SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL: I was here only to answer the clarification they had asked on a particular point. On this point, I am not prepared.

SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: We walk out in protest.

(*At this stage, some hon. Members left the Chamber*).

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORANCE

The devastating floods in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and some other parts of the country and the steps taken by Government in this regard

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): Now, we will take up the Calling Attention. Shri Gurudas Das Gupta—not here; Shri Chaturanan Mishra—not here; Shri Suraj Prasad—not here; Shri Chitta Basu—not here; Shri Kailash Pati Mishra—not here; Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee—not here; Shri Pramod Mahajan—not here; Shri Ashwani Kumar—not here. Shri Rajni Ranjan Sahu.

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं असम, बिहार, पश्चिमी बंगाल और देश के कुछ अन्य भागों में विनाशकारी बाढ़ और इस संबंध में सरकार द्वारा उठाये गये कदमों की ओर जल संसाधन मंत्री का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूं ।

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): Sir, as the House is aware, flooos of severe intensity this year have caused damage affecting large sections of our people in the States of Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu & Kashmir.

In Assam, the Brahmaputra and its tributaries have been in spate for most of the time ever since the onset of monsoon; in north Bihar, practically all the tributaries of the Ganga have been overflowing since the middle of July; and in West Bengal, the Ganga, Teesta and their tributaries also have crossed the danger mark for certain periods. For some time, a few rivers in Orissa and eastern Uttar Pradesh also have crossed the danger mark. In Assam, the river Brahmaputra at Guwahati and Nimatighat has crossed the highest flood levels observed in the past. Also, in North Bihar, the rivers of the Adhwara Group at Ekmighat (in Darbhanga), the Bagmati at Benibad and Hayaghat, the Burhi Gandak at Rosera, Samasthipur, and Sikanderpur (in Muzaffarpur). the Kamla Balan at Jhanjharpur, the Kosi at Easua and Baltara, and the Mahananda at Jhawa have exceeded the highest flood levels recorded earlier. 17 districts in Assam, 22 districts in Bihar and 5 districts in West Bengal have been affected by floods.

We have been in constant touch with the State Governments. According to the information from the States, submergence and breaches of embankments have taken place which have affected an area of about 40.6 lakh ha. and a population of nearly 20 millions. The total value of damage has been placed at about Rs. 480 crores. The reports indicate that 273 persons have lost their lives.

I had written to the Chief Ministers and the Administrators of the Union territories well in advance to take precautionary measures and prepare contingency plans to meet the flood situation during the monsoon season. Officers of the Central Water Commission, Ganga Flood Control Commission and the Brahmaputra Board have visited the flood affected areas to study the situation and discuss measures with State Government officers. The Central Teams have visited Jammu &

[Shri B. Shankaranand]

Kashmir and Assam to assess the situation and recommend relief measures and assistance.

I visited Bihar on 16th August, 1987 and along with the Chief Minister and State Ministers, made an aerial survey of the flood-affected areas in North Bihar. Some parts of flood-affected areas in West Bengal near Farakka were also covered. Senior officers of the Ministry and Central Water Commission also accompanied me. Union Ministers have also visited Assam and discussed the flood situation with the Chief Minister and others.

The Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources took a meeting of the Secretaries of the Irrigation & Flood Control Departments of the various States on 18th August and discussed the current flood situation. It was decided to finalise an action plan to meet the crisis caused by the severe drought and floods.

The Central Water Commission has established a network of 147 flood forecasting stations on several major inter-State rivers in the country. This year 2350 forecasts have been issued so far. 93% of them have turned out to be correct. They have been very useful in forewarning the people to take necessary steps to minimise loss of life and property.

The Centre has been extending special loan assistance to Assam towards the expenditure on flood protection and anti-erosion works. From 1974-75 to 1986-87, Central loan assistance of Rs. 140.50 crores has been released to the Government of Assam and for the year 1987-88, an outlay of Rs. 21 crores has been provided. An ad hoc advance of Rs. 5 crores has already been released on 22-7-1987.

A major problem faced by the State is due to breaches on the railway track and roads which has hampered the distribution of relief assistance and food supples Air Force transport aircraft and helicoptors have been pressed into service along with troops and assault boats for rescue and relief operations.

The main reason for the continuing damage and losses due to floods is the increased use and occupation of the flood plains. To minimise losses, a Model Flood Plain Zoning Bill had been prepared and commended to the States for adoption as far back as in 1975. However, except for Manipur, no State has so far enacted the required legislation. The need for this legislation is being emphasized from time to time. The National Conference of the Irrigation and Water Resources Ministers held in 1986 also recommended for such legislation.

The long-term measures for flood control comprise construction of major reservoirs, watershed management and river training works. The short-term measures like embankments, drainage channels, anti-erosion works would continue to be taken for providing reasonable protection. The assets thus created require proper maintenance by the State Governments.

Fortunately, the latest reports on the current flood situation reveal that the rivers in spate have now started receding, but we have to remain vigilant.

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I want to make just one mention. The Hon. Minister has given a very wrong statement. His statement is not well-versed. He is completely in the dark about the real flood situation in Assam. The Minister mentioned only two places, namely, Niyamati Ghat and Dibrugarh. Niyamati Ghat is a very small place. The truth is that entire Assam is under flood waters, right from Dhubri down to Sadia. Out of 18 districts, 14 districts are virtually

under complete water. The fact is that Assam is now completely under a sea of water. *(Interruptions)* Minister referred only to the Brahmaputra. But the truth is that all the tributaries of the Brahmaputra are also in spate.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): Your name is there. When your turn comes, you can speak.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar): Sir, my name was not called.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN) I called your name but you had gone out. I called other names also but they too were not here. So I called his name and he has called the attention of the Minister. So let him speak now and afterwards I will call your names. *(Interruptions)*

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं कि पिछले दिनों 16 अगस्त को इन्होंने बिहार का दौरा किया और वहां बाढ़ से पीड़ित लोगों के जो हालात हैं, उसको देखा । उपसभापति महोदय, आज देश प्राकृतिक प्रकोप के प्रभाव से गुजर रहा है। एक ओर सूखे की विभीषिका है तो दूसरी ओर बाढ़ से प्रभावित लोग परेशान हैं। इतना ही नहीं देश के एक हिस्से में हिंसा ने समाज को झकझोर रखा है और दूसरी ओर विदेशी ताकतें भारत को कमजोर करने में लगी हुई हैं। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, ऐसी परिस्थिति से जब देश गुजर रहा है तो एसे मौके पर हम सब सांसदों को, जो यहां बैठे हैं चाहे पक्ष के हों या विपक्ष के हों, इन विभीषिकाओं पर विचार-विमर्श करना चाहिए । उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमने थोड़ी देर पहले देखा कि नाशकारी बाढ़ जैसी बड़ी समस्या लिस्ट आफ बिजनेस में लिस्टेड है, उस ओर विपक्ष के साथियों का ध्यान न होकर वे बोफोर्स के क्लैरिफिकेशन में दो घंटे का समय सदन का जाया कर चुके हैं।

श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय (उत्तर प्रदेश) : बोफोर्स अलग चीज है ।

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : इससे पता चलता है कि लोगों की समस्या के तरफ उनका ध्यान नहीं है । वे रेगिस्तान की धूप को पानी की लहर समझकर मृग मरीचिका की तरह बोफोर्स की तरफ दौड़ रहे हैं उन्हें ऐसा लगता है कि सारी समस्याओं का समाधान बोफोर्स के बन्दूक से ही हो सकता है । बाढ़ से पीड़ित ही जान सकते हैं कि बाढ़ से लोगों की क्या दशा होती है । मैं आपसे अनुरोध करना चाहता हूं कि ऐसे मौके पर विपक्ष के साथियों का एक कंस्ट्रक्टिव अपोजिशन का काम करना चाहिए । मैं आग्रह करूंगा कि समय से ऊपर उठकर, ऐसे मौकों पर, ऐसी समस्याओं के समाधान के लिए एक जुट होकर काम करें ।

महोदय, जो बाढ़ से पीड़ित हैं वे ही जान सकते हैं कि बाढ़ से ग्रसित लोगों की क्या दशा है जिनके जान माल और घरों का नुकसान हुआ है । किसानों के किए कराए पर बाढ़ के पानी ने पानी फेर दिया है और हमेशा वह पानी फेरता रहा है । बाढ़ से हमारे देश में जानवर मर रहे हैं, लोग बेघर हो रहे हैं । हमारे देश के पूर्वी भागों के कई प्रान्तों में बाढ़ का पानी फैला हुआ है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, जो लोग अभी बाढ़ की विषम परिस्थिति से घिरे हुए हैं उनकी दशा का वर्णन करते हुए मैं मंत्री जी का ध्यान उन की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूं । बिहार में बाढ़ की जो हालत है उसमें लोग पेड़ों पर बैठे हैं । उनका घरबार बह गया है, वे मचान बनाकर पेड़ों पर बैठे हैं । ऊपर से पानी बरसता है । शायद मंत्री महोदय भी जब गए होंगे तो उन्हें भी अपने एरियल सर्वे से देखने को मिला होगा । महिलाओं की दशा बाढ़ में ऐसी हो गई है कि वह वर्णनीय नहीं है । ऐसी स्थिति में बाढ़ से जो प्रभावित हमारा बिहार प्रान्त है उसकी दशा की ओर मैं आपका ध्यान पुनः दिलाना चाहता हूं ।

[श्री रजनी रंजन साहू]

महोदय, बिहार राज्य में 23 जिले बाढ़ से प्रभावी हैं । ये जिले हैं मुजफ्फरपुर, सीतामढ़ी, मुंगेर, सहरसा, खगारिया, मधुबनी, पूर्णियां, समस्तीपुर, छापरा, दरभंगा, मोतिहारी, पटना, बेतिया, गोपालगंज, मधेपुरा, कटिहार, जहानाबाद, नालंदा, हजारीबाग, भागलपुर, गोडा, वैशाली और साहिबगंज । इन जिलों के 207 ब्लाकों के 8482 गांव बाढ़ से प्रभावित हैं । इतना ही नहीं, 2470 पंचायतें बुरी तरह से बाढ़ से ग्रसित हैं । इनकी जनसंख्या करीब 101 लाख है । जहां पर बाढ़ का पानी फैला हुआ है वह करीब 14.54 लाख हैक्टेयर है । जहां पर खड़ी फसल बरबाद हो चुकी है जिसका रकबा करीब 5.71 लाख हैक्टेयर है जिसका मूल्य 5139.62 लाख रुपए आंका गया है ।

श्रीमन, इतना ही नहीं, 38683 घर बरबाद हो चुके हैं जिनका मूल्य 130 लाख रुपया आंका गया है । अन्य पब्लिक प्रापर्टी भी बरबाद हुई है जिसका मूल्य 582.59 लाख रुपए आंका गया है । सैकड़ों जान एवं माल का नुकसान हुआ है । ऐसी स्थिति में सरकार की ओर से सराहनीय काम किये जा रहे हैं पर वह अपर्याप्त हैं । अभी भी कहलगांव, फरक्का, पुनपुन, बुढ़ी गंडक, खतरे के निशान से ऊपर बह रही है । कहीं-कहीं कोसी और महानन्दा नदी भी खतरे के निशान से ऊपर बह रही हैं । बिहार सरकार ने अपनी तरफ से अत्याधिक प्रयास किये हैं । उसने 7349 नावों से बाढ़ पीड़ित को राहत पहुंचायी है । इससे 15566 परिवार को बाढ़ की चपेट से निकाला गया है । इतना ही नहीं 881 रिलीफ केन्द्र कार्यरत हैं । 1197 स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र एवं 712 मवेशी स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र खोले जा चुके हैं । 60108 क्विटल गेहूं और 13544 क्विटल रेडीमेड फुड का वितरण किया जा चुका है । बिहार के इन इलाकों में सब से ज्यादा प्रभावित मुजफ्फरपुर का जिला है जहां से मैं आता हूं । इस जिले के 14 प्रखण्डों के 308 पंचायतों में से 64 पंचायत पूर्ण रूप से और 68 पंचायत आंशिक रूप से प्रभावित हैं । 572 गांवों में से सवा छः लाख लोग वर्तमान बाढ़ से पीड़ित हैं । 26 हजार 330 हैक्टयर भूमि में बाढ़ का पानी फैला हुआ है । मुजफ्फरपुर की जो स्थिति आज है, इतनी भयानक स्थिति पिछले 50—60 वर्षों में कभी नहीं आयी थी ।

18 हजार 267 एकड़ भूमि में लगी फसल नष्ट हुई है । करीब 255 लाख मूल्य की फसल नष्ट हुई है । सिर्फ मुजफ्फरपुर जिले में 180 सरकारी तथा 400 निजी नावों से बाढ़ पीड़ितों को राहत पहुंचाने की व्यवस्था की गई है। पर यह व्यवस्था अपर्याप्त है ।

