

[श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह]

समय के प्रवाह में छोड़ दें और समय के प्रवाह के किसी मोड़ पर, उन को उत्तर मिलेगा कि आज इस संरक्षण विधेयक का पारित कर के उन्होंने देश को आर्थिक व्यवस्था को संरक्षण दिया है। इन शब्दों के साथ में अनुरोध करूंगा कि सदन इस विधेयक को पारित कर के लोक सभा को भेजे।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Indian Traffic Act, 1934, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be returned".

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now we go on to the next Resolution.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF GUJARAT

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY): Sir, I beg to move:

"That this House approves the continuance in force of the Proclamation issued by the President on the 9th February, 1974, under article 356 of the Constitution, in relation to the State of Gujarat, for a further period of six months with effect from the 11th March, 1975."

Sir, the House is well aware that Gujarat is undergoing a period of unprecedented drought and that scarcity

conditions are acute in that area. It is unfortunate also that in some districts of the State, the drought conditions have been persisting for the last two or three years. To-day the administration has declared about 11,694 villages out of a total of 18,000 and more as areas affected by acute scarcity conditions or semi-scarcity conditions. Sir, the distress was felt from 1974-75 onwards and to-day there are more than 4,000 scarcity relief works which are in progress, and as of to-day about 6½ lakhs of persons are working on these relief works. As you know, as we progressively go on and try to meet the situation, more people will have to be employed in these scarcity relief works and more works will have to be taken up. Further in May and June, it is apprehended that drinking water also will be a source of great concern to the administration. Now, the administration with the help of the Central Government has been trying, to the best of their ability, to meet the situation effectively and provide the necessary relief. Hitherto in a family, there used to be only one person getting employment in the scarcity relief works. But now that restriction is taken away and any able-bodied person who is in need of employment, can find a job in these relief works.

Now, you also know that the availability or the supply of foodgrains, either to the scarcity relief workers or to the general public, has been stepped up. It was roughly about 51,000 tonnes in July, 1974. In January this year it was over a lakh of tonnes, thanks to the assistance given by the Central Pool as well as the effort made by the local administration to secure grain from other States. I may also incidentally mention here that hitherto a scarcity relief worker was getting 8 Kgs. of foodgrains per month. That has been increased from 1st March, 1975 to 10 Kgs. a month.

1 P. M.

I need not go into the several other very important steps that the Administration has taken.

With regard to even fish production, loans and subsidies have been given for purchasing 141 mechanised trawlers during this month and it is expected that purchase of 60 additional trawlers will be subsidised and loans given to improve the fish supply in the State.

One important item of work which hon. Members can appreciate in areas like this is the soil conservation. This is an important item in the sense that it not only provides relief for workers, but also it is a sort of permanent measure so that the rain water can be collected and the soil condition improved. It is thus an important item where, according to information available, about 1.23 lakh hectares of land has been brought under soil conservation and a sum of Rs. 4 crores has been spent. Therefore, I feel that it is a good item of work which has been done and continues to be done.

I do not want to go into the question of movement of cattle and the steps that the State Administration has taken with regard to other matters to meet the situation. I must also pay my compliments to the several various non-official agencies which have been making a good effort and giving a helping hand to the people of the State in effectively trying to alleviate at least partially the sufferings of the poor people.

Now, Sir, of course...

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra): Rain water collection and all these can be done only under President's rule!

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: There is a point generally made that many popular elements should be associated with this. In fact that has been done...

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Give us some convincing arguments.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Give us some I will come to that. Why are you in a hurry? I am only trying to give you a picture of the amount of work

that is being put in and also how the entire Administration from the top to the bottom is involved in this work of relief. That is my point. Unless you know the intensity and the magnitude of the problem.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Twice this amount of work was done in Maharashtra during the scarcity period by the popular Government. Thirty lakhs people were engaged in scarcity works...

SHRI KAMESHWAR SINGH (Bihar): That popular Government was a Congress Government.

SHRI N. G. GORAY: Yes.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: It is not my point that President's rule alone can take care of it. I am not saying that popular Government cannot do this. It is not my point at all. I am only trying to give a picture of the magnitude of the work that is being done in that State and I am trying to tell you how the entire administration right from the village level up to the highest level is involved in this work and I am also trying to tell you how the various relief committees and other committees at various levels, right from the Governor's level from the Adviser's level, to the district level, to the taluk or block or even village level, are functioning and how there is the association of the popular element in the discharge of these responsibilities. This is my point.

Now, Sir, one other point is there which is very good, which you already know, I think, and that is this that a sum of about Rs. 38 crores has been provided for relief work. You may also like to know, that the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation has given them short-term loans of about Rs. 10 crores and the Central Government has given them Central advances amounting to about Rs. 14.14 crores and this also will be helpful in meeting the situation. Now, Sir, I may add

[Shri K. Brahmananda Reddy]
just one sentence. The plan amount of Rs. 143 crores in 1974-75 has been stepped up to Rs. 172 crores for 1975-76 and, in addition, another sum of Rs. 15 crores is being provided specially for works in scarcity areas. Several other steps are being taken to improve the conditions of the tribals, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people and I need not go into all those details now. I am not saying even for a minute that if there had been a popular government in the State, it would not have dealt with these problems effectively. But I am only saying this that the entire administration and the people and the political parties themselves, irrespective of who they are, are all involved in this type of work and, therefore, is it the opportune moment to disturb the conditions there, to take away the people there from doing this relief work and putting them to some other work? Election does not mean just a poll and it is not a question of a particular day. It means a process and it means a process for a month and more and it means that you upset the entire thing and you give more prominence to the election then to the drought relief work which is necessary now. Sir, after all, elections are only a means to an end. What is the ultimate object? The ultimate object is the good of the people. So, in this particular situation, we keep the interests of the people in the forefront and see what should be done in the present circumstances. As I have said in the other House, these elections come and go and they come every five years. These things come, but drought conditions do not occur in a cycle like this and when an unprecedented drought of this nature has affected Gujarat...

