

Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, New Delhi, for the year 1990-91.

- (3) A statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (2) above.

[Placed in the Library See No. LT 2357/92]

14.07 hrs.

DISCUSSIONS UNDER RULE 193

Drought Situation in Various Parts of the Country - *CONTD.*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please be brief. If each Member confines himself to three minutes, more Members can participate. We have to take up next item at 1530 hrs. For this cooperation of all the members is solicited.

SHRISIVAIPATNAIK (Bhubaneswar): I will be very brief. This year, because of late arrival of monsoon, a number of States are reeling under drought. Weather forecast also shows less rainfall this year. This has created panic. Prices of food grains have gone up. Public distribution system has collapsed. That apart in large number of areas drinking water is not available. This is the State of affairs after 44 years of independence. It speaks a lot about our planning, management of water resources, food policy and the so called new economic policy, which is based on structural adjustments, etc.

Earlier, the attention of the House was drawn towards the starvation deaths in Tripura. It was sought to be explained away as if it was something like an epidemic. Attention of the House was also drawn towards a starvation deaths in Kalahandi district of Orissa, Thane and other tribal areas of Maharashtra and Sarguja of Madhya Pradesh. The case of Orissa is a flaring example of the bankrupt planning

during these years. In the coastal parts of the four districts of Orissa, there is flood and in the nine districts as well as in the upper part of the coastal districts also there is a drought. This is the situation prevailing there. The State of Orissa in toto is having 20 per cent less rainfall this year. In the nine districts, other than the coastal districts, it is still less. Normal rainfall by this time would have been something like 1499 mm. This year it is 20 per cent less as a whole.

As per the report of the Special Relief Commission of Orissa, Nuapara sub-division of Kalahandi district is the most affected.

Kalahandi district is a drought-prone district. To some extent it is also manmade because of heavy felling of trees by the ruling party backed contractors. Sometimes they are also Ministers and MLA in this of that ruling party and they, in the way, clean the forest there.

The price of rice has gone up to Rs. 7 per one kg. There where there is no work for the poor people; there is no chance of earning for them. Only 20 percent of the land is irrigated in Orissa. So, it is natural that even a small shortfall of rainfall creates this type of situation there.

Had there been proper planning and proper management of water resources this drought and flood, both could have been controlled, because they are inter-linked. There is no dearth of rivers or water resources but there is dearth of water management, and dearth of planning. Thus flood and drought are regular visitors to the State of Orissa.

Now a situation has arisen where unless proper steps are taken immediately particularly in the western districts things will be very acute there. As it happens repeatedly, the same situation will recur. To face the situation immediate steps have to be taken to provide lift irrigation, and take the water through diesel pumps to the fields and supply seeds and fertilizers to the farmers at subsidised rates. This work has to be spread over the districts through a special programme. The public distribution system

has to be revamped. For that a proper supply of foodgrains is also required.

This is required not only for Orissa but in the entire drought-affected areas of our country. These steps are to be taken immediately. No. State Government can cope up with this situation if they are left to themselves. So, the Central Government should come to the aid of the State Governments in a big way for that a special plan needs to be drawn to face this situation.

14.13 hrs

SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATTANAYAK (Bolangir): Mr. Deputy - Speaker, Sir, agriculture in our country depends on the monsoon. With a disruption in its schedule, the agricultural system is affected. During this year, due to uneven spread of rainfall, there has been an unbalanced agricultural production.

Part of Orissa is also under the spell of drought, this year. The tragedy is that excessive rainfall leads to washing away of the crops by floods and scanty rainfall leads to drought. The story of Bolangir is not new. It is under the specter of drought for a decade. Despite launching of centrally sponsored anti-drought programmes the tardy implementation at ground level has compounded to the misery of the people. There is severe soil erosion leading to a decline in the productivity of land. Due to lack of irrigation facilities the land use pattern is changing abruptly.

The State Government is reluctant to provide lift irrigation facilities at Bolangir despite vast potential of ground water being available in the region. Vast tracts of degraded forest are turning too barren land, in the absence of an integrated approach to wasteland development.

The money channellised through Jawahar Rozgar Yojna is not reaching the beneficiaries, the weaker sections of the society. The local M.P. is not involved in the monitoring and implementation of the programme. There is no generation of

employment, no infrastructure to sustain land capability and there are no soil and water conservation measures. The *ad hoc* measures taken to provide relief are not the answer to the problem. There is an urgent need to generate technology-extension for increasing agricultural productivity in Bolangir district of Orissa and other drought prone areas of the country.

It was published in the newspaper, *The Times of India* that due to starvation in Bolangir district a woman had sold her eight months baby to a vendor for Rs. 20 and that vendor had again sold the baby to another lady for Rs. 50. The drought situation is so worse in Bolangir district, which is the western part of Orissa. That is why, I request the hon. Minister to take care of this district carefully and also show special interest to Bolangir, Kalahandi, Phulbani and Korput district of Orissa. Centrally sponsored special programmes should be implemented in these areas.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJOY KUMAR YADAV (Nalanda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a drought situation in many parts of the country including Bihar. There was rainfall here but it came at a time when samplings were just planted in the paddy fields and consequently they have all been destroyed. There are many region in Bihar, which are drought-stricken. many regions in my district are also drought-affected. Drought is such a problem which occurs annually, but it is always treated casually. A serious note is taken only at the moment, they are confronted with the problem. It is my humble suggestion that, in order to bring about a permanent solution, the Central Government should formulate a plan on an all-India level.

