

MOTION RE DROUGHT CONDITIONS IN CERTAIN PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We now go on to the Motion which stands in the name of Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy. I must say that I have quite a long list of names before me. So the mover can take 15 minutes and the rest 10 minutes each.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE): How much time is allotted for this?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: At 5.30 P.M. the Minister could reply.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY (Mysore): Madam, I beg to move: "That the statement on drought conditions prevailing in certain parts of the country, laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on the 26th February, 1969, be taken into consideration."

Madam, in this country droughts and famines have been a recurring feature. They have been happening in cycles. One part of the country or the other is affected with drought or famine and particularly after 1964-65 we have had a consecutive failure of rains and monsoons and the famine and drought have been too frequently plaguing us in this country. 1965-66 was a famine year and it was very widespread right from Cape Comorin to Himalayas drought conditions were prevailing. 1966-67 was equally bad. 1967-68, it is said, has improved a little and 1968-69 also remains more or less the same. The situation today is as it was in 1967-68. This is the situation in the country. Therefore we have to live with these famines and droughts. Of course there is no question of doing away with droughts and famines because we cannot fight with the sky; our fate entirely depends upon the sky, it looks to me. We have to think whether there is any alternative method of fighting droughts

and famines in this country. According to my knowledge, in spite of the fact that droughts are far too common, that droughts have been happening so frequently from time immemorial, it is still possible to offset the effects of droughts in this country provided the latest science and technology are used for the purpose of offsetting the effects of these droughts and famines. Monsoon failures, are a common feature and we have to take them for granted. As I said they have been happening in cycles. Once in every three years we have been seeing that there is failure of monsoons. Madam, that part of the country from which I come that is the old Mysore State and the Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh, is an area which is chronically famine-affected. It is a well known fact. On the question whether we have done anything to see that this chronically affected area has been given the relief that is necessary, the permanent relief that is absolutely necessary, I have regretfully to say that what has been done has been pretty little. People have not been the beneficiaries of all our plans and all our progressive developmental works for the country.

Madam, at the outset I would like to say that this country need not suffer from these famines and drought provided we take care of all the water that is precipitated on this land. Of course the yearly rainfall is more or less uniform. It is said that about one-third of the total rainfall precipitates and reaches the underground layer of the earth. It is for man to make use of this water. Have you done enough in this direction at least in the chronically famine-affected areas like Tumkur, Chitaldurg, Kolar, Bangalore and on this side, in Anantapur, Cuddapah, Kurnool? In all places mother earth has underground water but we have not been able to tap it properly, take it out and make use of it. The total precipitation comes to about one-third of the total quantity. It is an enormous quantity and if full use is made

of this source we need no more suffer from drought and famine at all. It is in this aspect we have failed in our developmental efforts and we have to own that we have failed. At least now during the Fourth Five Year Plan I hope measures will be adopted to see that this underground water especially in the chronically famine-affected areas is tapped properly and made available for irrigation purposes. Madam, for the last three or four years I have been clamouring for the floating of a Corporation for tapping the underground water resources of the country but the Government has not even once cared to give me any reply either the Food Ministry or the Finance Ministry. None of them has ever given me any reply. In the Budget this year we see there is a Corporation floated for management of the State Farms. That was not the primary need of the country, it is all right; if the State Farms are necessary let them be developed; I do not mind but we have to see what is more important. State Farms may be necessary from the point of view of research in science, technology etc. but State Farms alone cannot feed the country. Therefore, Madam, I would once again request the hon. Minister who has been good enough to include this year a Corporation for State Farms to see that a Corporation is set up for tapping the underground water resources of the country. And that should be taken up on a war footing, on a very great scale, I do not mind if some of the army personnel and army equipment are diverted for this purpose. We must show our earnestness to do away with this state of affairs in which vast humanity in the country is suffering. Not only that; what has happened to our economy? Our economy is very seriously hit year after year.

The hon. Minister placed on the Table of the House a statement on the drought and famine conditions. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh, in all seven States are involved in this. Apart from the fact that there

have been continuous droughts occurring right from 1965-66 up to this year, this year also is a year of drought. Of course we talk of a green revolution. We see a good crop in Punjab or Haryana and we apply the same yard-stick for all parts of the country and we say a green revolution is on. Certainly a revolution has come about in the mode of cultivation as a result of the application of science and technology. But in agriculture the first and foremost thing is water. Water should be freely available. If water is not there science and technology will all go to waste. Now large parts are affected today. 95 districts out of a total of 300 districts in the country have been affected. It is nearly ten per cent of the total population according to the statistics placed in our hands.

Coming to Mysore, I would like to say that the situation in Mysore has been the worst of all. Right from 1965-66, year after year, vast areas of Mysore State have been affected by famine. The result was that the year 1968 turned out to be one of the worst in living memory. This is the governmental assessment. It was the worst in living memory with widespread crop failures, rapid drying up of drinking water resources and there was a serious shortage of fodder for cattle. In how many districts? Out of 19 districts, 17 districts are affected. The intensity and incidence of famine in Mysore has been the greatest. It is admitted in the statement that 17 districts out of 19 are affected and fifty per cent of the population are affected in Mysore State due to drought. Out of two crores odd, 1,11,00,000 people are affected by drought, according to the statement placed on the Table of the House. I would like to invite the attention of the House and you personally. Madam, to this situation. Kharif crop is the main crop in Mysore State. Only ten per cent of the total area is irrigated. Ninety per cent is dry crop area in Mysore State. Right from the beginning from the

[Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy.] sowing stage itself, drought has played havoc in Mysore State. Rainfall has been always minus, minus and minus. Compared to the normal rainfall, all these five years; right from 1963, up till now, it has been showing only minus rainfall. With regard to crops sown, lakhs of acres have not been sown. Take the case of ragi. It is a very important crop in Mysore State. Six and a half lakh acres are the normal sown area of ragi, whereas in 1968-69 it has been only 5-112 lakh acres. The same is the case with regard to Bajra, groundnut, etc. Even in regard to sowing of crops, the monsoon failure has been so severe that we have not been able to sow any crop. That is the situation in Mysore State. I come from that area which is the most severely affected by famine. I may narrate the story of the poor man. The hon. Finance Minister, while speaking the other day, said that the farmers have grown so rich that they are now buying gold in pounds and not, in tolas. What a statement? If he had seen any part of the country, he would not have said that. Let alone buying gold. On account of four years consecutively of the failure of crops in Mysore, the people, even the so-called rich people have been selling away their jewels. First of all, in the first year because of failure of crops, they sold away their jewels and thus survived. In the second year they sold away their properties. Then, they took tacavi loan and every sort of loan available through Government or semi-Government organisations. They have mortgaged their properties to the moneylenders and most of them have been sold. Not only that. Believe me when I say that there are any number of families who have sold away their utensils also. It is absolutely true. I am not at all exaggerating the picture. Even their vessels have been sold away just to live. This is the situation in Mysore State. Mysore has been affected very badly on account of the continuous failure of rains for four years, especially that

part of Mysore which was the old Mysore State.

SHRI BRAHMANANDA PANDA (Orissa): This is the result of twenty-one years of independence. Say that.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I could not say that. Anyway, independence has not done it. It is the sky that has done it. Let us all pray to God for rain.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY (Mysore): Do not blame the skies. It is because of your policies.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: If you want, I will show what has been the rainfall. October is the peak month for the precipitation of rain in Mysore State. I would like to invite the attention of my hon. friend to the statistics here. Out of 140 mm rain, in the month of October, there have been only 110 mm. That means that is the highest precipitation. It is only 110 mm. Do not mistake it for inches. It is millimeter I am talking.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BRAND-ARI (Rajasthan): What was the first figure?

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: That was also in millimeters. Everything is in millimeter. There are no double standards. Congress Members do not speak in double standards.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Only in double standards.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Now, this is the situation in Mysore State.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddy, your fifteen minutes are over.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: He may be allowed more time. He is the Mover.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The rains will not come if he speaks longer.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Madam, the Mysore Government have

got a good scheme for giving relief. I think they asked for Rs. 10.5 crores, as a loan, *oi* course. I wish the Central Government comes forward, on account of the very bad financial situation of the Mysore Government. We are running into a deficit of Rs. 30 lakhs in this year's Budget. It is because of these four years....

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Is it only Rs. 30 lakhs?

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: It may be Rs. 30 crores, I am sorry. I am sure it is Rs. 30 lakhs. They asked for Rs. 10.5 crores as loan for giving relief to the people affected by famine in Mysore State, but unfortunately our Minister, benevolent as he is—I know he is personally a man with a great and big heart—all the same relied more on the Committee which he sent to Mysore to assess the amount required for providing relief. They recommended Rs. 8.10 crores and it is that much relief that has been given, not Rs. 10.5 crores. How long will this relief last? Only till the end of March. This is the relief for 1968-69. Our farmer harvests only in the months of November and December. He has got to be maintained. Relief works must be carried out right from the 1st of April up to November end. Therefore, there is need for at least another Rs. 5 to Rs. 6 crores by way of relief. I request the hon. Minister to see, since he has already sanctioned Rs. 8 crores for relief, that he further sanctions another Rs. 5 crores on account of the necessity of keeping the relief works going on right from 1st April to November, so that they may just keep them alive. That is all.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: It should be properly utilised.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Of course, it will be. The Government is good that way.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: They are misusing the funds. They are using them for political purposes.

(Interruptions). He is misleading the House. I must say that the funds given to Mysore State are misused for political purposes. In the name of supervising relief works, they use it for taluk board elections.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: No, no. If only you give me time, I can give the number of works started in each district, the amount spent in each district for relief work, the number of people employed in each district. I can give him these.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Also, they have misused the funds.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Sri Rama Reddy, your time is up.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: I would like to point out here that, according to the statement of the Minister here, the State Governments have also raised the ceiling limit for distress taccavi from Rs. 200 to Rs. 500, but how is it supposed to be utilised? According to the Minister, they permit the utilisation of taccavi loans not only for subsistence purposes, but also for the purchase of seeds, fodder and for deepening irrigation wells. If a bigger amount is allotted, it is only Rs. 500 as taccavi loan. But can he use that Rs. 200 for the purpose of this subsistence as well as purchase of seeds, fodder, for irrigation and also for deepening irrigation wells. Is it possible? Is not the—taccavi loan very niggardly? Who can maintain himself on that? How can he sustain himself? How can he do irrigation work? How can he find fodder for his cattle? Therefore, the limit of the taccavi loan should be increased and more money should be made available because the people have got to be maintained right up to November. Therefore, I request once again that he may be generous enough to increase it. What assistance he has given is not enough. Whatever he has given will be exhausted by 31st March, 1969,

[Shri N. Sri Rama Reddy]

and he must make provision for another six months so that the people of Mysore who are so badly affected, who are so severely hit, who are ruined almost—villages after villages have been ruined, that is the situation in Mysore State—may be assisted. Therefore, I request that the Central Government may extend its helping hand to the State of Mysore so that they may see that the people who are badly affected might still survive.

The question was proposed.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : उप सभापति महोदया, पहले भी अकाल के सम्बन्ध में यहां पर चर्चा हुई थी और मैंने प्रारम्भिक महीनों में इस बात की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित करने का प्रयत्न भी किया था कि पशुधन बहुत संकट में है और उसे बचाने का समय इस समय है। मुझे दुख के साथ कहना पड़ता है कि पश्चिमी जिलों में कम से कम 50 प्रतिशत मवेशी मर गये हैं और केवल 25 प्रतिशत मवेशी बाहर गये हैं। आज लगभग इस गरमी के प्रारम्भिक मौसम में इन 5 जिलों में एक उजड़ा जैसा दृश्य दिखलाई देता है। आप मीलों तक चले जाइये कोई आबादी नहीं है और जहां रिलीफ कैम्प चल रहा है वहां पर कुछ जन मानस चलते हैं या फिरके दिखलाई देते हैं। मैं इस सम्बन्ध में ज्यादा क्षत्र कवर नहीं कर सकता हूं और जितना मेरे पास समय है उसी में आपका ध्यान कुछ चीजों की ओर दिलाना चाहता हूं।

वहां पर राहत शिविर चल रहे हैं। श्रीराम रेड्डी जी ने इस सम्बन्ध में जो पोलिटिकल एलिमेंट, पक्षपात और भ्रष्टाचार की बातों का उल्लेख किया है, मैं समझता हूं कि उस तरह की बातों का उल्लेख करके मंत्री महोदय फिर किसी तरह का जवाब मुझे नहीं दे सकेंगे। लेकिन मैं इतना जरूर

चाहूंगा कि कुछ बेसिस जो कि आज विवादास्पद बने हुए हैं, उन पर विचार किया जाय।

यहां पर मैंने पिछली डिबेट में यह कहा था कि वहां एक मजदूर को डेढ़ रुपया प्रतिदिन मजदूरी मिलती है। परन्तु दुर्भाग्य की बात यह है कि राजस्थान में जो लोग राहत-कार्यों पर लगे हुए हैं, उन्हें प्रतिदिन औसतन 25 पैसे से 50 पैसे तक मिलते हैं। आज वहां पर काम पर लगे हुए आदमी को मजदूरी टास्क बेसिस पर दी जाती है। यह टास्क बेसिस का हिसाब बहुत उलझा हुआ है। इसमें 55 लोगों का गैंग होता है। मैंने कई जगहों पर प्रत्यक्ष जाकर देखा है कि इस गैंग में काम करने वाले लोगों की संख्या 25 से लेकर 30 तक होती है, इससे ज्यादा नहीं होती है। अर्थात् 20 नाम बोगस होते हैं। इन 20 बोगस नामों का कोई दूसरा फायदा उठाये इसके बारे में मेरी शिकायत है। वहां पर 55 लोगों का नाम गैंग पर होता है और उन्हें एक हजार क्यूबिक फिट मिट्टी खोदनी पड़ती है और इसी आधार पर उन्हें एक दिन की मजदूरी मिलती है। लेकिन वहां पर 35 ही लोग काम करते हैं और इन्हीं लोगों के काम करने के आधार पर ओवरहाल डिडक्शन का कारण बनता है। 35 लोगों को सुबह 9 बजे से शाम के 5 बजे तक टास्क बेसिस पर काम करना होता है। अगर उनमें से तोई 9 बजे के बाद आये तो उसकी गैर हाजिरी लग जाती है और 5 बजे के पहले चला जाय तो उसकी भी गैर हाजिरी लग जाती है। 55 लोगों के लिए अलाटेड काम अगर 35 आदमी सर नोडकर और पूरी मेहनत करने के बाद भी पूरा न कर सकें तो उनकी तनख्वाह से ओवरहाल डिडक्शन हो जाता है और इस तरह से उनकी तनख्वाह में से 60 से 70 प्रतिशत बेज डिडक्ट होकर उनके हाथ में 25 पैसे से 35 पैसे आते हैं। मैं चाहूंगा कि इस एक चीज की तरफ सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट कन्सीडर करे। वहां पर लोग कहते हैं कि अगर हम इतना भी काम नहीं दिखायें

तो हम क्या बतलायेंगे कि फ़ैमीन का क्या काम हुआ है।

मैंने अपनी आंखों से फ़ैमीन वर्क्स देखे हैं। वहां पर सड़कों में मिट्टी डालने का काम जारी है। 50 साल पहले जो सड़कें बनी थीं, जिन सड़कों में गडारें थीं, उनमें आज सड़क के दोनों तरफ तीन-तीन फिट पटरी बनाकर मिट्टी डाली जा रही है। मैं विश्वास दिलाकर कह सकता हूं कि जिन पटरियों को मैंने 15 दिन पहले जाकर देखा था, अगर मंत्री महोदय मेरे साथ चलकर देखें तो इस गर्मी की लू के हवा के कारण तीन-तीन फिट डाली हुई पटरी पर मिट्टी उड़ गई है और सड़कों में जो गडारें थीं वे मिट्टी के कारण भर गई हैं और इसके अतिरिक्त कोई दूसरी चीज नहीं है। इसलिए मैं चाहूंगा कि कम से कम एक व्यक्ति को अकाल ग्रस्त क्षेत्र में मिनमम और ह्युमैनिटेरियन रिक्वायरमेंट के आधार पर है, जो बेज हमने देना तय किया है वह कम से कम किसी भी सूरत में और किसी भी कारण से काटने की व्यवस्था नहीं होनी चाहिये। इतना हमें यहां से जरूर इन्तजाम करना चाहिये।

