

lands and runs high-speed centrifuges to produce low-grade uranium. It is no surprise as the entire Pakistani nuclear programme is based on deception, deceit and even theft. Dr. A. Q. Khan himself has been charged with stealing nuclear secrets from the Netherlands. Even now Pakistan has an active network of scientists in West Germany, Netherlands, and Switzerland who are assigned to lay their hands on components and special metals required at Kahuta.

Sir, the Government must immediately get in touch with the Governments of Switzerland, West Germany and other countries concerned to ascertain the facts and make a statement in the House about it. The Government must also devise immediate measures to counter effectively the new threat. As we all know, Pakistan has already achieved nuclear capability and with the new plant enabling it to produce ten atom bombs a year, India can no longer afford to wait to see what they do. The only option we have at the moment is to go nuclear. This will be the only effective answer to Pakistani nuclear threat and supply of AWACS and other force multipliers and sophisticated weapons to Pakistan by U. S.

In any case, let the Government make its position clear how it is going to meet new challenges to the security and integrity of India, to reassure the nation and allay the apprehensions of the people.

Thank you.

REFERENCE TO THE BRANCH EXPANSION OF COMMERCIAL REGIONAL RURAL BANKS IN ORISSA

SHRI BASUDEB MOHAPATRA (Orissa): Sir, I want to draw the attention of the Government to a specific problem of our State, Orissa, regarding the expansion programme of regional rural banks.

The Reserve Bank of India formulated the Branch Licensing Policy for the period 1985-90. In pursuance of Branch Expansion Programme the State Government,

of Orissa have recommended to the Reserve Bank of India for opening of Bank branches in 236 identified growth centres. State Government's intention is to achieve a bank branch for 17,000 population and ensuring even distribution of branches so as to have at least one bank office within a radius of ten km. and within an area of 200 sq. miles. The Reserve Bank of India has already granted 16 licences. Recently, Reserve Bank of India has approved 3 centres for opening new bank branches by commercial banks only in nine districts of the State. The licences are to be issued.

But the R.B.I. has not approved any branch to be opened in the districts of Cuttack and Koraput which creates resentment among the minds of local people.

The RBI has been requested by the State Government in June, 1986, to consider issuing more licences for rural branches of commercial banks because the functioning of the Regional Rural Banks has not yet been encouraging. The approval of remaining identified centres of Cuttack and Koraput District in the State of Orissa by the RBI is necessary. Government's intervention in the matter is solicited.

REFERENCE TO THE REPORTED UNPRECEDENTED DROUGHT SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU

SHRI VALAMPURI JOHN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the alarming drought situation in my State.

Drought havoc in Tamil Nadu for the third successive year has resulted in staggering multiplicity of hardships to the people of Tamil Nadu. Drinking water has become acutely scarce. Total area sown this year has considerably dropped. Fodder has become critically scarce. Fall in rural employment in the range of 1916 lakh man-days has been threatening the landless agricultural labourers. The situation is particularly grim in Kanyakumari, Tirunelveli and Ramanathapuram

[Shri Valampuri John]

districts, where the entire population has been hit by drinking water scarcity and the situation in Ramanathapuram is too grim for words.

The Memorandum submitted by the Tamil Nadu Government has pointed out, out of 53611 habitations in the State 28807 covering 167.75 lakh of rural population are experiencing acute water scarcity. Madras City has been experiencing sharp deterioration in the drinking water position. The city which gets a normal supply of 55 million gallons a day from the three reservoirs of Cholavaram, Poondi and Red Hills is only getting 40 million gallons a day.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government, even to maintain that level, another 20 million gallons a day would be required to augment the surface storage services. The Government of Tamil Nadu sanctioned Rs. 163 lakhs for immediate measures.

Agricultural and allied operations are practically at a standstill in the districts of Tirunelveli, Thanjavur, Trichy, Chengleput, South Arcot and North Arcot. Twenty-six taluks have been severely affected and 102 taluks have been affected. The State Government has already sanctioned Rs. 45 crores on drought relief measures. The relief works include digging of additional 8600 bore wells, deepening of existing wells and employment in labour oriented rural works. The State Government has requested the Centre for Rs. 347.25 crores in Central assistance. I understand a Central team visiting Tamil Nadu is yet to submit its report.

I would like to request the Government to sanction immediately at least half of the amount the Government of Tamil Nadu have asked for and save the people of Tamil Nadu at this unprecedented hour of peril.

*SHRI N. RAJANGAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman. Sir, with a heavy heart I would like to bring

*English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

to the notice of the Government, the pathetic situation in Tamil Nadu owing to acute scarcity of water. Serpentine queues in front of road-side borewells in major cities like Madras, Madurai, Trichi and Tirunelveli are a common sight these days. Of the 168 taluks in the state 128 taluks are in the grip of severe drought.