There is no scarcity of water in our country and rainfall also takes place in some or the other part of the country, throughout the year. In the northern regions adjacent to Himalayas and other parts also, there is no scarcity of water. Most of these rainwater's drain into the ocean. It would be really beneficial, if this outflow is checked and

[Sh. Vijay Kumar Yadav]

arrangement made to utilise this water, for it had been often observe that while the rivers are overflowing with water, the land nearby is drought stricken. There is drought despite the presence and water because rivers get water from the upper regions, and rainfalls don't occur in specific areas and those regions become drought affected. Therefore, some plan should be formulated to make arrangements for irrigations and combat the drought.

If there is any state, which has the largest number of pending irrigation projects, awaiting clearance, it is Bihar and I would like to say something about it. Bihar has great potential, but its projects are not being completed. There is paucity of time and I would not like to take much of it. I will conclude after making a mention of few irrigation projects in the state. The areas adjacent to my constituency my district, are drought -prone and the Dhadhar-Tilaiya irrigation projects and the Upper Sakari irrigation project are pending for a long time now. I am a Member of Parliament since 1980 and I have demanding for a long time that a canal from Ganges river be diverted up to the foot hills of the Rajgir hills and reservoir constructed as it would enable the construction of many irrigation projects in many districts. Similarly, if a reservoir is built in the vast expanse of land, south of the Rajgir hills, it would enable the irrigation of many districts.

Apart from this, there is the Lokayan river. The Sone river flows through Patna and many other districts. An agitation is going on for harnessing the river waters, construction of reservoirs and repair of Canals, to facilitate irrigation in many districts. Electricity is a basic necessity. There is a super thermal power grid of the N.T.P.C. in our district. You will be surprised to know that the farmers whose lands were acquired for the power grid are yet to be compensated through employment and also through supply of power in the Nalanda district. A massive agitation has been launched in the region. It

is true that it is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure the equitable distribution of power supply, but there is such an acute shortage of power in the State that it is not able to maintain adequate power supply. There is a serious drought in many districts. I would like to submit to the Central Government that more electricity should be allocated to the N.T.P.C Super Thermal Power grid to enable it to maintain adequate supply power to the needy areas. Along with it, I would like to mention here that both drought and floods are simultaneously occurring in the country. while in some areas there are heavy floods, in others, a severe drought situation exists. If we just go on debating these problems, it won't provide any solution. Therefore, the need of the hour is to formulate a concrete plan on an all-India level and by associating all the political parties and State Governments. and to thrash out a permanent solution. With these words, I conclude.

DR. SHRIMATI K.S. SOUNDARAM (Tiruchengode): I heartily thank Hon'ble Deputy Speaker for having provided me with an opportunity to speak in this august House on drought situation prevailing in the country.

It gives me great pleasure to render my speech in my mother tongue Tamil which can be linked to Nectar and our life-breathe.

In order to usher in a welfare state and also to overcome drought ensuring development an abundant growth, Agriculturists in Tamil Nadu get free supply of Electricity. Despite heavy loss that might occur, this measure is being carried out to benefit farmers who form the backbone to our economy and country as well. I gratefully acknowledge the thoughtful scheme being implemented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and our leader 'Puratchi Thalaini' (Revolutionary Leader) and seeking her blessing, I continue further to address this forum.

Science has its advancement urban centres have their growth in civilisation, but still agriculture is the axis to the wheel of

progress and food for hunger has to come from our rural areas and our nation is aware of this basic factor fully well. Today we find in Russia rampant food scarcity. We hear of long queues to procure even meagre quantity of Milk and a loaf of bread. The alarming situation is due to drought conditions prevailing there. We must learn from such problem situations and we are well aware of this fact.

India is basically an agricultural country and it is also vast united country. Majority of us feel that this cherished country of ours should continue to be united and prosperous. One of the brethren meets a watery grave in floods but another of our brethren die of thirst with no water to his parched throat one and the same time. We hear of floods in Assam and drought in Andhra Pradesh at the same time. Why this contradiction? This is today's India. If these problems are momentary that may not last long, we could bear them. But if these problems persist they could even shatter the spirit of fraternity which is the basis of our unity. I bring this to the notice of the Government. Our Minister for Agriculture and the leader of the ruling party should contemplate overcoming these problems. National integration shall be strengthened only when a state of plenty shares its abundant resources with another state that is devoid of such natural wealth. The very same idea was mooted by our great Tamil poet Subramania Bharati when he wrote on linking of major rivers of the country. He said that we would be able to irrigate our central plains with the abundant water that flow in the Bangla region. Led by their great leader Lenin, Soviet people took part in the great revolution and after establishing their government accomplished their developmental dreams like linking of river VOLGA with another major river in a short span. Why should I point out too such a venture when we have our own success story in our own homeland? With the construction of a 650 km long canal in the midst of our great Indian desert in Rajasthan, we have given rise to a fertile cultivable land on either side of them.

