year 1987-88 which involves gross expenditure of Rs. 1,780.49 crores. The net additional expenditure is Rs. 1,380.65 crores out of which Rs. 815.31 crores is related to drought and flood relief to be financed from the resources raised by economy and additional resources measures recently undertaken. The balance of Rs. 565.34 crores mainly comprises of Rs. 300 crores for fertiliser subsidy, Rs. 181.64 crores for assistance to Punjab and Rs. 50 crores for subsidy to new industrial units in selected backward areas.

Coming from an industrially backward area having a large amount of population living below the poverty line, I can only say that the crux of the matter is one of management and one of application of science and technological evolutions and innovations.

If one is to take this into consideration, the first and foremost is that we have not been able to husband and manage our water resources. Water is our most important renewable natural resource. But it is a pity that we have not been able to do scientific management of water. If we had developed the micro-water sheds or perennial streams or hill river streams, then today we would not have suffered from the twin effects of drought and floods because of the vagaries

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

of the monsoon which is a direct resultant of the degradation of the environment and the human interference on environment and the pressure of population on environment.

The first and foremost thing is that water must be declared a national resource. Scientific management and optimum utilisation of water—both flow as well as ground water—must be taken into consideration so that it helps in training the river systems, it helps in preventing siltation and floods both in the river basins as well as the dams and along with it the ecological balance and the environmental upgradation, reforestation, protection of forests so that this will help in both the conservation of humus, conservation of water reserves as well as preventing soil erosion. All this would have been meaningful and effective had we given importance to micro-level planning. Micro-level planning is only in letter but not in spirit. In my district of Dhenkanal, we had the first exercise of micro-level planning at the district level in 1966. I had attended two meetings of our Dhenkanal District Planning Board which has met exactly after 366 days. It is a ritual which does not reflect the local resources, local materials, local problems. Unless the micro-level planning is indicated and reflected in the State plans and in the national plans, it becomes an exercise in futility. Regarding micro-level planning, at least in my district, we have given first priority to irrigation, tapping of all resources both flow lift irrigation, small tanks, derelict tanks, perennial rivers having permanent cross bunds, utilising micro-hydel and the like as well as the minor irrigation projects.

The second is about the rural communications, rural link roads, making of all-weather roads for the markets to develop as well as for providing relief and communications to the villages. It will be interesting to note that only 47 per cent of the villages in Orissa are connected with all-weather roads.

The third point is of strengthening and completing the educational and cultural institutions which not only brings in national integration but also improves the education and the upliftment of the people of that area.

The fourth point is the most important, that is, the health cover including safe drinking water as well as health cover of national programmes which has been mentioned in these supplementary demands. Every village above the population of 3000 must be given tap water, especially with the rapid industrialisation that is taking place, which is polluting the river basins, till now no effective steps are being taken to control the pollution. I am glad that the Pollution Control Bill has been passed but nothing is said in the Act which lays the responsibility on the people as to who really manage these industries or the officials who violate or commit dereliction of duty.

The 20-Point Programme is being reviewed from time to time. Central Government is giving finance to the State Governments but during the review we found that there is no effective co-ordination, no effective monitoring and no fixation of responsibility. Again, it is the question of management both of time and cost management and responsibility must be fixed because the 20-Point Programme, which is meant for the economically backward communities, will remain a dead letter if this effective monitoring and effective implementation is not done.

My last point is on industries for which we are giving subsidy to the tune of Rs. 50 crores for selected new industrial units. There are industries set up by financial institutions. Yet they have been sick either due to lack of co-ordination or support or due to power failures or shortage of power. This needs effective scrutiny to see that the maladies are removed expeditiously because the time consumed in reviewing takes months and sometimes years. It affects the very basic policy of taking industries to backward areas and national money is spent in that but no effective utilisation comes out of it and it also affects the unemployment figure.

[*Translation*]

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL VYAS (Bhilwara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you had assured me that I would be the last speaker on this subject. I will not speak for more than 2-3 minutes. Please give me a chance.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. I cannot allow.