10 साल से छोटी उम्र के बच्चों को काम पर नहीं लिया जाता है और बूढ़े लोगों से भी वहां पर काम नहीं लिया जाता है, लेकिन उन्हें राशन नहीं मिलता है। जितने लेबरर्स काम करते हैं उन्हीं के नाम पर राशन-कार्ड बना हुआ है। इन बच्चों के और बूढ़ों के पास भोजन की सामग्री नहीं है और उनके लिए राशन की व्यवस्था नहीं है। इसलिए मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि आप इस सम्बन्ध में कुछ कार्यवाही करें।

तीसरी चीज मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि इन कामों पर फ़ैमिन कोड में यह कहा गया है कि कन्स्ट्रक्शन परपज के लिए वे लोग कुछ खरीद नहीं सकते हैं। रोड़ी खरीदने के लिए, पत्थर खरीदने के लिए और सड़क कुटवाने के लिए, अगर उनसे कहा जाता है तो वे कहते हैं कि हम कुछ नहीं

खरीद सकते हैं। इसी तरह से वे औजार और दूसरे किस्म के इम्प्लीमेंट्स भी नहीं खरीद सकते हैं। इन कारणों से बहुत सी जगहों पर राहत के काम सिवाय मिट्टी डालने के और कुछ भी नहीं हो रहा है। इसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि इन कामों से वहां की जनता को कोई लाभ नहीं हो रहा है।

राजस्थान एक ऐसा इलाका है कि जहां जितने तालाब पहले भी खुदे हुए थे, अगर थोड़ी सी वर्षा हो जाती थी तो जो कैचमेंट एरिया होता था उसमें रेत भर जाती थी और इस तरह से वह रेत तालाबों में भर जाती थी। इस तरह से 7 सालों से लगातार जो रिलीफ आपरेशन हो रहे हैं वे एक ही तालाब पर चल रहे हैं और उसमें कोई सुधार नहीं होता है। इस चीज पर भी सरकार को ध्यान देने की आवश्यकता है।

पीने के पानी का जहां तक सवाल है वहां पर कुछ टैंक्स और ट्रक लगे हुए हैं, लेकिन उसमें नियम है कि वे पानी बिंद इन दी रेडियस आफ 5 माइल्स, वे ट्रकों द्वारा प्रोवाइड नहीं करते हैं। आखिर जहां कुएं हैं, आबादी है उस कुएं के पास, तो उन उजाड़ बस्तियों में और गांवों में जहां केवल बच्चे और बूढ़े रहते हैं, आज पांच मील की रेडियस के नियम के आधार पर उन्हें ट्रकों के द्वारा पानी सप्लाई नहीं किया जाता है। मैं यह मानता हूं कि 10 मील की दूरी पर और 15 मील की दूरी पर ट्रकों में पानी जाता है। लेकिन जहां पर आबादी ज्यादा है, कंसंट्रेशन आफ पापुलेशन है, वहां पर आप पानी नहीं दे पा रहे हैं। इसका नतीजा यह हो रहा है कि एक गैंग को एक पखाल पानी मिलता है और पर हेड यह एक लिटर पड़ता है। आप स्वयं अन्दाजा लगा सकते हैं कि एक गैंग को चार-चार घड़ा पानी मिलता है और इस तरह से 35 लोगों को चार घड़े पानी से गुजारा करना पड़ता है। 15 दिन पहले जिन गांवों पर मैं गया था, वहां पर एक रुपये में 4 लोटे पानी मिलता था और कहीं-कहीं तो एक घड़ा पानी एक रुपया या डेढ़ रुपया

में मिलता था। मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहूंगा...

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: It is one gallon per head.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मैंने फिगर्स कलैकट की हैं। एक पखाल एक गैलन को दिया जाता है। इट कम्स टु वन लिटर, नाट वन गैलन। आप जरा इसका और भी हिसाब लगा कर देख लीजिये। वहां पर गांव के हिसाब से पिवाई दी जानी है। मेरा निवेदन यह है कि पंचायत की बेसिस से न देकर गांव के हिसाब से दिया जाय क्योंकि वहां पर पापुलेशन कम है और कभी-कभी तो एक पंचायत में 10 या 12 भी गांव शामिल होते हैं। 10 मील का डायमिटर कवर करता है। और इस कारण एक पंचायत के लिये एक ही पिवाई की व्यवस्था करना अपर्याप्त है। ट्यूब वेल्स कुछ बने। प्रधान मंत्री महोदय 2 नवम्बर को जैसलमेर के एरिया में गई थीं। उस समय उन्होंने एक ट्यूब वेल देखा। उस पर मशीन लगी है अमरीका की। इम्पोर्टेड मशीन है। 2 नवम्बर को भी, जब वह वहां गयी थीं, उस मशीन पर गैस्केट नहीं था और इस कारण वह ट्यूब वेल आउट आफ आर्डर था। मैं वहां गया जनवरी में। तब तक वह गैस्केट रिप्लेस नहीं हो पाया था और ट्यूब वेल बेकार पड़ा था। (Time bell rings.) मैं बहुत थोड़ा समय लूंगा। 1963 में आपने 250 कुवें बनाने की जिम्मेदारी ली थी, लेकिन केवल 110 कुवें ही बने। मैं चाहता हूं कि आप भी थोड़ा उस जिम्मेदारी को पूरा करें। यू० एन० ओ० की तरफ से एक वाटर सर्वे की स्कीम है। मैं जानना चाहूंगा कि राजस्थान में उसके अनुसार आप क्या कर रहे हैं ?

चारे की समस्या है, लेकिन चारे की सप्लाई पिछले दिनों में बहुत घटी है। बीकानेर जिले में ही जहां 50-55 बैगन सप्लाई होने

चाहियें वहां केवल 5, 7 बैगन पर नम्बर आ गया है। कई स्थान ऐसे हैं जहां तीन तीन महीने में केवल एक बार चारा पट्टा है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि वहां एक पाली का जंगल है। डेढ़ इंच वर्षा हो तो 35 या 40 मील का जो वह ट्रैक है उसमें इतनी घास होनी है कि वह उस सारे क्षेत्र को घास प्रोवाइड कर सकता है। यह दुर्भाग्य है कि वहां पीने का पानी नहीं है। सरकार अगर उस पाली के जंगल की घास को कटवा ले, वहां के मवेशियों को आज इतना कष्ट न हो। लेकिन अफ़फ़ोस की बात है कि उस इलाके के पास फील्ड फायरिंग रेंज के लिये जमीन ले ली गयी। मैं चाहूंगा कि फूड मिनिस्ट्री, डिफेंस मिनिस्ट्री से कुछ तालमेल स्थापित करे। वह बहुत बड़ा उजाड़ इलाका पड़ा है। उसके लिये कोई दूसरी जमीन ढूंढी जा सकती है। वहां घास पैदा हो सकती है उस इलाके में फील्ड फायरिंग रेंज के लिये जगह दें यह न्यायसंगत नहीं दिखाई देता।

फीडिंग सेंटर्स का आपने इसमें उल्लेख किया है। फीडिंग सेंटर्स के लिये जो गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से शेयर देना है 50 परसेंट, जो सरकार बरदाश्त करना चाहती है, वह पेमेंट पेंडिंग है। दस-दस लाख रुपया जुड़ गया अभी तक वह चुकाया नहीं गया और इसलिये फीडिंग सेंटर्स बन्द हो रहे हैं। मैं सजेस्ट करना चाहता हूं कि जिस तरह से आप इन संस्थाओं को फीडिंग एड देते हैं उसी प्रकार जिन व्यक्तियों के पास जितने दुधारू पशु हैं उनके आधार पर आप घास देने के परमिट्स ईश्यू करते हैं, आप उस हिसाब से घास देते हैं आप उनको फीड क्यों नहीं दे सकते ? यह ठीक है कि कैटिल प्रिजर्वेशन के लिये संस्थाएँ बनी हुई हैं लेकिन कैटिल रखने वाला उसको तब तक सरेंडर नहीं करता जब तक कि उसके मरने की नीबत नहीं आ जाती है। और इस लिये फीडिंग सेंटर्स में रखे जाने वाले मवेशी कम से

कम फ्यूचर प्रोजेनी के लिये निरर्थक साबित होंगे और इसलिये अगर आप इन व्यक्तियों को फीड्स को दे सकें तो बहुत अच्छा हो।

एक आखिरी बात मैं टच करना चाहता हूँ वह वहाँ की है और आपके लिये जिसे मानना मुश्किल है वह है अकाल मृत्यु का प्रश्न। डिप्टी प्राइम मिनिस्टर साहब ने परसों 20 तारीख को बजट के जवाब में कहा है। I am quoting from page 255 of the uncorrected Report for 20-3-69: —

"After 1947, after independence the Government has seen to it that nobody dies on account of starvation and that everybody is supplied with food."

उन्होंने यह भी कहा है : They have not died of hunger. मैं और कुछ नहीं कहना चाहता। मैं फाइनंस मिनिस्ट्री से नहीं लेकिन होम मिनिस्ट्री ने जो सर्वे प्रकाशित किया है पी० टी० आई० की रिपोर्ट है 16 मार्च की, उस सम्बन्ध में कहना चाहता हूँ। "गृह मंत्रालय द्वारा दिये गये सर्वेक्षण के अनुसार दिसम्बर, 1966 के वर्ष में भूख से 219 व्यक्ति मृत्यु को प्राप्त हुए।" I thank the Home Ministry for this confession मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान के अकाल राहत मंत्री ने भी 10 मार्च को माना है कि 15 व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु आन्वशोध से हुई है। राजस्थान की विधान सभा में अकाल से होने वाली मृत्युओं की जांच करने के लिये एक समिति एक्वाइट करने का निश्चय किया है . . .

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Huw, you must wind up.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मैं आकड़ों में नहीं जाना चाहता, लेकिन यह फैक्ट है कि

वहाँ पर लोग मरे हैं, भिन्न-भिन्न प्रकार की बीषण बीमारियाँ वहाँ फैली हैं। आन्व-शोध की बीमारी है। सड़े हुए ज्वार के कारण पैदा होने वाली बीमारियाँ हैं और आज गर्मी के मौसम में, महोदय, आप भी जब जयपुर गई थीं—हालांकि जयपुर अकाल से बहुत दूर है लेकिन वहाँ की गर्मी का आपको अनुभव है। मुझे खुशी है कि अपने वाइस प्रेसीडेंट महोदय भी थोड़े दिन पहले जयपुर गये थे और वह कह रहे थे कि तुम्हारा जयपुर बहुत गरम है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर हम उस गर्मी का अनुमान लगा सकते हैं तो उस अनुमान के आधार पर जो संकट है उससे हम राजस्थान के मवेशियों को नहीं बचा सकेंगे। मैं एक ही खतरा आपके सामने रखना चाहता हूँ। हम इस गर्मी में राजस्थान के लोगों को हैजा और महामारी से बचाने का प्रयत्न कर सकें तो अच्छा होगा।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You must wind up. You have taken too much of time.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : मेरा केवल इतना ही कहना है कि आपने मार्च तक 8.96 करोड़ देने की बात कही थी। आपकी इस रिपोर्ट में केवल 4 करोड़ देने की बात है। क्या कारण है कि जिसकी वजह से यह पैसा नहीं दिया जा सका? आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि आप अपनी एक नयी स्टडी टीम भेज कर और आगे आपको कितनी सहायता इन कंडीशन्स पर करनी है, उस का आप असेसमेंट करें और जल्दी राहत पहुंचायें। आपने केवल 40 प्रतिशत रकम वहाँ पर दी है। मैं समझता हूँ कि जितनी चिन्ता और जितनी अरजेंसी वहाँ की आवश्यकतायें मांग रही हैं उस की तरफ कहीं न कहीं दुर्लक्ष्य हो रहा है और मैं उसी की तरफ आप का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ।

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU (Aadhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy

[Shri K. P. Mallikarjunudu.] Chairman, coming as I do from, and knowing as I do the conditions obtaining in the State of Andhra Pradesh, I would like to confine my remarks to the State of Andhra Pradesh. It is common knowledge that Andhra Pradesh is the rice bowl of India and it is really a granary so far as paddy is concerned.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) in the Chair.]

Unfortunately, Sir, this year Andhra Pradesh was hit by unprecedented drought. In the State of Andhra Pradesh, perhaps as in the other States, kharif crops will be raised in the month of June. In the month of June, usually the southwest monsoon winds blow and the rains come. But last year no such monsoon broke out with the result that there were no rains in June when they were most needed, with the result that the paddy-growing area became less than the previous year by nearly 25 per cent. It also resulted in less production of paddy so far as the kharif crop was concerned. It is true that there were some rains in the month of September. But I should say that those rains were insufficient and they were not at all useful for the paddy crops already sown. If there is any benefit at all, it is only marginal and not more than that under those circumstances, the Government and the people were put to much difficulty. Even the dry crops also could not be grown for want of rains. Apart from paddy, in Andhra Pradesh some dry crops like groundnut can be grown. Even in the case of dry crops we see a considerable decline in the area grown as well as in production. Both in the dry crop and in the wet crop, we see a decline in the area as well as in productivity. That was the unfortunate position in which Andhra Pradesh was situated last year so far as the crops were concerned. Under

cars of the country

those circumstances. Sir, the Government have spent large amounts of money by way of relief. The Andhra Pradesh Government has nearly spent Rs. 11-12 crores till January, 1959, on account of drought relief measures. But there is one thing. This money was mostly spent on works of permanent benefit for sinking wells and for other measures of permanent value. That was the kind of work undertaken by the State Government. And as I have already said, they have to spend another Rs. 1-12 crores by way of relief to these drought-stricken areas.

It may be remembered, Sir, that these drought conditions were not confined to one or two districts. They were spread over the entire Pradesh, right and left, in all the twenty districts of Andhra Pradesh. That was the nature of the drought. Sometimes drought may occur in some parts of the State but so far as the drought this year is concerned it affected the entire State of Andhra Pradesh with the result that production has gone down considerably.

Apart from the relief given by the State Government they have also made available certain loans, called the taccavi loans, on a very, very liberal scale. These loans also amounted to more than Rs. 2 crores.

Apart from loss of produce from the fields there was difficulty about drinking water and fodder. There is not enough fodder for the cattle and drinking water for the people. So in order to relieve that difficulty the Government embarked upon a scheme of digging wells by means of rigs and if all these wells yield drinking water the problem of drinking water will be solved in certain places. But in a vast region like Andhra Pradesh seventy or eighty rigs cannot solve the problem though they have given some relief to the drought-stricken areas of the State.

Sir the Government of Andhra Pradesh requested the Central Government for relief. It may be mentioned that the Central Government put a ceiling of Rs. 12.55 crores as the amount earmarked for drought relief measures. The State of Andhra Pradesh requested the Central Government to fix a ceiling of Rs. 18 crores and I should think that the Central Government could accede to the request of the Pradesh and alter the ceiling limit from Rs. 12.5 to Rs. 18 crores. In addition, the Andhra Pradesh Government wanted a ceiling of Rs. 9 crores for the coming year starting from 1st April 1969. So I would request the Central Government to accede to the request made by the Andhra Pradesh Government and see to it that the ceiling of Rs. 78 crores is fixed as drought relief assistance for the year 1968-69 and Rs. 9 crores for the coming year 1969-70. That is the request made by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and I think it is a reasonable request which the Central Government should accede to.