मैं आपका ध्यान स्वास्थ्य केन्द्र की ओर आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूं । यद्यपि बाढ़ का पानी घट रहा है लेकिन इसके बावजूद बीमारी फैलने की पूरी उम्मीद है । राहत सामग्री के अलावा दवाएं और डाक्टरों की व्यवस्था की आवश्यकता है । सबसे दुखद स्थिति यह है कि मुजफ्फरपुर, समस्तीपुर, दरभंगा, झंझारपुर के बीच जाने के सभी रास्ते बंद हो चुके हैं । न रेल यातायात है और न सड़कों का यातायात है । चारों तरफ रास्ते कट चुके हैं । किसी प्रकार से लोग वहां बड़ी मुश्किल से पहुंच पाते हैं । गंडक में दरार से मुजफ्फरपुर शहर में भी पानी का खतरा आ गया है । हमारे जिला अधिकारी और अफसर और बिहार सरकार के द्वारा बचाव कार्य किये गये हैं । मधुबनी जिले के कोशी, कमला बालान तथा अधवारा समूह की नदियों में अचानक बाढ़ आ गयी है ।

मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहूंगा कि 1954 में नेशनल प्रोग्राम फार फ्लड कंट्रोल कायम हुआ था । उसमें यह तय हुआ था कि 80 मिलियन हैक्टेयर लैंड को आइडेंटीफाई किया जायेगा । पर अभी तक जो मुझे जानकारी है उसमें कुल 13 मिलियन हैक्टेयर तक ही हम पहुंच पाये हैं । यानी वन थर्ड में ही हम अभी तक सफल हो सके हैं । 1976 में नेशनल फ्लड कंट्रोल स्थापित किया गया पर पता नहीं इसकी अनुशंसा पर अमल किया गया या नहीं । 1980 में

यह तय हुआ था कि 300 करोड़ सालाना बाढ़ से बचाव के लिए खर्च किया जायेगा। लेकिन सन् 1980 से 1985 के बीच में एक हजार 48 करोड़ की योजना मंजूर की गई है। यह तीन सौ करोड़ की रकम भी कम है। पूरे योजना वर्ष के लिए यह रकम कम है। मेरा मंत्री महोदय से अनुरोध है कि इसकी एक परमानेन्ट व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए और इन्टर रिवर कनेक्शन की योजना जो किसी समय में श्री के०एल० राव ने दी थी उसको लागू करना चाहिए और आगे के लिए, आने वाले दिनों के लिए, हमें लोगों को पूर्ण रूप से बचाने का इंतजाम करना चाहिए ताकि जो लोग बाढ़ से ग्रसित हैं उनको बचाया जा सके। आने वाली जेनरेशन के लिए भी हम एक लांग टर्म पालिसी तय करें ताकि हर साल जो बाढ़ आती है उससे जो लोग पीड़ित होते हैं वे उससे पीड़ित न हो सकें। इन शब्दों के साथ आपने मुझे बोलने का समय दिया उसके लिए धन्यवाद देता हूं।

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अभी बाढ़ की विभीषिका के बारे में जो मंत्री महोदय का बयान आया है वह अत्यन्त असंतोषजनक ही नहीं बल्कि एक तरह से निन्दनीय भी है क्योंकि मंत्री महोदय ने जाने-अनजाने में उन सारी बातों को, जो बर्बादी हुई है और जिस अपार कष्ट में लोग हैं, उसको छिपा दिया है। यह अन्डर-स्टेटमेन्ट उन्होंने पेश किया है। यह बहुत ही दुःख की बात है। अभी जो हमसे पहले कांग्रेस पार्टी के सदस्य बोले, उन्होंने विरोधी पक्ष से सहयोग मांगा। वे उत्तर बिहार से आते हैं। अभी उत्तरी बिहार में 17 जिलों में से 16 जिले पानी में डूबे हुए हैं। सिर्फ एक जिला बचा हुआ है। क्या आप चाहते हैं कि उसको भी बाढ़ में डुबा दें तभी सहयोग आपके साथ होगा? उत्तरी बिहार के सात जिलों के मुख्यालय, डिस्ट्रिक्ट हैडक्वार्टस, पानी में सबमर्ज्ड हैं। मैं वहां 13 तारीख को गया था तब मुख्य मंत्री यहां थे और जो दूसरे नये मुख्य मंत्री बनने वाले हैं, वे और अन्य सब नेता दिल्ली में उपस्थित थे। सिंचाई मंत्री 15 तारीख को गये। वे लोग भी गये हैं और उन्होंने हवाई यात्रा की है। चाहे डिसिडेन्ट्स हों या लोयल हों, वे सब थे... (व्यवधान)।

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : आपने 17 जिलों की यात्रा पैदल एक दिन में कैसे पूरी की ?

श्री चतुरानन मिश्र : उन्होंने तो हवाई यात्रा की। मैं उस रोज मुजफ्फरपुर गया था। 13 तारीख को वहां रुका। वहां से दरभंगा नहीं जा सकता था। मैंने रेलवे से इन्क्वायरी की। रेल से नहीं जा सकता था। सीतामढ़ी नहीं जा सकता था, दरभंगा नहीं जा सकता था, मधुबनी नहीं जा सकता था, झंझारपुर नहीं जा सकता था, रक्सौल नहीं जा सकता था। ये सब पानी में डूबे हुए थे। जब वहां के सात जिला मुख्यालय पानी में डूबे हों और वहां से कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं आ सकती हो तो मंत्री महोदय यहां पर यह रिपोर्ट कैसे दे सकते हैं। इन्होंने जो इन्क्वायरी कराई या रिपोर्ट दी है वह गलत है। किसी सेक्रेटरी या अन्डर सैक्रेटरी की यहां की रिपोर्ट कैसे सही हो सकती है? इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि वहां पर जो डिवास्टेशन हुआ है उसकी सही झलक इसमें नहीं है। इस सदन में मैं कई बार कह चुका हूं कि हमारे यहां जो नदियां नेपाल से आती हैं उनसे हर साल बर्बादी होती है और 40 वर्षों की आजादी के बाद भी यह बर्बादी हो रही है। यह अनुचित है। यह कहना कि यह प्राकृतिक प्रकोप के कारण हो रहा है या नेचुरल क्लेमिटी के कारण हो रहा है, यह पार्शियली सच हो सकता है लेकिन यह विपदा मैन मेड क्लेमिटी भी है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि 40 वर्षों की आजादी के बाद भी आप नेपाल से कोई समझौता करके और दूसरी नदियों के बारे में कोई हल नहीं निकाल सकते तो ऐसी नालायक सरकार को तुरन्त हट जाना चाहिए। मैं मंत्री महोदय से मांग करता

[श्री चतुरानन मिश्र]

हूं कि वे अगर सिंचाई मंत्री होकर नेपाल से समझौता करके इसका कोई निराकरण नहीं कर सकते हैं तो वे अपने पद से इस्तीफा दे दें क्योंकि वर्तमान स्थिति में यही उपयुक्त है और तभी हम आगे बढ़ सकते हैं। यह अत्यन्त लज्जा की बात है कि बाढ़ के कारण हमारी सारी इकनोमी बर्बाद हो गई है और चारों तरफ बर्बादी छा गई है। यही सहयोग है। सोलह डूब चुके हैं और सत्तरवां डूबने चला जाए, यही सहयोग करें। इसलिये मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इंबकमेंट सिस्टम जो आपका है वह डिफेक्टिव है। इसमें दोनों तरफ से मिट्टी ऊंची कर दी जाती है और वह सिल्टेड हो जाता है और 15 फीट से 20 फीट से पानी गिरने लगता है। इसको सरकार क्या नहीं समझ सकती है। मैं दो बातों पर आपसे इस्तीफे की मांग करता हूं। जो तटबंध थे उनको आपने सही ढंग से नहीं देखा और इसमें जो कहा कि वहां फ्लड फोरकास्ट करने के इतने सेंटर हैं तो वे कहां गये? फोरकास्ट क्यों नहीं किया गया? ऐसा न होने के कारण वहां पर इतनी बरबादी हुई है। आपकी सरकार ने फ्लड के बारे में लोगों को सूचना देने की आवश्यकता नहीं समझी और इसके चलते इतनी बरबादी हुई।

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, अब मैं दूसरी बात की ओर जो राज्य सरकार के बारे में है आना चाहता हूं। राज्य सरकार 25 से 30 करोड़ रुपया खर्चा करती है इन तटबंधों की हर साल रिपेयर करने में होता है। यह है कि ये 25--30 करोड़ रुपये गबन हो जाते हैं। इंजीनियर, कान्ट्रेक्टर और मिनिस्टर मिल जाते हैं और इसका गबन करते हैं। तटबंधों में जो क्रैक होते हैं उन क्रैकों को भरते नहीं हैं और इसलिये हर साल इतनी अधिक बरबादी होती है। इयर्स टुगेदर ये नेग्लेक्टेड हैं और इस कारण जब बारिश आती है तो ये टूट जाते हैं और सारा पैसा ये लोग खा जाते हैं। अभी कांग्रेस के जो माननीय सदस्य बोल रहे थे मैं उनके ही जिले का उदाहरण देना चाहता हूं। वहां मिरोल और सकरा के तटबंध टूट गये थे, इंजीनियरों ने तोड़ दिया था। बिहार सरकार की एक कमेटी ने उसकी जांच की और जो रिपोर्ट उस कमेटी ने दी उसमें उन्होंने कहा कि इनको हमारे इंजीनियर तोड़ देते हैं, कान्ट्रेक्टर तोड़ देते हैं ताकि फिर उनको बनाने का मौका मिले और रुपये का मिसअप्रोप्रियेशन हो। ऐसी जो क्रिमनल गवर्नमेंट है, वहां की सरकार के जो मिनिस्टर इसमें सहयोग करते हैं, मैं बिहार सरकार से भी मांग करता हूं कि वह उनका इस्तीफा ले लें। अगर वे लोगों की जान नहीं बचा सकते हैं तो उन लोगों पर मुकदमा चलने चाहिए और लोगों को जान से मारने का अभियोग उनके खिलाफ लगाना चाहिए। जब यह होगा तभी हालत सुधर सकती है। मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि आप रेस्पांसबिलेटी बांट दें कि कौन-सा तटबंध कौन देखगा ताकि जो इंजीनियर जिम्मेदार हो, जो आफिसर जिम्मेदार हो उनके खिलाफ मुकदमा चलाया जा सके, उनको हटाया जा सके। जब आप ऐसा करेंगे तभी लोगों का आप पर विश्वास होगा और तभी हम लोग आगे बढ़कर कोई काम कर सकेंगे।

मंत्री महोदय ने कहा कि 15 तारीख को वे गये थे। मैं भी उस दिन वहीं था। वैसे मैं आपसे मिला नहीं क्योंकि आप हवाई यात्री थे और मैं धरती पर का आदमी हूं। उस दिन तीन हैलीकाप्टर ही थे। आप यहां कह रहे हैं कि हैलीकोप्टर दिये जा रहे हैं यह टी०वी० पर भी दिखलाया जा रहा है। अभी माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि 101 करोड़ से ज्यादा आदमी यहां फ्लड एफेक्टेड हैं तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूं कि क्या उनके लिये तीन हैलीकाप्टरों से काम चल जायेगा, इनसे उनकी मदद हो सकेगी? उनके लिये आपकी तरफ से कोई इंतजाम नहीं है, कोई भी कैंप नहीं है। मैं उदाहरण दूंगा बंगाल सरकार का। बंगाल

सरकार ने इस भयावह परिस्थिति का मुकाबला करने के लिये 1565 कैंप खोले हैं और इन कैंपों में आठ लाख आदमी हैं। क्या बिहार में इस तरह का एक भी कैंप है? मैं असम के बारे में नहीं जानता हूं, इस बारे में वहां के माननीय सदस्य बतायेंगे कि वहां क्या स्थिति है। सरकार की ओर से कोई रिलीफ नहीं दी जा रही है। इसलिये मैं आपसे कहना चाहता हूं कि आप यह जो कह रहे हैं कि हमने राज्य सरकार को यह करने के लिये कहा, वह करने के लिये कहा तो यह क्या तरीका है। वहां के नागरिक विषम परिस्थिति में हैं और ये वही नागरिक हैं जो हमको और आपको यहां चुनकर भेजते हैं। ये बाढ़ से पीड़ित हैं। इसलिये राज्य सरकार इसको करे, पंचायतें इसको करें, बोर्ड इसको करे केवल इससे काम नहीं चलेगा। नदियां आई हैं विदेश से। जब विदेश का कोई हमलावर आता है तो उसकी जिम्मेदारी केन्द्र सरकार की होती है। इसी तरह से जब विदेश से बाढ़ आती है तो उसको सोलहवां आना खर्चा केन्द्रीय सरकार को देना चाहिए, क्योंकि यह आपकी गलती से होता है। अगर आक्रमणकारियों का मुकाबला करने में सारा खर्चा केन्द्रीय सरकार करती है तो विदेश से आने वाली बाढ़ पर क्यों नहीं देती? इसलिये आपको इसका सारा खर्चा देना चाहिए।