You want to speak on all the subjects. I will give you time to speak on some other occasion.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : More than 25 Members have participated in the discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir only two more members wanted to speak on this subject. Shri Vyas and myself. You could have allowed.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : No, no, the Minister has already started speaking.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : And I fully appreciate that most of the Members have touched even the areas which may not strictly fall within the relevance of the supplementary demands for which I have come before the House. These discussions had provided the Government a feedback so that our awareness could be more sharpened and proper attention could be paid. I know, Sir, that there are very many areas where corrective measures are needed. Many Members have raised the point that at a grass root level, at the micro level there is a lot of room for improvement in the implementation machinery.

[*Translation*]

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY : As I have not been given a chance to
13.27 hrs.

speak. I leave the House.

At this stage Shri Kali Prasad Pandey left the House

[*English*]

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Many Members have suggested that instead of putting everything with the State Government, the Centre should also monitor the implementation of various schemes. I quite agree with their suggestions. But as you are aware, as per our federal structure whatever we can do to

monitor the implementation of various schemes, programmes or the relief works that we undertake, we are doing but at the same time it is also expected of everybody, including the States, the Centre and the implementing agency that they should also pay equal attention so that the money meant for various schemes, projects, etc. is properly utilised.

While discussing these supplementary demands, Shri K.P. Singh Deo has rightly analysed as to what all we have done and how far we have reached. Although we have asked for the figure of Rs. 1780.49/- crores only Rs. 815.31 crores are meant for the expenditure for drought and flood relief measures. This is a natural calamity and nobody could have foreseen it at the time when the budget was presented. But we have assured the nation and to this House that we would try to manage the economy in such a way that the additional expenditure that we are seeking due to the supplementary demands will also be contained. We have already taken measures towards this end and the hon. House is aware of it. When the Prime Minister presented the Budget he promised that the extra expenditure will be met by the savings.

For that purpose, uptill now, either by way of matching savings or increased receipts, we have been able to mop up an amount to the tune of Rs. 399.84 crores. So, in a way if I put it practically the balance really uncovered in these Supplementary Demands is only Rs. 565.34 crores.

Now Sir, many hon. members have raised many points. Shri Namgyal has raised one very important point. I am sorry that he is not present in the House now. He stated that there is no provision for maintenance of the assets created under the programmes such as the NREP, RLEGP, etc. Both the Central Government and the Planning Commission are laying stress on this aspect. Adequate maintenance of the assets already created must also be provided. The Ninth Finance Commission is examining the allocation of funds between the Centre and the States and under its terms of reference, this particular aspect with regard to maintenance of assets created is also being examined. I am hopeful that when we receive the report, the problem in this critical areas would perhaps get a solution.

[Shri B.K. Gadhvi]

I am very happy that hon. Members are appreciating the fact that the country is facing a situation of severe drought and floods. The entire nation is aware of it. What the members are pointing out is not about the amount that we are going to spend for drought relief. They are more interested in getting adequate relief. In the areas where employment is needed, it should be generated. If there are any leakages, or non-implementation of projects or a break in the channel, these should be mended. I would assure the House that it shall be done. On the 15th of August while speaking from the ramparts of the Red Fort, the hon. Prime Minister had given a pledge to the nation that we would fight on a war-footing the difficulties caused to the people by drought and floods. We are adhering to that promise, even though we have to tighten our belts a little further, and even though we have to put a little extra pressure for augmenting the resources.

Hon. Members are aware of the fact that with a view to have a constant review of the drought situation, with a view to have a feedback and with a view to take the necessary measures to alleviate the misery of the people, a Cabinet Sub-Committee on Drought has been constituted under the chairmanship of our hon. Prime Minister himself. And time and again, this Committee is meeting to solve the problems and to render the necessary assistance. Drought has not only affected the agricultural or rural sectors which are directly hit by it, but it also has its impact on the prices of all the essential commodities.

Many hon. Members have referred to the rise in prices.

Some of the Members have also referred to inflation. I would submit that the drought has got a very wide ramification. We provide relief to the people in the rural areas where the drought and floods are there. They could not raise the crops. Their own income has dwindled. And to that extent their purchasing power had also come down and had affected some of the industries. That is why, keeping in view all these things, we could have our industrial growth under pressure. Still however the industrial growth cannot be said to be pessimistic. It is quite good. It is satisfactory. Agricultural growth has come

down and the drought has accentuated it. Therefore, with a view to contain inflation and the price rise, various measures both on demand side as well as on supply side are being initiated. You are already aware that in the critical areas of essential commodities like edible oils and pulses, we are importing them. You are already aware that in the areas of sugar, we are releasing more sugar and we are also going to give more incentives to the sugarcane growing farmers so that more sugarcane can be grown. Those measures are taken well in advance.