Then another point that I would like to impress upon you is this. Our land is rich in rivers. There are a number of mighty rivers flowing in the country and watering it. Any permanent solution to meet these drought conditions will lie in harnessing the waters of these rivers and impounding them so that they can be utilised for irrigation. All the rivers in India can be harnessed and impounded. We need not be afraid of any possible drought. Perhaps, it is a very, very long-range plan and if I am right, our Irrigation Minister said that Rs. 2,000 crores are required to harness and link up all these rivers. So in my opinion there should be a perspective plan, a plan which may range over a number of years under which all these rivers can be harnessed and their waters utilised for irrigation purposes so that drought conditions may disappear.

Apart from that I would also suggest, as already suggested by Shri Rama Reddy, that the underground water should be lapsed and utilised fully and made available for drinking as well as for irrigation purposes.

Lastly, I would suggest that a drought relief fund say, to the extent of a hundred crores of rupees may be constituted because drought is a recurring phenomenon. Droughts are now a matter of common occurrence. Under these circumstances the Government of India would do well in building up a famine relief or drought relief fund.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh): The Agriculture Minister will tell us that there is already some such fund.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU: So a big fund should be constituted so that relief can be granted in times of distress. With these few remarks I wind up.

श्री रेवती कान्त सिंह (बिहार) : माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, इस सदन में करीब-करीब हर सत्र में हम लोग देश के किसी न किसी कोने में अकाल और सूखे के बारे में बहस करते हैं। जैसा कि अखबारों की रिपोर्ट से मालूम हुआ है और जैसा अभी दो तीन माननीय सदस्यों के भाषण से पता चला कि इस देश में तमिलनाडु के कुछ जिलों में अकाल है, आंध्र प्रदेश के करीब-करीब सभी जिलों में सूखा पड़ा हुआ है, राजस्थान के बहुत बड़े हिस्से में सूखा है। अभी जब मैं लायब्रेरी में अखबार पढ़ रहा था तो शायद "गुजरात टाइम्स" या कोई अखबार था जिसमें मैंने पढ़ा कि गुजरात में पाकिस्तान से लगे दूँये जो जिले हैं, कच्छ और बनसकंठा का इलाका है, वहाँ भी सूखा पड़ा है। मैसूर में सूखा पड़ा हुआ है। उत्तर प्रदेश के इलाहाबाद और मिर्जापुर जिलों में सूखा पड़ा हुआ है। उसी अखबार

[श्री रेवती कान्त सिंह]

में मैंने देखा कि बिहार में भी पलामू जिले में सूखा पड़ा हुआ है । इस तरह से कोई ऐसा प्रदेश नहीं है इस देश में जिस में हर साल सूखा न पड़ता हो ।

और जगहों के बारे में मुझे डिटेल में तो व्यक्तिगत जानकारी नहीं है । लेकिन पलामू के बारे में मैं कह सकता हूँ कि यह एक ऐसा बिहार का जिला है जिस में सिवाई की कोई समुचित व्यवस्था नहीं है । वहाँ न कोई नहर है और न कोई लिफ्ट इरिगेशन की व्यवस्था है । उसी के साथ साथ उसके बगल में शाहाबाद जिले का जो भभुआ सब-डिविजन है वह भी करीब करीब उसी तरह का इलाका है । 1967 में बिहार में अकाल पड़ा था और सारे बिहार का करीब-करीब दो तिहाई हिस्सा अकाल की चपेट में आ गया था । लेकिन पलामू जिला और शाहाबाद जिले का भभुआ सब-डिविजन ऐसा इलाका है बिहार का जो हर साल अकाल और सूखे से ग्रस्त रहता है । अभी तो पलामू के बारे में अखबारों में यह आया है कि बिहार की असेम्बली में किसी ने बतलाया कि वहाँ कटरा गांव के दो बच्चे भूख से मर गये । स्टार्वेशन डेथ्स के बारे में, जैसा कि भंडारी जी ने बतलाया कि यह डिस्प्यूट पैदा हो जाता है कि वह वे भूख से मरे या किसी और बीमारी से मरे । श्रीमन्, मैं मान सकता हूँ कि मरने के समय उसे हैजा हो गया हो, पेचिश हो गई हो लेकिन उस हैजा और पेचिश का कारण वह भूख रहती है क्योंकि 2, 3, 4 रोज भूख रहने के बाद जब वह जंगल की पत्तियों को खाता है, कन्दमूल खाता है तो स्वाभाविक है कि उसे इस तरह की बीमारी होगी और इस तरह की बीमारी से वह मर जाता है । ऐसी मृत्यु को स्टार्वेशन डेथ न कहना मेरी समझ में अनुचित और अन्यायपूर्ण है । लेकिन इस सब कुछ का मूल कारण क्या है ? इस देश में हर साल अकाल पड़ता है, सूखा

पड़ता है । जहाँ तक मैं समझ पाया हूँ इसका कारण यह है कि अपने देश में जिस 36 करोड़ एकड़ जमीन पर खेती होती है उसमें से मुश्किल से 20 बरसों की अजादी के बाद 10 करोड़ एकड़ जमीन पर सिवाई का इन्तजाम हो सका है, कम ही होगा, 10 करोड़ एकड़ से ज्यादा नहीं है । इस देश की बाकी 26 करोड़ एकड़ जमीन आसमान के भरोसे है । जब किसी देश को जमीन आसमान के भरोसे हो जायेगी तो उस देश में सूखा और अकाल पड़ना विलकुल स्वाभाविक है, इससे इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता है ।

श्रीमन्, आज विज्ञान इतनी तरक्की कर गया है कि रूस के लोग और अमरीका के लोग चांद पर जाने के लिए होड़ लगाए हुए हैं और हमारे देश में जहाँ इतनी नदियाँ हैं, जहाँ औसत 7 हाथ के नीचे पानी का समुद्र भरा हुआ है, वहाँ हम वैज्ञानिक ढंग से उस पानी का उपयोग न कर पाए 20 बरसों में, यह सचमुच लज्जा और शर्म की बात है ।

जब अकाल पड़ जाता है किसी क्षेत्र में तो वहाँ रिलीफ पहुँचाया जाता है । रिलीफ पहुँचाने में तरह-तरह की गड़बड़ियाँ होती हैं जिनकी ओर इस सदन में, दूसरे सदन में और विधान सभाओं में सरकार का ध्यान खींचा जाता है । कहीं मजदूरी कम मिलती है, कहीं राशन कार्ड ठीक से नहीं बनता है, कहीं राशन कार्ड मिला भी तो राशन न बांटने की शिकायत होती है । फिर भी ये सारे काम तो फौरी काम होते हैं, फार दि टाइम बीइंग होते हैं । जब तक इस अकाल और सूखा का सामना करने के लिए हम परमानेंट ढंग पर, मुस्तकिल तौर पर कोई कदम नहीं उठाते हैं, सरकार पूरे राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण को रख कर पूरे देश के लिए एक योजना बना कर कोई कदम नहीं

उठाती है, तब तक हर साल अकाल, सूखा पड़ता रहे, हर साल रिलीफ बंटता रहे, कहीं उसमें गड़बड़ी हो, कहीं अच्छाई हो, कहीं अधिक रिलीफ मिले, कहीं कम मिले, इसकी शिकायत-सदन में होती रहे, इससे कुछ होने वाला नहीं है । इसलिये मेरा यह निश्चित सुझाव है, जैसा कि श्री मल्लिकार्जुनसुह्र ने कहा कि देश की तमाम नदियों को एक दूसरे से जोड़ने के लिए नहरें निकाली जायं, जिससे उन नदियों के पानी का सदुपयोग हो सके । साथ ही साथ सरकार को जो फिजूलखर्चियां होती हैं उन पर बंधन लगे, उन्हें रोका जाय और उन पैसों का उपयोग सिंचाई के आधुनिक साधनों, लिफ्ट इरिगेशन वगैरह में किया जाय तो 5, 7, 8 बरसों में देश की चप्पे चप्पे जमीन पर पानी पहुंचाया जा सकता है ।

बिहार के जिस इलाके का मैंने जिक्र किया, श्रीमन्, उस इलाके में सोन नदी बहती है, उसके लिए एक हाई-लेवल सोन केनाल की स्कीम बरसों से पड़ी हुई है । समझ में नहीं आता है उसको बिहार की सरकार कार्यान्वित करेगी या केन्द्र की सरकार कार्यान्वित करेगी । जिससे कहो वही कहता है कि पैसा नहीं है । अगर वह हाई-लेवल सोन केनाल स्कीम ही बिहार में कार्यान्वित कर दी जाय तो उत्तर प्रदेश के मिर्जापुर, बुनार और बिहार के पलामू और शाहाबाद जिले के भभुआ सब-डिवीजन में हजारों-हजार एकड़ जमीन लहलहा उठे ।

इसी तरह से पटना और गया जिले में पुन-पुन नदी बहती है । पुनपुन नदी बड़ी पवित्र नदी मानी गई है हिन्दू शास्त्रों में । लोग वहां पिंडदान करने जाते हैं । (Interruption.) अगर लोग पिंडदान करने जाते हैं तो एक पिंडदान पुनपुन में भी देते हैं । अगर वहां बांध बांध दिया जाय, जिसके लिए एस्टीमेट था कि करीब 8 करोड़ रुपए खर्च होने वाले हैं, तो गया, शाहाबाद और पटना जिलों की एक

इंच जमीन भी बाकी नहीं रह जायगी जहां इरिगेशन का इन्तजाम न हो जाय, सिंचाई का इन्तजाम न हो जाय । इसी तरह से उत्तर बिहार में गन्डक पर बांध अगर बांध दिया जाय तो हजारों एकड़ जमीन में सिंचाई हो सकती है । फौरी काम तो सरकार करे ही लेकिन इन सारी चीजों, मुस्तकिल कामों की ओर सरकार ज्यादा से ज्यादा ध्यान दे । चाहे राजस्थान हो, तमिलनाडु हो, आन्ध्र हो या गुजरात हो, जहां अकाल पड़ा है या जहां से अकाल की सूचना आई है, मैं कहूंगा कि सरकार को वहां फेमिन कोड लागू करना चाहिए । मुझे इसका तजुर्बा है । 1967 में जब बिहार में अकाल पड़ा था उस समय वहां की सरकार जब फेमिन कोड लागू करने जा रही थी तो बहुत ओर से रोका गया, बहुत ओर से इतराज किया गया कि ऐसा मत करो । फिर भी उस सरकार ने फेमिन कोड लागू किया और मुझे यह कहने हुए गर्व है कि यदि फेमिन कोड बिहार में 1967 में नहीं लागू किया होता तो जिस पैमाने पर वहां रिलीफ का काम हुआ, जिस पैमाने पर लोगों को राहत पहुंचाने का काम हुआ, वह न हो पाता । अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं से, राष्ट्रीय संस्थाओं से, केन्द्रीय सरकार से और अपनी बिहार की सरकार से उस पैमाने पर काम नहीं हो पाता अगर फेमिन कोड न लागू किया गया होता क्योंकि जब फेमिन कोड लागू होता है, जब हम अकाल क्षेत्र किसी क्षेत्र को घोषित कर देते हैं तो सरकार की यह जिम्मेदारी हो जाती है कि वह देखे कि उस क्षेत्र में कोई आदमी भी भूख से न मरे, एक जानवर भी न मर पाए, सबको खाना मिले और जब यह जिम्मेदारी आ जाती है तो स्वाभाविक रूप से काम वार-फुटिंग पर होता है । इसलिए मैं सरकार से निवेदन करूंगा कि जिन-जिन क्षेत्रों में सूखे की सूचना मिली है उन क्षेत्रों में फेमिन कोड लागू किया जाय, जैसा भंडारी जी ने बतलाया जो डिस्क्रिपेन्सीज है रिलीफ के

[श्री रेवती कान्त सिंह]

कामों में उनको दूर किया जाय, हाथ डं मेनुअल लेबर स्कीम चलाई जाय, रिलीफ कार्ड बांटे जाय । फौरी जरूरत को पूरा किया जाय, लेकिन साथ ही साथ लॉग टर्म स्कीम जब तक हम नहीं शुरू करेंगे, 5-7 बरसों की स्कीम कि इतने समय के अन्दर यह काम कर ही लेना है, इस संकल्प और निश्चय के साथ जब तक इस अकाल और सूखे से जूझने के लिए हम तैयार नहीं होंगे तब तक हर साल और हर सत्र में हम इस सदन में बहस करते रहें, अकाल इस देश में पड़ता रहेगा, कोई रोक नहीं सकता है ।

SHRIMATI LALITHA I RAJAGOPAL AN) (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the statement regarding the drought situation that is before us clearly reveals that Nature has been impartial and also Nature has been unkind to all parts of the country. This is a situation which persists in the whole world. The vagaries of monsoon, drought, famine, unemployment, industrial set-backs, everything is a common feature all over the world. But as far as our country is concerned, we cannot attribute this situation only to the vagaries of monsoon or the natural calamities. The implementation of our plans and schemes have had a set-back. Also the absence of a thorough plan to implement these schemes in a proper manner has resulted in this situation.

In this statement regarding drought conditions prevailing in parts of the country which was circulated to us after the statement laid on the Table of the House on the 18th November, we find that in Gujarat, semi-scarcity conditions prevail in 3,924 villages and the population affected is 86.14 lakhs. There is also shortage of drinking water.

In Orissa the winter paddy has been affected. I want to mention

particularly about Rajasthan because Rajasthan is the worst affected area and even recently some Members of Parliament had been there to study the whole situation. Scarcity, has been declared in 22,797 villages in all the 26 districts of Rajasthan where the damage to kharif has been 50 per cent or more and the population affected is 1.28 crores. This is just to show the magnitude of the situation in Rajasthan. I am sure the Government will take all sorts of measures in coordination with the State to see that we avert this situation. At the same time I would like to point out that the Rajasthan Canal Project which has been there all the time has not been completed yet, and this has resulted in all these things. What I feel is if this Rajasthan Canal Project had been implemented properly it would have resulted even in its pruned 1957 form in an irrigated area of 35 lakhs acres and a total command area of 50 lakh acres. On completion it can produce 30 lakh tons or even more of foodgrains. This means that in one jump India can achieve self-sufficiency in foodgrains and we can conserve valuable foreign exchange. I am very sorry to note that this Canal Project has been delayed. This Project as it was originally in 1952-53 should be taken in hand and completed in three to five years; it ought to have been completed in 1958. So far it has not been done. And for the rest of the region it should have tube-wells both for drinking water and also for irrigation. About 500 tube-wells should be commissioned in this area if this problem of scarcity of drinking water also has to be solved.

Then, Sir, the question of completion of all these things needs about Rs. 300 crores and this the Central Government has to give the State. This is not a question of giving money to the State, but the money should be utilized properly. Recently

the problem has cropped up about the Centre-State relationship. It is not a question of giving money to States, but it should be seen that this amount of Rs. 300 crores is properly utilized. If that money is to be spent over, say, a period of five years, it must be implemented. The Central Government should see that it is done in five years. That is how we can solve this problem. We cannot solve it just by giving the money and not having vigilance over it.

Then I would like to say about my own State, Madras, where they have got from times immemorial . . .