Hence I urge upon the Central

Government to go in to the fruits of these well meaning ventures. I would request the Union Government to nationalise all major rivers and go about linking them. This could be our permanent solution to our ever continuing water scarcity problems and drought conditions.

We may have acute shortage of water even of drinking water in rapidly growing industrialised towns in twenty five years from now. The very thought of it unnerves us. I would like to impress upon you a saying in Tamil that increased irrigational facility alone can increase food production which may ultimately result in ensuring good governance of the country. Hence I urge upon the Government to take upon itself as its prime concern and important duty the process of nationalising all major water resources and to ensure better distribution of irrigation upholding a viable and sound water management policy. This alone could pave way for a lasting solution to our vexed problems.

Out tillers of the soil who toil and toil perpetuating the life cycle should have better deal. Our farmers may derive contentment from the fact that they contribute to grow food though they are denied even a single meal a day. An effective water management policy alone can give peace to the lives of our farmers. On behalf of the agriculturists of this country, I request the Government to attach importance to this prime need of the farming community. When these measures and schemes are taken up, then it would be handy to our Indian farmers to produce in abundance which may go surplus and can rest of the world. Our great leader PURATCHI THALAIVAR (Revolutionary Leader MGR) once said, "when natural resources are available in plenty why should we be looking forward to foreign donors. If we make concentrated efforts in Agriculture our creditability will soar high in the comity of nations". This seed of thought was sown then by our leader years back.

I feel proud to add a word of praise to our

[Dr. Shrimati K.S. Soundaram]

farmers of Tamil Nadu. Those tireless able men look forward to enough water potential. They are prepared to convert dry lands into fertile cultivable lands. Even if the water resource is available some miles away say about 50 kms they are prepared to channelise the same.

THUPPARKKU THUPPAYA
THUPPAKKI THUPPARKKU

THUPPAYA THOOVU MAZHAI - is a celebrated line form 'TIRUKKURAL' which glorifies the compassion of the rain gods. But still we have a vast stretch of dry land that remain rain fed in many parts of Tamil Nadu. When are we to evolve a lasting solution to the unending problems faced by districts like THIRUNELVELI, KANYAKUMARI, RAMANATHANPURAM, DHARMAPURI, COIMBATORE and SALEM?

If we could complete the ALIYAR - PUNNAMPUZHA Project, drought prone districts like Coimbatore and Dindigul could heave a sigh of relief. If we could redirect and rechannelise the west flowing rivers, we can make THIRUNELVELI, TUTICORIN, KANYAKUMARI, districts more fertile with more lands brought under cultivation. If they cannot grow paddy our farmers never lose heart and they are skilled enough to convert coconut and Palm tree growing into a viable cash crop cultivation.

Paddy production was so abundant in Tamil Nadu that our ancient literatures have mentioned that it was not cattle like bulls elephants were required to thrashing. But now we have to depend on a neighboring state even to cultivate single crop a year. We have been driven to a precarious condition as of now.

Nature was kind to us this year. Our Mettur reservoir had enough catch of water. And the executive order from our Chief Minister ensured the opening of water in time for cultivation. 'Kuruvai' crop cultivation has just started but the culmination of our farmers' labour and its successful harvest depend

much on the Union Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the success story of Isreal in agricultural production. This manifests the fact that nothing is impossible if there could be united effort on the part of human kind. Isreal gets rain to the tune of about one third of our total rainfall. But by way of employing innovative water management methods like Drip irrigation and Springler irrigation, they could reap a good deal., They grow flower plants, fruit bearing trees and pulses which need less water. Though they have about 80% of their land is desert or desert like, Jordan has attained self-sufficiency in food production. They use water sparingly with the conviction that it is enough water us supplied to plants and it need not be allowed to flow free on the land surface. That is the reason for success.

In our country, Drip irrigation could be taken up but our Agricultural Universities and other agencies should come forward to evolve certain indigenous novel methods to adopt this technique. This process should be made simple and economical to suit our agriculturists taking into consideration the ground realities. Precious rain water is wasted. To conserve this windfall resource as suggested by water management technocrats. We must Contemplate constructing cross walls in riverbeds to enable at least 2 or 3 feet deep water to flow down the waterbed throughout the year. By adopting this method we could have enough saving of water that go waste finding its way to the sea. Centre should provide enough funds to State Governments to carry out effective water management programmes and schemes. This could help the State Governments to overcome drought conditions.

State Governments are required to spend heavily on maintenance of tanks that can save rain water and desilting of canals. Hence they need to be allocated more funds to ward off hurdles posed to water management.

Growing of trees contributes to more

rain and our Government should take to itself to drive home this point. In 1980, an International Seminar on Neem Tree and its uses was organised in Germany. It is interesting to note that there is no neem tree in Germany. Likewise a Neem based Pharmaceutical unit was established for the first time in America which does not have even a single Neem tree of its own.