In the areas of foodstuffs—rice and wheat—and condiments and spices, the selective credit control and all those exercises are on.

Therefore, despite there being a great pressure of drought on economy, we have been able to contain inflation. W.P. Index is in less than double digit. Presently it rules about—subject to correction—8.4 or so. You must have noticed in today's paper that the W.P. Index has come down. It has come down a little. But it gives us an indication that with the measures the Government have initiated, it has started having its effect on containing the market, price rise and inflation. But there are various factors for that. I am not going to deal with them in detail. But as I stated earlier because the time is very short, I would only deal with the uncovered balance of expenditure. I am also thankful to Mr. K.P. Singh Deo that in his opening remarks, he put the whole picture of the economy also in a proper perspective.

But so far as the uncovered expenditure of Rs. 565.34 crores is concerned, out of this 300 crores are meant for indigenous fertilizer subsidies. Dr. Datta Samant criticised it. Mr. Murli Deora also criticised it. But I hope they would agree with me that this country has not ceased to be the country belonging to the agricultural people. Today, even our total economy is dependent upon agriculture. Our place of pride in international fora is also high because of the labour put in by the agriculture sector. That is why despite this unprecedented drought which is there at the moment—which had never been in the past 100 years—we are in a position to feed our people.

Even on the price rise side, so far as foodstuffs are concerned, they are quite

within manageable limits ; and that credit goes to the agriculturists. Therefore, in this country we cannot forget the agriculturists. We have to help them. The subsidy in the Budget and other things I am not going into ; but this subsidy which is there, besides the budgetary allocation which was made at the time of the Budget....

DR. DATTA SAMANT : Industrial costs have gone up. Subsidy is going to the industrialists. Subsidy is not being passed on to the agriculturists.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I am coming to that, Mr. Datta Samant. You may know that prices of fertilizers are not allowed to be raised. According to the present notified price, a farmer has to pay only Rs. 117.50 for a 50-Kg. bag of urea. We are in a position to provide this to the farmers, because per bag of urea, which is the urea manufactured, we are giving Rs. 68.20, on an average, as subsidy. Therefore, it really is meant for the farmers. Otherwise, the farmers would have to pay Rs. 117.50 plus Rs. 68.20. So, per bag Rs. 68.20 are directly given to the farmers.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : It is given to the industrialists, i.e. those who manufacture. It is not going to the farmers. You are not fixing the prices...

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : You would appreciate that on a commercial understanding, on commercial calculations, the cost of production and the cost of retention are met ; and, therefore, the farmer is being given it at a cheaper rate. Otherwise, the farmer would have to pay Rs. 68.20 more. (*Interruptions*)

I know, Mr. Datta Samant, you are from textiles. Some of the Members, I think Mr. Birendra Singh and others, had raised the point about fertilizers. Although fertilizer is available in one State, it is brought from another State and, therefore, there is a transportation cost also involved. That point was also raised. In this respect, I would submit that the allocations are normally made around the producing units ; and only the surplus quantity is moved to the deficit areas. So, if there is a factory in one State, then normally we would allocate the fertilizer from that factory, to that State ; but if there is a deficit, then in order to meet the deficit, certainly we have to ask another factory to

provide fertilizer to that area.

Somebody spoke about Korba, and Mrs. Geeta Mukherjee spoke about the Haldia fertilizer project. I know that the Haldia fertilizer project is not functioning well. It has been in difficulties, but for that also, corrective measures are being taken. I believe the Department is conducting an end-to-end survey also. After having the report of that end-to-end survey, we will be in a position to put Haldia on a proper platform.

Another point was raised by Dr. Datta Samant. I am referring to him, because he has given Cut Motions. It is about industries in backward areas. Agreed ; I agree with him, and Government of India also do not want that there should be siphoning of funds from the existing units, for creating new units, making the existing units sick. These allegations are there. There are measures.

