

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 176 RE. FLOOD SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : We now go to the discussion on the flood situation in different parts of the country. Mr. Banka Behary Das. I may tell the House that it is fifteen minutes to the mover and ten minutes to every other hon. Member.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS (Orissa) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir we are all deeply distressed because of the flood situation that the entire country is facing now. One month back we had the floods in Assam, Rajasthan, Kerala and some other States. Now we have floods in Gujarat, Orissa and West Bengal. I am very sorry to say that after reading both the statements of the Minister regarding the flood situation in the country I feel disillusioned because the estimates given by him in both the statements are far from the real picture that we are witnessing today. The Minister must have seen during his visit to Gujarat that the situation in South Gujarat is very deplorable and the papers are carrying the news, including the Times of India that is being published in Ahmedabad, that the industrial life in South Gujarat has come to a standstill. Most of the communications have been disrupted and in many places the industries cannot run because the raw materials cannot come. I was astounded to read in today's papers that he has told in the other House that the death toll in Gujarat due to floods is a little more than 100 but the Chief Minister in his informal talks has stated that the death toll runs into four figures, about a thousand.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Will you shift a little to your right so that you will be before the mike?

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : And the number of cattle affected is much more than what has been given in the statement. I will not go into all these facts just now because we know when flood comes what happens to the property and lives of the people. And what happened in Gujarat this time is much more than what happened in the earthquake that took place in Maharashtra last year.

Sir, I come from a flood-stricken area which is perpetually affected by floods and I know the conditions that prevail when floods come, how people climb on to the roofs for shelter, how the cattle are washed away, how the crops are completely destroyed, and so I will not go into all these facts. But I would like to tell the Minister that it is not proper always to say that the floods are caused by nature because I may remind him when he was in Orissa last year visiting the flood-stricken areas of Balasore just south of Bengal he himself remarked that the aggravation was there because of the foolishness of the engineers. I am told that he himself stated that some of the projects have not been constructed properly, including the National Highway and that the plans and estimates were not being prepared according to the situation that prevails in particular areas, but according to the maps of the Survey Department which are prepared in an air-conditioned room. That was the remark he made last year. We also know the difficulties that the people have to face are mostly man-made in such situations. To a certain extent the havoc caused by the recent floods in different parts of the country was due to the fact that we had more rains during a short period and the rivers could not contain all the water that came in. This was the case in Gujarat and to a certain extent this was the case in other places also. But the Minister knows very well that the flood havoc that took place this time in Midnapore area of Bengal and North Orissa was also to a certain extent man-made. In spite of our request for the last ten years to the Government of India that both the Governments can sit together and do something for the discharge of the water in that area and also do something about the Suvarnarekha river, the Government of India has up till now paid no attention to this question and that has been so in most other places also.

Here I would draw the attention of the Minister to the fact that in 1954 definite measures of flood control were drawn up but within these 14 years hardly Rs. 180 crores have been spent on flood protection measures. It means on an average about Rs. 10 crores have been spent every year throughout India for flood protection measures. We know the situation in Assam and what happens when Brahmaputra is in flood. We know what

[Shri Banka Behary Das.] suffering the people of Assam have to undergo. We also know the conditions when Narmada and Tapti are in floods. Up till now the Government of India has not taken care to see that the flood control measures that were envisaged, which the different States had proposed to the Government of India, are seriously and sympathetically considered. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would also say that these flood control measures should also be seen in the interests of agriculture. They should not be thought of as merely unproductive measures because in the process agriculture would also get protected. In most of the big irrigation projects that have been undertaken sufficient attention has not been given to the question of drainage as a result of which when floods come there are more difficulties for the people and havoc also becomes more. As far as damages are concerned, they run into crores of rupees. The Minister has said that it is something like Rs. 50 crores according to the preliminary estimates and I think it is proper when the Fourth Five Year Plan is drawn up much more attention should be paid to the flood protection measures and I must say that this expenditure will be much more productive than is usually imagined. You will not only save the people from misery which they are facing today but you will also help in the process the agricultural development of this country.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I agree that the immediate programme must be for relief but how long can we feed the people with relief measures? We always suffer from floods in our country, particularly in my State, and I know the Government comes to the rescue of the people with some relief measures. Of course relief measures ought to be undertaken and I would ask the Minister when he gives figures in respect of requirements during such periods of flood so far as both short-term and long-term programmes are concerned, he should give more importance to the flood protection measures in the Fourth Five Year Plan. I also want to request the Minister because he is an engineer ...

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : And an engineer of repute.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Yes; an engineer of repute, I agree. So I would request him that whenever irrigation projects are taken up much more attention should be given to the drainage

schemes; otherwise they create more difficulties. Similarly, whenever National Highways are constructed, they must give more attention to construct safety bridges so that there can be more discharge within a short period of time. I would also say that we must think of permanent flood relief measures because sometimes we have famine and at that time we forget about the floods and when the flood comes we forget about the famine. There must be a perpetual programme. I agree with the Minister that in spite of all the best efforts we may have to face this problem some time. But I would ask this; within these twenty years many areas have been affected by floods. Have we been able to save them because of these flood protection measures? I will say that not much effort has been made in that direction. We only talk about flood protection measures when there is a greater havoc in different parts of the country. I will repeat here that when there were floods in Assam, the Prime Minister rushed to Assam to see the condition of the people there. It was proper for her to visit those areas but I am very sorry to say that in spite of the severe havoc that has occurred in Gujarat we have not seen the Prime Minister or the Deputy Prime Minister who belongs to that area . . .

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : He has already gone.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : When?

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : Today.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : He might be going just now because there had been criticism in different quarters that the Deputy Prime Minister who belongs to that State even after such . .

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : He was inspecting the drought affected areas in Andhra Pradesh and that was the original programme.

SHRI ARJUN ARORA (Uttar Pradesh) : He pays attention to both drought and flood.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Whenever some emergent situation arises in a particular case, one should rush there and the Prime Minister ought to have visited the place because Gujarat

has been now severely affected by this flood which was unprecedented in the history of Gujarat.

Therefore, I again request you that the Cabinet should decide that an All India Relief Fund should be established. I am not happy about the institution of the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. It is, so to say, a discretionary fund of the Prime Minister. Whenever there is a flood, whenever there is an earthquake, she would be doling out some money to this State or that State, but it should be done in a planned manner. So, I would say here and the Minister should tell us here that the Government of India will set up an All India Relief Fund. It will be permanent relief fund, so that whenever there is difficulty in any State, the relief fund can be utilised for the benefit of the people. I know of some States which are always affected by either flood or famine. There are some non-official relief organisations, but up till now neither any State Government nor the Government of India have bothered to institute such a relief fund, so that whenever there is any need for relief measures, the Government of India can come to their rescue in a big way.

Again, I will say that when a flood comes and the people are marooned, the question of rescuing them always arises. We know also how the havoc is aggravated when any protected area comes under flood because of the breaches caused by the flood. In perpetually flooded areas the people might have some arrangements of their own. They may have some boats. They may be used to floods to a certain extent. They may swim, but when any embankment breaks and also when there is any great flood in protected areas, then the problem becomes much more acute and the misery of the people also becomes more acute. I would request here that the Government of India should seriously think of it, that a section of the Army, which is permanently stationed, should be trained to deal with such a situation, so that they will go to the rescue of the marooned people and undertake some relief measures. Mr. Vice-Chairman, you very well know that sometimes America also suffers from flood and immediately the American Army goes into action and undertakes relief measures. It helps the marooned people to be rescued. So, I would request the hon. Minister here to seriously consider that

a section of the Army may be trained in this work, so that whenever we are in difficulty with floods they can be immediately sent to the particular area and they can go to the rescue of the marooned people.

Again, I would request the hon. Minister that non-official organisations should be encouraged. I know that even during British days some of the organisations were being given facilities by the Government. The Railways carried foodstuff and other materials free of freight. Now, when any organisation comes forward and requests for it, two or three months are taken to decide it. This is not good. When we are having floods and famines, relief measures have to be taken immediately. Here also the Government should have a policy of its own to come to the rescue of the non-official organisations, so that they can send relief articles without any freight being charged by the Railways. Also, he knows that during the British days, these big organisations, Chambers of Commerce and manufacturers organisations were allowed exemption from excise duty if they wanted to donate clothes and other things to the flood-stricken and famine-stricken people. The Government of India have forgotten it and I know even last year when there was a great cyclone in Orissa some of the manufacturers organisations in Bombay wanted to help the people with clothing. They were not exempted from excise duty because that policy has been abandoned in the last few years.

In the end, I would request the hon. Minister to do this because Orissa is a State which is always flood-stricken. Last year there was a great flood and then famine came in the same area. This time also flood has come in the same area. North Balasore, which is adjoining that area, is seriously affected by flood in West Bengal. It is a compact area and a solution can be there only if there is co-operation between the West Bengal Government and the Orissa Government. Under the guidance of the Government of India flood control measures can be undertaken. So, I would request him, because he knows that area very well. Last year he visited that area, the site near the Suvarnarekha river. The Government of India should seriously consider it. With the co-operation of all the three parties, viz., West Bengal, Orissa and the Government of India, some reservoir should

[Shri Banka Behary Das]

be constructed near the Suvarnarekha, so that the perpetual flood and the damage it causes in that area is stopped. It has been the granary of Orissa. It has always supplied rice to West Bengal for the last so many years. It should be protected from the ravages of flood. He knows also that there is the Khalajar embankment, which not only obstructs the drainage of West Bengal water but also obstructs, to a certain extent, the drainage of water in Orissa. There is always a dispute between West Bengal and Orissa because of this embankment. We want the embankment to be strengthened, while the West Bengal Government want that the embankment should be removed. I do not want that this dispute should perpetually continue. The people of West Bengal in the Midnapore area and the people of north Orissa in that area will be perpetually under conditions of flood, every now and then. This year the situation was so serious that not only the South Eastern Railway line was disrupted, but even Kharagpur town was affected. This is a serious matter with which the Minister should concern himself. I hope that this debate will lead to a situation in which the Government of India will set up a committee of experts and parliamentarians, so that they can go into the question and the Fourth Five Year Plan redrafted in such a way that flood-protection measures are given much more importance than they have been given up till now. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : I request hon. Members to keep to their time, so that a larger number of Members can take part in the discussion.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM (Assam) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, flood is a notorious problem in the country. Every year there has been considerable damage done to property, crops and there is also loss of human life. This year also there have been floods in Assam, West Bengal, Bihar, UP, Rajasthan and the last and perhaps the worst is Gujarat. We are extremely sorry for the victims of the flood and our sympathies go to them. But the problem of flood is unique in Assam. It is perpetually devastating and distressing and its cost is 15 per cent of the total income of the State. I will give you an idea of the damages caused by floods. This year an area of over 4 lakh hectares has been affected. Crops worth Rs. 8 crores have been da-

maged. Properties, including public utilities, worth over one crore have been damaged and there has been a toll of ten human lives. I will not bother you very much with the figures of damage to property. We have had floods in Assam from time immemorial. Since 1954 the problem has become so acute that it cannot be described in full. I will give you an idea, showing the figures of three typical years, as to what amount of damage has been caused by floods.

