

the House.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: It is very small, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not laid? Read it.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: It is not laid, Madam...

उपसभापति : बोलिए ।

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: It is very small. It is of three sentences only.

Measures to Control Floods in North Eastern Region

*162. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether effective measures have been taken by Government to control flood in North Eastern Region; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) and (b) Effective measures taken have provided protection to an area of about 19 lakh hectares out of the total 43.41 lakh hectares of flood prone area in North-Eastern Region. These mainly consist of construction of embankments, drainage channels and anti-erosion works. In addition, 20 flood forecasting stations are working to provide timely warnings to the local people for mitigation of flood losses.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम : मैडम, इसका बहुत महत्व सम्झा जाता है और इसको सरकार भी महत्व देती है। आसाम या पूरे नार्थ-ईस्ट क्षेत्र में बाढ़ का प्रकोप हर साल है, स्टीन की तरह है और सरकार ये कह रही है कि हमने 20 फ्लोरकास्टिंग स्टेशन्स बना दिए हैं। जब बाढ़ आएगी, तो लोग भागना शुरू कर दें। आजादी के 46 साल बाद हमारी वॉटर रिसोर्स मिनिस्ट्री नार्थ-ईस्ट, पूर्वांचल जो राज्य है, इनके बारे में, उसको फिज नहीं है। मंत्री महोदय यहाँ ऐक्सेंट हैं। जब उन्होंने ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड बनाया है तो उसकी मीटिंग बरसों नहीं होती। जो ब्रह्मपुत्र के मास्टर प्लान बनाए हुए हैं, वह मंत्री महोदय के पास दिए हुए हैं लेकिन आज तक सरकार ने अपनी राय नहीं बताई कि वह क्या करेगी।

महोदय, अभी अप्रैल महीने में ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड की मीटिंग थी चार साल बाद, वह ऐडजर्न हो गई क्योंकि महत्वपूर्ण अफसरान वहाँ पर मौजूद नहीं थे। वैसे तो बोर्ड में कहने के लिए फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर, ट्रांसपोर्ट मिनिस्टर, एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्टर, प्राइम-मिनिस्टर, नार्थ-ईस्ट के चीफ-मिनिस्टर्स सब हैं लेकिन बोर्ड में 1987 से कोई वेयरमैन नहीं है, कोई वाईस-वेयरमैन नहीं है, 1989 से, कोई जनरल सेक्रेटरी नहीं है, 1991 से और सेक्रेटरी नहीं है। 1987 से तो इस ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड को एक साईनबोर्ड बनाकर रख दिया गया है जिसकी इतनी अड़भियत थी क्योंकि ये इतना बैकवर्ड रीजन है। इससे कोई इंकार नहीं कर सकता कि नार्थ-ईस्ट में बहुत बैकवर्डनेस है। वहाँ पर जो फ्लड का मैनीट्यूड है, हर साल जो बरबादी होती है चाहे वह प्रापर्टी तो, चाहे वह जान-माल हो लेकिन सरकार कोई ऐसे कदम नहीं उठाती जिससे कि वहाँ कोई परमानेंट अरोजमेंट किया जा सके, परमानेंट सौल्यूशन किया जा सके।

तो मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि क्या समयबद्ध तरीके से वॉटर रिसोर्स मिनिस्ट्री ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड को कारगर बनाएगी और उनके जो खाली पद हैं, उनको भरेगी? ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड जिस मंशा से बनाया गया था, जिस मकसद से बनाया गया था कि नार्थ-ईस्ट में परमानेंट सौल्यूशन हो सके और खासकर ब्रह्मपुत्र वैली में बाढ़ की रोकथाम करने के लिए परमानेंट सौल्यूशन हो सके। तो वाकई ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड कोई काम कर सके, इसके लिए आप उनके जो रिक्त पद हैं उनको कब तक भरेगे?

