

बहुत आवश्यक है और वह ऐसा सवाल है, जिस पर बहुत दूर सोचने-विचारने की जरूरत नहीं है और डा० साहब तो, खुद हरिजनों के लिये बड़ी सहानुभूति रखती हैं। मुझ उम्मीद है कि वे उनके बजोके को जरूर बढ़ा देंगे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री बी० सत्यनारायण रेड्डी) : मंत्री जी।

डा० राजेन्द्र कुमारी वाजपेयी : वजीफा बढ़ाया जायेगा और मैं इस समय इस स्थिति में नहीं हूँ कि कितना बढ़ाया जायेगा, यह बता सकूँ, लेकिन यह बढ़ाया जायेगा और इन्कम सीलिंग भी बढ़ाई जायेगी और जो रितर्न स्कालरशिप है, उनके लिये तो इन्कम सीलिंग रखी भी नहीं गई है। इस समय तक 45 हजार 760 विद्यार्थी इस पोस्ट मैट्रिक क्लासिज में, बड़ी क्लासिज में बी०एस०सी० और मैडिकल इंजीनियरिंग आदि पढ़ रहे हैं। जो माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि समय पर नहीं दिया जाता है और इसको डी-सेंट्रलाइज करने की बात, तो 30 अक्टूबर, 1987 को हमारी तरफ से, बैलकेयर मिनिस्ट्री की तरफ से सारे स्टेट्स को इस प्रकार का सर्कुलर भेज दिया गया है, जिसमें कहा कहा है :

"The Scheme should be decentralised at the institutional level for early distribution of scholarships, and an advance amount may be placed at the disposal of heads of educational institutions during July-August based on the expenditure incurred during the previous years. The balance amount should be released to the institutions after the details of scholarships disbursed are received from the colleges. The institution should call for the applications immediately after the admissions are over and it should ensure that scholarships are awarded within the 30 days on receipt of the applications."

अब गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से पूरी कोशिश है कि इसे डी-सेंट्रलाइज करके और जल्दी से जल्दी मन्थली बेसिज पर इसको

किया जाय। आखिर म, इयर एण्ड म दिसम्बर में या मार्च में देने से विद्यार्थियों को लाभ नहीं हो सकता है और इसी कारण यह निर्णय लिया गया है। इस बार जो हमारी नई एजुकेशन पालिसी है उसके अन्तर्गत भी एजुकेशन टैकन प्लान में इस बात पर विशेष जोर दिया गया है और हर एक स्टेट को इस तरह की ताईद की गई है कि वह डी-सेंट्रलाइज करके और समय पर इसको कराएँ आसाम, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, बिहार, कर्नाटक, केरल, मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, उड़ीसा, राजस्थान, उत्तर प्रदेश, वेस्ट बंगाल इन्होंने तो डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल पर और हरियाणा, हिमाचल प्रदेश, पंजाब, त्रिपुरा, तमिलनाडु, चंडीगढ़ पॉइन्टों ने भी डिसेंट्रलाइज इंस्टीटयूशन लेवल पर कर दिया है, जिससे कि समय पर उनको मिल सके। इसके बावजूद भी कहीं कहीं से शिकायतें आती हैं। इस पर हमने जो गाइडलाइन्स भेजी हैं और जो अक्टूबर में करना है, हर स्टेट को हमारी अज्ञा है इससे आज जो कठिनाइयाँ हैं उनको दूर किया जा सकेगा।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय : बढ़ाने के बारे में क्या कहना है ?

डा० राजेन्द्र कुमारी वाजपेयी : जो वृद्धि हो रही है, इनका भी ख्याल रखा गया है। केवल इतना ही है कि जैसे कर्मचारियों को रेग्युलेशन दिया जाता है, आटोमैटिक डी० ए० भत्ता आदि उस तरह से यह नहीं है। यह तो एक असिस्टेंस है, जिससे विद्यार्थियों को सहायित हो। जिनके पैरेंट्स की इन्कम कम है, उनके बच्चों को असिस्टेंस के रूप में यह दिया जाता है।

PALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—
contd.

Devastating floods in Different parts of the country and the steps taken by Government in this regards.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Now, we shall resume discussion on the Calling Attention. Shri Narreddy Thulasi Reddy

SHRINARREDDY THULASIREDDY

(Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is very unfortunate, unjustifiable; unreasonable, unhappy and pathetic to read and to hear about the devastating floods in different parts of the country even after 40 years of Independence, a period which is quite enough to prevent, to control, to check and to make floods a story of the past for a competent, efficient, effective; reasonable and responsible Central Government. Sir, every year, we are experiencing floods of devastating nature somewhere or the other. Not only once a year, they may occur twice, thrice or even more in a year.