In 1954 an area of 12,150 square miles was affected; 32 human lives were lost; 16,500 cattle worth Rs. 12 lakhs were lost; crops worth Rs. 10.63 crores were damaged; the total loss for the year was Rs. 15.89 crores.

In 1962 an area of 6,266 square miles was affected; 115 human lives were lost; 3,384 cattle worth Rs. 32 lakhs were lost; crops worth Rs. 19.20 crores were damaged; the total loss for the year was Rs. 22.63 crores.

In 1966 an area of 6,941 square miles was affected; 56 human lives were lost; 6,848 cattle worth Rs. 13 lakhs were lost; crops worth Rs. 23.21 crores were damaged; the total loss for the year was Rs. 24.69 crores.

The area affected may appear to be small in comparison with other States because Assam is a very small State. The total area is 24,390 square miles of valley area which can be flooded. The other areas are covered by the hills. The gravity of the floods can be realised if we remember the narrowness of the valley in comparison with the mighty Brahmaputra river.

The total loss during the last fifteen years since 1954 is about Rs. 117 crores. I am particularly mentioning 1954 because, as I have been telling you, there have been floods before 1954 but they were not of such a devastating nature as they are now after 1954, after the great earthquake of 1950. You might remember that there was a great earthquake in 1950, and in that earthquake the whole topography of Assam was completely changed. There were great landslides in the NEFA area. As a result, the beds of the rivers in Assam had been raised. In some places the bed of the Brahmaputra was raised by as much as ten feet, and therefore now the rivers cannot hold as much water as they could before 1950. The total loss

during the last fifteen years from 1954 to 1968 is Rs. 117 crores, at an yearly average of Rs. 8 crores, against the State's yearly income of about Rs. 54 crores. This is nearly 15 per cent of the annual revenue of the State.

In addition, the communications are seriously disrupted every year and the whole State is cut off from the rest of the country for a pretty long time.

We are very grateful to the hon. Prime Minister who was pleased to visit Assam on the 8th July to see the flood affected areas, and we are also grateful to the hon. Minister of Industrial Development and the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Dr. Rao. We are also grateful to the Prime Minister for her grant of Rs. 1 lakh as a measure of flood relief. The Assam Government also has been granting flood relief to the affected people, but the State's resources are so meagre that actually they cannot tackle this big problem of flood. The then Union Minister of Irrigation and Power and the Minister of State of Irrigation and Power visited Assam to see the flood affected areas in 1966, and they felt the absolute necessity of a few dredgers for Assam to dredge the Assam rivers as a measure of flood control. We are told that there dredgers would be provided for Assam, and one immediately, but we do not know what happened to that proposal. Up till now Assam has received no dredger at all. We were also told that Barak project would be started immediately and that the Centre would assist the State Government in the execution of the project with the requisite finances, staff, etc. We learn that a comprehensive plan for flood control was drawn up with a total outlay of about Rs. 320 crores. But during the last 18 years only Rs. 26 crores were made available to the State Government. Therefore, practically the State Government has not been able to take up any permanent flood control measure in the State.

The Minister of Irrigation and Power has stated in his statement of 29th July :

"Extensive embankments have already been constructed along the Brahmaputra and its tributaries. From a total of 400 kms. in 1954, the embankments run to a length of 3,300 kms. now and have protected

large areas from inundation. It is proposed therefore to concentrate attention on raising and strengthening existing embankments and organising alert and timely maintenance. The total length of embankments in Assam amounts to 3600 kms. It is to be noted that nearly half out of the total length of 7,40 kms., of the embankments constructed all over the country since 1954 lies in Assam."

These facts may be true, but they are misleading, because although they may be half of the entire embankments in the country, they have to be compared along with the construction of canals and irrigations projects in other States. In Assam more of embankments are necessary and less of irrigation projects and canals. In other less rainy States like Rajasthan, Punjab, U.P., etc., less of embankments and more of irrigation projects are necessary. Therefore, what is most necessary in Assam today is, of course, I do not say that embankments are not necessary, they are very necessary and essential, they are as a matter of fact protecting the people quite a lot, but what is more useful is dredgers. Unless the rivers of Assam, particularly Brahmaputra, are dredged, they cannot carry the flood waters that come from the NEFA region. As I have already stated, the beds of the rivers have been raised in some places like ten feet. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister kindly to see that at least three dredgers are provided to Assam, and one immediately. I agree with Shri Banka Behary Das in his proposal that there should be a permanent Flood Relief Fund in the country so that it can make flood relief available in the time of need. I propose that there may be a Parliamentary Committee to go into the question of flood, as to what are the real causes of the floods and how best that problem can be solved.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, I have seen the document that has been placed in our hands by the Minister. It is too brief and I grant that he has not had much time to give us some more information, and while I notice that there is an assessment of damage of every other area, the assessment of of damage in Gujarat would not be

[Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel.]
made. I quite understand why it is so. I was in Ahmedabad yesterday and I tried to gather information. I happened to be staying where the Army people are staying, the Army sappers and miners, who are trying to build the roads. I tried to get information from them. They say with their utmost effort they will try to put the road communication in order in three or four days. But the rail communication is going to take at least one month, if not more. When I came to this House in 1958, the year after that Gujarat was visited by a similar flood, and particularly the city of Surat was at that time isolated. On the old wall of the city a red mark indicating the line up to which the water level rose was made. It is still there in certain places—the wall has not been broken. May I say that it is a mark not only of the ravage of the flood of the city

but of the neglect that the Congress Government have done to Gujarat? And I say this with all the emphasis that I can command. When the Congress Government came to power, they made their Plans and according to their Plans, they gave priority to the Tapti Project. A large sum of money was sanctioned for the Tapti Project. But a good bit of it went to Koyna without even the Assembly being told in Bombay when it was a composite State, without even the Cabinet taking a decision. But the fact is this—Dr. Rao and his Ministry can find out—that a good bit of the money went into Koyna, Gujarat did not get it. Then some make-shift arrangement of this Khakrapara Scheme was made. The scheme was very badly executed. Water levels of the canals were not properly taken. Dr. Rao has seen it, and he will corroborate it that Khakrapara, as I said, did initially more harm than good. Many places round about were waterlogged. It neither helped the farmer nor did it help the people who suffered from these ravages. This time the calamity is much more. All the areas between the two rivers, the Tapti and the Narmada, are waterlogged completely. If you fly in an aeroplane overhead, you will see nothing but water in these thirty or forty square mile stretch between these two rivers.

Estimates of loss of life have been made which will run into thousands, if not lakhs. The Government has not got the figures—I can understand it—

because the time factor is there. But the reason is this—the neglect of taking up these schemes.

Similarly, people in Orissa suffer. Orissa has the good fortune, like Gujarat, of having rivers but had the misfortune of having a bad administration, and the river valley projects that should have been taken up in Orissa have not been taken up in Orissa. They have large rivers, the Brahmani, the Vaitharani, the Swarnarekha, these rivers have risen. And yet, with these large rivers, it is surprising that every often there is drought; otherwise, there is flood. What is the Government for if the Government is not to look after these things? Dr. Rao's report gives us figures of damage and floods all over the country. Is this what we get after 20 years of planning by the Congress Government? And yet you want to waste our good money on Bokaro and other schemes, when the people are dying, and in regard to essential schemes what should be done is not done in time. It is the faulty planning of the Government that is responsible for all this damage, for all this suffering of the people to-day.

Sir, if anyone wants to take the trouble to read, Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda when he was in the Planning Commission flooded this Parliament and this country with reports, reports, reports galore but there was hardly any execution. I have found some reports put together on the flood situation and flood control programmes; programmes galore have been made. But have they been executed? There is very useful information in some of these reports. For instance, there were conferences and committees and they recommend that should be done and what should not be done:—

“(i) Greater attention to be paid to the work of collection of essential data;

(ii) Separate staff to be posted for the collection of data needed for a study of the flood problem with a view to suggest remedial measures;

(iii) Increasing the waterway in rail and road bridges where inadequate; . . .”

This is a very inadequate thing.

(iv) Improvising the drainage of low lying areas and providing outlets in continuous canal, rail and road embankments;

(v) Constructing flood control reservoirs;

(vi) Constructing marginal bunds;

(vii) Constructing diversion channels;

(viii) Soil conservation and land management measures in relation to flood control;

(ix) Instituting an adequate system of flood warning; . . ."

In this also the Government has been deficient.

"(x) Model experiments for some of the reaches of the problem rivers."

