

सकता था, दो दिन बाद भी रखा जा सकता है तो इसका मलतब हो सकता है लेकिन जब रेलवे अप्रोप्रियेशन पर बहस है तब आये घंटे की चर्चा करने की क्या तुक है, कारण है, जस्टिफिकेशन है ? क्या मैं यह समझूँ कि यह एक तरह से जैसा कि सभापति महोदय ने कहा चैम्बरिंग की बदौलत रखा गया है, हम लोग देते हैं वह मंजूर नहीं होते लेकिन आज जब चर्चा रेलवे पर है तब हाफ एन आवर क्यों रखा है ?

DR. (SHRIMATI) NAJMA HEP-TULLA (Maharashtra): On the same issue which is in relation to my Half-an-Hour Discussion which arose out of the answer which could not be given properly in the House, I have requested our whip that I should be given a chance to speak today and tomorrow the Half-an-Hour Discussion can be withdrawn.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): I have noted your point, Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha, and your point also, Dr. Najma Hep-tulla. Why the Chairman has permitted so many Mentions or why he has not permitted so many Mentions, I cannot answer, it is in his discretion. It is in his discretion. Your point is limited to half-an-hour discussion. Today's half-an-hour discussion is not about Railways, but of shifting of the Regional Workers Education Centre from Mangalore to Hassan.

As far as Railways Appropriation Bill is concerned, it will start at 3 o'clock. I will request hon. Members who are going to ask clarifications to be very brief so that this can conclude at 3 o'clock. Then we have the half-an-hour discussion. I will request all of you to be brief so that we can rise by 7 o'clock.

Mr. Jha is in a privileged position and he usually speaks even though

his Party has taken the allotted time. Similarly, today also he will be allowed to make his point.

Now we will go ahead with clarifications. There are 16 Members. This is just for information. The Minister will reply in the end.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Flood situation in various parts of the country—contd.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE (Maharashtra): I will be very brief. Sir, 83 lakhs of people have been affected and 1.5 lakh hectares of land are affected. More than 900 people have died in these floods. In the beginning of the statement, the Minister has said:

"...very heavy floods have occurred in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, Konkan, Madhya Maharashtra and Marathwada regions of Maharashtra..."

This is not correct. Vidarbha is equally affected. Nagpur city itself is affected and Akola and Wardha District are also affected. Therefore, the Minister's statement should include Vidarbha. This should be added in the beginning of his statement.

I will speak for Maharashtra State only. Others will speak about other areas.

As regards devastation in Maharashtra, it started with Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts in the month of June. For the first time the famous city of Pandarpur was affected by floods in Bhima river. The situation is really serious in that area. In Wardha, Nagpur and Akola areas there are heavy losses. The situation really calls for measures on a war-footing. The Minister has given the

[Shri Shridhar Wasudeo Dhabe]

figure of Rs. 1472 lakhs as total damage in the chart. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Maharashtra Government has made any request for additional assistance immediately. Last time about Rs. 25 crores were given for rehabilitation purposes. Secondly what are the types of relief or assistance proposed to be given? Will there be assistance for house construction because a large number of houses have been washed away. For crops destroyed, seeds can be given along with other inputs for agricultural purposes. These are the two types of assistance that can be given immediately.

I would also like to know whether any Central Team has been sent to assess the damage and assistance needed from the Central Government. Last time, when Central assistance was given, it was deducted from the Plan allocation of the State. This should be treated as extra help. It should not be part of the Plan amount. The tendency is to give the loan and later to adjust it against the Plan allocation. The Central Government should share the responsibility and must give adequate money to the State so that the affected people can be rehabilitated. This is a natural calamity and I would like to express my my concern and sympathy to the people who are facing this misery and who have lost their houses and property in this calamity. It is for the first time that this has occurred in Maharashtra on such a large scale.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Mr. Kushwaha. Not here. Yes, Mr. Shiva Chandra Jha.

श्री शिव चन्द्र झा (बिहार) :
उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने एक लम्बा चौड़ा स्टेटमेंट सदन में दिया। पिछले दो दिनों से हमें इसको पढ़ने का समय मिला ताकि हम लोग इसको

पढ़कर सदन में आ सकें और क्लेरिफिकेशन मांग सकें। मुझे यह कहना पड़ता है कि यह स्टेटमेंट बहुत ही इनएडीक्वेट है। ऐसा लगता है कि जो खबरें स्टेट्स से भेजी गई हैं उनको हमारे सामने रख दिया गया है, पोस्टमैन की तरह से काम किया गया है। इस संबंध में सेन्टर क्या कर रहा है, यह नहीं बताया गया है। सेन्टर की तरफ से कौन से फैसले किये गये हैं, रिलीफ के रूप में, दवा के रूप में या अन्य दूसरे रूपों में क्या किया गया है और इमरजेंसी के रूप में क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं, यह कुछ भी नहीं बताया गया है। गुजरात सरकार के बारे में थोड़ा बहुत जखूर बताया गया है, लेकिन सेन्टर इन बारे में क्या कर रहा है, यह नहीं बताया गया है। बिहार के बारे में भी इसमें जिक्र आया है। बिहार के बारे में बहुत सी डिस्ट्रीपेन्सीज हैं। इन्होंने जो आंकड़े दिये हैं बरवादी और बांधों के टूटने के, उसके बारे में अखबारों में भी रिपोर्ट्स आई हैं। बिहार सरकार के आंकड़े भी आ गये हैं। हमारे सामने 22 अगस्त का टाइम्स आफ इंडिया है इसमें बहुत बड़े अक्षरों में लिखा हुआ है—

“Collapse of bund in Katihar district:
etc.”

