

99 Continuance of BHADRA 15, 1896 (SAKA)
President's Rule in
Gujarat (Res)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER Now,
we will take up clause by clause
consideration

The question is

That Clauses 2, 3 the Schedule
Clause 1 the Enacting Formula and
the Title stand part of the Bill

The motion was adopted

Clauses 2, 3 the Schedule, Clause 1
the Enacting Formula and the Title
were added to the Bill

SHRI K R GANESH I beg to
move

The motion was adopted

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER The
question is

That the Bill be passed

The motion was adopted

15 55 hrs

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE
CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE
PRESIDENT'S PROCLAMATION
IN RESPECT OF GUJARAT

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER We take
up the next item standing in the name
of Shri Uma Shankar Dikshit I do
not see him here I have also no in-
formation whether anybody is
deputising for him

SHRI S M BANERJEE (Kanpur)
On a point of order If the hon Minis-
ter Shri Mirdha has just informed
you by sending in a slip like what
Shri Sathe did in regard to his motion.
I request you not to take notice of it
This morning, when some papers
were to be laid Shri Dikshit was not
here I do not know why he is avoid-
ing this House I have great regard
for him I really want to see him
Why should he not be present here?
Let him come and move the Resolu-
tion

Continuance of 100
President's Rule in
Gujarat (Res)

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER If you
have any particular desire to see Shri
Dikshit it is your personal business

SHRI S M BANERJEE He should
be in the House

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER I am con-
cerned with the business of the House
As far as I am concerned any other
Minister can deputise for him The
only thing I mentioned was that I
did not see any letter—Now a letter
has been sent to me Through some-
kind of oversight it had not reached
me in time Anyway Shri Mirdha can
move the Resolution

SHRI P G MAVALANKAR (Ah-
medabad) We are asked to send our
notices and motions in time

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER These
are very unusual times

SHRI P G MAVALANKAR Is
there one rule for the Treasury Ben-
ches and another for the Opposition?

SHRI SEZHIYAN (Kumbakonam)
I have sent a letter to raise a point
of a general nature

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER In regard
to this item I have received some-
kind of a letter from Shri Sezhiyan
He wants to raise some point I think
it is a minor point We might as well
allow him now

SHRI K S CHAVDA (Patan) Re-
garding what?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER I will let
you know I do not know what kind
of point it is Are you going to elicit
some information?

I think we will dispose of it before
the Minister starts

SHRI SEZHIYAN I thank you for
giving this opportunity to raise a point
This affects the general nature of
constitutional and financial authority
of this House We are now going to

discuss the Presidential Order concerning Gujarat. Gujarat is being governed by a Presidential Order and this House has taken over the functions of the State Assembly. A serious affront has been perpetrated against the constitutional and financial authority of this House. I find that a sum of Rs 10.38 crores had been withdrawn from the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat by a Presidential Order dated 14-6-74. It is stated that this has been done in pursuance of sub-clause (c) of clause (1) of article 357 of the Constitution and that this withdrawal was done owing to the urgency of recouping the Contingency Fund from which advances amounting to Rs 10.38 crores had been drawn earlier and remaining outstanding at the end of 1973-74.

As you are aware, the State of Gujarat came under President's Order on 9th February, 1974. This House began its session on February 18, 1974. They have drawn amounts to the tune of Rs. 10.38 crores from the Contingency Fund during the financial year 1973-74 for many unforeseen expenditure items in the State of Gujarat. As per the general rule regarding withdrawal from the Contingency Fund, it should be recouped at the next sitting of the concerned legislature immediately after the withdrawal. So when this House took over the functions of the State Assembly of Gujarat, that rule applies. They should have come forward in this House before 31st March, 1974 to recoup the amounts drawn from the Contingency Fund of Gujarat.

Then what has happened now?

16 hrs.

They have not done that. This House was in session till the middle of May. On 14th June, 1974 they issued a presidential order to withdraw from the Consolidated Fund of the State of Gujarat Rs. 10.38 crores to recoup the contingent fund. For this they are invoking article 357(1)(c):

where by a proclamation issued under article 356 it has been declared that the powers of the legislature of the State shall be exercisable by or under the authority of Parliament, it shall be competent for the President to authorise when the House of the People is not in session expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State pending the sanction of such expenditure by Parliament. When Parliament is not in session he can withdraw the amount.

In this case, the President's Order of Emergency came on 9th February and all the advances relate to 1973-74. Incidentally on 22nd March, 1974 the supplementary budget for 1973-74 for the State of Gujarat was considered and passed by the House. From 9th February onwards there was enough time for them if they wanted to regularise these amounts before 22nd or at the latest by 31st March, 1974. They did not do so. They waited till the House went out of session. After the House was adjourned sine die and was prorogued, in June they come with a presidential order. Two sessions have passed. Only one day more of this session is left. Nothing has been done to appraise the House of it. I know the Constitution is not very explicit. It says: "pending sanction of such expenditure by Parliament." I want a specific ruling from the Chair: taking recourse to this can we go on session after session, year after year, without the sanction of Parliament? This was sought to be included in the supplementary demands for grants for 1974-75. It is not correct. They should have done it before 31-3-1974; they had ample opportunity when the House was sitting from February 18 and when the supplementary demands were discussed on 22-3-1974. They missed all those opportunities and in the middle of June they had withdrawn by presidential order Rs. 14.38 crores from the Consolidated Fund of the State. This House is exercising the functions of the State Legislature. This House has not been informed till

[Shri Sezhiyan]

now We met on 22nd July. Till today no notification has been placed on the Table of the House. I came to understand it when there was a small paragraph in the supplementary demands, through which I went thoroughly. Unfortunately, it did not come up for discussion because of the Speaker's ruling.

I want your specific ruling on the following three points:

(1) Whether it is proper on the part of the executive to withdraw the amounts from the Consolidated Fund by a Presidential Order, when it is avoidable.

(2) Whether it is proper on the part of the executive not to have taken any steps in time for such recoupment of the Contingency Fund even though the opportunity and time and occasion were available to the executive

(3) Whether it is proper on the part of the executive not to have taken this House into confidence at the earliest available opportunity of such a Presidential Order having been issued to withdraw lots of amounts from the Consolidated Fund of the State. Sir, the basic rights of this House have been given the go-by by using a constitutional provision which should have been used rarely. It is a fraud on the Constitution and an affront to the financial and constitutional authority of this House. I want your ruling on these points

श्री मधु निमये (ब्राका) उपाध्यक्ष महोदय,
मेरे मित्र ने जो मद्दा रखाया है वह सरकार की
मनोदशा पर प्रकाश डालता है। क्या सरकार
इस पार्लियामेंट को अब न्यूनेम समझने लगी है?
क्या सरकार इसको खत्म करना चाहती है?
इसलिये यह केवल औचित्य का ही सवाल नहीं है

हम सरकार से यह भी जानना चाहते हैं क्या

सरकार इस पार्लियामेंट का न्यूनेम समझती

है और चाहती है जल्द से जल्द इसको खत्म

किया जाये? क्या इसको रद्द करना है?

SHRI H N MUKERJEE (Calcutta—
North-East) Article 357 is very specific. It refers to the exercise of legislative powers under Proclamation issued under article 356, it says.