These things are there in Government reports only; only the execution is very very poor. They had one excuse when it was a foreign Government that these waterways were a problem for their railways and they put up huge embankments because the lines should not be washed away and they could act as bunds for diverting the water flowing through. That was the excuse that the foreign railway companies used to give. Does that excuse still stand? Certainly not. Today the railways are the Government of India's property and their management is with the Government of India. A Cabinet Minister, an important Cabinet Minister, presides over the destinies of the railway. Is it not possible for the Minister of Irrigation to co-ordinate with his colleague, the Minister of Railways, and see that this does not happen? Many things have happened since those days. Land acquisition is no more a problem. In spite of protest from many people, you enacted the Seventeenth Amendment. You used it ruthlessly in many places like Gujarat. Why don't you use it for things like this? If there are any embankments to be cleared, if any property is to be acquired which comes in your way of flood control measures, why don't you use this power and show us that you are serious about it? Therefore, I am putting the blame squarely and fully at the door of the Government.

I have mentioned it before in this House in detail, I will just refer to it

briefly. In Gujarat when we had the First Election, the carrot of the Tapti Scheme was dangled before the people saying that Gujarat was going to have this Tapti Scheme. And our wonderful Congressmen said, we are a large country and we cannot expect the Centre to give us the money. So, the people of Surat District must contribute the money. Such preposterous propositions were made when this scheme was proposed and the people of Surat District contributed liberally. Sir, I happen to be connected with an insurance company which has a large business. I said, I shall give, let me underwrite it for you. The Finance Minister said, "No, that insurance company gets money from all over India." I said, "Don't you see? According to the proportion of business in Gujarat, let us do it." "No, we will use it for other purposes. You must get us money. The people of Surat District must get us money for these things." Such preposterous obstructions have been put in the case of many people. This is an example. Indeed, what would happen if you said, when the Koyna disaster came, that the people of Koyna should pay. No one has suggested that. But it is the Congress Ministers that bring out such absurd things and put such ideas in the minds of the people.

Now, I was saying that this was the first carrot at the First Election. But yet that scheme has not been completed. Dr. Rao should be able to tell us—has the Tapti scheme been completed? No. A make-shift scheme of Khakrapar project has been done and was so badly done as I have mentioned that I will not repeat it. At the time of the Second Election, the Mahi Scheme was brought forward and the Mahi water would go not only to the district of Mahi there, but roundabout and to Ahmedabad, and even to the Rann of Kutch. Such preposterous hopes were given to the people and what did they do? They dug up huge canals. But where is the water? The reservoir has not yet been completed, it is pending. The slopes provided in the canals were so fast and rapid that water used to go so rapidly. Dr. Rao must have seen it when he went there, and this was pointed out to the Government that this will ruin everything, the water will flow rapidly. "Oh! it does not matter, we will line it with cement". So, the Mahi canals are lying with cement lining; a few crores of rupees have been

[Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel.] spent on lining the Mahi canals with cement. But where is the water? The reservoir has not yet been completed. Before the last two General Elections, Prime Minister Nehru was taken to Gujarat to lay the foundation-stone of the Tapti Scheme. They said, the Tapti scheme was going to do everything. But that foundation-stone is just there ...

AN HON. MEMBER: Still there?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : ... in the jungles. And quarters were built immediately for the staff.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: The Narmada.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: The Narmada, I beg your pardon. At the time of the Third General Election, Prime Minister Nehru was taken there, the foundation-stone of the Narmada Scheme was laid. Quarters were built for the staff. Some staff was recruited. And that is where we stand today. That election has gone and other elections have followed. But no result. Why? It is because the Government is indifferent. Why does not the Government go ahead with this? They say, we have no money. Where do you get money to spend on the Bokaro Plant and on all your show-pieces? Is it necessary to have such show-pieces when people are in this condition, when floods come every year? Then, of course, there is this old quarrel. For that also the genesis is the Congress Government. One Congress Government says that they want this scheme while another from the same State says that they would not allow because this is their water. If that is so, why do you not keep your water within your State and prevent it from doing all the damage to Gujarat? I hope Mr. K. L. Rao will advise them about that. From the amount of damage that has been done in Gujarat people not only from Gujarat but the Central Engineers have been advising—Dr. K. L. Rao will corroborate it—that the Narmada has so much water that it cannot be used by Madhya Pradesh or anybody else. Now if Gujarat wants to use it, it will benefit not only Gujarat but the whole of India. That scheme should not be delayed by a single day. Dr. K. L. Rao should advise the Government of Gujarat and the Central Government to go ahead with it.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, the difficulty is this that the Government is drifting when it comes to execution. They decide on schemes which are their pet schemes like the Bokaro Steel Plant. They must make it because we have to please Russia. That is the trouble. When the people of Gujarat are concerned, it does not matter. But what will happen if Mr. Kosygin is displeased?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): It is time to wind up.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I would request the hon'ble Minister and his department to study these reports that have been flooded on to us galore and see what flood control measures they have indicated, immediate measures, long-term measures and what should be done in the intervening period, so that when such floods come we are better prepared to meet the situation. We cannot today blame the Railways for the embankments. (*Time Bell rings*). Now the State Governments are building roads. It is a mercy that they are building roads. Why should they build roads which become embankments? It does not cost very much to provide enough culverts. Now for smaller areas there is the very simple method of sticking hume pipes. It is a very simple way. You can stick several hume pipes at different places and allow the flood waters to pass. It is because of roads and the Railways that the people have to suffer from floods because huge embankments act as dams and blocks the natural flow of water from high levels into the sea. I hope Dr. K. L. Rao and his Ministry will look into this. I know he understands this more than anybody else as he is an engineer. I hope his knowledge as an engineer has not been clouded by what he has been learning in the last few years as a Congress Minister. I hope he will leave out the Congress politics and keep clear the knowledge that he has and do what is good to the country. Like everybody who has knowledge, I think he has the courage to stand up and tell the country that this is what should be done. If any Government like the Madhya Pradesh Government is not behaving, he should be able to find ways to make them behave. If the Narmada scheme had been taken in hand, it would have been completed in six years and there

would have been much relief because a considerable amount of work would have been done. We would not perhaps have got the advantage of the water storage but at least there would have been diversion of water and storage of enough water to prevent floods where surplus water is there and this damage would not have been there.

Sir, I hope the hon'ble Minister will look into this and make his recommendations to the Government so that we do not have to go in for such discussions again and again.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT (Haryana): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would not agree with much of the criticism of Mr. Dahyabhai Patel because, I am sorry, he is so much obsessed with the Congress in his mind that he cannot think straight.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Have you read all these reports? They have produced nothing.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I know, Mr. Vice-Chairman, we have one of the eminent engineers as our Minister of Power and Irrigation. He has been heading the Ministry for the last two years and we know the drive and dynamism he has brought in the Ministry. I know with how much zeal and energy he has been trying to solve the problem. I know that difficulties are there. I will myself bring before you some of the difficulties that the Government is faced with. He is an Engineer Minister in the Congress Government. That does not mean he is a Congressman and not an engineer. Mr. Vice-Chairman, he is a true engineer

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Mr. Krishan Kant, he is first a Congress Minister and then an engineer. You go and ask him in his Chamber and he will tell you that what I am saying is right.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Mr. Lokanath, the Congress always attracts intellectuals.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Mr. Vice-Chairman, the story of floods is as old as the human civilisation and as creative energies, science and technology have been utilised the world over, we are also trying to utilise these new creative processes so that the ravages of

flood can be controlled. Of course, floods cannot be controlled because floods depend upon rains. And since which is a natural phenomenon cannot be controlled, we can only think what we can do to reduce the ravages and damages which the floods cause...

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: We can do something to control the floods before they come.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: I would, in the first instance, refer to my small State of Haryana. I am sorry, Sir, that in this report under the statement on flood damage, against Haryana it is given as nil whereas even in today's 'Tribune' it is said that:—

"One hundred and seventeen villages and 73,537 acres of land—17,243 acres of crop area—have been affected by floods in Hissar district. . . The Commissioner of Ambala Division said 38 villages, 22,244 acres of land and 37,000 acres of crop area had been affected in other regions of the State."

I am sorry that the hon'ble Minister has not been able to find out the extent of ravage in Haryana so that it could be remedied.

Sir, I know and the hon'ble Minister also knows that Haryana is deficient in water but we get floods in this area. It will be better if we could control these floods and use these waters for our irrigation purposes. There are a number of schemes under consideration. One of them is the Ghaggar scheme. It is a costly scheme. But if it is properly tapped and action is taken on it, I hope floods can be controlled and irrigation water can be given to the State of Haryana. Similarly, there is the Kishau dam scheme on the river Jamuna which I hope the Hon'ble Minister will expedite.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, most of the rivers pass through so many States as happens in Gujarat. We have Flood Control Boards in the different States. I want to know whether there is any co-ordination between the different State Flood Control Boards. For example, may I know whether there is proper co-ordination between the Gujarat Flood Control Board and the Madhya Pradesh Flood Control Board because all the rivers, Narmada, Tapti

[Shri Krishan Kant]
or Mahi come from Madhya Pradesh.

I am sorry, Sir, that we have no effective national plan on flood control. In 1954, it was estimated that a sum of Rs. 1,200 crores would be spent on flood control. We in both the Houses know that when Mr. Gulzarilal Nanda was the Minister of Irrigation and Power he said that this flood menace would be fought on a war footing. I do not know whether it is still being fought on a war footing or not because out of Rs. 1,200 crores only Rs. 200 crores have been spent on flood control. Is this the way to fight floods on a war footing? May I know from the hon. Minister and the Government whether this is the way in which we should face these floods again and again?

Now, another thing which I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is that this problem of controlling the floods is not a State problem. It is an inter-State problem, and it has to be tackled on that basis and not on the basis of one river, one problem and one solution, because they flow through various States. So the main question is: Have we drawn up a co-ordinated plan? Now, the hon. Minister has admitted that there was no warning system. His statement laid on the Table of the House, in regard to Madhya Pradesh says:

"Due to widespread rainfall in the catchment from August 4 on wards, there was a rise in the level of the Tapti by more than 9 metres above the warning stage at Burhanpur on August 5."

In regard to Gujarat, he has said :

"Tapti recorded the highest level of 11.6 metres at Surat on August 6."

