

impossible for them to oppose it. Their goodwill came to us when we did not require it. It has been delayed and denied so often that people lost faith in them and could not believe that the Tamil Nad Congress really supported it, even though they did it.

The people of Tamil Nadu thank this Government for giving the facility to pass this constitutional amendment. We are very thankful to you, however much we may resent the attitude of the Tamil Nad Congress.

This Bill has such a history and it is the culmination of the wishes and aspirations of the people of Tamil Nad for the past 15 years. As I said, it transcends the narrow issues of party politics. As our minister said, today we feel it is an auspicious occasion. In the name of that great martyr, Sankaralinga Nadar, I request the hon. members of this House to pass this Bill unanimously. As I request the hon. members to pass this Bill unanimously, need I tell them how happy the people of Tamil Nad will be for this gesture of goodwill and brotherhood the other representatives of India have shown to their fellow countrymen, which will strengthen the bonds of unity and integration?

Vazhga Tamil Nadu!

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The Debate on this bill will be resumed later on.

16-30 HRS.

MOTION RE. STATEMENT ON FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY—*contd.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we shall take up the Flood Debate for which the time is already up.

SHRI THIRUMALA RAO (Kakinada): We do not want to waste the time of the House. There is a long history as to what happened after 1947 Calcutta Congress.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Why don't you speak tomorrow? I shall call you first tomorrow and not now. We shall take up the flood debate. We have an hour and a half. I would like to know how much time the hon. Minister will take. I understand that the Minister will take fortyfive minutes.

We have 45 minutes at our disposal and those who have not yet participated that day, will be allowed to do so now. I shall L59LSS/68—9

call Shri Rabi Ray first and one or two Independents later.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore): Sir, in place of Shri Dwivedy, I shall speak. He is not speaking on this.

16.32 HRS.

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

MR. SPEAKER: That day, on flood debate, one or two independents have also spoken, Shri Raib Ray wants to speak on this. The time allowed is 20 minutes. I would advise you to confine yourself to this time so that you both can be accommodated.

SHRI S. KUNDU: Sir, in place of Shri Dwivedy, I shall speak. He is not speaking. I shall take seven minutes only.

SHRI THIRUMALA RAO: Let me speak on the Madras State (Alteration of Name) Bill.

MR. SPEAKER: Let me first have the Congress Members' list. Now we are in the flood debate. Tomorrow you will please speak.

श्री रवि राय (पुरी): अध्यक्ष महोदय, आज मदन के सामने जो बाढ़ और चक्रवात के बारे में हम लोग बहस कर रहे हैं वह निश्चित रूप से देश के सामने एक महत्वपूर्ण सवाल है।

उड़ीसा, बंगाल, आंध्रप्रदेश, बिहार, आदि सभी जगह बाढ़ आई है लेकिन यह उड़ीसा की बाढ़ की विशेषता है कि वहां पर बाढ़ के साथ चक्रवात भी हुआ, साइक्लोन भी हुआ। आपको यह मुन कर ताज्जुब होगा कि उड़ीसा का एक दुर्भाग्य यह रहा है कि पिछले 4 साल से उड़ीसा के बोलांगोर, सम्बलपुर जिले में दुर्भिक्ष ब अकाल पड़ा। उसके बाद सन् 1967 में कटक जिले में चक्रवात आया था और इस साल उड़ीसा में गंजाम और पुरी दोनों जिलों में चक्रवात और बाढ़ दोनों आई और परिणामस्वरूप यह दोनों जिले मुख्य रूप से क्षतिग्रस्त हुए हैं। कटक जिले के भी कुछ हिस्से में क्षति हुई है। मेरा यह सरकार के खिलाफ आरोप है कि मेरे चुनाव क्षेत्र में पुरी

[श्री रवि राय]

जिने में 26 तारीख को जब चक्रवात हुआ तो आप को यह जानकर ताज्जुब होगा कि उसके बारे में मैंने प्रधान मंत्री जी को चिट्ठी लिखी और मैंने उनसे आप्रह किया कि वह खुद वहां पर जायें या कुछ मंत्रियों को भेजें लेकिन वह तत्काल वहां पर नहीं गये। आठ दिन पहले जो सेंट्रल टीम उड़ीसा में जाना चाहिए था सो वह नहीं जा पाये। हवाई जहाज से नहीं जा पाये लेकिन वह रेल में नहीं गये और लौट आये। एक महीना इस तरह से हो गया। अब जाकर केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से कुछ विशेषज्ञ वहां पर गये थे। स्थिति की भयंकरता का अनुमान आप इसीसे लगा सकते हैं कि कोई 13 लाख लोग बेघरबार हुए हैं और करीब-करीब 4 लाख 88 हजार एकड़ जमीन, पूरे धान की फसल जो कि एकमात्र वहां की फसल है वह सब खत्म हो गयी है। 13 लाख आदमी तो बेघरबार हो ही गये हैं साथ ही गाय आदि मवेशी भी सब खत्म हो गये हैं और दोनों जिलों में प्रलय जैसा कांड रचा गया है। सवाल अब यह है कि इन 13 लाख लोगों का पुनर्वास कैसे किया जाये। इन 13 लाख लोगों के पुनर्वास के सिलसिले में मैं आपको एक वान बतलाऊं। अध्यक्ष महोदय, आप तो खुद आन्ध्र के रहने वाले हैं, आप जानते होंगे कि हिन्दुस्तान की जो सब से बड़ी झील चिल्का है वह कुण्ट प्रसाद थाने में है जो कि मेरे चुनाव क्षेत्र में पड़ता है। लगातार पन्द्रह दिन तक वहां कोई भी नहीं जा पाया है, कोई रिलीफ वहाँ नहीं पहुंच पाया है। वहां अभी भी लोग कराह रहे हैं। मेरा पहला आरोप यह है कि केन्द्र के मिलिटरी वालों को राज्य सरकार की ओर से बुलाया गया होता, वह जोखिम उठा कर चले जाते तो काफी मदद हो जाती। जो एम० डी० ओ० वहां गये जब उन्होंने यह देखा कि चिल्का फूल रही है तब वह लौट आये। आठ दस दिन तक वहां कोई भी नहीं जा पाया। यह मानवता का सवाल है कि 13 लाख लोगों का कैसे पुनर्वास किया जाये। मैं पिछली 2 तारीख से 7 तारीख तक उस

इलाके में घूमा। मैं आपको बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि वहां की क्या स्थिति है। साधारण किसान के घर में एक फल होता है जिसको उड़िया में करवा कहते हैं। आज लोग उसको खा रहे हैं। वहां अनाहार से कम से कम 100 लोग मर गये होंगे। लेकिन अभी तक किसी भी रिलीफ का इन्तजाम वहां के लिये नहीं किया गया है।

वहां पर एक गांव गडरोडंग है। वहां की एक 75 साल की औरत और उसके बच्चे को खाना नहीं मिला। उसने पड़ोसी के घर से थोड़े से चावल चोरी कर लिये। वह बहुत अच्छी औरत थी। जब उसकी शिकायत आई तब उसने स्वयम् आत्महत्या कर ली क्योंकि वह इसको सहन नहीं कर सकी कि उसने चोरी करके अपने बच्चों को खिलाया। उसका नाम ब्राह्मण देवी था और वह स्वाभिमानी औरत की प्रतीक थी। आज गंजाम और पुरी जिलों में इस तरह से लोग आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। मगर लगातार सात-आठ दिन से उनके लिये कोई सहायता नहीं पहुंच पाई। आप इससे अन्दाजा लगा सकते हैं कि वहां के पशुओं और मनुष्यों की कितने व्यापक रूप से क्षति हुई है। वहां प्रधान मंत्री नहीं गईं लेकिन यह बड़े शर्म की बात है कि वहां केन्द्रीय स्तर का कोई मंत्री भी नहीं गया।

अब मैं पुनर्वास की तरफ आ रहा हूँ। आज सवाल यह है कि इसको कैसे किया जाये। मेरा पहला मुद्दा यह है कि वहां पर चूँकि कोई टेस्ट रिलीफ वर्क नहीं शुरू हुआ है इस लिये वहां के लोगों को ग्रैंटइंटस रिलीफ दिया जाये और यह राशन कार्डों के जरिये तब तक दिया जाये जब तक वहां और कोई इन्तजाम नहीं हो जाता।

आप को यह भी पता है कि वहां के बच्चों की पढ़ाई काफी पीछे हट गई है। 4 हजार स्कूल गिर चुके हैं, एम० ई० स्कूल, हाई स्कूल और प्राथमिक स्कूल गिर चुके हैं। इसलिये वहां के बच्चों की फीस माफ की जाये साथ ही लोगों को ऋण को आपरेटिव से दिये गये हैं या सरकार

की तरफ से दिये गये हैं उनकी वसूली इस साल नहीं होनी चाहिये ।

इन सब कामों को करने के लिये उड़ीसा की सरकार ने सिर्फ 8 करोड़ रुपयों की मांग की है, ऐसा मैं ने सुना है । मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि कम से कम 100 करोड़ रुपयों की क्षति वहाँ हुई है । पुरी और गंजाम जिलों में रेलवे लाइनें बह गई हैं । दो महीने तक कलकत्ते से कोई रेल वहाँ नहीं आ पायेगी । मैं उम डलाके में सात दिन तक घूमा हूँ । मुझे ऐमा लगा कि केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकार ने मिल कर कोई भी योजना वहाँ काम शुरू करने की नहीं बनाई है । आपको मालम है कि पिछले चार सालों से लगातार दुर्भिक्ष, अकाल और चक्रवात उड़ीसा में आ रहा है । बंगाल में भी कम से कम 20 हजार लोग मरे हैं । वहाँ का भी बड़ा अहम ममला है । लेकिन उड़ीसा के बारे में स्थिति यह है कि लगातार यह हालत चली आ रही है और उड़ीसा सरकार के अन्दर इतनी शक्ति नहीं है कि वह माढ़े 13 लाख लोगों का पुनर्वास कर सके ।

मैं समझ नहीं पाता हूँ कि किम भापा में वहाँ के लोगों की दशा का करुण चित्र आपके सामने रखूँ । अगर रोने से कोई चीज हो सके तो मैं रोऊँ और आंसू निकालूँ । लेकिन सवाल यह है कि जिम तरह से भी हो सके माढ़े 13 लाख लोगों को इस मानवता की समस्या को हल करना चाहिये । मैंने सुना है कि डा० के० एल० राव वहाँ जा रहे हैं । मैं उनको एक सीधा सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ । जिस थाने में चिल्का है वहाँ का नमक का बांध टूट गया है । उस नमक के बांध को मजबूत करना चाहिये । वहाँ पर पिछले एक महीने में दो बार चक्रवात हुआ । उड़ीसा में एक कहावत है । जहाँ पानी बहुत हो जाता है वहाँ कहते हैं कि चिल्का हो गई । उड़ीसा की सारी की सारी धान की फसल और चिल्का में कोई फर्क नहीं रह गया है । यह मामला बहुत गम्भीर है । मझको तो बड़ा ताज्जुब हुआ यह जान कर, पहले डा० के० एल० राव जायेंगे, वह

रिपोर्ट देंगे आकर फिर कोई सेंट्रल सहायता मिलेगी, फिर सुना कि उड़ीसा सरकार जब तक रिपोर्ट नहीं देगी तब तक कहीं कुछ काम नहीं होगा । डा० के० एल० राव विशेषज्ञ हैं । वह सोचें कि सारे पुरी और गंजाम जिलों में जो माइनर इरिगेशन प्रोजेक्ट थे वह बह गये । अब सवाल यह है कि सारा रिलीफ का काम कैसे किया जाये । पहली बात यह है कि जो चिल्का का मुहाना है वह बन्द हो चुका था । इसलिये नदी में पानी जा नहीं पाया । उससे सारे शहर और गांव बह गये । इस लिये मंत्री महोदय को चाहिये कि चूँकि वह विशेषज्ञ के नाते वहाँ जा रहे हैं इस लिये चैरिटी बे बेसिस पर युद्ध स्तर पर सारा काम वहाँ करायें । फिर वहाँ जो नमक का बांध था वह बह गया । 40 हजार लोग चिल्का से वहाँ घिरे हुए हैं । उनका अभी भी कुछ पता नहीं चल रहा है । उनकी बड़ी करुण स्थिति है । आप उन की रक्षा कीजिये ।

मैं तो कहूँगा कि आप मिलिटरी बालों को बुला कर कुण्ट प्रसाद और चिल्का क्षेत्र के बाशिंदों के उद्धार का काम करवाया जाये । मैं आपका ज्यादा समय नहीं लेना चाहता । केवल यही कहना चाहता हूँ कि उड़ीसा में आज बड़ी दयनीय स्थिति है बाढ़ के कारण । अगर आप वहाँ के माढ़े 13 लाख लोगों को बसाना चाहते हैं तो उनको ठीक ढंग से बसाइये और उनका उपयुक्त इन्तजाम कीजिये । हमारे मिनिस्टर लोग क्षेत्र में घूमते हैं लेकिन कोई ठीक इन्तजाम नहीं करते । मैं नहीं चाहता कि उनको मुफ्त रिलीफ दिया जाये । लेकिन जब तक आप उनके लिये कोई बिकल्प काम का नहीं दे पाते तब तक आप लोगों को ग्रैंटइटस रिलीफ दीजिये और वह रिलीफ राशन कार्ड के जरिये से होना चाहिये । मैं नहीं समझता कि उड़ीसा, सरकार ने जो 8 करोड़ रुपयों की मांग की है उससे काम चल जायेगा । अगर आप सोचते हैं कि हो जायेगा तो यह ठीक नहीं है । मेरा सुझाव यह है कि आप अभी लोगों को ग्रैंटइटस रिलीफ दीजिये अगले दो तीन महीनों में ।

[श्री रवि राय]

उसके बाद टेस्ट रिलोक काम और दूसरे काम शुरू कीजिये। मैं आपसे विनती करता हूँ कि आप इस बारे में सोचिये कि बंगाल, उड़ीसा, बिहार और आंध्र प्रदेश में बाढ़ और चक्रवात से जो भी क्षति हुई है वह केन्द्रीय सरकार की पहली जिम्मेदारी है। राज्य सरकार इसकी पूरी देख रेख नहीं कर सकती है। युद्ध स्तर पर तयारी कर के इस सारे सवाल को हल करना चाहिये। उड़ीसा सरकार को शक्ति के बाहर है कि वह इस सारे काम को कर सके। केन्द्र को उदार बन कर मानवता के नाते उड़ीसा सरकार को सहायता देनी चाहिये ताकि जो 13 लाख लोग आज बेघर हो गये हैं उनका पुनर्वास हो सके।

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Daschowdhury.

SHRI P. G. SEN (Purnea): This side also may be given a chance.

MR. SPEAKER: Your name is fifth on the list. There is a first list and a second list. There are three names on the first list. Your name is in the second list. So I do not think you will get a chance. Next time when floods are discussed you may have a chance.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch-Bihar): Mr. Speaker, at the outset I crave your leave to give me a little more time though I do and I should honour the Chair's order, to be as brief as possible.

If you go through the report that has already been laid here by the Hon. Minister, you will find that the most affected area in north Bengal, though the death toll there is much lesser than in other districts, is the Cooch-Bihar District; but it is surprising that no mention is there of the huge deluge and devastation wrought upon this entire district. Even in the Government report, it is mentioned that about 640 sq. miles out of 1323 sq. miles of the entire district have been affected, though I know the affected area is more than 700 sq. miles and the population affected is about 6 lakhs, with 42 deaths and 117 persons still untraced. It is no doubt a fact that the death toll is very heavy in the nearby district of Jalpaiguri. But what about Cooch-Bihar? What happened in the

first week of October has not been mentioned at all, I am sorry to say I never expected that treatment. Never the 12 lakh people of Cooch-Bihar expected that the happening in Cooch-Bihar would be so much neglected either by the State Government officials or the Union Government officials and also by the hon. Minister here. I had an occasion to speak to the hon. Minister as to what happened there and what has been described here, I got a prompt reply from him that the report laid here is only the report submitted by the State Government. I do not know what wrong has been committed by the 12 lakh people of Cooch-Bihar district that their affairs have not been properly described and their conditions and sufferings have not been properly brought to the notice of the House and to the country at large.

With your permission, Sir, I would like to read this long telegram which I got only yesterday night and from that you can easily imagine the conditions, the sufferings and the agony of the people of Cooch-Bihar. The telegram has been sent by the President of the Bar Association, Makliganj sub-division which is one of the affected areas of Cooch-Bihar. It says:

"MEKLIJANJ PEOPLE EMPHATICALLY DEMAND JUDICIAL ENQUIRY AS TO WHY FLOOD WARNING WAS NOT GIVEN BY RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICERS IN SPITE OF INCESSANT HEAVY RAINFALL FOR THREE DAYS AND TEESTA CROSSING DANGER LEVEL AT TEESTA BAZAR (.) OFFICERS RESPONSIBLE FOR UNPRECEDENTED LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY IN NORTH BENGAL MUST FACE TRIAL (.) MEKLIJANJ PEOPLE FURTHER DEMAND JUDICIAL ENQUIRY INTO THE AIRDROPPING INCIDENT ON SIXTEENTH OCTOBER WHICH RESULTED IN TWO DEATHS ONE IMMEDIATELY AND ANOTHER AFTER HOSPITALISATION AND INJURY TO SEVERAL OTHERS (.) INQUIRY AS TO WHETHER SIGNAL ARRANGED ON GROUND WAS FOR LANDING OF GOVERNOR HELICOPTER OR FOR AIRDROPPING AND WHETHER OFFICERS CONCERNED HAD KNOWLEDGE OF THESE MATTERS (.) WHETHER AIRDROPPING

WAS BEING DONE IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD (.) NECESSARY ACTION REQUESTED (.) ADDRESSED PRIME MINISTER REPEATED DY. PRIME MINISTER HOME MINISTER DEFENCE MINISTER IRRIGATION MINISTER".