شری محمد سلیم: میڈم۔ اس کا بہت
مہتمم سمجھا جاتا ہے اور اس کو سرکار بھی مہتمم
دیتی ہے۔ آسام یا پورے نارتھ ایسٹ

اکثرت میں باڑھ کا پیکو پ ہر سال ہے
روٹین کی طرح ہے اور سرکار سے کہہ
رہی ہے کہ ہم نے ۲۰ فور کاسٹنگ اسٹیشن
بنادیتے ہیں۔ جب باڑھ آئے گی تو لوگ
بھاگنے شروع کر دیں۔ آزادی کے ۴۶ سال
بعد ہماری واٹر ریسورس منسٹری نارتھ
ایسٹ۔ پور وائر جو راجیہ ہیں ان کے
بالے میں ان کو فکر نہیں ہے۔ منسٹری
مہورے یہاں ایجنٹ ہیں جب انہوں نے

برہم پتر بورڈ بنایا ہے تو اس کی میٹنگ برسوں نہیں ہوتی۔ جو برہم پتر کے ماسٹر پلان بناتے ہوتے ہیں۔ وہ منتری ہودے کے پاس دیتے ہوتے ہیں۔ لیکن آج تک سرکار نے اپنی رائے نہیں بتائی کہ وہ کیا کرے گی۔

مہودیم۔ ابھی اپریل مہینے میں برہم پتر بورڈ کی میٹنگ تھی چار سال بعد وہ ایڈجارن ہو گئی کیوں کہ مہتو پورن افسران وہاں پر موجود نہیں تھے۔ ویسے تو بورڈ میں کہنے کیلئے فائننس منسٹر ٹرانسپورٹ منسٹر ایگریکلچر منسٹر پرائم منسٹر نارٹھ ایسٹ کے چیف منسٹر سب ہیں لیکن بورڈ میں ۱۹۸۷ سے کوئی چیئر مین نہیں ہے۔ کوئی وائس چیئر مین نہیں ہے۔ ۱۹۸۹ء سے کوئی جنرل سیکریٹری نہیں ہے۔ ۱۹۹۱ء سے اور سیکریٹری نہیں ہے۔ ۱۹۸۷ء سے تو اس برہم پتر بورڈ کو ایک سائن بورڈ بنا کر رکھ دیا گیا ہے جس کی اتنی اہمیت تھی کیوں کہ اتنا بیک ورڈ ریجن ہے اس سے کوئی انکار نہیں کر سکتا کہ نارٹھ ایسٹ میں بہت بیک ورڈ نہیں ہے وہاں پر جو فلڈ کامیگنی ٹوڑ ہے ہر سال جو بربادی ہوتی ہے چاہے وہ پراپرٹی ہو۔ چاہے وہ جان مال ہو۔ لیکن سرکار کوئی ایسے قدم نہیں اٹھاتی جس سے وہاں کوئی پیمانٹ اریجنٹ کیا جاسکے۔

تو میں یہ پوچھنا چاہتا ہوں کہ کیا سب سے بد طریقہ سے واٹر سوریس منسٹری برہم پتر بورڈ کو کارگر بناتے گی اور ان کے جو خالی پدمیں انکو بھرے گی۔ برہم پتر بورڈ جس منشا سے بنایا گیا تھا جس مقصد سے بنایا گیا تھا کہ نارٹھ ایسٹ میں پیمانٹ سولیشن ہو سکے اور خاص کر برہم پتر ویلی میں بارڈھ کی روک تھام کرنے کے لئے پیمانٹ سولیشن ہو سکے تو واقعی برہم پتر بورڈ کوئی کام کر سکے۔ اس کے لئے آپ ان کو جو رکت پدم ہیں ان کو کب تک بھریں گے۔

SHRI P. K. TIJUNGO: Madam, I am grateful to the hon. Member for this question. I also belong to the north-eastern region. I deny the charge levelled by the hon. Member against the Government that the Government is showing a sort of apathy and showing negligence towards the north-eastern region. Madam, in the whole country, flood management and flood control is a State subject and, therefore, no special grants and other things are given for the State plan, but in the north-eastern region, Assam is the only State in the country where besides the Plan allocations, Plan assistance is also given which will indicate how much attention the Central Government pays towards the north-eastern region.