So it means that there was a difference of one day or so. I do not know whether there were any special arrangements for warning or not, but there were police stations and science has given us the wireless. Could not wireless messages be sent from one place to another? The police could have utilised the wireless to give warning to the people. If that had been done, the people would not have been taken un-awares and be in this miserable position to-day, and the forward-going

State of Gujarat will not be going behind by a number of years. I could like to know from the hon. Minister who were the officers in charge in the catchment areas in different States who did not care to inform the people living in those areas about the floods. Why should not action be taken against them? Has any action been taken against those officers? If action has not been taken against them up till now, I would request the hon. Minister to see to it that the State Governments do take action against them.

Then, may I know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that there is a Central Control Board in Delhi and they have been giving technical advice to different States? If so, what is the percentage of implementation of that advice? If it is not implemented, what is the use of the Central Control Board here and the State Boards in different States? Does he not think that the time has come when there should be proper co-ordination or there should be a proper machinery at the Centre to see that the technical advice given by the Centre is properly implemented so that warnings can be given, floods can be controlled and the misery of the people on account of floods is reduced to the maximum extent possible? May I know from him categorically to-day whether he would think of setting up a permanent machinery to see that proper implementation is done? Besides the Committee of Members of Parliament as has been suggested in the other House and in this House, I would like to know whether a permanent machinery will be created directly under him—because the Committee of Members of Parliament cannot go into it from day to day—so that day to day reports come in and control can be maintained.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, one of the biggest approaches to flood control is afforestation. But I am told that in the catchment areas of Madhya Pradesh, deforestation has been done. Is this the way to control floods? There are a number of ways to control the floods like afforestation, soil conservation, construction of embankments and channels and proper controls at the mouth of the river near the sea and so on. I would like to know what the Government of India has done during these so many years. Another thing, Mr. Vice-Chairman. You will find

that along the course of the same river, there are areas which has drought and there are areas which have floods. So there should be a multi-purpose approach to this problem of the rivers—whether it is afforestation or flood control or irrigation—so that there is no drought on the one hand and there is no difficulty on account of floods on the other.

Lastly, we find that in certain riverbed areas, people come and settle. In Cornwallis' time, settlement or encroachment in those areas was prohibited by law. Probably that Act is not being applied all over the country. We should not allow people to go and settle in those areas by the side of the river which are liable to be affected by floods.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I will conclude with an appeal to the hon Minister to let us know what steps are being taken in Gujarat to remedy the damage and misery caused to the people there. I would also like to know what steps the Government is taking to repair the National Highway and to see that the Ankleshwar oil fields and gas and other industries resume full work quickly . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M P BHARGAVA): There is something like time control.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Now in the Plan there are 12 dams on Narmada, 11 dams falling in the area of Madhya Pradesh; about them there is no conflict. May I know why work is not being started on those 11 dams. About the other dam in Gujarat, we can start later on. As far as the Tapti is concerned, there are two or three dams of which Ukai is the most important and more money should go into it.

श्री निरंजन वर्मा (मध्य प्रदेश): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, बाढ़ के संबंध में जो विवाद हो रहा है उसके संदर्भ में ऐसा मालूम पड़ता है कि माननीय सदस्यों का ध्यान अधिकांश गुजरात, मध्य प्रदेश की ही तरफ गया है। इसका कारण यह है कि ताप्ती, महानदी और नर्मदा की नदियों में भीषण वर्षा की वजह से बहुत पानी आ गया है जिससे इन

नदियों में बाढ़ आ गई है। बाढ़ पहले आती थी या नहीं, लेकिन खेती के काम में हमारा यहां यह कहा जाता है “पर्जन्य अभिवर्षतु”

इस प्रकार के उदाहरण मिलते हैं कि खेती के लिए अगर वर्षा हो तो उसको अच्छा माना जाता है। आज के सम्भाषणों में और श्री कृष्णकान्तजी के सम्भाषण में हमें बहुत आनंद आया। उन्होंने श्री डा. ह्याभाई पटेल को चुभते हुए शब्दों में व्यंग किया और उन सरीखे भौतिक व्यक्ति ने एक बात स्वीकार की। उन्होंने कहा कि नदियों में जो पानी आता है वह बादल से आता है और बादल से पानी का गिरना यह प्राकृतिक कारणों से होता है। अर्थात् यह प्रकृति का चमत्कार है। उन्होंने अपने भाषण में यह भी कहा कि इसको किसी न किसी प्रकार से कंट्रोल किया जाना चाहिये।

मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि इस वर्ष दो-तीन नदियों में बाढ़ आई हुई है लेकिन पूरे भाग्यवर्ष में गत 6, 7 वर्षों से बाढ़ से बिनाशलीला व्याप्त है। जब कहीं घर सूखा पड़ता है तो हम सोचते हैं कि पानी पड़ जाय और जब कहीं अधिक पानी गिरता है तो हम सोचते हैं कि बाढ़ को किस प्रकार से रोका जा सके। हमारे मित्र श्री डा. ह्याभाई पटेल ने शासन के ऊपर जो लाइन लगाया है, उस लाइन के सबंध में मैं एक घटना का जिक्र योग्य मंत्री जी के सामने रखना चाहता हूँ इस समय हम यह समझते हैं कि इंजीनियरों के स्कूल से हम सब काम कर सकते हैं और कोई कारण नहीं कि हम बाढ़ पर भी नियंत्रण न पा सकें। मध्य प्रदेश और राजस्थान की सीमा पर एक नदी बहती है जिसका नाम चम्बल है। इस चम्बल नदी में बहुत बाढ़ आती है और उस पर नियंत्रण पाने के लिए, वहाँ पर खेती के लिए पानी पहुँचाने के लिए तथा बिजली प्राप्त करने के लिए एक डैम बनाने की बात सोची

[श्री निरंजन वर्मा]

गई। इंजीनियरों ने, कांग्रेस सरकार के अंतर्गत काम कर रहे इंजीनियरों ने—वहां पर इस चम्बल पर एक बांध बनाना चाहा और उस बांध पर 90 लाख रुपया खर्च करने के पश्चात् वह इस परिणाम पर पहुंची कि जिस स्थान पर बांध बांधना था वह स्थान उसके लिए ठीक नहीं है। फिर मध्य प्रदेश को छोड़कर राजस्थान की सीमा पर 3 मील दूर दूसरा बांध बनाया। और वह जो दूसरा बांध बनाया वह भी अपनी जगह पर सही नहीं बना और उसके कारण चम्बल की बिजली जो सब जगह जाती है वह तीन चार वर्षों से बहुत क्षेत्रों को नहीं मिल रही अर्थात् जो कैचमेंट एरिया है उस को नहीं लिया गया। अब इस में कांग्रेस सरकार के अंतर्गत काम कर रहे इंजीनियरों को दोष न दिया जाय तो किस को दोष दिया जाना चाहिये? हम समझते हैं कि सरकार के इंजीनियरिंग विभाग में कहीं न कहीं इसी प्रकार की कठिनाई अवश्य है।

दूसरी बात, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश की सीमा पर एक बहुत बड़ी नदी बहती है जिस का नाम बेतवा है। उस में पिछले समय बारम्बार बाढ़ आयी। एक स्थान पर बाढ़ आती तो उस से हजारों गांव बह गये। लेकिन जिस स्थान पर सरकार ने माताटीला बांध बनाया है वहां बाढ़ का पानी भरा ही नहीं और चम्बल में जैसी कठिनाई हुई उसी तरह से बेतवा में पानी की कठिनाई के कारण उसके कई मोहरे बंद करने पड़े, नहरों में पानी नहीं हुआ और उसका पानी जो ग्वालियर वगैरह में दिया जाने वाला था, वहां पानी और बिजली की बहुत कठिनाई हुई। इस तरह से इन दोनों उदाहरणों से इस परिणाम पर पहुंच जायेगा कि कोई न कोई इंजीनियरिंग कार्य-क्षमता में कमी अवश्य है। अगर वह कमी न होती तो यह कोई कारण नहीं था कि एक ही नदी में एक ही स्थान पर बहुत बाढ़ आती

है और दूसरे स्थान पर उस का कैचमेंट एरिया सूखा पड़ा रहता है।

अपने योग्य मंत्री जी से मेरी प्रार्थना है कि वह भारतवर्ष जैसे बड़ देश की बाढ़ के बारे में बहुत सोच सकते हैं, लेकिन क्या वह ऐसा नहीं सोच सकते कि संसार में एक स्थान ऐसा भी है जो समुद्र से नीचा है। वह देश हालैंड है। वहां जब बाढ़ का पानी आता है तो नीचे स्थानों में भर जाता है और जब शत्रु देश उस पर आक्रमण करते हैं उस समय भी वहां के निवासी उस बाढ़ के पानी को रोकने का प्रयत्न करते हैं और उन्होंने इसके लिये हालैंड के किनारे किनारे बड़े बड़े सीमाबंध बना रखे हैं जिन के कारण बाढ़ का पानी वहां के प्रदेश में घुस नहीं पाता। क्या हमारी सरकार, भारत सरकार हालैंड में जा कर अध्ययन करने के लिये इंजीनियरों को नहीं भेज सकती। इसमें बहुत बड़े खर्च की बात नहीं है। यहां पर अरबों रुपयों की योजनाओं को कार्यान्वित किया जाता है, करोड़ों रुपया नष्ट किया जाता है। और इतना नुकसान सहने के पश्चात् अगर कोई लाभ हो जाय तो अच्छी बात है लेकिन इतना विनाश होने के बाद भी जब लाभ न होकर हानि ही होती है तो यह छोटा सा मसला है। कुछ आदमियों को वहां भेज कर उसका अनुसंधान किया जाय, अध्ययन किया जाय और अपने देश और प्रदेश को लाभ पहुंचाया जाय इसके लिए हमारा मंत्रालय किसी तरह सचेष्ट नहीं है।

कुछ कठिनाइयां और भी हैं। हमारा मंत्रालय कुछ क्षेत्रों के बारे में अपना सही दृष्टिकोण नहीं रखता। बेतवा नदी में पिछले समय जो बाढ़ आयी थी तो इतना हाहाकार मचा था कि शायद उस समय ब्रह्मपुत्र की बाढ़ से भी इतना हाहाकार नहीं मचा था। ब्रह्मपुत्र के किनारे जितने नगर और गांव स्थित हैं वे दूरी पर स्थित हैं, लेकिन मध्य प्रदेश में भोपाल के पास जब बाढ़

आयी बेटवा में तो एक मील में औसतन 700 घरों का निवास-स्थान होने के कारण वहाँ बहुत अधिक घनी बस्ती से वह बाढ़ का पानी निकला और बहुत से लोगों की जान-माल को उस से नुकसान पहुँचा। तो क्या यह सरकार यह नहीं कर सकती थी कि एक सही दृष्टिकोण से वह योजना बनाती। 6 साल से या 10 साल से यह योजना बन रही थी और हम यह रोज सुनते हैं कि राजनैतिक गतिविधियों के कारण जो प्रान्त वाले उन पर हावी हो जाते हैं उन प्रान्तों के सुख और समृद्धि के लिये, उनको खुश करने के लिये वहाँ की योजनाओं को तो हाथ में ले लिया जाता है, लेकिन अच्छी योजनाएँ जो अत में सिचाई के लिये लाभप्रद ह उनको छोड़ दिया जाता है। क्या यह बात अपने स्थान पर सही नहीं है ?