I believe the hon. Minister of Irrigation has also got a copy of this telegram. What we get from the telegram is that there was the flood with devastations and there were sorrows, sufferings and agonies of the people. Vast areas were inundated. Not only that, Sir, the telegram mentions about the failures of administration also. It was not only after but even before this flood that there was no administration in the area. To give one example, there was supposed to be the airdropping of food, but the people did not know of it, not even the officers. Suddenly, on the 16th October, an airdropping of food was made as a result of which several persons were injured, one died instantaneously and another died after hospitalisation. So, this is the way how the administration is functioning.

We have also seen the S. N. Ray Report. In the report, it has been clearly stated that not only some of the officers failed in their duties they did not even give the proper and timely warning for flood as the officers were callous and lazy as well. The officers took the whole matter in a casual manner. It has been suggested in the report that the officers, both civilian and military, took inordinate delay in giving aid. We do not know how to explain this matter. We know one thing. There are penal laws in our country. If a person commits a murder, he is tried and in some cases he is hanged too. When the officers, as given in the government inquiry report, did not take proper care to warn the people so that many people could have been saved or at least much of the properties could have been saved, I wonder what action is proposed to be taken against those officers? Would this be a simple case of dereliction of duty or would certain special trials be held? If an ordinary citizen is to be tried and hanged too for commit-

ing a murder, why should these officers who were responsible for the loss of levies of thousands of people, not be tried? I want a straight answer for this from the hon. Minister.

What happened in the later part of the first week of October? Mekhliganj, Tufanganj and Mathabhanga sub-divisions were completely isolated for all practical purposes. Even on the fifth day Mathabhanga could not be contacted by the local district officers. There is one river there, Manshari, and it was so much swollen with flood fury that nobody could dare cross the river by ordinary country boats, and only on the fifth day the Deputy Commissioner, Cooch-Bihar, could make contacts with the town. That was the situation. There is another road to come to this Mathabhanga Sub-division from Mekhliganj. That was also isolated due to the destruction of a bridge. There is another road from the other side, from Shittalkuchi, but that was also dislocated. This was the position that continued for some days. In the Tufanganj area, specially the worst-affected areas in the district are Shalbari and Phalimari, I would like to submit to the hon. House, that the people there could not be contacted even after the 9th October though it happened on the 5th October. That was the position. The Haldibari police station area remained isolated suspended. There was no communication, no tele-communication, no road, nothing of that sort. In spite of this, it is a pity that neither the State Government officials nor the Central Government officials did care to give a clear picture as to what happened in Cooch-Bihar. This is the most graphic picture that I have tried to give to this House and to the whole country. But that is not all. It is not possible on my part to describe what happened; not only is it not possible for myself, but I would submit that even the mightiest pen of a journalist would be baffled to describe what had happened.

When I got the news that the Prime Minister would be visiting North Bengal, I personally sent a wireless message from Cooch-Bihar requesting the Prime Minister to see some portions of Cooch-Bihar district. The Prime Minister did visit on the 24th October, and I told the Prime Minister on that occasion that it would have

[Shri B. K. Das Chowdhury]

been better if the Prime Minister and also the Deputy Minister who was with her on that occasion came there crossing these 25 or 26 miles by road, from Jalpaiguri to Mekhliganj, so that the entire party could feel and guess what had happened. Even on that day, the 24th October, at the end of the third week, there was stench coming from carcasses. That was the situation.

Is it that the people of North Bengal are getting this flood havoc only this year? As a matter of fact, each and every year we have been facing these great flood havocs. This is a national calamity. This is stated even in government reports that each and every year North Bengal is losing property worth about Rs. 2 crores.

A Master Plan was prepared to avert this calamity. It was suggested in this Plan that Tiesta basin should be controlled, the entire flood water in the area should be controlled at a cost of about Rs. 140 or Rs. 150 crores. That plan was there. Not only the fury of the flood water would be controlled thereby, but it would open up the possibility of supplying eight lakhs kilowatts of electric power and of irrigating about 4 lakh acres of land. But I cannot understand why this Government, when they are facing such destructions and devastations each and every year, are not taking proper care of all these things and why they are not taking up this Master Plan which was drawn up under their care at one time.

Sir, what do we find in the North Bengal rivers? It is not a question only that the embankment should be built. The embankment should be widened, the embankment should be strengthened. That is a big problem. These river beds are going up and up and there is formation of silt each and every year. If this process continues, in the course of another 50 to 60 years the entire north Bengal area will be turned into a desert by the formation of silts of the rivers of North Bengal, namely, Tiesta, Jaldakha, Torsha, Manshai, Raidak, Gadadhar and Shankosh. That will cause great devastation.

MR. SPEAKER: Please conclude.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Neither the Minister nor anybody else cares to speak about Cooch-Behar and so, Sir, I am taking some time on this point.

MR. SPEAKER: You have taken 15 minutes. There are other Members also.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: All these river beds are going up and up from year to year. It is not only that some scheme should be taken up to protect the towns as suggested by the hon. Minister in his statement. The embankment to protect the Jalpaiguri town should be widened and strengthened. That is what the Minister has said. A similar scheme to widen and strengthen the embankment along the river Torsa for protecting Cooch-Behar town should be taken up immediately. Otherwise the entire town will be washed away in the case of a next flood. Dredging of the river is a most essential thing, but we do not find that that has been taken up in the case of these rivers. The hon. Minister has suggested the process of dredging of rivers in the case of Bihar. I request the hon. Minister to take up this system of dredging in the North Bengal rivers also.

The hon. Minister, towards the end of his report, has mentioned about the flood control works carried out in Mississippi. In Mississippi, not only the question of dredging, but also the question of afforestation was taken care of. So, I would request that all these necessary measures should be taken to protect the Cooch Behar town. I personally request the hon. Minister through you, Sir, that protection should be given to the people of Cooch Behar. The embankment along the river Torsa should be widened and strengthened. Construction of a bridge over river Manshai is also very necessary and should be taken up. Otherwise, Sir, in the course of the next flood the Cooch Behar town will be completely washed away. In order to control the flood, the construction of a bridge has to be planned, and I would request the hon. Minister to think of construction of a river bridge over the river Manshai to protect the Matabhanga town. Otherwise it will be very difficult to protect this town and its huge population.

There is one last thing which I would like to mention. We hear, we talk so much about the people of Viet-Nam. But, Sir, we have got our own people who are living in Indian enclaves. These are Indian enclaves and nearly 15,000 to 20,000 peo-

ple are living in these enclaves. By all means they are Indian citizens. There are 123 such enclaves surrounding Cooch Behar and Jalpaiguri districts. The people living in those enclaves have all the rights under the Constitution of India as we have the rights as citizens under the Constitution and as the hon. Minister has the right under the constitution. So, they should be protected. But in this particular case I do not find any scheme from the hon. Minister. So, I request that the hon. Minister must pay due consideration for those people, the Indian citizens, who are living in the Indian enclaves. It is astonishing, Sir, that we do not consider our people as our people....

MR. SPEAKER: I entirely agree with you. I must safeguard the interest of the other Members also.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: It is a very important thing, Sir. We have our own people living in these Indian enclaves but nowhere it is mentioned in the statement as to what action is being taken to protect these people. May I have a clear answer from the hon. Minister? Will he declare here and now that steps will be taken to give immediate relief to these Indian enclaves people, 15 to 20 thousand in number, who are Indian citizens and have the same rights under the Constitution as the hon. Minister has, Sir, the people of North Bengal are giving by way of revenue annually Rs. 200 crores from tea, tobacco, timber etc.
17 Hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Order, order. You will have to resume your seat. There must be some limit. Other members also have to speak.

SHRI B. N. KATHAM (Jalpaiguri): Sir. I am very keen to speak a few words on the great calamity which overtook North Bengal. Due to heavy rainfall and landslide in Sikkim and Bhutan hills and the plains of North Bengal, there were extensive breaches in all the embankments along the Tista below the Coronation Bridge particularly in Jalpaiguri district, where in the river Tista it started on the 5th October at about 12-30 A.M. This embankment in Kathamari first burst out and the water rushed vigorously destroying the

villages of Chengmari, Kranti and Chapadanga Anchal in Mal Block Development. The Domohani embankment was breached and the flood water rushed through Domohani, Moynaguri, in the south side of Barnes, Jorpakri, Mekhliganj etc. destroying 300 villages. At about 2 A.M. on the 5th the Jalpaiguri embankment which used to protect the town yielded to the pressure of the furious volume of rising waters when all were asleep. The people of these localities could not realise what was happening before they found themselves almost under chest deep water. Somehow they left the house and ran to places of safety; others climbed on house tops and those who could not open their doors or come out of their houses or could not go to places of safety lost their lives. They could not save their belongings i.e., ornaments, cash, money etc. Almost all the cattle and livestock were destroyed. The water remained stagnant on the second day also and the people had to go without drinking water and food for all the period. Only on the third day non-official relief came from neighbouring kind-hearted people particularly of Siliguri, Oodlabari, Mal and the tea gardens of that area. Government relief worth the name started coming somewhere on the 9th or 10th November. I had the privilege to survey the flood-affected areas of Jalpaiguri. The devastations caused by the flood are beyond measure. The district was the worst affected and the town was flooded to a height of two to four metres. Consequently, road, rail and telecommunications were severely disrupted in this district. One may estimate the loss of food crops, paddy, other cultivated crops and material properties, but how the exact loss of human lives and cattle could be ascertained and estimated is a matter of question.

The impact of floods in the rural areas was horrible. For example, in Mal Moynaguri Development Block 300 villages have been washed away. About 30,000 people of these Blocks have been rendered homeless. Out of these people who were sheltered in the relief camps, about 15,000 people have been sheltered and at least 2,000 persons have perished in the flood. About 13,000 people have taken shelter with their relatives. The area covered by these Blocks and affected by the flood is 80 sq. miles. The total area under Aman

[Shri B. N. Katham]

paddy which has been totally destroyed is 37,000 acres.

I would like to draw the immediate attention of the Government to the following requirements :—

(1) The quantum of relief which is now being given is too meagre to cope with the said plight of the flood-affected people, and hence it requires immediate increase in supply.

(2) The water supply arrangement should be adequately made in the urban as well as rural areas.

(3) Very large supply of warm clothings and blankets to the affected people should be made because of this cold season. Baby food and milk powder should continue to be supplied to the children, sick and diseased people. Loans, to all those affected and suffered heavy loss to be granted immediately and without interest. Assistance to needy students for books and paper should be made available without any difficulty. Free tuition fees for at least one year to the students is also necessary.

The valuable Bar Library is completely lost and it requires replacement.

The Central Co-operative Bank, Jaipauri have lent Rs. 30 lakhs in short term loan out of a total of Rs. 42 lakhs given in the affected areas. There is no chance of recovery of Rs. 6 lakhs of long term loans from the affected areas, Central Co-operative should be reimbursed of their unintentional loss, writing off the loans taken by those flood affected people as they are not at all in a position to repay the loans.

Gratuitous relief to the cultivators in affected rural areas should be given till the next kharif crops is available. Rupees one hundred in cash per bigha of land under actual cultivation should be given to prepare their land. The cultivators should be supplied all kinds of seeds and manures free of cost. Plough cattle should be supplied as grant. Grant also should be given to reconstruct their houses. Supply of C.I. sheets for construction of houses is necessary. Lumpsum grant and loan is necessary to each family. I urge that further steps should be taken to prevent

future occurrence of floods. For this, the embankment bund in Kathambari should be strengthened, widened, raised and fully repaired so that floods of the magnitude occurring this year could be prevented in future. The breach of this bund inundated vast area of the district. Without the immediate repair of the bund the rehabilitation of those affected by flood will not be complete and practical. This is the foremost job at present.

I suggest that some schemes should be prepared to divert the present Tista channel into the old channel so that the current of the river may not erode the village and town and rehabilitation work made easier thereby.

I also suggest separate centres in the rural areas for administration of relief and rehabilitation so that the day to day needs of the people could be assessed and requirements met with. Permanent medical relief units should be provided in the rural areas. Besides, an Executive Officer for relief and rehabilitation should be appointed and stationed at the Mal Thana Headquarters.

From the point of view of the loss suffered by the people of North Bengal a huge sum would be necessary for their relief and rehabilitation. I urge upon the Government that at least a sum of Rs. 50 crores should be allotted for their complete rehabilitation.

In these days of modern scientific development and with the help of modern instruments it should be possible to know in advance the movement of floods. So the effective system of giving warning to the public should be provided. Our Government is spending a very huge amount of money every year for our Irrigation Department and we have got our officers properly trained from abroad also. Our Irrigation Department are well equipped with all the latest and modern scientific instruments also, but it is a pity that in spite of all these, this Department failed to give timely and proper warning to the flood affected people in advance.

I very strongly feel that there was gross negligence on the part of the Irrigation Department looking after the job in Jaipauri District. Because I personally know that the said Kathambari bund was leaking

quite some time in the past and it very badly required immediate attention for repairing. But the department did not properly repair the bund. They were patching the leakage here and there with sand bags only, as a result of which the bund in question remained exposed and it gave way as soon as water approached and overtopped it. If the bund has been repaired properly, the flood would have been prevented. In my opinion the bund of the size and magnitude which has to prevent the furious floods of the Tista require strength and for that large scale handling is necessary. Patching work here and there is of no consequence. One overseer was stationed permanently at the particular point to look after the bund on which our Government spent sufficient money; but the officer seemed to have neglected his duty.

It is quite evident that the administrative officers are responsible for their failure and consequent huge loss of property and human lives. It is, therefore, strongly urged that a judicial enquiry should be set up to punish those who are responsible for the consequences of the calamity. The officers found responsible should not be allowed to go scot-free after their transfers. We know many of the officers found primarily responsible for the consequences have already been transferred. But the punishment with transfer will be of no value at all. It is, therefore, most essential that a judicial enquiry should be instituted as early as possible. Thank you, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER *rose*—

SHRI P. G. SEN : I am coming from Purnea. Please see, this entire chunk of territory is Purnea which has been washed away. It has been as severe as in Saharsa and Darbhanga. I protest strongly that I am not allowed to speak now. Why should I be allowed to speak only in the second round? Purnea has been so badly affected. After Jalpaiguri, it is Purnea.

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. Let us see.

SHRI P. G. SEN : I strongly object.

MR. SPEAKER : Luckily for you, your name is in the second list. It was not in the first list.

SHRI P. G. SEN : Why should it be so?

MR. SPEAKER : That is your party's concern.

SHRI P. G. SEN : Why do you want me to speak only on the second round? I have seen the floods myself.

MR. SPEAKER : Will you hear me for one minute at least? I am following the list given to me by your party.

SHRI P. G. SEN : Those who have not seen those floods are getting enough time to speak. The House is sitting again today on the same matter. But we who belong to the flood-affected areas like Purnea, who have been suffering, have not been allowed to speak.

MR. SPEAKER : If you do not want me to follow the list, well, what can I do?

SHRI P. G. SEN : Should we all go out then?

MR. SPEAKER : After the first list, I will call you.

SHRI P. G. SEN : You are calling all those who are absent, and you are not calling me.

MR. SPEAKER : You are a little excited. Will you kindly see the list? (*Interruption*)

SOME HON. MEMBERS *rose*—

MR. SPEAKER : Order, order. Will you allow me to deal with the matter? Why should you want to help me? I can take care of myself. Now, should I not call those Members whose names are in the first list? Should I not just call them even if they happen to be absent? Mr. Sen will consider this coolly.

SHRI P. G. SEN : I had given my name much earlier. Why am I not called? All those Members who are absent in the House are called.

MR. SPEAKER : Your name is not in the first list supplied by your party.

SHRI P. G. SEN : I regret that I have not been called though I am one of those who have suffered from the floods in Purnea. Please see this diagram of Purnea.

MR. SPEAKER : You should have shown that to your Whip. Not to me.

SHRI P. G. SEN : Why do you say that must speak only in the second round? I am becoming the laughing-stock of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I will extend the time by another 15 to 20 minutes. But I am not going to allow anybody to speak for more than two or three minutes. I shall read the names : Shri Basumatari is in the first list. Shri Laskar's name is also there. He may come later on, but now he is not there. This is the first list. Then comes the second list. Mr. P. G. Sen and Shri Sheo Narain are there.

SHRI P. G. SEN : I had sent you the chit.

MR. SPEAKER : It did not come.

SHRI SHEO NARAIN (Basti) : My name was in the first list. We sat till 7 O'clock the other day. I had sent my name on the first day itself.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, from the Opposition, I know only one or two names come from each party among them. It is the ruling party that gives me trouble. Whatever list I get, I accept. What does it matter, whether it is Mr. Basumatari or Mr. Sen who want to speak? It makes no difference to me. I follow the list of the Congress party as regards their spokesmen.

It will read it :

"Apart from the list of the Congress speakers already given, the names of Shri P. G. Sen and Shri Sheo Narain may kindly be included in the list."

So, what is the use of your shouting? You must take it up with your whips. I am following the list given by the various parties. Otherwise, I will get into trouble. Now, Mr. Kundu,

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : Sir, as you know, for the last four years, Orissa is passing through a bad state of affairs. Starvation, drought, floods and cyclone have visited my State and the deluge has been repeated again. Devastation has been followed by destruction. About Rs. 100 crores worth of property has been destroyed and damaged in Orissa. Our sympathy also goes to North Bengal where

the same type of tragedy has taken place. This has become a regular phenomenon every year. Whenever we come to this House, the minister comes forward with a report. Let me read two lines from the conclusion of the report :

"This year's flood have once again brought out the necessity of accelerating flood-control programme and the necessity for the State Governments to provide adequate resources during the fourth plan for this important subject."