Neem trees can be grown in drought prone areas. They withstand drought conditions. Neem products are used in the manufacture of Soaps and certain pesticides. I would also like to point out the miraculous ability of dry Neem to convert dry land into cultivable land.

We must also consider recycling the water used in urban areas. Experts have estimated that the per capita consumption of water in a town is about 107 litres a day. By way of collecting them and treating them to remove toxic substances, if any, with the back-up of a viable and tamper proof sewerage system, the water so gathered could be used for industrial purposes, to grow trees on highways and to grow cattle feeds. This will also contribute to pollution free environment in urban areas.

We should also create an awareness in the minds of the common people especially farmers to conserve water for better utilisation.

I would like to point out that Red Triangle signifies Family Planning but inverted green Triangle signifies green Revolution. Hence, it is needless to emphasise the point that our concerted efforts to bring down population can also ward off the ills of drought and the cause-factors for drought havocs.

"Times has come; we must know our responsibilities; let us perform our duties; let us strive to give a face lift to this country. Let us contribute to its growth. This is how various State Governments should be enjoined in a spirit of comradeship to give a better deal to farmers. To effect this Centre must ensure allotting adequate funds to alleviate the problems of inadequacy. I urge

upon the Minister for Agriculture to look into this factor of allocating adequate drought relief funds with all seriousness it warrants. To a poor farmer.

Mud bund is the pillow
Hay stock is the bed
Sweat is for the bath
Bare body is the silk cloth.

Such of the farmers, the poorest of the poor would benefit from the drought relief activities carried out by the State authorities. Hence, it is needless to stress again that Centre should allocate more of drought relief funds to states to effectively manage the situation.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the drought situation in the entire country is on such a large scale that it has already affected about nine crore people in at least 75 districts in about eight states and we cannot say as to how many were districts are likely to be affected, as the rain gods have turned away their face from many of the states. Therefore, we would like the Administration to take a serious look at this crisis. As Shri Rao mentioned in his speech, it seems from the answers given during the Question Hour that the present situation is akin to the situation wherein Emperor Nero fiddled, while Rome was burning. Everybody including the Politicians seem to be unsympathetic towards the lot of the people affected by the drought.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had discussed that issue of drought in the State of Maharashtra during the Zero Hour on April 27 and May 8. After that a delegation led by our respected leader Shri Lal Krishna Advani also met the Prime Minister. The latter gave an assurance that he himself would visit the drought affected areas in Maharashtra, but he did not get the time to fulfill his promise.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we had requested the hon. Minister of Agriculture to send a study team. The team did visit the areas, but according to the hon. Minister, the team had to say that.

[Sh. Anna Joshi]

[English]

"It has been decided that no additional Central assistance over the above the provisions of the Calamity Relief Fund is required to be provided, as the situation in the State cannot be treated to be of 'rare severity' warranting handling at the national level".

[Translation]

The Maharashtra Government had requested the Central Government that its total Central assistance was to the tune of Rs. 789.41 crore and I am really puzzled by this new system under which the assistance to be provided is determined much before the onset of drought or any other natural calamity. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it strikes me above the head as to how can more fix an amount, say Rs. 60 crore, before grasping the impact of the natural calamities, the number of people affected, the land areas affected and the number of districts affected. How is this possible? A cruel joke has been played on us. While the Maharashtra Government has sought an assistance of Rs. 789.41 crore, the hon. Minister replies that the total amount of Rs. 33 crore fixed for the State for the year 1982-83 has been released. What to do about this? This is no way to seriously ponder over the situation. Which is that expert committee, whose recommendation, the hon. Minister says is that the situation in Maharashtra does not fall in the category of the

[English]

Special calamities to be handled by the Central Government

[Translation]

What does it mean? This means that this expert committee is not at all an expert committee. This is the state of affairs in Maharashtra just fifteen days before Bombay has a population of about one crore and ten

lakh. If there is no rain for 3-4 days, the half of Bombay will have to go without water. Half of the population would have to flee there. The same condition exists in rural areas. A lot of water has been wasted for irrigation of sugarcane crop so the other crops could not get the proper supply of water. Water level has gone so down that in rural areas there is no drinking water available. Though liquor is available and sugar is available but not a glass of water. Gandhiji had a dream that we would make the country self-reliant and would make the drinking water available in rural areas but the situation is somewhat different. Drugs and liquor are available in villages but drinking water is a scarce commodity there. There are 28,729 villages in Maharashtra where there is an acute problem of drinking water. What to talk of rural areas, the problem exists in Metropolitan cities too i.e. Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. The hon. Minister should keep in mind two important factors regarding the drought situation. One of them is the drinking water problem. How would you resolve this problem? We have been facing the problem of drinking water for the last 45 years but could not do anything to solve it. We are completely dependent on rains in this regard. The people are of the opinion that if we want to solve the drinking water problem in the metropolitan cities like Bombay, Calcutta and Madras which are located near the sea, we would have to use the sea water in one way or the other, then only this problem can be solved. Secondly, the Government should pay its attention to the water management system, there should be some kind of control over the wasteful supply of water. On one side drinking water is not available to the people but on the other hand a plenty of water is supplied for cash crops in many areas of Maharashtra. You must be aware of the situation that due to excessive irrigation, the land has turned infertile. On one side water is so scarce that people are dying for want of water and on the other hand water is being misused. So I would like to submit that the Government should pay attention towards the water management system.

