

दे कर यह कहना चाहता था कि इन लोगों के खिलाफ, रिश्तखोरों के खिलाफ कैसे दर्ज किए जाएं उनके खिलाफ ही कार्यवाही करनी चाहिए, यही मैं आपसे मांग करते हुए यह स्पेशल मेन्शन में कहना चाहता हूँ।

श्री कृष्णलाल शर्मा (हिमाचल प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं इनकी बात से अपनी सहमति व्यक्त करता हूँ। यह भ्रष्टाचार का मामला है और सरकार को इस का नोटिस लेना चाहिए। किसानों के साथ जो अन्याय हुआ है और जिन्होंने यह अन्याय किया है उनके खिलाफ तुरन्त कदम उठाना चाहिए। यह गम्भीर विषय है सरकार इस पर आवश्यक कार्रवाई करे।

### **Inadequate Facility in the North Eastern States for Viewing Programmes of New Regional Channels on Doordarshan**

**Shri David Ledger (Assam):** Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, through, you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government in general and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting in particular, to a matter which affects the rights and interests of the people of my State and also those of the people of the neighbouring North-Eastern States.

Sir, the introduction of thirteen new channels on Doordarshan for regional language programmes all over the country has made everybody, including those of us who come from the North-East, very happy. The hon. Prime Minister himself was pleased to make an announcement during his speech on the Independence Day, on the 15th August, from the ramparts of the Red Fort. But, unfortunately, after the launching of these programmes, the people of the North-East have once again realised that they are being discriminated against. The reason is, while the rest of the country will be able to enjoy these regional programmes, linked to the satellite INSAT-1B, with the help of one dish antenna, the viewers from Assam and the other North-Eastern States will have to make use of two dish antennas, one for the local programme which will be telecast from the Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati, which is linked to the Satellite INSAT-2A and not INSAT-1B, and the other, for the other regional programmes in the other States. It is obvious that the viewers in Assam and the other North-Eastern States will have to pay twice the amount which their

counterparts in the rest of the country are paying, which comes to Rs. 24,000/-. The cost of two antennas comes to about Rs. 24,000/-. Sir, I have attempted to make an enquiry into this matter and, to my amazement, I have found out that this problem has arisen because of the non-availability of a particular equipment called "transponder" in the Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra. I feel that this is an injustice to the people of Assam and the North-East. It amounts to gross discrimination. So, my demand, through you, Sir, to the Government is that this discrimination should be immediately done away with. The necessary equipment should be provided to the Doordarshan Kendra, Guwahati, and the Kendra should be linked to the satellite INSAT-1B so as to enable the viewers in that part of the country view these new programmes which are being viewed all over the country by our fellow countrymen.

**DR. B.B. DUTTA (Nominated):** Sir, I associate myself with Shri David Ledger in support of the demand he has made.

Mr. Minister, the hon. Member has raised a very important issue. The Government have said that they have opened 13 new channels for regional languages. But most of the people are not able to see it because the Doordarshan Kendras should have a dish antenna and other things. When we say that we are reaching the people through regional languages on Doordarshan, we should look into this problem and solve it. Kindly take note of it and convey the sentiments of the hon. Members, especially of the North-Eastern States, to the Minister.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DEPTT. OF WASTELAND DEVELOPMENT) COL. RAM SINGH:** Sir, I have taken note of the point that there is no transponder facility in the Guwahati Doordarshan Kendra and that the Kendra should be provided with a transponder so that one dish antenna may be sufficient. I will convey this point to the Minister concerned.

**SHRI DAVID LEDGER:** Now it is linked to INSAT-2A. The programme cannot be viewed. Once it is linked to INSAT-1B, it can be viewed.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY): I have told the hon. Minister already. He has taken note of it and he will convey it to the Minister concerned.

**Need to provide Adequate Central Assistance for Flood Relief to Kerala**

SHRI M. A. BABY (Kerala): Thank you very much, Mr. Vice-Chairman, for permitting me to raise this matter of urgent public importance. Because of the recent floods, which affected most of the coastal States of our country, the devastation that has taken place in Kerala is unprecedented. Kerala, being a small State, that too, far away from the Centre, we very genuinely and justifiably used to criticise that we are not being provided with the legitimate share of the per-capita allocation of Plan funds and various other things. But, in this particular case, so far as the natural calamity is concerned, we should have been provided with more than what was due to us. In the small State, the number of casualties, the death toll, during the devastating floods in the recent past, was the highest. Hundreds of people have been killed during the devastating floods. Similarly, the damage to roads, bridges and other structures has been the highest. Agricultural crops, both perennial and otherwise, have also suffered a tremendous damage. The Chief Minister of Kerala has met the Prime Minister. The Members of Parliament, transcending their political differences, jointly met the Prime Minister and apprised him of the seriousness of the situation. In fact, two weeks ago, we had an opportunity to meet the hon. Prime Minister. At that point of time, we were assured that immediate steps would be taken to rush financial assistance. But, Sir, you might have noticed that during the last three- four days, the Members, cutting across party lines, have been raising this issue in the other House, but the Government failed to come forward with a satisfactory when such a natural calamity takes place, there used to be some re-allocation of funds. There are funds allocated under the rural development schemes. What usually is done is that some advance is being given from such allocations and the State Governments are told to do whatever repair or relief work they propose to undertake. This is

absolutely inadequate. This, I state, not only in relation to what has happened to Kerala but also in relation to other parts of the country where devastating floods have taken place. Sir, in relation to floods, we will have to have a greater understanding. We will have to have a better understanding with regard to such natural calamities. My demand is, such devastating natural calamities should be considered as a national calamity and we will have to have a special fund available with the Centre and there should be immediate efforts to reimburse from the National Fund. So far as this particular case of Kerala is concerned, there is a universal demand. The Kerala State Assembly adopted a resolution demanding Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 200 crores. I hope that the Minister who is present here, would convey the very strong feelings that the people of Kerala are having with regard to not so appreciable support on the part of the Central Government vis-a-vis the devastating floods in Kerala. In this respect, I would like to mention one more point. The State of Kerala has a very low sea coast unlike most of the other States, and the scientific studies undertaken by the various scientific research institutes have come out with the finding that the sea erosion level on the coast of Kerala is far greater than the other sea coasts, the kind of waves that are affecting the coastal line of Kerala are far stronger than the other areas. Every year, a very significant area of the State of Kerala is being lost as a result of sea erosion. Legend States that it is as a result of the throwing of an axe by Parasurama that the State of Kerala has been recovered from the sea. I do not know whether any other Parasurama would be required to retrieve the State of Kerala. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI (Uttar Pradesh): Now, instead of Parasurama, you have got Narasimha Rao.

SHRI M. A. BABY: I do't know. But, if the sea erosion continues with the same magnitude and intensity, the land of our country would be lost. Here, in this connection, I have a very, very strong criticism to make. So far as efforts to curtail and curb the sea erosion are concerned, there used to be 50 per cent assistance from the Centre. A matching grant used to be given by