

There is an other hope which the hon. Minister for Petroleum has given us and that in regard to the Southern Gas Grid which is coming up in Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, There is another potential and Pondicherry is very much there in that, It is the gas-based power plant.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are not having a debate. Sorry, it is a special mention.

SHR) V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, I am bringing it to the notice of the hon'ble Minister, who is very much here,

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: He would be knowing in detail. So, please. (*interruptions*).

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Yes, so that hon'ble Minister may respond. Gas-based power plants may also come. Then, these kinds of bottlenecks are there. The investors who are coming and lie foreigners who are coming, get the impression that with the Government of India they could not get on very well and therefore, they are not coming in a very big way. Therefore, I want the hon'ble Power Minister to see that an ultimate assurance in this House is given that the power projects will be cleared as early as possible so that a lot of investment is welcomed in the Southern part of the country. Madam, the hon'ble Minister is here. I seek the indulgence of the hon'ble Minister to at least give an assurance on the floor of the House.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri B. K. Hariprasad.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Madam, the Minister is very much here.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No. No.. Assurances are always given...

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: The hon'ble Minister can respond to

my query, because it is a matter on which the Minister has given assurance everywhere not only in this House but also on the public platforms. It was said that they would clear the projects as early as possible. I would like to know the Minister's reaction to it.

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N. K. P. SALVE): He is absolutely right to the extent he is speaking about a very grim situation on account of shortage, of power in Southern India. That is a bitter reality. We are conscious about it. Kayangulam is already started. We have started implementing the project in Kerala. As to other projects that he has referred to, Madam, I can assure him that we will do our very very best, level best, to expedite the same.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN SHRI Hariprasad.

Situation arising out of floods in Karnataka

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Madam, I rise to draw the attention of the august House and the Government about the miseries and destruction inflicted on rural farmers in Karnataka. Madam, monsoon is welcomed everywhere, every year. But, in many districts of Karnataka, it has left a trail of devastation caused by torrent rains. Madam this year from the first week of June to the first and second week of July there was a heavy rain for days together, flooding vast areas under crop and habitation, eight districts of the State—Dakshin Kannada, Kodagu, Uttara Kannada, Belgaum, Hassan, Shimoga, Chickmagalur and Mysore in that order of intensity. The major rivers—Oauvery, Kabini, Hemavathi and Harangi and their tributaries were in spate, eroding embankments and submerging habitations on the delta. The Malanad districts of Chickmagalur and Shimoga and Mysore on the plains were among the worst-hit.

The toll in terms of human lives lost is officially put at 60. More than 1,250 villages were drowned and 277 villages

[Shri B. K. Hari Prasad]

were marooned. The number of cattle heads lost was recorded at 3410. While 2,325 dwellings were razed to the grounds by the gushing waters, the figures for partially damaged dwellings were put around 13,250. Madam,, the wreckage included 9,300 irrigation pumpsets and 94 irrigation wells. The crops were water-covered in a vast expanse of 1.14 lakh hectares.

Madam, it has become a regular ritual that whenever a calamity strikes, the Centre rushes a Cabinet Minister for a survey and to assess and also to oversee the relief arrangements. This should go to demonstrate the Centre's concern for the battered Karnataka farmers. Though the quantum of loss has been put at Rs. 100 crores, the State Government has sought relief assistance for Rs. 72 crores. Presumably, the amount of Rs. 27 crores which Karnataka has secured under the National Calamity Fund has been taken into account. However, I would plead for a more realistic, human and viable relief assistance and look to the 10th Finance Commission which is currently working out such a relief package formula.

Madam, the recurring rise in the quantum of floods is attributable to many factors, the major one of which is the thoughtless human assault on the ecology in the name of development. The National Commission on Floods has estimated the flood-prone areas to be around 400 hectares. Madam, I suspect whether this work-out holds good in the present situation with the phenomenal growth of human settlements in flood-prone plains. The money which both the Centre and the States dole out over years on calamity relief could well be spent on preventive measures, in countering the ecology-related causes and thought flood plains of rivers are demarcated and flood plains of rivers are demarcated and strict norms are evolved and enforced on human habitation, land use and drop

pattern in those areas as to subserve the drainage needs.

Madam, it is consoling to observe that Shri Mall'karjunji, the hon. Minister of State for Defence, has seen for himself the destruction and misery wrought over the affected areas during an aerial survey. If press reports are to be taken as authentic, he has also endorsed the case for additional quantum of relief beyond the State's annual share of Rs. 27 crores under the Natural Calamity Fund.

Madam, in this hour of agony I would also lament over the constraints imposed on Karnataka by the on-going water disputes,, under arbitration, stalling implementation of irrigation projects on major rivers which could lessen the impact of floods to a great extent, without any corresponding decrease in out-flow downstream to neighbouring States. The Centre has shown excessive enthusiasm in asking Karnataka to share its waters with others but when it comes to sharing of grief caused by rivers, the State is asked to fend for itself. I urge upon the Centre to rush the relief as fast as possible. Thank you, Madam.

SHRI K. RAHMAN KHAN: Madam. I associate myself with this Special Mention.

SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: I also associate myself with this.

Need for corporation of a Railway Line between Hissar (Uissar) and Nairana- (Zind)

श्री रामजी लाल (हरियाणा):
उपसभापति महोदय, हरियाणा का हिसार जिला सबसे बड़ा शहर है। वह एग्रीकल्चर और इंडस्ट्री का बड़ा भारी सेंटर है। वहाँ हरियाणा एग्रीकल्चर है, बैटेरीरी कॉलेज हैमेटिकल कॉलेज और इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज है। यह सब, कुछ होते हुए भी वहाँ उक्लाना से कैपिटल तक जाने कोई भी रेलवे लाइन नहीं है। मैं इस संबंध में कई बार मांग कर चुका हूँ।