Secondly, I would like to know about the assistance provided by the Central

Government to the State Government. Government has submitted that State Governments are making arrangements of fodder through Public Distribution System, but this system is not so effective. I am quoting an example of Bombay village called Paldhar, which is adjacent to Bombay and is also a suburb of Bombay. It has four thousand units. Our representatives had paid a visit to foodgrain shops there. They have reported that the foodgrains available there are not sufficient enough for five hundred people. Therefore, the Government should strengthen the Public Distribution System.

The Government can provide employment to people under the Employment Guarantee scheme. But if sufficient quantity of foodgrains is not even provided to the people, how the people would join the scheme. Therefore, it is not proper to leave all these things on the States as the centre has its own responsibilities in this regard. So it is the duty of the Government to give a serious thought over it. But the Government takes it as a routine matter and restricts itself only upto providing the funds. It is, therefore, necessary to find out the new techniques to solve the problem. In this connection it should also be obligatory to review the achievements made so far in this direction. As I have just stated that the problem cannot be solved just by sending study teams etc. from here but not providing employment to the people. So the hon. Minister should do something in this direction if he really wants to solve the problem. :

SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY (Allahabad):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, drought situation is being discussed in the House since yesterday. During the last few days to, the hon. Members have raised their voice in those connection during the Zero Hour. But the Hon. Minister of Agriculture seems too be sitting silent entirely unaware of the gravity of the problem and is waiting for the movement when all the Parliament Members of the country will come and bow down to him requesting him for some sort of assistance and then only he will provide some relief to the drought affected areas. This request is called ' Harpaddori ' which is a tradition to be performed by the

village women collectively to please ' Indra ' at the time of drought. When the God of water ' Indra ' is displeased there is no rain and then the village women pray to God and ask for rain by praying collectively as ' Kala Megha Pani de, Megha Baba Pani de, Pani de aur chani de '.

Today I on behalf of the Parliament Members which have come here from all parts of the country urge upon the Agriculture Minister that should make arrangements for providing water to the drought affected areas otherwise he should leave the chair.

We achieved independence forty four years back. Even after 44 years (*Interruptions*) no, these people cannot leave the power, it is immaterial for them if the people died of thirst even after 44 years of independence, this country has suffering either from drought or from flood. Causing damage to one fourth of the total crops every year., Whenever drought situation arises people start crying for help from all the corners of the country, then the Government starts some relief scheme and some funds are sanctioned to the victims, thus keeping them quiet., This time also the Whether Experts had given their report that the rain was much less this year as compared to the last 20 years. This year the rains were very scanty. The Government was not unaware about the drought situation that would be grave for want of rain. The worst affected people by this situation are the farmers, the tribals and the landless labourers of this country.

Last time the hon. Minister had told that the Government would consider the question of providing relief to the State which have asked for it, but I would like to know from the hon. Minister if he has not read about the situation of drought widesspread in the whole country, All the newspapers have published the reports that the people are dying of thirst and food. Crops have been badly damaged due to the drought situation; landless labourers are on the verge of starvation. Not only that people are getting even single drop of water but cattle also are dying for want of water.

[Shrimati SacjDubey]

I would like to point out the condition of my own constituency. Allahabad is situated on the banks of scared rivers Ganga and Yamuna. The rivers of this country were even the saviours of the people of other countries, but now the people of this country too are not getting water. There are two places named Diglo and Palpur in Allahabad where the ladies have to bring wet mud in the pots to their houses, and then they keep that mud in a cloth and hang it. After some time the dirty water accumulates in some pots after drop by drop and then it is given to the children for quencing their thirst. A large number of villages have been vacated due to non-availability of water. In search of water the people went to stay on the banks of rivers and are residing under the trees in severe summer and heat-wave alongwith their children and cattle, because the rivers were dried up but by chance, a bit little of water is found in some ditches, the people and the animals quenche their thirst with that dirty water. This is the state of affairs in your country and here you are waiting that we all should make request with folded hands before you and are then you will provide some relief.

Sir, why are you waiting for us to bow down to you? Do the States of Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Orissa not fall under your jurisdiction? When we will make a request from you then you send a survey team and only then you will despatch the assistance. By then the period of drought would have passed. Then you would say that there is paucity of funds and the country is passing through a period of unprecedented economic crisis.

Sir, our farmers, agricultural labourers and our women folk are in great distress. Please rise up from your deep slumber and provide relief to the farmers and common men of this country, and make the arrangements for the irrigation of the drought affected land of this country. The farmer of this country has made this country has made this country self-reliant in wheat-production by bringing a green resolution. The

Government should try to maintain this situation so that the country may advance on the path of progress and self reliance.