एक और लज्जाजनक स्थिति के बारे में उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कहना चाहूंगा। मधुबनी में बाढ़ के सिलसिले में राहत तो कुछ दी नहीं गई। बाढ़ में पूरा शहर डूब गया था। हमारी पार्टी के लोगों ने प्रदर्शन किया, कलक्टर, डी०एस० के यहां। इस पर प्रदर्शनकारियों को बुरी तरह से लाठी से पीटा गया। जिला सेक्रेटरी घायल हैं, तमाम लोग घायल हैं, औरतें घायल हैं। जो रिलीफ मांगने के लिये जाते हैं जो रिलीफ की जगह पर उनको लाठी मारी जाती है। क्या यह उचित है यह लज्जाजनक स्थिति हैं। इसलिये जो मैंने आपसे कहा इसके लिये सही ढंग से एक योजना बनाने की जरूरत है। मैं अभी भी कहना चाहता हूं और मैंने पहले भी कहा है कि बिहार की समस्या के बारे में आप कोई ऐसी काल बद्ध योजना बनायें—अगर इस बारे में नेपाल तैयार नहीं होता है और ऐसा संभव नहीं लगता तो दूसरी कोई योजना बनाइये जिससे वहां के पानी को रोका जाए। भारत के बड़े भूभाग में सूखा पड़ा हुआ है। बिहार के० पानी को वहां लाया जा सकता है। पहले तो हम चर्चा भी सुनते थे डा० के०ए०ल० राव के जमाने में गाक मरी योजना बनेगी, अब तो जब से शंकरानन्द जी आए हैं सब मनहूसानन्द कर दिये हैं। कोई ऐसी योजना कहीं पर कुछ नहीं है। एक भयंकर स्थिति में हम लोग पड़े हुए हैं सलिए हम आप कहेंगे कि बड़े पैमाने पर केन्द्रीय सरकार वहां पर कैम्प खोलने की व्यवस्था करे, भोजन का इन्तजाम करे। बड़े पैमाने पर मकान गिर गये हैं सिर्फ गरीबों के ही नहीं बल्कि मध्य वर्ग के लोगों के भी मकान गिर गये हैं, उसके लिए भी सरकार कोई योजना बनाए ताकि मकान बनाए जा सकें। दूसरी बात जो मैं चाहता हूं वह यह है कि मैं सहमत हूं कि थोड़े ही दिनों के बाद एपीडेमिक या महमारी होगी उसके लिए अभी से सरकार को तैयारी करनी चाहिए। सरकार को तुरंत यह चाहिये कि बाढ़ का पानी जहां जब पट जाएगा तो फसल लगाने के लिए जो बिचड़ा होता है उसका इन्तजाम राज्य सरकार के साथ मिल कर करना चाहिये। जहां अभी भी धान की फसल है वहां से निकाल कर बिचड़ा दें तो अभी भी फसल लग सकती है। इसके लिए एक राष्ट्रीय अभियान की जरूरत होगी। यह राज्य सरकार नहीं कर सकती है। उसके पास पैसे कहां हैं? सारे पैसे तो आपके पास हैं वह कहां से कर सकती है? इसलिए देश में जो रबी की कमी होगी उसकी पूर्ति का इन्तजाम आपको अभी से करना चाहिये। तटबन्धों की देखभाल करने के लिए जो अधिकारी नियुक्त किये गये हैं जो सजा उनको होनी चाहिये वह आप दीजिये। आगे से यह कर दीजिये कि कौन कहां देखभाल करेगा ताकि वह सही ढंग से करे। यह उसकी जिम्मेदारी फिक्स कर दीजिये। हम यह कहेंगे कि इसके पहले बराबर होता था लेकिन यह दुख होता है कि सिंचाई मन्त्री जी ने सकी चर्चा नहीं की। गवर्नर लेवल पर आल पार्टी रिलीफ कमेटी बनती थी सुखा ड़ के बारे और बाढ़ के बारे में। अभी पूरे देश में

[श्री चतुरानन मिश्र]

बड़े पैमाने पर बाढ़ भी है और सुखाड़ भी है और यह सरकार चाहती है कि पूरे देश में विपक्ष सहयोग करे लेकिन आपने अभी तक कोई कमेटी नहीं बनाई है। इसलिए राज्यपाल स्तर पर आल पार्टी कमेटी बनाइये। हमारे यहां फारेस्ट एरिया भी है। वहां से फाडर लाया जाए, चारा लाया जाए और पशुओं के लिए किसानों को उपलब्ध कराया जाए ताकि मवेशी जिन्दा रह सकें। हम यह चाहेंगे कि जो भी लग्जरियस एक्सपेंडीचर है चाहे समाज के बड़े लोगों का है या सरकार की फजूलखर्ची है सब पर रोक लगा दी जाए। इन साधनों का इस्तेमाल किया जाए ताकि हम उनको सही राहत पहुंचा सकें। मैं बिजली के सम्बन्ध में खासकर के कहूंगा जितने भी एअरकंडीशनर हैं या जितनी भी ऐसी दूसरी चीजें जिनमें बिजली खर्च होती है उनको फिलहाल रोकिये और बिजली किसान को दीजिये ताकि उनको रिलीफ मिल सके। मैं आपसे यहां पर यह भी चर्चा करना चाहूंगा कि अभी कोयला उद्योग के लोगों की बैठक हुई थी तनख्वाह बढ़ाने के बारे में। कोयला मजदूरों ने यह तय किया है कि बाढ़ और सुखाड़ के रिलीफ में एक दिन की तनख्वाह दे देंगे। मैं चाहूंगा तमाम उद्योगों से कहा जाए कि उनसे पैसा रिलीफ के लिए जमा हो सके। इसी तरीके से जितनी भी कम्पनीज हैं चाहे पब्लिक सेक्टर में हों या प्राइवेट सेक्टर में हों इनमें जितना एक्सपेंडीचर होता है उस पर एक परसेंट टेक्स लगा कर तमाम लोगों की मदद की जाए ताकि वे इस महान विपत्ति का मुकाबला कर सकें। अंत में मैं फिर इस बात को दोहराता हूं कि सिंचाई मन्त्री जी आप इस्तीफा दे दें। हम को ऐसा सिंचाई मंत्री चाहिये जो इस समस्या के समाधान के लिए एक कालबद्ध योजना बना कर बाढ़ की समस्या का निदान कर सके। आपने घंटी बजा दी है मुझे वक्त नहीं है मैं अन्य राज्यों के बारे में नहीं बोल सका लेकिन वहां भी स्थिति यही है। बंगाल की सरकार ने कुछ काम किया है उसका मैंने आपके सामने जिक्र किया है। जहां तक राज्य सरकार का ताल्लुक है उसके बारे में माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि जिस ढंग से मदद की जा रही है। चारों तरफ हाहाकार मचा हुआ है कहीं जाया नहीं जा सकता है अभी भी नहीं जा सकते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति वहां पर है। बोट्स बहुत कम हैं जिन पर बहुत कम सामान ले जा सकते हैं। रोड के ऊपर डकैतियां हो रही हैं। जो पैसेंजर सामान ले कर के जाते हैं उनसे वो छीन लेते हैं उनको लूट लेते हैं क्योंकि लोग भूखे हैं। इसलिए हमने कहा कि बिहार सरकार को इस्तीफा दे देना चाहिये वो लोग सरकार को नहीं चला सकते हैं। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं अपने वक्तव्य को समाप्त करते हुए एक बार फिर मांग करता हूं कि बिहार की इस महान विपदा के बारे में लांग टर्म व्यू ले कर इसका निदान निकालने पर विचार कीजिये वरना सरकार हुई क्रिमिनल नेगलिजेंस कर रही है।

SHRI CHITTA BASU (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the flood situation has become very grim. As a mattter of fact, all the Eastern States and North-Eastern States of the country are today under the grip of a very serious flood. According to information available with me by this time 225 persons have lost their lives on account of fury of the floods and rail links to the North-Eastern region of the country have been cut off. Before giving some facts and suggestions regarding other States, I would like to start with the situation in West Bengal. Four districts of the North Bengal and one sub-division, namely, Siliguri of the Darjeeling district are now reeling under the fury of the floods. About 3 million people are affected. The State Government is very serious to provide for rescue and relief and also for the rehabilitation. As a matter of fact, a large number of relief camps have already been opened and people affected by floods have been provided with shelter. They are being provided with food and other assistance which are required by the victims. But the State Government today faces certain financial difficulties and these financial difficulties are real. As a matter of fact, the State Government's budget for the current year 1987-88 for the relief work is of the order of Rs. 11 crores and 75 lakhs. That is the total budgetary allocation for the current year for the State of West Bengal.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) in the Chair]

Already out of that budgeted amount Rs. 8 crores have been spent. Therefore, only Rs. 3 crores can be spent from the Government budgeted allocation. But the problem is very big. Now, the Central Government has got the responsibility under the Constitution. The Central Government is also to provide financial assistances of the matching grants, the amounts the Central Government wlil have to pay or make available should match the amounts which are being spent by the State Government towards the relief operations to meet the natural calamities. By this time the State Government of West Bengal should have Rs. 8 crores and odd for meeting the expenditure of the relief work. Mr Vice-Chairman, Sir, this amount has not yet been made available. On this question another very miportant question arises. The advances made by the Central Government is generally adjustable with the Plan assistance and by that every State suffers because that amount which is given for the relief purpose is adjusted with the Plan assistances. I think the situation needs revision of that policy and the Centre should provide adequate financial assistances for the States to meet the natural calamities.

Now, coming to Assam, as a matter of fact, it is the most severly affected part of our country. I must say that the Central Government is very callous towards the relief and rescue operation for the flood victims in Assam. Sir, I have got information which says that the Prime Minister wrote to the Congress-I President of Assam that the State Government of Assam had not sent any report on the damages caused by the floods to the Centre. This is not a correct approach and it is not also a correct act. It is, I will say, untrue and the Prime Minister should not have written that kind of a letter to the Congress (I) President of Assam while there is a constitutionally formed Government in Assam, whatever might be the Government. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI (Assam): May I inform the hon. Member that the Government of Assam have submitted two memoranda... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Whatever might be the nature of the Government, whatever might be the complexion of the Government, it is after all a Government elected by the people and the Prime Minister overrides the Congress President overrides the head of the State Government and says that the people of Assam are being victims because of the inefficiency of the Government of Assam. (*Interruption*)

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): May I know the source of your information?

SHRI CHITTA BASU: This letter written by the Prime Minister has been published in Assam Tribune on 31st July. The Assam Tribune published this letter of the Prime Minister. The fact is that the State Government of Assam has prepared a detailed... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: The Assam Tribune is controlled by the Assam Government. Therefore, they may write whatever they want to write.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Anyway, I have seen it in the Assam Tribune. The fact is otherwise. Here is my charge. The Assam Government had prepared a detailed report of the damages caused by the floods and they submitted a 46 page memorandum by July 19. I do not know the other case and they submitted it to the Union Ministry of Agriculture and they demanded central assistance of Rs. 30 crores to meet the immediate urgent needs. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Let him speak. It is for the Minister to reply.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I know that the Assam Government demanded Rs. 30 crores immediately to meet the situation. It is the Minister who has to say how much of assistance has been made available to them. Now, there is another instance of callousness. This hon. Minister Mr. B. Shankaranand told Parliament sometime ago that nearly 50 per cent of 3.15 mililon hectares of geographical area in Assam identified as flood prone area has been afforded protection by the end of 1986. This report is mentioned in the Hindu editorial of July 15, 1987. Mr. B. Shankaranand made a statement in the Parliament saying that 50 percent of the flood prone area of Assam has been protected. Now, they will give the actual magnitude of the damages. Mr. Basumatari, if you are honest and sincere, you can also

[Shri Chitta Basu]

give the detailed damages caused by floods in Assam. Therefore, what is the claim? This Minister claims that 50 per cent of the geographical area of Assam has been protected against floods and in 1987, June, July and August, there were damages of immense magnitude caused by floods. They should have some shame. This kind of irresponsible statement is being made in the Parliament. (*Interruptions*).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The Minister will reply to it. Why do you worry. Mr. Basumarari about that? Whatever he says, the Minister will reply.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Therefore, the Statement cannot claim any credibility. Now, Mr. Rajesh Pilot who happens to be the Surface Transport Minister of the Union Government, was kind enough to visit Assam. He said, there should be a permanent solution of the problem. Yes, AGP or everybody in Assam wanted a permanent solution of the problem. As a matter of fact, there have been some steps taken for a permanent solution of the problem. That is, by taming, harnessing the river Brahmaputra. Sir, you would know, under an Act of Parliament passed in 1980, a high-powered body has been set up to formulate a Master Plan for the Brahmaputra Valley and that project covers flood and bank erosion control, drainage improvement and utilisation of water resources. As a matter of fact, it is the responsibility of the Union Government to see that it is implemented. My charge against the Government is that no step has been taken for the implementation of that Master Plan which has already been prepared by the high-powered committee. And now, Sir, what is the potential of the Brahmaputra? He is called a river of sorrow. But he may become a river of prosperity not only of Assam but of the entire north-eastern region including West Bangal and Bihar. Tht power potential is enormous. If the Brahmaputra river is properly harnessed, the power deficiency not only of Assam but of all the north-eastern States and West Bengal and Bihar can be removed. And that will provide a new process or new tempo in the industrialisation in Assam and other neghbiuring States. Sir, my definite and specific question is, what the Government of India has so far done for the implementation of the Master Plan prepared by the high-powered committee?