"It shall be competent for the President to authorise, when the House of the People is not in session expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of the State pending the sanction of such expenditure by Parliament"

I understand this to mean that the President can certainly authorise expenditure from the Consolidated Fund but a check on that is that the next session of Parliament would hear of the event and approve of it. But as Mr Sezhiyan has so ably pointed out this was done a long time ago and we are now at the fag end of the session and nothing has been done to secure the sanction of Parliament. If the Government can tell us that they were prevented unavoidably from making any statement earlier and they are going to do it tomorrow—they did not know till this morning that the House would be sitting on Monday—we can understand it; if not, this is clearly a contempt of Parliament and this House has to take note of it in a very fundamental sense

SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA (Begusarai): I have also one humble submission to make in this regard. This is indeed a very important matter that has been raised. It cannot be lightly brushed aside. The point is that the relevant Presidential Order is not even placed on the Table of the House. So, the House cannot take cognizance of it. There must be

some provision that such an Order is laid on the Table of the House. If that is done, you can accuse us that we have not exercised our vigilance or alertness in this matter.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You were given a copy of that letter. Are you prepared to reply to this point only?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL. (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) I have just now received a copy of the letter Shri Sezhiyan has addressed to the Chair. I am not in a position to give any detailed answer to this. I wish it was addressed to the Finance Minister. But from what little I remember, what I can say, at this stage, is that article 357 as I understand it does not make it compulsory or does not require that the President's Proclamation should be laid on the Table of the House. In my opinion, the proper time when this matter could be raised and discussed would be when the Supplementary Demands for Gujarat are discussed. They have already been presented to the House. They are before the House. Whenever it is decided that they would be taken up, this point could be raised at that stage.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: You are the trustees of Gujarat. You are abusing the trust.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He has given whatever reply he can give.

SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: He has given no reply. He said, it relates to

the Finance Ministry. That is all he said.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It does not matter, whether you are satisfied or not. You have had your say. Kindly listen to me also.

I saw this letter after coming to the Chair. As far as is humanly possible, sitting here and attending to other business, I applied my mind to it. I was told that a copy of this letter was given to the Minister. Therefore, I asked him if he had got anything to say.

I would first agree with the Minister that this may not be a very appropriate occasion to raise this question. We are discussing the Resolution to extend the Proclamation of the President in respect of the State of Gujarat. That is the subject matter which is his responsibility. Therefore, technically speaking, this may not come up now. However, this relates to Gujarat and Gujarat, without money, is only Gujarat in name. You cannot do anything in Gujarat. The sum of more than Rs. 10 crores is not a very small sum. I do not know whether these Supplementary Demands for Grants for Gujarat will be coming during this session. I doubt very much. I do not think they are coming. Therefore, I think, it is quite appropriate for Members to raise this question, specially when the Supplementary Demands for Grants for Gujarat will not be discussed during this session. They did figure in the Order Paper, the Business of the House, a few days ago and were scut-

[Mr. Deputy Speaker]

tled, as you know. Therefore, I think, they are right in so far as that this concerned to raise this question.

Now, as far as I understand from Mr. Sezhiyan's letter and from his submission, reinforced by Mr. Limaye, Mr. Mishra and Prof. Mukerjee they made certain points. Again, let me say, I pay my compliments to them and to other Members for being very very vigilant and watchful and for asserting the rights of this House. They have done that. I am very happy. The Minister of State for Home Affairs may not be in a position to answer. I do not want him to answer this. But I would pose these questions for his consideration and they will go on record because I am sure, some time or other, the Supplementary Demands for Gujarat will be coming, if not in this Session, in the next Session. But there are certain questions of propriety.

As far as I can understand from Mr. Sezhiyan's letter and his submission—You can correct me if I am wrong—, these expenditure were incurred during the financial year ending 31st day of March 1974, i.e., the last year and not the current financial year. And they are not a small sum—more than Rs. 10 crores. The President's Proclamation was made on the 9th February 1974, well within the financial year, and the State of Gujarat was placed under the legislative jurisdiction and financial jurisdiction of this House soon after by that Proclamation—rather on the same day. Parliament met on the 18th of February

1974. Mr. Sezhiyan has also said that the Supplementary Demands of the State of Gujarat for 1973-74 were considered and passed by the Lok Sabha on the 22nd March 1974, well within the financial year of 1973-74. Why was it not possible for the administration of Gujarat to include these Demands as Supplementary Demands during that period to be passed by this House? Why could not this amount be included in the Supplementary Demands that were discussed and passed on 22nd March, 1974, well within the financial year? This is one question to which they must pay their attention.

From February to May we had a very long Session. Parliament was in session upto the middle of May, if I am not mistaken. Why should it have been necessary to resort to this extraordinary power? Although Parliament gives President the power, why was it necessary to resort to appropriation of a certain amount from the Consolidated Fund of India by means of an Ordinance? We should think that this House is the supreme authority in financial powers and, as far as possible, this House should run these things. It is only in extreme cases that we should resort to Ordinance. Why was it necessary to resort to this? This is another question.

The third question is, when the President had promulgated this order and we met here on 22nd July, why was the earliest opportunity not taken to place this order before the House. Now the Minister is taking a technical stand that the Constitution does not make it obligatory for an order of this nature to be placed on the Table.

Therefore, my appeal to the members of this House is: You may or may not accept a parliamentary probe. But give us an opportunity to debate. Otherwise this House does not deserve to be called a Parliament in this world.

श्री मधु लिमये : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मेरा पौइंट आफ ऑर्डर है। मैं यह नहीं उगता लेकिन जब मेरे मित्र श्री सेज़ियान पालियामेंटरी प्राव और उस पर बहस करने के लिए अपनी बात को पेश कर रहे थे तो माननीय स्टीफन ने रोका और श्री संजीव रेड्डी का हवाला दिया। अब उपाध्यक्ष महोदय सदन के सामने जो मोशन है, सब नहीं पढ़ रहा हूँ, पहले माननीय वाजपेयी को लीजिए। . .

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They have been circulated; you need not read them.

श्री मधु लिमये : आप इतने इम्पेशेंट क्यों हैं ?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I am not impatient. I am only trying to save the time of the House by saying that all these have been circulated and members know them and you need not read them.

श्री मधु लिमये : मैं सब नहीं पढ़ूंगा। माननीय वाजपेयी के प्रस्ताव में है कि पालियामेंटरी कमेटी इसलिए नियुक्त की जाय

"to examine the entire matter"

माननीय ज्योतिर्मय बसु क्या कहते हैं :

"to investigate into the charges"

माननीय हरिकिशोर सिंह काफ़ेस के सदस्य क्या कहते हैं :

"Parliamentary committee to go into all the questions"

अरैर मैं क्या कहता हूँ :

"That this House resolves to set up a committee to probe the following"

तो कोई कहता है ऐग्जामिन करो, इन्वेस्टीगेट करो, प्रोब करो। माननीय श्याम बाबु का भी वही है। मैं ज्यादा समय नहीं लेता, माननीय जवाहर लाल नेहरू जो लीडर आफ दी हाउस थे, जो वत्तमान प्रधान मंत्री के पिता जी थे, वह यह प्रस्ताव पेश करते हैं... (व्यवधान) अब यह ऐक्सपोज हो रहे हैं हैं इसलिए मुझ को रोक रहे हैं। श्री जवाहर लाल नेहरू का प्रस्ताव इस प्रकार है, मैं कोट कर रहा हूँ क्योंकि उस के बिना पौइंट आफ ऑर्डर फ़ौरमुलेट नहीं होता।

"That a Committee consisting of Shri T. T. Krishnamachari, Professor K. T. Shah, Syed Nausherali, Shrimati G. Durgabai and Kashinathrao Vaidya be appointed—

(a) to investigate into the conduct and activities of Shri H. G. Mudgal, Member of Parliament, in connection with certain dealings.....

अब क्या है। हम लोग चाहते हैं कि जो डीलिंग्स हो गई है उस को इन्वेस्टीगेट करने के लिए एक कमेटी बनाइए। पं० जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने इन्वेस्टीगेशन के लिए कमेटी बनाई थी और इन्दिरा गांधी जी कहती हैं कि सी० बी० आई० इन्वेस्टीगेट करेगी, श्री गोखले कहते हैं कि अदालत करेगी।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You have made the point. There is no point of order.

SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN (Badagara): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, I shall try to make my observations very brief but, however, I am afraid I will have to say certain things to preface my remarks, and that is about the antecedents of this motion. Though I have read something about the parliamentary procedure and practice of this House and of the other House, during my brief parliamentary career, I have never seen a privilege motion being treated so lightly and in so trivial a manner as this motion. I contend that this is not a genuine

16.23 hrs.