Sir, the States have been reduced to district boards. When we ask for relief from the minister, the ball is kicked back to the State. Dr. Rao has just returned from a triumphant tour of the U.S.A. and he says that in the fourth plan, the States should give adequate money for flood control. He is under a misconception. In the Constitution, flood control is not mentioned in the State List. It should be a concurrent matter. In the U.S.A., the Federal Government spends most of the money for flood control. So, it should be the bounden duty of the Central Government to spend all the money required for flood control.

The Subarnarekha river in Orissa is a river of sorrow. The hon. Deputy Minister, Shrimati Satpathy visited that area and the people had given her a memorandum. I hope she will act on it. The river is causing lot of havoc and destruction. Last year Dr. Rao visited Balasore, but so far nothing has been done. It is a tragedy that people are dying within 2 KMs, from the place where rice is being sold for Rs. 2 or Rs. 1.50 per kilo. There is abundance of rice, but people do not have the buying capacity. In Orissa, the total irrigation potentiality is 59 per cent, but it is a tragedy that hardly 7 or 8 per cent of the cultivable land is irrigated.

But in certain States where there is no potential of irrigation a large portion of the land is irrigated. I can say that about one-tenth of the total waters of India passes through the rivers of Orissa. Yet, except the Mahanadi river valley project which was taken up 20 years ago, nothing more has been done. I would implore on Dr. K. L. Rao and his colleague that they must do something by taking up

the problem on a war footing. If you cannot take up flood control work on a war footing, you cannot fight China. There is no doubt about it. Mere speeches are not sufficient. You have to deliver the goods. People are dying every day without food and human beings are being washed away by the flood waters. So, I want a specific reply as to what measures you are going to take preventive measures, so far as Subarnarekha river is concerned. I know there was some proposal. First of all, there should be an investigation. This is an inter-State river, passing through three States. Bihar, Bengal and Orissa. If this river is tapped on the lines of DVC, it will produce electricity, it will irrigate more than 15 lakh acres of land and it will permanently control floods. So, let the investigation start immediately and let there be some measures for flood control. I am sure Dr. K. L. Rao will announce it now on the floor of the House.

Last time when I took part in this debate I suggested that a commission for irrigation and flood should be appointed. For a long time we have been hearing that Dr. K. L. Rao is going to appoint a commission for irrigation. But nothing has been done so far. It is an important matter. I hope he will appoint a commission to investigate the problems of flood and irrigation.

Then I come to the relief squad. It is shocking and astonishing thing that for about six days the railway employees in Kalupadaghat railway station were on the over-bridge and nothing could reach them. Our army is there and we have got helicopters. Still, because of the absence of a relief squad we could not rush food to them. Therefore, let them organise a relief squad.

Then, I have always suggested that in the budget there must be a specific provision for relief. When I wrote a letter to the Minister he told me that he has referred it to the Finance Ministry. Considering the importance of the problem, they must prevail on the Finance Ministry to provide at least Rs. 50 crores every year for flood and relief work.

MR. SPEAKER : I have got the name of Shri Somasundaram in my list. Does he want to speak on floods? Madras is

a famine-stricken area. If he insists, I will give him an opportunity now. Otherwise, he can speak on famine.

SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM (Thanjavur) : I will take only one minute.

MR. SPEAKER : The next name in my list is that of Shri Basumatari. Before that, could I give an opportunity to Shri P. G. Sen?

SHRI BASUMATARI (Kokrajhar) : Yes, Sir. You may call him first.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Shri P. G. Sen. The hon. Member has been kind enough to give you the opportunity first.

SHRI P. G. SEN : I refuse to speak now.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Shri Basumatari. But I want to point out one thing. Even now lists are coming to me. I do not know how I can function, at this rate. It is impossible.

श्री रामाबतार शास्त्री (पटना) : आप भाषण न देने दीजिये, लेकिन प्रश्न तो पूछने दीजिये।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर (सहरसा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, बिहार में फ्लड आया हुआ है, यहाँ तो सिर्फ आसू बहाने वाले बड़े टुकड़े हैं, सिर्फ भाषण करने वाले हैं, लेकिन जो मर गये हैं, बरबाद हो गये हैं, उनको बोलने नहीं देते हैं। ये लोग भाषण करके रेडियो और अखबार में अपने भाषण को छपा लेना चाहते हैं, उनको ही आप आसू बहाने का मौका देते हैं, क्या यही पार्लियामेंट है, जिसकी सैंक्टिटी को आप रखना चाहते हैं?

MR. SPEAKER : I think in future I will have to leave it to the House to decide for itself without my interfering with it.

SHRI BASUMATARI : Mr. Speaker, it is a surprising thing that while people are suffering on account of floods, instead of actually helping those people or giving concrete suggestions about helping them, the hon. Members opposite are only criticising the government for this omission or that. My hon. friend, Shri B. N. Katham from Jalpaiguri gave a very good suggestion and the Government should take note of it.

[Shri Basumatari]

You know, Sir, Assam is a State of chronic diseases, suffering from natural calamities sometimes from flood and sometimes from drought and earthquake and so many other things. I do not like to go into details of that. This time the floods in Jalpaiguri and other parts of Bengal created a problem for a part of Assam, the area which I come from, namely, Kokrajhar, Gossaigaon, Agomoni, and Golakganj area of Dhubri. When I went to that area I had a chance to go to Jalpaiguri side also and there I found people suffering like anything and cattle dying like anything. The people had no food. The Government of West Bengal took some serious steps to meet all the grievances. But it is very tragic that our hon. Members of the Opposition do not appreciate what the Government did. That is the most tragic thing. We cannot remove difficulties only by hurling words in this house. We should find out with cool brains what measures should be taken.

Our Minister of Irrigation is an expert and a technical man himself. He knows Assam very well; I think, better than me. He promised me to go to Assam and redress the grievances of Assam by putting some dam and controlling the floods with all possible permanent measures and all that. There are some turbulent rivers which overflow and always create flood, such as, Pagladia, Subansiri, Gubru, Nana, Dibang, Disang, Brahmaputra and others. Brahmaputra is a very big and powerful river and I request him to take steps to control it. Unless the Brahmaputra River is trained, the other rivers cannot be controlled.

The other day we had a meeting with him and I told him that whenever we go to the State Government, the State Government says that the Government of India does not take any care and are very callous. When we speak to the Government here, they also say that our Assam Government is not doing anything. We are in a dilemma, what to do. I asked him in the meeting held between Minister of Assam and Dr. Rao as to who was right and who was wrong. There it was found that some of the schemes or projects have not been carried out even after these 20 years. If this is the state of affairs created by the Government of

India or the State Government, I do not know how this calamity can be removed. Therefore without hurling words I want to appeal to Opposition leaders and hon. Members that without criticizing anybody, everybody should put our heads together to find out the ways and means to protect against floods and calamities.

Our hon. Minister of Irrigation was in the Board before he became a Minister. I am told by the hon. Minister of Assam State that he is taking very keen interest about Assam. My only appeal to him is that he should send some technical persons for Assam to abroad. Why I say this is that in the meeting it was found out that our officers, who are at the helm in Assam, are not so expert as to devise schemes. So it is not wise to find fault with them. The hon. Minister himself is an expert and he should consider and take steps so that the situation can be met.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Thakur.

DR. MAITREYEE BASU (Darjeeling):
rose—

MR. SPEAKER : I will call you. I know, you are affected.

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर (सहरसा) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने पिछले दिन की बहस को भी बहुत गौर से सुना था, मेरी बड़ी जिज्ञासा थी क्योंकि लोकसभा के लिए मेरा चुनाव बाढ़ क्षेत्र से हुआ। शुरू से हम लोग कोसी में रह और डा० राव की कृपा से हम लोग सदा के लिए कोसी पोड़िन बना दिए गए। जो कोसी योजना बनी, उसके लिए तो हम सरकार को बधाई देते हैं और उस क्षेत्र की जनता को बधाई देते हैं। लेकिन जो सरकारी आंकड़े हैं, सरकार ने जो कोसी नटबन्ध के भीतर तीन सौ गांव के साढ़े तीन लाख लोगों को सदा के लिए उनकी किस्म पर छोड़ दिया है, उसकी हमें बड़ी चिन्ता है। किसी भी जनतांत्रिक सरकार को इसके लिए शर्म और लज्जा आनी चाहिए। खासकर डा० राव जैसे ब्रजुगं, एकमपट इंजीनियर, जिनके सम्बन्ध में बड़ी चर्चा है और मुझे भी बड़ी आशा थी लेकिन जब कोसी की भयंकर बाढ़

आईं तो वे उस पीरियड में अमरीका चले गए, कुछ सीखने के लिए। इससे हमारी निराशा बढ़ गई। चार तारीख को बाढ़ आई, उसका क्या भयंकर रूप था, उसको मैं शब्दों में बयान नहीं कर सकता। चार दिन के बाद मुझे खबर मिली कि आपके पिताजी बह गए और लाश सिर्फ आपके आग देने के लिए रखी हुई है, आप अबिलम्ब पहुंचें। यद्यपि वह बात गलत थी, रयूमर थी, लेकिन आप इस से यह अन्दाजा लगा सकते हैं कि उस इलाके की क्या स्थिति थी।

अब सरकार के कोसी विभाग की क्या स्थिति थी, जरा वह भी आप सुन लीजिए। मैं कुछ कहूँ तो आप कहेंगे कि ये विरोधी दल के हैं, इनका तो काम ही सरकार की आलोचना करना है और ये पोंडित लोग हैं। बिहार का सबसे प्रमुख अखबार, इंडियन नेशन ने अपने एडिटोरियल में लिखा है :

"It is a pity that even 36 hours after the unprecedented floods in the Kosi river, one does not know to what extent the damage has been caused to the standing crops and men living within the embankments or that flood water has spread over other areas also as before the construction of the costly barrage. Not long ago, newspapers in this State got full reports about floods in "England within a few hours of their occurrence. This shows that so far as the newspapers of the State are concerned, Britain is nearer to Patna than Birpur."

आप अन्दाज कीजिए कि बिहार का सबसे प्रमुख और लोकप्रिय अखबार का एडिटोरियल यह लिखता है। डा० राव ने अपनी रिपोर्ट में कहा है कि आप तटबन्ध के भीतर रह नहीं सकते हैं। मैं पूछता हूँ कि हम जायें भी तो कहाँ जायें। आप कुछ जमीन या दो तीन सौ रुपया पुनर्वास का देंगे तो उसमें किमान क्या खायेगा, कहीं पान की दुकान खोलेगा। लोक-सभा की जांच कमेटी बैठे, मैं कहता हूँ कि सरकारी आंकड़े कितने गलत हैं। मेरा निर्वाचन-क्षेत्र कोसी तटबन्ध के बीच में पड़ता है, जहाँ कोसी योजना शुरू हुई है और जहाँ

उसका अन्त होता है। जमीन के बहुत से आंकड़े गलत दिए गए हैं। जब संविद सरकार बनो तो पुनर्वास के सम्बन्ध में एक उप-समिति गठित की गई और मुझे उसका अध्यक्ष बनाया गया। मैंने जांच आरम्भ की तो किस तरह कनाईव किया गया ? मैंने पार्लियामेंट लाइब्रेरी में सरकारी रिपोर्ट देखी है तो मुझे बड़ा ताज्जुब होता है। मैं चुनौती देकर कहता हूँ कि मैं अगर यह बात साबित नहीं करूंगा तो लोकसभा की सदस्यता से इस्तीफा दे दूंगा। मैं खुलेआम इस सदन में डा० राव से कहना चाहता हूँ। इसमें कहा गया है :

"So far, 112 villages have been shifted 61 of them only partially involving a total number of 8724 families. Housing grants given so far amount to Rs. 42.55 lakhs. Approach roads, wells, tubewells and tanks have been provided in the new villages. The residents of the area have been given 170 boats so far to enable them to move, to and fro, from the embankments and their agricultural lands."

वहाँ पर एक भी नाव नहीं थी। मैं जिस गांव का रहने वाला हूँ, उस गांव की आबादी दो हजार की है लेकिन वहाँ पर एक भी नाव नहीं थी। अगर एक भी नाव वहाँ पर होती तो लोग उस भोषण स्थिति से कहीं बाहर निकल सकते। वहाँ पर बाढ़ का जो दृश्य था और जो भोषण बर्बादी हुई, उसके लिए अब मैं क्या कहूँ। श्री शिवचन्द्र झा, एम० पी०, केदार पामवान, एम० पी० और हमारे बहुत से संसद सदस्य उस इलाके में घूमे हैं और देखा है कि कैसे बर्बादी हुई लेकिन कामरा साहब, जब तटबन्ध टूट गया उसके पांच दिन बाद वह रिपोर्ट करते हैं। कहते हैं कि सियार के छेद से सरकार की यह योजना फेल कर गई, पांच जगह। जरा बहाना-बाजी देखिए। दरभंगा जिले की लाखों की पापुलेशन खत्म हो गई, हजारों एकड़ फसल बर्बाद हो गई। पांच जगह सियार के छेद से तटबन्ध का यह हाल हो गया ? मैं राव साहब से आप्रह करूंगा जरा व्यवहारिकता को सामने रखिए।

[श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर]

आप अमरीका चले गए तो इससे लोग आपको छोड़ेंगे नहीं ।

अगर दूसरे कोई मंत्री जा रहे होते तो उन्हें लोग धोका दे सकते हैं क्योंकि हमारे इस देश के अफसर लोग बड़े धूर्त और चालाक हैं लेकिन हमारे वर्तमान मंत्री डा० के० एल० राव स्वयं एक अनुभवी इंजीनियर भी हैं और उन से मैं यह अपेक्षा करूंगा कि वह इन अफसरों की वहानेबाजी और धोकाधड़ी में न आकर स्थिति का खुद बारीकी व गहराई से अध्ययन करके आवश्यक व सक्रिय क्रम तत्काल उठायें । मैं चाहूंगा कि जो दो, तीन बातें मैं यहां उन्हें बताने वाला हूं उन के बारे में वह खोज पड़नाल आदि करें और उसका समाधान करें ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय, सन् 1954 में 8 लाख 15 हजार क्यूसैक तक बाढ़ का पानी आ गया था और अब की बार 1968 में जो बाढ़ आई उसमें 9 लाख 13 हजार क्यूसैक पानी आ गया । अब आप स्वयं अंदाजा कीजिए कि उस 8 लाख 15 हजार क्यूसैक पानी में जबकि तटबन्ध नहीं बना था पूरा दरभंगा और सहरसा जिला बर्बाद हुआ था तो अब जबकि 9 लाख 13 हजार क्यूसैक पानी दस मील के अन्दर आ गया है तो उस के परिणामस्वरूप वहां के बसने वाले लोगों को कैसी दुर्दशा हुई होगी ? हालत यह थी कि छप्परों से ऊपर होकर पानी जा रहा था और इससे आप उन की दर्दनाक हालत का भलीभांति अंदाजा लगा सकते हैं । मैं हाउस को बतलाना चाहता हूं कि सहरसा जिले के डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट को साथ लेकर जब मैं तटबन्ध की ओर चला तो मुझे 50 मील का चक्कर लगाना पड़ा और मुझे सहरसा से सुपोल होकर जाना पड़ा और तब कहीं हम लोग जाकर मीके पर पहुंचे सके । यहां पर मैं यह सुझाव देना चाहता हूं कि विनोदपथ जोकि सहरसा से चंद्रैन जाता है अगर उस सड़क को बना दिया जाये तो

उससे वहां की दूरी केवल सात मील की रह जायेगी । इस तरह का प्रस्ताव बीछियों बार वहां की डेवलपमेंट कमेटी ने भी पास किया है लेकिन अभी तक उसे किया नहीं गया है और मालूम यह देता है कि लोकल अफसरान अपना टी० ए० आदि बनाने के वास्ते उन सड़कों की माकूल व्यवस्था नहीं करते हैं और यही कारण है कि कहीं तटबन्ध के लिए एप्रोच मड़कें नहीं हैं, एप्रोच रोड्स नहीं हैं ।

हमारे राव साहब उन काश्तकारों के पुनर्वास के झमेले में जाते हैं तो मैं उन्हें बतला देना चाहता हूं कि हम लोगों को किसानों और काश्तकारों को, तटबन्ध के भीतर बालों को यदि उस के लिए एक, एक कट्टा जमीन और कुछ रुपया देते हैं तो उन से उन गरीब काश्तकारों का सही रूप से पुनर्वास नहीं होने वाला है । आखिर वह खायेगा क्या ? हजारों लोग ऐसे हैं, गरीब हरिजन परिवार हैं जिनके नाम से एक भी कट्टा जमीन नहीं है और अगर उन को पुनर्वास में आप यथेष्ट जमीन नहीं देते हैं तो उन का पुनर्वास आप कैसे कर पायेंगे क्योंकि वह तो एकदम कंगाल और भिखमगे हो गये हैं ? इसलिए मैं डा० राव साहब से कहना चाहता हूं कि वह इस पुनर्वास की समस्या पर व्यवहारिक रूप से गौर करें और तदनुसार अमल करें । उन्होंने कहा था कि इम्ब्रैकमेंट विट्इन इम्ब्रैकमेंट, तटबन्ध के भीतर तटबन्ध बनाया जाय और नदियों को और गहरा किया जाय । हालत यह है कि कोसी नदी पर जो इन का बराज बना हुआ है उस का भी लोगों को भरोसा नहीं रहा क्योंकि वह 10 लाख क्यूसैक के हेतु ही बनाया हुआ है और सन् 68 में बाढ़ के कारण 9 लाख 13 हजार क्यूसैक पानी आ गया था । हवाई सर्वे किया गया था और लोग हवाईजहाज से उड़कर जाते थे । खाली पटना रैस्ट हाउस में दो घंटे बैठ कर प्रैस कान्फ्रेंस बुला ली गई वह दूसरी बात है कि आल इंडिया रेडियो ने उस प्रैस कान्फ्रेंस के सम्बन्ध में न्यूज प्रसारित नहीं की और जो वह उस का प्रचार