A 330 metre stretch of the embankment in Katihar district was washed away, officials in Patna believe on the basis of the latest report from the district headquarters. Breaches in two other embankments also on the Ganga were there putting in danger to 220 villages while in Saharsa district, because of floods in the Kosi river, inhabitants of about 50 villages have been asked to move to safer places. The Ganga has got wide gaps on its embankment, etc.,

एक तरफ तो यह इम्बैंकमेंट टूट गया है और दूसरी तरफ 9867 का आंकड़ा दिया गया है। आपका हिसाब 18 अगस्त

तक का है। यह कटिहार की घटना है और 22 अगस्त की है। कटिहार का बांध टूट जाने के कारण लोगों पर इसका असर हुआ है। आपको उसको भी कवर करना चाहिए था। आप कहते हैं कि पूरे बिहार में 9867 गाँवा इफेक्टेड हैं। टाइम्स आफ इंडिया में यू० एन० आई० की रिपोर्ट है कि 11 हजार हाउसेज इफेक्टेड हैं। आपके आंकड़े हैं कि 9 हजार हैं और यह भी आप के आंकड़े हैं कि दो लाख 30 हजार लोग इफेक्टेड हैं, लेकिन अखबारों के आंकड़े हैं कि दार्दिलाल लोगों पर इसका असर हुआ है। क्षति के बारे में भी यह कहा गया है कि यह 5 करोड़ 9 हजार के करीब है। मैं फिर टाइम्स आफ इंडिया का उदाहरण देता हूँ—

“According to a Bihar Government estimate 2.5 lakh people have been affected by floods and rain in ten districts in the State and damage to crops and houses and property was estimated at Rs. 520 crores”

यह 520 करोड़ बताया गया है। ऐसा लगाता है कि सरकार को ठीक से कंटेक्ट नहीं किया गया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह साफ जानना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो कटिहार का बांध टूट गया है यह सेन्ट्रल पावर कमीशन का है। महानन्दा क बांध सन 1966-67 में 18 करोड़ रुपयों की कास्ट पर बना था। 18 करोड़ की कास्ट पर, इसके इरीजन की संभावना जीरो माइल पर थी। तब चीफ इंजीनियर, महानदी ने कहा कि इंटरियर नियोजन का काम यहां होना चाहिए। इसके लिये उसने लिखा 24-4-83 को, लेकिन बिहार सरकार ने एडमिनिस्ट्रेटिव अप्रूवल नहीं दी जिससे काम आगे नहीं बढ़ा। नतीजा हुआ कि यह इरीजन हुआ, बांध टूटा, करोड़ों की क्षति हुई और

लाखों लोग इससे एफेक्टेड हुए हैं। इसके बजाय उन्होंने क्या किया कि बरीली ब्लॉक में दरबे गांव के पास पैसा बहाना शुरू कर दिया, बेमतलब और 54 लाख रुपया वहां खर्च कर दिया गया। उसमें एक मिनिस्टर, जो जगन्नाथ मिश्र की मिनिस्ट्री में थे, उनकी वजह से 54 लाख रुपया पानी में बहा दिया गया, लेकिन इस बारे में वहां कोई काम नहीं हुआ और यह बांध टूट गया और इतने लोग एफेक्टेड हुए। मैं केन्द्रीय सरकार से यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार में बार-फुटिंग पर चाहे ‘आर्मी शुड बी इम्प-लाईट देयर, सेना को वहां पर मुस्तेद करके इसका मुकाबिला किया जाये, वहां परिस्थिति बहुत नाजुक है।

आखरी बात महोदय यह है कि इन के पास कोई मशीनरी नहीं है, केन्द्र के पास फ्लड कंट्रोल की कोई नीति नहीं है। जो काम होता है एडहाक बेसिस पर होता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि बिहार को फ्लड रिलीफ के ही नाम पर आपने क्या दिया है? यह आपके ही आंकड़े हैं, जो तबाही और बरबादी हुई उसको देखते हुए कितने पैसे आपने दिये? वहां की सरकार ने कितना मांगा था और आपने कितना दिया? कटिहार में जो बांध टूटा है उसको ठीक करने के लिये, कंट्रोल करने के लिये आपने क्या कोई केन्द्रीय आवर्जवार भेजा है? मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर वहां पर सेना की जरूरत है तो उसका भी इस्तेमाल करें, इस प्रकार से भी आपको उसका मुकाबला करना चाहिए। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बाढ़ आती है, बाढ़ आ सकती है, बाढ़ अमेरिका में भी आती है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, सक्रामेंटो रिवर और युवा रिवर इन सबों में बाढ़ आती है, लेकिन इससे जो डेमेज होता है, उसके कंट्रोल की

[श्री शिव चन्द्र झा]