[SHRI VASANT SARHE in the Chair]

The House is aware of the circumstances in which the Proclamation under Article 356 of the Constitution in relation to the State of Gujarat was issued by the President in February last and the State Assembly was dissolved subsequently. Unless the Parliament approves the extension, the Proclamation will cease to be in force from 11th September 1974. It is clearly not possible to restore during this short period the normal constitutional machinery. Therefore, the continuance in force of the Proclamation beyond 11th September, 1974 is unavoidable.

I do not wish to take the time of the House over details. But I would like to briefly refer to some of the most salient features of the work done by the State administration. After the travails through which the State had passed earlier this year, the process of restoration of peace and order has made a steady progress. There has also been a continuous improvement in the law and order situation and the administration has generally acted with promptness and firmness.

The agitation in the State had led to the closure of educational institutions and disruption of the academic life. As soon as the agitation was called off, the State administration took steps to revive normal academic life and activities. Arrangements were made to enable the students to appear at the examinations which were conducted in a peaceful atmosphere. One of the main grievances of the students was rise in food prices in the hotels. Special arrangements have been made for supplying foodgrains and edible oils to students' hostels and this grievance has largely been eliminated.

The State Government was equally alive to the need for ensuring adequate food supplies to the weaker sec-

tions of the society through the public distribution system. A population of about 244 lakhs has been covered by over 8300 fair price shops.

Stringent measures have been launched by the State Government to bring out the hidden stocks of foodgrains, edible oils and other essential commodities, by launching over 13,000 de-hoarding raids and unearthing essential commodities worth about Rs. 3.5 crores. The State Government has also undertaken the distribution of limited quantities of groundnut oil to vulnerable sections of the population at a subsidised price.

Due attention has been paid to scarcity and relief operations in the conditions of scarcity and semi-scarcity created by inadequate rainfall. 1223 villages were declared as scarcity affected and another 1363 villages were declared as having semi-scarcity conditions. A number of relief works which employed over 95,000 people have been started in these villages. Collectors have also been authorised to start test scarcity relief works and distribute gratuitous relief in areas in which rainfall is less than 50 mm and acute distress is felt. Old and infirm persons and destitutes who were unable to work in relief works are being paid cash doles. According to the last report from the State Government over 8000 persons were receiving such doles in respect of water supply to villages, arrangements have been made to supply water through tankers or bullock-carts to 172 villages. Arrangements have also been made for fodder to the cattle.

The State Government have continued to pay special attention to the conferment of occupancy rights on tenants. As a result of special efforts over 31000 cases were disposed of by 30th June last and occupancy rights conferred on 14006 tenants.

The developmental activities have also received the attention of the

State Government. Recently, the Prime Minister had visited Gujarat to review the position in respect of agricultural production. Special schemes have been taken up to make optimum use of agricultural inputs. Active steps are being taken to ensure adequate power supply during the Fifth Five Year Plan. The State Government has taken initiative to set up important industrial projects through the agency of various corporations under the Industries Department. A number of letters of intent have also been obtained by some corporations. Eleven industrial licences have been granted for setting up Cooperative Spinning Mills and Gujarat State Fertiliser Company has been granted a letter of intent for setting up a new fertiliser plant costing Rs. 120 crores. The proposed plant when commissioned will produce 1600 tonnes of urea and 1350 tonnes of ammonia daily.

The welfare of the backward classes has received special attention of the State Government and the stipends to the Students have been increased.

We have circulated for the information of the Members a booklet giving more detailed information. The Parliamentary Consultative Committee for Gujarat has already met twice and is due to meet again in a few weeks. I am sure that the problems of the State Administration would be reviewed at that meeting also.

Since it will not be possible to restore the normal constitutional Government by 11th September, 1974, I commend the resolution to the acceptance of this House.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Resolution moved;

"That this House approves the Continuance in force of the Proclamation, dated the 9th February, 1974, in respect of Gujarat, issued under article 356 of the Constitution

by the President for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th September, 1974."

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDAR (Angram) Mr. Chairman Sir, I oppose this Resolution.

The Congress Party had a brute majority in the Gujarat Assembly, but due to factional fight in the ruling party for power, they never had any time to look into the problems of the workers, the peasants and the people in general. So, the Gujarat people rose unitedly like one man and organised a historic movement against rice in prices of foodgrains and other essential commodities, unemployment, against the limitless corruption in the Ruling Congress Party, for the dissolution of the Assembly and for a democratic government. The Gujarat fight was a product of limitless Congress factional quarrels. The events in Gujarat have taught many lessons for our country for our ruling elite and for the functioning of our party system. The most important lesson that they have taught is that when the people as a whole are unitedly behind a particular demand, it is difficult for the administration to resist it on the ground that cannot be made to act under public pressure or coercion. In the last analysis this tantamounts to saying that the people should not make any demands on the Administration. If the generality of the people want to make a demand they are bound to see that it is conceded. No people could tolerate a different situation much less in democracy and this is what the President's Administration tried to achieve in Gujarat and, therefore, rightly failed.

People expected simultaneous declaration of dissolution of Gujarat Assembly and the declaration of the Assembly election but instead we find the Home Minister came to Parliament for six months extension of President's

[Shri Krishna Chandra Haldar]

Rule starting from 11th September. The Home Minister claims that Gujarat has returned to normalcy. Then why elections have not been held? Because the ruling Congress party is not sure of getting majority in the coming mid-term elections and they have not yet been able to settle their factional quarrels in Gujarat.

I want to say there must not be any President's rule anywhere in our country. Whenever any Assembly is dissolved the care-taker Government should be established without the power to pass any important legislation and elections should be held within a month or two. This is a democratic procedure practised everywhere in the world. That is being scuttled and deliberately Congress rule is perpetuated in Gujarat in order to influence the Administration to win the elections by unfair means and by rigging the elections as it was done in West Bengal in 1972. I demand elections should be held by November 1974. Before the elections are held I demand all the corrupt officials be removed and transferred to other States. Today here is acute shortage of food and essential commodities. In search of food the hungry people raided the foodgrain shops. Such a serious situation is prevailing in Gujarat. People in Gujarat instead of food are getting bullets. The bureaucracy is ruling in Gujarat at the point of bayonet. Half of the Gujarat is under the grip of famine. In my constituency in West Bengal and also in Bankura and Midnapore there are famine conditions and hundreds of people have died. Practically there is no ration in Calcutta. So, I demand sufficient food and relief should be sent to Gujarat and West Bengal. In regard to the other parts of the country, where there is shortage of food and where people are dying of starvation, to save those starving people, foodgrains should be sent to them from the

Centre. Foodgrains should be sent to Gujarat also.

Sir, I demand that major and minor irrigation schemes should be taken up in Gujarat. The Minister has stated that it is not sufficient for Gujarat. These schemes should be taken up and implemented as early as possible, in the drought and famine affected areas of Gujarat. Sir, I would also request the Government to set up a atomic power station at Bhavnagar.

Sir, lastly, I want to warn the Government that for their mis rule, history of Gujarat will be repeated in Bihar and in every corner of our country. People will not forgive the Government for their total failure and for the unprecedented crisis. People will fight for food, shelter and democracy; people will fight to the last for food, shelter and democracy.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr D. D Desai—
Absent

MR. B. V. NAIK—Absent

Dr. Mahipatray Mehta.

DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA (Kutch): Mr. Chairman, Sir, Gujarat is the most mis-understood State, as far as I know. It is considered to be one of the richest States in India by so many people. But, in reality, it is different. Except for a stretch of 200 miles from Ahmedabad to Surat, the rest of the whole of Gujarat is still as backward as anything. Sir, depressed classes and scheduled castes constitute nearly 21 per cent. Sir, this imbalance in the development is the main cause for so many grievances, all over India. That is why, it is very necessary that special attention should be paid to Gujarat, specially because the disparity is so much that one part is highly developed, while the other part remains equally backward at present. If we want to achieve socialism, unless and until the differential treatment meted out

to and different areas is done away with, I do not think we can achieve anything more.

