

areas.

The Inter-Ministerial Crisis Management Group in the Ministry of Agriculture is meeting every day to monitor the relief operations and to provide necessary support and direction. The Committee of Secretaries headed by the Cabinet Secretary reviewed the situation yesterday and will meet at regular intervals to oversee the relief operations.

It is well known that severe earthquakes of this type are often followed by aftershocks. These have to be regarded in the proper perspective and the need not cause any undue concern.

The immediate tasks before us are to provide medical attention to the injured, extend assistance to the bereaved families and provide relief and help to rebuild the damaged dwellings and to rehabilitate the affected people. As a result of the Prime Minister's visit, the people's spirits are high and their self-confidence fortified.

In a natural calamity of this type the sympathy of this House and of the entire Nation is, of course, with those who have been affected by the earthquake. I have no doubt that the nation will meet this challenge with a stout heart and will all the resources at its command. I would like to assure the House that the Government will take every possible step to see that adequate relief is effectively provided most expeditiously to the affected people.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Sir, there should be a discussion on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give a proper notice for that.

16.10 hrs

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1988-89 - CONTD.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House will resume discussion on the Supplemen-

tary Demands for Grants in respect of the Budget (General) for 1988-89. Already we have taken four hours whereas the time allotted was only two hours. I would request the hon. Members to be very brief and finish his speech in five minutes as the Minister has also to reply. Shri N. Tombi Singh...

SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH (Inner Manipur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I appreciate your desire that the Members should be very brief. I have also been advised by my Whip to be brief. I will confine only to a point which I would like to mention taking advantage of this discussion on the budget, although this is a supplementary budget. Here is a subject which I can discuss with some convenience and justification under the general discussion on a budget.

This regime of the Prime Minister is a regime of solutions. We have solved so many intricate, tricky and knotty problems. We have solved the problem in Assam by the Assam accord. Tripura has been settled. Mizoram was settled long back. A few days back, we have settled the Gorkha Liberation Movement. We can also mention the Punjab accord. If things have not come to our satisfaction so far out of that accord, it is not the Government to be blamed. There have been other factors.

I am raising a measure which does not involve any expenditure under the Home Ministry, although the Finance Ministry is not directly affected. I will request the hon. Finance Minister to convey this to the Home Minister. This is about opening of the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. Many of our friends - leaders belonging both to the Opposition and the ruling side - do not know the implications of the demand for reopening the Eighth Schedule.

There are certain communities and States which are still deprived of the right to a place in the Eighth Schedule. Manipur is a language of the Manipuri people. It is the official language of the Manipur state. It is the *LINGUA FRANCA* of the different tribes and communities in that State. It is also spoken by people residing in Assam and

[Sh. N. Tombi Singh]

Tripura. This language deserves a place in the Eighth Schedule. It has got a rich history. It has got all the important translations. It has translated the *Vedas*, *Upanishads*, the *Gita*, the *Ramayana* and the *Mahabharata*. Then, there are original writings, essays, novels, short stories dramas and poems in this language. This stands at par with the rest of the developed languages in the country. The argument is that the Eighth Schedule is overloaded. If the Eighth Schedule is overloaded with 15 languages, why it cannot have 16 languages. The deserving languages should not be deprived of a position in this. We had met the Prime Minister with a delegation of the Manipuri Sahitya Parishad recently. This Parishad, with the help of the Manipur Government, organised exhibitions about scriptures and literature, literature in order to convince the learned people, politicians and the public men that there is a language which deserves a place in the Eighth Schedule.

Sir, young people are angry. The educated people are angry. They are on the warpath. But how can we contain their anger? When we joined the Indian Union in 1949, many people do not remember the fact that we did not have a part in the Constitution making. We do not have our say whether our language should be in the Eighth Schedule or not. We also do not have a say where the Manipuri people should stand in the Constitution - either in the scheduled castes or the schedule tribes or in some other backward class. We still stand deprived of this very legitimate right of our people. Therefore, you should fulfil the legitimate desire of the people of that State. It has a language which is at par with every other language in this country. But it has not been given a position. So, in this context, I would appeal to the Finance Minister to convey this desire from this community which I represent that Manipuri should be included in the Eighth Schedule as quickly as possible.

Another point is of equal importance which is regarding art and culture. In fulfilment of the desire of Pandit Jawaharlal

Nehru who had fascination for the culture and traditions of that region, a dance academy was opened named as the Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy which is run by the Central Government through the Sangeet Natak Academy. This Dance Academy requires thorough reorganisation and much more funds has to be spent on it because we have been demanding that this institution should be upgraded to the status of a deemed university. Now, the Governor is the Chairman of the Advisory Committee of this institution. He is a busy man because of his high status. It is difficult for the officers to approach him very often. When meetings are to be held, we have to get the consent from the Governor from time to time which is not very convenient. Therefore, I would suggest that the Education Ministry should have a fresh look in this Jawaharlal Nehru Manipuri Dance Academy so that the administration can be reorganised and more funds are allotted to upgrade this institution to the status of a deemed university.