व्यवस्था वहां पर है। हमारे यहां यह व्यवस्था पैरीनियल रूप में नहीं है। तो मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि जब हर साल बाढ़ आती है तो इसके लिये केन्द्रीय स्तर पर क्या आपके पास कोई मशीनरी है, क्या कोई दस्ता है, जो बाढ़ से पहले ही काम शुरू कर दे? आपका नहीं है। उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, क्या होता है, बाढ़ जब देहातों में आ जाती है तब नावें लाने की बात उठती है कि कहां से आयेंगी, कहां जायेंगी सारा हाच-पांच होता है, नतीजा यह होता कि करोड़ों रुपये की क्षति होती है। सरकार की फ्लड कंट्रोल की कोई नेशनल नीति नहीं है और उसकी जो भी नीति है उसको कार्यान्वित करने के लिये कोई मशीनरी नहीं है। मैं चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय इन सब बातों की सफाई करें।

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, last week I made a special mention regarding floods, specially in Andhra Pradesh, about which I have seen the statement of the hon. Minister. So far as floods are concerned, I am confining myself to Andhra Pradesh. The figures given in the statement seem to be incorrect. The loss and damage that has taken place in Andhra Pradesh due to recent floods specially in the districts of Adilabad, Karim Nagar, Nizamabad, East and West Godavari districts are very heavy, and the report which the hon. Minister has given seems to be incorrect. He minimised the whole situation in which the whole region is affected. According to the reports, nearly Rs 20—22 crores worth of paddy and sugarcane has been destroyed in Karim Nagar district alone. In Nizamabad district nearly Rs. 4-5 crores worth of paddy and other crops have been destroyed. Similarly in the East and West Godavari districts the losses are very heavy, and in Khammam and other districts also. The Minister has not given any such

damages. He has not shown any such thing in the report. I would like to impress upon the Minister that due to the floods there was a heavy loss of crops in every district and there was loss of cattle and many people have died. According to this statement only 30 people have died, but according to our reports nearly 40 to 50 persons have died in the villages due to heavy floods. These rains flooded not only on 13th. There were heavy rains on the 11th, 12th and 13th and there was heavy damage. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has written to the Central Government for central assistance when he has received that request what action has been taken and whether the Central Government is rushing the aid. Similarly, in my Special Mention I have stated that the situation is very serious and a central team should be sent to the affected areas immediately. Immediate financial assistance is needed. I would like to know from the Minister what the total damage is. The figures given by the hon. Minister are incomplete. The total damage that has been caused has not been given district-wise. Many cattle have perished. Many human lives have been lost. He says that 30 people have died. But the loss is more. There is heavy damage to crops and cattle. That has not been shown here in detail. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the figures about the total damage that has been caused due to floods and the amount that the Central Government is going to give for meeting the flood situation. Apart from human loss, many houses have been uprooted and immediate relief from the Central Government is needed. So far, as the State Government is concerned they have taken all measures for flood relief. The Chief Minister visited affected areas and has instructed the concerned officers to do immediate relief work. At the same time, the State Government has requested the Central Government to provide central assistance. That assistance must be given immediately.

*SHRIMATI ILA BHATTACHARYA (Tripura): Hon. Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, from 3rd August to 5th August, 1983, there was a heavy rain in Tripura. There was a serious devastation in the State due to a flood havoc. Consequently, thirty persons lost their lives. Five lakhs people have been seriously affected due to the recent floods. Assam-Agartala National Highway, through which Tripura is connected with the rest of the Country, has become unuseable due to sixty land-slides. One hundred bridges have been damaged. Tripura's only Hydel Project, namely, Gumti Hydel Project has also been badly damaged and now Rs. One Crore will be needed to repair it.

Thirty thousand houses have been destroyed. Rs. three crores sixty lakhs are required to rebuild these houses. But this required a huge amount of money which has not been mentioned in the Statement that the Hon. Minister made in the House on the 22nd August, 1983. It has been shown in that Statement as "Not Reported". But the Government of Tripura submitted a preliminary Memorandum to the Central Government on the 17th August, 1983, in which they mentioned that Rs. three crores sixty lakhs would be required to rebuild these lost thirty thousand houses. I hope, the Hon. Minister will clarify about this "Not Reported".

Three thousands cattle heads have lost their lives. But agriculture has been hit hard most. Standing crops in 75,000 hectares have been completely destroyed. Paddy in 32,000 hectares, which was ripe for harvesting, was completely destroyed. It was a serious loss on the food front. Seedlings of Aman paddy in 40,000 hectares have been covered with sand. This loss in the food front will lead to serious food shortage in the State in future.

Tripura is a very small State. has a population of twenty one lakhs. Out of it, five lakhs people are affected due to the current floods. So, the State is passing through hard days.

On the 8th August, 1983, the Central Government got the information about the serious flood situation in Tripura. On the 9th August, 1983, I made a Special Mention in the House in which I demanded that the Central Government should immediately send a Central Survey team to Tripura in order to assess the loss there and recommend assistance therefor.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, Tripura is in extreme difficulties. Still more than twenty-five thousand people are living in 167 Relief Camps. There an individual is being paid Rs. 1.50 as relief done daily. Similarly, a family of five members is getting Rs. 7.50 as relief dole daily. Similarly, a family of five to stay in the Relief Camps upto the month of December this year.