Sir, I would like to suggest that the Government should formulate a " long term national policy on water management so that the country may be able to face the disaster of frequent flood and drought. The ecological imbalance has started. It has also been discussed in the Earth Summit held in Rio-de-Janerri. The Government should think over it. It is ironical that drought situation exists in that country which is rich in forest wealth and plenty of sea water. I, therefore, urge the Government to frame a policy which prohibits the cutting of trees. Cutting of trees causes soil erosion thus making the rivers shallow. As a result of it flood is the common feature. You must pay our attention to this problem.

Sir, rains are very irregular in our country at some places it is in excess and at some places it is very less, causing drought. The Government should set up a national water distribution grid so that the water may be accumulated and then it is distributed to various places where it is needed. The problem of drought and flood can only be solved by making such permanent arrangement only.

Sir, here you are saying that you are providing diesel and seeds to the villages but if you try to go to the villages you find that they are getting neither water nor electricity, tubewells and hand pumps are out of order. You have failed to provide diesel in the villages for lift irrigation. The farmer is feeling disappointed and helpless. He is afraid of his dark future and havoc caused by the drought. Advises and labourers are afraid to think, How they will feed their children in future. They have nothing to eat.

Sir, you claim that Public distribution System has reached every village. Our hon. Prime Minister says that the essential commodities are being easily provided in advises and backward areas through Public Distribution System. But you should go to the villages and find out yourselves that system is not at all working in the villages and who

is being provided with foodgrains. The villages are in dark due into shortage of Kerosene oil. There is neither sugar nor kerosene oil available. People are burning tyres, to provide light in their rooms. But Government's files, documents, statements and newspapers show as if there is heaven in the villages., In my state the Agriculture Minister of the State Government has devoted himself in the construction of Shri Ram Mandir and to create tension. He is not bothered about the situation in the villages which is going from bad to worse. The condition of the farmer in the village is very pathetic. I would like to say that if you provided some relief to the farmers, it will please Shri Ram Recitation of his name would prove meaningful. Till such time the condition of the farmer and the worker of this country is pathetic, we can not progress and Lord Ram will never forgive us. The curse of a poor is stronger than the iron.

The entire country is suffering from the drought and scarcity of water. So I request you to provide relief. Maximum water and relief should be provided according to the demand of the States. Please keep the interests of the farmers in your mind and do not adopt double standards.

You are importing wheat from abroad and thus striking, at the interests of the farmers. Please try to stop it. Farmers are the backbone of this country. He sacrifices his blood and sweat in building the nation, So his voice should be heard.

Once again on behalf of all the Members I want to say that relief should be provided to the people suffering from the drought and a schemes should be made to tackle the drought situation effectively so that the farmer's can have a sigh of relief and their dreams may come true so that they can provide stability to your Government. You must listen to the problems of the farmer and provide him water if you fail in doing so, you have no right to remain in power because he

is also a citizen of this country, he also has his rights, we have to share everything with him.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are others also who want to participate in the debate. Every one can have a chance to speak, if every Member speaks only for two or three minutes. Otherwise, it becomes very difficult. It is only voluntary restriction which helps. Ringing of the bell should not be mistaken as an encouragement to speak. You should not continue to talk even after the ringing the bell of you have already put up relevant points. My request is just kindly stick to two or three minutes. There are also other Members who want to participate. Otherwise, when they get back to their Constituency, the people will say " You have not opened your mouth "".

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): This is an important debate going on in the Lok Sabha, Of Course, the drought situation in the country, has undergone a change, rather a dramatic change, during the last two or three days with heavy downpour in some parts of the country. There has been good rainfall last week in almost all over the country. But still there are some pockets left out. Anyhow, there is a sense of relief in certain quarters and I think the relief is two-fold.

One is karseva. It was also troubling everybody. Every responsible citizen in the country was disturbed and was feeling concerned. That has stopped. This prolonged dry-spell was there in the country barring a few places here and there. I cannot claim that there has been good rainfall everywhere. But the situation has improved. There is good rainfall in some areas., But at the same time, torrential rains have also been threatening the lives of the people. In Gujarat, the floods have claimed about 81 lives.

[Sh. Sribalav Panigrahi]

Yesterday, the cyclonic weather and rains have claimed a minimum of five lives in Orissa. If we take our meteorological readings into account, it is clear that they have not proved correct. It is again stated that regarding the over-all situation, their readings are correct. They also calculate in terms of average rainfall, total rainfall and like that. But that calculation is deceptive, is misleading. Suppose, there is three-fourth rainfall - about 75 per cent - and it is well-distributed, that is good enough for the crops to come up.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude now. Just put one or two relevant points so that the Government would take note of that. There are others to speak.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: I have not just begun.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are an expert. You know how to put it in the shortest possible time.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Yes, I will be brief. Coming to my point, there is absolutely no scope for self-complacency. All State Governments and the Government at the Centre should remain alert. This year, as it seems, is not a good year. I would like to the forecasts of quote the forecasts of two Professors of Andhra University in this regard.