AN HON. MEMBER: Not Madras, it is Tamil Nadu. Say Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJA-GOPALAN): I am very sorry it is Tamil - Nadu. I correct myself. I belong to the old guards. I still remember it only as Madras and not Tamil Nadu though I spoke on the Bill. Yes, I say it is Tamil Nadu. In that Ramathapuram district is from times immemorial a famine-stricken area. Of course, why nothing can be done for that, I do not know. Recently Kangayam in Coimbatore district has been declared a scarcity area and the Madras Government approached the Centre for relief measures. I have no objection to the Centre giving money for relief measures. But I would like to ask the Tamil Nadu Government why they have not undertaken any relief measures themselves. What have they done? They have only rushed to the Centre and asked for aid. What relief measures have they taken? Did they give any money to the famine stricken people? They have plenty of money which they have got in the Tamil Nadu lotteries, crores of rupees. Why should they come to the Centre for relief measures? I just cannot understand when they have got everything why they should

come to the Centre asking for money. They say they have to think twice about the prohibition policy also. They say they have got to do rethinking about the issue. They say they lose about Rs. 40 crores. But if the Centre gives them Rs. 20 crores, then they are prepared to introduce prohibition; otherwise, they have to do rethinking on the policy. This should not be the attitude. The Tamil Nadu Government should try to do its best, whatever they can for their people, and then come to the Centre for aid.

AN HON. MEMBER: They have the means to do, but they are not doing it.

SHRIMATI LATITHA (RAJA-GOPALAN): Then, Sir, we find in Haryana also since September the State is having drought. The overall situation is wherever there is drought and famine, there will have to be relief measures. Every time when there is drought or famine, the Centre is generous enough in giving aid. The Prime Minister is very generous in giving aid from out of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. But that is not the question. The question is: How far this aid has been utilised as a permanent measure? It is not a question of giving clothes or getting drinking water for some time from some place. It is a question of what permanent measures you take for the relief. That is the most important thing. The Centre should see how far this is done. And then, Sir, the failure of monsoon, the vagaries of monsoon, is there. But I am sure any meteorological expert can tell them of what will happen, how the weather conditions are, how the weather is going to take its turn. So, they should have a forecast of these things and take safeguards even before something happens. This can be done if only they make some efforts to do it.

Then, Sir, another most important thing is giving incentives to agri-

[Shrimati Lalitha (Rajagopalan)]
culturists. There may be small land-
holders for whom incentives do count
and unless we encourage them, there is
no prospect of increasing our agricultural
production.

Another most important thing is the
protection of the cattle wealth which we
have been neglecting. Our cattle wealth
has become the weakest in the whole
world and we just neglect that part of the
living beings. We have seen in our Tamil
Nadu itself, in Coimbatore district, 3 to 4
hundred cattle are dying. And what
happens in Rajasthan? Now, the Railway
Minister is kind enough to say that the
Railway Department is allowing the
cattle to be removed from Rajasthan at
concessional rates to other neighbouring
areas. This is the position. I think
protection of our cattle wealth is the most
important thing if our economy has to
survive.

Then, I would like to say something
about the Community development block
which is really doing very good work. It
has got national recognition. National
awards, State awards, etc. are given. At
the same time I wish the Minister had
listened to one of the *gram sevaks* in
what adverse circumstances the *gram
sevaks* are working there. I am sure it is
not fair on the part of the Government
just to give a national award or a State
award. They should be given all kinds of
encouragement. One particular candidate
whom I interviewed, he raised the
cultivation from 22,000 maunds to
62,000 maunds in a period of one and a
half years. If this is what one worker can
do, just imagine if they are given
incentives how much they can contribute
to the national wealth.

I now come to my last point about the
irrigation schemes. I think I have been in
Parliament since four years and I have
been raising this question and I have
been getting the same answer
repeatedly. But I am not

tired of it. I go on repeating the
same question. I have been asking
about the appointment of an Irriga-
tion Commission. I am sure the
honourable Minister also knows that
we had an Irrigation Commission
which was set up during the British
regime in 1901. And after that they
are yet to set up another Irrigation
Commission. Every time I
put the question to the Minister, the
Minister replies that they have not yet
decided about the personnel. I just cannot
understand why for the sake of the
appointment of personnel the scheme
should be set aside. This is really a great
charge against the Centre. When they are
going to undertake its appointment, what
is the difficulty in finding personnel? Do
you mean to say that we are short of
engineers? Are we short of agricultural
experts? Are we short of soil experts?

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA
(Orissa): The difficulty is that they have
too many men.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGO-
PALAN) ; I hope at least by the next
session an All-India Irrigation Com-
mission will be appointed and the
Commission will carry out its work in an
efficient and speedy way.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: The
President has announced it in his
Address, about the establishment of a
Commission.

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJA-
GOPALAN): Yes, they had accepted the
appointment of a Commission. The only
question is that they are still deciding
about the personnel. Are we short of
experts?

4 P.M.

In reply to Starred Question No. 26C
answered on 5th March, 1969 about river
water, it was said in regard to major and
medium projects, over Rs. 1700 crores
have been spent during the last 22 years
in harnessing the

river waters for purposes of irrigation. On these two items we have spent Rs. 1700 crores and we are yet to find out how to control the floods but I am happy to note that our Irrigation Minister, who is an expert in this field, has already been to the USA and studied the thing. He has also brought to the notice of U. Thant, Secretary-General of the UNO and the director and officers in charge of water resources that a forum should be arranged for the exchange of experiences and remedial measures adopted in the various countries of the world in respect of flood control of rivers. I hope he will, at least now, after studying the whole thing, take up immediate steps to see that these floods are controlled. A potential of 22 million acres has been created during the Plans, in addition to 24 million acres being irrigated in the pre-Plan period.

In this connection I would like to say that as far as the irrigation projects are concerned, the major irrigation projects should be implemented within the target fixed. Also some of the minor irrigation projects should also be taken up simultaneously so that we cover the whole thing and this will, in a way, result in the water facilities to different areas and production will be more. Lastly, I would like to say that in our Fourth Five Year Plan the target is fixed at 135 million tonnes. I do not know how they are going to reach it. Of course we are having foreign aid in the shape of PL 480 etc. However, seeing the plans that are formulated, the plans that are executed or implemented, seeing the way it is done, I fear very much and I doubt how we are going to achieve this target, with all the vagaries of the monsoon.

Lastly Sir, I would like to quote what Dr. D. R. Gadgil has said:

"Lack of a consistent general long-term policy and failure in formulating it, has been another factor in our inability to produce a frame that is meaningful and not only statistical. The emphasis in our plans on investment has been due to lack of long-term policy.

As often happens with our plans, they are collection of bits of schemes in all kinds of directions. This is because we have not got adequate criteria. We are unable to choose; our resources are wasted." I want you to take note of "Plans are bits of schemes in different directions."

Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to say something about this and I hope the Minister will consider whatever I have said and think about it and I hope he will find it fruitful.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश) :

महोदय, 26 फरवरी को मंत्रालय की तरफ से सूखे की स्थिति पर एक वक्तव्य दिया गया था। यह पहला अवसर नहीं है कि सूखे की स्थिति पर विचार किया जा रहा हो। हमारा देश एक बहुत बड़ा देश है। हमारे देश में नैसर्गिक स्थान बहुत हैं और नदियों का पानी समुन्द्र में व्यर्थ चला जाता है। बहुत से स्थानों में वर्षा के कारण जो पानी एकत्र हो जाता है वह भी चला जाता है और उसके संबंध में समुचित उपाय हमारे यहां नहीं किये गये हैं। यही कारण है कि हमारे देश में कई प्रान्तों में सूखे की स्थिति हमेशा बनी रहती है। शासन ने इन 20 वर्षों में इस सम्बन्ध में बहुत से तरीके बतलाये हैं और इस संबंध में लाखों रुपया भी खर्च किया गया, किन्तु फिर भी देश इस चिन्ता से छुटकारा नहीं पा सका कि सूखे की स्थिति से कैसे बचा जाये।

हमारे देश में जितनी नदियों का विशाल भंडार है, अगर उनके आधे से भी कम पानी को देश की आवश्यकताओं में परिवर्तित कर दिया जाये तो सम्भवतः हमारा देश एक बहुत सम्पन्न देश बन सकता है और खाद्य की समस्या हमेशा-हमेशा के लिए सुलझ सकती है। श्रीमान्, आपको याद होना

[श्री निरंजन वर्मा]

कि कुछ दिन पहले हमारे राष्ट्र के उप-राष्ट्रपति जी ने, श्री गिरि जी ने इस प्रकार के विचार प्रकट किये थे कि हमें अंतर्गतता इस प्रकार की चेन तैयार करनी पड़ेगी जिसमें सारे देश की नदियां एक दूसरे से मिल जायें और उनके पानी का सदुपयोग होता रहे। हम समझते हैं कि इस सम्भावना पर मंत्रालय अवश्य ही विचार कर रहा होगा। तब यह दलील दी जा सकती है कि हमारे देश में धन की बहुत कमी है, साधनों की बहुत कमी है, और उन साधनों की कमी के कारण हम इस समय इस योजना को कार्यान्वित करना उचित नहीं समझते हैं।

यह बात भी सही है कि सूखे के कारण हमारे देश में जो अन्न की कमी होती है, उस अन्न की कमी की पूर्ति के लिए बाहर से जो हम को अन्न मंगाना पड़ता है उसमें देश का धन जाता है और इस तरह से वह भी देश के धन का बड़ी संख्या में अपव्यय के समान ही है। क्या यह सम्भव नहीं हो सकता है कि जिस धन के द्वारा हम बाहर से अपने यहां खाद्य समस्या को सुलझाने के लिए अन्न मंगाने हैं, उस धन को किसी न किसी प्रकार देश में लगा कर इस तरह से पानी के सदुपयोग के कार्य में लगाया जाये? इस संबंध में मंत्रालय की तरफ से जो वक्तव्य दिया गया है, उसको हमने पूरा का पूरा पढ़ा है। ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है मंत्रालय जानबूझ कर जो अधिक मात्रा में शोर मचाने वाले प्रदेश हैं, उन की तरफ मंत्रालय का ध्यान पहले चला जाता है। इस तरह की जो हमारे देश में प्रवृत्ति है उसको मैं कोई अच्छी चीज नहीं समझता हूं। जहां अधिक शोर मचाया जाता है, उन्हीं की बातों की तरफ ध्यान दिया जाता है। जो कुछ भी नहीं कहते हैं, चुपचाप बैठे रहते हैं, उनकी तरफ सरकार दृष्टिपात भी नहीं करता है। उदाहरण के लिए, मैं आपके सामने मध्य

प्रदेश का मामला रखना चाहता हूं और ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है कि मध्य प्रदेश के बारे में यहां पर कुछ भी उल्लेख नहीं हुआ है। मध्य प्रदेश के दक्षिण भाग आन्ध्र प्रदेश में अकाल की स्थिति आई गई है और वहां पर सूखा पड़ा हुआ है। मध्य प्रदेश का जो उत्तरी भाग है मिर्जापुर का, जिले का, वहां भी अकाल की स्थिति आई गई है। मध्य प्रदेश के पूर्व में बिहार है, वहां पर भी सूखा पड़ा हुआ है। इसके पश्चिम की तरफ हरियाणा और राजस्थान हैं, वहां पर सूखा पड़ा हुआ है। उन्हीं के बगल में जितने जिले हैं मध्य प्रदेश में हैं, वहां पर सूखा नहीं पड़ा है और वहां पर अन्न बहुत पैदा हुआ है, ऐसी बात मंत्रालय को मालूम होना विदिन होता है।

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: They have also certain responsibilities. If the hon. Member's contention is that the Centre is neglecting, at least the State Government should have reported it to us.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ने जिन-जिन बातों की तरफ मंत्रालय का ध्यान आकर्षित किया है उनकी तरफ मंत्रालय ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया है। मैं उदाहरण के लिए श्रीमन्, निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि मध्य प्रदेश के कुछ इलाके ऐसे हैं जहां पर पानी की बिल्कुल सुविधा नहीं है। उदाहरण के लिए, मंत्रालय की एक रिपोर्ट, जो अभी पटल पर रखी गई है, जिस पर विवाद चल रहा है, उसके पैराग्राफ दो पर यह लिखा हुआ है "राज्य सरकार ने ऐसे उपाय गठित किये हैं सूखे के लिये जिनमें रोजगार सुलभ करना, पीने के पानी की सप्लाई की व्यवस्था करना आदि होगा।" हमारी समझ में नहीं आया बहुत बुद्धि लगाने के बाद भी। हम नहीं समझते कि पीने का पानी सुलभ होने से सूखे की समस्या का निदान कैसे होता है, लेकिन पीने के पानी के लिए यहां पर उन्होंने

कहा। इससे मालूम होता है कि मंत्रालय कितना उदासीन है। तो हमारे यहां मध्य प्रदेश में छत्तीसगढ़ का इलाका है। छत्तीसगढ़ के क्षेत्र में वहां की मिट्टी इस प्रकार की है कि जिस में पानी अधिक सोखता नहीं है। वहां पर बारहों महीने करीब-करीब सूखा रहता है। इसी प्रकार से आदिवासियों का इलाका—रतलाम और झाबुआ—जो गुजरात से लगा हुआ है वहां पर पानी का अत्यन्त अभाव रहता है और दूसरे चम्बल के किनारे का इलाका, जहां पर बड़े-बड़े भड़के हैं, जहां पर जमीन बहुत ज्यादा है लेकिन पानी का कोई प्रबन्ध नहीं है और भूमि ऐसी नहीं है कि जहां किसी प्रकार से खाद्य की उपज हो सके, यह तीन इलाके ऐसे हैं कि जहां पर हमेशा ही सूखे की स्थिति रहती है। लेकिन हमारे मंत्री जी ने तो स्टेट गवर्नमेंट पर टाल दिया कि वहां से रिपोर्ट नहीं आयी और हमारे राज्य में सरकार की जो स्थिति है उस का आजकल में निर्णय होने वाला है। वहां पर वे लड़ते रहते हैं और उन की वजह से राज्य के निवासियों को जो कष्ट होता है उस का निराकरण कैसे हो। मैं समझता हूं कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस उत्तरदायित्व से नहीं बच सकती। वहां पर यह सूखे की स्थिति है। वहां की चम्बल नदी, महानदी, और उस के साथ में वेन्नवती और दशार्ण नदी इतनी बड़ी है कि अगर इन का पानी रोक कर उस के इस्तेमाल का कोई उपाय किया जाये तो संभवतः वहां सूखे की स्थिति कभी आ ही नहीं सकती। मंत्रालय की ओर से, एक सुझाव के अनुसार चम्बल पर एक डैम बना था, किन्तु डैम बनने के बाद चम्बल का जो पानी था उस पानी का नहरों द्वारा उपयोग नहीं हुआ और उस पर मंत्रालय की ओर से कहा गया कि वर्षा के कारण चम्बल में पानी इकट्ठा नहीं हुआ इसलिये न तो हम बिजली दे सकते हैं और न नहरों में पानी छोड़ सकते हैं। अब देखा जाये कि जो दूसरी योजना मंत्रालय की है वह कहां तक पूरी हुई है। एक हलाली योजना है।

उस में 70 करोड़ रुपया खर्च हो चुका। सड़कें बन चुकीं, इंजीनियरों के रहने के लिये 6 मील पर क्वार्टर बन चुके और बिजली लग गई और पानी के नल लग गये, लेकिन इस के बाद, 6 वर्ष के बाद भी वहां पर सूखे को मिटाने के लिये हलाली योजना में इस साल तक कोई काम नहीं हुआ और जब वहां प्रदेश की ओर से लिखा जाता है तो बता दिया जाता है कि उसके लिये रुपया नहीं है। तो इस तरह से मंत्रालय की ओर से भी इस प्रकार की स्थिति का वहां पर निर्माण किया जाता है जिस से वहां पर सूखे की स्थिति का मुकाबला कभी न किया जा सके।