The Government of Tripura requires huge amount of money to rebuild the lost houses. It, therefore, requires Central financial assistance. But the requirement of financial assistance cannot be assessed unless a Central Surevey Team is immediately despatched there.

The flood waters have not yet receded. In Sonamura sub-division, flood waters are receding by one inch daily because of the embankment constructed by Bangladesh.

A State, whether it is a small one or a big one, cannot stand on its feet unless it is adequately helped by the Central Government at the time of natural calamities. I would, therefore, like to know from the Hon. Minister what action the Government has taken on my appeal that I made in a Special Mention on the 9th August, 1983, for sending a Central Survey Team immediately to assess the loss due to floods in Tripura?

[Shrimati Ila Bhattacharya]

The Central Survey Team should see for itself how the Government of Tripura is helping the affected people with its limited resources. I have information that the Central Team has not yet visited my State. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister why the Central Survey Team has not yet visited my State? I would like to know by when the Central Team will visit my State?

The Government of Tripura asked for Rs. one crore as ad hoc financial assistance. Again, the Government of Tripura asked for 5000 metric tons of food. As an immediate assistance they asked for 1000 metric tons of food. So far 500 metric tons of rice and 500 metric tons of wheat have been sent to Tripura. How the affected people of that state can survive with this limited supply of food? Those who stored rice in their houses, are now faced with rotten rice because of floods. Therefore, the people of Tripura are now faced with serious food shortage.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister by when the Central Survey Team will visit Tripura? I would like to know by when 5000 metric tons of food will be sent to that State?

In the Preliminary Memorandum the State Government assessed that the total loss in terms of money was to the tune of Rs. 16 crores 69 lakhs. I would like to know by when the Central Government will sanction this amount of Rs. 16 crores 69 lakhs as Special assistance for meeting a natural calamity without deducting that much amount from the annual plan allocations of Tripura?

SHRI GHANSHYAMBHAI OZA (Gujarat): Sir, Gujarat was reeling under the effect of a cyclone which devastated it in September, 1982. Both the Government and voluntary agencies started the rescue work. As I am associated with one voluntary agency, I will spell out some facts. Sir, before the work of rehabilitation

and rescue can be completed another cyclone has overtaken Gujarat. And what a devastating cyclone it was. Sir, from the statement which has been given to us by the hon. Minister, in Annexure I, we find that in the matter of loss of property, loss of life and in every respect, Gujarat is the highest. Rs. 200 crores worth of property was lost and 594 lives were lost, as spelt out in the Statement. This is the figure given by the Gujarat Government. But, people feel that it is much more than what has been spelt out in the Statement. Sir, why is this happening? There are so many reasons and I do not want to go into the details about them. But we have been seeing deforestation on the sea-shore of Saurashtra area. Sir, we were very proud of the Gir forest once upon a time. I wish some of you go and visit the Gir forests. You will refuse to recognise the Gir forest today though it is the only place in India now where lions are to be found. Even then a cursory glance at the whole area will show that it has ceased to be a forest because a lot of deforestation has taken place.

Sir, it has been said that because of the faulty communications by the Government of India and the control rooms the Gujarat people were not forewarned about the possibility of a cyclone overtaking them. If the control rooms were functioning properly, it may be that many of the lives that have been lost would not have been lost and we would have been able to save the people. But because of faulty control rooms and lack of communications between the control rooms and the people, who were to be evacuated, adequate relief could not be provided. Sir, the Government has admitted on its own that to the life and property highest damage has taken place in Gujarat. And what is the help that is being rendered to Gujarat by the Government of India? A very meagre amount has been given. I have come to know that only Rs. 10 crores have been released as against the damage of Rs. 200 crores. I would request the hon. Minister to come to

the rescue of Gujarat. I know that we have adopted a certain scheme which says that these amounts must be adjusted against plan expenditure and all these things. Whatever it may be, after all some expenditure has to be incurred.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA (Maharashtra): For Maharashtra they have released only Rs. 5 crores.

SHRI GHANSHYAMBHAI OZA: I am sorry for that. They must release more. I am not grudging them. They must get what they want.

SHRI SHRIDHAR WASUDEO DHABE: They have asked for Rs. 25 crores.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Everybody wants more.

SHRI GHANSHYAMBHAI OZA: Just look at the figures given by the Government. These figures are not provided by me. There is so much loss of property, loss of life, inundation. Look at the figures and then judge whether the help that is being meted out to mitigate the hardship is adequate or not. Even after seeing all these things if you say that Rs. 10 crore are enough, then I have nothing to say.

DR. RAFIQ ZAKARIA: We say that you should get more and we should also get more.

SHRI GHANSHYAMBHAI OZA: To all those regions which have suffered, the Central Government must give adequate help.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Both for floods and drought.