चाहते थे वह नहीं हो पाया; खैर इस बात को छोड़िये लेकिन मैं उन से कहना यह चाहता हूँ कि जब आप के बराज की कैपेसिटी 10 लाख क्यूसेक की है और पानी वहाँ पर 9 लाख 13 हजार क्यूसेक आ गया तो क्या गारन्टी है कि वहाँ पर 10 लाख क्यूसेक पानी नहीं आ सकता है? क्या राव साहब ऐसी गारन्टी दे सकते हैं कि वहाँ 10 लाख क्यूसेक पानी नहीं आ सकता है? कहने का तात्पर्य यह है कि वह सारा उन का प्लान फेल कर गया और अर्बों रुपया खत्म हो गया।

मैं इस अवसर पर दो, तीन सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ। मैं चाहूँगा कि वह व्यवहारिक पहलु को लें। तटबन्ध के अन्दर तटबन्ध वह बना देंगे तो कम से कम अगर ज्यादा नहीं तो 100 गांव तो बच ही जायेंगे। इसलिए व्यवहारिक काम वह यह करें कि हर गांव में वह गोवर्धन बनायें, टैंक बनायें। तटबन्ध के अन्दर कहीं गोवर्धन नहीं है और अगर वह बना दिये जाते हैं तो लोग बाढ़ आने पर उस गोवर्धन के ऊपर चले जायेंगे। मेरे इस सुझाव को डी० एम० ने माना और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने भी उसे व्यवहारिक बतलाया। इस सिलसिले में मैं 27 तारीख को प्रधान मंत्री जी से मिला था और यह सुझाया था कि तटबन्ध के भीतर के हर एक गांव में आबादी के लिहाज से टैंकों और गोवर्धन का निर्माण करा दें तो एक तो सूखे के समय वह पानी बड़े काम का साबित होगा और वह भवविश्यां और सिंचाई के काम आयेगा दूसरे बाढ़ के संकट के समय लोग उस गोवर्धन के ऊपर चले जायेंगे...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य का समय समाप्त हो गया है।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं बहुत पीड़ित हूँ केवल एक मिनट का समय दिया जाय।

मैं बतला रहा था कि गांव गांव में यदि आप तालाब बनवा दें तो बहुत बड़ा काम

होगा। उस के किनारे को आप तटबन्ध के मुकाबले कीजिये।

दूसरी बात मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहूँगा कि बाढ़ के कारण तटबन्ध सिल्टेड हो जाता है। हर साल तटबन्ध के भीतर मिट्टी आ जाती है और परिणाम यह होता है कि भीतर की जमीन ऊंची हो जाती है और तटबन्ध नीचा हो जाता है। इस सिल्टिंग के कारण वह तटबन्ध नीचा होता जा रहा है इसलिए तटबन्ध के बगल में आप एप्रोच रोड बनवाइये। एप्रोच रोड के अभाव में काम बिगड़ रहा है।

हालत यह है कि तटबन्ध के भीतर के एक भी गांव में अस्पताल नहीं है और जो एक, आध अस्पताल हैं भी वह अपनी किस्मत पर रो रहे हैं। एक स्कूल के अलावा सब खत्म हो गये हैं। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि एक इंदिरा गांधी की सरकार क्या 27 सरकारें चली जायेंगी लेकिन इस तरह से तटबन्ध के भीतर के लोग बाहर जाने वाले नहीं हैं। अगर हमारे राव साहब चाहते हैं कि वह केवल एक कट्टा जमीन और 300 रुपये पर वहाँ कोसी के लोगों का पुनर्वास करना चाहते हैं तो यह उन की भूल है। उन्हें आप को जायज कम्पेंसेशन देना पड़ेगा। आखिर हमारी जान को खतरे में डाला गया है, हम को सदा के लिए बर्बाद किया गया है तो यह खाली रिट्रैब्लिटेसन से काम नहीं बनने वाला है। हमें उस के लिए जायज मुआविजा क्यों न दिया जाय? मैं चाहूँगा कि यह पुनर्वास और क्षतिपूर्ति का मामला केन्द्रीय सरकार स्वयं अपने हाथ में ले और जिम्मेदार लोगों को लेकर जांच कमेटी बैठाई जाय। मैं चाहूँगा कि इस मामले में डा० के० एल० राव व्यक्तिगत रूप से दिलचस्पी लें और उन को जायज मुआविजा दिला कर ठीक तरीके से उन के पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था करायें।

कोठार डैम का बनाया जाना अति आवश्यक है और उस के बारे में स्वयं सरकार की रिपोर्ट

[श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर]

है। कोठार डैम की आवश्यकता के बारे में सरकारी रिपोर्ट में यह कहा गया है :

"The ultimate solution to the Kosi problem lies in the construction of a dam in the upper reaches subject to detailed study being made. There is the possibility of the dam being put up to control the river and to generate 10,000 kilowatts of hydro-electric power."

जब तक आप कोठार डैम नहीं बनाइयेगा तब तक आप की कोसी योजना की कोई गारन्टी नहीं होगी।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : माननीय सदस्य बस करें बहुत हो चुका।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : बस एक मिनट में मैं समाप्त किये दे रहा हूँ। मैं डा० राव मे प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस डैम के बनाने के लिए तुरन्त कार्यवाही करें। इस बार कोसी के उम इलाके में भयंकर बर्बादी और विनाश हुआ है। दरअसल उसके तटबन्ध को जो ले जाकर थोड़ा सा छोड़ दिया गया उस का नतीजा यह हुआ है कि उधर का ऐरिया भी बाढ़ में बर्बाद हो गया और परिणामस्वरूप सहरसा जिले का आलमनगर और चौसा और दरभंगा का विरोल, घनश्यामपुर आदि सब बर्बाद हो गया। ज़रूरत इस बात की है कि तटबन्ध को आप बढ़ायें और उसे पूरा कीजिये...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आनरेबुल मैम्बर हैज टु कन्क्लूड नाऊ।

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : अभी परसों की ही तो बात है कि हमारे श्री गिरि जोकि वाइस प्रेसिडेंट आफ इंडिया हैं उन्होंने सेंट्रल वाटर एण्ड पावर कमिशन की एक बैठक में कहा है कि हिन्दुस्तान की नदियों को लिंक किया जाना चाहिए। अगर उन्हें चैनललाइज किया जाये तो आये साल देश को जो सूखे और बाढ़ का शिकार होना पड़ता है और भयंकर बर्बादी होती है उसमें काफी राहत पहुँच सकती है। इसलिए कोसी को भी लिंक करने की कृपा

करें। कोसी क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए एक उच्चस्तरीय जांच कमेटी बैठायें। मैं डा० राव से कहूंगा कि मेहरबानी करके आप ऊपर से हवाई सर्वे मत कीजिये। आप इंजीनियर हैं, बाकी आप गरीब हैं या अमीर यह मुझे पता नहीं, लेकिन आप वहां स्थल पर जा कर स्वयं स्थिति को देखिये और उस की गम्भीरता को देखते हुए राहत कार्य शीघ्र आरम्भ करवाइये। स्थिति की गम्भीरता और आवश्यकता के अनुसार आप वहां पर काम चलाइये।

अब मैं कुछ थोड़ा-सा टेलीफोन और संचार व्यवस्था कौमी गड़बड़ थी उस का उल्लेख करना चाहूंगा। मैं बतलाना चाहता हूँ कि जब वह जमालपुर बांध टूटा है तो वहां की टेलीफोन व्यवस्था ठीक नहीं थी। इस के बारे में वहां के एम० डी० ओ० को मैंने लिखा लेकिन वहां के इंजीनियर ने ध्यान नहीं दिया और वह तटबन्ध टूट गया। यह एम० डी० ओ० का मियार के छेद का कारण बनलाना महज वहानेबाजी और धोका देने वाली बात थी और इस तरह से गैर जिम्मेदाराना व्यवहार के लिए उनको सस्पेंड किया जाना चाहिए था। हमने इंजीनियर्स को तीन महीने पहले लिखा था कि अमुक अमुक वाँध पर खतरा है लेकिन उस पर कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया गया और लापरवाही बर्ती गई। एम० डी० ओ० ने बतलाया कि टेलीफोन का कोई कनेक्शन था नहीं और 50 मील की दूरी थी हम क्या कर सकते थे? नतीजा यह हुआ कि वह बांध टूट गया। यह जो मियार के छेद की बात घड़ी गई वह महज वहानेबाजी है और धोका देने वाली बात थी। अगर वाकई सरकार कोसी योजना को पूरा करने की शोहरत लेना चाहती है तो कोसी में जो संकट है, कठिनाई है उस को वह व्यवहारिक दृष्टिकोण से देखे और वहां के स्कूल, कालिजैज जो गिर गये हैं उन को फिर से ठीक करा कर खड़े करवायें। हर एक गाँव में गोवर्धन की व्यवस्था करें...

अध्यक्ष महोदय : एक मिनट आखिर कब खत्म होगा ?

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : बस केवल एक मिनट। सुपोल के बी० डी० ओ० की करतूत देखिये कि जब वह गरीब और पीड़ित रिलीफ मांग रहे थे तो उसने उन गरीब लोगों को डंडे से पीटा। इस बारे में वहाँ की विधान सभा के अध्यक्ष धनिकलाल मंडल ने जो कि जांच पर गये थे और उन्होंने उस बारे में जो लिखा है वह मैं पढ़ कर सुनाना चाहता था लेकिन समयभाव के कारण ऐसा करने में मजबूर हूँ। कहने का मतलब यह है कि इस तरह का दुर्व्यवहार वहाँ के सरकारी अधिकारियों ने उन बेचारे पीड़ित गरीब भाइयों के साथ किया लेकिन आश्चर्य व दुःख का विषय है कि फिर भी सरकार अभी तक उन के विरुद्ध कोई ऐक्शन नहीं ले रही है।

मैं अन्त में डा० राव से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह इस कोसी योजना को ठीक से और शानदार ढंग से अध्ययन करके उस की अनुकूल व्यवस्था करें केवल हवाई सर्वे से काम नहीं चलने वाला है।

MR. SPEAKER : Before I call Shri Sheo Narain, I would appeal again to Shri P. G. Sen to speak. He must have calmed down now. After all, I do not want anybody to go away with a wounded feeling.

श्री फ०गो० सेन (पूर्णिया) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, यह सही है कि इस साल बारिश काफी हुई और इस बारिश ने हमारे तमाम खेतिहर मजदूरों और किसानों को घर बिठला दिया। वह पहले से ही तबाह थे। कोसी डैम के जरिये जो नहरें बनाई गईं पानी ज्यादा होने की वजह से वह भी भरपूर हो गईं और उधर कोसी में काफी पानी आ गया जिस से उस के पास के सारे धान को खत्म कर दिया। पहले इन्स्टालमेंट में ही हमारे पूर्णिया का सारा धान खत्म हो गया, दूसरा इन्स्टालमेंट अक्टूबर में आया, जो कि आने वाला नहीं था। जो हमारे बूढ़े पुराने लोग हैं वह

कहते हैं कि उन्होंने अपनी जिन्दगी में हस्ता नक्षत्र में 20 इंच पानी कभी नहीं देखा। 24 या 26 घंटों में बीस इंच पानी हो गया। एक तो वहाँ लबालब पानी भर गया दूसरे कैचमेंट एरिया में जहाँ पर बैराज डिस्चार्ज 4 लाख क्यूसेक्स का था वहाँ 9 लाख क्यूसेक्स हो गया, जिस की वजह से बैराज को सम्भालना या बचाना मुश्किल हो गया। इसलिये 56 गेट खोल दिये गये और सारा पूर्णिया बह गया। पूर्णिया की 90 परसेंट जमीन अन्डर वाटर हो गई। हालत यह हो गई कि सब के घर के द्वार पर खाना भी नहीं पहुँचाया जा सकता है। इतनी नावें नहीं हैं। सांप काट रहे हैं, कालरा हो रहा है। सब जगह तबाही ही तबाही है।

इतना सब होते हुए भी मैं यह जरूर कहूंगा कि जो हमारे पूर्णिया के सरकारी और गैर-सरकारी अधिकारी हैं वह धन्यवाद के पात्र हैं उन्होंने बड़ी मेहनत से और खूबी के साथ इस बाढ़ में काम किया और सारे पूर्णिया के लोग उन लोगों के आभारी हैं। सब लोग यह कहते हैं कि डिस्ट्रिक्ट मजिस्ट्रेट डिस्ट्रिक्ट रिलीफ कमिश्नर और जो भी नान-आफिशल जिला कांग्रेस कमेटी के या दूसरे लोग थे उन लोगों ने काफी मेहनत की 40 हास पावर का पम्प दे कर जितना पानी फँकने की जरूरत थी उसे उन्होंने क्लैक्टर की कोठी और कमिश्नर के यहाँ से निकलवाया। कमिश्नर की कोठी में पानी घुस गया था, सिनेमा में पानी घुस गया था, सारे टाउन में पानी घुस गया था।

यह सब कुछ हुआ लेकिन कितने लोग क्षतिग्रस्त हुए हैं इस का बहुत कम असेसमेंट सरकार ने दिया है। डा० राव की तरफ से जो कागजात दिये गये हैं उन में एक लाख बतलाया गया है सारे बिहार में। मगर मैं समझता हूँ कि इस से बहुत ज्यादा होगा। पूर्णिया में ही 20 लाख आदमी ऐफेक्टेड हैं जहाँ कि इतनी सुन्दर, क्राप थी। अफसोस

[श्री क० गौ० सेन]

तो इस बात का है कि अब की लोग सोचते थे कि किम तरीके से वह उम को समेट कर घर लायेंगे, समेट कर ला सकेंगे भी या नहीं, कैसे हैंडल करेंगे, कहाँ रखेंगे, कैसे उम को तैयार करेंगे, वहीं पर इस तरह की प्राब्लेम पैदा हो गई है। डा० राव ने लाम के बारे में जो बतलाया है, मैं उस से सहमत नहीं हूँ। उन्होंने सारे बिहार में 9 करोड़ रुपयों का नुकसान बतलाया है, जिस में से पूर्णिया में 4 करोड़ का बतलाया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस से कहीं ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ है।

इतना सब होते हुए आज यहाँ पर हालत यह है कि अगर कोई सेन्सर मोशन हो तो उम को हम बहुत जल्दी टेक अप कर सकते हैं, कहते हैं कि बोलना चाहते हो, अच्छा शुरू करो। लेकिन जहाँ लोग मर रहे हैं उस को टेक अप नहीं कर सकते हैं। अगर कोई बोलना चाहता है तो उम में रुकावट डाली जाती है। आज सब लोग मानते हैं कि जलपाईगुड़ी और कूच बिहार में लोग सफर कर रहे हैं। सब के घरों पर जाकर तो हार्ड मनुअल लेवल बर्क नहीं किया जा सकता है। कौन मिट्टी लायेगा और कहाँ से लायेगा। उन को फ्री सहायता दी जाये।

डा० राव से मेरा यह भी कहना है कि बहुत से हमारे भाई तटबन्धों के बीच में बस्ते हैं। उन की बड़ी भारी समस्या है। अगर वह लोग वहाँ से नहीं हटना चाहते हैं। तो उन्हें हटा भी नहीं सकते हैं। आप जो रिहैबिलिटेशन का काम करना चाहते हैं अगर वह उम में नहीं आना चाहते तो आप उन को वहाँ ला नहीं सकते। मैं समझता हूँ कि वह वहाँ से भागेंगे नहीं क्योंकि जो लोग गंगा के किनारे रहते हैं, वह भूमि कितनी ही कट जाये, वह लोग वहीं रहना चाहते हैं। हमारे यहाँ भी ऐसे लोग हैं। हम लोग नाव पर उनको देखने के लिए गये। वह लोग वहाँ पर इस लिये हैं कि जो बड़े काश्तकार हैं उन की देख रेख वहाँ पर नहीं है। जो छोटे तबके के

किसान और मजदूर हैं वहाँ वह घर बना कर रहते हैं। वहाँ की सारी जमीन उन के ही नीचे रहती है, उन के बच्चे में रहती है। उन को आधी बटाई पर जमीन दे दी जाती है तो ज्यादा उपज होती है। जो मालिक लोग हैं चूँकि वह दूर रहते हैं इस लिये छोटे किसान लोग जो कहते हैं वह उसी को सही मान लेते हैं। चूँकि वह इस से फायदे में हैं इसलिये वह उस जगह को छोड़ कर नहीं जायेंगे। ऐसी हालत में आप रिहैबिलिटेशन का काम नहीं हो पायेगा। इस लिये ऐसी जगहों पर आप एलिवेटेड प्लेसेज बनाइये। जो आप के बैराज हैं अगर उन को कभी खतरा हो, बाढ़ आ जाये और फ्लड कंट्रोल न हो तो वह लोग जा कर वहाँ पर खड़े हो जायें। जो लोग रिहैबिलिटेशन के लिये जाना चाहते हैं, उन के लिये कोआपरेटिव हाउसिंग स्कीम को एन्करेज किया जाये। उन के नाम वहाँ लिखे जायें और जहाँ जर्मन हो वहाँ उन को मकान दिये जायें। हमारे यहाँ की जो लोकल अथॉरिटीज है वह उन लोगों को कोआपरेटिव हाउसिंग स्कीम में रिहैबिलिटेट करना चाहती हैं। लेकिन जो वहाँ के बाशिन्दे हैं और वहाँ से जाना नहीं चाहते हैं उन के लिये कम से कम आठ या दस फीट ऊँची एलिवेटेड जगह बनाई जाये ताकि अगर खतरे का मौका आये तो वह अपने माल मवेशी ले कर उन पर जा कर चढ़ जायें। इस तरह की जगहें हर एक गाँवों में बना दी जायें जिस में कि कंट्रोल का इन्तजाम न होने पर वह लोग माल मवेशियों की रक्षा वहाँ जा कर सकें।