इसी प्रकार से मुरैना और भिन्ड के जिले जो उत्तर प्रदेश से लगे हुए हैं और राजस्थान से लगे हुए हैं वहां पर पानी के न बरसने के कारण जो स्थिति है वह भी ऐसी दयनीय हो गयी है कि कुछ कहा नहीं जा सकता। इस के साथ ही विध्य का प्रदेश है। विध्य का प्रदेश लगभग एक सौ मील की पट्टी का ऐसा इलाका है कि जहां पर पानी की कमी के कारण कुंभों में पानी 90 और 100 हाथ गहरा रहता है। वहां पर कोई बड़ी नदी नहीं है और वहां पर सूखे की स्थिति हमेशा रहती है। उत्तर प्रदेश के जिले मिर्जापुर में पिछले वर्ष की स्थिति का वर्णन आपने किया है लेकिन मिर्जापुर से मिले हुए जो सीधी और सहडोल के जिले हैं वहां पिछले वर्ष इतना बड़ा अकाल पड़ा था कि वहां स्वयं प्रधान मंत्री गयी थीं और सभा की की थी। इस वर्ष भी वहां अकाल की स्थिति है और सूखे की स्थिति है। मंत्रालय ने उस की तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया और जब मंत्रालय की ओर से जानकारी, अनुभवी लोग बाहर जाते हैं, जांच करते हैं कि देश के किन-किन भागों में सूखा है तब मैं मंत्री जी से पूछता हूं कि मध्य प्रदेश के किन्हीं भागों में सूखा है या नहीं इस की जांच के लिये आप ने मंत्रालय की तरफ से किसी को भेजा

[श्री निरंजन वर्मा]

है या नहीं। संभवतः आपने इस के लिये किसी को भेजा नहीं और उसके कारण मध्य प्रदेश में आजकल स्थिति बहुत खराब हो रही है।

संक्षेप में, मैं यह निवेदन कर दूँ कि मध्य प्रदेश में अधिकांश क्षेत्र जो है वह केवल एक फसल लेने वाला है और अगर उस फसल में सूखा पड़ जाये तो वहाँ पर खाद्य की समस्या बहुत बुरी तरह से उत्पन्न सकती है। तो मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्रालय इस ओर भी ध्यान दे और वहाँ की खाद्य की समस्या को सुलझाने के लिये सूखे का जो क्षेत्र है वहाँ के लिये भी वह उसी प्रकार की सहायता दे जैसी कि अन्य सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों को दी जा रही है और जिसके कारण वहाँ के निवासियों को अधिक से अधिक लाभ मिल सके।

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, it is a very depressing picture that emerges as a result of the drought in many States of India. It is also grim in certain States like Rajasthan and Orissa. Members on both sides have spoken of the difficulties which the people are experiencing throughout the length and breadth of this country. I for my part would like to say that a fertile State like Tamil Nadu is today in a difficult position particularly in the districts of South Arcot, North Arcot, Salem and Coimbatore. Even in the two beautiful hill stations like Kodaikanal and Ootacamund there is practically no drinking water even. We are considerably relieved to know that the Prime Minister of India will be visiting Madras at least to cover two of the affected districts of South Arcot and North Arcot though in a few hours, and we are very grateful to her for that.

I may at the outset say that primarily the relief measures must be worked out with a pragmatic approach by the State Government concerned. It is not necessary and it is also not

advisable that, in every State, as soon as drought conditions appear, the State Governments should appeal to the Centre for financial aid and other aid. It has been seen from time immemorial that in the nineteenth century and in the early parts of this century it has been almost a continuous process of what I would call the unwanted queen, namely, drought, visiting one area or another.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: Queen or demon.

SHRI R. T. PARTHASARATHY: Whatever it is.

Now, considering the historical aspect the Government of India should formulate some measures to find ways and means as to how the drought conditions can be cleared on a national scale. Members from different States are bound to express, it is part of their duty to bring up before you, Sir, and before this House, the difficult conditions in their States. But I would respectfully appeal to you to consider that this is a national-problem; history has proved that this is a national problem. So we must take the drought conditions of this country in that broad national perspective and find out as to how best we can solve this problem. To me it appears that there are only three methods.

The first and foremost, I consider, is to echo the very wise suggestion made 45 years ago by that eminent administrator, Dr. C. P. Ramaswamy Ayyar who formulated a scheme—that fertile brain of his conceived this idea—of inter-linking all the great rivers of India from the Ganga to the Cauvery. And whenever questions on this are put in this House I am pained to note that the Minister in charge comes up repeatedly with the answer that it has a very laudable objective but it is not workable due to the paucity of finances. If this is not going to be done I am afraid our irrigation schemes in general will not be a success.

Not only the major rivers should be interlinked, secondly we should also concentrate on the development of minor irrigation. I do grant that the Planning Commission has evolved a very fine scheme as to how best we could utilise and promote minor irrigation works but the implementation of this scheme is not satisfactorily done both by the Centre as well as by the State Governments. There is some sort of tardiness in their approach' in formulating such projects and in taking effective measures particularly in the State of Rajasthan and in the State of Orissa.

Sir, I was reading in an American magazine an article on the future irrigation schemes of our country in relation to the growth of population and it was pointed out in that article by that learned author, an eminent scientist himself, that by the year 2050 or 2100 with the rate at which the world's population is growing we will not have adequate drinking water. This takes us to the problem of finding drinking water which is necessary not only for human beings and also for the cattle, but how we are going to grow our food. This is the broad concept on which eminent scientists should work throughout the world and particularly our scientists in the Agricultural Research Institute must think twice, three times, and formulate measures as to how best we could harness and mobilise the existing water resources as well as find out ways and means of tapping the underground water resources for the benefit of not only irrigation but also for drinking purposes. This is the essential thing on which the Government should concentrate. If the Government do not plan for these objectives I am afraid we shall only be allowing the drought condition to prevail and continue as it has been in the past which will adversely affect not only our economy but the general life and welfare of our people.

I would therefore appeal to the hon. Minister to consider my humble proposal, namely, the constitution of a permanent National Drought Board at

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the Union level. He should make provision in the Budget for the working of this Board so that adequate finances could be made available to the respective State Governments which are effected by drought conditions without the normal process which means red tape. I would very respectfully submit to him that a Board like this would be able to deliver the goods if not fully at least to a large extent so that relief measures could be rushed to the affected areas in times of need and so that relief could be given in time to the suffering people.

Thank you.

SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA (Mysore): Mr. Vice-Chairman, almost every year or every alternate year there is drought in some part of the country or the other. This has more or less become a permanent phenomenon and we have been noticing a steady fall in rainfall and the vagaries of the monsoon. As Mr. Parthasarathy just now said this is not a problem of any one State or the other but it has become a national problem and it must be solved on a national basis. I agree with him and I support the suggestion that there should be a permanent body or an organisation to look into the question of these annual occurrences of drought conditions and to provide relief to the extent possible, with all the available modern technological methods. The report laid on the Table lists drought conditions in seven States and the area covered! is 95 districts in the different States. That brings out the magnitude of the problem. This is a problem which has to be tackled on a national basis. Almost every State; has been affected by drought conditions in one year or the other apart from some of the acute cases like Rajasthan and others where it has become a perennial problem and a problem of great magnitude. Mr. Bhandari has vividly described the situation in Rajasthan. It is really heartening to hear about the continuous failure of crops, the starvation of people and death of animals which are mainstay of our agriculturists and peasants.

[Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda.] Then drinking water has become a problem and Mr. Parthasarathy has just now quoted from a magazine article to show the magnitude of the situation and with the increase in population not only in our country but in the whole world it is definitely going to be a very acute problem, and more so for our country. The only way to tackle this problem, as many hon. Members have already said, is to tackle it on a national basis by providing irrigation, by linking the several rivers flowing in the country and by tapping the underground water resources. It is a thing which has to be tackled on a continuous basis. It is no use just trying to dig some wells and take some such steps to get at the underground water just when the drought conditions occur. If this matter is continuously pursued in those areas even when there are no drought conditions, the situation will certainly become better. But what is happening is, when any State complains about drought conditions, relief is rushed and efforts are made to tap the underground water but as soon as the drought conditions are relieved we are prone to become complacent. I would suggest that this problem should be tackled continuously and I support once again what Mr. Parthasarathy has said, that is, on a national basis. I also support the suggestion of Mr. Sri Rama Reddy about the setting up of a Corporation for tapping underground water resources. I would also like to add here that wherever individual farmers are interested in tapping underground water there should be some subsidy or some incentive schemes which will go a long way in helping those people to get the technological developments harnessed to their own farms.

Coming to the States concerned, I would like to suggest that greater attention should be paid by the Centre to providing financial aid to the States which are affected by drought conditions. Coming from Mysore I

, would like briefly to refer to the position in Mysore State. Mr. friend, Mr. Sri Rama Reddy, has already explained in detail the conditions prevailing in the particular districts of Mysore. Drought conditions exist in 17 out of 19 districts in the State. Relief work has received certain aid from the Central Government. According to the figures available from the Government of Mysore Rs. 8.25 crores have been provided for relief works and other shareable expenditure and Rs. 1.75 crores for distress advances loans. A suggestion has been made, that since the provision of these advances loans might take a longer time due to the processes involved, that this sum of Rs. 1.75 crores may be made available for relief work and that will bring up the figure to Rs. 9.7 crores. The additional loan assistance required may be provided separately. This is a very urgent matter and I hope the Minister concerned will give consideration to it.

Then, the Government of Mysore has suggested that they would like to undertake certain permanent measures for a period of two years and for this also they have asked the Central Government for assistance. I request that favourable consideration may be given to it.

Apart from this, there have been so many schemes which have been put up by the State of Mysore and which are yet to be completed. During the three Plan periods, 36 major and medium irrigation projects, estimated to cost Rs. 331 crores, were put up in order to provide irrigation for Rs. 37.15 lakh acres. The schemes by the end of 1968-69 will have covered an expenditure of Rs. 129 crores and a spillover of Rs. 191 crores will be still left. What has been covered will provide irrigation facilities only for about 11.7 lakh acres. The Government of Mysore feel that unless additional resources are available, they will find it difficult to go ahead with other projects, projects like the Upper Krishna project, the Kabini project

and the Malaprabha project and also new schemes to be taken up in connection with harnessing the Cauvery and Krishn'a basins.

At present the amounts made available are returnable in instalments, the assistance which has been made available between 1967-68 and 1968-69. These amounts have been provided within the State's Plan ceiling. If this is done, for meeting emergent necessities during drought periods, it will create financial stringency to the State. I would suggest that for such purposes separate allocations should be made. It should not be brought under the State Plan ceilings.

Having said this, it is one thing to get financial aid from the Centre. Effective implementation of the schemes has to be carefully looked into. Mrs. Rajagopal'an rightly said that proper utilisation of the money in the implementation of the scheme has to be carefully adhered to. I know that there have been many instances. When Shri Sri R'ama Reddy was speaking, Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy said something about political patronage. There have been instances where relief work contracts were given on considerations of political patronage, politics having been made the criterion. Such things should not be there when any relief works are provided during drought or flood conditions. Also, it is not a very happy position with the Co-operative, handling relief work. Many of the assistance, loans and other relief provided through co-operative societies are not above board. A strict control on these organisations, in order to provide better relief, is very necessary.

Before I close, I would like to mention here that I am one with Mr. Parthasarathy in suggesting that consideration should be given to the very early proposal of the late Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar about interlinking the rivers of this country. In the modern technological world, even though it may be costing an amount

of great magnitude, it is a matter which should be given due consideration. Thank you.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, it is interesting to find that while we are discussing the drought conditions in the country, the Irrigation and Power Minister is conspicuously absent. His place has been taken by the Food Minister. I do not know what it means. I hope it does not mean that the Government thinks that drought cannot be fought by irrigation and that only the Food Minister can supply some gratuitous relief by doling out some food.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: The hon. Member is a very enlightened Member, but drought relief specifically falls within the purview of the Food Ministry and minor irrigation is also looked after by the Food Ministry.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: That is the interesting part of the Government. While floods are the responsibility of the Irrigation and Power Ministry, droughts are the responsibility of the Ministry of Food. That is exactly the thing which I wanted to point out. You cannot fight drought by offering a little food here and there and you do not suffer much if food. For example, in UP. at the moment, eight districts, according to the statement of the Government itself, are affected by drought. The number of people involved are 1,05,12,000 and what is the amount of food that the Ministry of Food has offered? They have been rather bold enough to mention in the statement: "1,874 persons are in receipt of gratuitous relief. The Ministry of Food and Agriculture have allotted 100 tonnes of wheat for this purpose." Now, for 1,05,00,000 people, they allot 100 tonnes of food and here the Minister, an enlightened Minister at that, a good Minister at that, supposed to be full of energy, gets up and

[Shri Arjun Arora.] says that" drought relief is his responsibility. That is how he is discharging his responsibilities. There are in the country some areas of chronic drought conditions. Almost every year we hear of them. These are, to mention only a few, Western Rajasthan. Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh and the southern districts of U.P. . . .

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:
Mysore also. Please mention Mysore.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I am not giving a complete list. I am mentioning some of the chronically drought areas. I read this statement when it was made. I went through it again today. I do not find in the statement any mention of any concerted efforts that the Government is making to fight famine, poverty, misery and inhuman conditions in these chronically drought areas. I hope the Food Minister or the Irrigation Minister or the Cabinet as a whole will one day think of doing something permanent in those areas like Western Rajasthan, Rayalaseema and the southern districts of U.P., where drought is a normal feature. Not that water is not there in the country. Many Members have pointed out, 'and correctly pointed out, that we allow our rivers to flow the water into the sea. We allow our rivers to flood certain areas every year. In this atomic age we have not yet thought of water management. There is, for example, an area in Eastern U.P. known for its fertile soil. But almost every year it is affected both by floods and drought, floods in the rainy season and drought there-after, and the Governments have done nothing to control the floods and have done nothing to conserve water during the period when it is abundant for the period when it is lacking. That is the condition. It is time that our Government realised that in order to make this coun-

try self-sufficient in food, in order to make this country capable of some dignity, it is necessary that water conservation, water management and irrigation are given top priority. We do not know what the Fourth Plan will be. We do not know even if there will be a Fourth Plan, but whatever leaks out or whatever appears in the press gives one the impression that even in the Fourth Plan irrigation and power will remain neglected. What will continue is import of food under PL 480. Begging of PL 480 wheat can be stopped only if irrigation and power are given top priority and if suitable funds are made available for them. Dependence on monsoon is not going to solve our problems. A correct beginning was made during the First Five Year Plan when ambitious schemes of dams and reservoirs were taken in hand, but what was begun during the First Plan and the Second Plan period was not continued during the Third Plan period, and for the last three years there has been no Plan. We do not know even if in the Fourth Plan there will be 'as ambitious projects of dams and reservoirs for fighting drought, for fighting famine and for conserving water resources of the country as was done during the First Plan and the Second Plan. That is why I wanted the Irrigation and Power Minister to be here and tell this House that though there has been drought during the last few years in Rajasthan, during the Fourth Plan this is how we propose to fight it. He is not there because it is not his responsibility. Queer' is the division of functions in our Government. The Centre in my opinion should take the responsibility of 'areas like Western Rajasthan where almost every year famine stalks the land and people die because of lack of food and water. At least cattle die. Even Government admits that cattle die in hundreds. The Centre should take the responsibility and find the resources for them. The matter cannot be left to the State Government because the finances of the country are in fact controlled by the Central Government.

The resources position of the State Governments is very limited and for any ambitious project they have to depend upon the Centre. So, why does not the Centre itself take the responsibility for major irrigation projects for areas like Rayalaseema, Western Rajasthan and Southern U.P. and earn 'a good name? What is being done is woefully little.