Sir, I can say this about my constituency. It was the most primitive princely State before Independence. Sir, it has an area of 18,000 sq. miles, which is one fourth of the total area of Gujarat State, with a population of only eight lakhs of people. It is a border State. Here, I am reminded of what Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru said, when the integration of Kutch as a State with the rest of the Indian Union took place in 1949-50. Without going into the parochial outlook of the linguistic movement, which was going on there at that time, he assured us and he wanted that Kutch should come up. That is why, Kutch was taken directly under the Centre as a Part C. State. I know how the people were happy. The development immediately started and in the very First Plan, Rs. 3 crores were provided.

Sir, the boundaries may not remain constant. At that time, we also said that if India leaves, Kutch leaves. For the sake of the whole country, we do not mind if there are certain boundary readjustments. But, the whole area should be developed.

The progress and development of the area should not be hindered under any circumstances.

Let me tell you this. There was an august body, a Joint Committee of this House, which went into the question of the inclusion of Kutch with the bigger, Bombay State in 1956. The Joint Committee of this House and the Boundary Commission itself had assured us that the development of this area would not be hindered at all, but on the contrary, it would be enhanced gradually. On that basis, it was the Central Government which gave Rs. 8 crores for the Second Plan. This money was given actually from the Centre. We did not get it from the Bombay State of those days.

Unfortunately, the process of changing the boundaries of States did not rest there. On May 1, 1960, Kutch became a part of the Gujarat State. Let me tell you—I will say it with the greatest sorrow—that it was the blackest day in the history of Kutch. Kutch was merged with Gujarat on a parochial ground, not on the ground of development of the area. It was merged on the ground of linguistic homogeneity. But nobody cared for the development of this area. In the reorganisation of States, as was rightly said sometime ago by one of the Ministers over here about the linguistic reorganisation of States, there should be equal development of the constituent parts thereof. But look at Andhra. On the parochial ground of linguistic similarity, certain areas were included in it. But we have had riots and violence on a widespread scale.

I want to say that this is the main problem in Gujarat today; a certain area has been highly developed and a certain part of it has been neglected.

I will just take a few minutes as I will have to explain the history of it. Formerly, the economy of Kutch and its development—I am referring to the pre-partition period—depended on Sind, now in Pakistan. All the essential commodities, specially foodstuffs, bajra, ghee, rice, everything, used to come from Sind. In exchange for these, hundreds and thousands of handicraft workers used to send their brassware, printed silks, silverware and Meena Kari, famous all over the world. These things went up to Kabul.

Whenever there was a drought—the Home Minister said just now that Gujarat is in the grip of a drought—the people on the border with their cattle, which is the backbone of the economy, which amounted to one million, used to go to the bank of the Indus, the Lower Sukkur Barrage, which was nearby. They never felt

[Dr. Mahipatray Mehta]

the pinch of the drought at all. As soon as there was rain, these people used to return to their homes.

Now after partition, both ways this area has been affected. The alternative they had when there was drought is now denied to them. And nothing else has been provided in its place. Not even a single refugee after partition was given relief. Here is an area where millions of people have not been cared at all in so far as the effect of partition was concerned. I would ask the Home Minister whether the Gujarat Government or the Central Government had ever come forward to mitigate the effect of partition on the area?

In Kutch today there are 8 lakh people. Outside Kutch, there are 12 lakh people living out of it. Why have they gone out of Kutch? It is a place of widows and old people because they have no opportunities of life. They are absolutely denied these. What is today? Today is the saddest day for the people of Kutch who are passing through a crisis. When you go there, you see tears in their eyes. As my hon. friend in the Opposition said just now, Gujarat has created history. It is not in the blood of Gujarat people to every now and then go and fight. But you see what is the condition of the people. This is the fourth continuous year of drought. So many districts are affected. You go and see Saurashtra, Kutch, Nawalnagar, Bhavnagar and Amreli. Look at the condition of the people. It was stated by the Home Minister that 95,000 workers are employed on relief works at this time. May I remind you that only in the district of Kutch this day in 1972, 1973, there were 1,33,000 persons working on relief. In the whole of Gujarat you are saying that 15,000 people are given relief. Is it relief work? Let me tell you that I have received hundreds of telegrams and trunk telephone messages. Scar-

city has been declared in 968 villages of Gujarat, in Kutch alone. Not a single new work has been started. Grass is not being supplied to the depots cattle which is the backbone of economic activity die in thousands. 3,000 cattle die every day. I have seen with my naked eyes, truckloads full of skins and bones of such cattle going away. I have described the condition of unique pastoral land of Banni, I do not wish to repeat it. This has become a recurring feature and I request the hon. Minister to look into this matter. You said that this Government is sometimes forced to do certain things. Please do not force these people to speak that language. We are a peace loving people.

MR CHAIRMAN: Your time is up, please conclude now.

DR MAHIPATRAY MEHTA: Law and order is gone in Gujarat. The journalist who went to complain to the adviser in the very compound of the adviser was lathi-charged. Then there was the case of the police inspector. For eight days there was rioting in Ahmedabad and there was lathi-charge. On September 11th the President's rule will expire, there is no other alternative, I know. Any Government is much better than bureaucracy. Bureaucracy's first response to any popular demand is no. This 'no' is the best government servant. Take for instance article 371(2) which refers to the establishment of separate development boards for Kutch. It is the birthright of the people of Kutch. The boundary commission and the joint parliamentary committee recommended it. It was envisaged in Andhra. When we refer to that, the same adviser who suggested that solution in the case of Andhra had the courage to say that it would lead to disunity in Gujarat. I ask them from this august House: were the framers of the Constitution less wise than the present advisers to the Governor of Gujarat?

MR. CHAIRMAN: You cannot speak on indefinitely. Please conclude now. I have been telling you that your time was up.

DR. MAHIPATRAY MEHTA: Thank you very much, Sir. I request the Government to look into the drought in Kutch

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta—North-East): Mr. Chairman. I fear this resolution is another symptom of the rot that has eroded our public life, the malady which came out so sharply in our discussions yesterday in this House. The Minister has asked the House to sanction the continuance of President's rule. I fear that the Government has an idea that the continuance of President's rule is a matter of course and that it would be proposed by Government and just accepted by Parliament. As a matter of fact the envisagement in the Constitution is that there would have to be very special justification for the extension of the period when President's rule is there.

President's rule came about after a period of upheaval in Gujarat. What ever view one might take of certain elements operating in that upheaval there is no doubt about the genuineness as far as people's participation in that movement was concerned. They set up a *Nar Nirman Samiti*; they wanted to build a new Gujarat. The response of the Government to that was to begin with repression of that movement and refusal to give a democratic remedy to the situation. At that point of time, the Government, if it had the guts for it—and this is what worries me beyond measure—that the Government we have in this country has no courage, no moral stature and has not got the spirit really and truly to face our people—if it did have some little backbone, it should have asked for very early election even at that point of time, if Government wanted to capitalise the enthusiasm of the people. What were

the people fighting for? They wanted to get rid of a man at the top because he was corrupt. Government should have capitalised the democratic feelings of Gujarat at that point of time. Gujarat is Gandhi's own country, inured to Congress ideals, allergic to any sort of violent eruption, disciplined by the late Sardar Patel for instance into a kind of patience which has become Gujarat's hall-mark politically speaking—that Gujarat rose and shook the foundations of Indian political life. If the Government had some character and calibre, it could have taken advantage of the upsurge of our people and utilised it for having a real, genuine democratic set-up in Gujarat as a constituent of the total Indian democracy. On the contrary, what did it do? It trumps up one set of corrupt people after another. That is the policy which is pursued. With money and power, Government wishes to scotch all the great expectations which had been roused in Gujarat. How long can you do it? Our people are acquiescent; they suffer mutely. But beware of the fury of a patient people! That is the perspective which this Government is creating, trying to dig its own grave as it were. It does not know that power may also totter because the roots of power have got to be morally based on the affections of the people, or it is worth nothing at all.