अभी यहाँ धति के बारे में कहा गया। हमारे जितने स्कूल और कम्यूनिटी हाल्स बने हुए थे, म्यूनिसिपैलिटी की जितनी सड़कें और नैशनल हाइवे बने हुए थे वहाँ पानी भर गया है। अभी तक पूर्णिया टाउन में बसें नहीं जाती हैं। नैशनल हाइवे का ब्रिज टूटा हुआ है। मिर्फ लाइट वैटिकल्स रिकशा और कारों के जाने के लिये रोड पर गेट रक्खा हुआ है। वहाँ से ट्रक्स नहीं पास

कर सकते हैं। नेशनल हाई वे 31 की हालत यह है कि आज कल के जो डा० के० एल० राव के इंजीनियर हैं उन्होंने जो पुल बना दिया है उस के नीचे पत्थर बहुत कम हैं। एक बार रेत आई और ब्रिज के मुँह को धक्का लगा कि वह पाया नीचे दब गया और टूट गया। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह की एरियाज में जो ब्रिज बनाये जायें उन में बड़े बड़े पत्थर नीचे दिये जायें ताकि अगर एका-एक पानी आये तो वह उस को तोड़ न दे। सारे के सारे ब्रिज हैं उन के मास्त्रम को भी बढ़ाना पड़ेगा। वहाँ पर इरिगेशनल कॅनाल्स को बिना सर्वे किये हुये बिना जमीन के लेवल को देखे हुए नक्शे को देख कर बना दिया गया। अभी वहाँ की गांव की पंचायत ने कहा कि उस को घूम कर ले जाना चाहिये क्योंकि वहाँ का साग लेवल डिस्टर्ब हो गया है। इस लिये उस सारी एरिया को देख कर कांसी वंराज के आउट-लेट फ्लड कंट्रोल के लिये बनाना होगा। वर्ना बैंगरीज आफ नेचर तो हमेशा ही वर्ना रहेंगी और प्रकृति के प्रतिशोध का खतरा हमेशा बना रहेगा।

आज बिहार में प्रेजिडेंट्स रुल है, बिहार की स्थिति यह है कि उन के पास पैसा नहीं है। आप जानते हैं कि वहाँ की कॅनाल्स टूट गई हैं रास्ते टूट गये हैं। म्यूनिसिपैलिटी को कम से कम 8 या 10 करोड़ रु० दिया जायें तब यह रास्ते बन सकते हैं। बेचारे वहाँ के लोगों ने काट काट कर पानी बहाया है। 40 हास पावर के पम्प लगा कर वहाँ से पानी निकाला गया है : जो कुछ वहाँ की म्यूनिसिपैलिटी के चेअरमैन, डिस्ट्रिक्ट मैजिस्ट्रेट और कमिश्नर तथा जिला कांग्रेस कमिटी ने किया है उस के लिये वहाँ का बच्चा बच्चा आभारी है। अगर वहाँ के सारे कम्प्यूनिकेशन को जारी करना है तो वहाँ की सारी बसेज को चलाया जाये, जिम में लोगों को दिक्कत न हो। आज टाउन को जाने के लिये एक एक आदमी को बस फेर डेढ़ या एक रुपया ज्यादा खर्च करना पड़ता है।

वहाँ जा कर बस स्टाप बनाया है। टाउन के बाहर जा कर बनाया है। उस बस स्टाप तक जाने के लिए लोगों को डेढ़ रुपया खर्च करना पड़ता है। मेरा कहना यह है कि नेशनल हाइवे पर जो ब्रिज टूटे हैं उनकी आप जल्दी से जल्दी मरम्मत करें। बाढ़ ने नदी का बहाव चौड़ा कर दिया है, नदी के पाट को चौड़ा कर दिया है। इसका नतीजा यह हुआ है कि जो आदमी बाजार करने के लिए आया था शाम को जब वह वापिस गया तो रास्ते में ही मर गया, उसको पता ही नहीं चला कि विल्लेज रोड इतनी कट गई है, इतनी भूमि पानी में डूब गई है। शाम को बाजार करने के बाद जब वह वापिस गया तो गड्डे में गिर गया। इस वास्ते मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि कम्प्यूनिकेशन को आप रेस्टोर करें। हमारे यहाँ नैटवर्क आफ रिचार्ज है। वहाँ नेपाल का वोडर है। नेपाल से बहने इलाका एक दम सटा हुआ है। यहाँ पर कई बार स्मगलिंग के बारे में सवाल जवाब हुए हैं। इसको किस तरह से रोका जाए इसकी चर्चा हुई है। इसको रोकने में भी सारे कम्प्यूनिकेशन सिस्टम को आपको ठीक ठाक करना होगा। नदी के पाट इतने बढ़ गए हैं कि लोग बाजार करने नहीं जा सकते हैं। इस वास्ते ज्यादा से ज्यादा पुल देने की व्यवस्था आपको करनी चाहिये। जो डिस्ट्रिक्ट बोर्ड का पैसा बिहार के पास बाकी है, उसको दिया जाए ताकि स्कूल, सड़कें और ब्रिज बन सकें। म्यूनिसिपैलिटी को रुपया दिया ताकि जो सड़कें टूट गई हैं उनको बनाया जा सके। साथ ही जल्दी से जल्दी नेशनल हाइवे के जो ब्रिज हैं उनकी बना दिया जाए और जहाँ जहाँ कम्प्यूनिकेशन डिस्टर्ब हुआ है, उसको रेस्टोर करने की व्यवस्था की जाए।

MR. SPEAKER : I would now call Shri Somasundaram. Shastriji wants to ask a question. Shri Sheo Narain—I do not know how long he will take and on what he is going to speak.. I am not in a position to know. Then there is the hon. lady Member who wants to speak; there have

[Mr. Speaker]

been landslides in her area. I wanted to give her some time to speak. It does not matter even if she is late. The flood debate is my choice; I wanted this debate in this House. When the leaders of the Opposition came to me, I told them, keep this flood out on the first day. I sent word from my chamber that it should be discussed. I was anxious that a debate must be had in this House. There must be satisfaction given to everybody, but by absenting themselves, sufficient number of Members will not be here. But still, I thought the debate must go on. I am sorry I have not been able to give more time to every hon. Member. So, I have extended the debate by some more time today. Therefore, do not mistake me. I myself wanted a discussion.

SHRI C. K. BHATTACHARYYA (Rai-ganj) : We are thankful to you for that.

MR. SPEAKER : Even if you want to sit till 8 O'clock, I have no objection. You must be able to get people; that is your job and not my job. Now, Mr. Somasundaram.

SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM (Thanjavur) : Sir, the Minister for Irrigation made a statement the other day, on flood situation in this country. From the statement, it is seen that some of the areas in the country suffer from starvation of water and some other areas from floods. Some of the places have suffered greatly from the damage caused by heavy floods. According to this report, the total damage during the last floods is about Rs. 170 crores. The loss of human lives has been 3,460, and the loss of cattle is about Rs. 1.21 lakhs. These are the losses to the country. The loss can be given in three categories : the loss to the individual, the loss to the Government and the loss to the nation. The loss due to the floods has been given; it is a loss to the country. Now for the loss to the country, what steps have the Government taken ? The floods come every year and create a loss to the country. For the damages caused, only temporary arrangements are made to give relief to the people. We do not know what is going on by way of any permanent relief. We must take remedies towards giving a permanent relief.

Our Irrigation Minister has been a big engineer. He has written many fine books on engineering. For the past 15 years, most of the States have been affected by recurring floods. Why not make a plan for a permanent remedy ? We must calculate the capacity of the river and its velocity. During the maximum flood level reached in the last 15 or 20 years and on that basis, we must plan to control the maximum floods. We must think in that manner and prepare a national plan for it.

18.00 hrs.

[SHRI R. D. BHANDARE in the Chair].

This report refers to construction and careful maintenance of embankments on either side of the river. By this we can control only 10 or 12 per cent of the flood. For controlling excess floods, we must go to the catchment area and divert water from the catchment area itself. We must provide by-passes also. We can construct a reservoir in the upper regions.

To have a national plan, we must construct a canal connecting Ganges and Cauvery and we must divert all the excess waters into this canal. We can use this canal for navigation also.

From the report I find that Kerala demands Rs. 3 crores for flood relief. Why can they not divert, excess water in Kerala to Tamilnad ? In that way, we must divert excess water from those places where it is in excess to places in other States where they want water.

श्री शिव नारायण (वस्ती) : सभापति महोदय, चिराग तले अन्धेरा यहां है, हम दूसरी जगह क्यों जायें। मैं आपकी इजाजत से कहना चाहता हूँ कि उस दिन भी हम यहां सात बजे बैठे। आज भी लास्ट में आपने मुझे बुलाया है। हमें यहां भी चमार की तरह से टूट किया जाता है। जो व्यवहार बाहर होता है वही यहां भी होता है।

मुझे बहुत ही दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि यह सरकार हम सब के लिए जिम्मेदार है। बंगाल के बारे में भी अब आपकी जिम्मेदारी है। डा० राव साहब भले ही बहुत बड़े इंजीनियर हैं, लेकिन मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि इनका कंट्रोल अपने अफसरों पर नहीं है।

मैं बहुत ही दुखभरी कहानी आपको सुनाना चाहता हूँ। बीस हज़ार आदमी सिलीगुड़ी में मर गए हैं। यह बात अफसरों ने ही हमको बताई है। लेकिन इतना होने पर भी कुछ एक अफसरों को ट्रांसफर ही किया गया है। इट इज़ माट एक्सक्यूजेवल, सर। वहाँ पर पैंतीस घंटे तक लूट मची है। एक परिवार छत के ऊपर बैठा रहा बिना खाने पीने के। लेकिन जब ब्रेड ले कर उनके पास पहुंचे भी तो भी वह परिवार नीचे नहीं उतरा डर के मारे कि कहीं उनको लूट न लिया जाए। एक सैंद्रक ले कर वह छत पर चढ़ गया था। यह थी तब लूट जो वहाँ मची। इसको भुलाया नहीं जा सकता है। यह डेमोक्रेटिक गवर्नमेंट है और यह जिम्मेदार है इस सब के लिए। जब वहाँ पर इतनी भारी बाढ़ आई हुई थी तब गवर्नर साहब दार्जिलिंग में आराम कर रहे थे।

मैं राव साहब को पिछले छः बरस से एक स्कीम बताता आया हूँ। मैं कहता आया हूँ कि आप अस्सी करोड़ रुपया खर्च करो और घाघरा नदी को कंट्रोल करो। इसको नेपाल के बोर्डर पर बांधना होगा। आपने इसकी केअर नहीं की है। गवर्नमेंट के कानों पर जूँ तक नहीं रेंगी है। क्यों हमारी सर्जेंशंस को इग्नोर किया जाता है, क्यों हम को टाल दिया जाता है, क्यों हम को अंधकार में रखा जाता है? छः बरस पहले मैंने इस सर्जेंशन को आपको दिया था। आप तो सभी इंड एण्ड आउट्स जानते हैं। अगर एक किसान गांव में पानी लेना चाहता है और उसके बारे में अगर मिनिस्टर साहब को कहा जाता है तो इनके अफसर कहते हैं कि क्यों राव साहब की सिफारिश लाते हो, गांधी टोपी का हम पर असर नहीं पड़ सकता है। कांग्रेस, पी० एस० पी० या किसी और पब्लिक मैन की सुनवाई नहीं होती है। ब्यूरोक्रेसी का यहाँ डामिनेशन है। यह सब अमरीका का क्रियेशन है। डालर के पीछे ये नाच रहे हैं। ये लोग फ़ारेनर्ज के बंगुल में हैं, उन के इशारों पर नाच रहे हैं। मैं इस

दर्दनाक कहानी को नहीं भूल सकता हूँ। मैं सात नदियों के बीच में बसा हुआ हूँ। हम लोग हर साल बाढ़ से तबाह होते हैं, लेकिन गवर्नमेंट के कान पर जूँ भी नहीं रेंगती है। हमारे देश की जनता डेमोक्रेटिक गवर्नमेंट में विश्वास करती है, लेकिन अपनी समस्याओं और कठिनाइयों के प्रति सरकार की उपेक्षा देख कर वह निराश और हताश हो जाती है। जब हम लोग बिहार की बाढ़-स्थिति के सम्बन्ध में सूचना देते हैं, तो हमें जबाब दिया जाता है कि अभी बिहार से रिपोर्ट नहीं आई है।

आज हमारी नदियों में बालू भर गई है। इस लिए सरकार उन को साफ़ करने के लिए ड्रेजिंग की एक स्कीम बनाये। हमारे देश में लाखों मजदूर भूखों मर रहे हैं। उन्हें इस काम पर लगा कर उन के रोज़गार की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए।

बाढ़ से पचास लाख एकड़ भूमि का नुकसान हुआ है। अगर एक बीघे का सवा रुपया रख लिया जाये, तो पचास करोड़ रुपये का एक साल में नुकसान हो गया। मैंने पहले भी कहा है कि सोलह जिलों में हर साल अस्सी करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान होता है। अगर वह अस्सी करोड़ रुपया खर्च कर के घाघरा को बांध दिया जाये, तो न केवल वहाँ के लोग बाढ़के प्रकोप से बच जायेंगे, बल्कि हमारे अन्नोत्पादन में भी बहुत वृद्धि होगी।

हमारे प्रोफ़ेसर शिबनलाल ने इस सवाल को पार्लियामेंट में रख करने के लिए हमें कहा। हम पिछले छः साल से इस बारे में कहते आ रहे हैं, लेकिन कोई एक्शन नहीं लिया गया है। यह पार्लियामेंट तो एक तरह डीवैटिंग क्लब बन गई है। सब लोग अपनी अपनी बात कह देते हैं। लेकिन उन पर अमल करने वाला कोई नहीं है।

आज हमारे देश में चालीस हज़ार इंजीनियर बेकार घूम रहे हैं। इन निकम्मे लोगों को निकाल बाहर कीजिए और उन नये

[श्री शिवनारायण]

लड़कों को रखिये। इन लोगों ने तो अपने घर भर लिये हैं, लोगों को लूट लिया है। आज स्थिति यह है कि सौ रुपये के काम में सिर्फ़ बीस रुपये खर्च होते हैं और बाकी का खर्चा ये लोग ले जाते हैं।

सहरसा ज़िले में ज़मीन सूख गई है। यही स्थिति दूसरी जगह भी है। वहां पर सिंचाई का उचित प्रबन्ध कर के उस ज़मीन को लैंडलेस लोगों को दे दिया जाये। ऐसी ज़मीनें बड़े बड़े लैंडलाइज और उन के भाई-भतीजों के नाम कर दी जायेंगी और फिर डा० राव कहेंगे कि वहां खेती करो। अगर डा० राव चाहते हैं कि देश में डेमोक्रेसी कायम रहे और गरीबों की आवाज़ सुनी जाये, तो वह उचित कदम उठा कर मुल्क को तबाही से बचायें। हम लोग बेगिंग वाउल ले कर अमरीका और दूसरे देशों से गेहूं मांगने जाते हैं। हम गेहूं रूँदा कर के देने के लिए तैयार हैं लेकिन अफसोस की बात यह है कि हमारे रास्ते में रुकावटें डाली जाती हैं। हम गरीब आदमी हैं। हम तबाह हो जाते हैं। "दैहिक दैविक भौतिक तापा, रामराज्य काहू नहीं व्यापा।" यहां पर राम-राज्य का ढोल तो बहुत पीटा जाता है, लेकिन काम नहीं होता है।

वाटरलागिंग के बारे में कोई इन्तज़ाम नहीं किया गया है। कोसी के सम्बन्ध में भी कोई काम नहीं किया गया है। वनत पड़ने पर सरकार के अफ़सरान टेलीफ़ोन पर नहीं मिलते हैं, उन का कुछ पता नहीं होता है। एक इंजीनियर ने मुझ से कहा कि आप ने डा० के० एल० राव से क्यों टेलीफ़ोन कराया। मैं तो भुक्त-भोगी हूँ।

गवर्नमेंट को मेरी सब से बड़ी सलाह यह है कि वह क्राप इनशोरेंस की व्यवस्था करे। मैं श्री हिरेन मुकर्जी की तरह इलैक्शन प्रापेयेंडा नहीं करना चाहता हूँ; मैं बंगाल के आने वाले चुनावों को दृष्टि में रख कर भाषण नहीं देना चाहता हूँ।

बिजली की तरह रिबन का ग्रिड सिस्टम इन्ट्रोड्यूस किया जाना चाहिए, ताकि पानी की कमी न रहे। मई में पानी की कमी की वजह से चारों तरफ़ हाहाकार मच जाता है। एम० पी० के क्वार्टरों और मिनिस्ट्रों के बंगलों तक में पानी नहीं मिलता है। एक कांफ़रेंस में भारत के वाइस-प्रीज़िडेंट ने भी ग्रिड सिस्टम का सुझाव दिया था। उन से बड़ी हस्ती कौन है? वह इस हाउस के मेम्बर रहे हैं और उत्तर प्रदेश के गवर्नर रहे हैं। मैं उन पर गर्व करता हूँ। मैं मुक्तकंठ से अपने वाइस-प्रीज़िडेंट की तारीफ़ करता हूँ। उन में देश-सेवा की भावना है।