Most of the measures are concerned with the State Governments. I know that some of the textile mills have not even paid the provident fund of the workers, for which prosecution could be launched against them. We would very much wish that in the area of textile also, where the penal action can be initiated or when the management is liable to be prosecuted or penal action to be taken against them, the State Government should be more alert and they should do something in this matter. With regard to the revival of the textile industry, Mr. Datta Samant knows that whatever are the measures within our command, we are trying to do it, but it is a colossal problem. This colossal problem can be sorted out only if the management, labour, Government—all sit together forgetting the petty political ends and as if the industry belongs to all of us. I am sorry, I have an information that even the labour unions, not officially, were just given some feelers to find out whether by forming cooperatives, they are in a position to manage the sick textile units. All the national textile unions or the labour unions declined saying, 'No, that is not all right. We cannot do it'.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : How can the sick unit run ? Tata's two mills had been taken over by the Government. For one hundred years, they are not modernised. Do you want to take such a dead body and run it ? Why not you take over all the textile industries ?

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : On the area that the depreciation was not ploughed for modernisation, I know this malady is not only in the textile industry, but also in the tea industry. For that, we have to take a corrective action. The joint cooperation of all the people including the management, labour and everybody is necessary because just by going in an agitational way, I don't think that problem could be easily solved. When there is a deliberate siphoning of funds in a clandestine manner, then that should be looked into. Therefore, I would certainly forward your suggestion to the Textile Ministry for their appropriate action.

Many members have raised so many points which are being dealt with by the different Ministries and not necessarily by the Finance Ministry. It is my practice to call out all the points raised by the hon. Members in their respective speech and send them for action to the concerned Ministry, with a request that information should also be supplied to the Ministry of Finance. Therefore, I assure all the Members that the points raised with regard to their constituencies or specific problems or individual problems and other aspects, the attention of the concerned Ministry would be drawn.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Don't worry Minister. They will pass it on to you once again. In your absence they will just pass it on to the Finance Ministry. They want funds. They are having lack of funds. Therefore, all the Ministries will pass on to you.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : We will try to see that this musical chair 'would not continue.

Although my colleague Shri Janardhana Poojary intervened and explained the position about the credit camps and the Loan Mela, which is popularly known, I am surprised because that point was not relevant for the purpose of supplementary demands, but it was raised by a Member like Prof. Madhu Dandavate. I am surprised that those people professing to be a champion of the causes of the poor under the name of Gandhiji are trying to scuttle the programme, which is meant for alleviation of poverty and that too particularly in the areas of weaker sections, because the loan melas are normally

meant for weaker sections. We wish that more we provide help to the weaker sections by way of financial assistance or any other type of assistance, their standard of living can come up and they can be brought above the poverty line, the more it would add to the strength of the nation.

I am surprised that they are not in a position to understand such a simple thing in a proper perspective. Everywhere they inject politics. What for is the politics? Is it meant only for achieving personal gains or is it meant for making the life of the people more happier, brighter and healthier? If people at large start feeling that politics forgets even this basic tenet, then I am afraid, they would not be in a position to deliver the goods to the people even by playing their role as opposition, and their entire process and endeavour would be self-defeating.

Another uncovered area is Punjab. We are giving help to Punjab. I must place on record that as per the information available with us, despite the situation as it is prevailing in Punjab, the procurement of rice is on the high side. The credit for this goes to the people of Punjab. And I congratulate the farmers of Punjab for the same. Therefore, if Punjab was not in a position to raise its resources which it had promised at the time of finalisation of the annual plan last year, we do not want to see that the development of Punjab remains stagnated. Therefore, we are trying to meet the plan requirements of Punjab.

Another area which comes under this uncovered is subsidy to new industrial units in selected backward areas. Along with growth of agriculture, industrial growth is a must. And we are trying to see that our industry should be competitive and at the same time, new backward areas should open up for industrialisation so that congestion in the cities can also go down, the environment and pollution problem in big metropolis and cities can also be contained and at the same time, we can have our nation like humming beehive. Therefore, subsidy is being provided.

Another thing is ways and means loan of about Rs. 10 crores to DTC. DTC has a legacy of great losses. The present management and the Minister of Surface Transport are doing their best to achieve more

efficiency. I believe, percentagewise as compared to past years, the efficiency is on the increase. Even then the Corporation is in difficulty and, therefore, we have to subsidise it.

Shri Marli Deora raised the question of NRIs and other problems. They are not so directly relevant to these Supplementary Demands.