SHRI GHANSHYAMBHAI OZA: We are not concerned with drought at present. But the question is why are these things taking place even after so many years of planning? It

is because we have not given priority to certain things. We have not taken care to see that inundation does not take place, erosion does not take place, that forests are not absolutely denuded. All these things we have not taken care of. We must give priority to certain schemes. If we had given priority to certain schemes, these things would not have happened at all. In Gujarat, the Saurashtra area is rich in fertile lands but they are being completely eroded. It is not a temporary loss where you may be able to render some help to families there in this way or that way. The land there has been completely eroded and it will take nearly another 25 years to bring that land to that proper level. Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to see that the schemes which are sent by the Government of Gujarat are properly looked into and proper help is given. Fortunately for Gujarat, there are many voluntary agencies which also come to the rescue of the people. The people there do not look to the Government alone for immediate remedies. For food, clothing and shelter there are so many voluntary agencies which rush and give help to the people on the spot. But we must do something about long-term planning so that people may be rehabilitated so that we can meet the situation in future with some measure of success that is what I am wanting to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to.

SHRI BIJOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE (Assam): Mr. Vice-Chairman, in my State of Assam, the current flood is mainly caused by erosion by

[Shri Bijoy Krishna Handique]

the Brahmaputra. Unless this root cause of the flood is effectively checked, flood can never be controlled, and will rather continue to damage the valley every year and that too, massively. The problem is aggravated by the rise of the river bed, particularly since 1950 earthquake. In the late sixties, a survey report indicates that the river bed at Dibrugarh was raised by 9 metres, and along with this, the bed of its tributaries has been rising over the years and it has caused all the floods in the State during the last decade, due to this factor. I want to know from the Government as to what measures are being taken to control the heaving up of the river bed. Besides, according to the flood control policy of 1954, emphasis was laid on construction of embankments along with drainage works as a short-term measure. However, over the years, it was found that strengthening and bank-raising were ineffective. Since erosion, on the concave bends of the river in the embanked reaches has increased substantially during the last one and a half decade threatening the entire embankment system itself, at many points on the river, stone spurs have been devised. And the erosion rate is so fast that unless stone spurs are constructed at many points along the river, it will threaten a number of towns and particularly the world famous National Park Kazhiranga. So, in Assam, the short-term as well as long-term measures must go together. Of the short-term measures, embankment mainly on the tributaries and stone spurs on the river Brahmaputra at some points still need to be constructed. And of the long-term measures, storage reservoirs are to be constructed as in the case of the proposed Dehang and Subansir dams and in this connection I want to know from the Government at what stage, these projects are. But it has to be borne in mind that such storage dams even if they come up, will cut only the flood height; they will not eliminate the problem of ero-

sion. So I want to know from the Government what measures they contemplate to control erosion.

Hon. Minister himself recently visited certain affected places in Assam, Palasbari, Mokalmoa and Moriahola. In all these 3 places, he has seen with his own eyes the severe erosion. In Palasbari, the entire town is threatened. In Mokalmoa, a large number of villages are threatened and in Moriahola, it is not only the township but as I said, the famous National Park Kazhiranga is threatened. So, unless some effective measures are taken on war footing, I am afraid, these towns and the National Park cannot be saved.

SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI (Assam): Sir, the statement of the hon. Minister does not give a true picture of the devastation caused by flood and erosion. I want to make certain observations regarding Assam only. As my friend Mr. Handique said, the biggest problem of Assam is that of erosion. It has been published in the papers also and I quote from Assam Tribute, that Kazhiranga National Park, an abode of world-famous rhinos is now under systematic erosion due to high floods of Brahmaputra. Surging waters entering through Moriahola breach threaten the existence of a part of Kazhiranga Park. It is officially learnt that if erosion continue at this rate, a part of the Park will be in the womb of the mighty river Brahmaputra. This is the situation regarding erosion. Sir, in reply to a question put by me on 16-12-81, the then Minister of Irrigation assured that 'anti-erosion works have been taken up so far at specific locations for local protection and have generally given immediate relief. The need for training the Brahmaputra to the extent it is technically and economically feasible is recognised and the Brahmaputra Board is being shortly constituted for formulating a Master Plan for flood control, bank erosion control and drainage improvement in the Brahmaputra Valley keeping in view the

multi-purpose development of the large water resources.'

Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what progress has been made in this regard. The Brahmaputra Flood Control Board has been constituted and I would like to know what master plan this Board has drawn up for control of floods and erosion in the State of Assam. Sir, three times floods have occurred in Assam this year. Even the drilling operations by the ONGC had to be suspended due to the floods. But we have seen that the only flood control measure which the Government had taken up is the construction of embankments. It is high time we examine the question whether these embankments can prevent floods, whether it can prevent floods or it causes greater misery when the embankments are breached. This time, there have been 22 breaches in the embankments. As a result of this, large-scale devastation has taken place in the villages. Moreover, as a result of the construction of these embankments, the river bed is rising. Mr. Handique has pointed out about this. As a result of the construction of these embankments, what happened is, the river bed is rising. Immediately, when there is rain, there are breaches. (Time-bell rings). I will take one more minute. When there is rain, there are breaches on the embankments and large-scale devastation takes place. I would like to know whether the Government will examine this question; whether this scheme of construction of embankments can at all control floods. It is not only due to the earthquakes, that the river bed of Brahmaputra is rising. It is also due to the construction of these embankments. I would like to know whether the Government will consider the whole matter and adopt concrete measures to stop these recurring floods and erosion in Assam. Unless we stop erosion hundreds of villages in Assam will be washed away by the Brahmaputra and its tributaries.