सरकार सावधान हो कर बाढ़-पीड़ितों के पुनर्वास का इन्तज़ाम करे और गरीबों की मदद करे, क्योंकि यह उसी की जिम्मेदारी है। आज पंजाब से ले कर बंगाल तक डेमोक्रेटिक गवर्नमेंट नहीं है; आज वहां पर डेक्टेटोरियल गवर्नमेंट है। यू० पी० में प्रिज़िडेंट रूल है। मैं ने वहां आफ़िसर्ज को कहा कि अब यू० पी० में एस० वी० डी० या कांग्रेस की गवर्नमेंट नहीं है, अब तो वे गवर्नमेंट हैं, इस लिए उन्हें जनता को एक क्लीन एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन देनी चाहिए। यह सरकार क्लीन एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन देने में फ़ेल हुई है।

इन में से जो लोग हड़ताल करते हैं, उन सब को बर्खास्त कर दिया जाये। ये निकम्मे हैं। इन्हें बर्खास्त कर के चालीस हजार नये लोगों को जगह दी जाये। मिनिस्टर साहब खुद भी इंजीनियर रहे हैं। वह नये लड़कों को चांस दें।

हमारा सिद्धांत यह है कि स्पीक फ़ार दि पीपल एंड वोट बिब दी गवर्नमेंट। हम ही अपनी गवर्नमेंट को ललकारने और उस को क्रिटिसाइज करने का दम रखते हैं। (व्यवधान) आपोजीशन वाले सदन से भाग गये हैं। जोशी जी भी भाग गये हैं। आपोजीशन में सिर्फ़ चार आदमी बैठे हैं। (व्यव-

बान) मैं गवर्नमेंट से कहना चाहता हूँ कि हम अपनी रिसर्पासिबिलिटी जानते हैं। हम एक्सेक्यूटिव एरिया से आते हैं। हम नेपाल बार्डर पर हैं। हम खतरे से खाली नहीं हैं। अगर कल एटैक हो जाये, तो सब से पहले हम ही मुसीबत में पड़ेंगे। इस लिए गवर्नमेंट को पूर्वी हिन्दुस्तान के सब से गरीब इलाके की मदद करनी चाहिए। वहाँ के गरीब लोगों को सब प्रकार की सहायता देनी चाहिए। सरकार को ईमानदारी से यह काम करना चाहिए। आज इतनी लापरवाही बरती जा रही है कि भगवान् ही मालिक है।

पंडित नेहरू ने 1935 में गोरखपुर में एक लाख की मीटिंग में कहा था, जब कि बाढ़ आई थी, कि ये इंजीनियर कैसे निकम्मे हैं। आज भी वे निकम्मे इस देश में वर्तमान हैं, जो कि हमारी गरीब जनता को तबाह कर रहे हैं। सिलीगुड़ी में लोगों को जो मुसीबतें झेलनी पड़ीं, उस के लिए अफमरों को ट्रांसफर करना ही काफ़ी नहीं है, उन को पनिशमेंट देनी चाहिए, उन को डिसमिस करना चाहिए। अगर मंत्री महोदय ऐसा नहीं करेंगे, तो सारी जिम्मेदारी उन के सिर पर हांगी।

सरकार को कोसी नदी को नहीं भूलना चाहिए। उस पर सत्तर करोड़ रुपये खर्च किया गया है। उम के काम को जल्दी पूरा किया जाये।

श्री हीरेन मुर्कजी ने डिप्युटी मिनिस्टर पर चाज लगाया। वह तो वहाँ पर सब से पहले गये। वह भी गये, श्री जगजीवन राम भी गये और प्राइम मिनिस्टर भी गये। इस को लेकर उन्हें गाली देने की क्या जरूरत है? उन्हें कहना चाहिए कि वे पैसा दें, खाना और कपड़ा दें। मैं श्री हीरेन मुर्कजी से प्रार्थना करना चाहता हूँ कि वह इस तरह इनडायरेक्ट हिट न किया करें। गवर्नमेंट से मेरी अपील है कि हम ने जो सलाह दी है, वह उस पर शोर करे और उस पर अमल करे।

श्री रामनाथरार शास्त्री (पटना) : सभा-पति महोदय, बंगाल, बिहार और दूसरे L59LSS/68

सूबों में इस साल जैसी सत्यानाशी बाढ़ आई, यह हम तमाम लोगों को मालूम है! उस से जो बर्बादी और क्षति हुई, सरकार उस का अन्दाज़ लगाने में असमर्थ रही है। वास्तव में नौ करोड़ रुपये से कई गुना ज्यादा बर्बादी और क्षति हुई है।

अब सवाल यह है कि जो लोग बाढ़ से पीड़ित हैं, जो जीवन और मौत की लड़ाई लड़ कर निकले हैं, उन का पुनर्वास किस प्रकार किया जाये। अब सरकार के कार्य और नीति की कसौटी यह होगी कि वह उन लोगों के पुनर्वास के लिए क्या कदम उठाती है। बिहार में पूर्णिया ज़िला, सहरसा ज़िला, मुंगेर ज़िला, दरभंगा ज़िला और मुजफ्फरपुर का कुछ हिस्सा बाढ़ से काफ़ी तबाह हुआ है। और करोड़ों की क्षति हुई है। लेकिन हमारी सहायता के लिए भारत सरकार ने क्या दिया? 50 लाख या 48 लाख रुपये दिया है जब कि पछले 10 अक्टूबर को पटना में संसद सदस्यों की परामर्शदात्री समिति की जो बंटक हुई थी जिस में हमारी सरकार के गृह-मंत्री वहाँ पर गए थे, वहाँ बिहार के सदस्यों ने सवाल उठाया था कि जिस बड़े पैमाने पर बिहार के अन्दर बाढ़ आई है अगर उस से लड़ना चाहते हैं तो कम से कम 10 करोड़ रुपये की सहायता दी जाय। लेकिन आप देते हैं 48 लाख या 50 लाख। तो इस तरफ आप को सोचना होगा कि 300 गांव कोसी के पेट में पड़ते हैं और जैसा कि ठाकुर साहब ने आप को सुनाया 50 लाख या 1 करोड़ से समस्या का समाधान होने वाला नहीं है। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि बंगाल की बाढ़ हो, बिहार की बाढ़ हो या किसी दूसरे सूबे की बाढ़ हो दिल खोल कर तमाम भेद भाव भुला कर हम और आप दोनों मिल कर उन पीड़ितों की सेवा करें। उस के लिए पैसे का जुगाड़ करना होगा और सहायता कार्य ठीक से चयाना होगा।

दूसरी बात जब पीड़ित लोग तकलीफ में रहते हैं उन के सामने विपत्ति खड़ी रहती

[श्री रामावतार शास्त्री]

है तो सब का यह परम कर्तव्य है कि तमाम दूसरे कामों को छोड़ कर उन की सेवा में जुट जायं। लेकिन हुआ क्या? अभी हम ने मुना कि इधर सत्यानाशी बाढ़ से बंगाल और बिहार की जनता जूझ रही थी और हमारे मंत्री राव साहब अमरीका गए हुए थे। खैर, यह तो गए, हम अपने सूबे की बात बताना चाहते हैं, जब हमारे यहां सत्यानाशी बाढ़ आई हुई थी, लोग मर रहे थे, बह रहे थे, उस समय वहां के एक ऐडवाइजर ऊटकमंड में ठंडी हवा खा रहे थे। इस बात का पता लगाना चाहिए और अगर ऐसी बात है तो उन को ऐडवाइजर रहने का क्या अधिकार है? उन के ऊपर डाइरेक्ट, सीधे, शासन सूत्र को चनाने की जवाबदेही है और वह ऊटकमंड की हवा खा रहे थे। और जरा राज्यपाल महोदय की बात सुन लीजिए। यहां से भारत को प्रधान मंत्री षड़ियाली आंसू बहाने के लिए बाढ़ क्षेत्रों का हवाई भ्रमण में दौरा करने के लिए गई लेकिन उनके हाथ में प्रत्यक्ष रूप से वहां का शासन-सूत्र था, राज्यपाल महोदय, वह एक दिन भी, हवाई जहाज से भी बाढ़ पीड़ित क्षेत्रों का, कोसी के इलाके का भ्रमण करने के लिए नहीं गए। वह वहां राज्यपाल बने हुए हैं। उस समय वह राज्यपाल भवन में रेशम की गद्दियों पर बैठ कर आराम कर रहे थे। आप जा कर देखिए उन के कमरों में क्या है? मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इस तरह के राज्यपाल और इस तरह के ऐडवाइजर की क्या जरूरत है जो दुख के टाइम में वंशी बजाते रहें जैसे कहावत है कि रोम जल रहा था और नीरा वंशी बजा रहा था। वही बात है, बिहार की जनता, बंगाल की जनता मर रही थी और दोनों राज्यों के राज्यपाल गुलछरें उड़ा रहे थे, आराम कर रहे थे और ऐडवाइजर ऊटकमंड की हवा खा रहे थे। तो इस तरफ आप का ध्यान जाना चाहिए।

अखिर में बाढ़ और सिंचाई की जिम्मेदारी आप पर है। बाढ़ एक राष्ट्रीय समस्या है।

सिंचाई भी एक राष्ट्रीय समस्या है। लेकिन एक ही मंत्रालय को दोनों काम दे रखा है। मैं तो यह निवेदन करूंगा कि राव साहब, आप एक बड़े इंजीनियर हैं। आप अपनी सारी ताकत बाढ़ रोकने की योजना बनाने में लगाइए ताकि हमारे देश का भला हो सके, और हमारी जो करोड़ों का बरबादी हर साल होती है, खाम तौर से बिहार तो बिलकुल परम्परागत बाढ़ का क्षेत्र है, वह बरबादी में बच सके, इस के लिए आप बाढ़ को रोकने और बांध बनाने के ऊपर ज्यादा ध्यान दीजिए। सिंचाई का काम कोई और मंत्री संभाले तो ज्यादा अच्छा होगा। यह मेरा निवेदन है। वरना बाढ़ नहीं रुक सकेगी और कोई काम नहीं हो सकेगा। और जो गोलमाल करने वाले अधिकारी हैं उन के खिलाफ मरुत कार्यवाही कीजिए, तभी आप कुछ काम कर सकते हैं वरना यहां कुछ कहने से कोई खाम फायदा नहीं होगा। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आप से निवेदन करता हूं कि इस तरफ आप का ध्यान जरूर जाना चाहिए।

DR. MAITREYEE BASU (Darjeeling) :
Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the fag end of the day I do not want to enter into the question of comparative intensity of suffering of different States or different districts or different constituencies. I do not want to enter into the dereliction of duty on the part of some of the government officers which has been dealt with properly in Mr. S. N. Ray's report and which is known to everybody now. I do not want to enter into the inadequacy of relief because relief must always be inadequate; relief can never save a nation. I do not want to enter into any other question. But I want to mention a few facts which seem very important to me.

Dr. K. L. Rao is an expert. He has got all the expertise. But his report, I am afraid,—he will excuse me for this—could have been written by the Head Clerk of his Department. There is no spark of any genius in it. I believe, Dr. Rao is a genius, but there is no comprehension of the greatest catastrophe that had taken place in human memory during the day and night of the 4th October in our part of the country. He has merely mentioned

some depressions in the Bay of Bengal. Depressions in the Bay of Bengal are in the weather report; he need not have told us about those things; most of his report has been dealt with in that particular fashion. That is a sort of prosaic report and I am afraid, this sort of report is not going to impress anybody. This is what has hurt us most that, sitting at the top of the organisation, he could have dealt with so many other things but he has not. When he has been talking of training of rivers, he has merely been talking of bunds and guide walls. When somebody suggested in an earlier flood discussion that there must be some dredging of the river, he almost got a fit—'dredging the Brahmaputra' and he almost got a fit there. That means that perhaps dredging can never be thought of in connection with a river....

SHRI SITARAM KESRI (Katihar) : Kosi can be dredged.

DR. MAITREYEE BASU : I cannot say whether Kosi can be dredged. I am not an engineer. I do not know whether Kosi can be dredged or whether Brahmaputra can be dredged or whether River Teesta can be dredged. I do not know which river can be dredged. But there must be some other way than putting up bunds and walls or putting up the so-called barrages and all those things. He has not dealt at all with landslides in particular.

I am not talking of floods because so many other members have talked of floods. I am myself a flood victim, so to say, because I did not go to that area because the floods had occurred; I did not go to that place knowing that the floods were coming. But I just went there before the floods came; the floods met me; I was met by the floods; I was surrounded by the flood water.

One of the things that Dr. Rao has always told us in the earlier flood discussions is that people have settled in lands which are very low and which should not be inhabited and that they should have been somewhere else. I can inform him through you that I was at the top of a small hillock and in a bungalow which was built on stilts; this was no low-lying area by any stretch of imagination. But this was also under water for seven hours. For seven hours we were stranded with 12 families and

their children, with no food, no water and nothing. Even small children, small infants, understand these things. There was no grumbling. There was only courage. 7 hours is a very short period. It passes very quickly. The flood water went up surrounding whole town. We could wade through water almost waist deep, almost after 7 hours. I will not speak much about floods. Because, everybody knows what floods have done. Everybody knows what floods have done in Mainaguri, Domahani and Mal area. I specially mention Mal area because that has not got the attention it deserved. The situation of Katambadi has been spoken of today by the Member from Katambadi area. Katambadi area has been fully described here. The biggest and longest breach in the bund is at Katambadi and Kranti area. That has hardly been mentioned even in the press. I have seen the bund that has been absolutely washed away in Katambadi and how the course of the river has completely changed. This river, if it had been pushed back in proper time, would not have done so much damage and lands could have been reclaimed but now one must realise that Teesta silt is full of sand and Teesta silt is not like that of the Ganga. Its character is quite different and when Teesta silt settles over land it cannot be recultivated within a short time. Had it been done earlier then rabi crop would have come up there. But here I finish my discourse on floods. I do not want to say anything more about floods, but what about the landslides, Sir? The landslides have removed the cultivable land from the sites of the mountains for 50 years or 100 years to come. I must say something about the landslides because the mountain people with their courage faced the situation with unprecedented courage and they were there without communications, without water, without light and they were there for days together. Kalimpong was completely cut off. Senada was devastated. So many villages have disappeared and Teesta bazar has been completely wiped off. There is nothing left of this Teesta bazar. 2 petrol stations were absolutely demolished and the petrol tanks got deposited in Mandalghat. The tank was deposited about 100 miles down the river. The whole river water was full of petrol. Nobody could do anything with that water in this area. Still communica-

[Dr. Maitreyee Basu]

tion has not been established properly. One has to reach Kalimpong via Lava and Alameda. I had to hang on to a jeep for 10 hours and after that travel only, I could reach Kalimpong—10 hours not from Siliguri, because that would have taken 12 or 14 hours. But from the place called Oodlavari, Kalimpong was reached in 10 hours. This is the position there. I would draw the attention of the Minister who is such a learned man in this aspect. He has not mentioned anything about the young age of the Mountain Himalayas, the geologically young age, and the character of the landslides and all these things. He has not told us about that. He has treated us like children. He has not mentioned the source of the rivers, that is, that the rivers have risen from Sikkim or Bhutan or Tibet and these sources can't be reached. He has not told us anything about that. How can you train a river, how can you take up a training scheme of a river unless you know the character of the river? But this is not mentioned. Especially it is very necessary to know the nature of the soil of Teesta valley. There are so many landslides there right through the year. This year, 1968, has been a year of landslides from the very beginning, not after the floods, not after the rains, but every time I went there I could see that traffic could proceed only with the help of a bulldozer, otherwise not. Right through the year, from January onwards, every time I have been there, we could proceed with our cars only after the bulldozer had worked. So, all these things must be taken into consideration by the learned Minister before floods can be controlled, before we can understand the nature of the floods and the nature of the landslides. This is my prayer: let us have this knowledge, let us have some sort of understanding of the catastrophe that has occurred. It is not a mere flood, and it is not a question of calling the Congress Government names or blaming the government officers. The whole thing has to be understood.

Before I finish, I shall be failing in my duty if I do not tell you about the arrogance of some of the Government officers at the top. The Government servants lower down were very co-operative, but high at the top, they could not even recognise us. At better times they would have recognis-

ed us but when things occurred like this, people who knew us quite well could not recognise us even from a short distance.

Another important thing is the inadequacy of the equipment of the military. They appeared very early on the spot; in some areas they did well, but in many areas they could do nothing because of lack of equipment. This is a very serious thing. I wish the Defence Minister were here.

श्री ओंकार लाल बेरवा (कोटा) : महोदय, मुझे बड़े अफसोस के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि बंगाल, बिहार, उड़ीसा, जहाँ भी बाढ़ आती है, प्रधान मंत्री दौड़ती हैं, उप-प्रधान मंत्री दौड़ते हैं, के० एल० राव साहब दौड़ते हैं, सारा स्टाफ दौड़ता है, लेकिन राजस्थान में अभी हाल में कम से कम 15 दिन तक रेलवे बन्द रही, दिल्ली से जयपुर वाली लाइन क्लोज़ रही, लाखों रुपये का नुकसान हुआ, लाखों मवेशी मर गये, लाखों आदर्मा बाढ़ग्रस्त हो गये, लेकिन इन का कुत्ता भी दौड़ा नहीं गया।

दूसरी वान में यह कहना चाहता हूँ—चित्तौड़ का आध्रा स्टेशन डूबा रहा, जनता बाहि-बाहि करती रही, लेकिन यहाँ के केन्द्रीय मिनिस्टर नहीं गये, के० एल० राव के डिप्टी मिनिस्टर तक वहाँ नहीं गये, 700 गांवों के अन्दर उम बाढ़ का प्रभाव पड़ा, कई हजार एकड़ जमीन बाढ़ग्रस्त हो गयी, सारी फसलें नष्ट हो गईं, जनता बाहि-बाहि करती फिरी, लेकिन हमारे यहाँ की मिनिस्ट्री ने दो पैसे अनुदान तक के नहीं दिये। अभी हाल में सूखा पड़ा, मैं उस का जिकर नहीं करता, लेकिन बाढ़ के समय में सारा भरतपुर डूब गया, 15—20 दिन लाइनें बन्द रहीं, किसी ने दो पैसे अनुदान के भी नहीं दिये। मैं के० एल० राव साहब से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान क्या हिन्दुस्तान से अलग है, क्या यह केन्द्रीय शासन में नहीं आता, क्या राजस्थान पाकिस्तान बन गया है, क्या हो गया है? मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान को इतना पिछड़ा क्यों रखा गया है? जब कि करोड़ों रुपया दूसरी तरफ अनुदान के

रूप में दिया गया है तो राजस्थान को पिड़छी दशा में क्यों रखा गया ?