With these words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY (Hamamkonda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you must have read about Gorkhaland Development Council in today's newspapers. This council is an aftermath of a sequence of events that a handful of people were first instigated to launch a movement, then they were befriended followed by an agreement which led to the birth of this Council. Immediately after Shri Rajiv Gandhi came to power, a number of agreements have been signed but what were there results? What fate did the Punjab agreements meet? Gorkhaland agreement is likely to meet the same fate. You are interested only in signing agreements. On the one hand, you instigate and provide money for starting agitation, on the other you try to solve it by compelling the State Government.

Similarly, an agitation has been started in Rayal Seema in Andhra Pradesh. Who are involved in it? It is the Congress men who are

spearheading it. 12 legislators belonging to Congress Party from Rayal Seema areas are on hunger-strike in the State Assembly. They are demanding a solution to the Rayal seema problem. I want to ask the people belonging to Congress Party as to what steps were taken by them solve this problem during the last 40 years when they were in power barring 4 to 5 years. Why did you not do anything during those period? At that time Shri Sanjiv Reddy who belonged to Royal seema areas was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, but what has be done?

Bachhawat Accord is the legacy of the Congress Government, not of the Opposition Government. What have you done? Now hue and cry is being raised on it because they want to tarnish the image of N.T.R. at any cost. That is why they are demanding so much quantity of water to be allocated for them.

I am not aware of the details of Bachhawat Accord but water should be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the agreement. At that time, Telugu Ganga project was not meant for Rayal Seema, it was meant for Telangana and Andhra areas only. Now they are asking that the excess water of river Krishna be given to them under the BBachhawat Accord. Congress Party was in power for the last 35 to 40 years, but why did they not do it? They are raising this issue with a view to defaming this Government. I want to know how much funds you are going to provide for Gorkhaland Development Council. Now you are instigating the Rayal Seema agitation in Andhra Pradesh. You are inciting all these agitations to subserve your own vested interests. In this way, the unity and the integrity of the country can never be achieved. You should fully utilise the available water. Just now an hon. Member from Madhya Pradesh was stating that they did not want Bodhghat Project. I don't know why they don't want the project. Now Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra are not inclined to start Inchampalli Project. An agreement has been reached between Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra Govern-

ments regarding sharing of water. We have no objection, if you fully utilise your river water in your own state. We have no objection if Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra utilise the waters of rivers Indravati and Pranhita.

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: You give it in writing.

SHRI C. JANGA REDDY: I have no objection in giving it in writing. I only want to say that the Government should work for the welfare of the public. They should take every thing in national perspective. Water is an essential for human beings. So the Government should provide potable water for drinking. Efforts should be made to reach an early settlement of water disputes between the States. The schemes submitted by the Andhra Pradesh Government are required to be cleared without any further delay and putting obstructions in their way. A similar hunger strike in front of the residence of Shri Rajiv Gandhi from our side is in the offing. We have learnt all this from the Congress Party. After being in power for so many years, when you can do such thing which is against the rules of Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly, then what is the harm if we also reply you in tit for tat fashion as we have been in power for lesser period of 4 to 5 years only.

In the last 40 years, you remitted an amount of Rs. 45 thousand crores due against industrialists. You remitted this amount, because they give you funds for the elections. When you can remit the loan amounts of industrialists, why can't you remit the loans of farmers amounting to Rs.11 thousand crores. Today we are importing pulses, rice and cotton etc. from other countries. This year, when the production of cotton was good even after that cotton is being imported. By doing this you are preventing the farmers from getting fair price of cotton. This policy is not good.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI (Bellary): Sir, I rise to support the supplementary demands. At the outset, I would like to inform the House that we are in the year of prosperity. There is a good rainfall and I hope that this will continue for the next 20 years. We have started with Prabhav and for the first 20 years there will be Uttam, next 20 years Madhyam and for another 20 years there will be Kanishth. We have passed the Kanishth and we are now in Vibhav. It has started with the prosperity and I hope that this will continue. We are hopeful of achieving our targets set for this year. The Government has made every effort to see that the targets are achieved.

Sir, the people of Karnataka and also the Government of Karnataka feel that the Steel Authority of India should take over the big VISL unit which has been started by our great architect, Sir M. Visveswaraiiah. The unit has incurred heavy losses and not only that it needs a lot of improvement. A huge amount is required for its diversification, modernisation and expansion. The unit is almost closed. Labours are very much interested in its taking over by the Steel Authority of India. We, as the representative of that area and also the Karnataka Government, are pressing the Central Government take over this unit as early as possible. All the formalities have already been completed. A number of meetings were held at various levels and a number of agreements have been reached but still the Government has not decided about this. I hope the conditions that have been imposed by both the parties will be removed and on the birthday of Shri M. Visveswaraiiah the unit will be taken over.

