

**SHRI M. M. JACOB:** The other points which you raised, some of them are very common and I was trying to answer them. Unless we get a total picture of what has happened after thorough investigation, I may not be able to analyse and tell you what exactly the suggestion is to prevent these things. *(Interruptions)*.

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:** Sir, at least 2,000 people are in the street. *(Interruptions)*.

**SHRI M. M. JACOB:** I will have to find out. I may not be able to say whether 2,000 people are in the street or less than that are in the street. *(Interruptions)*. It is under investigation. Mr. Narayanasamy must have gone there. I do not know. When I went there, I found a large number of people working to help remove the debris. I do not know who are the real people who lost their houses. All these things can be found out and proper action could be taken. I can assure you that we will make every effort to see that such kind of things do not happen in Delhi and whatever is necessary to tie it up, will be done.

About the action against the erring officials, that question was also asked by Shri Ish Dutt Yadav. Yes, Sir, if anybody is found wanting or any dereliction of duty is found, certainly we will not hesitate to take any action. I will instruct the Delhi Administration to take suitable action against such people who must have shown dereliction of duty. I thought, I must congratulate those people who worked very hard; the fire tenders, the police personnel, all of them worked hard and till now they are working. That also is a factor. Thank you very much.

#### **SPECIAL MENTIONS—Contd.**

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR):** There are some special mentions still left. I would like the cooperation of the Members. We will get back to special mentions. Shri Matang Sing. This is his maiden speech.

\*English translation of the original speech delivered in Assamese.

#### **Floods in Assam**

**\*SHRI MATANG SING (Assam):** Mr. Deputy Chairman Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the august House and the Union Government towards the devastating flood in the third week of April, 1992 throughout Assam and specially in Tinsukia. The Brahmaputra is the mightiest river in India. Every year flood causes huge loss to Assam and people are to face untold misery which is beyond description. Assam is a very poor state and backward in many respects. Every year millions of people are to face the fury of flood and as a result in addition to loss of human lives, properties and standing crops worth crores of rupees are lost. That is why the economic condition of Assam is bad.

Recently there was a devastating flood in many of the towns and villages of Tinsukia district in Assam. Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless, standing crops worth crores of rupees were damaged and thousands of domestic cattle died. On the one hand the Government of Assam is struggling hard to fight the menace of terrorism and on the other hand the flood has played a havoc. The Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Hiteswar Saikia has taken prompt action for relief and rehabilitation of the flood victims. A few days back I visited the flood-affected areas along with the Chief Minister of Assam and made an on the spot assessment of the extent of loss. The situation is very alarming. In this connection the Union Government should give adequate financial assistance to the State Government because the extent of loss is so huge that the State Government alone cannot render all possible help to the people of Assam. Sir, through you I would like to request the Union Government to extend all possible help to the Government of Assam so that relief and rehabilitation work may be undertaken properly. I also urge the Union Government to depute an expert team to Assam to assess the loss caused by flood at the earliest.

Recently, a cyclonic storm lashed Assam, particularly the Nagaon district. Fifty people died in this storm. This has affected nearly 10 lakh people of 500 villages. Further 50,000 houses and 200 educational institutions have been damaged. Thousands

of thatched houses have been ravaged and lakhs of people have been rendered shelterless. Thousands of people have been injured severely. No warning was signalled by the meteorology department in advance. It is very unfortunate. The Union Government should sanction at least Rs. 1 lakh each to the next of kin. In this regard I would like to point out that the Assam Relief Manual, 1986 may be amended suitably. Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity.

**Demand for expeditious completion of the Indravati multi-purpose project and need to provide adequate funds for the purpose and compensation to the victims of the accident**

**SHRI MANMOHAN MATHUR** (Orissa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the Indravati Multi-purpose project is the future hope of the people of Orissa, especially the people of Kalahandi and Koraput district. This Project was started in the year 1978 with an estimated cost of Rs. 208.15 crores and it was scheduled to be completed by 1993. This Project is financed by the World Bank and the Government of Japan. This Project is to irrigate nearly 3 lakh acres of cultivable land and it will generate 600 megawatts of electricity, but due to the delay in the construction the cost has risen to more than Rs. 1,000 crores. Sir, the World Bank and the Government of Japan are pressing the Government of Orissa to complete the Project in due time, but unfortunately the work is delayed due to the fault of the local officers. Due to a heavy rainfall in that area on 28th July, 1991 the Cofferdam was washed out and the water flowed into the tunnel where the labourers were working. According to the State Government's Report, more than 20 labourers were washed away. The flood also caused damage to the private land, sand casting of cultivable land and washing out the house sites. The hon. Minister of Water Resource Development, Shri V. C. Shukla, made a statement in this House and while reacting to the clarifications sought for by the Members assured the House to pay adequate compensation to the family of the deceased labourers and rehabilitate the next kith and kin of the deceased labourers, but I am sorry to say that no

action has yet been taken in this regard.

Secondly, he also assured to take appropriate steps against the concerned officers due to whose negligence this disaster took place. According to the instructions of the Central Government, the State Government set up a Committee headed by Mr. Sunder Rajan and that Committee in its Report categorically and clearly accused the officers and had stated that due to the negligence of the concerned officers, this type of tragic accident took place. But in this regard neither the Government of India nor the Government of Orissa had taken any steps. Sir, the tunnel was constructed by the N.P.C.C. which is a Government of India concern. So the Government of India cannot escape from its responsibility. In this House he also assured that the debris would be cleared immediately and the construction work would also be taken up instantly but till today nothing has been done. They have been extending the dates. They provided Rs. 18 crores to clear the debris. They have extended the dates twice. First it was fixed at 30th October, 1991 and then it was extended up to 31st December, 1991. Till today no work has been started and the project is not going to be completed in due time. So, I urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to start the construction work of the project immediately so that it is not delayed and we can avoid unnecessary hike in the estimated costs. Secondly, I urge upon the Government to provide sufficient financial help to the displaced families as promised by the Minister here. I also urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to give them land so that the poor farmers can take up farming there. The most important thing I want to mention is that recently the World Bank has threatened the Government of Orissa that they would take up the construction and management of the project. In my opinion, it is a clear threat to our autonomy. So, the Government of India should intervene in this matter and persuade the Government of Orissa to construct the project according to the specifications of the Government of Japan and the World Bank. Thank you.

**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. CHANDRESH P. THAKUR):** Shri