Sir, ours is a poor country. These floods are making our country poorer and poorer. There are some proverbs in Telugu which are like this: "Mulige Nakka meeda Thatikaya; Goruchettuppy Rokate Potee."

Sir, this is the present scenario of our poor beloved country. Recently, floods and landslides claimed 50 lives in Andhra Pradesh. Kashmir valley has been cut off from the entire country. Life was disrupted in Himachal Pradesh for days together. Many villages were marooned in Junagadh District of Gujarat. Toll of life in floods and landslides has been more than 80 in Uttar Pradesh. The same situation is prevailing in Bihar, Assam and some other parts of the country. It is a pitiable condition.

Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, in recent floods and heavy rains, extensive damage has been caused to Krishna District, West Godavari, East Godavari; Adilabad, Karim-nagar, Warangal, Nalagonda; and Mahbub-nagar. Heavy damage has been caused to the irrigation canals and the drainage system, roads, buildings and bridges. Sir, the following are the figures:

Total number of villages affected Andhra Pradesh	1002
total No. of families affected	24782
"Total No. of deaths .	50
No. of houses totally destroyed	862

No. of houses partially destroyed 913

Total crop destroyed 3,75,000 acres

...oir, in the year 1986, in the month of August, the State of Andhra Pradesh had experienced very severe floods which were not seen in a span of 100 years. The State is recovering slowly. Meanwhile floods came again. Sir, one should not forget that the Krishna and Godavari deltas are the rice bowls of our beloved country. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has announced various relief measures including fresh loans for the farmers of the affected area. Sir, the State Government has announced one bag of fertilizers per acre at pre-cost in the affected area. It announced to supply seeds on a non-profit basis. The State Government has evolved a plan combining long-term standing to improve the drainage system. 2.70 lakh doses of cholera vaccine were rushed to the affected area. Foodgrains and essential commodities were supplied, medicines were sent in bulk. The District administration evacuated people from the affected areas by using launches. So, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken all relief measures which it could, but, unfortunately, the Central Government has done practically nothing. Sir, it is very unfortunate. It seems that the Central Government is considering these floods as one of the measures to control population explosion. Sir, if it is the case, God alone can save this country.

Sir, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested the Central Government to release Rs. 50-crores grant immediately as an immediate assistance to the affected people in the flood-affected area. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri N. T. Ramarao has personally requested our hon. Prime Minister regarding this grant. Sir, the State Government also requested the Central Government to send immediately a Central team to Andhra Pradesh to assess the damage caused due to floods. But so far not even a single paisa has been released, nor has the Central team been sent to Andhra Pradesh. Sir, the

is very unpardonable and unjustifiable on the part of the Central Government. Of course, these are all temporary measures. We should seek for permanent measures.

Sir, construction of barrages, construction of projects across the River Godavari is the only key to solve the flood problem of Andhra Pradesh. Construction of Polavaram barrage in West Godavari district of Andhra Pradesh is the only key to solve the flood problem of Godavari in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, it is a multi-purpose project. It will irrigate nearly 7 lakh acres in Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari and Visakhapatnam districts. It generates 720 MW of hydel power. It will convey drinking water to the port city of Visakhapatnam. Left Canal can be used for extensive navigation facilities. It also aims at transferring 80 TMC of Godavari water to the Krishna basin. It also reduces some pressure on the Godavari barrage. But, unfortunately, Sir, this project is pending at the Central Water Department since 1978. Sir, Capt. Dinshah Dastoor has given a proposal of Garland Canal which comprises the Himalayan canal which links the River Ravi in the west with the River Brahmaputra in the east and the central and south canal. These two canals, i.e. the Himalayan canal and the central and south canal can be linked with pipelines. This project provides irrigation to all parts of the country. It prevents droughts and floods. It generates unlimited hydel power. It provides a water course for steamers. Sir, some international experts have described this Garland Canal Project as a bold and historic effort of our times.