Sir, what the Government is doing now is constructing bamboo spurs. Crores of rupees are being spent on the construction on these bamboo spurs. These spurs are washed away and crores of rupees have been simply thrown into the waters. There is no use in constructing bamboo spurs. It is only an apology. It is just to satisfy the people that you are doing something to stop erosion. These bamboo spurs cannot stop erosion. Unless the Government go in for construction of stone spurs, this problem cannot be solved. If the entire area cannot be covered at a time, let them select areas. Let the Government spend the money usefully in constructing stone spurs in a systematic manner so that erosion can be prevented. Otherwise, merely by constructing bamboo spurs, erosion cannot be prevented. Also, you should take urgent steps to protect this Kaziranga Game Sanctuary, where this one-horned rhinoceros is there, from being eroded by the Brahmaputra.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many breaches have been repaired. What steps the Government is going to take to repair the breaches in the embankments and what steps the Government is going to take for the rehabilitation and relief of the affected people? Sir, I would like to have detailed replies to these questions which I have put. I would also like to know about the activities of the Brahmaputra Flood Control Board in Assam.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM (Assam)
Mr. Vice-Chairman, I will confine my remarks to flood situation in Assam but my observations may equally apply to the flood situation in North Bengal and a part of North-Eastern Bihar. Flood in Assam is not a new phenomenon. It is perennial because every year Assam experiences two to four floods. The result is that there is loss of human lives, loss of live of cattle and a great devastation of crops. Assam land is fertile and if flood is controlled in Assam, Assam can produce so much of paddy that

[Shri Baharul Islam]

it can not only feed the people of Assam but also the entire population of the city of Calcutta for one year. So, the basic problem in Assam is flood control.

In 1960₃ the engineers of Water and Power Commission used to say that rain was the cause of floods. We cannot control rain, therefore we cannot control flood, but this finding of the experts, in my respectful submission, is not valid. It may be paradoxical that there can be flood without a single drop of rain at all or there can be flood when there is complete, absolute drought; that what happened in 1940. In the month of June there was drought, not a drop of rain for about three weeks. That was the cultivation season. All of a sudden, on one night there was such a flood that at several places the railway line was breached. The north trunk road—at that time there was no national highway—was breached at several places, and many bridges were washed away. It was found that the cause of that flood was melting of huge blocks of snow on the top of the Himalayas. Therefore, the main causes of flood in Assam at least are two. Rain is also one of the two causes, and the second cause is melting of snow on the top of the Himalayas. There is another factor that adds to the gravity of floods in Assam. This factor is the raised beds of the rivers. In 1950, as has already been mentioned by my friend, there was a great earthquake in Assam. As a result of the earthquake it was found that the bed of the Brahmaputra raised by four to six feet—imagine, by four to six feet. Similarly, the beds of the tributaries of the Brahmaputra were considerably raised. The result was that these rivers cannot contain the entire water coming from the Himalayas from which the tributaries come or from where the snow melts. Thus, the devastating floods are caused. Now, the only remedy, in my respectful submission, is the dredging of these rivers. Unless

the rivers are dredged, there is no way out. As my hon. friend Mr. Biswa Goswami was saying that the river beds have been raised, the river beds have not been raised, by earthquake alone but also by silt that has been brought every year from Arunachal, from the Himalayas. This silt is deposited on the beds of the river. The result is that the water overflows and causes devastation. I want to know from the hon. Minister, what steps have been taken or are being taken for the dredging of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries as a measure for flood control in Assam.

SHRI HAYAT ULLA ANSARI (Nominated): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to make a suggestion which is equally good both for drought as well as flood. Recently an agreement was reached between India and Bangla Desh about the water of river Teesta which flows from Kanchununga via Sikkim and West Bengal to Bangla Desh. The agreement has been objected to by the West Bengal Government on the ground that it will keep a portion of its lands without water during the summer. Without making any comment on this objection, I will present a suggestion.

A few days back I travelled along the river Teesta from Siliguri to Gangtok and observed its water and banks, with its tributaries and their banks, and then after coming back I studied them in books. I will give a quotation from a certain book at the end.

There are very few rivers in India, as far as I know which have so much potentialities of generating power and filling reservoirs like Teesta. It comes down in full form from the height of 6000 feet, covering 80 miles to the plains with great force between high and firm banks. Its tributaries have also high and firm banks and all of them have water throughout the year. Lower Sikkim valley which is about 2500 feet high and 40 miles from the plains has a rainfall upto 150 inches.

The river has fan like ravines—wide at the upper end and narrow and high at the lower, thus forming natural reservoirs lacking gates only.

If the Teesta and its tributaries are surveyed, I am sure that the results may assure West Bengal of having enough water in summers in the future from the reservoirs which will be filled by the rain water which now goes to the sea and is wasted and the neighbouring States also will get more water and power. If a snap survey is made within a fortnight when the rain water is there, the river will be found in its full form.

Now I will give the quotation from the book. The name of the book is "The Himalayan Gateway" by George Kotturan. It runs like this:

"In the lower Teesta valley, the rainfall could go well above 150 inches a year...Because of heavy rainfall, there are all over the country (Sikkim) very many small streams. They all form the tributaries of Teesta and Runjit. In monsoon rains some of these small side streams become raging torrents. Even otherwise they are never dry, because in summer they are fed by the waters coming down the peaks from the melting snow. The rivers are naturally rapid and generally run in deep ravines, the ascent from the banks of the first few hundred feet being almost precipitous..."