इस के अतिरिक्त मैं एक बात और कहना चाहूँगा। हमारे सभ्रान्त मित्रों की ओर से एक बात की ओर इशारा किया गया है और बार बार कई मित्रों के संबन्ध में यह बात आ रही है कि नर्मदा के पानी को ले कर मध्य प्रदेश और गुजरात में एक विवाद चल रहा है और संभवतः मध्य प्रदेश वालों का ईस में बहुत बड़ा हाथ है जिस के कारण यह योजना कार्यान्वित नहीं की जा रही है। पिछले समय में हम ने इस बारे में बहुत सा प्रकाश डाला है। हमारे मित्र डा. ह्याभाई जी को भी इस बारे में संदेह है। उनको और दूसरे साथियों को मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वास्तव में मध्य प्रदेश का इतना कसूर नहीं है। आप खयाल कीजिये कि अगर नर्मदा नदी को काट कर उस में नीचे उतर कर गुजरात के क्षेत्र में बाध बना दिया जाय तो उस का जो कैचमेंट एरिया है मध्य प्रदेश में जिसमें धान और गेहूँ की फसल होती है, वह मध्य प्रदेश का सारा का सारा क्षेत्र जलमग्न हो जाता है। तो लाभ तो उस का गुजरात को मिलेगा लेकिन हानि पल्ले में पड़ेगी

मध्य प्रदेश वालों के। इस लिये मध्य प्रदेश वाले उस का कभी कभी विरोध करते हैं लेकिन . . .

श्री अकबर अली खान : बीच का रास्ता निकालिये न।

श्री निरंजन वर्मा : मैं अपने मित्र श्री अकबर अली खान की बात से सहमत हूँ कि बीच का रास्ता निकाला जाय और वह बीच का रास्ता यह है कि उस की जो ऊँचाई है उस को कुछ घटा दिया जाय, हमारे कैचमेंट के एरिया को बढ़ा दिया जाय ताकि यह जो बारबार नर्मदा नदी में फलड आता रहता है जिस के कारण गुजरात के मित्रों को बहुत कष्ट होता है और गुजरात चूँकि हमारे देश का समृद्धशाली प्रान्त है इस लिये अगर उस को कष्ट होता है तो मध्य प्रदेश वालों को दुख होना स्वाभाविक है, वह फलड आना कम हो सके। इन योजनाओं को हमारा मन्त्रालय अपने हाथ में लेगा ऐसी मुझे आशा है।

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA (Assam) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, the damage caused by the floods this year in Assam has been explained by my friend, Shri Baharul Islam. So I need not repeat the same. But I must say that floods have become an annual feature in Assam. The annual rainfall ranges from 70" to 250" and about 80 per cent. of the rainfall is concentrated during the four monsoon months beginning with June, when devastating floods are taking place causing extensive damage and dislocation. This year already three floods have taken place in Assam, once in May, another flood in June and the third flood in the middle of July. There is no dearth of programme and policy on behalf of the Government to control floods but what is lacking is implementation. As early as in 1954 the Government of India announced a national flood control policy, viz. the immediate, the short-term and the long-term.

According to the statement of the Union Minister for Irrigation and Power dated September 3, 1954, the immediate phase was to extend over a

[Shri M. Purkayastha]
 period of two years from that date, devoted to intensive investigation and collection of data. In this phase it was envisaged that comprehensive plans would be drawn up and designs and estimates prepared for short-term measures of flood protection. Some measures such as revetments, construction of spurs and even embankments were to be adopted immediately at selected sites. During the second phase which was to be taken to start with the second year and extend to 6th or 7th year, flood control measures such as embankments and channel improvements were to be undertaken. This type of protection was applicable to a major portion of the areas now subject to floods. The third phase would relate to selected long-term measures such as the construction of storage reservoirs on tributaries of certain rivers and additional embankments, wherever necessary. This might take three to five years. According to that national flood control policy only short-term measures were taken in Assam; no long-term measures were taken in Assam. After ten years of the announcement of that policy, in 1964 a Ministers' Committee on Flood Control went into this question again and it recommended as follows :

"Notwithstanding Central assistance in the past, the fact remains that the flood problem in Assam is far from having been solved. More than 2000 miles of embankments have been constructed on the Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries since 1954. More than 385 miles of drainage channels have been excavated. Works to protect a number of important towns have been completed. Nevertheless, the damage due to inundation and erosion in Assam remains very large causing not only distress to the local population but disruption of communications and other economic enterprises in a strategically situated border areas. In spite of the fact that gigantic multi-purpose projects have been built in various other States, there has not been a single multi-purpose reservoir project taken up in Assam during any of the three Five Year Plans that have gone by. There is a very strong case for Central assistance, nay, participation in the flood control efforts in Assam. Elsewhere in the Report we have

recommended the construction in the Barak of a multi-purpose Reservoir and the investigation of the storages on the Manas and the Subansiri in the Fourth Plan. Assam has suggested that the construction of the Barak Reservoir project and other investigation works should be centrally sponsored and financed. We recommend the acceptance of these proposals by the Union Government. We would also recommend to the Central Government to undertake all other investigations on their own besides help Assam State in the matter of recruitment of the trained technical personnel from outside so that in the very near future Assam is helped to have a much stronger Department of Flood Control."

Much of the damage in Cachar is caused by Barak. As early as in 1960 Dr. Rao, who was then an engineer in the CWPC visited the Barak Dam site and again taking all the factors into account and the necessity to mitigate sufferings of the Cachar District people, he recommended the construction of this Barak Dam. Since then 8 years have passed but nothing has been done. In 1966 there was heavy flood in Cachar and Dr Rao, who was then the Minister of Irrigation and Power, at the Centre, visited Cachar and at that time also he recommended to the Union Ministry of Irrigation that they should impress on the Planning Commission about the necessity of undertaking this project in the next one or two years. Since then two years have elapsed but nothing has been done. So I would urge on the Minister for Irrigation now to take up this Barak Project immediately so that the people of Cachar are saved from these floods.

Similarly I would ask him to complete the investigations about the Brahmaputra river which is causing severe damage to Assam. Assam which could be a surplus State in foodgrains, is now deficit in food because of these floods every year. So I urge that the Assam flood control measures may be taken up at a national plan and all Central assistance should be given to the Assam Government.

श्री जी० बरबोरा (आसाम) : उपसमाध्यक्ष महोदय, बाढ़ से हिन्दुस्तान तबाह हो रहा है। आसाम जैसा गरीब और पिछड़ा हुआ प्रान्त तबाह हो ही रहा है। बाढ़ के इस

प्रकोप में जब लाखों करोड़ों लोग बर्बाद हो रहे हैं और हम लोग जब सरकार की आलोचना करते हैं तो मिनिस्टर लोग और सरकारी अफसर लोग अक्सर यह कहा करते हैं कि भाई, यह तो दैवी प्रकोप है और दैवी प्रकोप पर सरकार का कोई कंट्रोल नहीं होता। मुझे याद है कि 1946 में गांधी जी ने बताया था कि कोई सरकार अगर बाढ़ को दैवी प्रकोप बताती है और अपनी जिम्मेदारी टाकना चाहती है तो वह सरकार पापी है। इसी लिये मैं यह जरूर कहूंगा कि आज हिन्दुस्तान में जो सरकार है 20 या 22 साल से यह सरकार पापी है और यह सरकार बाढ़ को रोकने में और बाढ़ के प्रकोप से देश की लाखों करोड़ों जनता को बचाने के लिये कुछ कर नहीं पायी है।

जो यहाँ आंकड़े छाप कर बाट गये हैं उनमें बताया गया है कि नुकसान सिर्फ 25 करोड़ रुपये का है। इसमें आसाम, केरल, राजस्थान, वेस्ट बंगाल और कुछ हद तक त्रिपुरा के आंकड़े हैं, और बाकी प्रान्तों के आंकड़े नहीं हैं। मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इन आंकड़ों को जुटाने में आप के दफ्तर की कोई कम-जोरी रही या प्रान्तीय सरकारों ने आप को सहयोग नहीं दिया जिस से आप यह आंकड़े जुटा नहीं पाये और जो कुछ भी आप ने जुटाया उसमें बहुत गलतियाँ हैं। जहाँ 20, 25 करोड़ का नुकसान होगा वहाँ 3, 4 करोड़ का बताया गया है। जहाँ 20, 25 लाख पर आफत आयी होगी, वहाँ 5, 7 लाख बताये गये हैं। इसमें जगहें भी बहुत गलत हैं जैसे यहाँ बताया गया है :

“There was a breach on the left bank of the Bhogdoi embankment on August 7 in Lakhimpur District . . .”