That is what the Government failed to realise at the time of the Gujarat crisis. Elections ought to have been ordered very soon, at that point of time. But now they do not want election. They want extension. They will come again perhaps after six months for another extension. I do not know. The Election Commission should have functioned differently. The Election Commission should not be dumb, driven cattle. But unfortunately in our country, the Election Commission does not try to assert itself and the result is the kind of thing we are seeing. When I see the kind of picture politically in our country, I am re-

[Shri H N Mukerjee]

mindful of what an American poet said long ago, when he found conditions dismal

"God give us men, a time like
this demands

Great hearts, strong minds, true
faith and willing hands

Men whom lust of office will not
kill,

Men whom the spoils of office will
not buy,

Men who

Have opinion and a will,

Men who have honour, who will
not lie"

Those were the words of Oliver Wendell Holmes a long time ago. We do not have people in power today who are men of honour, who will not lie and that is why we get the sort of picture that we get in Gujarat. A defector in chief has been rewarded. A parody of principles was pathetically made by the Government and ultimately we get the result that we have got so far in Gujarat. We have just heard a member from Kutch who painted a melancholy and dismal picture of the condition of the people, which is the only criterion in so far as the Government's right to rule is concerned.

My friend, the hon Minister tried to point out that the President's Rule has made a lot of good to the State of Gujarat. I do not know. But by information is that acute suffering continues. There are near-famine conditions. I cannot forgive though I can understand the West Bengal Government, for example having the gumpation to deny the fact of starvation deaths by saying that it is malnutrition. How could the Government of India deny that conditions in Gujarat directly under its care are so terrible?

I am not from Gujarat. But I get information about near-famine conditions, particularly, in Kutch where the pasture land is there but there is no water even for the grass lands to develop. They had in the Third Five Year Plan a scheme for, I am told, a cheese factory which they bid good-bye to. The people suffer all over the place. Kutch should be declared a drought-stricken area and relief works should be conducted on a very much larger scale as our friend from Kutch suggested a little while ago.

The conditions of famine appear to be appalling in Savarkundla, Palitana, Gariadhar and such other places. Drinking water scarcity seems to be acute from the information we get at Bhavnagar and Jamnagar. The entire population is in great danger not only of health but they might even die if the water at nearby dams are not reserved for drinking purposes.

The hon Minister has talked about benefits imposed by the President's Rule in Gujarat. What about the Harijan-baiting menace? I know, on some occasions the Gujarat Government has behaved rather well in so far as the oppression practised on the Harijans is concerned. But even so, there are so many problems still remaining. A friend of mine from Gujarat told me the other day that there was a demonstration in the streets of Ahmedabad where the Harijans spoke as if they wanted a separate area, a separate territory something like an *Achutistan* for themselves. These conditions continue to be so dismal. Let not the Government remain complacent.

Why should atrocities continue in these places? For example, I am told, atrocities committed by Rajputs on Harijans of village Poladia in Kutch deserve very keen attention by the Government. But nothing has been done.

Then, there was the incident involving journalists being beaten up. I do not have time to go into all the details. Journalists were beaten up and this matter came up before the House. This was done under President's Rule. I have a report of police firing at a place called Limbdi. There was a Commission of Inquiry appointed. The Commission reported that the police was unable to control the crowd. The police had made an error of judgement in not anticipating that a large crowd will be there. I am quoting from the report:

"The Commission is of the view that the incident perhaps could have been averted if the administration had arrested the Jana Sangh workers before the start of the procession. The Commission is, therefore, of the view that the preventive steps taken were not "sufficient and thoughtful"."

It further says:

"... once the order to fire was given by the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, no steps were taken either by him or the Sub-Divisional Police Officer to control the firing."

I have no time to go into all these details. This kind of thing comes before us and the Consultative Committee meets for an hour three miles away from the Parliament House when we have to rush to the place in order to attend the Question Hour. This goes on in the name of good work done for Gujarat.

There is a big scandal about sick textile mills. Here is a copy of magazine of 17th August, 1974 where incriminating photostat copies are printed. We are told that a leading person in the INTUC, Mr. Vasavada, is the President of the Gujarat State Textile Corporation and about him, his relatives and friends, there are various allegations of corruption and nepotism of a very serious order. I do not know what the Government is doing about it, when all these kinds of

reports appear supported by photostat evidence and that sort of thing.

17 hrs.

In regard to the Narmada Project, I remember, about 20 years ago, after I came to Parliament I went to Ahmedabad and saw charts and posters asking for implementation of this project. How long would it hang fire? Now the ball is in the Prime Minister's court; why does not she do something decisive about it? Why don't you lock some people up as in a jury box and do not let them come out before they agree? Why do Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and other States which are all under Congress rule, go on fighting like Kilkenny cats when the condition of the people in Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and elsewhere vitally depend on a decision in this matter?

I say that the condition of the people is the criterion, and I would end by saying that we are dealing with Gandhi's Gujarat. Gandhi had said in 1922 facing his trial on 18th March, 1922:

"No sophistry, no jugglery in figures can explain away the evidence which the skeletons in the Indian villages present to the naked eye." He had also said:

"The Government, established by law in British India is carried on for the exploitation of the masses."

It was British India in those days. He said:

"The miserable little comforts of the town dwellers in India represent the brokerage they get for the work they do for the foreign exploiter, and the profits and the brokerage are sucked from the masses."

He further said:

"If there is a God above, the British imperialists and the town-dwellers in India would have to answer—if there is a God above—for their crime against humanity which is perhaps unparalleled in history."

[Shri H N Mukerjee]

These were Gandhiji's own words. You can refer to Gandhiji's trial in March, 1922. All over our country today no sophistry, no jugglery, in figures and argumentation, can explain away the evidence of poverty which faces you. I come from Calcutta where you cannot in a minute free yourself from poverty. Even in the air-conditioned comfort of Raj Bhavan you cannot isolate yourself from poverty. In Gujarat there is poverty. Everywhere there is poverty—poverty of sort which kills not only the soul but also the body. Millions of children every day, day after day, year after year go to sleep when they are hungry. This is the condition in which we live. And here in Gujarat which is directly under President's rule you have a special responsibility; you have to live up to the ideal which Gandhiji had preached in regard to imperialists and the town-dwellers in India. Today the powers that be and their supporters, the black-marketeers, the profiteers, the hoarders, the smugglers and all that miserable gang whom the Government cannot punish because the Government is in league with the wrong-doers, are the criminals which history will never forgive. Let not this Government be a party, let not this Government be colluding in this tremendous phenomenon which is the ugliest thing that you can imagine denuding the people of this country of the spirit of their life.

I have gone a little too far. But Gujarat ought to be a sort of a model State under the Government's direction. It is not that yet. That is why I want the Government to realise its responsibility.

SHRI NATWARLAL PATEL (Mehsana): At present Gujarat is under President's rule and the proclamation is going to expire. This is required to be extended. Otherwise it will create a lot of technical and administrative difficulties in the way of Government. At present Gujarat is facing a very acute drought situation.

And Sir, you know very well and the hon members from both sides know very well that due to paucity of rains Gujarat is facing the drought situation this year. I would like to apprise the hon members and the Ministers of the present situation by saying that the majority of the districts—according to me, 80 per cent of the region—of Gujarat are such where there have been no first rains at all. And, according to me, 20 per cent region of Gujarat is such where there was the first rain and afterwards there was no second rain. That is why the crop has started withering. According to me if it does not rain within the next ten days I think farmers will not bother to go to the fields to harvest the grains as there will be nothing. These are the circumstances we are facing. This drought situation is a natural calamity. Last year, there was the flood situation and the people of Gujarat were affected by floods. I understand that it was a great tragedy on the part of the people of Gujarat to face a flood situation and lose very valuable crops and I think so many other calamities were also created by the floods. I understand year before last there was a country-wide famine and Gujarat also was under the grip of that famine. That was also the worst famine for Gujarat. So for the last three years the people of Gujarat have been facing these natural calamities in the form of drought or in the form of floods. You should understand how can poor people resist against nature continuously for the last three years. To-day the position in Gujarat is absolutely worse. I would like to urge upon the hon Ministers and Members of this House that we cannot get any idea of the situation sitting here in this House. I would request the hon Minister to kindly visit the areas in Gujarat where this difficulty has taken place where people are affected by the drought situation.