The hon. Member raised the second aspect about the Brahmaputra Board. I must admit that there are a number of posts which have not yet been filled up. They are in the process of being filled up. We had invited applications and nominations from various States, and till 19th of last month, we had not received any application from qualified persons nor any nominations from the respective States. Nor have we received any other application, except one. However, since the person concerned fell short of the qualification which has been prescribed, we could not appoint him. That is why, on that consideration, we are going to take it up very soon; we are going to fill it up very soon.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, second supplementary. Mr. Minister, do you want to add something more? One is, the drought in the vacancies which is being filled up by some floods.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, these are the two major points which the hon. Member had asked.

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: मैडम, फर्स्ट प्रश्न का ही उत्तर नहीं मिला। जो सूखा पड़ा हुआ है ब्रह्मपुत्र कोह में सन 1987 से, उस को समयबद्ध तरीके से पूरा करोगे कि नहीं, तो मंत्री महोदय कहें कि यह नाजायज़ है, हम पूरा ध्यान दे रहे हैं। वाटर रिसोर्सेज मिनिस्ट्री के अंदर में है ब्रह्मपुत्र बोर्ड, 1987 से उस में कोई चेयरमैन नहीं है। आप इसे लमाशा बनाकर रखे हैं। यह हमारा फर्स्ट प्रश्न था। इसे कब काम में ले आएंगे, यह मेरा स्पष्ट प्रश्न था। खैर अगर जवाब नहीं है तो मैं दूसरा प्रश्न करता हूँ। मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ मेरे पहले प्रश्न के बारे में ही कि जब अप्रैल महीने में—

شری محمد سلیم: میڈم فرسٹ پرسن کا
ہی اثر نہیں ملا ہے۔ جو سوکھا پڑا ہوا ہے
برہم پوتر بورڈ میں ۱۹۸۷ء سے اس کو سب سے
طریقہ سے پورا کریں گے کہ نہیں تو منسٹری ہمدرد
کہیں کہ یہ ناجائز ہے ہم پورا دھیان دے
سے ہیں۔ واٹر ریسورسز منسٹری کے اندر میں
ہے برہم پوتر بورڈ ۱۹۸۷ء سے اس میں کوئی
چیرمین نہیں ہے آپ اسے تماشہ بنا کر
رکھیں گے۔ یہ ہمارا فرسٹ پرسن تھا اسے
کب کام میں لائیں گے۔ یہ میرا اسپیشل پرسن
تھا خیر اگر جواب نہیں ہے تو میں دوسرا
پرسن کرتا ہوں۔ میں منسٹری نہو دے کا دھیان
اکوئٹ کرنا چاہتا ہوں۔ میرے پہلے پرسن
کے بارے میں بھی کہ جب اپریل مہینے میں...

the meeting was adjourned by the Prime Minister himself. He expressed anguish over the fact. He himself has asked the Water Resources Ministry to submit a report.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Chaturanan Mishra, don't interrupt him. Let him put his question. He is capable...

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I am not interrupting. Please hear me.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I won't hear. ... (Interruptions). I will not hear. You are impinging on the right of the Member. ... (Interruptions).

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: His question has not been answered. ... (Interruptions).

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: मैं पहले प्रश्न को रिपीट करता हूँ। क्या यह सब नहीं है कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर ने अप्रैल महीने में— when the Water Resources Ministry was asked by the Prime Minister कि क्यों काम नहीं हो रहा है, he asked the Ministry to submit a report within a fortnight तो क्या मिनिस्ट्री ने फोर्टनाइट में रिपोर्ट दी कि नहीं और कब आप यह पूरा करने जा रहे हैं, मैं भी यह प्रश्न कर रहा हूँ।