6.00 p.M. Sir, the famous engineer, Dr. K. L. Rao, the late Dr. K. L. Rao, gave a proposal for inter-linking Indian rivers, i.e. the Brahmaputra with the Ganga and the Ganga with the Kaveri. It will also prevent floods. So, Sir, I earnestly, I wholeheartedly, I sincerely request the Minister to consider the following points, namely: (1) to release immediately Rs. 50 crores by way of grant to Andhra Pradesh as immediate assistance, (2) to send a Central team of experts to Andhra Pradesh immediately to assess the damage *earned*

by the floods in Andhra Pradesh, (3) to give immediate clearance for Polavaram project to be constructed on river Godavari, and (4) to consider either the Garland Canal proposed by Mr. Dastur, or the Brahmaputra, the Ganga and the Kaveri inter-linking canal proposed by Dr. K. L. Rao.

Sir, let us all forget politics for some time. While solving the national calamities and while considering the national issues let us all unitedly try to make our great motherland a land of heaven. Thank you.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL (Punjab); Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, so strange are the ways of nature that if it is the scarcity of water which hits man on, one occasion it is the fury of floods which brings untold sorrow and misery to him on the other. In a vast country as ours, we often have to experience the extremes of nature. For the last three years it was a severe drought which put pressure on our economy and this time it is the floods which have hit the various parts of the country.

Sir, it was in order to formulate a long-term policy and prepare contingency plans that Shri Rajiv Gandhi carved out a new Ministry of Water Resources and it is heartening to realise that this nascent Ministry has worked in that direction. I was sorry to hear my hon. friend speaking from the other side when he criticised the Central Government for not coming up to his expectations.

I do hope that he is appreciative of the dimensions of the problem, of the pressure that is often put on the Government and regardless of what we otherwise claim for different States when it comes to seeking assistance from the Centre, the Centre is always at the receiving and irrespective of how the Centre mops up the resources to meet the emergent needs of different States.

Sir, in the past a lot has been done in the direction of flood control. There was a time when Delhi was often the victim of floods. But the construction of the embankment a few years back served the

[Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal] additional purpose of providing the much-needed outer ring road for Delhi.

Sir, because of the constraint of time I would only refer to the recent agonising experience which the people of Patiala in Punjab had to go through because of the floods. A major breach in the *nadi* there inundated large parts of Patiala and a vast number of residents of the town were affected thereby. Thousands of people had to be evacuated from the low-lying areas and property worth crores of rupees was damaged. However, the relief provided was not commensurate with the damage. So I will seize this opportunity to impress upon the Government to make a very balanced assessment of the damage there and help the State to meet the loss which has accrued to the people. I make this appeal here particularly because presently Punjab is under President's rule and genuinely we can stand up to demand from the Centre assistance and help where it is required.

With these words I thank you for providing me this opportunity but I do earnestly hope that the hon. Minister would consider the case of Patiala for grant of assistance commensurate to damage. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY
(Assam): I shall be brief, as brief as possible.

In recent times, in recent sessions, I speak something about floods in the form of a short-duration or calling attention discussion, is a ritual. It is because there is no sincere effort on the part of the Central Government to solve this great human problem caused by floods. During floods, it is mostly the poor people, the marginal farmers, who are affected. The rich or the affluent ones have nothing to do with it. I feel probably my State has remained neglected so far. I come from that cursed land where we are to put up with the curse of floods. But we have not seen any sincere effort or a pragmatic approach on the part of the Central Government to curb this evil.

As we know flood brings destruction in many ways; it cripples the economy completely. Though we see the phenomenon

of floods right from Kashmir down to Kanya Kumari but it is a constant feature in case of Assam. From my childhood I have seen ravages of floods in Assam and till now I have been experiencing the problems created by floods. Even today there are floods in Assam. Vast areas of land are covered by floods. Here I would not like to give a list of areas damaged by floods in my State; probably it is known to the Government better. But in recent times, Assam has been reeling under three successive floods and till now it is there. Most of the areas in eleven districts of Assam have turned into a sort of lake. It is really a very tragic scene. With great anguish I speak here I myself had to remain in a ferry for eleven days and I saw how the people suffered there. Even till today many people are staying there, making it their home. We can imagine the amount of loss and damage caused by these floods, loss of life, property and other institutions. There is not a single highway left which is not affected by these floods. Then comes the problem of erosion. There is a heavy erosion; it is there in Jorhat, in Dibrugarh, in Lakhimpur, in Sadiya, in Duhuri, in Guwahati; everywhere, there is erosion. There is erosion in Karimganj and Silchar also. In the Silchar region, the Bark river is eroding like anything. In the Brahmaputra valley, the river Brahmaputra is eroding like anything. There is very high siltation in the river.