Regarding Vijayanagar Steel Plant, I would like to say that it has become the dream of the life. Late Madam Indira Gandhi laid the foundation of this plant. Thousands and thousands of acres of land has been kept vacant since then and the farmers started growing crops there. I would like to inform the House that very few people have received compensation for the land which

has been acquired for this Vijayanagar Plant. Many poor, illiterate people could not approach the court in time and they have been denied their due compensation. Very few people under protest could receive some compensation but most of the illiterate people could not get compensation for various reasons. I came to know that in Visakhapatnam also there was a situation like this and when our Hon. Prime Minister visited Visakhapatnam, he was kind enough to have given the compensation to the persons who were denied of their due share. So, I make an appeal for the farmers of Thorangallu village where mostly poor and illiterate people have been denied the compensation. This should be considered on top priority. It is our dream that Vijayanagar Steel Plant will be set up at least during the Eighth Plan.

I have come to know that you are going to set up a Sponge Iron Plant in that area in the Joint Sector. This Plant is going to the scrub which is very much less at present. The whole thing has been worked out and they have even gone to the extent of collaborating with the German Company which will produce sponge iron. This would certainly supplement the existing position.

I come from an area where a lot of mining activities are going on. Manganese and Iron ore are in plenty there. Raichur is a place where gold mines are in abundance. But still we are not in a position to explore the entire quantity of gold which is there. Therefore, I request the Government that mining activity should be started there and this will give employment to thousands and thousands of people. This is one industry which is highly profitable. While many industries are on the verge of sickness, because of the high price for gold, this industry is highly profitable. Sizeable quantity of gold is found in the Raichur sector and the MMTTC is extracting the gold ore. I request that in this sector, wherever there is a possibility of finding gold, exploring activity should be started as early as possible.

In Bellary area, a lot of iron ore is found. This ore is a high-grade ore and its quality is

excellent. At present Japan is purchasing the ore and this ore is sent by Railways. Thereby, Railways are also getting huge income out of it. Small mine owners are able to take small patches of area on lease because of the bank assistance. But the Government is not in a position to take the ore extracted by these small miners because of certain restrictions. I request that the ore excavated by the small mine owners should be taken by the Government and it should be sent to Japan.

As regards agriculture, I would like to say that we are hopeful of achieving the target, as I mentioned earlier. Regarding the loans that the farmers have taken from the scheduled banks, the farmers have been put to a lot of difficulties. The interest on the loans taken from the cooperative banks has been written off. The interest as also the penal interest are written off and as far as the principal amount is concerned, certain time is given to repay the entire portion of the principal. Accordingly, the farmers have repaid the amount and in most of the cooperative banks, the recovery rate is as high as 90 to 95 per cent. The Government also should come forward to help the farmers to some extent, and the interest and penal interest portions of the loans that have been borrowed from the national banks should also be written off and the principal amount should be recovered within a stipulated period. If this concession is given to the farmers, their burden would get reduced to a great extent. Most of the States are on the verge of either famine or flood and under these circumstances, I request the Government to make up their mind once for all and see that the farmers would get rid of this burden.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRIMATI BASAVARAJESWARI. During this session, I have not spoken at all. This is the first opportunity that I have taken. Please allow me to speak for another two minutes.

The hon. Home Minister is here. I have been requesting him again and again to include the Nayak, Beda, Talwar, Parivar, etc. communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes. Since there is some area restriction, the Government of Karnataka has recommended to the Central Government to include these communities in the list of Scheduled Tribes. I may mention here that in various other States, these categories come under Scheduled Tribes, whereas in Karnataka we have been denied this opportunity. I would request the hon. Minister to bring a comprehensive Bill on this issue so that all these communities are immediately included in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

I would also request the Government that housing programme should immediately be taken up. Telecommunication system should be improved. Each Mandal should have at least one rural telecommunication system.

Humpy is a famous historical place ruled by the Great Emperor Krishnadeva Raya. The Department of Archaeology is doing good work there. This place must find a place on the Tourist Map of India. People who have visited this place are full of appreciation of this place and many valuable things of historical importance are found there. The archaeological excavations also reveal many beautiful and imaginative things.

Finally, to improve the lives of the agriculturists I would like to make one suggestion. One member from each agricultural family, whether he is a big farmer or small, should be given one job. If employment is provided to at least one person in one family, it will improve the financial position of the agriculturists to a great extent. Our farmers will benefit from health point of view, children's education and so on. Our Prime Minister has been saying again and again that he is going to solve the unemployment problem. While doing so, this factor may kindly be taken into consideration.

Since you are asking me to resume my seat, I conclude with these words.