I Quote:

"Two Professors of meteorology of Andhra University

have now come up with a monsoon forecasting model capable on giving an idea about regional rainfall distribution. According to this model, the monsoon rainfall this year will be below normal and although the north-eastern regions and Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka may have normal, or even excess rainfall, it may be deficient in West, Bengal,

Bihar, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh

So, what I meant to say is notwithstanding the resilience acquired by the Indian agriculture, about 100 million hectares of cropped land continue to depend on the monsoons. Uncertain rains therefore, not only raise the specter of food insecurity shortage, high price and even imports - but industrial insecurity as well. affecting as it does domestic demand, savings employment, capital formation and eventually industrial profits. It gives rise to floods and droughts over extensive areas, forcing the Government to undertake major relief and rehabilitation programmes involving huge expenditure. So, this is the time for remaining alert and also to prepare a plan to meet any eventually. Further despite the initial optimistic monsoon behaviour, India needs to gear up for a difficult monsoon situation. So, what can be done? Whatever has been the behavior of the monsoon for last three or four days, if it continues like this satisfactorily for the coming 10-12 weeks, then only we can be assured of a good crop. But any lull in monsoon will result in loss of crops, loss of production and the production will not be as high as it ought to be. Therefore, I would like to tell pointedly that higher dose of fertilizers has to be applied. We, in Oriya call it *Gaja Marudi*, that is, when seeds were sown and when the seeds could not germinate - the situation remains same all over the country - the poor cultivators also need some support for seedlings, fertilisers and pesticides. When there is delay in rains, crops also become more prone to pests. Therefore, we have to remain prepared for this.

Now I come to - the aspect of financial assistance or loan assistance. Because of the loan waiver scheme - I am not criticising anybody. - the situation is that banks are not giving loans to the farmers. They treat them as defaulters. There was developed an impression that up to Rs. 10,000 everything will be waived. You know very well to what extent the loan waiver scheme could become successful. Baring a few, loans of others remain as it is. I have a suggestion in this regard. Regardless of the party ruling here or there, it is time to address to this problem and

at least the interest amount should be waived and the principal amount should be realised in easy instalments and pending this, cooperative loans, fertilizer loans should be extended. Otherwise, the situation will become worse.

To meet the drought situation, L. I. points should be kept in readiness from the beginning. When there is good rainfall nobody bothers about it. Jakhariji, you are a very progressive, experienced and seasoned cultivator. You know it very well that even when there is dry spell in the month of September or October, for want of one or two showers, all the beautiful crops wither away, despite the efforts of the cultivators. Cultivator treats these crops as his own children, but at the last minute, when Rain God becomes unkind he sees no signs of irrigation, the whole crop wither away.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Panigrahi, leave some points to your friends also. Let them also contribute.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: There should be some contingency plan for cross bunds burns etc. Last year was normal year and still then there was loss of production. Despite all the bonus given, the procurement target could not be achieved.

There will be lot of pressure on the PDS. It has to be streamlined. There was some allegation from the other side that when Rome was burning, Nero was playing. Who was doing that? When there was such a grim situation prevailing, who were doing the Kar Sewa? (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please give them constructive suggestions. You are a man with very good experience. (Interruptions)

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: There are perpetual drought prone areas in Kalahandi, in some parts of Sambhalpur, in

the western Orissa and like that in other parts of India. Now we have a complaint that respective State Government do not pay required attention to these backward areas. Therefore, there should be some scheme sponsored by the Government of India and monitoring done by the Government of India. I would suggest that time has come of this. Now discontent is on the rise among the tribals and among the Scheduled Caste people. There should be Regional Development Council and Autonomous Rural Development Council in that area and money should go there directly from the Centre and the Centre should monitor such schemes. Otherwise, it will become very difficult people in Kalahandi are suffering from starvation. We should attempt this way and there should be strict coordination in the Government between the Agriculture Ministry, Food and Fertiliser Ministry and the Irrigation Ministry. There should be a Committee on all these things and at the Cabinet level, at least there should be a sub-committee so that proper coordination will be there to monitor the situation and to keep alert in such a situation.

With regard to irrigation, I would like to say that it is the right answer.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Panigrahi, kindly conclude. By this time, another Member could have completed his speech.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, I will conclude now.

With regard to Irrigation, in Orissa, Hirakud is one of the world famous projects and one of the foremost pioneering projects to which Pandit Nehru laid its foundation stone. It is now in a very dilapidated condition and there are cracks that are developing there. The Hirakud modernisation scheme should be taken up and Brahmani scheme, should be completed. In backward areas at least, where the per capita income is far below than the national average, special attention should be paid, especially in the matter of irrigation.

1502 hrs.

[SHRI. P.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM (Inner Manipur): Sir, the problems which were created by the natural calamities, the foremost being the drought conditions, have been placed before this House.

I rise to bring before this House, the problem being faced in my State of Manipur. Manipur was regarded as the eastern greenery of the country. It has now become a deficit State. It was Shri Pandit Nehru, who gave this title that Manipur is the eastern greenery of India. Now it has become a deficit area.