Lastly, Sir, I will make only a few sentences regarding Bihar. I find that an hon. Minister was pleased to have an aerial survey of the affected areas of Bihar. A detailed study of the damage to Bihar has been made by the hon. Member opposite and Mr. Chaturanan Mishra on this side. I would not like to repeat those things. According to the statement issued by the hon. Minister, Shri Shankaranand, "Bihar situation is grave" and he says that Bihar should, must, get the maximum Central assistance. They have not so much sympathy for Assam. They have got this sympathy for Patna because they have a to rescue their Chief Minister Mr. Bindheswari Dubey. The hon. Minister rescued him from the wrath of the masses of Bihar. He made a statement that Bihar needs, deserves, large quantities of Central assistance, to lift Bindeshwari Dubey from the morass. I am happy that the hon. Minister has been very sympathetic to Bihar. Bindheswari Dubey will go, either you give money or you do not. But I quite appreciate that you have taken a very sympathetic view of Bihar. Why you have not taken that sympathetic view towards Guwahati, towards the people of Assam? Why you have not done anything for the relief operation in West Bengal? Because West Bengal State has already spent more than eight crores, he has also to pay an equivalent amount. Is that amount not available to the Government of West Bengal? And the Central Government also has some responsibility to the State of West Bengal. Regarding Bihar if you are so kind, kindly show the results of it. It should not be an exercise of speech-making. How much amount have you already made available to the Bihar Government to meet the situation? What kind of relief have you already made available to the Bihar Government to meet the situation? I hope the honourable Minister will give specific answers to these specific questions-one set of questions in regard to West Bengal, another set of questions in regard to Assam and a third set of questions in regard to Bihar. Thank you.

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, केन्द्रीय जल संसाधन मंत्री श्री बी० शंकरानन्द जब बिहार के दौरे पर गए थे, तो मैं 15 को मुजफ्फरपुर में था, और 16 को मोतिहारी में। चित्र का वर्णन तो मैं बाद में करूंगा, लेकिन बिहार के एग्रीकल्चर डायरेक्टर ने एक अखबार को इन्टरव्यू दिया है, पहले उसको चार पंक्ति मैं पढ़ देना चाहता हूं :—

"The twin problems of floods and drought in Bihar have resulted in a loss of about 12 lakh tonnes of foodgrains worth nearly Rs. 400 crores.", according to the Director of Agriculture, Shri B. A. Ram. "Shri Ram says that while crops worth about Rs. 350 crores had been damaged by floods, drought has affected crops worth Rs. 35 crores."

महोदय, माननीय सदस्य चित्त बसु जी ने मेरे सामने थोड़ी सी असमंजस की स्थिति पैदा कर दी है। लेकिन मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि अगर वह बिहार का एक चक्कर लगा लें तो उन्हें स्थिति का पता चलेगा, कम से कम बंगाल में तो रिलीफ, राहत चल रही है, लेकिन बिहार की अवस्था देखने के बाद तो रोना छोड़कर, और कुछ दिखाई नहीं देगा। वहां 1 करोड़ 20 लाख की आबादी ऐसे संकट में फंसी हुई है कि एक कोने से आंख उठाकर दूसरी तरफ रखते हैं तो 22 जिलों में लगातार महासमुन्द्र दिखाई पड़ रहा है।

महोदय, मैंने एग्रीकल्चर डायरेक्टर का लेख तो पढ़ा है, यह 400 करोड़ की बर्बादी, केवल फसल की बर्बादी उन्होंने आंकी है। मकान कितने गिरे, कितने मवेशी मर गये, कितने मनुष्य मर गए, कितनी झोंपड़ियां ध्वस्त हो गयीं, उसका अभी इसमें एक पैसे की क्षति का भी आकलन नहीं है। महोदय, यहां इतनी बड़ी आबादी संकट में फंसी हुई है। आश्चर्य होगा, मैं मुजफ्फरपुर गया, 19 ब्लाक ऐसे बाढ़ में डूबे हुए हैं कि मुख्यालय से, जिला मुख्यालय से किसी प्रखण्ड पर पहुंचाने के लिए सरकार के पास भी कोई साधन नहीं है। हम लोगों ने आह्वान किया था। सैकड़ों कार्यकर्त्ता जिला मुख्यालय के सामने जाकर खड़े हैं, कोई साधन नहीं है, वे हर प्रखण्ड पर पहुंचना चाहते हैं, जो मर रहे है, डूब रहे हैं, उनका सहायता करना चाहते हैं, लेकिन जिलाधीश हाथ बांधे लाचार असहाय हैं।

महोदय, यही अवस्था मोतिहारी में देखी गयी। हमारे एक मित्र भूतपूर्व मंत्री हैं श्री जगबंधु अधिकारी, वह किसी तरह कटिहार तक पहुंचे। कटिहार से हमको टेलीफोन और तार करते हैं कि यहां कटिहार शहर के बाहर चारों तरफ महासमुद्र दिखाई दे रहा है, न किसी के पास खाने के लिए कुछ है, न किसी के पास पहुंचने के लिए कुछ है, केवल इतना ही है कि रेलवे स्टेशनों के अगल-बगल में किसी प्रकार से वहां से उजड़ते हुए, तैर कर आये। पूरे उत्तर बिहार के एक हिस्से से दूसरे हिस्से पर रेलवे स्टेशनों पर हजारों लोग, भीड़ की भीड़ दिखाई देती है और कहीं सरकार नहीं दिखाई दे रह, कहीं कोई रिलीफ नहं दिखाई दे रही है, कहीं कोई कैंप नहीं दिखाई दे रहा है। सुना है कि दिल्ली से हैलिकाप्टर चला है। मैंने पटना आकर हालात की छानबीन की। मात्र तीन हैलिकाप्टर हैं और हैलिकाप्टर चालक कहते हैं कि उनके पास बाढ़ में फंसे हुए लोगों के लिए ले जाने के लिए बना बनाया कोई सामान नहीं है—फूड पैकिट्स नहीं हैं। क्या अब हम चावल, दाल और गेहूं के बोरे उठायें और हैलिकाप्टर पर लादकर गिरायें। वहां इतनी तबाही दिखायी देती है कि देखकर हृदय कांप उठता है। श्री शंकरानंद जी ने अपने वक्तव्य में कहा है कि एरिअल सर्वे किया है। महोदय, एक बार हवाई जहाज पर बैठकर निकला जाये और बंगाल, बिहार और असम का एक झोंके में एरिअल सर्वे कर लिया जाये तो आकाश में चढ़ने के बाद धरती पर कौन बीस फीट नीचे डूब रहा है, किस मकान की छत पर से पानी गिर रहा है यह एरियल सर्वे में नहीं दिखायी देता है। जानवर भी नहीं दिखते, आदमी भी नहीं

[श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र]

दिखते। चारों तरफ सागर ही सागर दिखायी पड़ता है। महोदय, एक समाचार छपा है —

"Shri Shankaranand told that the situation here was very grave and warranted Central assistance. He said that he was fully convinced that of all the States currently reeling under the impact of floods, Bihar is the worst-hit."

परन्तु आगे जो कुछ वक्तव्य छपा है उससे तो इतनी ज्यादा निराशा होती है कि कह नहीं सकते--

"The Minister, who held detailed discussions with the Chief Minister, the Irrigation Minister, the Agriculture Minister and the Chief Secretary before undertaking the aerial survey, expressed his satisfaction over the relief and salvage measures undertaken by the State Government to meet what he called Nature's curse."

महोदय, मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूं कि एरियल सर्वे के पहले आपने यहां अपना संतोष प्रकट किया है। मैं आपको चुनौती देने के लिए तैयार हूं कि आप किसी एक जिले के अन्दर चलिए, कांग्रेस दल के संसद सदस्यों को ले चलिए, हम लोगों को ले चलिए जहां बिहार सरकार ने लोगों को मरने से बचा लिया हो। उसकी अंतड़ियों में खाना पहुंचा दिया हो। महोदय, लोग बाढ़ से घिरे हुए हैं अचानक एक जगह रेडियो पर सुनने को मिल रहा है, सरकार सचेत कर रही है—पानी बढ़ रहा है, सुरक्षित स्थानों पर निकल कर चले जाइये। समझ में नहीं आता जहां सारे रास्ते रुके पड़े हों, रेलवे लिंक टूट गयी हो, सड़क टूट गयी हो, एक-एक मकान पानी के अन्दर घिरा हुआ हो तो सुरक्षित स्थान पर चले जाइये, कहने का मतलब क्या होता है? क्या जानवर व आदमी पक्षी बन जाएगा और अपने घर से उड़ेगा और एकदम से सुरक्षित स्थान पर पहुंच जाएगा। महोदय, पेड़ों की डालों पर बैठकर लोग जान बचा रहे हैं। कहीं हिसाब नहीं है कि किस जिले में कितनी मृत्यु हुई है। उसको या तो जानबूझकर छिपाया जा रहा है या उसकी जानकारी सरकार को नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि एक मधुबनी जिले के अंदर झंझारपुर से लेकर मधुबनी तक 94 लोगों की मृत्यु हो गयी है। पूर्वी चम्पारन में जिस दिन मुझे पता चला उस दिन तक 10 लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है। सहरसा जिले के अंदर 16 लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है। महोदय, मुझे यह संदेह है कि इस बाढ़ग्रस्त इलाके के अन्दर 300 से ऊपर लोगों की मृत्यु तो बिहार के अन्दर हो गयी हैं। मुझे बंगाल और असम की ठीक ढंग से जानकारी नहीं है। वहां पर भी संकट गहरा अवश्य दिखायी दे रहा है। लेकिन जहां से मैं घमकर आ रहा हूं वहां हमारे दल के कार्यकर्ता जगह-जगह लगे हुए हैं, उनके द्वारा जब हमको खबर मिल रही है तो उसके अनुसार 300 से अधिक लोग अकेले बिहार में ही मर चुके हैं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : आप समाप्त कीजिए। मैं आपकी भावनायें समझता हूं, लेकिन समय से हम भी बंधे हैं।

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र : आप कल्पना कीजिए कि जहां एक करोड़ 20 लाख की आबादी बाढ़ से प्रभावित है वहां की क्या हालत होगी। महोदय, पटना के बगल में मिलिटरी का कंटीनमेंट है। वहां आज भी नावें उनके पास पड़ी हुई हैं। जहां बाढ़ है वहां पर नौकायें नहीं है। तो मिलिटरी की नावों का अभी तक बड़े पैमाने पर क्यों नहीं रिक्विजिशन किया गया है? बिहार के अन्दर जितनी नावें हैं अगर वे कम पड़ती हैं तो क्यों नहीं बाहर से मंगाई जाती है। आखिर इंसान की जान से और कौन सी चीज अधिक उपयोगी हो सकती है? मिलिटरी के पास नावें चाहे लखनऊ में हों या दिल्ली में हों, वहां से मंगाना आवश्यक है। जैसे शंकरानन्दजी ने एरियल सर्वे किया वैसे ही एक केन्द्रीय मंत्री एरियल सर्वे वहां कर रही थीं। मैं लौट रहा था। बिहार से आए हुए केन्द्रीय सरकार के एक राज्य मंत्री के कर्मचारिगण से मैंने पूछा कि महोदया कहां

से लौट रहे हैं। तो बताया गया कि वे सीतामढ़ी गई थीं। सीतामढ़ी में भी जाना चाहता था, मगर पहुंच नहीं पाया। मैंने उनसे पूछा कैसे गईं। तो बताया गया कि हैलिकाप्टर से वे सीतामढ़ी गईं डुमरा में एक हैलीपेड बना लिया, वहां वह पहुंच गईं। उसके बाद आधा घंटे वहां लोगों से मिली और हैलीकाप्टर से उड़कर चली आईं। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि जिलों में लोग बाढ़ से फंसे हैं वहां आखिर भारत सरकार के मंत्री नावें लेकर क्यों नहीं पहुंचे? जब वहां पर लोग बाढ़ में फंसे हैं तो वे उनके बीच में क्यों नहीं रहे? भारत सरकार के एक-एक मिनिस्टर को बाढ़ ग्रस्त इलाके में नाव लेकर क्यों नहीं भेजा गया?