Lower down the Teesta is joined by a number of streams. The main tributaries of the Teesta here are Talong, Rongni and Rungpo. Their basin sloping southwards, are broad at the top and gradually contract fanlike from its rim to the handle, to the Teesta valley near Pashow."

I think that if we make a survey in these days, we will find Teesta in full form and that will give you an idea how useful it can be if a bank and a dam is built on it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Shri A. G. Kulkarni. Not here. Shri Kalraj Mishra.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश):

उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बाढ़ संबंधित वक्तव्य मंत्री महोदय ने सदन के अंदर प्रस्तुत किया है उसको देखने के पश्चात् यह अनुभव हुआ है कि जो वास्तविक क्षति हुई है बाढ़ से, उस वास्तविक क्षति से बहुत ही कम क्षति को इसमें दर्शाया गया है। प्रत्यक्ष रूप से हमारे घनश्याम भाई ने इस बात को कहा है कि सौराष्ट्र में जैसा बाढ़ का प्रकोप हुआ और जितने लोग प्रभावित हुए वह सही माने में यहां रखने का प्रयास नहीं किया गया। इसी तरीके से जो आंकड़े दिये गये हैं उनको देखने से ऐसा लगता है कि सभी प्रदेशों में क्षति को बहुत कम करके दर्शाने की कोशिश की गई है। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश की बात आपको सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। उत्तर प्रदेश में जो पहाड़ी इलाका अल्मोड़ा है, वहां पर जिस प्रकार की बाढ़ आई और जितना नुकसान हुआ है उसके बारे में कुछ नहीं बताया गया है। क्षति के संबंध में उत्तर प्रदेश से कोई सूचना ही नहीं आई है। उत्तर प्रदेश में कितनी राश की क्षति हुई है, इसकी सूचना नहीं उपलब्ध हो सकी है। उत्तर प्रदेश के अल्मोड़ा जिले में बाढ़ आई, इसका जिक्र इसमें जरूर किया गया है। लेकिन मैं मंत्री महोदय का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि केवल अल्मोड़े में ही नहीं दिल्ली के बिल्कुल नजदीक मथुरा में जमुना का पानी एकाएक बढ़ गया और सैंकड़ों गांव प्रभावित हो गये। गोवर्धन में बाढ़ आई हुई है। आप जानते हैं कि वह एक प्रमुख तीर्थस्थल है। उसका अस्तित्व ही बाढ़ के कारण खतरे में पड़ गया है। वहां का इसमें कोई जिक्र नहीं किया

[श्री कलराज मिश्र]

गया है। वहां पर कितनी क्षति हुई है। अल्मोड़ा में कितनी क्षति हुई है बाकी स्थानों में गंगा से प्रभावित जो इलाके हैं, जहां पर बाढ़ आई है, तबाही हुई है, उसके संबंध में इसमें कोई चर्चा नहीं है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से कहना चाहूंगा कि आप फिर से राज्य सरकारों से इस संबंध में आग्रह करें और अगर राज्य सरकारें नहीं करती हैं तो केन्द्र से एक टीम भेजकर क्षति का अध्ययन कर अनुमान लगाया जा सकता है और क्षति का सर्वेक्षण कराकर उसको सामने रखा जा सकता है। मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर पिछले एक दशक को देखा जाए तो पता चलेगा कि लगभग चार या पांच खरब रुपयों की इस बीच में क्षति तथा राहत पर व्यय हो चुका है और उस हिसाब से अगर धनराशि को ध्यान में रखकर बाढ़ को रोकने पर प्रयास किया गया होता तो इस प्रकार की दुर्दशा उत्पन्न नहीं होती। मंत्री महोदय ने यह दर्शाने की कोशिश की है कि हमने बाढ़ या वर्षा के संबंध में मौसम की जानकारी देने के लिए अनेक प्रकार के स्थानों का निर्माण किया है जिनके द्वारा इसका पूर्वानुमान हो सकेगा कि बाढ़ आने वाली है या वर्षा होने वाली है। उसके अंक निर्धारित किये गये हैं और उस अंक के आधार पर यह कहा जा सकेगा कि सूखा पड़ने वाला है या सामान्य स्थिति है या वर्षा होने वाली है। इस संबंध में मैं सौराष्ट्र का उदाहरण देना चाहता हूँ। जब पिछली बार बाढ़ पर चर्चा हुई थी तो मैंने इस बारे में संकेत भी दिया और कहा था कि सौराष्ट्र में जूनागढ़ कंट्रोल रूम से इस प्रकार की सूचना राज्य सरकार को दे दी गई थी कि बाढ़ आने वाली है। लेकिन सरकार पर उसकी जूँ तक नहीं रेंगी। बल्कि सरकार ने यह आरोप लगाया कि हमको सूचना ही नहीं मिली