As regards the production of foodgrains, it depends on the mercy of Indradevu, it depends on the natural rainfall. So when the rain fails, when the monsoon is late, it is the farmers who suffer. So, it is the plight and the helplessness of the farmers that I want to bring before this august House.

This year, as it has happened in the other areas of the country, it also happened in Manipur where the monsoon came late. The rain comes very lately. Since Manipur has no big rivers and perennial streams, we cannot supply water in the fields. So the farmers, they suffer greatly when there is no rain. As it has happened everywhere in the country, the same conditions now prevail in Manipur also. So we depend on lift irrigation. Lift irrigation means, it requires power. We depend on power but power is not sufficiently available here. So, if power fails automatically lift irrigation also fails. We have a natural lake which is known as Logtak. It is a natural and we depend on it. But this lake is also own commissioned for generating power. Water is made available for generating power. So it is very difficult to provide water for cultivation. In these circumstances I would like to tell this House as to how much the people, particularly the farmers are suffering. In this regard I would like to draw the attention of the Government that when there is no rainfall, if we can put up alternative crops other than paddy which is the main crop in the State, it

will be much helpful. If in the dry season, when the land is dry, what crop can be grown here is found out, it would be very helpful.

Manipur is a State of which two-thirds are hilly areas and two-third of the population is in the valley. So the spacious lands in the hilly areas are required to be planted.

We have come to know that the Union Government, as our Agriculture Minister has announced in Guwahati, will establish an Agriculture University in Manipur for the north-eastern region. I, on behalf of Manipur in particular and the people of the north-eastern region in general, express that we are very much grateful to the hon. Minister for Agriculture.

I would like to stress on the need for greater coordination between the Irrigation Department and the Agriculture Department for fighting such drought conditions in the State and in other places. There is no coordination at present and due to this lack of coordination between the various departments the people are suffering.

I would like to request the Central Government to provide some funds to be granted to the people as relief for the loss of their crop due to drought in the current year.

With these few words, I conclude.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM CHANDRA VEERAPPA (Bidar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I want to thank you for providing me an opportunity to speak. There is a heavy drought in the country at present. The farmer has to eat something and his animals have to garaze some where *Interruptions*

[*English*]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA (Cuttack): Ayodhya discussions will start at 3.30 p.m. So let the Minister reply tomorrow or the day after.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMACHANDRA VEERAPPA:

Mr. Chairman, Sir, in my constituency 2-3 projects have been pending for a long time. The Central Government has not given any aid. If these projects had been completed in time, the area would not have suffered drought. Twenty years ago when these projects were started, their project cost was Rs. 9 crores. Today it has become 90 crores and now Rs. 140 crores are needed to complete these projects. So I request the Government that drought problem in my constituency can be solved if these projects are completed on time. The Central Government passes this work on to State Government while State Government replies that these works are pending for want of central assistance. In this way letters are sent from one place to another and the work remains incomplete. So I request the Central Government to provide economic assistance immediately for the early completion of these projects.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, these projects are located at Karanja, Amarja, Mullamari, Chulkinala, and lowest Mullamari. The Central Government should provide financial assistance so that these works can be completed and the drought problem of that area is solved.

The animal fodder is so costly that it needs Rs. 5000 to buy 1000 polio. If the farmer purchases costly fodder how can he manage his own food as well as fodder for his animals? The Government provides Rs. 3000 as fare of a lorry to bring fodder, But it will be better if the Government provides fodder. The Government has not been able to fulfil their duty. I have written many letters to the Ministers but the problem has not been solved. The Government should bear responsibility only then this problem can be solved otherwise all efforts will go water. I request the Government to stop extravagance and to complete the pending projects immediately. As the previous speaker has said that people are elected for this House to work but they do nothing except carign for their post.. (*Interruptions*)

They take a view that they have to stick to their posts and they will not vacate it whether the work is done or not. But I say this will soon come to an end. Now-a-days Government have completely forgotten the almighty because we are totally engrossed in ourselves.

"Raghukul reet sada chali aai, pran jaaye par vachan na jaai"

So you have to accept Lord Shri Ram's name. Whether you believe in him or not but the lady of the house is the follower of Shri Ram. I request the Government to provide fodder for the animals, relief to the peasants and work for the workers. With these words I conclude my speech.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTER

15.20 hrs.

(i) Communal Incidents in Kerala

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M.M. JACOB): According to the reports received from the Govt. of Kerala, the areas of south of Thiruvananthapuram bye-pass road especially Poonthura, Bhima Pally, Manachad, Thakaraparambu, Shankumukham, etc. were highly tense because about 3000 persons had marched to the airport on 18 July 1992 to offer dharna on the Ayodhya issue. The BJP was organising the 'Ayodhya Action Day' on 20 July 1992. Hence both sides were fully mobilised and highly worked up. On 19 July 1992, when the members of an organisation were returning after a drill near Shankumukham Road, they were pelted with stones and crackers by some mob. This sparked off violent incidents on 19 and 20 July 1992 in the coastal hamlet of Poonthura. Four persons were injured in stone-throwing and cracker, bursts, Three person ewer injured in stabbing. Police opened fire were at five places injuring three persons. In the