

before us. In fact, what I would like to say is we are really happy that the concerned Minister Shri Vidya Charan Shuklaji is going to make a statement before this House in the post lunch session. Now, the ball is in the court of Central Government. As has already been made out, this problem has got two or three aspects. The Government of Karnataka has already decided to file a review petition before the very Tribunal and it will oppose the verdict of the Supreme Court. The second point is that even to fix the modalities for sharing the water as per the interim order of the Tribunal, a Commission will have to be constituted by the Central Government. The modalities that are to be followed by that Commission will have to be placed before both the Houses of Parliament and they will have to be discussed. There is every likelihood that both the Houses of Parliament may ultimately reject the proposal pertaining to the modalities for sharing of water that are made before it. So, at least at this juncture, the Central Government will have to formulate a National Water Policy. Therefore, my earnest request to the Government of India before the Minister makes and statement is that the Government must come out with a National Water Policy to settle this dispute once for all.

My friend has already said that the Government of Tamilnadu is prepared for an amicable settlement. It is a welcome gesture. The Government of Karnataka is also prepared for an amicable settlement. Now the Central Government will have to take the initiative to call the Chief Minister of both the States and let the Prime Minister make both the Chief Ministers sit together and amicably settle the dispute once for all. Even if the matter is pending before the Tribunal or at the Supreme Court, nothing prevents the Central Government from arriving a negotiated settlement. My humble request to the Government is to intervene in the matter and see that a negotiated settlement is arrived at.

The people of Karnataka will be faced

with so many problems if the Government is forced to implement the interim order as it is. So, earnest request to the Government is to intervene in the matter and settle the dispute amicably.

MR.SPEAKER: I am told that the Minister is going to make a statement on this.

SHRI G.MADE GOWDA (Mandya): Sir, please allow me a minute.

MR.SPEAKER: You have already endorsed what Madam has said. The very fact that you are standing up shows that you care for this problem. You may meet me in the Chamber later and I will tell you how to go about it.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri): Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister for External Affairs through you a matter of grave concern to the people of Malabar region in Kerala. The entire Malabar region is depending on the Regional Passport Office, Calicut for the issue of passports. Unfortunately, in spite of the fact that there are more than one lakh applications pending for disposal for want of staff, the External Affairs Ministry has not done anything for helping the passport officials there. Many people are anxiously awaiting for the passport and everyday there will be not less than 5,000 people surrounding the passport office for clearance of their passports. Many of them also anxiously waiting to get their employment visas and jobs but the passports are not being given. Even now only about hundred passports are not being given. Even now only about hundred passports are being cleared a day but more than one lakh applications are pending before them. It is a very serious situation and I request the Government, especially the Leader of the House to take up the matter with the other concerned Ministers and get the things done and to redress the grievances of the people of Malabar region.