श्री कांबले (लातूर) : महापति जी, यह जो बाढ़ की समस्या है यह एक दैवी आपत्ति है। हर साल किसी न किसी प्रान्त में बाढ़ आती है जिससे किमान और मजदूर परेशान होते हैं और लोगों का जीवन छिन्न-भिन्न हो जाता है। यह हर साल आने वाला संकट है जोकि हमेशा ही हमारे गिर पर मंडराता रहता है। मैं अनुरोध करूंगा कि इसके लिए केन्द्रीय सरकार या तो एक ब्रांड बनाए या कोई और कमेटी बनाए जिसके द्वारा हर साल परीक्षण हो सके कि किस इलाके में कौन-सा काम किया जाए। उसमें डा० राव जैसे एक्सपर्ट हों, साथ ही पार्लिमेट के मम्बरस भी उसमें लिए जाएं और उसके लिए अलग ने बजट भी रखा जाए। इस प्रकार से कार्यवाही की जाए ताकि हर साल आने वाले इस संकट को हम हमेशा के लिए दूर कर सकें। इतना ही मुझे सुझाव देना है।

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I shall be very brief. I would first thank the various hon. Members for their very valuable suggestions and comments made on the statement. This year, very unfortunately, the drought, floods and cyclone have all come in with great severity and were responsible for a large amount of damage. But the most significant and the most sorrowful event of the year is—we do not mind the damage to property and other amenities—the loss of precious lives especially in Surat and Jalpaiguri.

On 7th of August we had the unfortunate incident first when about 300 people died. What happened was that in the case of Surat the floods came in the middle of the day whereas in Jalpaiguri the flood wave came in the middle of night. Therefore, the devastation was more and many innocent lives were lost at Jalpaiguri. We deeply regret that.

Hon. Members have said very correctly that we have to take into account what exactly should be done to prevent such

catastrophies and also take note of what has happened very closely at Jalpaiguri. The river Teesta this year got the maximum amount of floods than any time in its known history. It was known to carry 500,000 cusecs of water and the bridges and other structures have been designed for 500,000 cusecs. This year it has exceeded it by 200,000 more. Therefore, that created a very large amount of excessive flood and another event was that there was an intensive rainfall. As much as 45 inches of rainfall had occurred at Kalimpong in the basin with the result that a large amount of water flowed into the river. From the Anderson bridge to Jalpaiguri, 50 miles below the river descends down as much as 400'. There is a steep gradient and large amount of water carrying sand along with the intensive rainfall—all these factors were responsible for the devastation that has happened. Many hon. Members asked why is it so? There must have been some reservoir built by the Chinese or otherwise. That is why it rose 60' at the Anderson bridge above the highest flood level. It is a very important point. What has happened was that there was a slip from the banks. There was a sort of small dam at that place formed so that the water rose above the dam to 60' depth of water above the highest flood level. That really indicates that there was a great obstruction in the bed of the river. This has been confirmed afterwards when the river went down. Even now they find an obstruction there 30' high.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : At what point ?

DR. K. L. RAO : At the Anderson bridge. Then this water came down only 50 miles from the Anderson bridge. It will take hardly 4-5 hours and when the Anderson bridge broke down and when the highest flood came the obstruction seemed to have collapsed at a certain height. It was originally very high. We did not know; it may be somewhere about 65 ft; it has come down to 30 ft. and when the rains came, all these waters flowed down. This occurred at the Anderson bridge at about 11 O'clock in the night and the Anderson bridge collapsed. I was always doubtful about that, because we had a rickety construction there and there was no foundation. In fact, it was not well

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designed and I always felt that way. Anyway, the whole rush of water came down on it, and then, it reached Jalpaiguri by about 2 O'clock, within three to four hours. At Jalpaiguri, in 1954, there was a very devastating flood and later on, as a result of that, they constructed a bank on both sides protecting the town of Jalpaiguri as also the other side. There are so very important towns in this country which are behind the embankment. Jalpaiguri town is one of them, and is below the river bed. Again, Patna for example, is behind embankments. It is subject to heavy flooding sometime. Similarly, a large number of towns are like that. We cannot help it, except protecting these important towns. They were there by historical accident. Therefore, we accept that, and a big embankment was constructed along the bridge at that point of Jalpaiguri. What seems to have happened is that the discharge of water rose—500,000 cusecs had increased to 700,000 cusecs and the temporary bridge which was built on the river collapsed and the Anderson bridge collapsed; there was a rush of water and the floods could not go through 2,000 ft; the vent-way of the railway bridge and the banks were breached. That breach occurred in the middle of the night, at about 2 or 3 O'clock, when people were asleep and that has resulted in the very colossal loss of life.

Now, the question is, who is responsible for the administrative lapse that has occurred there. There is no doubt about the administrative lapse; there was an administrative lapse. Who is responsible for that and what action is to be taken is really a matter for the Home Ministry and the Government of West Bengal to take up.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Will you kindly ask the Home Minister to take proper action?

DR. K. L. RAO: So, immediately I set about, and I went there, and gave instructions that we should now construct a bank. We cannot avoid it, otherwise you must evacuate the town. We have to take measures to see that in the event of an extraordinary flow coming in we ensure that the bank does not fail under any circumstances. Therefore, I gave instructions that the bank must be constructed in such a way that we will have a top width of 50 ft. They said that 10 to 12 ft. would do, but I said that

it should be 50 ft. wide with a sufficient amount of slope so that even if anything happens, the bank shall not yield.

Secondly, I wrote to the Railway Minister that the bridge is inadequate and they must provide for the extra vent-way. The third step taken was to constitute a Committee with representatives from the concerned Ministries to go into the question of North Bengal rivers which are very different from the other rivers, because they flow from Sikkim and Bhutan, where there is no control over the waters. In recent years, a large amount of forests has been cut down and a lot of pasture has come up on slopes. The result is that a large amount of silt is coming in. Added to that, the rivers there are flowing down rapidly because the gradient is large. Therefore, these North Bengal rivers are always presenting difficulties and protective measures will be costly, but still, in so far as there is human habitation we have to take care of this, and spend money more extensively than what is normally done in other cases. These are very small rivers compared to those in the rest of India. Still, we have to take them up very seriously. Unfortunately, this aspect has not been dealt with by the Man Singh report either. It confined itself to the south and Central Bengal and this question has not been taken up by anybody very seriously because, for the last 14 years, there was more or less a sort of a lull in these matters. For example on the Teesta river, the flood that occurred last was in 1954. The bank has been standing up till very lately.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Already there is a Master Plan for the North Bengal rivers.

DR. K. L. RAO: I have made it clear that we should not wait for the committee's report. We can modify it later if necessary after the report is received, but immediate action must be taken to see that the various works are started.

After what has happened at Jalpaiguri, we should take extra precautions so far as the embankments protecting Cooch-Bihar are concerned.

The hon. lady member found fault with me for not dealing with landslides. They do not come under the subject of flood

control. It is a subject dealt with by the ministry in charge of geology and the question may be addressed to that minister.

There is one other precaution to be taken. In the case of small rivers, there is not much time for giving flood warning. It is only 3 to 4 hours, but still a very effective flood warning system must be established. In spite of our precautions and building extra strong structures, we should not depend on them. Therefore, I am going to insist upon a very excellent flood forecasting station to be established for North Bengal. The only trouble is these floods do not come every year. At least if some floods occur every year, people will be more alert. They come once in a way, but still we have to be very careful.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : It can be an automatic system.

DR. K. L. RAO : Yes; automatic system should be there, but unfortunately in our country, automatic things do not work well. Anyhow, it should be wireless. We should not depend upon telephones, etc. I have studied carefully the very wonderfully developed flood forecasting system in the United States and I am going to put in some of those thoughts into this.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Have you considered strengthening the embankments protecting Cooch-Bihar town ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Yes. We are considering it.

An hon. member referred to restoration of power. We have got sufficient amount of power to supply to the consumers. So far we have supplied to 1,000 consumers and another 1,400 consumers have to be supplied. Unfortunately the low tension lines and service lines have been destroyed and they have to be put back. The electric lines in Jalpaiguri are under the control of a private electric licensee. He did not have sufficient amount of money to repair these lines. It is high time we acquired all these private electric undertakings and put them under one Government organisation. West Bengal Government immediately advanced money to the private licensee and they are proceeding with repair work. I hope in the course of the next fortnight, power will be restored.

Shri Mukerjee, a senior member of this House, blamed me, the Prime Minister and the Deputy Prime Minister. I do not want to defend myself. I know I have got a lot of defects and I shall always be benefited by the advice of senior members. But in fairness to the Prime Minister and to satisfy my conscience, I must say that she has been taking a lot of interest in flood control measures in this country. One of the very first things she did as soon as she returned back to the country on 17th was to call me and have a full discussion about Jalpaiguri. He, therefore, is not really fair to the Prime Minister when he says that she has not taken any interest in this matter. Similarly, the Deputy Prime Minister also attached very great importance to this and rushed to the site with the greatest speed than what he did for his own constituency of Surat, where he went much later. These are small things, no doubt, but we only expect that very senior and talented members like Shri Mukerjee need not mention these. He can abuse me any amount of time. I am prepared to hear it because I know I have a lot of defects and I would be very happy if he corrects me so that I can be of better use to my country.

About Jalpaiguri, it is a simple event that occurred. The embankment broke down and Teesta flowed into the river through breaches that have occurred. The river gave a very complete warning. It reached the highest flood level only after very high water level was reached many hours earlier. I really do not know how this catastrophe happened.

But we must realise that the Central Government cannot hold itself responsible for the embankments. There are 7,500 miles of embankment in this country and, even if you want it, it is physically impossible for the government to watch the whole area. What is done in other countries like China and United States of America where extensive embankments have been constructed is that the people are entrusted with the work of watching and guarding the embankments. The works are done by the Central organisation but, then, the people are entrusted with the upkeep, maintenance and watch of these embankments. That is what we have got to do in our country also.

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We have to start with regular drill and regular classes to see that some proper training is given to the local people so that they are enthused and then they must be entrusted with this work. During the war time I happened to be in Bengal. At that time they gave lectures and drill in colleges on a very simple thing like fire fighting. They gave all the training and they repeated the training classes. In the beginning I thought why are they troubling us with all this, repeated training, giving specific instructions as to which men should have the pump and which men should have the hose. Later we came to know that the idea behind it is that at the time of the emergency, when the rush comes in, when the brain does not work, you must work automatically as a sort of habit. Therefore, I will have the training scheme introduced here and I hope that people will co-operate with me in making a fairly good success of it.

The hon. Member, Shri Mukerjee, said that we have done very little. He cited the example of China and said that we have not done much in this country. Many other hon. Members have asked: what have you done? In fact, the hon. Member, Shri Kandappan, said that the statement makes no mention of any work done in the previous year. I have not done it because it is no use repeating the same thing. That is why I did not do it.

I would like to submit here that I had the great opportunity of studying all the rivers of China at close quarters. That was a unique opportunity that I had when we were very friendly with China. Then I had the opportunity of seeing every one of those rivers from Yangtze right up to Peking. I have studied all those rivers. Seeing all that they have done what I would like to submit is that they have done much less than what we have done. What we have done in this country is remarkable work.

It is only in 1954 that we have taken up the question of flood control at the national level. At that time there was practically no data available in this country. There was not even a survey of the rivers. We did not have any information whatsoever about our rivers. Then we started work. The first thing we did was to establish a large number of rain-gauges. Then we had aerial survey of nearly 52,000 sq. miles and

regular survey of the various rivers. First data was collected. Then, we have constructed 4,500 miles of embankments as compared to 3,000 miles for the whole of the earlier centuries.

Then, we have constructed 4,500 miles of drainage. It is this drainage that has made Punjab and Haryana in particular very prosperous. We have protected 150 towns. Dibrugarh is a very famous example of that. Dibrugarh would have gone off if attention was not paid to it.

Then, 4,500 villages have been raised above the water level and rendered free from flood effects in UP and in the Rapti areas. Fortunately, this year the Rapti has not come otherwise Shri Sheo Narain would have been at my throat. The Rapti area is a very bad area from the point of floods.

Then, we have constructed the Hirakud Dam, the DVC Dam and many other dams. They have all helped in regulating and moderating the floods. Therefore we should not belittle ourselves. Quite a large amount of wonderful work we have done with whatever little money we had. We have spent about Rs. 200 crores though this is very little compared to the big problem this country is involved in.

Here I want to submit one simple fact to the House. The entire country of India has got an area which is equal to the watershed or the catchment area of the Mississippi. The total amount of water that we get from the whole catchment area of the Mississippi is 350 million cubic feet whereas in India, which has got the same area, the amount of water comes to three times that water. This is just to show that India is blessed with a large number of rivers and a large amount of water. There are very few countries in this world which have got that wonderful river wealth that we have got.

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore): You are turning this debate into a seminar. What you are saying is very good but kindly reply to some of the points that we raised about the Subarnarekha, cyclone and floods of Orissa and West Bengal.

DR. K. L. RAO: I am coming to that.

This is a very important point for hon. Members to remember that this country has got a very large number of rivers which

normally a country of this size does not have. Therefore the flood control of these rivers imposes a great strain and great amount of resources are required. This just shows that this is a very difficult problem.

SHRI SHEO NARAIN : What about the river grid system ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Coming to Orissa, it is true that Orissa has been... (Interruption)

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Before taking up Orissa, please say if you have in mind giving serious relief to the flood-affected people of the Indian enclaves.

DR. K. L. RAO : Let me finish. Then you can ask about it.

Regarding Orissa, it is really very unfortunate that that very fertile land of our country has been subject to drought, floods and cyclone year after year. It does require some closer attention.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : More money also.

DR. K. L. RAO : Taking up the first point of Shri P. K. Deo, we know that the Chilka Lake has been silting but we had no scheme. Even the High Flood Level Inquiry Committee of Orissa, which went into the various problems of Orissa, have not taken up this problem at all. I was not aware that the silting has been causing extra inundation in that area. I am writing to the State Government to have the necessary survey made to find out how much extra amount of silting is deposited and whether we should open out to the sea more to see that the bar is cleared in time and the water is drained out much earlier. I am asking the State Government to give the necessary information.

Regarding Subarnarekha, it is a river which is a common river between West Bengal and Orissa.

SHRI S. KUNDU : Bihar also.

DR. K. L. RAO : Bihar is higher up. In the area where floods have occurred, these two boundaries are there.

19 Hrs.

I suggested some time back that we should have flood control banks on both the sides of the river because it is the tail-end that suffers. You must have banks

because the land is, generally, built up by the river and, therefore, it is much lower and is inundated by water. Therefore, there must be banks in that area. I suggested that banks must be constructed on both the sides. But the Orissa engineers objected and they said that no bank should be constructed on the West Bengal side because their contention was that water must flow through Midnapur district, drainage must go there, and that the bank cannot be constructed on the other side. Recently, I called both the Chief Engineers and I explained the whole problem to them. They have, finally, agreed to construct banks on both the sides. We are going to take it up shortly. Of course I am quite aware, so far as this river is concerned, the maximum flood discharge may be Rs. 4 lakh cusecs or Rs. 5 lakhs and it may even go up to Rs. 10 lakhs. It is also necessary that we should ensure there should be some reservoir higher up so that the banks constructed may prove to be safe and that dam has got to be in the Bihar area. There is no suitable site either in Orissa or in Bengal. This has not been investigated in Bihar. So, I am asking the Bihar Government to investigate and make it a sort of multi-purpose project so that we have the benefit of power and irrigation as also the benefit of flood control. I hope, we will pursue it further...

SHRI S. KUNDU : Don't only ask the Bihar Government. You should ask your Ministry also to investigate it.

DR. K. L. RAO : The Bihar Government was to give permission. If it were Orissa, you could have asked the Orissa Government to give permission.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : बिहार में गट्टपति ग्रामन है ।

DR. K. L. RAO : We will see that.

श्री रवि राय : अभी उड़ीसा के अखबारों में निकांता है कि मंत्री महोदय नान दिन में उड़ीसा जाने वाले हैं । मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह कब जा रहे हैं ।

DR. K. L. RAO : Then, about the cyclones, I want to make it clear that the east-coast of India is subject to cyclones every year. On an average, we have cyclones out

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of which at least 4 to 5 cyclones will be serious. They may strike either Madras or Andhra or Orissa or Bengal. We cannot avoid the occurrence of the cyclones. But what we can do is to have a good forecast. The present technical knowledge has gone to such an extent that we can forecast it earlier, two or three days earlier, the intensity of the cyclone that might occur. But this requires the establishment of the network of radars supported by the reconnaissance aircraft. At least, we must have four stations on the east-coast in Puri, Vizag, Madras and one lower down. Unless these stations are established it will not be possible for meteorologists to carefully forecast the occurrence of the cyclones because these depressions start away out in the sea. We cannot see the thing unless we have got all the necessary equipment. This is subject to approval and sanction. I am writing to the Ministry to see that we try to programme it in the Fourth Plan and establish the net work of radars.