महोदय, आंकड़े गलत दिये जा रहे हैं। माननीय सदस्य चतुरानन मिश्र जी ने जो कुछ कहा, वह बिल्कुल सत्य है। बिहार की बाढ़ मानवीकृत अधिक है, प्राकृतिक कम है। लगातार एक के बाद एक बांध वहां पर टूट रहे हैं। वहां पर समस्तीपुर में केहर नदी का तटबंध 14 अगस्त को टूट गया। बेती नदी का तटबंध 12 अगस्त को टूट गया, बूढ़ी महानदी का तटबंध टूट गया, कमला बालान का तटबंध टूट गया। भतुही बालान का तटबंध टूट गया। बागमती का तटबंध टूट गया। ये जो तटबंध टूटने लगते हैं तो इसका संकेत वे पहले ही दे जाते हैं। लेकिन कष्ट इस बात के लिए होता है कि साल साल भर तक पैसा खर्च होता है किन्तु तटबंध की मरम्मत नहीं होती है और इसीलिए संकट फंसता है। जब संकट आकर खड़ा होता है तो इंजीनियर ठेकेदार और राजनीतिक नेताओं के लिए इससे अच्छा अवसर बुरी तरह से पैसा कमाने का दूसरा नहीं रहता है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई): आप अब कंक्लूड कीजिए, समय नहीं है। आप बहुत बोल चुके हैं।

श्री कैलाश पति मिश्र: महोदय, केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पहले भी कई योजनायें बनाई। मैं देख रहा था कि 1984 में बाढ़ नियंत्रण के लिए राष्ट्रीय योजना चालू की गई। 40 मिलियन हैक्टेयर का बाढ़ से प्रभावित क्षेत्र माना गया और उसे बचाने के लिए योजना बनाई गई। 1984 की योजना किस प्रकार से खाते में पड़ी हुई है। घूमने के बाद धरती पर कहीं नहीं दिखाई दे रही है। 1968 में फ्लड प्लान जोन बिल का एक माडल बिल बना कर केन्द्र सरकार ने सभी राज्यों को भेजा और आज उत्तर मिल रहा है कि किसी एक राज्य ने इस माडल बिल के बारे में कोई उत्तर नहीं दिया और केन्द्रीय सरकार बैठी हुई है। 1976 में नेशनल फ्लड कंट्रोल कमीशन बना। अधिकांश राज्यों में वह लागू नहीं हुआ। लोग मर रहे हैं। मकान टूट रहे हैं, बर्बादी हो रही है। 10 दिन में, 5 दिन में या 7 दिन में जब पानी उतरेगा तो कई प्रकार से संकट खड़े होंगे। सबसे पहले तो महामारी फैलेगी। कोई भी बीमारी फैल सकती है। कालरा फैल सकता है, मलेरिया फैल सकता है, अनेक बीमारियां हो सकती हैं उससे भी लोग मरेंगे। दूसरा संकट यह है कि चाहे मजदूर हों, छोटे किसान हों, उसके घर में खाने के लिए पैसे नहीं होते हैं, उसके घर अन्न बचने का सवाल नहीं है। उनको खिलाने के लिए सरकार कहां से लायेगी? सरकार उनके लिए कोई हुई योजना बना रही है? फिर खेतों में कोई फसल खराब हो गयी है। अगली रबी की फसल भी बोई जा सके इसके लिए किसान को अच्छे बीच मिलने चाहिएं, उसको दूसरी सुविधायें मिलनी चाहिएं, लोन उसका माफ कर दिया जाये। मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इसके लिए सरकार बतायें क्या करने जा रही है। (**समय की घंटी**) मैं एक मिनट में खत्म करता हूं।

मैं सरकार से मांग कर रहा हूं बाढ़ में जो लोग मर गये हैं उनके परिवार को मुआवजा मिलना चाहिए। मैं कहूंगा कि ये स्वतंत्र देश के नागरिक हैं इसलिए जो-जो मरे हैं उनके परिवार को कम से कम 50-50 हजार रुपये मिलने चाहिए। जिन-जिन किसानों के जानवर मारे गये, मवेशी मारे गये उनको बदले में आप

[श्री कैलाशपति मिश्र]

उसी स्तर का जानवर दीजिए, बैल दीजिए, भैंस दीजिए, गाय दीजिए या उतनी ही राशि उनको भेंट कीजिए। क्योंकि इनकी सरकार की उपेक्षा के कारण हानि हुई है। जिनके घर नष्ट हुए हैं उनके घर को बनाने का दावा भी सरकार अपने ऊपर ले। अन्त में इस संकट की पुनरावृत्ति न हो इसके लिए सरकार ठोस योजना बनाये।

महोदय, ये क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं कम ज्यादा हर साल इसमें बाढ़ आती है। पहाड़ी नदियां लगी हुई हैं। वर्षा हुई कि पानी आ जाता है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि ये जो सारे इलाके बर्बाद होते हैं इनके लिए सरकार कौन से कदम उठाने जा रही है कि भविष्य में यह बर्बादी न हो।

समाप्त करते हुए, जो सरकार की ओर से उत्तर है और राज्य सरकार के भी आंकड़े हैं वे आंकड़े केवल 400 करोड़ रुपये बर्बादी के लिए हैं। खेतों पर लगी फसल जो बर्बाद हुई है, जानवर जो मारे गए हैं इनकी बर्बादी का बोझ कौन उठाएगा? इन सब बातों का अनुमान लगा करके मंत्री महोदय कृपा करके उत्तर दें कि बिहार के लिए कौन से कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं जिससे सबसे पिछड़ा हुआ राज्य, जो गरीबी की रेखा के नीचे जीवन काट रहा है उन के लोगों की मरते हुए, डूबते हुए रक्षा की जाए। चाहे असम हो या बंगाल हर क्षेत्र में, देश के हर कोने में बाढ़ से पीड़ित लोगों के लिए समुचित सहायता पहुंचाई जाये इसके लिए मैं आग्रह कर रहा हूं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI NAGEN SAIKIA (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have heard the statement read out by the hon. Minister and to me the statement is one of the inadequate accounts which I have ever heard. It could not give even a glimpse of the grave situation faced by Assam, Bihar and West Bengal. Actually, Sir, Assam is under water for the last two months. From the 25th June, the first wave of floods started and by 25th July the whole State practically was reeling under water. From Dibrugarh in the east and to Dhubri in the west, all along, the Brahmaputra is still above danger level and the Minister states that this is the position only between Gauhati and Niamati ghat. He said and I quote: In Assam the river Brahmaputra at Gauhati and at Niamati ghat has crossed the highest flood levels observed in the past. Sir, it is not a well-versed statement. The fact is that all the tributaries also began to rise simultaneously. The rainfall in Dibrugarh town during the first three weeks of July was the highest during the last fifty years. Dibrugarh, Lakhimpur, Sonitpur, Sibsagar, Jorhat, Nagon, Karbi, Anglong, Borpeta, Kamrup, Nalbari, Dhubri—practically all the districts have been affected badly by these three consecutive and the most devastating floods. There were many breaches of the embankments of the Brahmabputra and some of the major tributaries also. Train communications and road communications are still disrupted. About 50 human lives have been lost and more than 15 thousand cattle heads are lost. And about 10 lakh hectares of crop area has been damaged.

The most badly affected area is Majuli, the biggest river island in the world. Even airdropping of foodstuffs could not be made for some days in those places. Army was employed to rescue the marooned people. Lakhs of people are taking shelter on the PWD roads, embankments and dykes. About 1077 camps have been opened by the State Government. The State has faced the damage of a minimum of about Rs. 600 crores in total in these floods. One cannot imagine the gravity of the situation by sitting in Delhi.

Sir, we are very sorry to find that the Prime Minister could get time to visit all places in the country even when there have been some minor happenings; but he being the head of the Government could not get time to visit Assam in these most critical days of the State. The State Government with all its might and right has been giving relief to the affected people. The passive attitude of the Central Government towards the sufferings of the people of Assam has no excuse at all. Such an attitude is

anti-human and against the solidarity and integrity of the country also.

Sir, I have been feeling since the days of my joining the House that the cause of Assam is always neglected. The Central Government tried to establish that the Government of Assam did not supply information about the floods in time. My friend, Shri Chitta Basu has stated in his speech and I would like to draw the attention of the House to the memorandum submitted by the Government of Assam on 19th July and 7th August, giving a full and comprehensive account with all necessary data, which is in the hands of the Central Government. I urge upon the Government to release the amount shown by the State Government in its memorandum prepared very realistically and scrupulously. Moreover necessary supply of foodstuffs and medicines should be made available immediately. As you know, after the floods there is always the danger of epidemics. I also urge upon the Government to take necessary steps to prevent floods and thereby protect the life and property of the people of the State.

The All Assam Students' Union have a programme of one day fasting in protest against the passive attitude of the Government. The Assam Gana Parishad has also decided to stage a dharna in Delhi tomorrow at Boat Club. I request those who feel sympathy for the people of Assam to join us.

I want to know can the present Central Government be called the people's Government, which is showing its back to the people when they are in untold misery and agony? Will the Government allow the floods to create this scene every year in these areas? The Brahmaputra Board was constituted with a view to controlling the Brahmaputra and producing hydel power, as my friend, Mr. Basu has stated in his speech. The Board has submitted the master plan on 30 December 1966, but still the Government is sleeping over those papers on the plea that it would have to be examined once again.

5.00 p.m.

I want to know whether it is a fact that the hon. Minister of Water Resources is not in favour of implementing this scheme; whether it is also a fact that the CWC is also inimical to it for reasons best known to them. If not, why this delay on the plea of examining and re-examining the whole scheme and thus allowing people to suffer? The Government, specifically the Ministry of Water Resources is playing games with the lives of the people of Assam. Such inimical attitude would invite more and more trouble. The people in Assam are fighting against the paws of death.

I urge upon the Government to realise the gravity of the situation and release the funds that have been demanded by the State Government immediately for relief to the flood-affected people. One Indian poet, K. R. Rao, wrote in his poem 'THE VICTIM'

"I sat in the Noah's ark of my thought
When the human bodies rolled in the flood.

Like the logs of wood, and Ministers made an aerial survey of death.
What could a poet do?
I am muted like a rock—
another flood affected victim."

I draw the attention of the House and of the Government to this grave situation prevailing in the State and request for immediate necessary steps. Thank you.

SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, many hon. Members have already discussed the impact of the devastating floods which have engulfed vast areas of Bihar, Assam, West Bengal and some parts of Jammu and Kashmir. Just now, Mr. Nagen Saikia gave an idea of the devastating floods in Assam. I will take some time to refer to the latest flood situation in West Bengal. The number of people affected in West Bengal, district-wise is: In West Dinajpur, it is 20 lakh; Cooch Bihar—6,20,000; Jalpaiguri—it is 3,75,000 and almost the same number of people have been affected in

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the district of Malda, and nearly 8 lakh people have been forced to take shelter in 1565 relief camps opened in these 4 districts. West Bengal Government with its resources and with the help of panchayats and other agencies are doing its best to cope with the problem and to stand by the people with relief and rehabilitation measures. What is more, out of the mandatory budgetary allotment of Rs. 11.75 crore for this year, the West Bengal Government have already spent Rs. 9 crore and so far as my information goes, some four days ago, the West Bengal Government did send an urgent telegram to the Government of India to immediately release its mandatory allotment to the Government of West Bengal. I would like to put it on record that the Central Government has not yet sent its team to West Bengal to assess the extent of damage and the needs and requirements of the State, of financial assistance. I would urge upon the hon. Minister to send the team immediately because very little help could be rendered when the flood is over or when the calamity comes to an end.

I am pained at the somewhat casual statement of the hon. Minister. The statement itself betrays a lack of serious concern on the part of the Government of India to go deep into the problem of floods in our country and to evolve effective measures to meet the challenge of floods. In regard to floods and the flood-affected people in our country, there is a repetition of the same old story. Every year, there are floods in different parts of the country. Rivers overflow. Embankments get breached. Villages and the inhabitants of those villages get marooned. Some relief works are started by the State Governments. Aerial surveys are made by the State Government and Central Government Ministers. The State Governments send memoranda to the Central Government for assistance. The Central Government sends study teams quite reluctantly and a paltry sum of assistance is paid to the State Governments by the Central Government. And we inside Parliament, when the Monsoon Session is summoned, we, from the Opposition, demand a discussion on the flood situation. The Government reluctantly agrees to the discussion. We raise points, ventilate the grievances of the people who are affected by floods. From the Government side, the hon. Minister concerned just gives a face-saving reply. All these things happen inside Parliament and everything ends inside Parliament and floods recur every year outside Parliament, in different parts of the country. No real attempt is made by the Government to find an effective solution to the problem.

There are certain permanent flood-affected areas, flood-prone areas, in our country. What is agonising, Sir, is that—you must be knowing—the flood-prone areas in our country are increasing. One information says that at present, the total flood-prone areas in our country comprise 65 million hectares. Ten years ago, it was 40 million hectares. During this period of ten years, there has been an increase of 25 million acres in the flood-prone areas. There has also been a corresponding increase in the extent of damage because of floods. I will just take one minute to give the figures. The extent of damage, in monetary terms, in 1983 was Rs. 2,491.60 crores. In 1985, it was Rs. 4,059.26 crores. In 1986, the figure was Rs. 3,472.20 crores. Thus the extent of damage is also increasing year after year. This is because we have not been able, as yet, to find an effective solution to the problem. I do not say that there has been no action on the part of the Central Government and the State Governments in regard to flood control measures. But what remains to be said is that up till now, our action on and achievement in flood control measures continue to remain pathetically slow and meagre. I would like to point out that the Sixth Five-Year Plan envisaged a target of 4 million hectares for protection from floods. But at the end of the Sixth Five-Year Plan period, the phyiscal coverage achieved has been roughly 2 million hectares. The target proposed in the Seventh Five-Year Plan for flood protection is 2.5 million hectares. May I know from the hon. Minister, what has been the actual physical coverage up till now in the Seventh Plan?