दूसरा मेरा सप्लीमेंटरी जो है वह यह है कि मैडम जब आप ब्रह्मपुत्र के किनारे खड़े होगे गोहाटी के पास तो अफसोस होगा कि लाखों क्यूसेक पानी बहा जा रहा है। हर साल वहां बारिश होती है। अगर सही मायनों में सही योजना ले सकते तो हम ब्रह्मपुत्र का पानी लेकर कच्छ के रन में हरियाली कर सकते थे। लेकिन हमारी सरकार 46 साल में भी इस की परमेनेंट रोकथाम करने के लिए कोई जरूरत महसूस नहीं कर सकी। ऐसी टिब्युटरीज लेकर नार्थ ईस्ट की दूसरी स्टेट्स में जो ब्रह्मपुत्र मास्टर प्लान का दूसरा फेज था, आप मेन स्टेप छोड़ दीजिए, बाकी जो छोटी छोटी टिब्युटरीज हैं वहां के पानी का सही मायनों में इस्तेमाल करके जो मल्टी परपज रिवर वेलो प्रोजेक्ट बनाने के लिए पेंडिंग आपके पास है, पार्ट 2 ऑफ दि मास्टर प्लान, उसके बारे में क्या राय है, आप कब इसे काम में लेना चाहते हैं?

شری محمد سلیم: میں پہلے پرسن کو ریپیٹ
کرتا ہوں کیا یہ سچ نہیں ہے کہ پرائیم منسٹر
نے اپریل مہینے میں کیوں کام نہیں پورا کیا ہے

when the Water Resources Ministry was asked by the Prime Minister

تو کیا منسٹری میں فورٹ نائٹ میں رپورٹ

he asked the Ministry to submit a report within a fortnight.

دی کہ نہیں اور کب آپ یہ پورا کرنے جا
سکے ہیں۔ میں بھی یہ پریشان کر رہا ہوں

دوسرا میرا سلیکٹڈ میمبر ہے وہ یہ
ہے کہ میڈم اب آپ بہیم پتر کے کنارے
کھڑے ہوں گے۔ گولڈی کے پاس تو افسوس
ہو گا کہ لاکھوں کیوسک پانی بہا جا رہا ہے
ہر سال وہاں بارش ہوتی ہے اگر صحیح معنوں
میں صحیح یوجنا سے سکتے ہیں تو ہم بہیم پتر
کا پانی لے کر کچھ کے رن میں ہر مالی کر سکتے
تھے لیکن ہماری سرکار ہاں سال میں بھی اسکی
پرمانٹ روک تھام کیلئے کوئی ضرورت نہیں
محسوس کر سکی۔ ایسی ٹری بیوٹریز لے کر ناظر
السط کی دوسری اسٹیٹ میں جو بہیم پتر
ماسٹر پلان کا دوسرا فیز تھا آپ میں اسٹیٹ
بھوٹہ دیکھتے باقی جو چھوٹی چھوٹی ٹری بیوٹریز
ہیں وہاں کے پانی کا صحیح معنوں میں استعمال
کر کے جو ملٹی پزیر دیورولی پروجیکٹ بنانے
کے لئے بینڈنگ آنکے پاس ہے پارٹ ٹو
آف دی ماسٹر پلان۔ اس کے بارے میں کیا
رائے ہے آپ کب اسے کام میں لینا چاہتے ہیں

उपसभापति : उनका पहला सवाल था कि क्या प्रधान
मंत्री ने आपसे कोई बात पूछी थी, आपके मंत्रालय से, उसका
पहले जवाब दीजिए... (ब्यवधान) नहीं पूछी थी ? ...

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Madam, the 18th meeting of the Board was held on 29th June, 1993. It is a fact. I would like to assure the hon. Member that whatever were the directives and guidance given by the Prime Minister—he is

taking personal interest in the matter to mitigate the sufferings of the people of the North-Eastern Region—are being implemented. At the moment, I can say this much to the hon. Member that the guidance and directives given by the hon. Prime Minister are being followed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He had asked for some report... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : In regard to the report on the work done by the Board, it has already been sent to the Prime Minister's office. I think this satisfies the hon. Member in relation to the first part of his question. In regard to the second part of his question... (Interruptions) ...