और यह कहा कि चारो तरफ से वह शहर पानी से घिर गया था इसलिए सारे वायर्स से संबंध विच्छेद हो गये थे, सूचना नहीं प्राप्त हो सकी। जब वहां जाकर जानकारी प्राप्त करने की कोशिश की गई तो पता चला कि सरकार को सूचना दे दी गई थी। इस प्रकार से असत्य बात कही जाती है। इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर मंत्री महोदय सचमुच में इस संबंध में गम्भीर हैं और बाढ़ को रोकना चाहते हैं तो वे इस बारे में सही जानकारी प्राप्त करें। पिछली बार बाढ़ और सूखे के बारे में इस सदन में चर्चा हुई थी तो मैंने यह आग्रह किया था कि राष्ट्रीय बाढ़ आयोग, नेशनल फ्लड कमीशन ने 207 रिकमैण्डेशन्स दी हैं, मैंने जानना चाहा था कि उन रिकमैण्डेशन्स का कितना पालन किया गया है? उस समय कृषि राज्य मंत्री ने कहा कि इससे मेरा कोई मतलब नहीं है, मैं तो सिर्फ रिलीफ फण्ड को ही देखता हूँ। उन्होंने इसका जवाब नहीं दिया। इसलिए मैं आदरणीय मिर्धा जी से यह जरूर निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि ये जो रिकमैण्डेशन्स 207 थीं उनको कितना माना गया है और किस हद तक उनको कार्यान्वित करने की कोशिश की गई है। दूसरी बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि उत्तर भारत में गंगा, यमुना और गंडक ये जो तीन नदियां हैं जो इनकी सहायक नदियां हैं जो हर साल तबाही लाती हैं, बाढ़ के कारण नदियों में जो मिट्टी जमा हो जाती है, सिल्ट हो जाती है तथा जिनकी बाढ़ में गांव के गांव बह जाते हैं, उसके लिए आप क्या कर 3 P.M. रहे हैं? गांव के गांव बह जाते हैं। कई बार सरकार से इस संबंध में कहा भी जा चुका है। इस सदन में हम लोगों ने हर वर्ष इस प्रकार का सरकार से आग्रह किया कि क्या नदी के छिछलेपन को

रोकने के लिए उसको गहरा करने की दृष्टि से कोई प्रयास चल रहा है, लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ कि इस दिशा में कोई कोशिश नहीं की गई साथ ही साथ एक नदी को दूसरी नदी से जोड़ने की दृष्टि से भी क्या कोई योजना सरकार ने बनाई है ? क्या वाटर ग्रिड की भी सरकार की कोई योजना है ? क्या एक स्थान से दूसरे स्थान पर पानी ले जाने की दृष्टि से सरकार इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था चाहती है । साथ ही साथ जिन लोगों का नुकसान हुआ है, जितने लोग प्रभावित हुए हैं, बाढ़ से प्रभावित जो क्षेत्र है, जहाँ हमेशा बाढ़ आती है उस क्षेत्र के लोगों के बारे में क्या सरकार बीमे की कोई योजना बना सकती है ताकि जितना भी नुकसान होता है, पशु मारे जाते हैं, व्यक्ति मारे गये, उनकी फसल का नुकसान होता है, उनको इस योजना के माध्यम से पैसा मिल सके । आप बीमा योजना चलायें ताकि वे आश्वस्त हो सकें कि हमारा जितना नुकसान हुआ है, उस नुकसान की पूर्ति इस बीमा योजना के माध्यम से सरकार करेगी उस आश्वासन के कारण एक बार वे अपने को ठीक से व्यवस्थित कर सकें । क्या बीमा योजना सरकार लागू करने पर विचार करेगी । श्रीमन्, स्वयं मंत्री महोदय ने एक बार भाषण देते हुए यह कहा था कि देश के अंदर हमें साईजबल स्टोरेज की व्यवस्था करनी होगी और उसके लिये आधुनिक तकनीक का उपयोग करना पड़ेगा । आपको ध्यान होगा "Design and construction of tunnels and shafts workshop" के उद्घाटन के समय आपने यह भाषण किया था और मैं समझता हूँ कि आपके द्वारा प्रस्तुत यह बहुत अच्छी योजना है । यह बाढ़ को ही नहीं रोक सकेगा बल्कि यह सूखे को भी समाप्त करने की दिशा में उपयोगी सिद्ध होंगी । इस दिशा में मंत्री जी ने आधुनिक तकनीक का किस ढंग से उपयोग किया

है और उसको कार्यान्वित करने की दृष्टि से क्या प्रयत्न किया है ? मंत्री महोदय यह भी बतायें कि क्या आप युद्ध स्तर पर उसको लागू करने का प्रयास करेंगे । अगर ये चीजें होती हैं तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इससे बड़ा ही कल्याण होगा ।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): The clarifications will continue after the Half-an Hour Discussion. Now we take up the Appropriation (Railways) No. 4 Bill. Shri Ghani Khan Chaudhuri.

AN HON. MEMBER: What about the next Bill?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): The Emigration Bill may not come up today.

THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS) NO. 4 BILL, 1983

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY: Sir, I move the Bill:

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI R. RAMAKRISHNAN): Do you want to speak?

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I do not want to speak. First let the Members speak.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Shri R. RAMAKRISHNAN): But you have to move the motion and speak on it.

SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 1983-84 for the purposes of Railways, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The question was proposed.