Sir, sometime ago, the Brahmaputra Board proposed a project. If this project had materialised, not only floods would have been controlled, but it would also have helped in improving the power situation. There is tremendous hydel potential. If this project had materialised, it would have supplied power not only to Assam but to other parts of the country as well. I want that there should be a pragmatic approach on the part of the Government in tackling this problem. Whenever I raise this question, the hon. Minister says that Government have no funds. How can I believe it when I find that Government is spending crores of rupees on festivals, games and runs? Government is spending crores of rupees on the visits of various VTPs to different parts of the country. When this is the case, how can I believe

that Government has no money to control floods, to banish this curse once and for all from this country? The problem begs solution even after forty years of Indeipen-dence. The more pitiable condition is that, the most unfortunate part is that, the high-ups in the Government have no time to visit the floods-affected areas. They have time for other things but they have no time to visit the floods-affected people. Lakhs and lakhs of people are still reeling under floods. A large number of people are living in abject misery. A number of people are still living on tree-tops. Water is s'ill there in many places.

I would request the hon. Minister to do something positively and urgently. Moreover, the project proposed by the Brahmaputra Board should be implemented very soon. They can do this if they have the political will and adopt a pragmatic approach. Sir, Assam gives oil, gas, tea, timber and jute. But in return, we get nothing. That is why, perhaps, the per capita income of the Assamese people very low compared with the rest of the country. In spite of the various resources they have the people of Assam are suffering like anything. On the top of it, the recurring floods have made the people, more or less beggars. Sir, I shall not take much time. I only want that the Government should devote more time and energy to this problem. They should also come forward with more funds. Government should urgently allocate large funds to ease the difficulties of the flood-affected people in the State of Assam. I would also once again request the hon. Minister to give administrative and financial sanction to the project proposed by the Brahmaputra Board so that floods can be controlled in Assam. Thank you.

श्री भंवर लाल पंवार (राजस्थान) :

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, देश की यह विडम्बना है कि एक तरफ तो जल की अधिकता के कारण बाढ़-बाढ़ मचती है और दूसरी ओर जल के अभाव के कारण बाढ़-बाढ़ मचती है। मैं भारत के उस प्रान्त से आया हूँ, जहाँ बाढ़ के संबंध में तो कोई बात नहीं है। वह तो

मुझे केवल बचपन में सन् 1942 में देखने का अवसर मिला था या अभी जनता गर्वमेंट के समय 1979 में कुछ देखने को मिला था। 1979 में राजस्थान की जो हालत हुई, उसका नियंत्रण उस समय की सरकार कर नहीं पाई थी, यह स्थिति बिल्कुल स्पष्ट है।

अग्नेजों की सरकार ने जब स्वतन्त्र भारत की सत्ता का हस्तान्तरण किया था, तो उस समय भारत को बिल्कुल खोखला करके सौंपा था। उसके बावजूद भी कांग्रेस सरकार ने सत्ता प्राप्त करने के तुरन्त पश्चात् इस ओर ध्यान दिया और नवीन भारत निर्माणकर्ता स्वर्गीय पंडित जवाहर लाल नेहरू ने पंचवर्षीय योजनाओं के माध्यम से जल का पूर्ण उपयोग हो सके, इस संबंध में कार्यवाही की। हमने देखा कि पंडित जी ने अपने कार्यकाल में विशालकाय बहुदेशीय बांधों का निर्माण किया। हीराकुड, भाखड़ा-नांगल, तुंगभद्रा, जैसे बांधों के माध्यम से देश में कृषि के क्षेत्र में मजबूत नींव का निर्माण कराया। श्रीमती इन्दिरा गांधी ने अपने प्रयासों से देश में हरित क्रांति के माध्यम से खाद्यान्न के मामले में भारत को स्वावलम्बी बनाया। हमारे तौजवान प्रधान मंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी इस संबंध में और अधिक प्रयत्नशील हैं एवं उन्होंने राष्ट्रीय जल संसाधन विकास कार्यक्रम को गम्भीरता से हाथ में लिया है। विज्ञान एवं बढ़ती प्रौद्योगिकी का पूर्ण उपयोग इस क्षेत्र में वैज्ञानिकों को अनुबन्धित कर प्रधान मंत्री जी ने इस कार्य को और अधिक गति दी है और प्रधान मंत्री जी ने अनुभवी एवं सक्षम मंत्री श्री बी. शंकरानन्द जी को इस विभाग का कार्यभार सौंप दिया है। अतः तीव्र गति से इस ओर अधिक प्रगति की आशा है, लेकिन सरकारी अधिकारियों पर अंकुश लगाने की आवश्यकता है। मैं इस संबंध में माननीय मंत्री जी से एक निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि जैसे टेलीफोन, रेलवे इत्यादि के संबंध में विकास पत्र जारी किये जाते हैं, तो क्यों नहीं, इस बाढ़ जैसी गंभीर स्थिति से निपटने के लिये जल विकास