Madam, about the second part of the question of the hon. Member, it is a fact that the Brahmaputra carries a huge water resource of the country. To the extent of 30 per cent of the total water resource of the country is carried by the Brahmaputra. That's why importance is given to the north-eastern region for flood control to manage the Brahmaputra. For that reason, as I have stated, there are proposals and schemes... (Interruptions) ...

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, स्पेसिफिक आंसर दीजिए, पॉलिसी का आंसर मत दीजिए।

Please give a specific answer. Don't give an answer about the policy and that Brahmaputra is important, because everybody knows that. The Member also said it. You give an answer about the Board and what plans you have to implement the recommendations of the report submitted to the Prime Minister.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Madam, until and unless I explain... (Interruptions) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please don't explain. Only give the answer.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Okay, I come straight ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Straight answer... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI MD. SALIM : Madam... (Interruptions) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please sit down... (Interruptions) ... I will call you... (Interruptions) ... Please sit down... (Interruptions) ... Please take your seat.

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA : The Minister should not explain that Mr. Shukla is busy with

Mr. Ramlakhan or searching for more Ramlakhans. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI P. K. THUNGO: Madam, Master Plan—I for the river Brahmaputra ... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, please. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI P. K. THUNGO: Was published in December 1986 by the Brahmaputra Board, and the cost of short-term and long-term measures worked out to Rs. 8,570 crores and Rs. 23,840 crores ... (*Interruptions*) ... Master Plan-II ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, please ... (*Interruptions*) ...

उपसभापति: हमारे मेहमान बैठे हुए हैं उनके सामने आप क्या कर रहे हैं। (उपब्रधान)

I will call you. ... (*Interruptions*) ... I can't hear what he is saying. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI P. K. THUNGO: ... for the tributaries was completed in March, 1993. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Madam, Mr. Shukla ... (*Interruptions*) ...

उपसभापति: बाहर से मेहमान आकर बैठे हुए हैं और आप जेल रहे हैं। थोड़ा तमीज से बोलिए।

Will you please sit down? ... (*Interruptions*) ... I will ask him. Now, Prof. Swell. Honourable Minister, when a question is asked specifically, I would expect that you give a very specific answer so that we can cover more questions. Next time, please do that.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Madam, this Ministry is so puerile and limited that whatever they say is laughable. Madam, the main cause of the flood in Assam in the North-East is the river Brahmaputra. The river Brahmaputra takes its rise in the Tibetan plateau of China so that you cannot do anything to the Brahmaputra unless it is in collaboration with China.

SHRI P. K. THUNGO: Wrong questions elicit wrong replies!

SHRI G. G. SWELL: Let me finish. ... (*Interruptions*) ... Secondly, the watershed of the Brahmaputra is down the Himalayas, which is a very seismic region, so that banks or reservoirs or dams built there are subject to breaches and destruction by any kind of seismic upheaval

and Madam, the mouth of the river Brahmaputra is in Bangladesh, which is silting up.

Because of the silting of the Brahmaputra at the mouth, there is back-rush of water into Assam. I would like to know from this Government, not from this little Minister here, whether they have a long-term concept of controlling the Brahmaputra River, whether they have discussed about this with China and whether they have discussed about this with Bangladesh because unless you do these things, all that you do here is futile and puerile as this Government is.

SHRI P. K. THUNGO: Madam, if the hon. Member who has so forcefully put the question, had paid a little bit of his attention to what I just said, a little while ago, this question would not have arisen. ... (*Interruptions*) ... I have already mentioned about the long-term and short-term proposals of the Brahmaputra Board. I have already mentioned about the schemes the Assam Government has drawn up which other governments had not drawn up. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Just a minute, please. No, Mr. Minister. The specific question that the Member has asked is this. Whatever schemes you have made are not going to be effective because this river, the Brahmaputra, flows into various other countries also, that is, China and Bangladesh. You have to have dialogues with these two countries. That is what his contention is. Have you started a dialogue? Say "Yes" or "No". ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRI P. K. THUNGO: So far as Bangladesh is concerned, yes, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Mr. Swell, your question has been answered.

SHRI G. G. SWELL: When will they give a report to the House?