Comparatively I know that our NRI borrowings on various schemes may be slightly more costing. But the Reserve Bank is aware of that and, therefore, from time to time with regard to the interest rates, corrective measures are being taken. We have to attract the NRI because if our own people who are abroad, want to participate in the development of the nation, that is a welcome feature and whatever facility we can provide to them is quite apt and proper. With regard to investment by the people from abroad, Sir, you are aware that many of the nations have got much flexible policies. But we cannot afford to do so and, therefore, we are putting some restrictions in the areas of portfolio investment that they cannot buy the whole industry, excepting the sick industries. For viable and vibrant industries, they cannot purchase the entire industry. There should not be any role for the multi-nationals also to play. All other things are there and those checks and monitoring points are always kept constantly in view.

I believe, major points I have covered. There is enough justification for me to come before the House for these Demands. Various individual points raised by the Members, as I have stated, would be attended to by the respective administrative and nodal Ministries. So, I am sure that the House would be unanimous in approving my Demands with which I have come before the House. Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now

put all the cut motions moved to the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) to the vote of the House together unless Dr. Datta Samant desires that any of his cut motions may be put separately. Dr. Datta Samant, do you want them to be put together or each one separately ?

DR. DATTA SAMANT : They can be put together, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now I put all the cut motions moved to the vote of the House.

Cut motions Nos. 1, 2 and 3 were put and negtived.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1987-88 to the vote of the House.

DR. DATTA SAMANT : What are the cut motions, let the House know, Sir. Read out the cut motions at least, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : They are already circulated to all the Members. The question is :

“That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending 31st day of March, 1988 in respect of the following demands entered in the second column thereof

Demands Nos. 1, 4 5, 6, 10, 18, 22, 27, 37, 44, 48, 54, 58, 59, 64, 67, 69, 76, 88 and 93”.

The motion was adopted.

*List of Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 1987-88
Voted by Lok Sabha*

No. of Demand	Name of Demand	Amount of Demand for Grants Voted by the House	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
1	2	3	
		Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.
Ministry of Agriculture			
1.	Agriculture	4,66,00,000	11,26,00,000

1	2	3	
	Revenue Rs.	Capital Rs.	
4.	Department of Rural Development	249,90,00,000	—
5.	Department of Fertilizers	303,25,00,000	156,50,00,000
Ministry of Commerce			
6.	Department of Commerce	80,00,00,000	—
Ministry of Communications			
10.	Telecommunication Services	—	1,00,000
Ministry of Energy			
18.	Department of Power	—	100,01,00,000
Ministry of Finance			
22.	Department of Economic Affairs	1,00,000	—
27.	Transfers to State Governments	250,00,00,000	—
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare			
37.	Department of Health	1,00,000	—
Ministry of Human Resource Development			
44.	Department of Education	3,00,000	—
Ministry of Industry			
48.	Department of Industrial Development	50,00,00,000	—
Ministry of Labour			
54.	Ministry of Labour	1,00,000	—
Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas			
58.	Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas	—	2,39,00,000
Ministry of Planning			
59.	Planning	1,00,000	—
Ministry of Science and Technology			
64.	Department of Biotechnology	2,00,00,000	10,00,000
Ministry of Textiles			
67.	Ministry of Textiles	71,00,000	39,00,00,000
Ministry of Surface Transport			
69.	Surface Transport	—	10,00,00,000
Ministry of Water Resources			
76.	Ministry of Water Resources	9,52,00,000	—
Ministry of Home Affairs (Vol. II)			
88.	Delhi	1,00,000	—
93.	Daman & Diu	12,73,00,000	10,04,00,000

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may now move for leave to introduce the Appropriation Bill.

13.58 hrs.

APPROPRIATION (No. 5) BILL,* 1987

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88.

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may now introduce the Bill.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may now move that the Bill be taken into consideration.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : Sir, I beg to move** :

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88, be taken into consideration.”

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1987-88, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

14.00 hrs.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we will take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill. The question is :

“That Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2, 3 and the Schedule were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The Minister may now move the Bill.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI : I move :

“That the Bill be passed”.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

14.01 hrs.

STATEMENT RE : RECENT DELIBERATIONS IN THE U.S. CONGRESS ON SOUTH ASIA

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : Last week the US Congress has considered

*Published in Gazette of India Extraordinary, Part II, section 2, dated 7-12-1987.

**Introduced/moved with the recommendation of the President.