[श्री भवर लाल पवार]

पत्र के नाम से जारी कर इस समस्या का समाधान किया जा सकता? क्योंकि हम देखते हैं कि देश में समानान्तर अर्थ व्यवस्था जो दो नम्बर के धन से चल रही है, उसका उपयोग भी किया जा सके और देश की इस गंभीर समस्या से भी निपटा जा सके।

इस अवसर पर मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से एक निवेदन और करना चाहूंगा कि इस बाढ़ के पानी को कंट्रोल करके स्टोर करके जो कि हिन्दुस्तान के अन्य इलाकों में जैसे कि राजस्थान है, वहाँ पहुँचाया जाये? सन् 1958 में जिस राजस्थान कैनाल का काम जिसका अब इन्दिरा गांधी नहर परियोजना के नाम से नामकरण कर दिया गया है, 30 वर्षों से इतनी कष्टा चाल से काम चल रहा है कि उसका लाभ अभी तक भारत को नहीं मिल पाया है। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से स्पष्ट रूप से यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि यह कैनाल अगर समयबद्ध कार्यक्रम के अन्तर्गत पूरी हो हो जाती और अब भी अगर शीघ्र पूरी जाये, तो आने वाले 25 वर्ष तक पूरे भारत को राजस्थान ही खाद्यान्न के मामले में स्वावलम्बी बना सकता है। इसलिये इसके लिये अधिक से अधिक धन केन्द्र के द्वारा दिया जा कर इस योजना को पूरा कराया जाये। जैसे कि मैंने परसों ही एक प्रश्न के माध्यम से उठाया था और उसके उत्तर में केवल यह आया और जो राजस्थान सरकार का वर्ल्ड बैंक से इस योजना के संबंध में धन की मांग है, उसके संबंध में क्या प्रगति है और केन्द्र उस मामले में कितना धन वहाँ से वर्ल्ड बैंक से और दिला सकता है या इस योजना को राज्य योजना से ले करके केन्द्रीय योजना में क्यों नहीं, परिवर्तित कर इस नहर के माध्यम से इस देश के विकास में काफी योगदान क्यों नहीं लिया जा रहा है, इस और भी ध्यान दें, तो राजस्थान के साथ-साथ देश का भी भला होगा।

धन्यवाद।

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Mr. Vice-Chairman, before I reply to the various issues raised by the hon. Members, I must express my sympathies to those people who have suffered in the floods, who have lost their properties, whose property has been damaged and I express my "condolence's to the next of kith and kin of those people who have lost their lives in floods.

Many Members have spoken of course, with regard to the problems of water resources and their development in general. Some of them have given really some relevant suggestions for consideration of the Government in order to control flood or moderate flood. A few of them expressed their unhappiness over the P.M.'s visit to the areas where people are affected by flood. They also said why the Minister should visit. But I want to say that Government is and has been all these years always keen and concerned for ameliorating the conditions of the people who have suffered in flood areas. I have stated, in my main reply in the beginning to the Calling Attention Notice, the details of what action we have taken with regard to the flood affected areas. I have given details about the areas affected by floods in various parts of the country, State-wise and district-wise. Again I would like to inform the House that this year it has been reported that an area of about 16 lakh hectares has been affected and a population of about 8.4 million has suffered. I have! given details about the loss of life and also the cattle that have perished. I have also said how these things are taken into consideration and how we have taken precautionary measures in writing to the various Chief Ministers of the States concerned to take contingency plans and programmes in order to control the floods. I have also referred to the visits of my predecessor and the Secretary (Water Resources) to Assam. They had held talks and I want to once again say that as far as Assam is concerned, we have extended central loan assistance to Assam towards expenditure on works component of flood protection and anti-erosion schemes. I repeat that during the period 1974-75 to 1987-88, a central loan assistance of Rs.