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM ROMANIA

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, hon. Members, I must welcome the delegation which is sitting in our Distinguished Visitors' Box.

We have with us, seated in the Special Box, members of a parliamentary delegation from Romania, currently on a visit to our country under the distinguished leadership of His

Excellency, Mr. Doru Ioan Taracila, Vice-President of the Senate of Romania.

On behalf of the Members of the House and on my own behalf, I take pleasure in extending a hearty welcome to the leader and other members of the delegation and wish our distinguished guests an enjoyable and fruitful stay in our country. We hope that during their stay here they would be able to see and learn more about our parliamentary system, our country and our people, and their visit to this country will further strengthen the friendly bonds that exist between India and Romania. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Members of Parliament and the friendly people of Romania.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS—Contd.

(Q. No. 162—Contd.)

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : महोदया, ब्रह्मपुत्र में जाने वाली बाढ़ इतनी भयावह होती है कि वह पूर्वोत्तर के सारे इलाके को बाकी देश से काट कर रख देती है। सम्यक्ति का कोई जरिया बच नहीं जाता है। ऐसे में बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में राहत सामग्री पहुंचाना जिल्कुल असंभव-सा हो जाता है। राजधानी में बसने वाले लोगों तक तो फिर भी सरकार जैसे तैसे थोड़ा बहुत भोजन, दवाइयां पहुंचा देती है, लेकिन दूर-दराज के इलाकों में रहने वाले लोग, खास कर सीमावर्ती क्षेत्रों में लोग, भूखों मरते हैं। जैसा कि उन्होंने कहा है, बर्मा और बंगलादेश से भोजन स्माल कारों से आते हैं। इसलिए मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहती हूँ कि इस परिस्थिति का मुकाबला करने के लिए सरकार ने क्या उपाय सोचे हैं ?

SHRI VIZOL : Madam, ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Wait a minute, please. What is your problem ? I don't understand it. I will call you. If you want to ask a supplementary, I will call you. I will call you, please. If you want to ask a question, I will call you. I will call you, please.

Mr. Minister, she says that due to floods in the Brahmaputra you cannot communicate, especially in the border areas of the North-East, and that food is smuggled from Burma and Bangladesh. What are you going to do about it ?

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Does he need translation in English ? For every question you are doing it.

P. K. THUNGON : This does not pertain to this question. ... (Interruptions) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : It does. It does pertain to this because if you manage the floods, then, this situation will not arise. So, the whole Board ...

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : बाढ़ग्रस्त लोगों को राहत देने के सवाल पर सरकार का यह रुख है तो सरकार किस मर्ज की दवा है।

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : I was trying to be specific and you are saying in a general way. Already the Master Plan for the flood control schemes in the North-Eastern region has been worked out by the Brahmaputra Board on long-term and short-term basis. No doubt this is a very important question and is very specific. She was asking from which countries the help was required. That information I cannot give because I do not have that information.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : No. She did not ask that.

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : मंत्री जी, मैंने यह कहा है कि वह लोग भूखों मरते हैं। (अव्यवधान) मैंने यह कहा है कि वहां के लोग भूखों मरते हैं और दूसरे देशों से स्माल कार उन्हें खाना खाना पड़ता है। इस परिस्थिति का मुकाबला करने के लिये सरकार क्या कर रही है ? आप अपनी ओर से उन तक भोजन पहुंचाने के लिये क्या कर रहे हैं ? यह सवाल मेरा है।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Relief the Government has to give.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Now, it is very clear, Madam.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Now you have followed the question

या सरकार केवल मुस्कुरा रही है।

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : I was saying that due to the year-after-year floods and consequently the sufferings of the people, a plan has been drawn up to mitigate their sufferings. It is not the work of one day or two days. Moreover, Brahmaputra Board alone does not draw up the plan. The respective States draw up the plan themselves also. Plans which I have stated here are those which have been brought to ... (Interruptions).

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज : लोग भूखों मर रहे हैं और आपका प्लान बन रहा है। प्लान बनने तक लोग भूखों मर जायेंगे।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Do not interrupt.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : The State Governments also have their own programmes.

