

Sir, you are coming from the place which experienced the worst earthquake of this century. An apprehension is being aired by the experts that in Madhya Pradesh, Khandwa District, the same type of major earthquake may happen. About one thousand tremors had occurred within one week. So, the Government should take note of the apprehension of the experts. Earlier, it was repeatedly warned. But the Government did not pay any heed to it. Now, the new warning is there. The Government should pay heed to it and we should not suffer after the catastrophe happens. The Government should take note of that and should take suitable action.

MR. SPEAKER: It is a good point.

SHRI B.N. REDDY (Miryalguda): Sir, in Andhra Pradesh State Backward Region of Telungana some irrigation projects are to be completed at the earliest, as there are famine conditions in Andhra Pradesh. It is essential that as a permanent development measure, the following pending irrigation projects have to be completed in a time bound programme:

1. Shri Ram Sagar II stage connected with Godhavari river having a capacity of irrigation five lakh acres of Khammam, Warangal and Nologonda Districts.

2. Sri Sailam Left Bank Canal across the Krishna river having a capacity of irrigating three lakh acres of drought prone areas in Nologonda District.

3. Flood water lift irrigation project of Godhavari having a capacity of irrigating more than two lakh acres.

As a matter of fact, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had announced a promise plan but not a construction plan. But, so far no construction plan has been announced. With the background of famine conditions people have agitated by big rallies of thousands and launching relay hunger strikes involving thousands of people which are currently going on in Andhra Pradesh.

I hope that the Centre would positively respond and take initiative of allocating funds to take up these projects which will accelerate the development of backward regions of Andhra Pradesh, thereby strengthening the integration of the State and the country.

MR. SPEAKER: Now, we have devoted one hour to this unlisted business. May be, tomorrow we will give more opportunities to more Members.

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: Sir, last week you had assured me that you will call a meeting in regard to the workers' problem in the West Bengal. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Well, you meet me in my Chamber. We will discuss about it.

13.05 hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

Education For All Summit

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): Hon'ble Speaker Sir, India was privileged to host an Education For

[Shri Arjun Singh]

All Summit of Nine High Population Countries in New Delhi on 16 December, 1993. The Summit was attended by the President of Indonesia, Prime Minister of India, Deputy Prime Minister of China and the Education Ministers as special representatives of the Heads of State or Government of six other countries—Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, Mexico, Nigeria and Pakistan. These countries account for more than half the world's population.

They are also beset with similar problems of development. The Heads of three U.N. Agencies UNESCO, UNICEF & UNFPA also participated in the Summit as co-sponsors.

The Summit was preceded by Minister level pre-Summit discussions on 13—15 December, 1993. In a series of panel discussions held over three days distinguished educationists and ministers have reflected upon key issues and challenges facing education for all in each of the countries and in the world community at large. The deliberation focussed on specific themes like "Mobilization, People's Participation and Decentralization for EFA", "External and Internal Financial Resources for EFA", "Girls and Women's Education, Women's Empowerment and Population Issues" and "Education and Society". A major and tangible outcome of pre-Summit meetings has been the decision to have a nine country collaborative effort on distance education to reach out to population not served by the formal schools system.

The discussions at the pre-Summit and the Summit were extremely useful and would help in focussing world's attention on the goal of Education for All and the policy issues involved in achievement

of this goal. The sharing of experiences and the common endeavour will provide a fresh impetus to the attainment of EFA goal.

The Nine High Population Countries adopted the Delhi Declaration and a Framework for Action to implement the pledge and identify possible priority areas of cooperation. A copy each of the Delhi Declaration and Framework for Action are being laid on the Table of the House. The reaffirmation of the commitment of these countries to pursue with zeal and determination the goal of meeting the basic learning needs of all our people is a testimony to education coming centre stage on the world's development agenda.

It is envisaged that there will be periodic consultations among the policy makers, academics and educational administrators of the nine countries to assess how these countries are individually and collectively proceeding towards the goal of EFA and for sharing of experiences.

Sir, in our endeavour to achieve total literacy we acknowledge the positive role being played by the international agencies which associated with us in this task. In addition to the three sponsors of this EFA Summit UNESCO, UNICEF & UNFPA, 23 international bodies have participated in this meeting. The Declaration therefore rightly calls upon international collaborations and financial institutions to raise substantially their support for the efforts of these countries to expand their national capacities and to recognise education as a critical investment without imposing predetermined ceilings on such investments. However, international assistance can only be catalytic and supportive. It will be principally our efforts and our determination that

would determine the pace of achieving EFA in each of our countries.

[Translation]

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES (Muzaffarpur): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on the basis of the statement I would like to raise a constitutional point. A conference was held, it was indeed a Splendid Conference. Subjects of great importance were discussed well, the official language of India is Hindi as is envisaged in the Constitution, but Hindi was not accorded due importance in the Conference. The hon. Chief Minister of Bihar Shri Laloo Prasad Yadav participated in the Conference as a representative. He was humiliated there. When he started his speech in Hindi, the hon. Chairman of the Conference impressed upon him that speech could not be delivered in Hindi simply because there was no arrangement for translation of Hindi version of speech. However, there was arrangement for translation of speeches delivered in French, German and Several other foreign languages, but there was no provision to deliver a speech in national language. This is a constitutional issue, Constitutional provisions should not be allowed to be violated in such a manner.

I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that he should strictly instruct the concerned authorities to ensure that the national language of Indian should not face humiliation before the world in such a manner. We should note that the purpose of our education will be defeated if the national language of the country is neglected.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you permit. I would also like to submit something to the hon. Minister. It is really shameful that

no provision of delivering a speech in Indian language as well as translation of such speech is made in an international conference specially when such conference is being held in India. We have been making a demand that arrangement should be made in foreign countries for translation of Hindi version and I am sure certainly a day will come when this demand will be fulfilled and that Hindi will be accepted as an international language. It is however, really a state of sorrow if Hindi is neglected within the boundary of our own country as there is no provision of translation from Hindi version. I would like the hon. Minister to express genuine sorrow for it and assure that such a thing will not be repeated in future.

SHRI ARJUN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I fully share the concern of the hon. Members of this House that there should have been an arrangement for translation of Hindi version of speech. I am sorry that such an arrangement could not be made there. Well, the point is that the conference was held in such a short period of notice that the Government could not make such an arrangement. There is a proper facility of translation from Hindi at Vigyan Bhawan where the Summit was held. I would like to assure that notice will be taken to make such an arrangement in future.

13.08 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Memorandum of Understanding between Rural Electrification Corporation Ltd. and Department of Power for 1993-94.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRI P.V.