This is a natural calamity. The Government has nothing to do with it. I understand the sympathy of the Government for the people who are the

sufferers and who are facing the drought situation. I also understand one thing. At present, the President's rule is there and the Governor, with the help of his two advisers, Mr. Satara-wala and Mr. Sarin and the entire government machinery, I think, are trying its level-best to face the situation. There is no doubt about it. But I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to one thing.

I understand in order to open relief works in the affected areas, the Governor cannot do anything without adequate financial assistance to the State. While there is any calamity in the State of Gujarat, hon. Ministers are always sympathetic. There is no doubt about it. I appreciate it. Anyway, the situation is such that by only giving sympathetic words for the people of Gujarat, you will not be able to save the people from starvation. The problem is one of finance. Adequate financial assistance should be placed at the disposal of the Governor to enable him to start famine works and to provide drinking water facilities in areas where there is no drinking water facility to-day and, especially, fodder to the starving cattle.

So far as the situation is concerned, I would request the hon. Minister for Agriculture also to rush adequate supply of foodgrains to the people of Gujarat and to see that there may not be any starvation deaths. At present we are hardly getting 50,000 tonnes of foodgrains. Right from the beginning Gujarat is a deficit State. I think I am not expected to reiterate this thing again before this House. We have to solely depend upon the central pool. If you do not supply foodgrains to the Gujarat people, starvation would be the result. I would, therefore, like to urge upon the hon. Minister for Agriculture to supply foodgrains to the extent of 1 lakh tonnes from to-day continuously for the next few months.

I have heard some hon. Opposition Members speaking about elections and
 2023 LS-5

terminating President's rule. You know very well. There was a popular government in Gujarat and I understand some Opposition members, specially from other States, were more interested to topple that popular government. I do not understand why honourable opposition members from other States were interested in toppling the popular Government of Gujarat. They shed crocodile tears. They said, let the popular Government go and let there be President's rule; they said the President's rule will be comparatively better than the popular Government and so on. I tell my friends on this side and on that side that we are not afraid of elections at all. We are more interested in serving the people of the country. Our fundamental role is to serve the people. Suppose we are elected by the people, we will enjoy this position. But, if we are not elected, we will never bother for that as our goal is to render service to the people.

श्री हेमन्त सिंह बनेरा (भीलवाड़ा) :
 महापति महोदय, गुजरात में राष्ट्रपति शासन 6 महीने और बढ़ाने के लिए जो प्रस्ताव यहां प्रस्तुत किया गया है मैं उनका विरोध करने के लिए खड़ा हुआ हूँ क्योंकि यह काला प्रस्ताव अलोकतात्विक और अव्यावहारिक है। अच्छा होता यदि मन्त्री महादय अपने भाषण में यह बताते कि इन 6 महीनों के अन्दर वहाँ चुनाव क्या नहीं हो सका। फरवरी, 74 में वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया गया था और 11 सितम्बर को 6 महीने पूरे होने जा रहे हैं। आज तारीख है 6 इसलिए मैं स्वीकार करता हूँ दो एक दिन के अन्दर वहाँ चुनाव नहीं कराये जा सकते हैं लेकिन इसके साथ मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले 6 महीनों में जो संविधान द्वारा वैधानिक दायित्व आपको सौंपा गया था उस दायित्व का पालन आपने क्यों नहीं किया? परिसीमन आयोग ने 31 मार्च को आपत्तियाँ देने की अवधि निश्चित की थी उसके बाद 6 महीने

[श्री हेमन्त सिंह बनेरा]

के अन्दर, मैं चाहता हूँ मंत्री जी स्पष्ट करें कि उन्होंने चुनाव क्यों नहीं कराये।

संविधान की धारा 356 सरकार को यह अधिकार देती है कि वह राष्ट्रपति को सलाह दे सकें, यदि किसी राज्य के अन्दर इमर्जेंट सिचुएशन हो, कि वहाँ पर राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया जाये लेकिन अफसोस इस बात का है कि वे भूल जाते हैं कि डा० अम्बेडकर ने संविधान सभा में बहस के दौरान यह स्पष्ट किया था कि :

I hope this Article will remain a dead letter.

यानी संविधान की धारा 356 एक निर्जीव प्रावधान रहेगी। अफसोस इस बात का भी है कि 24 वर्षों में 33 बार 16 राज्यों में राष्ट्रपति शासन लागू किया गया है। इन 16 राज्यों में गुजरात एक ऐसा अन्तर्गत राज्य है जिसको, 6 बार राष्ट्रपति के चुनाव हुए लेकिन आखिरी चुनाव में अपने विधान सभा के सदस्यों के मत प्रकट करने से बंचित रखा गया। राष्ट्रपति शासन काल में जो एक रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हुई है वह मैंने देखी है। लेकिन मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि आज गुजरात अकालग्रस्त है, अनेक जिलों के अन्दर अकाल छाया हुआ है, माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने भाषण में यह स्पष्ट किया था कि 95,000 आदमियों को अकाल क्षेत्र के अन्दर राहत देने के लिये मजदूरी दी जा रही है। लेकिन क्या यह सच नहीं है कि कछ के इलाके से दो लाख व्यक्तियों को आज रोजगार चाहिये, जब कि पूरे राज्य में आज तक 95,000 आदमियों को ही अकाल कार्य में राहत देने के लिये रोजगार दिया जा रहा है, जब कि अकेले कछ के हिस्से में दो लाख व्यक्ति जहाँ अकालग्रस्त हैं उन को कार्य चाहिये। कछ की हालत बहुत कलहारी है। वहाँ पर अन्न वास का प्रबन्ध जल्दी से जल्दी नहीं कराया गया तो

3,000 मवेशियों को आप मरने से नहीं बचा सकेंगे।

सभापति जी, पालीताना में बाजरा और घास एक भाव है। दोनों का भाव एक रूपया प्रति किलो है। ऐसी हालत में केन्द्रीय सरकार क्या करने जा रही है यह मैं जानना चाहता हूँ। सभापति जी, गुजरात के अन्दर स्केयरसिटी रिलीफ रिपोर्ट के एक पैराग्राफ के अन्दर यह कहा गया है :

Under the heading 'Scarcity relief' it is said:

"Water supply scheme at a cost of nearly Rs. 2 crores was executed in a record time for supply of water to Rajkot city through a 65 kilometer...."

Unfortunately, this water has not reached Rajkot. Let my friends stand up and say you have got a relief from this scheme. In the near future the condition of Rajkot and Jamnagar is going to be such that if immediate steps are not taken to supply water to these cities you will have to evacuate these towns. (Interruptions).

Dr. Mehta though I belong to Rajasthan my better half is from Gujarat.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That means waters have now gone from Gujarat to Rajasthan.

SHRI HEMENDRA SINGH BANERA: Rajasthan is facing a similar situation. The famine is staring Rajasthan. I want to ask three questions. First, regarding the lathicharge on the correspondents of the newspapers who had gone to report certain incidents to the Advisor to the Governor. Sir, the newsmen has asked for the suspension of the I. G. P. of Gujarat. Sir, secondly, the atrocities on Harijans is a shameful affair, in Gujarat, the land of Gandhiji, and specially, when the Centre is looking after its administration.