Mr. Bhandari narrated the pitiable conditions of Rajasthan. Though relief work is being done, people are not being paid a decent wage. What to say of a decent wage, they are being paid according to Mr. Bhandari only a pittance of wage. What is four annas per day for a working man today when the minimum wages even in the rural areas for the C.P.W.D. workers are of the order of Rs. 2 per day? Where famine work is instituted a pittance of wage is paid. It is time that correct wages were paid.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: The Famine Code should be revised.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: The Famine Code should be revised. It is an 18th century legislation, and it is surprising that though famine is the responsibility of the Food Ministry, the Food Minister has not brought a Bill to amend the Code.

Before I sit down I must say something about what is happening in U.P. Eight districts of U.P. are affected by drought and, as I said earlier, 1,05,12,000 people are affected by drought in U.P. This is second only to Rajasthan but the relief work by the Government is so little that only 1,80,280 persons are said to be employed on relief works. This means that a little over one per cent of the affected population of U.P. is employed there, and it appears that these people have been employed for short periods because a Central team has estimated that the expenditure on relief operations in U.P. will be about Rs. 80 lakhs, which means that they will give only 11 annas per year for the affected people. The affected 1

people are 1,05,00,000 in U.P., and the expenditure on relief work is Rs. 80 lakhs; it works out at 11 annas or so per year. This is the wonderful relief that is being given to people in U.P. The Prime Minister also hails from U.P. but she is very shy whenever the question of U.P. comes.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: You are also from UP.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I am from U.P. and I am proud of that.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: You are not shy.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I am not at all shy. The Prime Minister appears to be shy when the question of doing something for U.P. comes. She has made several sanctions of grants from the Prime Minister's Drought Relief Fund for U.P., but all these several sanctions total only to Rs. 55,000. Sir, I am not very good at arithmetic, perhaps some people here are, but what is Rs. 55,000 for 1,05,00,000 people?

SHRI A. K. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): She has goodwill.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: I am sure Mr. Kulkarni's belly is not filled by the goodwill of co-operators. Sir, there is one little sentence in this whole statement which made me very angry when I read it and that was why I thought that I must participate in this debate. On page 10, in paragraph 32, the Government sums up the situation, and says, "The situation is well under control in all the States."

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Is it objectionable?

SHRI ARJUN ARORA: It is a very objectionable statement. My blood boiled when I read it. and I am glad that I read it during the day and not at night; otherwise, I would have spent a sleepless night. When people are dying, when Mr. Bhandari says that people are being paid a pittance

[Shri Arjun Arora]

of wage of annas four per day, when in UP, to give relief to one crore and five lakhs of people the Government is spending a mighty sum of Rs. 80 lakhs per year and the Prime Minister sanction Rs. 55,000 for one crore people, it is disgraceful that the Government says that the situation is under control.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I find drought not only in the country but in the statement itself, because I have found that s-even States have been mentioned in the statement, from Andhra Pradesh to UP, but it has left out Tamil Nadu.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): That is your grouse?

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: Tamil Nadu is the worst affected by drought at present. I had given a Calling Attention Notice and also a Short Notice Question during the session. Both were not allowed. I expected that the statement would be supplemented by the Minister at least before taking up the statement for discussion today. But I feel very sorry that he has not supplemented it with any additional statement. Anyhow, I want to place certain facts before this House about our own State of Tamil Nadu, leaving the other States to the hon. Members coming from those respective States.

For the information of the hon. Minister, I may say that Poet Bharati said—

*Tani orunanukku unavillai enil jagat-tinai
azitiduvome*

which means that "if any individual is left without food, we will destroy the whole world". Another poet, Bharati Dasan, said—

Unavilai unum nilai in j elai

which means that "there will be no condition where no man goes without food". Another poet, Tiruvallu--ar said—

*Irandum ooyir vo-zdal vendin marando
keiuka oolakiyarriyan*

which means that "if a man is to live only by begging for food, then the creature will be destroyed."

So, Sir, that is the mind of our State, Tamil Nadu. We read about drought only in stories. But after the Congress came to power, we had neen droughts.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Drought only now.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: After we came to power, for the past two years, we never allowed drought to raise its head.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: (Andhra Pradesh): Even God like Shiva begs.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: I want to mention about the speech of Mrs. Rajagopalan. We must know the etymological difference between drought is the *sine qua non* of the consequence of drought. The drought is the *sine qua non* of famine. That is the condition precedent to famine. The lady Member asked what the State of Tamil Nadu has done. We have stopped it at the stage of drought, we have not allowed the State to go to the stage of famine. Our Government has taken every step to stop it at the stage of drought. It never allowed the State to go into the condition of famine. Further, one of the steps taken by the State is inviting the Central Food Minister on the 9th and apprising him of the real situation in the State on that day itself. On the 9th, our Central Food Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, went to Madras and he inspected the area and found the real condition. Then on the 18th, our Chief Minister Mr. Karunanidhi came to Delhi to apprise the Prime Minister and other Ministers here of the real condition of the State. Other steps have also been taken by the State. Further,

our friend, Mr. Parthasarathy said that the State must take the initiative, in the first paragraph. But in the next paragraph, he said that drought is a national problem, that it should be decided at the national level.

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AN HON. MEMBER; She, not he.

SHRI THILLAI VILLALAN: I am now mentioning about Mr. Parthasarathy. Both are from our State, both belong to the Congress. He answered the first paragraph by the next paragraph. If it is a national problem, then the State cannot initiate or start action; if it is a State problem, the Centre should come to the aid or succour of the State because both are connected. Without the State there is no Centre; without the Centre there is no State. So in both ways, he is not correct.

Further, so far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, our Food Minister announced in the Assembly itself that our State is going into the grip of famine; we are averting it; we want one lakh tonnes of rice to be sent immediately as a first step. The very same request has been repeated by our Chief Minister. He came here and requested the Prime Minister and also the Food Minister. The Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, has been pleased to come to the State on the 17th and visit the worst-affected areas in Tamil Nadu on the 17th.

I do not want to add anything to prejudice further action by the Centre. I want to conclude my speech only with this observation that the District of Tanjavur in Tamil Nadu is called the granary of Tamil Nadu. If properly aided, Tamil Nadu will become the granary of the whole country definitely. So, in the Fourth Plan all necessary steps should be taken to make Tamil Nadu as the granary of this country.

DR. (MRS.) MANGLADEVI TALWAR (Rajasthan): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, looking at the statement, it

is a frightening picture that is given. In the last page, there are seven States that are mentioned and the one State that the hon. Member was just mentioning is not mentioned there. A total population of 5,58,83,000 people are affected in all the States that are mentioned here, and 94,000 villages are affected. Out of 157 districts, 95 are affected. So, it is not a problem of one single State, it is a national problem as many hon. Members have already repeatedly mentioned. 5 P.M. Sir, there is not much time to go into the conditions of all the States. Therefore, I will say only a few points about Rajasthan.

Out of the 26 districts of Rajasthan all the 26 of them are affected, the villages affected are 22,797 and the population comes to 1.28 crores. It is a colossal problem which has to be faced with courage and continuous effort.

We have to tackle the problem on a top priority basis and on a war footing. I would draw your attention to Jaisalmer in Rajasthan which has had no rains for the last seven long years. The land is parched and the vegetation has dried up absolutely. The population lives in camps near relief works by the road side. The lives work has either gone away or is extinct. Even the desert camels are suffering from drought conditions.

I would next come to drinking water which is the prime necessity of mankind. I would draw your attention to this one item, drinking water, which should be supplied to the society. The Rajasthan Government is spending colossal amounts over supply of water by truck-borne tanks to 48 places in the Barmer district. Subsidy for drawing of water has been sanctioned in 230 villages in Bikaner district, 132 villages in Barmer district, 76 villages in Jodhpur district, 72 villages in Ganganagar district and 142 villages in Jaisalmer district.

The people and the Government of Rajasthan and other States might tide

[Dr. (Mrs.) Mangl'adevi Talwar]

over the immediate crisis but what is in store in future? There is no alternative to long-term development. The Rajasthan Canal offers high hopes to the large desert areas though at the present rate of progress it will be many-years before the remotest part would receive water, as mentioned by the hon. Member who spoke before me. The Centre should take over the responsibilities of the Rajasthan Canal and expedite its completion. The Rajasthan Government do not have the resources to either complete the work or even to give its adequate share for completion of this big project. They are over-burdened by day to day relief work. About that I will tell you in some detail.

The Rajasthan Canal should be extended from 120 miles to 140 miles to cover the dry area. Other auxiliary programmes like the boring of tube wells should be taken in hand at a rapid rate. The Central Government should draw up a long-term plan of tube-wells. Sixty tube-wells which the Centre has sanctioned, and some of them have been dug, but they are not enough. There should be 500 tube-wells but this has to be done in a phased way. A complete plan should be made by the Centre to enable the State to have a phased programme.

Underground water should be explored. Pipelines should be laid out in areas where tube-wells cannot be dug. Over different relief works the State Government would be spending some Rs. 21 crores by the end of the current financial year. The Central Government has so far given about Rs. 8.96 crores only. You can judge it is a very little amount. The Central Government should be more generous in their relief work.

Sir, it has been pointed out by hon. Members here that relief work is not going on properly. It is not adequate and the people are suffering. It is true that people are suffering but in spite Of the efforts of the State Government and the Central Government they are

suffering because, the need is much greater than what could be done. I will just read out some parts of the Governor's Address to the Rajasthan Assembly the other day. In a very concise way he says:—

“अभाव-ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में अब तक 750 से अधिक सहायता कार्य प्रारम्भ किये जा चुके हैं जिन पर लगभग 7 लाख श्रमिक कार्य कर रहे हैं। श्रमिकों को अभाव स्थिति के प्रारम्भ में जो मजदूरी दी जाती है वह बढ़ा दी गयी है जो कि पूर्व से लगभग 33 प्रतिशत अधिक है।”

It is not four annas that Mr. Bhandari has pointed out. It is much more. It has been increased recently.

इन राहत कार्यों पर कार्य कर रहे श्रमिकों को सड़ों से बचाने के लिये सिरकियों, टिन की चद्दरें, तम्बू, और चटाइयों आदि की व्यवस्था की गई है। उन्हें पेय जल व चिकित्सा सुविधायें भी उपलब्ध करवाई गयी हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त शिविर में रहने वाले श्रमिकों को रजाई, कम्बल और गर्म व सूती कपड़े वितरित किये गये हैं। बच्चों और प्रसवासन्न महिलाओं के लिये दूध और अन्य पौष्टिक पदार्थ वितरित किये जा रहे हैं। प्रसवासन्न महिलाओं को प्रसव से दो सप्ताह पूर्व 75 पैसे प्रति दिन और प्रसव के तीन सप्ताह बाद तक पूर्ण वेतन पर अवकाश की सुविधा दी जाती है। अपाहिजों एवं बूढ़ों को निःशुल्क सहायता दी जा रही है। लगभग 7,500 व्यक्ति यह सुविधा प्राप्त कर रहे हैं।”

The Jaisalmer area and other Rajasthan desert areas are a little different from other parts of India because even a little rain of 2½" to 3" in this area makes all the difference. This much rain will make the whole area bloom. It will produce food and fodder both for the human beings and the cattle. So if artificial rains can be made practicable, because not much.

rain is required, it will save the population and the cattle wealth and the suffering of the people would be much reduced. I appreciate that it is an expensive project but an effort should be made in the near future. Therefore, I would just give this suggestion. The other one is, I agree with the hon. Members who have suggested that there should be a National Board or Commission on Drought on a permanent basis and they should go into all aspects of drought, including irrigation, and how to prevent it and suggest ways and means of preventing it, and the Central and the State Governments should get together to implement them. Thank you.

SHRI K. C. PANDA (Orissa): Mr. Vice-Chairman, it is really astonishing that although our country is not favoured by nature and it is undergoing different types of calamities, we have failed to fight the situation from time to time. We have already heard about Rajasthan where we were expecting that canal waters would flow within certain years of independence, and we had been reading in the papers and expecting that it will become green. But even after 21 years of independence, we find that the desert is going to be more furious for the people who live there than it was for their ancestors.

Now I would mention about the eastern parts, i.e., Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Orissa. These regions are not only facing drought, but they are also facing floods in certain areas and cyclones at least once a year in some of the areas. Especially my, State of Orissa for the last four years has been a prey of cyclones, floods and drought continuously. Since 1965-66, the western region of the State which is contiguous to Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh and which is said to be the water-shed area of the State, has been continuously affected by drought. And the coastal region for the last two years has been affected by floods and cyclones. The relief measures which have

been mentioned in the statement show continuous grants for Orissa. It was given last year for certain districts for flood, and for two or three years for cyclones, and presently for districts are being affected by drought. The condition in the country has become such that the States are being affected either by drought or by floods and the States are coming to the Centre for alms and our Central leaders are going outside the country for alms and spreading their begging bowl before the other countries. We know, Sir, that when there is a war in a country, they also plan for the post-war reconstruction. Our planning so far to find out the remedies for floods and droughts in majority of the States has failed and we are continuously facing the same trouble year after year. So I would agree with some of my friends who have suggested that there should be a Commission like the Finance Commission with experts at national level and they should find out ways and means of fighting out these natural calamities in future, so that the people who are really growing energetic day by day to fight out the natural calamities and to grow more food for their own livelihood as well as for their neighbour and the country, should not feel discouraged by their leaders who are now controlling the entire country. I would mention here certain instances in Orissa. After the 1965-66 drought, there was such a clamour by the people for growing more food that in 1967-68, the maximum quantity per acre was grown by one of the Girijans. And this year, I have got information that in a double crop field, potato to the extent of 423 maunds and 14 Kgs. per acre was grown in a land in the district of Balangir. And that was the second crop. I should say, that man is preparing for a third crop even. So in some parts, they are fighting against nature and they are taking advantage of the irrigation facilities provided, whereas in other parts, for lack of water and for lack of other facilities, they have to face the vagaries of nature and they have to go to other places to earn their livelihood.

[Shri K. C. Panda]

Now, the Centre is giving *ad hoc* grants which are given in the shape of loans. But as the hon. Minister had agreed in August last in this House that in certain States where there is continuity of these natural calamities, some grants outside the Plan could also be provided, I would suggest' to the Government that in the case of States which are facing these natural calamities continuously, they should not give this assistance as loan for repayment afterwards, but it should be converted as grant-in-aid, so that the burden of this unexpected expenditure will not fall on the States and their plans for future development would not suffer.

My third suggestion is, we have been asking for a survey of underground water along with a survey of minerals and other underground wealth, and the hon. Minister is assuring Orissa from time to time that such surveys wiH be made. But only one district, Balesore, which is contiguous to West Bengal, has been surveyed and the other districts are continuously facing drought and they still remain unsur-veyed. They have also not been supplied with materials for digging tubewells. Even after the continuous drought for the last 4 years, we have been so much neglected that not a single tube-well in the districts mentioned in the report has been sunk to enable the people, even if they do not utilise ths water for irrigation purposes, at least to satisfy themselves by using it as drinking water. I would again mention here that there are certain villages in these areas which are continuously affected by drought. There are certain villages which have got no drinking water wells and the villagers have to run for 12 to 15 miles to get a jar of water and this takes them half a day and they work only during the other half of the day. Such are the conditions prevailing in our country. We were glad when our Food Minister declared in this House that in this year of Gandhi Centenary the Government would supply some drinking water

wells to the villages which had no drinking water. But we have not yet heard anything in the matter and we hope the Government will expedite action in digging drinking water wells in different States so that some relief can be given to the areas affected.

Lastly, Sir, we have already discussed about the Famine Code. It is a 19th century Code when conditions in this country were altogether different, when the requirements of the people were diffrent and when the country was ruled by the Britishers who had framed the Famine Code. So, the Famine Code should be changed altogether in order to suit the present conditions of our country so that whenever people demand that certain parts should be declared as famine-stricken, the Government cannot deny it. In certain cases I have heard the leaders, even of the Government, have indirectly induced the people not to get the Famine Code introduced lest they should be deprived of their facilities. These are the conditions prevailing in our country. And 'again I would request the Government about the appointment of a Commission having experts of different technology on it to solve the situation and to relieve the people at large of their suffering, if not immediately, at least through gradual development plans. Thank 'you.