The unfortunate thing is that the cyclones occur in Orissa and Andhra at a time when the crops are nearing fruition. That is the unfortunate thing. These cyclones occur maximum in the month of October and November and these are the two months when these should not occur. That is the main trouble. I do not know whether some change in agricultural practice will also be necessary if we want to escape the damage from the cyclones. This has happened this year in the three districts of Orissa, that is, Puri, Cuttack and Ganjam and in one district of Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh. The whole area has been damaged with the heavy downpour.

I want to correct one of the hon. members heavy downpour. One of the hon. members said that the Prime Minister had not sent even her sympathies. It is not correct. She sent immediately a letter of sympathy and also sent the P.M.'s contribution from the Relief Fund.

Coming to Assam. Assam has the most difficult river problem in the country; not only in the country, but it is one of the most difficult problems in the world. The control of floods in Brahmaputra is a big challenge to any engineering that is available in the world now. In fact, the main reason why I went to the United States,

which some hon. members have criticised, was for this purpose. I have promised for Assam that I would chalk up some very definite programme and, therefore, I had invited a number of American experts; we have got their report and still we have not been able to make any dent on the planning of proper flood control project for Assam. Therefore, I thought that it was best that I took two engineers with me and go round and discuss the matter... (*Interruptions*). The main difficulty about Brahmaputra is this. We do not have either the beginning of the river nor the end portion of it; only the middle of 550 miles of Brahmaputra are in our country. If the beginning had been with us, we would have been able to construct some dams to hold back the water, but unfortunately that is in Tibet and the latter portion is in Pakistan. Therefore, there is this difficulty in the harnessing of this river from the point of view of flood control. Added to that, it has a very large amount of silt...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Is the hon. Minister concluding? Two members have also to ask questions.

DR. K. L. RAO: I am just concluding. (*Interruptions*)

With regard to Assam, as I said, we have got a difficult flood control problem; it is a very serious problem. We are thinking very seriously of re-organizing the whole system and establishing a good type of authority for an intensive investigation and drawing up of a plan to deal with this problem.

With regard to Kosi, there has been some misunderstanding. It must be accepted that the people who are living between the embankments suffer. But Kosi has done an immense benefit to the nation, specially to Bihar. If the Kosi project had not been done, it would have affected the stability of that party of the country; the river would have gone on to Darbhanga and joined the Kamala Balan. The project has rendered a very valuable service and has been one of our successful flood control works in the country. The main point that has not been understood is that between the embankments there are 300 villages. There are 300 villages between the embankments. Now, the question is, what are you doing with these 300 villages. In case of

Kosi high floods, they are affected. The question is, what are you doing with these people? Now, Sir, my answer is this. Since the banks were constructed there was not any serious flood. The flood was never more than 300,000 cusecs all these years with the result that actually near about 90 villages wanted to go out of the river portion and took the compensation also. But because there was no heavy floods they returned back. They came back to live within the embankments. But this year heavy floods came and people were affected. There is some realisation on their part that they have to go outside the embankment. Therefore, the question of rehabilitation of these people in between the embankment is a matter which has got to be taken up most seriously and steps taken to see how best to evacuate them or to give as much help as possible. Also the question of constructing the embankment nearer will be taken up. At the moment the embankments are 10 miles apart. Some of the hon. Members asked whether you can have it nearer. I am thinking about it. It has got to be done very carefully. Kosi river has got certain characteristics and it moves on from side to side. We have to make a serious study before we can venture to shift the embankment nearer than what they are at present. Unless we satisfy ourselves we should not go in for that immediately. But that is under serious study and I hope we will be able to do something in that matter.

Certain hon. Members have been talking about dredging. It has got very limited use in flood control works. In some areas it can be used like Kosi and Adhwara rivers. It is quite likely that we may be able to use it to useful purposes. We have got one dredger in Kosi area and we are going to use it now, as experimental measure. If we find it useful we will buy many more.

One hon. Member asked about Rajasthan. It is true that we had severe floods this year in areas there where usually there was no water. But the most serious problem of Rajasthan in Ghaggar and we are taking steps to see that the Ghaggar diversion scheme is completed so that the flooding of the Rajasthan areas could be eliminated.

In conclusion, I would say, quite a large number of useful suggestions have been

made and many comments offered. All of them will be studied very carefully and I hope in the years to come more and more flood control measures will be taken and we will be able to solve one day this very serious problem. I also want to say that so far only one-fourth of the area that is affected has been covered. We have yet to do a lot. The total lands affected by the flood is 500 lakhs acres. We have done protection for about 1/4 of it. So, there is a large amount of work to be done, and I hope we will take it up in the future. Now, Sir, my answer is this. Since the years.

श्री रवि राय : मंत्री महोदय ने रिलीफ के बारे में कुछ नहीं कहा है।

श्री केदार पस्वान (रोसेरा) : चेयरमैन महोदय, मेरा क्षेत्र बिहार में दरभंगा जिले में है। नेपाल से ले कर मेरे क्षेत्र में कोसी नदबन्ध छोड़ दिया गया है। बरेह बांध हैयाघाट से ले कर मेरे क्षेत्र हसनपुर में छोड़ दिया गया है और बलान बांध नेपाल से ले कर घनश्यामपुर क्षेत्र में छोड़ दिया गया है। इस से मेरे क्षेत्र में लाखों एकड़ भूमि का नुबसान हो रहा है। हम लोग इस बारे में लिखते-लिखते थक गये हैं। या तो इस बांध को बढ़ाया जाये, नहीं तो सब जगह बांधों को काट दिया जाये।

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : The Prime Minister was good enough to promise the other day to send a central team to evaluate the distress and the needs of the people of cyclone-affected Andhra. What has happened to that? The team has not yet reached Andhra, although it is more than 25 days since the cyclone had taken place.

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : It takes a little time for them to go to all the States. It must suit them also.

श्री रवि राय : क्या एन. ने ज्यादा टैम नहीं भेज सकते थे ?

SHRI RANGA : Will they go there after all the houses are rebuilt? Do they go

[Shri Ranga]
there in order to see the distress of the people or after the people have somehow or other managed to keep some kind of show of life do these people go there to say that everything is all right? I did not know the Finance Minister was the villain of the piece. I thought it was the Minister of Irrigation or the Food Minister who had to send this central team of officers.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : The team is sent by the Finance Minister and nobody else. The Finance Minister is always a villain, I cannot help it. I am sorry for you that you have to deal with him. It is not a proper thing to talk like that.

SHRI RANGA : I thought I said something nice about him.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : The team cannot be sent to all the States at the same time. It must be the same team of officers who must go and do this.

SHRI RANGA : Three weeks.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : Three weeks is not a long period.

SHRI RANGA : Are we to understand that the Government is so short of officers that it is not able to send its officers even after three weeks of the cyclone disaster? I cannot understand this. It is a shameful thing for anybody, and yet my hon. friend is not prepared to offer any apology or explanation. He says it is not proper to talk like that.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : No apology is required or necessary. My hon. friend does not realise that it is the same set of officers who should go round for the sake of uniformity, they have got to talk and discuss with them and then come to a conclusion as to how much is required. This is what is done, and we have no trouble about it anyway.

SHRI RANGA : May I know how long they are going to take in order to go to Andhra? What is this absurdity? You ought to be ashamed of this kind of thing.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA : Not after a week, but even after 35 days of the devastation they have not gone there. It is a strange thing.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : Let my hon. friend also understand...

SHRI RANGA : Why not the concerned Minister answer, why not the Prime Minister answer? Why do you unnecessarily come in taking this burden on yourself?

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : Shouting will not help.

SHRI RANGA : No need for you to answer.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : Because it is I who have to send the team, not the concerned Minister.

SHRI H. N. MUKERJEE (Calcutta North East) : You cannot choose the team, you do not know the experts. How do you know them?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM) : The House is naturally exercised over these things. But I may tell one thing for the information of the House that whenever there is drought or cyclone or floods, relief work does not wait for the Central team to visit that place. The relief work is to start immediately by the State Government and the pattern is there that whatever expenditure is incurred on the relief work, 75%... (Interruptions)

श्री रवि राय : वह पैटर्न आउट-मोडिड हो गया है ।

श्री जगजीवन राम : सब कुछ, दिमाग भी, आउट-मोडिड हो जाता है ।

श्री रवि राय : आप का दिमाग भी आउट-मोडिड हो गया है ।

SHRI JAGJIWAN RAM : Therefore relief work is not held up for want of the Central team visiting that place. The Central team visits for extra expenditure over and above what is normally provided for the relief work.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS rose.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI : May I explain? Let them hear it in patience and then condemn if they want to.

SHRI RANGA : Let us talk in a responsible manner.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Will you please hear me before you pass a judgment. Instead of that if you only get excited and abuse me, you can do so and I have no objection to that.

SHRI RANGA: You are excited. Only you do not appear to be so.

SHRI MORARJI DESAI: Where am I to be excited and for what? (*Interruptions*) You can tell me anything. If I explain it, even then you do not want to hear me. If you do not want to hear... (*Interruptions*) All right you become un-virtuous and I become virtuous.

श्री कामेश्वर सिंह : सभापति महोदय, मुझे बहुत खेद के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि जब प्रधान मंत्री अपने दक्षिणी अमरीका के टूर से लौटें, तो उन्होंने बिहार का दौरा किया, परन्तु बिहार का जो सब से ज्यादा बाढ़-पीड़ित इलाका है, उत्तर मंगेर का खगरिया सब-डिविजन, जिस में बिहार की सभी मुख्य नदियों का भयंकर प्रकोप होता है, जैसे गंगा, कोसी, गंडक, बागमती, कमला आदि, उस का उन्होंने हवाई दौरा नहीं किया। इसी तरह प्रधान मंत्री जब भी बाढ़ के सम्बन्ध में सदन में बयान देते हैं, वह इस भूभाग को भूल जाते हैं, जैसे कि वह है हा नहीं। बाढ़ से सब से ज्यादा नुकसान वहाँ हुआ है। मैं उन से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि वह वहाँ क्यों नहीं गईं।

प्रधान मंत्री, अणु शक्ति मंत्री, योजना मंत्री तथा वैदेशिक-कार्य मंत्री (श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी) : मुझे यही कहना है कि हमारा महानुभूति सब क्षेत्रों के साथ हैं। सब जगह देखना हमेशा मुमकिन नहीं होता है, लेकिन नक्शे के साथ बैठ कर, डा० राव, बिहार के लोगों से, सब अफसरों से मैंने उस की जानकारी ली है।

श्री रवि राय : प्रधान मंत्री उड़ीसा कब जा रही हैं ?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *rose.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: No question please. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: On a point of order, Sir. Just intervening in the debate the Food Minister used the word 'exercised' saying that the Opposition has been exercised. I think that is a very unkind expression (*Interruptions*) Due to national calamity if the Minister is not exercised, they may remain in their room. They have not attended the debate during the whole discussion. Now for voting all the Cabinet Ministers, all the important Ministers and the Deputy Prime Minister and the Prime Minister, all of them came in an array but none of them was here when an important discussion on a national calamity was taking place.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *rose.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Kindly take your seat.

Order, order. Take your seats. There are a number of substitute motions. Shall I put them together ?

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: The flood-affected people have got no relief from the Government of India.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I am putting the substitute motions to the vote. Shall I take them together ?

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: No, Sir. They should not be put together.

SHRI RABI RAY *rose—*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rabi Ray, please take your seat first. Let us follow the procedure.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS *rose—*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. Please resume your seats. (*Interruption*)

श्री गुणानन्द ठाकुर : बाढ़ पर जो बहस हुई है सिचाई मंत्री ने कोई उस का जवाब नहीं दिया है। लगता था कि सेमीनार में कोई लेख यह पढ़ रहे हों। क्या प्रिबेटिव मेजर्स होंगे, यह कुछ नहीं बताया. ∴ (*व्यवधान*) . . . हम कहना चाहते हैं प्रधान मंत्री साहिब की तरफ से हर स्टेट के बाढ़ पीड़ितों को मिला लेकिन कोसी के बाढ़ पीड़ितों को कुछ नहीं मिला। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूँ प्रधान मंत्री कोसी के बाढ़ पीड़ितों के लिए क्या कुछ मदद देना चाहती हैं ? . . . (*व्यवधान*) . . .

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

श्री रवि राय : एफ मेकड हम को मूव कर लेने दायिग ।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Order, order. I shall now put the substitute motion of Shri H. N. Mukerjee—motion No. 3—to the vote of the House.

The substitute motion No. 3 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I shall now put Shri Samar Guba's substitute motion, No. 4. The question is:

"That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely:—

"This House, having considered the statement laid on the Table by the Minister of Irrigation and Power on the 13th November, 1968 regarding flood situation in the country, expresses serious concern over the failure of the Government to effectively deal with the problems arising out of such natural calamities, particularly in North Bengal, where the administrative machinery grossly neglected its duty to alert the people by giving timely flood-warning and undertake immediate measures for rescue and relief after the flood disaster, and where assessment of the colossal disaster was inordinately delayed by the Central Study

Team, an urges upon the Government that:—

- (a) besides providing relief and rehabilitation facilities to all flood-affected areas in the country, North Bengal Flood be regarded as an extraordinary national calamity and thus, a Special Central Fund, without requiring the approval of the Central Study Team, for adequate relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction there, be advanced;
- (b) permanent flood control measures with flood-warning system be speedily worked out, particularly in the areas like Midnapur, North Bengal, North Bihar, coastal regions of Orissa and Brahmaputra valley which suffer from the furies of floods almost every year;
- (c) Flood Fighting Corps be set up in States, generally vulnerable from recurrence of floods, with Central help; and
- (d) a Central National Fund be constituted for providing speedy help to a State which requires to meet on emergency arising out of flood or similar other natural calamities. (4)

AYES

19.33 HRS.

Division No. 10]

Amat, Shri D.
Berwa, Shri Onkar Lal
Daschowdhury, Shri B. K.
Deb, Shri D. N.
Deo, Shri P. K.
Deo, Shri R. R. Singh
Dipa, Shri A.
Goyal, Shri Shri Chand
Guha, Shri Samar
Joshi, Shri Jagannath Rao
Kameshwar Singh, Shri
Khan, Shri H. Ajmal
Kundu, Shri S.

The Lok Sabha divided:

Mayavan, Shri
Mukerjee, Shri H. N.
Parmar, Shri D. R.
Paswan, Shri Kedar
Ramamoorthy, Shri S. P.
Ramji Ram, Shri
Ranga, Shri
Rao, Shri V. Narasimha
Ray, Shri Rabi
Shastri, Shri Ramavatar
Somasundaram, Shri S. D.
Subravelu, Shri
Thakur, Shri Gunanand

NOES

Ahmed, Shri F. A.
Ankineedu, Shri
Bhagat, Shri B. R.
Bhanu Prakash Singh, Shri
Bhattacharyya, Shri C. K.
Chanda, Shri Anil K.
Chaturvedi, Shri R. L.

Chavan, Shri D. R.
Chavan, Shri Y. B.
Dass, Shri C.
Desai, Shri Morarji
Deshmukh, Shri B. D.
Ering, Shri D.
Gandhi, Shrimati Indira
Jadhav, Shri Tulshidas

Jaggiwan Ram, Shri
Jamir, Shri S. C.
Kamble, Shri
Krishna, Shri M. R.
Mahishi, Dr. Sarojini
Mandal, Shri Yamuna Prasad
Master, Shri Bhola Nath
Menon, Shri Govinda
Mondal, Shri Jugal
Murthy, Shri B. S.
Pahadia, Shri Jagannath
Pant, Shri K. C.
Parmar, Shri Bhaljibhai
Partap Singh, Shri
Parthasarathy, Shri
Poonacha, Shri C. M.
Qureshi, Shri Mohd. Shaffi

Raghu Ramaiah, Shri
Raj Deo Singh, Shri
Ram Subhag Singh, Dr.
Rao, Dr. K. L.
Rao, Shri K. Narayana
Rao, Shri Muthyal
Rao, Dr. V. K. R. V.
Roy, Shri Bishwanath
Saigal, Shri A. S.
Sen, Shri Diwipayan
Sen, Shri P. G.
Shambhu Nath, Shri
Sheo Narain, Shri
Shiv Chandika Prasad, Shri
Shukla, Shri S. N.
Shukla, Shri Vidya Charan
Siddheshwar Prasad, Shri
Swaran Singh, Shri

19.36 Hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

TWENTY-FOURTH REPORT

**THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-
TARY AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICA-
TIONS (DR. RAM SUBHAG SINGH) :**
Sir, I beg to present the twenty-fourth re-
port of the Business Advisory Committee.

**PEPERS LAID ON THE TABLE—Contd.
LOAN TO JANSATTA AND LOKSATTA GROUP OF
NEWSPAPERS**

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND
BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI NAN-
DINI SATPATHY) :** I beg to lay on the
Table a statement regarding Government's
decision to give a loan to the *Jansatta* and
Loksatta group of newspapers in Gujarat.
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-2234/68].

19.36½ Hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till
Eleven of the Clock on Friday, November
22, 1968/Agrahayana 1, 1890 (Saka).*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The result of the
division is : Ayes 26; Noes 50.

The motion was negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will now put Mr.
Chintamani Panigrahi's substitute motion to
vote.

*Substitute motion No. 5 was put and
negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will now put Mr.
Dar's substitute motion to vote.

*Substitute motion No. 6 was put and
negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will now put Mr.
N. C. Chatterjee's substitute motion to vote.

*Substitute motion No. 7 was put and
negatived.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will now put Mr.
Rabi Ray's substitute motion to vote.

*Substitute motion No. 8 was put and
negatived.*