Sir, when Rs. 5,000 has been paid as compensation to the Youth Congress workers, I fail to understand why not the same amount was paid to the Harijans who were killed in this clash and also to hundreds of people who were killed during the agitation in Gujarat

I hope I will get answers for all these questions from the hon Minister

श्री अरविन्द एम० पटेल (राजकोट) .

हमार्पित जो सब से पहले मैं माननीय बनेरा ने जो कुछ कहा है उस का जवाब देना चाहता हूँ । उन्होंने बताया कि एक किलो बाजरे का भाव एक रुपया है । मुझे खुशी होगी अगर यह भाव हो । ऐमः लगन है उन के कथनानुसार कि देश में अनज और बाजरा बहुत मस्ता हो गया है ।

श्री हेमेश सिंह बनेरा मैंने कहा था कि चास और बाजरे का भाव एक है ।

श्री अरविन्द एम० पटेल दूसरी बात यह कही कि राजकोट के वास्ते पीने के पानी के लिये जो पाइप लाइन लगायी गई है उस से एक बूंद पानी राजकोट को नहीं लाया गया है । मेरी राय में यह बात उन की सत्य नहीं है । राजकोट शहर में भदार डैम से 10, 15 लाख गैलन पानी उसी पाइप लाइन के द्वारा आता था, और अगर राजकोट की आबादी बची है तो उसी पाइप लाइन की बजट से बची है अन्यथा तीन लाख की आबादी को कही ट्रांसफर करने की नौबत आ जाती ।

दूसरी बात जो उन्होंने अकाल के बारे में कही उस के बारे में मेरा निवेदन है कि उन के जो नेता गुजरात में जा रहे हैं, इधर दो, तीन महीने में जनसंघ के जो नेता गुजरात में गये हैं और वहाँ जा कर जो सम्मेलन बुलाते हैं और पोलिटिकल ऐक्टिविटी कर रहे हैं, उन्होंने अकाल की कोई बात नहीं की । केवल प्रीपोगैन्डा के लिये इसी हाउस में

कर रहे हैं और अपने दिल में सदस्य शामिल करने का जो ममारम्भ कर रहे हैं वह इसलिये कि वह मानते हैं कि गुजरात के चुनाव में कुछ लाभ मिल जायेगा । इसलिये यहाँ अकाल की बात कर रहे हैं ।

गुजरात में बहुत भारी अकाल पड़ा है । लगातार तीन साल से वहाँ यह स्थिति बनी हुई है । वहाँ चारे और पीने के पानी का प्रश्न बहुत गम्भीर है । इसलिये इस और सरकार का सब से ज्यादा ध्यान देना चाहिये और लोगों पर जो दैवी आपदा आयी है उस को दूर करने के बारे में हर सम्भव प्रयत्न करना चाहिये । अकाल में राहत कार्य के लिये पैसा कहा से खर्च करना चाहिये इस बारे में मैं सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि प्लान के मुताबिक जो भी काम है और वह काम नहीं हो पाया उसका जो पैसा बचा है उस पैसे को रिलीफ वर्क पर खर्च करना चाहिये ताकि उन का कुछ लाभ मिल सके और ठोस परिणाम निकल सके । सौराष्ट्र रीजन में कोई काफी बड़ी नदी नहीं है, जिस से बड़ा डैम बाधा जा सके, लेकिन मैं यह सुझाव देता हूँ कि छोटे छोटे चैक डैम वहाँ पर बनाए जाए और उन के द्वारा सौराष्ट्र की जमीन को पानी दिया जा सकता है क्योंकि अभी तो यह है कि अगर बरसात ठीक से नहीं होती है और पानी कम पड़ता है तो वहाँ पर लोगों को अकाल का सामना करना पड़ता है । इस से लोगों को राहत देने के लिए सौराष्ट्र और कच्छ के रीजन में छोटे छोटे डैम होने चाहिए ।

दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि गुजरात में आज जो 10, 12 जिलों में अकाल पड़ा है, तो उस से यह अपोजीशन के लोग फायदा उठाना चाहते हैं क्योंकि उन को चुनाव लड़ना है और इस के लिए ये वहाँ पर अपनी बुनियाद बना रहा है । इस लक्ष्य से इन की यह दोहरी नीति है और इनके दोहरे चहरे हैं ।

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : (मुरेना) :
ये कभी हा' कहते हैं और कभी 'ना' कहते हैं ।
कभी कहते हैं कि चुनाव इसलिए नहीं करा
रहे हैं कि वहाँ पर अकाल पड़ा है और
हम कभी कहते हैं कि वहाँ पर अकाल पड़ा
ही नहीं है । अभी इन्होंने कहा है कि वहाँ
पर अकाल पड़ रहा है ।

श्री अरविन्द एम० पटेल . सभापति
जी, जो ये लाग चुनाव के लिए बहुत बावरे
हो रहे हैं, जो इन लोग का मालूम नहीं है कि
चुनाव होगा, तो जो भी इन की स्थिति
आज है वही रहेगी । आज चुनाव हो ता
भी स्थिति वही रहेगी और छ. महीने के
बाद हो, तो भी स्थिति वही रहेगी और इन
में कोई शरू की बात नहीं है ।

अन्त में मैं यह कहना चाहता हू कि
सरकार ने जो कुछ वहाँ पर किया है वह
प्रदेश के लोग के हित में किया है और मैं
इस प्रस्ताव का समर्थन करता हू ।

*SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Salem):
Mr. Chairman. Sir, I rise to express
my views on the Resolution seeking
extension of President's Rule in Gu-
jarat by another six months.

Sir, today the people of Gujarat are
being sympathised by the rest of the
nation. The reason for that is that the
rule of the President, in whose elec-
tion the people of Gujarat did not
exercise their votes through their
elected representatives, is sought to
be extended through this Resolution.
On this ground I vehemently oppose
this Resolution.

Gujarat was under the rule of the
former President for more than six
months. Now it is going to be under
the rule of the new President for six
months more. The hon. Minister of
State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
will no doubt say that the question of
non-participation of Gujarat State As-

sembly in the presidential election
was referred to the Supreme Court
and the Government conducted the
presidential election on the advice of
the Supreme Court. All of us can
very well understand that the Sup-
reme Court, whose Chief Justice was
nominated by the Prime Minister,
would give no decision unpalatable to
the Government.

The Congress Ministry in Gujarat
fell under the weight of charges of
bribery and corruption levelled at it
by the Congress Members of the As-
sembly. When Shri Chimanbhai Pa-
tel was the Congress Chief Minister,
three Ministers of his own Council
of Ministers resigned after making
grave charges of corruption and mal-
practices against the Chief Minister.
At that time, the Central Government
did not move its finger of authority.
When the students' agitation got in-
tensified, when the people of Gujarat
rose as one man against the Congress
Ministry, Shri Chimanbhai Patel was
made to resign and the State Assem-
bly was dissolved. The President's
rule was imposed over Gujarat.

After Shri Chimanbhai Patel re-
signed, he gave a statement to the
Press saying that, though he made
frequent appeals to the Centre for
rushing foodgrains to the State, the
Centre gave no heed to his requests;
but, immediately after the imposition
of President's rule, the Centre rushed
foodgrains to the State. This was
done primarily to mollify the feelings
of the people of Gujarat towards the
Congress Party.

Though the Central Government
were adamant initially about the dis-
solution of the State Assembly, after
the agitation spread like a wild fire,
the State Assembly was dis-
solved. Now there is law and order
in the State. There is peace and
amity throughout the State. Why
have the Government not come for-
ward to hold elections in the State?

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

I can anticipate the plea of the hon. Minister. He will say that the State of Gujarat is afflicted by floods and drought. From my personal experience, I can say that the ruling party will hold elections only when the climate is favourable to it for winning the elections. The postponement of elections in Gujarat is an indication which cannot be easily denied. The ruling party is aware of the fact that the hatred of the people of Gujarat towards the Congress Party has not yet diminished. If in these circumstances, the elections are conducted, naturally the Congress Party will stand to lose. That is why the Government are seeking extension of President's rule for six months more. Even after the expiry of these six months, the Government are sure to advance the argument that the elections in Gujarat can conveniently be conducted along with General Elections in the February of 1976. During this period, the Central Government, through their Governor, will make an all-out endeavour to win over the people of Gujarat by proffering small mercies.