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH):
At the time of speaking about the drought conditions in Gujarat, Mr. Rajnarain is speaking of lunch.

SHR K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY.
At a time when millions of people are

suffering without that, he is speaking of lunch.

श्री राजनारायण (उत्तर प्रदेश) : राजा विश्वनाथ सिंह कहते हैं कि चलो लंच मनाये ।

श्री विश्वनाथ प्रताप सिंह : लंच का प्रश्न तो आपने उठाया था कि लंच का टाइम हो रहा है ।

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY:
Therefore, what I am saying is this: You must take this in that spirit and it is not a question of the Congress party alone fighting shy of elections. You are aware that in a parliamentary democracy, nobody can, and more so, the Congress party cannot, fight shy of elections.

SHRI RANBIR SINGH (Haryana):
Never, never.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY.
It is not so. On the other hand, I have said in the other House also that when the rumours were getting published in the papers that there was going to be a snap poll, it was only the Opposition friends who said, "No. We do not want any snap poll now". Therefore...

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD (Kerala): Elections are going to be postponed. You may have the Bangladesh model here

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY.
The limited point which the honourable Members, both on this side and on the Opposition side, have to see is this: Is this an opportune moment

to disturb the entire structure of relief given to the people and involve them in the elections?

SHRI RANBIR SINGH: No.

SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY: Or are you effectively, and more effectively, meeting the situation of affording relief? This is the limited point. Elections will come sooner or later. Now the President's Proclamation is ending on 11th March, 1975, and every body can know that it is impossible to hold elections before 11th March, 1975. Therefore, it becomes imperative and necessary to come to this House and request this House to extend the President's Proclamation by six months. I commend this Resolution to the House, Sir, and I am sure that the House in its mature wisdom will certainly accept this Resolution without dissent.

The question was proposed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 2.15 P.M.

The House then adjourned for lunch at eleven minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at seventeen minutes past two of the clock, MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE CONTINUANCE IN FORCE OF THE PROCLAMATION ISSUED BY THE PRESIDENT IN RELATION TO THE STATE OF GUJARAT—contd.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: MR. Shekhawat.

श्री भैरों सिंह शेखावत (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने गुजरात के सम्बन्ध में जिस प्रकार का वक्तव्य दिया है, उससे दो बातें स्पष्ट होती हैं। एक यह है कि यह संविधान कांग्रेस पार्टी की सेवा

के लिये उपयोग में लाया जाता है और इसी प्रकार दूसरा महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न इलैक्शन कमीशन का है, जिसका सारा दृष्टिकोण कांग्रेस के हित में रहता है। अगर दोनों बातें सही नहीं होती तो मेरी मान्यता है कि गुजरात में चुनाव स्थगित करने का कोई कारण नहीं है।

चुनाव स्थगित करने के सम्बन्ध में जो प्रमुख कारण माननीय गृह मंत्री जी ने बतलाया है, वह अकाल का कारण है और सूखा का कारण बतलाया है। उपसभापति जी, आप जानते हैं कि इस देश के अन्दर किसी न किसी राज्य में और कुछ राज्य तो ऐसे हैं कि उनके किसी न किसी भाग में प्रति वर्ष अकाल रहता है। अगर अकाल को प्रमुखता दी जाये और चुनाव के समय को प्रमुखता न दी जाये, तो इससे संविधान के प्रति, चुनाव प्रणाली के प्रति और चुनाव कमीशन के प्रति जनता में किसी प्रकार की श्रद्धा नहीं रह जायेगी।

मैं राजस्थान से आया हूँ। हर तीसरे वर्ष वहाँ भयंकर अकाल पड़ता है। राजस्थान से लगा हुआ जो गुजरात का हिस्सा है उसमें भी कई हिस्सों में हर वर्ष अकाल रहता है। आज तक सरकार के सामने कोई संकट पैदा नहीं हुआ, अकाल के कारण से इस प्रकार की कोई समस्या पैदा नहीं जिसके कारण सरकार को चुनाव स्थगित करने पड़े। चूँकि चुनाव नहीं कराया जा रहा है, इसलिए प्रेसिडेंशियल रूल की अवधि में वृद्धि करनी पड़ी। उपसभापति महोदय, दुनिया जानती है बिना रिप्रेजेंटेशन के लोकतन्त्र में किसी भी प्रकार की गवर्नमेंट, अच्छी हो या बुरी हो, जनता को सह्य नहीं होता। हिन्दुस्तान में अब कुछ ऐसी हवा बन