161.5 crores has been released to the Government of Assam. For the year 1988-89, an outlay of Rs. 21 crores has been provided and already Rs. 6 crores have been released very recently on 27th July—i.e. last month.

Sir, I do not want to take up the time of the House because hon. Members have said many things, especially on relief that we are giving on account of floods and it is the complaints of the hon. Members that more amount is given as relief rather than taking measure for flood protection works. It is true, Sir and it has been the practice. Investment in flood protection works started during the First Plan period and substantial provisions were made thereafter in the various State Plans.

In the year 1976, Government of India constituted a National Flood Control Board which was called Rashtriya Barh Ayog and they went into all aspects of floods in the country. They produced a very bulky report for implementation by the State and Central Governments in 1980. They made as many as 207 recommendations largely covering the aspects of effect on development works on encroachments, methodology of flood damage assessment, land use and regulation costs and benefits, planning and implementation financing, maintenance, legislation on flood management and research, education and training. Sir, by the end of the Sixth Plan period about Rs. 1763 crores had been spent on various flood management works, primarily in the state sector. The approved outlay for the Seventh Plan was Rs. 947.39 crores. About Rs. 550 crores have been spent till the end of March, 1988. By the end of 1986-87, embankments had been constructed over a length of 14,511 km. with drainage channels running to 28,038 km., affording reasonable protection to 459 towns. About 4,701 villages have also been raised. Some Member said that action should be taken to raise the villages and the towns. I need not go into the details of this, Sir. But, the Planning Commission, I should say, has approved in the Sixth Plan, an outlay of Rs. 1049.10 crores for flood manage-

ment, for which the States and the Union Territories accounted for Rs. 870.10 crores, and Rs. 175 crores were provided in the Central sector. Against this outlay, I should say, the expenditure during the Sixth Plan period was Rs. 787 crores—Rs. 619 crores by the States and Union Territories and Rs. 168 crores in the Central sector.

Sir, the Rashtriya Barh Ayog which went into the detailed aspects of all floods problem assessed that about 32 million hectares out of the total flood-prone area of 40 million hectares, could be provided with reasonable protection. By the end of the Sixth-Plan period, I have the figures to show that about 13 odd million hectares were reported by the State, to have been provided reasonable protection at different levels of flood intensity. The Seventh Plan target is 1 million hectares, and the achievement till the end of March, 1987 was reported to be 0.37 million hectares.

I want to inform the House that the provision of embankments and drainage channels are not capable by themselves of offering absolute protection to any area from flooding. On techno-economic consideration, the approach is based on a study of "flood levels achieved during the last 25 years. It has been found that the development works like road communications, railway lines, housing developments and protection to agricultural farms, often leads to aggravation of flood problems.

It can be seen today in Delhi, Sir. It is common knowledge of all of us that there are human activities by way of construction and other economic activities in the flood-prone areas of Delhi. With the recent heavy rains in Delhi, it was a heavy task for the Delhi Administration to make hard efforts to get these people evacuated. So, when human activities expand and they start work, especially in the low-lying area which is the flood-prone area, naturally the damage is more it is our duty to see how best we can reduce or cut down the damages.

[Shri B. Shankaranand]

In this connection, I should say, the question of non-structural measures taken by the Government arises. The flood-protection measures are classified in two categories: One is the protective constructive measures, and the other is the non-constructive measures. Non-constructive protective measures are flood forecasting, and flood warning. I have given in my main reply till now how many flood warning stations we have established and how best we have been able to help the people by warning in time so that the damages with regard to loss of life and property are saved. Last time you are aware, the State from which you come, the flood forecast warnings were given and it saved a lot of damage in Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh was very appreciative of the work done by the Central Water Commission in this regard.

Before I conclude, I should inform the House that in our country there are many projects which have flood moderation components under operation. They are D.V.C. Reservoirs, Maithon Panchet Tilaiya and Konar, and Hirakud dam. Projects having flood moderation components under construction are Rengali dam on Brahmani river and Chandil dam on the Subarnarekha. Projects having flood moderation components which have been proposed are Tipaimukh, Dehang, Subansiri in Brafamaputra and Barak Valleys. I have forgotten to mention the other one—Pagladiya.

