

**STATEMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT RELATED PARLIAMENTARY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE**

श्री कृपाल परमार (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : मैं विभाग संबंधित रक्षा संबंधी संसदीय स्थायी समिति के निम्नलिखित विवरणों की एक-एक प्रति (अंग्रेजी तथा हिन्दी में) सभापटल पर रखता हूँ :

- (i) Statements showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-1 of the Fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Army Cantonments'.
- (ii) Statements showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Ordnance Factories'.
- (iii) Statement showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter-I of the Eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence (Thirteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Upgradation and Modernisation of the Naval Fleet'.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Drought conditions in Jammu and Kashmir

MIRZA ABDUL RASHID (Jammu and Kashmir): Mr. Chairman, Sir, for the first time in the history of Jammu and Kashmir, the last four years have witnessed an unprecedented drought that has brought down the quantum and the quality of the essential crops to the bare minimum. This has been a matter of great disquietude for the entire farming, orchardist and other fraternities eking their livelihood out of the natural resources which are now dry and down.

The world famous river, Jhelum, has failed to draw water from Verenag and is unable to keep alive the once vast and serene Vular lake. The children of common masses are now playing cricket and badminton on the dried Jhelum. The production of paddy, which has been the main gain-crop of Kashmir, has reduced to only 1/10th of what

it was in the pre-drought period. The Dal lake has started taking the shape of a cess-pool. The fruit trees in Kashmir have stopped giving fruit and the trees have dried up and are being used as firewood by villagers. 80% of the Jammu Division area, which is covered by mountain ranges, used to feed the entire Division until the start of the devastating drought. Even the cattle are devoid of fodder that they need for their survival.

The alarming situation thus caused is clamouring for immediate remedial measures on the part of the Government of India at a time when the State Government has lost its resources and is faced with an acute financial crunch.

A high-level Committee of Surveyors comprising parliamentarians, agricultural scientists, experts and authorities from the Ministry of Water Resources - which must, therefore, be deputed without further loss of time - should evaluate the situation and suggest remedial measures. Suggestions and recommendations so formulated should be got implemented on a war-footing.

***श्री मोहम्मद आजम खान** (उत्तर प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, मुझे कल आपने आश्वासन दिया था आज अपना स्पेशल मैशन यहां रखने के लिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: No, that was a State subject.

***श्री मोहम्मद आजम खान** : बिल्कुल सही है लेकिन मेरा यह कहना है कि अगर स्टेट ही फर्जी ऐनकाउंटर कराए तो हम किससे कहें ? मैं किसी पुलिस अधिकारी की शिकायत नहीं कर रहा हूं, मैं तो सरकार की शिकायत कर रहा हूं...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please listen to me. In a federal Constitution...

***श्री मोहम्मद आजम खान** : जब सरकार ही खुद फर्जी ऐनकाउंटर करा रही है तो हम किससे कहें ?...(व्यवधान)...

श्री राजनाथ सिंह “सूर्य” (उत्तर प्रदेश) : जब ये मंत्री थे, उस समय ऐसा होता था, ये तब की बात कर रहे हैं। अब 12 साल पुरानी बात तो नहीं करनी चाहिए...(व्यवधान)...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. M. M. Agarwal.

* Transliteration of the speech in Persian Script is available in the Hindi version of the debate.

Need to chalk out comprehensive scheme for minors

PROF. M.M. AGARWAL (Uttar Pradesh): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw your kind attention to the fact that more than 72 million children, between 5 and 14 years, are deprived of basic education in India since they have no opportunity of going to schools. There are some States, namely, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan which continue to have a higher proportion of drop-out children. According to the UNESCO Report, 2000, the above five States together comprise 51% of the total child population who are without education. It is a matter of grave concern. Though there are several Central and State Government programmes and schemes for universalisation of elementary education in these States, there is no fruitful result. No desired success has been achieved.

Sir, the most populous State, Uttar Pradesh, has the highest number of children deprived of basic education; it is 1.59 crore children. Bihar is the second State, where there are 1.46 crore children deprived of basic education. So far as the proportional percentage is concerned, it is stated that 53% children in Bihar, 39% in Rajasthan, 37% in Uttar Pradesh and 36% in Orissa are deprived of basic education. The position in metropolitan cities is also not satisfactory. Seventeen per cent of children in Calcutta are deprived of education; while, in Delhi, there are 3.02 lakh uneducated children. In Mumbai, it is 3.18 lakh; in Chennai, it is 1.59 lakhs.

Therefore, I urge upon the Central Government to immediately chalk out a comprehensive scheme for providing basic education to children between 5 and 14 years, under the provisions of the Indian Constitution.

Thank you, Sir.

Introduction of helicopter services in Tripura

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Central Government that Tripura is a land locked State and one of the remotest States from the mainland, in the North-Eastern region. Because of the geographical isolation and difficult hilly terrain, travel is difficult,