Larger programmes are brought out by the Centre and small programmes are brought out by the States themselves.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त : इन्होंने प्लान की बात नहीं कही । उनको खाना पहुँचता है या नहीं, यह बताइये ।

شری سکندر بخت : انہوں نے پلان کی بات نہیں کہی۔ ان کو کھانا پہنچتا ہے یا نہیں۔ یہ بتائیے۔

SHRI DAVID BEDGER : For the people of the North-East, particularly of Assam, flood is not a new phenomenon. Every year we have floods. Every year we have erosions. Even this year we have had three rounds of floods so far and we all know that rail service to the North-East is cut off for the last 16 days. In Assam alone 18 out of 23 districts have been affected and more than 30 people have died. The Minister in his reply has mentioned certain short-term measures like construction of embankments, anti-erosion measures which entail crores of rupees every year along with the huge amount of money which is spent on relief and rehabilitation, while the need of the hour is to find a permanent solution.

May I draw the attention of the Minister to the Master Plan submitted by the Brahmaputra Board in the year 1986, in which the Board had recommended construction of three reservoir projects. One is the Dehang Reservoir Project. Second is the Subansiri Reservoir Project and the third is the Tipaimukh Project in the Barak Valley. I have personally read the Master Plan and have gone into the recommendations. If the Dehang and the Subansiri projects do come up, they will not only lead to flood moderation to the extent of one metre to one-and-a-half metre from Dibrugarh to Dhubri, but will also create irrigation facilities and generate a huge quantity of hydel power. May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Board for construction of the Dehang and Subansiri multi-purpose projects. Madam, we have been told by the Ministry that the Tipaimukh project has since been cleared, but there is a hitch. The project would require the evacuation of certain people from Mizoram and Manipur, because these areas will be inundated. May I know from the Minister whether a committee was set up to look into this? If so, what was the report given by the Committee? So far what is the progress in this direction?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Madam Deputy Chairman, this is a specific question. So far as acceptance of these projects by the Central Government is concerned, they have been certainly accepted in principle by the Central Government. That is why the investigations have taken up so many years. If you permit me, Madam, I can elucidate it a little more.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : No. ... (Interruptions) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : You give a very specific answer. The question was ... (Interruptions) ... We have taken a lot of time on this question. Honourable Minister, we can't have statements. ... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Madam, so far as the second part of his question regarding Tipaimukh project is concerned, I have already stated that flood control schemes are State subjects. Therefore, the Tipaimukh project involves ...

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA : The Tipaimukh project comes under the Brahmaputra Board.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : According to the Member, it is not a State subject.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Let me explain. ... (Interruptions) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Let him explain.

श्री विमनभाई मेहता : उपसभापति महोदया, एक क्वेश्चन पर डाया बंदा चला गया है क्योंकि मिनिस्टर रिप्लाय नहीं है (व्यवधान) डाया बंदा चले जाने के बाद भी उत्तर नहीं मिला । इसलिए इसको नेक्स्ट बीच के लिए डेरी-खोवर कर दैजिए । (व्यवधान)

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : This Tipaimukh project involves three States. All the three States have to agree to the proposal. That is the only hitch; otherwise, everything is ready. ... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI DAVID LEDGER : Madam, I seek your protection.

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : How can I vouch for ... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI DAVID LEDGER : Madam, I want to know when the projects are going to be cleared? If he doesn't have the answer now, he can supply it to me later on. At least, let him say this. ... (Interruptions) ...

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, I can't reply ... (*Interruptions*) ...

SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA: Madam, this is a very serious matter. The whole of North-East is involved. It is a very sensitive area. The Minister is giving irrelevant answers. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please take your seat.

अगर आपके पास इसका जवाब लम्बा है तो आप टेबल पर रख दीजिये।

If your answer is lengthy, please lay it on the Table of the House and discuss it with the Members who have asked this question because it is a very specific question. People are suffering. You can't say that it is a State subject and you have to wait for them. Somewhere you have to take the initiative and solve this problem.