I have already given outlays, but I can repeat. Outlays on flood control in the Sixth Plan and the first 3 years of Seventh Plan are: Rs. 786.84 crores and Rs. 552.94 crores respectively. The relief on floods that has been given is much more as can be seen from the figures that I am giving you now. During the Sixth Plan flood relief given was to the extent of Rs. 843.90 crores and in the first 3 years of Seventh Plan it was Rs. 996.96 crores. As compared to this, you will be surprised to see that the drought relief was much more. I do not want to go into these aspects, but there is a point whether we can utilise these relief funds

for creating assets which will go a long way to add to the assets of protective measures with regard flood and utilising the flood water to the drought prone areas.

Before, I conclude I want to say that a few Members expressed their concern with regard to the Ganga-Cauvery link as was enunciated by Dr. K.L. Rao and the Dastur's Garland Canal scheme. On the floor of this House as well as outside I have expressed my views on more than one occasion that these aspects were gone into in detail by the experts of the Central Water Commission—their engineers and other engineers in this country. As per Dastur's programme of Garland Canal, I can say Mr. Dastur himself was not an engineer. He was never a water expert. He was just a pilot. Perhaps having flown all over the country, he found that he can suggest something which had absolutely no relevance to the technical or economic aspect of the project that he suggested. But then during the Janata regime he encouraged to submit the report. Many hours of time was spent by the experts to go into his report. Ultimately they found that it is not a report that we can give serious thought to.

With regard to the Ganga-Cauvery Link Project, which was enunciated by Dr. K. L. Rao, with all respect to him, he was a very eminent engineer and he did make use of the Central Water Commission's engineers to prepare this project in the Commission itself. Ultimately it was found though it was technically feasible, but economically it was not at all feasible because the amount of money that would be involved and the power that it requires to lift the water of the Ganga to bring down to Cauvery was too much. So, it has been found not at all economically feasible. With these words, I once again thank the Members who have taken part in the calling attention debate.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA
RAO: Regarding Polavaram-----

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am coming to that. Many Members have suggested about the clearance of the projects which according to them may be true and which have a flood component in those projects. Regarding the clearance of the projects if a separate question is put, perhaps. I will be able to tell in detail and not in this debate. Thank you very much.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, [asked the hon- Minister to give some facts about the Central aid given to Andhra Pradesh in the last five years and the amount asked by the State Government.

Secondly, Sir, about Polavaram project even after so many years...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): What do you want about Polavaram?

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Excuse me Sir, the question of preventing floods lies in constructing projects. Polavaram project would help a lot in preventing floods in Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I do not know.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Are you making a speech?

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: I will be brief. I am not going to make a speech. I am only asking a question. Why the Central Water Commission did not sanction or approve of it? In spite of the fact that the State Government was giving all necessary facts asked by the CWC, why it was not cleared? I want clarification on this point.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: The question has nothing to do with the floods.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): His point of view was if projects are constructed it would help in preventing this floods.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Otherwise flood havoc would not have been there.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I need a separate question and debate on that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): You can; give a separate question on this. -

SHRI NARREDDY THULSI REDDY. Sir, in the statement very little is mentioned about Andhra Pradesh. That is the first point. This is nothing but partiality towards Andhra Pradesh. This is nothing but step-motherly attitude of the Central Government towards non-Congress (I) States.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): What is your question?

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: I want an assurance from the hon. Minister regarding immediate grant to Andhra Pradesh and immediately sending Central team to Andhra Pradesh.

Finally, the hon. Minister has said that Mr. Dastur is not an engineer. But the world renowned engineer and intellectual Mr. Buckminster Fuller is reported to have welcomed the proposal of Mr. Dastur. Some most international experts have also welcomed this proposal. So, once again I request the hon. Minister to go through this proposal. .

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, I need not repeat what I have already stated earlier. I do not depend on the advice of the foreign engineers'. My own engineers in the Central Water Commission are very competent to give an opinion on that. I have given the opinion of the Central Water Commission engineers who are my advisers.

Regarding sending the team for relief work, unless the State Government writes to us about the damage where is the question of sending the team?

SHRI NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Sir* the State Government has requested and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh personally wrote a letter to the Prime Minister.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: We have not received.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): He says that the Central Government has not received it.

SHRI MOTURU HANUMANTHA RAO: Sir, my question has not been answered. I wanted to know about the details of aid given to the Government of Andhra Pradesh in the last five years.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): He says that he wants a separate notice for that. Then, he is prepared for a discussion.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): Now, the House stands adjourned and will meet again on Monday the 8th August 1988* at 11 a.m.

The House then adjourned at forty-one minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Monday, the 8th August, 1988.