SHRI G. R. PATIL (Maharashtra): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I will be very brief in my remarks as far as this question is concerned. It is a phenomenon in our country that in one part or the other either there are floods or there is famine. It is also peculiar feature, a permanent feature, of this House that at least once in a year we discuss the famine situation and drought conditions in the country. It is no doubt true, Sir, that the Government with the help of the State Governments are trying their best whenever there is famine or drought situation to see that human life ,and cattle life is saved from the famine conditions. I personally feel, Sir, that the time has come when the Government should take not just temporary mea-

asures but take some permanent measures so that at least in the course of some ten years the occurrence of famine conditions in different districts of different States will be reduced considerably. And from that point of view, Sir, I feel a survey should be taken. I hope the Government is aware that there are certain States, certain provinces, particularly certain districts in certain States, where once in two or three years monsoon is not certain, but famine is certain. Therefore, a survey should be conducted and some steps should be taken to see that some permanent measures are undertaken so that famine conditions do not exist in future. I find from the statement that has been made here, Sir, that very large population has been affected because of the drought situation in almost seven States. Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Mysore and Rajasthan have been affected on a very large scale. It is also true, Sir, that whenever these drought conditions arise, the State Governments go on making demands on the Centre for more and more funds for relief work, for some relief works to be started in certain areas. This is like digging a well when a man is thirsty. I humbly submit it is high time necessary steps were taken in time. No doubt, we talk of self-sufficiency in India by 1973-74. At the same time there are lakhs of people in our country who are starving. I do not say that there are starvation deaths as was alleged by my honourable friend, Mr. Bhandari. I do not wish to go into that dispute now. But one thing is true. How are you going to be governed by the Famine Code which was enacted in the 19th century by the Britishers for their own purposes? They wanted to rule this country. They wanted to see that this country was kept in bondage and salvery for ever. From that point of view they enacted this Code in such a way that whenever people came and demanded any relief in famine and drought conditions, they would not get anything under this Famine Code, it was framed in such a way. I know that even today the system that is be-

ing followed in most of the States by their Land Revenue Boards is that unless it is below six annas famine conditions are not declared in those areas by the concerned States because of this peculiar enactment, and according to the method that is followed, it never comes below six annas. That was all right when the Britishers were here; they wanted to see the people of this country die of hunger. In 1943 we saw millions of people dying on the streets of Calcutta. Now, after the attainment of independence, are we not going to change this Famine Code whereby the legitimate demands of the people are properly met, whereby some relief could be given to our people who are suffering?

Here I have another point also to urge on the Minister who happens to come from a district which is always famine stricken—I know Mr. Shinde comes from Nasik district—which is having six to seven taluks permanently famine-stricken. In five or six taluks there are some irrigation facilities and they have some better crops there. I want to know why the Government is not taking any action to see that irrigation projects are undertaken in these famine areas and why these are not given the topmost priority. Why is it not being done? It is because, it is said, Sir, that public memory is short. I know that once the famine conditions are over, at least that year or the next year if the people have some better crops and better monsoon, we immediately forget that there was famine the year before. And therefore, permanent measures are not taken. I would urge on the Minister that irrigation projects in the famine areas of this country should be given the top-most priority, special funds should be allocated, the norms should be changed. Whenever we try to see an irrigation project or a percolation tank is undertaken in a famine-stricken area, the proposal is turned down immediately because, they say, it is not possible to meet the cost. Therefore, most of the engineers

[Shri G. R. Patil] in the P.W.D. and Irrigation Department turn down the proposals. So, I would appeal to the honourable Minister to see that these norms are changed and even if higher cost is required, even if the Government has to spend more and more money on these projects, these projects must be undertaken, the Government must set aside the necessary amount and the amount should be utilised only for that purpose. Unless we take some such permanent steps it is of no use and then once in two years at least we shall be facing famine conditions either in one part or another.

Then I do appreciate that grant-in-aid has been made available for the Credit Stabilisation Fund of the Cooperative Banks but looking to the colossal population, particularly the agricultural population that is affected, only Rs. 60 lakhs that has been given for Mysore is not at all sufficient and unless you make sufficient money available for conversion of short-term into medium-term loan, it is not possible for the agriculturists to come of their debts. They are so steeped in their debts that we have to take some such measures.' The Minister knows that it is because of the necessity and the famine conditions that were prevailing in the past years that those agriculturists who have incurred debts are not in a position to repay the loans and the loans are piling up. The time has come when we should assess how much loan is there which has been piled up because of the conditions that were there beyond their control. Therefore when we go to the rescue of the industrialists, why not go to the rescue of the farmers who have been stuck up with debts. I appeal to the Minister particularly because he himself knows the plight of the agriculturists and therefore some such steps should be taken. The Credit Stabilisation Funds and the money made available by the Central Government to the States and to the State Cooperative Banks are very meagre and unless we set apart very large amounts

for this purpose it will not help. Otherwise, by this particular process it will mean that this year's crop loan is converted into medium-term loan. That is, his interest is not abolished. He has to pay the interest and that too at 9 per cent. Then he has to pay that much interest and next year it is expected that he should pay last year's dues as well as the amount of the short-term loan that he will be taking for the production of crops in the next year. So it will not be possible for him to repay. The problem should be approached from this point of view. I therefore appeal to him to take into consideration that at least 50 per cent. of the population and the crops have been damaged in Rajasthan. I know that 'Khapar' breed of cattle has completely perished. What a colossal loss not only to the State of Rajasthan but to the whole country. The cows which were capable of giving more and more milk, such milch cows have perished because of drought. Of course the Government did try its best but when such conditions take place, looking to the right side I would ask those people of the Jan Sangh where they were when the cows were dying. It is no use coming to the House here and asking for money. Where were they, those protagonists of cow protection? They should have protected them, at least saved them.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Mr. Bhandari is here.

SHRI G. R. PATIL: Even from other States people should have taken more and more cows. They should have protected them.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: If people die, then also people should not come here for help? Is that what you are saying?

SHRI G. R. PATIL: I am looking at it from the point of view of the loss to the country. I am not talking only from the point of view of Rajasthan or any particular State. So from the States

point of view also I feel that the Government should take some such measures and from that point of view the Rajasthan Canal which is controlled by 3 or 4 States, instead of being executed or implemented by these States, should become the responsibility of the Central Government. The Centre should take up the responsibility and complete the Rajasthan Canal so that at least in the near future in the irrigated area of that State, there will be no famine conditions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): The Minister.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): From Haryana nobody has been called.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): There is no time and the time set for the debate is over.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Some people have been called from other States. In the Statement the States are listed and Haryana is also there.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Kerala): The Statement is inadequate. There are other States also.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I gave my name the day before yesterday.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Let us not debate it now.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I am the only person who gave the name from Haryana. Mr. Parthasarathy and Mis. Rajagopalan were called from Madras but nobody from Haryana!

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): I do not think it is possible. There are a number of speakers and it is not Haryana alone but a lot of other people are also there to speak.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: May I ask whether the States which have been listed here should be represented or not?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): I am sorry.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Andhra has been given time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): You are repeating what you have said already.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What is the use of this discussion?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): All discussions take place with a certain time-limit. All Members have to adjust according to that. All possible attempts have been made to adjust as many Members as possible. That is all that I can say.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: This is not merely a question of time but for some purpose that we discuss here. The time should have been extended and it can be extended by 20 minutes and those that have not spoken could be adjusted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): There are other States also.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I agree.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): I do not think we can extend the time. Minister.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Then why discuss?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): Discussion does not mean that everybody should take part.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Every State.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): There are a lot of other States also.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Why discuss it here? Because Haryana is a small State you do not care for it.

SHRI P. C. MITRA (Bihar): All are parts of the country.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I ask the House whether from those States where drought conditions are there, at least one Member should be allowed or not.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): I have asked the Minister to speak.

SHRI ANNAS AHEB SHINDE: I am thankful to Mr. Sri Rama Reddy and a few other colleagues who were good enough to move the Motion and request the House to take this statement which I made in the House in February into consideration. Naturally, my Ministry and the Government of India was anxious that as soon as the House began its Session the Members should be apprised of the drought situation in the country and that is why we took the first opportunity to take the initiative ourselves and we laid the statement regarding drought on the Table of the House. I am glad a large number of Members have participated in the debate though the time was very limited. I am thankful personally to all Members who have taken part in this debate. Now this year though the overall position of the crops is satisfactory even then there are large tracts of our country which are affected by drought. For instance in the whole country about 102 districts are affected by drought and the number of villages affected is almost 1,13,000 odd and the population affected is 5,64,83,000. Not that this statement is comprehensive in the sense that there might be small pockets here and there in the different States because some Members just now made a point that there are many other States which are not mentioned in the statement. In this Statement re-

ference has been made only to those States where there are the large areas affected by the drought situation. And though there has been a drought of this magnitude in the country, hon. Members will be happy to know that, by and large, the food situation in the country is satisfactory because, if a drought develops, the first consequence of it is deterioration in the food situation. This year even the winter rainfalls were not normal. But despite all this, despite the fact that large tracts of our country are affected by drought, the food situation has by and large remained satisfactory all over the country including the States which are severely affected by drought, and this is also due to the fact that Government took adequate steps to see that the food situation was managed satisfactorily.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI:
Not in the drought areas.

SHRI ANNAS AHEB SHINDE: How can it be? I am coming to Rajasthan specifically afterwards.

Now this is important from the point of view of the fact that, if a drought develops, immediately large sections of our population who are dependent on agriculture, they get affected, and it is but necessary that the food situation should be appropriately managed. Then, Sir, as soon as the drought situation started developing in different parts of the country, the Government of India took the initiative and we tried to find out what was the situation in the different parts of the country, the Government of India took the initiative and we tried to find out what was the situation in the different parts. Of course many hon. Members have expressed the hope why the Centre should not take the direct responsibility of providing relief or taking up measures in order to fight the drought. I must submit with all the humility at my command that Members

are aware of the Constitutional provisions and the responsibilities under the Constitution. Drought relief falls entirely within the purview of the State Governments; it is a State subject and the States have naturally to take the necessary steps for providing the various relief measures. But the Centre comes in by way of coordination, by way of extending financial assistance. Now the procedure is so well established; we have so much experience now of the drought in various parts of the country that as a result of that we have a very well established procedure for taking various steps in order to overcome the situation. I think, for instance, that 1966 and 1967 were the most difficult areas in the history of our country, and we have definitely benefited in that we fought the situation very well. We tried to organise relief on an unprecedented scale in the years 1966 and 1967, and as a result of that we have rich experience at our disposal now as compared to what happened in 1966 and 1967. Therefore the situation in the year 1968-69 is comparatively of a much less magnitude and yet we have not failed in taking adequate measures to keep the situation under control. The procedure I was referring to, the procedure which is well settled now is that as soon as a drought situation develops in any part of the country, the States are not required to wait till the clearance from the Centre is received by them for taking the necessary relief measures because, as I have already mentioned, it is a State Subject; they have to take the initiative. According to the recommendations of the Finance Commission, all States, which are subject to frequent drought, etc. they are required to make certain minimum provisions as far as their Budgets are concerned, minimum provisions for providing relief in a drought situation, and as soon as they feel that the magnitude of the drought is such that the provisions which they have made in their Budgets will not be adequate to meet the situation, they have to report to the Centre. Then, as soon as we re-

ceive the report, we take necessary steps to see that Central teams are sent to the various States, Central teams including representatives of the Finance Ministry, the Planning Commission, the Ministry of food and Agriculture, sometimes the Ministry of Irrigation and Power, and other concerned Ministries, and the purpose of constituting such a team is that there should not be the red tape involved in this, that there should not be unnecessary correspondence in this, and all the Concerned Ministries represented do go there and assess the situation, consult the State Government, and on the basis of their assessment in the field they report back to the Central Government, and the Central teams prescribe broad ceilings based on elaborate details worked out in the field itself when they visit the States. Now the Central teams have visited many of these States; for instance they have visited Andhra, Rajasthan, Mysore, Gujarat, Orissa and U.P. And recently a team has also visited Haryana. Unfortunately, Tamil Nadu has also got affected; about seven or eight districts in Tamil Nadu are also affected by drought, and so a Central team has left for Tamil Nadu today led by one of the advisers in the Planning Commission. And as far as the visits of the Central teams which have taken place are concerned, so far the Central teams have recommended for Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Mysore, Orissa, Rajasthan and U.P. a total Central assistance to the tune of Rs. 42.05 crores, and actually Rs. 33.18 crores have been released to the various State Governments as suggested by the Central teams. Now a point has been made out by Shri Sundar Singh Bhandari and a number of other hon. Members that the Centre is not even making the advances according to the recommendations of the Central teams. Sir, once the amount is recommended by the Central team the Government of India does not want to delay the advance, but then there also there is some procedure. As soon as the

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde] Government of India inform the State

Governments that particular ceiling limits are prescribed, they are supposed to proceed on the basis of them, and they are required to submit accounts periodically for the expenditure incurred. Then, as soon as the statements are received by the Government of India, they are scrutinised within the briefest possible time and necessary advances are made available to the State Governments. So delay in this

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Do give advance amounts?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: As I have mentioned, the State Governments are required to make minimum provisions in their Budgets and they are supposed to proceed immediately without waiting for any Central team or without clearance from the Central Government, and even if they go on spending, that amount becomes eligible for Central assistance. Central assistance is also very liberal in the sense that whatever relief measures are to be provided, for only 25 per cent, is to be provided for by the State Governments, and 75 per cent, comes from the Centre; out of the 75 per cent, 25 per cent, is outright grant and 50 per cent, is loan.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : ये लोग क्या दुबारा भी विजिट करेंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: As far as Rajasthan is concerned, because this provision was made, the provisional provision was made, even at that time when I spoke on the floor of this House on a previous occasion, I had mentioned that the Central team would be visiting again and would make a reassessment of the situation and that, if it finds that the Rajasthan Government is in need

of more assistance, the Central team would take into consideration this, and that is why the Central team would be proceeding to Rajasthan in the early part of April. *(Interruptions)*. The latest position as far as Rajasthan is concerned is this; out of Rs. 8.96 crores recommended as the ceiling limit by the Central team, actually Rs. 6 crores have been advanced by now.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: The report said that it was only Rs. four crores.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: But more days have passed since that statement was made. The report was submitted in this month of February. Now it is March and I am giving the latest information. For Andhra, out of Rs. 12.55 crores, actually all the Rs. 12.55 crores have been made available. Then similar is the position in regard to many States, for instance Mysore; for Mysore Rs. ten crores were recommended by the Central team.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: Andhra has submitted all the accounts?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Yea; obviously. Now there should not be any misunderstanding on this. In the case of Bihar we did like this. They had difficulty of resources, and ways and means advances were required by them. We did not wait for their accounts; when they told us that they were in difficulty, that they had no resources, that ways and means advances should be made available to them, we took steps at that very time and even ways and means advances were made available to Bihar in the year 1967. My point is: we are not rigid in these approaches.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: So Rajasthan has not approached you that way also.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: It is not a question of approaching that way, because, when the ceiling limit

is available, money is available; they have only to submit account's and see that the remaining amount is made available to them. Then, Sir, in addition to this, in order to help the State Governments we have made available liberal credits to the various State Governments to offer them as short-term loans, as taccavi loans for fertilizers, as taccavi loans for seeds, as taccavi loans for pesticides, etc. For instance, Andhra Pradesh has been given a loan of Rs. 11 crores and 68 lakhs in addition to the amount as stated above. Then, Haryana has been given Rs. 5 crores 26 lakhs. Tamil Nadu has been given Rs. 18 crores 51 lakhs. Like, that, about Rs. 78 crores and 12 lakhs have been provided to the various State Governments.