Now, Sir, one major reason for the slow progress in flood control measures in our country is that when schemes in regard to flood control are sent by the State Governments, there is an inordinate delay on the part of the Central Government in according approval to the schemes sent by the State Governments. I would just cite one example from the State of West Bengal. You must be knowing that continuous erosion of the banks of the river Ganga near Farakka is posing a serious threat to 11 blocks of Murshidabad District in West Bengal. The Farakka Barrage authorities prepared a scheme and sent it to the Government of India, long ago, for approval, but no green signal has been given by the Government of India to the scheme. Sir, you would agree that major flood control measures cannot be implemented by the State Governments themselves because of constraint of funds. Uuless sufficient, adequate and timely financial assistance flows from the Central Government, State Government are not in a position to complete their projects. And the attitude of the Government of India towards the State Governments in this respect has been none too happy during these years. I would like to say, rather I am constrained to say that the behaviour and attitude of the Government of India towards the States run by non-Congress (I) Government have been particularly uncharitable. I would just point out one example. Sir, you know that the Government of West Bengal has already spent a huge sum of Rs. 180 crores on the Teesta Barrage project and it has been constantly appealing to the Government of India, it has been constantly requesting the Government of India to allot funds for this project. But you will be astounded to know that during these years while the Government of West Bengal has already spent Rs. 180 crores, the Central Government has allotted only Rs. 5 crores. I would request the hon. Minister to ponder over the issue seriously and allot immediate fund for the Teesta barrage project.

(*Time bell rings*). This is my penultimate point.. with your permission. The problem of flood in Assam is somewhat different. It is highly critical. Hon. Members have dwelt upon this and I am not going to say something new. Sir, as a result of an Act of Parliament the Brahmaputra River Board was set up. It was called upon to prepare a master plan for the Brahmaputra Valley. So far as my information goes, that Board has already prepared master plan part I and it was sent to the Central Government for its approval. And my information also says that the Central Government has not yet accorded approval to that master plan. May I know from the Minister, what is standing in the way of the Government to accord approval to that master plan?

Another point which I would like to refer is this. It is common knowledge and what is more, the Seventh Plan document in Vol. 2, page 84, para 3.73, admits that the intensity of floods in the various river basins is very much determined by the extent of denundation of forests and lack of other conservation measures in the catchement areas leading to heavy soil erosion and heavy silt load in the rivers and existing reservoirs. The importance of soil conservation and afforestation in the catchement areas of such river valleys for reducing the flood havoc was particularly recognised in the Fifth Plan and some schemes of watershed management were taken up in the Himalayan region during the Fifth Plan. The Sixth Plan emphasized the necessity of extension of such schemes to other basins. But practically, Sir, nothing has happened in this respect during the Sixth Plan. Now we are almost in the mid-way of the Seventh Plan period. May I know whether by this period of the Seventh Plan any such schemes for watershed management for the river basins in the chronically flood prone areas have been taken up or not? I want an answer from the hon. Minister.

Before I conclude, I would like to say, what is actually lacking in our country is a comprehensive and sincere approach on the part of the Government of India to meet the challenges of recurring floods in our country. Ad-hocism in flood control measures did not pay us any dividend in the past and if will not pay any dividend

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to us in future. In recent years the Government is very much bent upon evolving newer and newer policies, education policy, labour policy, etc. etc. May I ask the hon. Minister why you did not think of coming out with a comprehensive flood control policy so that ultimately you may be in a position to do certain good to the flood affected people of our country. with these words, I conclude. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Dr. Bapu Kaldate. Not there. Shri Aladi Aruna.

SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH (Bihar) : What about myself?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You will be the last, because you were not there when your name was called. Now when the whole list is over, you will get a chance.

SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE (West Bengal): Let him not be the last. Permit me to be the last. I will take only one minute of your time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): No, please.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, floods and drought are permanent features of our country. Every year we are spending several hundred crores of rupees on the people who are affected by drought and floods. This year, Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu have been affected by floods. The Government has taken some steps to reduce the misery of the people. In West Bengal more than three million people have been affected in West Dinajpur and Malda districts. In Cooch Behar district alone, nearly 80,000 families have been affected. In Bihar also, the floods have been unprecedented. The hon. Minister has visited the area and assured help to the maximum extent. In Assam the flood position is very serious. It is unprecedented and has created a new record in the level of water reached. In Assam, the Government has sought help to the extent of Rs. 140 crores. But unfortunately they have not received adequate help from the Centre, according to the Chief Minister. He has stated that they have only received Rs. 14 crores from the Centre. He has also stated at the same time that nearly 25 lakh people have been affected in 2716 villages and standing crops in 1.78 lakh hectares have been damaged, costing more than 28 crores of rupees.

The flood situation in various States is very severe. Every year we are taking steps to reduce their misery. In the statement the hon. Minister has stated that the long-term measures for flood control comprise construction of major reservoirs, watershed management and river training works. We have no difference of opinion about these proposals. But at the same time linking of rivers is the only solution to get over this calamity of floods every year. If you see how much we are spending every year on floods and if you prepare a project for linking up the rivers, it will be more helpful than spending large amounts on flood control. Dr. K. L. Rao had submitted a plan for linking up so many rivers -- like linking of the Ganga with Mahanadi, Mahanadi with Godavari, Godavari with Krishna and Krishna with Cauvery. It is an important project and must be taken into consideration. This is a permanent remedy to get over the calamity of floods, but unfortunately it has not been taken into consideration.

Sir, in India the average rainfall is very poor -- it is merely 1050mm. At the same time even in cropping areas it is only 750mm. The availability of water per head in India, compared with that in other countries, is very poor. According to Water Commission, the availability of water per capita in India is 3200 cubic metres per year. At the same time in U.S.A. it is 8600, and Japan 6,500 and Russia 17,530. But our availability of water per head in India is only 3,250. But we get more water only from the Brahmaputra. If you minus that quantum of water, the per-capita availability of water in India is mere only 400 cu. metres. That is why, we must take more care in the management of water. That is why it has been considered that water is wealth. In Tamil Nadu also

Tiruvalluvar has clearly stated that world will not survive without water. So, proper management of water is necessary. How far have we taken steps for proper management of water?

Sir, the Chairman of the Central Water Commission has clearly stated that evaporation is the forgotton enemy of water sources because we are not serious about evaporation of water. We must have more concentration on how to avoid evaporation of water because in our administration we are not taking any serious steps to avoid evaporation. Therefore, Sir, in flood situations we must come forward to extend help to the State Governmens.

The Chief Minister of Assam has complained about the Centre not co-operating with the State. More than that, he has stated at he has given instruction to the departments not to celebrate the Independence Day. To that extent they have taken the decision. To avoid that ugly, adverse effect, proper steps should be taken by our Government.

With these observations, Sir, I conclude.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Thank you very much. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this year the nature is not very kind to this country because while we see the serious drought situation in some parts of India, we also see the devastating flood situation in other parts of the country.

Sir, thousands of hectares of crops have been damaged during these floods in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal. Thousands of houses and cattle heads have been washed away. Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless. Above all, about 150 human lives have been lost. Sir, uptill now, there are three spates of floods which have occurred in Assam. Since the last two months, due to incessant rainfall almost all the rivers are inflated, and people of every walk of life are suffering in the State.

Sir, about Bihar and West Bengal my previous speakers have spoken intensively. Due to shortage of time, I will confine myself to the situation in Assam. In Assam we are facing one of the worst floods this year. Flood is a perennial problem in Assam and the North-East. But this time it is one of the worst because practically the whole of about 800 km. of the Brahmaputra valley is under water due to three spate of floods during these two months.

Sir, according to the latest information, the damage caused by the floods is, at least 9.29 lakhs hectares of land comprising 4,440 villages have been affected by the floods till the other day, out of which 1.59 lakhs hectares are cropped areas. About 31.30 lakhs of the population in these areas have been badly affected in Assam alone. Besides, the loss of cattle is about 38.846 lakhs. Sir, the embankment etc., has been breached in 33 places and the communication has been disrupted in 35 places. Today, Assam and the whole of North Eastern region is cut off from the rest of the country.

A central team has visited these areas before a few days. I think, they have submitted their report by now. What we want is generous financial assistance for Assam and also for Bihar and West Bengal. This financial assistance should be sent immediately. The hon. Agriculture Minister, Shri Dhillion has already visited the flood affected areas and our hon. Prime Minister has sent this hon. Minister and a Central team. I take objection to what an hon. Member has said that our Prime Minister has not cared for the flood victims in that part of the country.

Sir, there are reports that some Governments in the earlier years did not make proper use of the assistance offered by the Central Government. The Government should take proper steps so that no such things happens this year. But we must also remember one thing that for this the people of those States should not suffer.

The basic question is, why these floods occur every year? The increasing intensity of floods every year is not an illusion. The total estimated cost of flood damage since 1953 is well over Rs. 10,000 crores at the current prices. It is twice the value of the IMF loan taken by the Government of India earlier this decade. Now, about Rs. 900 crores have been earmarked for flood control measures during the Seventh Plan out of which Rs. 167 crores have already been spent in the last year.

[Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita]

The basic cause of floods in Assam is Brahmaputra river and its turbulent tributaries. If we do not control these rivers, then, it will always remain as a regular phenomenon. We were happy when the Brahmaputra Board was constituted. I am told that the Board has drawn a master plan. But there is no money to execute that master plan. So to control Brahmaputra is a huge task and it requires a lot of money. I have read that the first report of the Board has been received. May I know from the Minister what action has been taken on that report? The previous incumbent to the hon. Minister has said that they would require Rs. 1,000 crores to control the river Brahmaputra. My request to the hon. Minister is why cannot you have a long-term plan stretched over 20-25 years? Why cannot you allocate some money over such plans annually or in five years and start the work from now onwards? Sir, what you need is an integrated policy for control and prevention of floods. Sir, despite years of experience, we do not have an integrated policy on that though all the major rivers flow through more than one State. We do not have an integrated plan. It still remains a State subject. Moreover, Sir, though there are various Departments and local administration, we prove woefully incapable of transmitting and warning about floods, educating vulnerable population, training disaster managers, maintaining supply lines, evacuating affected people and undertaking rehabilitation works. Sir, the miseries of people are rising every year. They are suffering in Assam, Bihar, West Bengal and Jammu & Kishmir. We do not know it may spread to U.P. and many other States.

My humble request to the Government is that immediate financial assistance should be rushed to the affected people in Assam, Bihar and West Bengal. In Assam now it is too late for cultivation of Kharif crops. So liberal financial help should be provided for cultivation of Rabi crops. All efforts should be made to help improve the economic conditions of the small and marginal farmers who have lost their everything in the floods. Sir, finally, my humble request to the Government is that it should take some measures to tackle this problem on a permanent basis. With this, I conclude.

SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is a sorry state of affairs every year. We have floods in one part of the country and in other part of the country, we are having drought. This is a phenomenon nature has bestowed on us and also, nature has got its fury. But unfortunately, we are not coming to the state of modern age or technical age. What I feel is, in the old days when people were afraid of floods or any natural calamity, they used to leave it to God. But in an advanced country, in an advanced thinking, when we are thinking of computers and other things, what are we doing about floods and droughts? That is my question. I am sorry to submit, as my hon. friends have submitted just now, that the position of flood affected States is grievous and the sufferings of the people are indescribable. My only question to this Government is: have you ever thought of any plan to stop floods and use the water for irrigation purpose in this country? What is the major problem that India is having? It is to provide water to our lands, to our masses. For this, India is required to make the proper use of water and proper harnessing of water resources. Before me, my hon. friend stated that there is a plan by Shri K. L. Rao to link the water of the different rivers from Ganga to Cauveri to avoid floods and for the maximum use of water for irrigation purposes. What happened to that plan? Are you accepting that Plan or rejecting that plan? If you are rejecting that plan, have you got any other alternative plan? It may be something you are giving and you may give every year but this is not a policy of the enlightened Government. So, I would request, have a plan right now. Mr. K. L. Rao's plan is rejected. Then have a long term plan. 30 years or 50 years plan. Let the water resources of this country be utilised in the optimum way. That is the only service which the Government can do to the farmers of this country, to the vast masses of this country. So, my question is: have you got any plan? If there is any plan, how long you will take to implement it? There are so many

plans submitted by the States for irrigation purposes to harness the river waters in different States. Government should consider them. As far as Brahmaputra Board is concerned, our friend said, what happened to that plan? They have submitted a plan. If you can do something on that plan, this situation might not have arisen. As our own experience shows, in South India floods are rare but in Andhra Pradesh State, river Godavari is furious. Last year, we had tasted the fury of Godavari. The Andhra Pradesh Government has submitted a plan to the Union Government to see that floods can be prevented. They have asked for the funds. Likewise, the Polavaram Project on Godavari is there. If it is constructed, floods can be avoided to a great extent. It is pending with the Central Government for long. Shri Anjiah laid the foundation stone of this project. But the Centre, will never give any permission to any water resources plan. They have got their own plans. So, my submission is let the Government awake and see that this sort of a situation which is a regular feature in the Indian context is avoided to the extent possible. I would also like to know from the Government as to how much money was spent by the Government during the last 30 years on the flood control measures. I would like to ask how much money the Government spent, for the last twenty years, on flood relief. How much money you need for the Master Plan? Just consider how much worth of crop was damaged for the last twenty years by floods. If you calculate it, it will be known that a Master Plan is necessary. I think the Government will take serious steps in this matter. With these remarks, I conclude, Sir.