यह भोगडोई इम्बैंकमेंट लखीमपुर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में नहीं है। यह जोरहाट सब-डिवीजन के शिव-सागर जिले में है। आप लोग अगर आसाम सरकार को भेजेंगे और आसाम सरकार

जिला के अधिकारियों को भेजेगी तो उस का जवाब आप लोगों को मिलना मुश्किल होगा। ऐसी गलत रिपोर्ट नहीं आनी चाहिये।

इसमें बताया गया है कि हिन्दुस्तान में बाढ़ रोकने के लिए जो कुछ करना चाहिये उसमें 22 साल में आप सिर्फ 25 फीसदी काम कर पाये हैं। वह 25 फीसदी भी नहीं होगा, लेकिन आप के आंकड़ों को भी मान लिया जाय तो इसका मतलब यह है कि 22 साल में हिन्दुस्तान में बाढ़ रोकने में आप लोग 25 फीसदी काम कर पाये हैं और बाढ़ को रोकने के लिये सारा प्रबन्ध करने में इस तरह आप को 75 या 80 वर्ष या इस से भी ज्यादा समय लगेगा। और तब तक हिन्दुस्तान की गरीब जनता बर्बाद हो जायगी। इस लिये हमारी सरकार से मांग है कि वह जल्दी से जल्दी बाढ़ को रोकने की व्यवस्था करे।

सबारे में आसाम में, केरल में, राजस्थान में जो कुछ नुकसान हुआ है सिर्फ उतना ही नहीं है। हिन्दुस्तान के सभी प्रान्तों में नुकसान हुआ है। मैं जब यहाँ राज्य सभा के लिये आ रहा था तो ट्रेन से आने के वक्त देखा कि बिहार में भी सैकड़ों मील एरिया नाब में डूबा हुआ था।

यह जो बाढ़ में लोग तबाह होते हैं उनके लिये जो रिलीफ वगैरह की व्यवस्था की जाती है वह भी काफी नहीं है। अभी हाल ही में आसाम में इंदिरा जी गयी थी। यहाँ बघाई दी गयी है कि इंदिरा जी आसाम गयी लेकिन उनका प्रोग्राम वहाँ ढाई दिन का था और वह उसे एक दिन में खत्म कर के चली आयी। एक दिन में हैलीकाप्टर से या हवाई जहाज से वे क्या देख पायीं यह मुझे मालूम नहीं, लेकिन मुझे यह मालूम है कि हर साल आसाम में बाढ़ आती है और बाढ़ में लाखों, करोड़ों लोग बर्बाद होते हैं। दिल्ली से कोई हैलीकोप्टर में वहाँ पहुंचता है और वैसे ही कुछ इधर उधर देख कर लौट आता है। ब्रह्मपुत्र की घाटी में कोई

[श्री० जी० बरबोरा]

स्थायी फ्लड कंट्रोल मेजर्स लेने चाहिए यह भांग आसाम के लोगों की काफी दिनों से है और वह आप लोग अभी तक कर नहीं पाये हैं। बीच में कभी कभी बताया जाता है कि कोई ड्रेजर भेज कर के ब्रह्मपुत्र नदी का जो बस है उस को साफ करने का कुछ प्रबन्ध किया जायगा। वह भी आप लोग नहीं कर पाये हैं। रिलीफ की भी जो थोड़ी बहुत व्यवस्था होती है उस में भी मझे मालूम है कि बहुत पार्टी पालिटिक्स चलती है। किसानों को कुछ देना हो, रुपया बांटना हो या अनाज बांटना हो तो बहुत बार हम लोगों ने देखा है कि जो कांग्रेसी नेता लोग हैं उन के जरिये लोगों को यह सब दिया जाता है। इस से होता यह है कि जो तबाह हुए हैं उन को समय पर कुछ नहीं मिलता। मैं चाहूंगा कि रिलीफ के मामले में आप लोग राजनीति मत लाइये और जो लोग गरीब हैं, जो तबाह हुए हैं उनकी भलाई के लिये आप काम कीजिये। (Interruptions)

सारे देश में 20, 22 साल में जब हम लोगों का इतना नुकसान हो गया है तो जल्दी से जल्दी ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था होनी चाहिये कि हम इसको रोक सकें। इसी लिये मेरा यह सुझाव है कि जल्दी से जल्दी एक फ्लड कंट्रोल कमीशन बनाया जाय। किसी पार्लियामेंटरी कमेटी से कोई काम होता नहीं है। ऐसी कमेटी हम लोग बनाते हैं और उस की रिपोर्ट छप जाती है, लेकिन उस को हम कभी कामयाब नहीं कर पाते हैं। इसलिए एक हाई-पावर फ्लड कंट्रोल कमीशन इस देश में बनाया जाय जिसके जरिए बाढ़ को रोकने के लिए पूरा प्रबन्ध किया जाय। साथ ही साथ म यह भी बताना चाहूंगा कि बाढ़ का मसला अलग से देखने से हल नहीं होगा। बाढ़ के साथ फूड मिनिस्ट्री का सम्बन्ध है, रेलवे का सम्बन्ध है, ट्रांसपोर्ट का सम्बन्ध है। तो इन सभी के नुमाइन्दों को लेकर एक कमीशन हो ताकि जब बाढ़ को रोकने का काम हो या बाढ़ में तबाह

लोगों को सहायता देने का काम हो तो जल्दी से काम किया जा सके।

इस सरकार से मैं यह जरूर निवेदन करूंगा कि जल्दी से जल्दी सारे हिन्दुस्तान में, सब प्रान्तों में बाढ़ से जिन लोगों का नुकसान हुआ है उन लोगों को कुछ रिलीफ पहुंचाया जाय और जो लोग किसान हैं, जिनकी खेती की जमीन बर्बाद हुई है उनको किसी और जगह में बैठाने की व्यवस्था की जाय।

बाढ़ के साथ ही साथ कटाई की समस्या है। बहुत से शहर, बहुत से गांव नदी के बीच में चले गए हैं, जैसे आसाम में डिब्रूगढ़ एक सुन्दर शहर है, काफी दिनों तक उसके बाढ़ में बर्बाद होने के बाद अब कुछ रोकने का प्रबन्ध किया गया है, लेकिन अभी भी हम लोगों ने देखा है कि जोरहाट और पलाशबारी में बाढ़ से कटाई हो रही है। सारे हिन्दुस्तान में ऐसी जगहें होंगी जहां बाढ़ के बाद कटाई से काफी शहर या गांव बर्बाद होते रहते हैं। बाढ़ की कटाई से गांव और शहर को बचाने के लिये प्रबन्ध होना चाहिए। इन सभी प्रबन्धों के लिए जल्दसे जल्द एक हाई पावर फ्लड कंट्रोल कमीशन देश में हो, यही मेरी मांग है।

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, sweeping and widespread floods have again visited our land and large areas have been affected. Untold sufferings has been inflicted on the people. Huge economic loss has been incurred by the nation. Our hearts naturally go out to the people who have suffered from this calamity. But, Sir, it is not enough to express our sympathy or our sorrow. It is necessary to see to it and devise ways and means so that such calamities do not recur. Now, Sir, the question of floods, the problem of floods is a national problem and it should be treated as such. Unfortunately our Central Government has more or less handed over the problem of floods, the question of floods and the preventive measures in that connection to the States although the Central Government does pay money

and from time to time, intervenes by giving resources to the States in the way of giving relief to the flood affected areas. Now my main charge against the Central Government is that it has neglected this problem. It has failed to develop a sound policy, an all India policy on the question of floods and it has more or less tinkered with the problem. It is indeed a very serious thing that during the last 20 years of freedom only about 25 per cent. of the problem has been tackled and 75 per cent. of the problem remains to be tackled. This is a permanent problem and as such it should be tackled on sound hydrology and on a long-term basis and it should be worked out for the country as a whole. What is happening today is that the flood control authorities are moving empirically. Schemes are taken in hand and then left. Priorities are not fixed. Proper criteria are not fixed for laying down the priorities with the result that there are local pressures, State pressures for this scheme or that scheme and a sound all-India policy is not evolved and it is not implemented.

Therefore, Sir, the first point that I would like to emphasise is that an all India policy based on sound principles of hydrology in a country like ours, which has a large number of rivers, powerful rivers, fast flowing rivers, rivers which get swollen in the monsoon and which cause devastation, a sound hydrology should be worked out and on that basis a long-term plan for the whole country should be developed.

Now the next point that I would like to emphasise is that our engineers, our flood control authorities do not have adequate data for working out a proper policy. You know, Sir, that it is necessary to have a proper data on flood flows, a proper data on rain-fall flow. And it is necessary to co-ordinate the two in order to fix criteria and priorities. Neither do we have proper data of the flood flows nor do we have proper data of the rain-fall flows and we never make an attempt to coordinate the two in order to work out a correct policy. We only proceed on the basis of short-term records that we have got. Now with the short-term records flood control measures cannot be effected. You may build a dam here. You may build a reservoir there. But you will find

after a few years that flood waters start flowing in another direction or the calamity occurs in some other area. Therefore, this sort of handling of the problem in an empirical and casual manner will not work.

Now, Sir, another point I would like to put forward is this that in the States, there is no criterion for the fixation of priorities for flood control schemes. For the fixation of criteria you have to find out the frequency and the magnitude of the flood flows. Without that you cannot fix the criteria. I know in my State, Uttar Pradesh; I was a member of the State Assembly for five years and I visited the flood affected areas. I wanted to know from the Government whether they had any criteria for fixing the priorities. They have no priorities. Some group of M.L.As. put pressure for a scheme here and another group of M.L.As. put pressure for a scheme there . . .

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: It is the handling of parties . . .

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD: It is a question of a common calamity regardless of parties. The affected people will be saying, my area first, my area first . . . Any way my point is this that it is necessary that under the aegis of the Central Government and the Planning Commission proper criteria should be fixed for a flood prevention scheme.