I have no hesitation in saying that all the difficulties being faced by the people of the country today, the unprecedented economic crisis confronting the country, are primarily due to the power-hunger of the ruling Congress Party, which is proved again by this Resolution. Though Gujarat is directly administered by the President, the atrocities being perpetrated on Harijans in the State are increasing day by day. Ranmalpur and Surendranagar incidents in Gujarat are creating history. It is a shame that in the State of Gujarat which gave birth to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, especially when it is under the President's rule, adequate protection is not being given to poor Harijans. I am sure that the Soul of Mahatma Gandhi, who gave us everything for the welfare of Harijans, will wreck vengeance upon those who have failed to give protection to the harassed Harijans.

At the end, I would like to know what concrete steps have been taken by the Government to give succour to the suffering Harijans in the State of Gujarat. I would also appeal to the hon. Minister that by holding elections early in the State he should restore the normal constitutional Government in the State.

With these words, I oppose this Resolution seeking to extend the President's rule in the State of Gujarat by another six months.

SHRI D. P. JADEJA (Jamnagar): Sir, while supporting the motion of the Home Minister, I share the anxiety shown by some opposition parties who have devoted most of their time in mentioning about free, fair and early elections. Of course, we should have early elections. Elections have always been free and fair. I only hope they will take equal interest in the other activities of the State, specially the drought-affected area that most of Gujarat is today. If they have visited those areas, I am sure they would have not talked of elections. On the contrary, they would have said, save those election expenses and give it to the drought-affected areas. This year's drought and the sufferings of the people in certain areas are such that you have not heard of such a thing in the history of the State, at least not in my life time. Rajkot, Surendranagar, Jamnagar and the entire northern region of Gujarat is facing such a severe drought that if it does not rain from now upto the next monsoon, this entire area will have to be evacuated. I have said it earlier, but I do not think it has been taken up seriously. I only hope the Home Ministry will send a survey team to go and assess the situation in the drought-affected areas and given a report to the Central Government. Then only they will realise the gravity of the situation.

I would take this opportunity of mentioning some good schemes that have been started in the last six to

[Shri D. P. Jadeja]

eight months. One is the afforestation project taken up by the Gujarat Government. It is well known that only 9 per cent of the whole of Gujarat is under forest region, whereas for ecological balance, it should have been at least 33 per cent. Government has admitted that 60 per cent of even, this 9 per cent forest region has now been completely destroyed. Even under new afforestation schemes, plants were put but there were not enough protective measures to see that the plants grew up and became forests. I suggest that all money earmarked for afforestation schemes and reserve areas should be spent not on saplings, digging, etc., but on protecting the trees that have already been planted. Only in those areas we should think of starting afforestation schemes and not in new areas.

Coming to the water scarcity, my colleague just described the situation in Rajkot. It is a disputable item between members on this side and those on that side. But for the entire region of northern and north-western Gujarat and Saurashtra, there is no source of fresh drinking water. Cities like Jamnagar and Rajkot, by the end of February or March, will not have any source from where you can bring water to cities which have a population of $3\frac{1}{2}$ to 4 lakhs. I urge upon the Central Government to give special attention to this region and find out if tapping the subsoil water is possible or not.

The main point that I want to make is that there is a big region in Saurashtra and in Kutch where you cannot bring any water unless the Narmada project or the Rajasthan Canal project comes there. But there are other areas also in Saurashtra where even the Narmada project and the Rajasthan Canal project cannot give you water. The only alternative for this area is the desalination plant. I know it is an uneconomical project. This is what we have been hearing of. Where there is no other form through

which you can give fresh drinking water, would you not consider or at least think of having a desalination plant anywhere on the Saurashtra-Kutch coast, make use of sea water and, by a pipeline, give it at least to major cities where you cannot have water from any other source.

I congratulate the Government of Gujarat for the speedy work they have done in Rajkot where they have brought 65 km. pipeline. In cities like Jamnagar and Dwarka where we have a flow of tourist traffic coming in and going out every day, how are you going to feed these people so far as water is concerned. Has there been any scheme to face the situation in these parts which I am saying will have no drinking water after the months of February and March? Here, the Government could consider, as they are doing in U.P., to bring artificial rain also. They have the means; they have the chemicals. Whatever little chemicals may have to be imported may be imported. I think, this is the right time to make experiments in those parts of Gujarat for bringing in artificial rains.

About the scarcity works, my hon. friend, Shri Mehta, mentioned what was the condition a few years back and what is the condition today. There are less scarcity works now. We want more scarcity works to be opened. All the same, the same wages that were being paid 5 to 6 years before are being paid today. You may not increase the wages but at least make the payment of wages partly in cash and partly in kind. It is very difficult for the workers to get foodgrain items and other essential requirements that they require at home.

For the past 4 to 5 years, there have been no rains in certain parts of Gujarat, specially in the north-west part of Gujarat. I can show you newspaper reports also that in my area there have been suicides by farmers who for the last three years have been putting seeds and costly

fertilisers in their lands but there have been not enough returns even to pay back for the seeds and costly fertilisers. Let them make a survey and find out how many such farmers are there. I would request that these small farmers who have small holdings, who have lost in seeds and costly fertilisers should be given a subsidy, a grant, a dole, in whatever form the Government wants to help them.

I would urge upon the Government to take more interest in the quick implementation of projects as far as slum clearance projects are concerned. A revision of the port charges which have been enhanced by almost 130 per cent should be done. A revision of the selection of industrially backward districts should also be done.

In conclusion, I would say only this. I know that the Government is finding it difficult as far as financial resources are concerned. But here, I think, the Government will have to find out the ways and means of getting the required finances. If they could consider of a revision of the Open Urban Land Alienation Act, I am sure, such a revision could be made in it. Gujarat is the only State in the whole country where this Act is imposed so strictly. Only if a revision is made, if some relaxations are made, the employment position will improve. The prices also will come down. The housing problems will also ease.

With these words, I support the motion moved by the hon. Minister.

17.45 hrs.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

CONTEMPT OF THE HOUSE

MR. SPEAKER: As the House is aware, at about 13.52 hours today, a visitor threw some leaflets from the Visitors' Gallery on the floor of the

House and shouted slogans. The Watch and Ward Officer took him into custody immediately and interrogated him and the report of the Watch and Ward Officer is given below:

"Today at about 1.52 P.M., a visitor by the name of Amrit Lal Sharma who came to the Public Gallery with pass No. 169, issued through Shri Lalji Bhai, M.P. threw pamphlets in the House and shouted slogan 'Inqilab zindabad.'

2. He was immediately apprehended and brought out of the Gallery. On interrogation, he said that his name is Amrit Lal Sharma S/o Shri Harbans Lal Sharma and resident of F-38, Vishnu Garden, near Tilak Nagar, New Delhi. At present he is working as a conductor in Delhi Tourist Transport Cooperative Society. His grievance is that he had applied for admission in Film and Television Institute, Poona for acting course but he did not get admission. He, therefore, demonstrated against the policy of the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for not admitting eligible candidates in the Poona Institute.

3. A copy of the pamphlet, his Visitors' Gallery Card and his statement, are placed below.

4. The Visitor is under the custody of Watch and Ward Officer."

The said visitor calling himself Amrit Lal Sharma, has committed a grave offence and is guilty of the contempt of this House. I bring it to the notice of the House for such action as the House may deem fit.

श्री लालजी भाई (उदयपुर) : मुझे यह सूचना मिली है राजेन्द्र जी जो आपके सचिव हैं उनसे कि मेरा नाम न हो कर हुकम चन्द कठवाय जी का नाम है। पहले तो यही कहा गया कि मेरा नाम है, बाद में राजेन्द्र जी