PROF. (MRS.) ASIMA CHATTERJEE (Nominated): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have heard the statements of all the hon. Members and it appears to me as if they think that the Central Government is responsible for inviting this natural calamity, which is not the case. Natural calamities are natural calamities, after all. This year the flood situation is really grim and fearful although floods have become a perennial problem in our country. Vast areas of Assam, West Bengal, Bihar and parts of Jammu and Kashmir have been ravaged by floods causing misery to the people living there. In West Bengal, West Dinajpur, Malda, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar Districts and the plains of Darjeeling have been badly affected. West Dinajpur cannot be approached by any route, neither by road nor by rail and similar is the situation in Bihar and Assam. For relief operations, air-force transport aircraft and helicopters have been pressed into service by the Centre. But in many places, the assistance is not reaching. The picture is indeed harrowing. Troops and voluntary organizations, including social welfare organizations, have rushed to these places for rescue and relief operations.

In Assam, the river Brahmaputra has caused great havoc destroying human lives and washing away domestic animals. In West Bengal, jute, paddy, vegetables and various crops have been heavily damaged. Fodder for cattle and food for human consumption have been spoilt to a great extent. Now, there is the danger of epidemics breaking out and immediate measures have been taken by the States and by the Centre to provide food, medicine and clothes to the flood victims. To prevent this natural calamity, measures are to be taken so that in future this is not repeated and this needs careful analysis and investigation of the problem. I would say a few more words and with these I would conclude.

Most of the States have not implemented the recommendations of the National Flood Commission even though a decade had passed. Till today, not a single State had passed the Flood Zonal Bill into law a model of which was circulated by the Centre to the States in 1975. Due to the vast expanse of the river Brahmaputra with its changing course due to short length and high pressure of water mixed with boulders, crude and silt, all the normal methods of flood protection have been useless. In Bihar, the water level of the Ganga is said to rise between Buxar and Mokameh by as much as nine metres in the monsoon thereby effectively sealing off the mouth of numerous tributaries. Precisely at that time, these tributaries are flowing with huge waters. Partly this happened due to the rise in the river-bed. All the

[Prof. (Mrs.) Asima Chatterjee]

ingredients of water flow, the monsoon outburst and huge snow melt from the Himalayan Range, the silting of the river-bed which makes the river basin shallow, have caused this flood situation worse in our country. All these factors narrated above are obviously responsible for flood. So flood control should be carefully studied and measures need be taken. No system will work unless we provide inter-river connections, removing silt from river-bed making the river basin deeper to accommodate surplus water during the monsoon. These can be done by each and every State. They never take up all these jobs. These have to be done in future. Afforestation along the banks to avoid soil erosion and to promote soil conservation and changing courses of rivers by digging channels should also be taken up in order to avoid floods. In this context I would like to mention that Prof. Meghnad Saha, Ex M.P. who had dealt with this problem for many, many years, had written a document, had published a document, and he had mentioned in detail, what steps should be taken in order to avoid this flood situation. I think this document should be consulted. This document should be available in the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics. However, a Centrally-sponsored and implemented long-term scheme of inter-connecting river links, barrages, canals and strategic embankments with dredging of rivers on the one hand and promoting afforestation on the other hand, will help prevent such havoc of floods in near future. Thank you.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : श्री राम अवधेश सिंह। आपके सात मिनट हैं।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मैं कोशिश करूंगा।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : कोशिश नहीं। मिनिस्टर को जवाब देना है।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, ऐसा लगता है कि प्रत्येक साल जुलाई और सितम्बर के बीच में संसद में जैसे सालाना जलसा कोई हो बाढ़ के बारे में, बाढ़ की विभीषिका के संबंध में, बाढ़ से हुई हानि के सम्बन्ध में मानव क्षति और पशु क्षति, आप की क्षति के बारे में रुदन और क्रंदन का अवसर आता है। हर साल इस सदन में माननीय सदस्य और सरकार भी आंसू बहाती है और लगता है सरकार आगे सबक लेगी। लेकिन हर साल रोने-धोने के कोई सबक नहीं लेती है। यह बात कही जा सकती थी 13वीं शताब्दी में, 15वीं शताब्दी में और यहां तक कि 19वीं शताब्दी में भी बाढ़ आ गयी, मानव क्षति हो गयी, फसल बर्बाद हो गयी, ये सारी बातें कही जा सकती थीं। लेकिन ऐसे एरिया के बारे में जो निश्चित इलाके हैं जिसको आप अंग्रेजी में कहते हैं फ्लड प्रोन एरियाज, उनमें निश्चित ही हर साल बाढ़ आती है। बिहार का इलाका है, असम का इलाका है, बंगाल का इलाका है। आप जानते हैं बाढ़ आती है। एक साल नहीं गुजरा, दो साल नहीं गुजरे आप कह सकते हैं। जब अंग्रेजों की हुकूमत यहां थी अंग्रेज फिरंगियों का जनता से मोह नहीं था, यहां की जनता के दुख दर्द से मोह नहीं था, यह बात समझ में आ सकती थी लेकिन 40 साल हुये आजादी लिये हुये, अभी आपने 40वां साल भी मनाया और प्रधान मंत्री ने हिंदी के बदले अंग्रेजी में भाषण किया। लेकिन आदमी की जान के बारे में ही नहीं कह रहा हूं बल्कि पूरी फसल बर्बाद हो जाती है, अर्थ-व्यवस्था बर्बाद हो जाती है, जिनको बाढ़ में घिरने का कभी अनुभव नहीं है उनको क्या मालूम बाढ़ क्या होती है। हम एक दफा सपरिवार बाढ़ में घिर गये। 8 रोज तक पानी कैसे पिया जाता है यह मालूम है। पानी पीने के लिये तड़पते रहते हैं बच्चे। मेरे बच्चे कोई 8 साल का था, दो साल का था, पांच साल का था। वे जोरों से चिल्लाते थे पानी दीजिये। पानी जो गंदा निकला है उसको निकालते थे। बालू में उसको डालते थे और जब पटना में थे तो कोठे पर थे। तब पानी निकाल कर बालू से पानी छानते थे और जब बालू से पानी छन जाता था तो कोयले में से निकालते थे और उसके बाद फिटकरी डालते थे।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : आप ये बातें मत कहिये। टाइम बहुत कम है।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : श्रीमन्, मैं कह रहा था कि ये तो दिल्ली में बैठने वाले लोग हैं, इनको बाढ़ से पीड़ित लोगों के बारे में हमदर्दी नहीं हैं। यह जो बंगाल और बिहार का इलाका है, यह कम से कम 9 करोड़ लोगों का इलाका है जो हमेशा बाढ़ से ग्रसित हो जाते हैं। सरकार चाहती तो इस समस्या को हल कर सकती थी, लेकिन सरकार में इच्छा शक्ति नहीं है। कागज पर प्लान बना दिया और फिर कह दिया कि फण्ड नहीं मिला। अगर इच्छा शक्ति आपकी होगी तो फण्ड भी निकल सकते हैं और दूसरे काम भी हो सकते हैं। लेकिन इनमें इच्छा शक्ति नहीं है, कोई योजना नहीं है और आप कोई योजना भी नहीं बनाते हैं। मुझे बिहार के जन-नायक श्री कर्पूरी ठाकुर जी ने बताया है कि उन्होंने बाढ़ से पीड़ित इलाकों का सर्वे किया है। उन्होंने कहा कि वहां पर कोई एक्सेस नहीं है, कोई वहां पहुंच नहीं सकता है, कोई रोड से नहीं जा सकता है। उत्तरी बिहार के 15 जिले बाढ़ से ग्रसित हैं। पश्चिमी चम्पारन, पूर्वी चम्पारन, सीतामढ़ी, वैशाली, मधुबनी, मुजफ्फरपुर, दरभंगा, समस्तीपुर, सहरसा, कटिहार आदि सब क्षेत्र जलमग्न हो गये हैं। जननायक ने मुझे बताया कि आने-जाने के लिये नावों की बहुत कमी है। वहां पर चार-पांच गांव वालों ने पैसा इकट्ठा किया और कुछ काम किया। बिहार की रिपोर्ट है कि सौ साल में भी ऐसी बाढ़ नहीं आई है। वहां पर सबसे बड़ी कमी नावों की है। यह बात सरकार को मालूम है और जो जिला अधिकारी हैं उनको भी मालूम है। रिलीफ कमेटीज हर जिले में हैं। आज जरूरत इस बात की है कि जवाबदेही के साथ कार्यवाही की जाये। अभी हमारे आंध्र प्रदेश के मित्र ने कहा कि हमें बाढ़ के बारे में मालूम नहीं हैं। जो बाढ़ वाले इलाके हैं उनको मालूम होता है कि बाढ़ के वक्त किन चीजों की जरूरत पड़ती है और क्या सहायता लोगों को दी जा सकती है। नावों की व्यवस्था तत्काल रखनी चाहिये। दूसरी बात मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि जो रिलीफ पहुंच रहा हैं वह अपर्याप्त है और कहीं-कहीं आप हेलीकोप्टर से चीजें गिराते हैं वह भी ठीक नहीं पहुंच रही हैं। जो पाव रोटी आप देते हैं उसके बारे में कहा गया है कि वह ठीक नहीं है उसमें कीड़ा पड़ गया है। आपने फ्लड कंट्रोल कमीशन बनाया है। लेकिन आप से कहना चाहता हूं कि बागमती नदी अनेक स्थानों में टूट गई है और पानी दरभंगा शहर में भर गया है। मुरादपुर में करही नदी टूट गई है, उसका बांध टूट गया है। डोली के नजदीक बूढ़ी गण्डक का बांध काट दिया गया है। आपको यह जानकर अचरज होगा कि ठेकेदार और इंजीनियर लोग बांध को काट देते हैं। हमारे यहां यह स्थिति है कि फ्लड कंट्रोल एरियाज में तबादला कराने के लिये जो एसिस्टेंट इंजीनियर होता है वह एक लाख रुपये देता है, जो एक्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर होता है, वह तीन लाख रुपये देता है और सुपरिंटेंडिंग इंजीनियर होता है, वह पांच लाख रुपये तक देते हैं। आप इसकी जांच करा दीजिये, मैं जवाबदेही के साथ कह रहा हूं... (**व्यवधान**)।

श्री रजनी रंजन साहू : यह गलत है।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मैं आप को चुनौती के साथ कह रहा हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : यह चनौती का समय नहीं है। अब आप जल्दी खत्म कीजिये।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : श्रीमन्, मैं कह रहा था कि वहां पर बांध काट भी दिये जाते हैं क्योंकि बांध फिर बनाया जाएगा और उनको फिर पैसा मिलेगा। ऐसे हीनस अपराध भी वहां पर किये जाते हैं। मैं चाहता हूं कि आप इसकी जांच कीजिये कि कितने बांध इस तरह से टूटते हैं? मैं इस सदन के माध्यम से सरकार से मांग करता हूं कि जिन इलाकों में बाढ़ आती है या बांध टूट जाते हैं, वहां पर आप एक्जीक्यूटिव इंजीनियर, एसिस्टेंट इंजीनियर और जिला मजिस्ट्रेट, सुपरिंटेंडिंग इंजीनियर, चीफ इंजीनियर को अगर बांध टूट जाने के कारण बाढ़ आती है तो आप इनको तत्काल ससपेंड कर दीजिये। उन को जेल में बंद किया जाय।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : खत्म कीजिये।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : अभी मैं आ रहा हूं...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : आठ मिनट हो गये, अब समाप्त कीजिये। एक तो आप उस समय नहीं थे लेकिन फिर भी मैंने आपको मौका दिया और...