Then, Sir, another point is that in our country we depend much too much on embankments and bunds, much too much. I think other methods of preventing floods should also be evolved, for example, we should have off-stream detention storages, we should have flood-gates, etc. We should take proper steps for reducing erosion of land which leads to flooring of areas.

Then, Sir, there is also the question of flood plains. They should be examined. Floods are recurring 4 P.M. every year. These flood plains have to be demarcated. And in some cases it may be necessary to remove the population from that area although I admit that it is not easy to do so in India, where there is so much congestion on land, where there is so much pressure on land. But there are areas which are not very fertile and which are often flooded and which cause

[Shri Z. A. Ahmad] damage all round. So the question of flood plains has to be considered.

Now, Sir, in the building of embankments, often care is not taken and this question is not very carefully examined. If you build a dam across a river at a given point, it is bound to affect the flow of the river somewhere else, either up-stream or down-stream. I know of U.P. where dams have been built but they have caused floods elsewhere. Dams have stopped the floods in some parts but they have brought about floods in some other parts. So in the construction of dams the required scientific approach is not there. Depending upon the type of dams, and the location of dams, sometimes other places get flooded. There is sometimes breach of dams also. So all our topping takes place. Therefore, Government has to pay serious attention to all these problems.

श्री नेकीराम (हरियाणा) : ऐसी चीज कहां पर हुई जैसा कि आपने कहा है ?

श्री जे ए० ग्रहमद : कई जगह हुआ । यू० पी० के अन्दर बहुत हुआ है, बस्ती के अन्दर हुआ है, कितनी दफा पूर्वी जिलों के डैम टूट गये और पानी बह गया ।

Anyway this is a problem and I do not think Government will deny facts.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : There was the case of Nanaksagar last year.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD : Yes, Nanaksagar, as the hon. Minister says.

Then, Sir, I would like to take up the question of organisation. Now you know there are a number of authorities with more or less overlapping powers. There should be simplification of that overlapping of powers. For example, now there are the Flood Control Boards in the States. Then there are the Technical Advisory Committees. Then there are the inter-State Boards. Then there is the Central Flood Control Board; from one authority to another it goes on. If a scheme is initiated by the Flood Control Board in the State, then it goes to the Technical Advisory Committee. Then it goes

to the Central Commission. Then it brings in inter-State problems, and the inter-State problems have to be examined. So if a flood control scheme is initiated, say, now, it takes a great length of time to get finalised. I hope our Central Ministry will see to it that, if there are important schemes in hand, they should be gone through quickly; there should not be unecessary delay in executing or implementing those schemes.

Now I am ending. Lastly there is the question of relief. Obviously we have to intervene very effectively. The hon. Minister has to give relief to the people, as much as he possibly can, because the human tragedy is colossal. But in addition to that you have to bear in mind also the aspect of rehabilitating the agriculturists. To rehabilitate the affected agriculturists of that area, seeds may have to be provided. Some may have to be given to people to build houses or to prepare their fields properly for cultivation or to purchase cattle in place of the cattle that might have perished because of the floods—that sort of rehabilitation. Now that aspect also has to be borne in mind.

In the end I would bring to your notice the question of floods in Kerala. Now, I am glad that Rs. one crore has been provided for protection against the floods in Kerala. It is good; it is a good step that way, although the Kerala people want Rs. five crores, and it is not correct to say that in Kerala it is not possible to initiate big schemes of flood control.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN (Nominated) : It is Rs. 13 crores they wanted.

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD : Whether it is Rs. 13 crores or Rs. 5 crores, in any case Rs. one crore is not enough. After all, there are 35 rivers there, and if the dams are properly constructed, they can be useful for lift irrigation also. Floods can be prevented and lift irrigation can be developed. In Palghat, for example, there are about five or six dams now and I think, if they are inter-connected in a way whereby, during the rainy season, water can be stored in all the dams, if a sort of network can be developed, it can give protection from floods as well as provide water to the peasants through lift irrigation.

Then the problem of erosion by sea is also there in Kerala; erosion by sea is a very big problem there and you have to provide for it also. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to pay proper attention to the demand of the Kerala people for flood relief.

I have nothing more to say. My main emphasis was that a proper flood relief policy based on modern scientific principles of hydrology should be developed, and there should be no undue delay due to administrative red tape in the implementation of those schemes which have been given priority.

That is all. Thank you, Sir.

श्री आर० पी० खंतान (बिहार) : वाइस-चेयरमैन साहब, आज हमारे देश में चारों तरफ बाढ़ आ रही है, आसाम, बंगाल, बिहार, यू०पी०, केरल आदि में बाढ़ आ रही है और अभी तो हाल में गुजरात में सब से बड़ी बाढ़ आई है जिसमें कितना ही जान-माल नष्ट हुआ है, हजारों आदमियों की जानें चली गई हैं और कितना ही ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ है। आज के स्टेटमेंट में भी यह बतलाया गया है कि हम अभी तक इस बाढ़ को 25 परसेंट तो रोक सके हैं और 75 परसेंट काम करना अभी बाकी है। तो मैं क्या आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से पूछ सकता हूं कि क्या कारण है कि इतने वर्षों में भी हम लोग इस बाढ़ को रोक नहीं पाये? हमारे पास क्या चीज की कमी है? हमारे इंजीनियर्स खाली बैठे हुये हैं, हमारे पास सामान भी है, हमारे पाम स्टील भी है और आदमी भी हैं, तो फिर क्या कारण है कि इसकी ओर ज्यादा ध्यान नहीं दिया जाता है। हमारे यहां इससे सब चीजें नष्ट होती हैं, जान-माल तो जाता ही है उसके अलावा अनाज की भी कमी होती है और उसके अलावा सड़कें भी खराब होती हैं। जब बाढ़ आती है तो हम कुछ खर्च कर देते हैं लेकिन उससे कोई बात बनने वाली नहीं है। हमें आगे के लिये एक ऐसी योजना बनानी चाहिये जिससे कि हम इस बाढ़ को रोकने में सफल हो सकें। उसके लिये अच्छी तरह से योजना बना कर हमें काम करना चाहिये।

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अभी जो बाढ़ गुजरात में आई है उसके लिये शायद अभी हमारे डिप्टी प्राइम मिनिस्टर भी गये हुए हैं और वह आ कर बतायेगे कि वहां किस कारण से क्या हुआ है। मैं आपके द्वारा डिप्टी प्राइम मिनिस्टर से भी प्रार्थना करूंगा कि इस बाढ़ को रोकने के लिये जितने रूपयों की दरकार हो, इसके लिये योजना बनाने के लिये जो दरकार हो, उसमें वह पूरी मदद करें।

हमारे बिहार में भी ये जो छोटी छोटी नदियां हैं उनके लिये भी कई वर्षों से योजना चल रही है लेकिन उसमें कुछ नहीं हो रहा है, जैसे कि वहां बागमती, कमला, बूढ़ी गंडक आदि नदियों में हमेशा ही बाढ़ आती रहती है जिससे कि वहां की जनता को हर साल परेशानी उठानी पड़ती है। अभी मोकामा के लिये भी जो योजना बनाई गई थी उसके ऊपर भी कुछ नहीं हो रहा है। इसी तरह छोटा नागपुर में है जहां अभी थोड़ी बाढ़ आ गई है। उसी तरह से हजारीबाग जिले के ऊपर भी हम मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलायेंगे कि वहां कुछ ऐसी योजना बनायें जिससे कि वहां की बाढ़ को रोक सकें।

हमारे आसाम में तो बारबर ही बाढ़ आती रहती है, ब्रह्मपुत्र में, उसके लिये भी एक ऐसी योजना बनानी चाहिये कि जिससे हर साल इस तरह की बाढ़ न आवे। बंगाल में भी इस समय काफी क्षति हुई है जिसका अनुमान अभी आपने अपने स्टेटमेंट में बतलाया है लेकिन इसके पूरे अनुमान का इससे पता नहीं लग रहा है। राजस्थान में भी काफी नुकसान हुआ है। तो इन सब बातों को देखते हुये मैं आपके द्वारा मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करूंगा कि वह एक ऐसी योजना बना कर के हमारे सामने रखें कि कितने रूपयों की उनको दरकार है और उसके लिये क्या क्या चीजों की दरकार है ताकि अगर जरूरत पड़े तो फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री से हम सब लोग मिल कर कोई ऐसी बात करें कि सब से पहले इसके लिये वह ज्यादा से ज्यादा धन दे जिससे कि योजना बनाने में आपको पूरी मदद मिले। जो इंजीनियर्स हमारे बैठे हों उनको भेज कर के आप यह करवा सकते हैं कि कहां कहां किस किस तरह से काम

[आर० पी० खेतान]

किया जाय और उसकी पूरी योजना बना कर के आपके सामने रखें। मैं आपके द्वारा यही मंत्री जी से प्रार्थना करूंगा।

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) (Kerala) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, during the last few years calamities are affecting our India year after year. In 1962 there was the Chinese aggression; in 1965 there was the Pakistan attack; then there was continued drought for two years and now there are floods. I think there is radically wrong, something somewhere. That may be due to the presence of some people who are now in power; I think so. Whatever that may be, people are suffering. When Bihar and other areas were affected by drought Mr. Jagjivan Ram, Food Minister, said that because of drought the production of foodgrains was very poor. Then there was ample rain and we had a production of 95 million tonnes of foodgrains but then only very small quantities were procured and even the procured foodgrains they could not safeguard from the rains. A great portion of it has been damaged by these rains. Now almost the whole of India is affected by floods except perhaps Madras and a major portion of Andhra Pradesh though a portion in Andhra Pradesh is affected by drought now. Anyway the condition as a whole in the country is bad, and we are all suffering. From the statement given to us it will be seen that flood control measures were started in 1954 but they could complete only 25 per cent. of it up till now. At this rate it will take 42 years more to complete them and I do not know at that time who will be in power here. Of course, though we have failed in flood control measures we have to some extent succeeded in birth control measures if not in anything else.