The Tamil Nadu Government under the dynamic leadership of our hon'ble Chief Minister has sanctioned Rs. 41 crores to tackle the situation. 80,000 handpumps and 16,000 power operated pumps are already under operation in the rural areas. People below the poverty line are provided buckets free of cost to store water that is supplied by the tankers. Sir, the Government has gone a step further and has sent a team headed by the Chief Secretary to U.S.A. on 27th April to seek Rs. 150 crores loan from the World Bank to tap out underground water. The Tamil Nadu Government have submitted two reports, one in January, 87 and the other in March, 87 asking relief from the Union Government to tide over water scarcity. But Sir, the Government of India is yet to take any decision on it.

On 25th April, 87, the Hon'ble Minister of State Mr. P. Chidambaram, who visited certain parts of Tamil Nadu appreciated the drought-relief measures being carried out by the State Government. He also assured to extend necessary assistance on receipt of the report by from the visiting Central team. Sir, while going through the annual report of Marine Research and Development Department, I was happy to learn that the Union Government has proposed to set up a plant at Puthaharam in Tamil Nadu to convert sea water into drinking water. It also envisages for two more such plants in the state in the future. Again on 1st May, when the Hon'ble Prime Minister visited Tamil Nadu, assured the press that he would look into the drought relief after reaching the capital.

Sir, in spite of all this, the Tamil Nadu Government have taken up relief measures on war footing. But, its resources are limited. Therefore, it is my sincere request that the Government of India should immediately sanction Rs. 347 crores as demanded by the state. The Central Government should do something more to protect the state from the recurring phenomenon of drought; it should make an endeavour atleast. By doing so, the degree of distress may at least be lessened. If Cauvery and Telugu-Ganga issues are solved at the earliest, the menace of drought and also the recurring expenditure of a huge amount of money can be saved to a great extent. Once again I plead that the Union Government should grant drought relief to Tamil Nadu without further delay.

REFERENCE TO THE SEVERE DROUGHT CONDITIONS AND ACUTE WATER SHORTAGE IN MAHARASHTRA

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, through you I am drawing the attention of the Government, particularly the Ministries of Agriculture and Finance, to a very pathetic situation which has developed due to drought in Maharashtra.

Sir, you might be aware that this is the third successive year that Maharashtra is facing drought. Out of about 27,000 villages, 23,000 villages have been affected. There is no drinking water and there is not even a single source of drinking water. Tankers are being pressed into service and water is being rushed. Similarly, Sir, the cattle population is on the verge of extinction. Already about 30 per cent have died. And even the newspaper people have visited Maharashtra and written about the most pathetic situation in Maharashtra. Apart from the Central Government teams which have visited twice, very recently another team has gone there. Sir, as per today's telex message from the Government of Maharashtra, it seems, as

against the Budget provision of Rs. 206 crores, they have already spent about Rs. 378 crores, and they have to spend before the onset of monsoon another Rs. 200 crores. That means, Rs. 500 to Rs. 516 crores is the requirement. As against this, Sir, what is the contribution of the Central Government? Sir, it is a paltry contribution, it is ridiculous, and one may be ashamed, particularly I am ashamed. In Maharashtra I have seen what situation the people are facing. Sir, what is the contribution of the Central Government? It is Rs. 23.98 crores. This is the contribution of the Central Government. Sir, I would like to point out to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs who is sitting here that this is totally a ridiculous affairs going on. Particularly, Sir, why I am worried is that the M.Ps. and the M.L.As. there are disillusioned about the attitude of the Government. The Opposition parties are attacking us. But we cannot defend ourselves because our own Government is not giving adequate funds. The credibility of the Maharashtra Government, Sir, is at a very low level. I do not know the political implications but I do feel that the Prime Minister will take cognizance of what I am saying here. I have taken this opportunity to mention this because tomorrow I am leaving for my State as I have to take part in the operations for amelioration of the drought difficulties. I would again urge upon the Government that they should see to our requirement of Rs. 500 to Rs. 518 crores. These are not inflated figures like other State Governments, particularly the Governments which are politically opposite to the ruling party at the Centre and they are making inflated claims. Our requirement of Rs. 500 crores has been worked out by our planning department in the Maharashtra State and against this requirement, a paltry amount of Rs. 23.98 crore has been sanctioned. If you want to keep the Chief Minister there with a credible image, I do feel that this step has got to be taken and a minimum of Rs. 150 crores has to be sanctioned immediately for my