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : मैं दो-तीन मिनट में समाप्त करता हूं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : आप एक मिनट में समाप्त कीजिये।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : महोदय, मैं सरकार का ध्यान दो तरफ खींचना चाहता हूं। महोदय, बाढ़ का एक मुख्य कारण जो है, जो उसका दूरगामी कारण है, ह यह है कि तटबन्धों के लिये जो पैसा मिलता है वह सरकारी अफसर खा जाते हैं। इसलिये इसकी तरफ सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिये।

दूसरा, नदियों की सिल्टिंग हो रही है। इसलिये नदियों को चौड़ा करना चाहिये ताकि पानी धारा में बह सके। नदियों में जो बालू इकट्ठा हो जाती है उससे धारा फैल जाती है और इससे बाढ़ आ जाती है। सरकार इस बारे में इच्छा शक्ति से काम ले तो यह काम हो सकता है। मेरी मांग है कि हमारे बिहार, असम...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री जगेश देसाई) : समाप्त कीजिये।

श्री राम अवधेश सिंह : असल बात पर अब कह रहा हूं। एक मिनट से ज्यादा मय नहीं लूंगा।

महोदय, सारी नदियां आती हैं हिमालय से नेपाल से होकर। इसलिये आपको नेपाल सरकार से बात करके नदियों पर डाम बनाने होंगे और इसके लिये नेपाल सरकार को राजी करना होगा। मैं भारत सरकार से निवेदन करता हूं कि अगर नेपाल इसमें बाधा डाले, वह करने पर राजी न हो तो अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर भी इस सवाल को उठाना चाहिये। यह एक मानवीय सवाल है और हमें अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर इस बात को उठाकर इन बांधों को पूरा करना चाहिये।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Now the Minister will clarify the points raised by the hon. Members.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thought I could get a little more time to deal with the points raised by the various Members.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): You can take your own time.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, some Members who took part in the debate, spoke in anger, some spoke with agony, a few with anxiety and concern. Some chose to criticise the Government that we have discriminated against certain States because they are not Congress-ruled States. Political motivations were attributed to the Government and especially to me because I could not visit Assam and West Bengal this year. Some of the Members raised, according to them, very important points, such as whether we can control the floods completely and whether we can have some permanent solution to avoid floods. Sir, I do not know whether we can avoid floods completely. Why do floods occur? I need not explain that to the House. One of the Members said that he was caught in the floods along with his family members and perhaps he has more flood experience. We cannot completely avoid floods as long as these areas, specially Bihar, West Bengal and Assam receive heavy precipitation every year. Many of the rivers, specially in Bihar bring not only water but silt and soil from Nepal. Then what can we do? We can at least try to minimise the damages, regulate or manage the floods, take some flood-control measures whether by constructing embankments and drainage channels or, as some Members suggested, by resorting to the activities of afforestation, soil conservation in the catchment area and many other things. But the most important of it is that we cannot forget that population of this country is more than doubled since

independence, 350 million has now become more than 700 million. Human activities are increasing. Industrialisation has prompted further economic activities and they are encroaching on the flood-plain areas. That is the reason why we can say that the damages are more and more in spite of the investment on flood-control measures and relief which is also increasing. Unless we control and regulate this human activity, perhaps, we will not be able to reduce the flood damages as we expect them to be. The Government of India, perhaps, a decade ago, sent a model Bill on flood control to all the States. Except Manipur, I should say, none of the States has cared to pass a legislation to control and regulate the activities in the flood-prone and flood-plain areas. So, the damages occur every year.

Sir, I do share the agony of the Members. But, Sir, if you look into the figures, if we start from Assam because some of the Members from Assam have complained that we are biased against Assam and that we are not taking enough care of Assam, I can inform the House that an amount of Rs. 13.50 crores was released as Central loan assistance towards work component of the flood control schemes in Brahmaputra valley to the Government of Assam during 1986-87. Due to constraint of funds it was not possible for us to give advance plan assistance over and above what was released during the year. However, during the current financial year, in the year 1987-88, the Budget provision for Central loan assistance towards flood control work component is Rs. 21 crores. Why I am saying all this is because out of the Rs. 150 crore outlay under the Central sector for flood control provided in the 7th Five Year Plan, the outlay for Assam for the benefit of the Brahmaputra Valley alone is about Rs. 105 crores.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): Nearly 66 per cent.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Yes, Sir, it is 70 per cent. This is what we are giving to Assam. About 70 percent of the total amount is given to Assam and if I can say the Central loan assistance to Assam towards work component is Rs. 70 crores and grant-in-aid to the Brahmaputra Board for conducting investigations and preparation of the master plan and other assigned works is Rs. 35 crores.

I have already stated that we have already released some money to Assam. But even then I am surprised to see that some Members complaint against the Government of India. Now, Assam is the only State in the country, entire country, where the Government of India is directly spending money for flood control. Having established the Brahmaputra Board, the Government of India is directly incurring expenditure for flood control which is the constitutional responsibility of the State Government. I do not think that the complaint from Assam Members is justifiable.

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Why not Bihar?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: I am coming to Bihar.

Sir, the main grievance was why I have not visited Assam. Yes, it is a fact I could not go to Assam. But it is not a fact that I have never visited Assam. I went to Assam in 1985. I made an aerial survey. And at Gauhati during my visit I released about Rs. 4 to 5 crores on the spot as Central loan assistance. It is not that I have not visited Assam. And it is not that I have not visited West Bengal because when I visited Bihar and made an aerial survey, I also covered part of West Bengal. I went up to Farraka, I saw Malda, the area that was flooded. And I propose to visit West Bengal and Assam shortly.

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: In 1985 your Government was in Assam.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: What can I do? I cannot help you.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir): We are talking of 1987.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, it is not that having come forward to help the States to such an extent if Assam people...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): The Business Advisory Committee has decided that the House should sit longer than 6 p.m. whenever necessary. I want to see the convenience of the House. Thank you.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Now, coming to the Master Plan, as I said the Brahmaputra Board, which was constituted, prepared the Master Plan . The Master Plan is sent to the State Government. May I inform the House that we have yet to receive the report from the Assam Government on the Master Plan. I need not go into it. I am not here to score any debating point. We have to work together, the States and the Centre. We have to save the people. We have to save the losses, the loss to the property, the loss to the cattle, the crops and all that. Here at least let not the politics play its role when the people are in distress. I know that Members can score debating points when there is politics. But whenever there is no politics we wish the States cooperate with the Centre. It is always useful to reduce the problems and save human misery.

Sir, I can give certain figures to the House about the damage so far which have occurred up to 17th August, 1987. They are all tentative figures. In Assam the area affected is 26.79 lakh hectares. The population affected is 74.53 lakhs. The area that is damaged is 4.63 lakh hectares. And the crops damages are worth Rs. 106.30 crores. I need not go into the damage to house and other property. Total human lives lost as reported are 66, and the total damage to crops, houses, public utility etc., comes to about Rs. 223.69 lakh. This is as on 17th August 1987.

In Bihar, the area affected is 10.56 lakh hectares and population affected is 99.20 lakh, or about a crore.

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: This is not so. It is roundabout 4 crore.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Damage to crops is Rs. 33.14 crore and number of human lives lost in Bihar is reported to be 60. Total damage is Rs. 38.81 crores.

Coming to West Bengal, the area affected is 3 lakh hectares. Population affected is 21 lakh and damage to crops is Rs. 30 crore. Total damage figures are not available. Human lives lost are 26. West Bengal figures are tentative in the sense that damage shown is with regard to Dinajpur and Malda only. Information with regard to other areas is not yet available.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: Is it continuing?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Naturally; the water is still flowing, and the correct figures will be available when actual assessment is taken.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: What about Jammu and Kashmir?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Population affected in Jammu and Kashmir is 0.15 lakh and the value of damage to crops is, I don't know whether it is Rs. 110 crores or...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI) : Probably it is in lakhs.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO: No, no; damage is of the order of Rs. 200 crore. The problem is right from April and May.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: These are the total figures.

Human lives lost are 62, as reported.

Plan investment on flood control works from 1951, right from the planned development of the country, till the end of Sixth Plan State sector and Central sector together—is Rs. 1739.96 crores. During 1985-86, total investment is Rs. 167.64 crore; during 1986-87, it is Rs. 184.56 crores, and the outlay for 1987-88 is Rs. 182.30 crore.

Physical achievements due to flood control works by this huge investment are at the end of the Sixth Five-Year Plan

period, we have been able to construct embankments of the order of 14,162 kms. The length of drainage channels is 26,119 kms. Towns protected—375. Villages raised—4696. During 1985-86 length of embankments—182kms. Length of drainage channels-253 kms. Towns protected-7.

I would also like to inform the House about the protection as on 31-7-87. In the case of Assam, the total flood-prone area is 3.15 million hectares. Area protected with long-term measures is 1.546 million hectares. This comes to about 50 per cent. In the case of Bihar, the total flood-prone area is 4.26 million hectares. Protection given is 1.854 million hectares. This is about 50 per cent. In the case of West Bengal, the flood-prone area is 2.65 million hectares. Protection given is 1.682 million hectares. During 1986, the area affected is 1.80 million hectares. During high floods, some protected areas are also affected to the failure of some protective works. The question has been raised as to what is the damage out of the protected area. When I visited Bihar, the Bihar Government was not able to give this figure because they had not been maintaining details of area-wise damage in the flood-prone areas.

In regard to West Bengal, it is true that certain parts of West Bengal are still reeling under heavy floods. I do not intend to dispute the contention made by the hon. Member, however exaggerated it may be. People are still suffering. Highways are cut off. Railway lines are cut off. Embankments have been breached. The entire area is under floods. One cannot imagine the misery and agony. People are really suffering. But Sir, efforts are being made to rush help to the people. The total damage can be ascertained only on receipt of report from the State Government and when the Central team goes there and gives its assessment.

Sir, in regard to Central loan assistance, as I said earlier, in the case of Assam, the Minister of Agriculture, when he visited Assam, recommended Rs. 10 crores as ways and means advance against final payment based on the report to be submitted by the Central team which visited the flood-affected areas of Assam from 10th to 13th August, 1987. The supplementary memorandum submitted by the Government of Assam during the visit of the Central team was of the order of Rs. 217.56 crores. The Centre's share of margin money of 50 per cent amounting to Rs. 3.63 crores has been released. Sir, with regard to margin money, I must say that 50 per cent of the Centre share of the margin money will be released only when the State Government has first spent 50 per cent of the share. Only after spending the 50 per cent of the margin money share, they are entitled to ask for the margin money. Up till now there is no request for release of margin money from the Governments of West Bengal and Bihar. It is evident that these States have not spent their margin money and that is why they have not requested for the margin money. For Assam, the Central share of margin money amounting to Rs. 3.625 crores has already been released.

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: Bihar did not demand.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): He has replied to that.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, Members have asked why we should not have discussion with the Nepal Government with regard to construction of reservoirs in Nepal areas so that the flood water could be controlled. May I say that we have been in negotiation with the Government of Nepal? At the secretariat level these things are raised. But one thing we should not forget and that is that for all the rivers that flow from Nepal to India and join the Ganges if we build reservoirs, they will have very little flood moderation effect. Even if reservoirs are built in Nepal, there will be very little flood moderation effect, but it is true of the river Kosi. If we can build a reservoir for Kosi, as is envisaged, perhaps that will reduce considerably the flood ravages down below in Bihar.

I do not want to take time of the House because the purpose of this Call Attention motion is to call the attention of the Government, they have called the attention of the Government and even before calling the attention of the Government, the Government have taken steps.

SHRI ALADI ARUNA *alias* V. ARUNACHALAM: You have not said anything about linking of the rivers.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: About linking of rivers, references have been made to Dr. K. L. Rao's proposal of the Kaveri-Ganga link. This issue was gone into in detail by experts and engineers and it has been found that though it is technically feasible, it is economically not feasible becuase its cost is perhaps not going to justify the linkage. Even then concept of river linkage has been accepted by the Government of India. Technical experts have thought about it and now the National Water Development Agency has been established to see whether the rivers can be linked and water can be carried from the surplus areas to deficit areas. This is national perspective, as we call it, and it has two major components regarding the Himalayan rivers and the Peninsular rivers. This Agency is in action. It is investigating, undertaking surveys and it has now located certain sites where river linkages could be established, where storages could be built so that water from the Godavary could be brought up to the Kaveri. So also is the position with regard to the Himalayan rivers. It is not that we have given up the idea. The matter is under investigation.

SHRI RAM AWADESH SINGH: What about widening and deepening of the rivers?

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Deepening of rivers means desilting of the rivers. It is still a challenge to the engineering mind of the country. I have asked my engineers to see whether they can take up some research work, to see whether siltation can be prevented and the bed of the river can be deepend. I think I have taken much of the time of the House. I certainly promise that the suggestions made by the hon. Members will be seriously taken into consideration by the Government and whatever action is feasible and practicable will be taken in the matter.

ALLOCATION OF TIME FOR DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGESH DESAI): I have to make one announcement. I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 20th August, 1987, allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business as follows:

Business	Time allotted
1 Consideration and passing of the Essential Commodities (Special Provisions) Continuance Bill, 1987 as passed by the Lok Sabha.	3 hours
2. Discussion on the Resolution seeking disapproval of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Ordinance, 1987 and consideration and passing of the Terrorist and Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Bill, 1987 as passed by the Lok Sabha.	2 hours
3. Consideration and return of the Appropriation Bill, 1987 as passed by the Lok Sabha.	3 hours
4. Consideration and return of the Breatford Electric (India) Limited (Acquisition) and Transfer of Undertakings Bill, 1987, as passed by the Lok Sabha	1 hour.

The House now stands adjourned and will meet again tomorrow at 11 A.M.

The House then adjourned at twenty-two minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 21st August, 1987.

GMGIPMRND—RS I—926 RS—2-12-1987—400.