श्री सिकन्दर बख्त: यह सवाल समझ भी गये हैं मिनिस्टर साहब या नहीं? (*व्यवधान*) मिनिस्टर साहब को पहली दिक्कत तो सवाल को समझने की है (*व्यवधान*)

SHRI P. K. THUNGON: Madam, I will invite the hon. Member to my place and discuss it over a cup of tea. I will explain it to him because certain matters are politically very sensitive. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right. You call the Members and discuss it with them. Question No. 163.

Payment to Farmers under Crop Insurance Scheme in Gujarat

*163. **SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 265 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th July, 1992 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a sum of Rs. 200.64 crores was to be paid under the Crop Insurance Scheme in Gujarat;

(b) whether it is a fact that the farmers covered under the above scheme in Gujarat have not yet received the balance amount of their dues;

(c) what action has been taken to settle the dues; and

(d) by when the remaining amount will be paid to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Out of the amount of Rs. 200.64 crores which was pending, an amount of Rs. 112.84 crores has since been paid. Claims amounting of Rs. 40.04 crores have been repudiated. Claims amounting to Rs. 47.76 crores have been approved for payment by Government of India and are awaiting $\frac{1}{3}$ rd share from the State Government. On receipt of the same, the claims would be paid to the concerned farmers by the General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC).

SHRI VITHALBHAI M. PATEL: Madam, the Minister has stated that claims amounting to about Rs. 40 crores have been repudiated. But he has not given the reason why they have been repudiated. In 1990, Rs. 13.49 crores were due to the farmers; Rs. 12.20 crores were due in 1990-91; Rs. 17.92 crores in 1991-92; and Rs. 33.13 crores in 1992-93. All these monies total to about Rs. 70 crores. The Minister says it is Rs. 40 crores. Even if it is Rs. 40 crores, why has this money not been paid to the farmers? Why have their claims been repudiated? And what about the remaining Rs. 30 crores which he has not mentioned in his reply?

श्री अरविन्द नेताम: येडम, मैंने मूल प्रश्न के उत्तर में कहा है कि जो प्रश्न उत्पन्न हुआ है, वह जुलाई, 1992 के आधार पर है। जो आंकड़े मैंने दिये हैं, वह बिलकुल ठीक हैं। चालीस करोड़ जो अकमुलेट हुए हैं, उसके बारे में बहुत-सी डिस्जिपेंसी थी और जनरल इंशोरेंस कॉर्पोरेशन ने भी कुछ रिपोर्ट किया था उसको एक्जामिन करने के लिए और गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया तथा स्टेट गवर्नमेंट ने इसको स्वीकार किया है कि चालीस करोड़ के लिए हो रहा है। हमारे पास जो फिगा दिया है, वह बिलकुल ठीक है और जैसा कि मैंने कहा है $\frac{1}{3}$ शेयर गुजरात सरकार को मिल जाए, तो हम तुरंत वह सब पेमेंट कर देंगे।

श्री विठ्ठलभाई मोतीलाम पटेल: यह $\frac{1}{5}$ है चालीस करोड़ का। दूसरे वाले का नहीं, जो जनरल इंशोरेंस कॉर्पोरेशन ने कैसे मना किया। उन्होंने कहा था कि कमेटी बनाइये क्योंकि कुछ एरियाज़ के बारे में झगड़ा है। अब सर्वे नम्बर तो सब फार्मर्स को याद नहीं होता कि कौन से सर्वे नम्बर में मुंगफली लगाई, कौन से सर्वे नम्बर में काटन लगाया—वह हर फार्मर को याद नहीं होता। मुझे मेरी जमीन का सर्वे नम्बर याद नहीं है। इनको भी याद नहीं है उनकी जमीन का सर्वे नम्बर। तो इसमें अगर जनरल इंशोरेंस कॉर्पोरेशन कुछ झगड़ा करे, तो सरकार को फार्मर्स के लिए देखना चाहिए कि उनको उनका इयू मिलना चाहिए। गवर्नमेंट ने कभी कहा कि कमेटी बनाओ, तो वोल्टाज़