Our experience is that most of the State Governments now take necessary steps to provide relief in order to meet the drought situation and most of the States are really responsible entities. They are quite alive to the situation and they take necessary steps. Unfortunately some hon. Members try to bring in politics into this. Some hon. Members have stated that in giving relief they discriminate on political grounds. At least our experience tells us that whether the Government is a Congress or a non-Congress Government, no State Government has tried to bring in politics as far as actual funds, gross misuse of authority and therefore, we should not unnecessarily try to bring into these constructive activities any political considerations.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: What is happening in Mysore? Funds are misused in the name of supervising relief work. Gross misuse of funds, gross misuse of authority and power.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am sorry I am not prepared to accept this.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Politics should not be made use of and the Minister should see that it is given to the suffering masses in the States.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It is given to the suffering masses in also, that no State Government, whether Congress or non-Congress, and nobody should try to bring in politics into these relief measures. For instance, I made a reference to Bihar. It was a non-Congress Government. Neither at the Centre nor at the State level we had any such experience, and I think we should not try to vitiate the atmosphere unnecessarily. Thus, Sir, as a result of the liberal financial assistance being provided by the Centre the State Governments were in a position to take up various measures in order to provide relief to the drought-affected areas, and therefore as a result of that now 13,417 relief works are going on in various parts of the country in various States, and about 16 lakhs and 9 thousand people are employed and gratuitous relief is being made available to 23,000 people.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: To whom is it given?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It is left to the discretion of the State Government and State authorities. They identify and they provide relief.

Then, Sir, naturally as a result of drought, in Rajasthan, cattle were very much affected and I gave a number of details on a previous occasion of the steps taken by the Central as well as the State Governments in order to protect the valuable cattle wealth.

AN HON. MEMBER: Fifty per cent.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I do not think I will have to depend on your assessment. I will accept the assessment of the State Government.

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde] I do not say that no cattle died. But I think that it is too much of an exaggeration to say that 50 per cent. of the cattle have died. I think, with the measures taken by the Rajasthan Government and the help which was rendered to the Rajasthan Government by the Centre and the various State Governments, including the Madhya Pradesh Government, U.P., Punjab, etc., a large number of cattle were enabled to move out of the State. I must put on record my sincere thanks to the Government of Madhya Pradesh, to the Government of U.P., and to the Government of Punjab for really extending necessary cooperation and assistance in order to protect the valuable cattle wealth of Rajasthan.

As soon as the drought was, on the prices of fodder shot up. But we found that as a result of large scale movement, on private account, on Government account, of fodder from adjoining States to Rajasthan, the prices have also come down as compared to the prices of fodder which were prevailing a few days earlier, and in addition to the movement of cattle from Rajasthan to other States, cattle camps were opened. I do not want to bother the House with a large number of details. My main contention is that measures which were taken by the Rajasthan Government helped us to bring the situation under control.

Then, Sir, there seems to be an impression with the hon. Members that we take measures when drought situation develops and we are doing nothing in order to provide a permanent type of relief. This is not a correct impression. In fact, this is a part of the long-term programme. In fact, if hon. Members are good enough to look into the detailed plans of the Ministry of Irrigation and Power and my Ministry, as far as minor irrigation activities are concerned, they will find large-scale construction of

dams, irrigation projects and even minor irrigation projects which are taken up in areas which are subject to recurring droughts. Take, for instance, the Rajasthan canal, is it not a measure which is going to provide a permanent type of relief in the Rajasthan areas?

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: If at all completed.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I can understand the complaint about its not being completed early. I accept that position. But everything is being done to see that the project is completed as early as possible and more liberal financial assistance is earmarked for completing the Rajasthan canal. I was making a point that permanent measures are being taken—during the Second Plan, Third Plan and even the First Plan, and I know from my own experience a number of irrigation projects which are about to be completed in areas which are subject to recurring droughts. After the completion of the irrigation projects, the necessary protection will be provided to those areas. Similar projects are being taken up in Mysore, in Andhra Pradesh, For instance, Nagarjuna Sagar Project; which is almost complete now. It covers large areas which were subject to recurring droughts. So, not that permanent measures are not being adopted. We have to have two types of measures: measures which would be of permanent value and measures which are of immediate importance. And if hon. Members are good enough to look into the details of the steps which are being taken in the drought-affected areas they will find that our main emphasis is on productive type of work.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: What about roads?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Suppose we have to provide employment and there is no other work. Then we have to depend upon the road work because they provide employment, and providing necessary food to the people and giving some means of livelihood is absolutely necessary. But our entire emphasis is on productive type of work.

Then, Sir, there is also the impression that the old Famine Code is in operation. I must say that it is a very wrong impression. The old Famine Code is nowhere in operation. It is an obsolete and outmoded document and no State Government is taking measures based on the old Famine Code.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: Have you got any other code? You put into effect the same old Famine Code, which is of no use.

6 P.M.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: It has been modified by a number of States. Even in regard to those States where it is not modified according to our satisfaction it is not being made applicable. It is not a Central code. In fact, some of the hon. Members went to the extent of saying: Why not amend the law? The Centre has no authority, no power to amend the Famine Code. It is an entirely State subject. But if any, State Government wants to amend the Famine Code we would help them; we would not come in their way.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Give them a model.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: But I would like to submit here that a number of State Governments have taken a number of steps which have gone far ahead of the provisions contained in the Famine Code and whatever might be the document known as the Famine Code it does not come in the way of any State

Government or the Centre to take any necessary measures in order to provide relief to the affected people in the different parts of the country.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: But why do you stick to the old one?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: We are not sticking at all. I am sorry I have not been in a position to clear it up with you.

Sir, suggestions have been made that some Corporation or an all-India body should be constituted to go into this question. Many of these suggestions no doubt come out of good intentions. I do not want to say that Members have not got good intentions in making these suggestions but the point is this. It is a State subject and the States would not like Centre's interference in a matter which is exclusively within the jurisdiction of the States. And there has been a recent experience. The National Development Council has recently taken one decision. There were many Centrally sponsored schemes. Many of the Chief Ministers raised an objection as to why there should be so many Centrally sponsored schemes. They asked: don't you want to believe the State Governments? Why don't you implement many of these projects through the State Governments? So I do not think it would be a right step, or even a right suggestion, to impose anything on the State Governments in this regard. And here I would again repeat my statement that our experience is that most of the State Governments, to whatever party they may belong, do not fail in taking adequate measures for protecting the life of their people and providing adequate relief in times of distress.

Then, Sir, the hon. Mr. Sundar Singh Bhandari made one point that wages to the tune of 25 to 50 naye paise are being paid. My information is that in Rajasthan they have prescribed wages; for adult males it is Rs. 1.50.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: Prescribed does not mean that they get it.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: For woman it is Rs. 1.25 and for a child it is Re. 1. These are the wages prescribed by the Rajasthan Government. Recently the Rajasthan Government had appointed a Committee to go into the work actually being carried out on the basis of these wages and they have naturally recommended certain norms of minimum work that should be put in. I do not think that the Rajasthan Government was wrong in doing that because after all in spending these amounts it is not only the intention to provide relief but at the same time to create productive assets to the community. That is also very important. These funds which are taken out of the public exchequer should not be frittered away carelessly or negligently.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: What is the minimum that you want to give to a man?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I am prepared to say this that what you have said, I will take extracts and draw the attention of the Rajasthan Government to them. I will ask them to make enquiries and if there is any failure, human failure or anything of that kind, we shall try to find out.

Then there were repeated reference to the Rajasthan tubewells. I have explained the position in my earlier speech. I would only refer to one point that we suggested to the Rajasthan Government when the Central team visited Rajasthan on a previous occasion; after all my Ministry is also anxious to have as many tubewells in Rajasthan as possible; they are to have 60 tubewells in the next few months and we have provided Rs. 85 lakhs to them for sinking these

tubewells but so far the tubewells completed are about 23 in number. Of course the terrain there is very difficult and Bhandariji himself knows all the difficulties. The Rajasthan Government is doing its best to sink as many tubewells as possible and I will repeat the previous assurance of mine that if the Rajasthan Government exceeds the target and if it wants more funds for this purpose we will readily make the necessary funds available to the Rajasthan Government. This assurance is there.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : प्रश्न यह है कि कुआँ खोदे जाने के बाद लगभग 30 हजार रुपये की मशीनरी का उस पर इन्वेस्टमेंट चाहिये। यह 30 हजार रुपया लगाने में आप किसी तरह की क्या सहायता हर एक कुएँ पर करेंगे ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Energisation of the tubewells is the job of the State Government. When we are providing, as I have said, about Rs. 1-1/2 lakhs for each tubewell why should it not be possible for the Rajasthan Government, or for any State Government for that matter, to provide a few thousand rupees for energising the tubewells?

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: It is a question of Rs. 30,000 for each tubewell.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Sir allegations have been repeated about starvation deaths. They have quoted from the Home Ministry book. I do not like to go into that controversy, but I would like to read the headline from it and it reads; Accidental deaths and suicides in India.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: But what are the details inside?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: They are accidental deaths and suicides. Read the headline. (*Interruptions*). I

would like to submit that every death report . . .

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: Do you mean to say that you will still contend that the figures that I gave are not of starvation deaths?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: They are suicides committed by starvation.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: What is the difference?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: You may interpret in your own way but I want to say that every death report that is referred to either by the hon. Members or in the Press is referred to the concerned State Governments and our experience is that for instance even in Bihar and U.P. when non-Congress Governments were in power no such death report was corroborated. So they are not corroborated even by non-Congress Governments and I do not think we should try to go on making these allegations. The State Governments also have their own responsibilities and as I said no State Government has corroborated even a single death report. If there is any case with the hon. Members I am prepared to refer it to the State Governments.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: This is a statement by the Home Ministry here about starvation deaths in 1966.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Than Sir, I have already met the point which was again made by Bhandariji that money is not being paid even according to the team's recommendations. I have already covered the points made by Mrs. Rajagopalan.

Shri Arjun Arora—I am sorry he is not here now—tried to ridicule the steps taken by the U.P. Government and the Centre for fighting drought in U.P. I would like to inform the hon. House that in U.P. eight districts are affected by drought. There is a

popular Government there and the popular Government is in a position to take the necessary steps. I must inform the House that this year eight districts have been found to be affected by drought. And it is our estimate—it is not a final estimate—that in spite of that the production of foodgrains is likely to be more than last year and the situation all over U.P. comfortable. If there is any difficulty in any part of the State the State Government will take the necessary steps and just as we help other States, if necessity is felt for aid even beyond the limits prescribed by the Finance Commission the Central Government will sympathetically look into that. Then, again, Mr. Arjun Arora has repeated the same point that the Centre should take up the responsibility, to which I have replied.

Then, the hon. Member from Orissa made a reference saying that all aid should be in the form of grants. I do not think this is a practical suggestion because everybody would like that the financial responsibility should be taken by the Centre in all cases. I do not think this is a really workable or practical suggestion.

Then, Shri Gulabrao Patil made the point why there are feasibility norms in regard to undertaking minor irrigation or irrigation works in drought areas. May I inform the hon. Member that as far as feasibility norms for undertaking irrigation works are concerned, we do not come in the way of State Governments. The State Governments are competent to prescribe any norms for undertaking major, medium and minor irrigation works. We do not come in their way at all. He referred to the loans which become overdue as a result of failure of crops, as a result of drought. I have got a number of figures with me showing the amounts which have been advanced to the State Governments by my Ministry in order to convert short-term loans of farmers into medium-term loans, in areas where the farmers are not in a position to repay their loans to co-operatives we are

[Shri Annasaheb Shinde]

trying to help the State Governments by making substantial amounts available so that they are in a position to convert the short-term loans into medium-term loans. For instance, in the case of Andhra it is Rs. 60 lakhs and Mysore Rs. 34 lakhs . . .

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: They wanted Rs. 2 crores.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: . . . and Rajasthan Rs. 20 lakhs. All these figures are worked on certain principles. On the basis of certain norms these amounts are made available. These are not ad hoc advances, but they are based on certain norms. Whatever is the criterion that has been applied, the Mysore Government became eligible for that amount. If the Mysore Government brings to our notice that a particular norm was not observed, we are prepared to look into it.

I have covered a large number of points. I do not want to take up the valuable time of the House. I am thankful to hon. Members for giving me a very patient hearing. I hope with the co-operation of hon. Members of this House we will be in a position to take satisfactory steps to overcome the situation in the country. I would repeat again the situation all over the country is absolutely under control and Members need not be unnecessarily worried that the distress has developed beyond our capacity or control. Everywhere the situation has been controlled. I would end by saying that even the Tamil Nadu Government has recently reported to us. We told them that they must send a fortnightly report. They have reported back saying that the situation is not so difficult as would require to be reported every fortnight. My point is, whether it is Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan or UP, everywhere the situation is under control and we should not be worried so much on that account. Thank you very much.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR AN: I would like to ask one small question. This note is obviously inadequate, and not full particularly because it has come out in the course of the discussion that in Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra there are drought conditions. I have to tell the hon. Minister that in spite of the large number of rivers in Kerala, there are drought conditions in Kerala also. Today wells and ponds have dried up. There is no water available in many railway watering stations. Under such circumstances, although Kerala is not included in this note, may I know whether the hon. Minister would extend the necessary help to Kerala also on the basis of any report from the Kerala Government?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I have already submitted that there may be many other States where small pockets might be affected by drought. For instance, in my own State, in my own district, this year some areas are affected by drought I have not mentioned the name of Maharashtra. Similarly, if some small pockets in Kerala are affected . . .

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR AN: The whole of Kerala.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I do not accept it.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN: There is no water in the Kerala rivers.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Water scarcity may be there in a State. The Kerala Government is competent to take necessary steps to meet the situation and if according to the norms and principles which have been explained to the House by me in the earlier part of my speech, the Kerala Government is also found to be eligible for Central assistance, we shall consider it.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY. I thank all the hon. Members who have taken part in this debate and also thank the hon. Minister for eliciting all the points and for having given substantial assistance to every State to get over the difficulties that arose out of the drought situation. The whole House was unanimous that water should be made available. This point should be noted very well, not only by the Agriculture Ministry but also by the Ministry of Irrigation and Power. The first and foremost thing is to make available water on as large a scale as possible in every place, in every district, especially in the chronically drought-hit areas.

Now, Sir, this leads me to the second point. Let the hon. Finance Minister be pleased to note that the green revolution has really not come about and the rural rich have not grown rich overnight. His thinking is not correct. The entire House will agree that the impost on fertilisers is uncalled for and it is unnecessary and most unwanted especially at this stage. Since the whole matter is being reconsidered at the Cabinet level, I request the entire Cabinet to see that the impost on fertilisers is done away with here and now. Secondly, the wealth-tax is also an intrusion into the field of agriculture which is just now developing. It is likely . . . (*Interruptions*).

SHRI P. C. MITRA: It should be definitely imposed.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN:
Question.

SHRI N. SRI RAMA REDDY: This is not the time. The wealth-tax should not be imposed. Just like a growing tree or growing bud, if the bud is cut off, then the whole tree will die.

Having said this, I would like to refer to Mysore State. I have personal experience of the immensely good work, the most humanitarian work done by voluntary organisations. I am sure they have done it all over India and in every State, especially the CARE, and other organisations like the Christian Association for Social Activities, the Catholic Relief Services, OXFAM, AFPRO, the Church of South India, the Bharat Sevak Samaj and other voluntary organisations. They have done immensely good work in the famine-stricken areas. Therefore, I take this opportunity of offering my thanks to them. I have got many other points, but since it is time, I think all the Members for participating in this discussion. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at eighteen minutes past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 26th March 1969.