

considerations and treat water as a national asset. I suggest and pray to the Central Government that the distribution of water consistent with water jurisprudence should always be on the basis of need. The Government of India must evolve a national policy. If necessary amend Entry 17 of the list II, amend Entry 56 of List I, amend Article 262 of the Constitution. Let us put our heads together and ensure that water is supplied to every citizen of this country on the basis of need and nothing more.

MR. CHAIRMAN. Mr. K.M. Khan, not there, Mr. Drupad Borgohain, please take only two minutes because we have to finish other Special Mentions.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: (Karnataka) Sir, please give me only one minute.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not calling every Member. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. that is all right. ...*(Interruptions)*... No. that is all right. Points have been made. Mr. Kapil Sibal, has very well submitted the point.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: Sir, AIADMK party is a part of this Government. It is an ally of the BJP. So, it is a part of the Union Government. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, they have no right ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down.

SHRI S.R. BOMMAI: They are part of the Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shri Bommai, please sit down. Please sit down. Please sit down. Shri Bommai, you had kept a very good tenor. Everything was going on smoothly. What was the necessity for you to interrupt? ...*(Interruptions)*... There is no need. Please sit down. Both have kept the tenor. Why are you creating confusion? ...*(Interruptions)*... That is all right. Everybody knows everything. Why should you repeat? We have to keep a

good tenor. Mr. Drupad Borgohain, please take two minutes.

Need for Central Assistance to Flood-Affected State of Assam

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN (Assam): Mr. Chairman, Sir, it will be very difficult for me to place all the facts of flood-affected State of Assam.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We have to take up other Special Mentions also. We have to finish by 1 o'clock.

SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising a serious issue of floods in Assam. The people of Assam are languishing under floods. They are reeling under floods. Under such conditions, how can I place all the facts in two minutes?

This year also Assam has been seriously affected by floods. Actually crops worth crores of rupees have been destroyed. This time also lakhs of people have been affected by the fury of floods. These floods have hit the State not only this year but year after year. Every year Assam is hit by floods because of the monsoon rainfall in this Region. These floods have created hardship not only to the people of Assam, but to the people of the entire North East Region like Arunachal Pradesh. There are certain rivers which have caused inundation in the low-lying areas. They are reeling under floods. In view of this serious situation, the Government of India should come to the rescue of the State of Assam. The Government of Assam requires Rs. 500 crores to tackle the situation. The Government of India should release this money immediately to tackle the situation. The Central Government should depute a high-powered team to the State of Assam to assess the actual damage and the difficulties being faced by the people there. If the Central Government deposes a team and if they assess the situation properly and necessary financial help is given to the people of Assam, then, only

the people of Assam can be rescued from these natural calamities.

The Brahmaputra Board was created by an Act of Parliament in 1981. Though this Board is there, so far it has not harnessed the waters of the Brahmaputra river properly so that floods can be controlled permanently. There is a couplet in Assamese and its meaning is:— "There are bullocks. But they have not been used for ploughing". What is the necessity of such bullocks? The Brahmaputra Board is there, but not used properly. The Brahmaputra Board has not found a permanent solution to control the floods. So, year after year, the people of Assam are reeling under floods.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to depute a high-powered team to the State of Assam to assess the damage caused by this natural calamity and immediate financial assistance be given to mitigate the sufferings of the people. I hope the Government will accede to my request.

SHRI KHAGEN DAS (Tripura): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I associate myself with the Special Mention made by my hon. colleague.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Next is Dr. B.B. Dutta. Please take two minutes only. Other two Members will associate themselves with you. We have to finish other Special Mention also.

Need to Take Over Affairs of Asiatic Society, Calcutta

DR. B.B. DUTTA (Nominated): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the deplorable conditions that prevail in the Asiatic Society of Calcutta. You will kindly recall that it is an institution of supreme national importance. Established by a great Oxonian and a doyen of indology, Sir William Gows, the Asiatic Society has done a lot of good work during the last 200 years and more. It is because of that

that in 1984, the Asiatic Society was brought under an Act of Parliament so that it could be properly financed so that it could do more work not only inside India but in the whole of Asia, being an institution of indology. Now, we are receiving disturbing news that the gold coins which constitute numismatic evidence, historical evidence, are declining in number. In 1983, the number was 120. At the end of 1983, counting was done under the famous historian and numismatic expert Dinesh Sarkar. It was found it had come down to 113. The police was also inquiring into that. There is a police case going on. Very recently, at the instance of the police, counting was done and it was found that it had come down to 108. Some say that fragmented parts of the coins are there and the expert opinion is that these are not parts of the original coins. So, some regular thieving is going on.

This morning, I received information that the day before yesterday, in the Vidyasagar Hall of the Asiatic Society, again, a theft has occurred. Not only that. Very recently, valuable journals, periodicals and books were transferred to the Charles Metcalfe Hall near the Hooghly River because of lack of accommodation. But no inventory was done. They did not know the number, whether it was 48,000 or 58,000. This is the state of affairs there. Researchers are not able to get access to them. And because they are by the river-side in a sort of godown, what is happening is, the humidity there is spoiling all these valuable records.

Sir, it is under the direct supervision and control of the Department of Culture in the Ministry of Human Resource Development. I am told that the Chairman of the Institute now has himself given the opinion that at least for a while, the Government should take over the Asiatic Society, set it right, do all the investigations, help in the investigations of the CBI and police and send out the criminals who are involved in