Sir, I am coming from Kerala and in Kerala we have not seen a flood like this for the last 100 years. Some forty-four years ago there was a flood in the Travancore area but it did not cause so much damage as now. Thereafter some 30 years ago there was a flood but that also was not as serious as the present floods. From the statement it can be seen that extensive damage has been caused by the floods in Kerala. It has been stated that some 58 persons have died on account of the floods but my information is that 61 persons have

died. It is also stated that 2.4 lakh hectares of land have been affected by floods. A major portion of that is paddy land and all the paddy cultivation in that area has been lost. And there has been partial loss in more than 3 lakh acres of paddy land. The population affected according to this statement is 7.6 lakhs but our Government of Kerala had to remove some 60,000 families to places of safety. Some three lakhs of people have been removed to places of safety like schools and other buildings, and they were given free ration for two weeks. Wheat flour and other things worth nearly twelve lakhs were distributed by this time. Again according to this statement 23,870 houses were damaged on account of these floods. My submission is that a house in Kerala is not just like a jhuggi in New Delhi.

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

The damage to these 23,870 houses will work out to crores of rupees and the people ought to be compensated for the loss they have sustained on this account. Several roads, bridges and bunds have also been lost or damaged and that will also cost us heavily. According to this statement it comes to Rs. 3 crores but I read a statement by Shri M. N. Govindan Nair, our Minister for Power and Agriculture, that the damage caused to agriculture, houses, roads, bridges and bunds, will all work out to Rs. 16 crores. Actually the damage would be far more than even these Rs. 16 crores. The exact position has not been ascertained even today. Anyhow the Central Government must be very considerate towards Kerala State because it is an admitted fact that Kerala is deficit so far as foodgrains are concerned.

During these floods which are causing havoc in Kerala, our Food Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, went to Ernakulam on the 4th of this month to attend some Youth Congress meeting but he had not the kindness to go and see the flood affected areas. When he was there in order to satisfy some Congress leaders he made a statement that the present Kerala Government has failed to procure paddy. It is a very incorrect and untrue statement. I must say it was a very deliberate, false statement made by him and it was quite unbecoming of a

Minister of his stature because the procurement after this Government came into power has exceeded the target. Before this Government there was President's rule and then procurement was far less than the target in those days but now it has exceeded the target. Now, June, July and August are the worst months so far as the people of Kerala are concerned. Even before we were not being given sufficient rice but yet some rice was kept back every month in the godowns to tide over this difficult period by giving at the rate of 160 grammes per head per day to the people. But Mr. Jagjivan Ram said it was possible because they gave rice; otherwise the Kerala Government would not have been in a position to give this. But the fact is that after the United Front Government came to power the Centre is not fulfilling the promise which it makes. In 1965 when the southern zone was lifted, the Central Government promised to the then Governor, Mr. Giri, to give 75,000 tonnes of rice per month so that we can give ration at the rate of 6 oz. per head per day and they were giving that amount till the United Front Government came to power in March last year. After that when they promised 60,000 tonnes they gave only 25,000 or 30,000 tonnes. This sort of thing was going on for long. Even in June and July they promised to give some 80,000 or 85,000 tonnes but they actually gave only 36,000 or 40,000 tonnes. This is what is going on. So what I want to say is nobody should play with the lives of the people. They may be Communists or SSPs or people of any party but surely there are Congressmen also who are toiling and starving and they must take that fact also into consideration. Of course I know that the Centre is governed by the Congress; let them continue but especially in these days they should not take a step-motherly attitude towards Kerala. That is what I have to say to them.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : Never have we taken that attitude.

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : According to this report one crore of rupees have been given to Kerala, but to the other States affected by flood, they have given crores of rupees as loans and grants and that fact has appeared in the papers. (*Interruptions*). But the Minister is silent with regard to that. One crore is given to Kerala. I think the Prime Minister, from her

fund, has given Rs. 1,25,000 up to this time and Mr. Jagivan Ram gave his first instalment of 500 tonnes of wheat. Wheat is a very difficult thing for us to eat. A second instalment of 500 tonnes has also been given. If he had given us at least a thousand tonnes of rice, it would have been helpful to us. So, my submission is that all considerations must be shown to Kerala.

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN : May I make a small correction? There is difference between a lakh and a crore. You are again and again repeating that one lakh has been sanctioned. One lakh is one-hundredth of a crore. I am not quarrelling with what you say, but let us be sure of the figure.

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : I was referring to the sum of Rs. 1,25,000 given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, and one crore of rupees by the Finance Ministry.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : You are fortunate that you got so much. Others got less.

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : I do not know the Cabinet secrets. This is the amount which she has given to the State of Kerala. How can I know about what was given to the other States? I do not know it. Those facts have not been given in the statement, but according to the papers I came to know that one or two crores have been given to the other flood-affected areas. One crore has been given to Kerala, but I do not know whether as a grant or as a loan. That fact alone is given in the statement. That is what I say.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI G. RAMACHANDRAN : May I request you not to publicise too much that the Prime Minister has given Rs. 1,25,000 from her fund? There will be a hue and cry from the rest of India.

SHRI KESAVAN (THAZHAVA) : A sum of Rs. 1,25,000 has been given to Kerala from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. From the statement it can be seen how much amount has been spent up to this time on several measures during this flood season. That is known to the Central Government. We made representation to the Prime Minister. Of course, at that time, Rs.

[Shri Kesavan (Thazhava)]

75,000 was given. We are very grateful that so much was given by the Prime Minister, but the Finance Minister is there. Now, Kerala is affected by floods not over a small area. There are only nine districts in Kerala and all these nine districts are affected by floods. That is a fact. Some 61 lives have been lost. From the statement itself it can be seen how much property has been lost. What I submit is that all possible help especially in the shape of rice and wheat flour must be given to Kerala. That is the most necessary thing which we require. At this time cholera also has broken out. Several persons are dying. I want not only money, but also rice and wheat flour. These are the most important things which we require. Some are suffering from fever, pneumonia, typhoid and all these diseases.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): Mr. Vice-Chairman, at this time of great calamity in the nation, I want to express my deep sympathies with those who have been the victims of floods. Many States have suffered from floods. It is rather ironic that two years ago we had a terrible drought and even this year some parts of our country are still suffering from drought while at the same time other parts are flooded, home and hearth. There has been great loss of life, much damage to property, to cattle, to public buildings. Naturally anything which causes distress to our countrymen is of deep concern to the entire Government. The Minister will give all the facts and figures. I only wanted to say that just as at the time of drought we made a very major effort, not only to give immediate assistance, to arrange relief works, but also to see how we could help the farmers to deal with this problem from a long-term point of view so that they need not suffer in the same manner in future. This is how I feel that we must all look at this problem of flood and how to initial flood control measures. I went into this matter in some detail when I visited Assam some time ago and I found that all these very necessary measures were extremely costly, so that with the best will in the world it is not possible to take them up all together. At that time also we have had discussions with the Ministers, with the State Governments and others. I feel that we must look at this problem

as a major part of our food production and agricultural programmes, to which we have already given the highest priority. We must look at the question from the long-term point of view. Unfortunately, in order to save money we do a certain amount of patch work now and to some extent we are forced to do so because we do not have the resources to take up the larger programmes, but we must make an effort, at least little by little, to undertake these larger programmes, so that our people are not subject to this terrible suffering. The people of Assam, of West Bengal, of Rajasthan, of Kerala and, of course, the latest place to suffer is Gujarat and in Gujarat especially Surat and Broach have suffered very greatly—some in a greater measure than others. The Government is fully aware of the gravity of the situation and we shall do whatever we can to assist the State Governments. I heard my hon. friend just now speaking, saying a sentence which is rather familiar, that is about the stepmotherly treatment given to Kerala.

AN HON. MEMBER : Step-fatherly.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI : Step-fatherly. Now, I am sure that the Minister will clarify this point, but usually assistance is given according to some rules, i.e., the number of people affected or the extent of the area affected. But I think it would be very unfair to say that the Centre or anybody has less concern for Kerala or the people of Kerala than for any other part of the country. I am sure that we should make every effort to do whatever is possible to do. Fortunately my colleague, the Food Minister, also came just in time to hear the last part of the speech which concerns him. I can assure the hon. Member that we, all of us, are deeply concerned over this and we shall look into not only those programmes which must be taken up immediately, but, also from the long-term point of view we must take up flood control programmes, one by one, all over the country, so that we are not completely helpless in the hands of nature. One great advantage which we have in living in this century and at this time is that we have got the tools of science to use in controlling natural forces, but most of these tools are still very costly and some are beyond our means. Nevertheless, when a calamity comes, somehow we have to scrape together everything we have to meet it.

Our sympathy goes out to the people in all these States, to the Chief Ministers and other members of the Government. I am sure that the hon'ble Members, the people and all of us will regard this as a national problem and try to meet it collectively. Thank you.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA (Gujarat) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, there were devastating and unprecedented floods in Surat and Broach districts from August 6th to 10th this year. Many human lives were lost, many cattle were lost. Great damage was done to crops. Public utilities and a number of houses were damaged or destroyed by the recent flood in Gujarat. At the time of distress the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people are the first and the foremost sufferers, but at the time of benefit people other than the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are the first beneficiaries. So care should be taken while giving relief to the flood affected people.

[**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA)** in the Chair.]

These two floods, that is, the flood of the river Tapti and of the river Narmada could have been avoided if the two projects, namely, the Ukai project and the Narmada project, had been completed in time. We know that prevention is better than cure. Ukai village is 72 miles upstream of Surat. The last flood in Surat was in 1959, and the work of Ukai project was started in 1960, and I think it is going to be completed in 1971. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not possible to complete it earlier. The State Government cannot do it without the help of the Centre because it is a major irrigation and power project.

Besides the damage done to person and property by the recent flood in the river Narmada, it has affected the Ankleshwar oilfields. No crude oil was supplied to the Refinery and no gas was supplied to the fertilizer factory from the Ankleshwar oilfield for some time. This shows the necessity of early implementation of the Narmada project. I would like to know from the hon. Minister when he is going to settle the dispute between Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : Now it is not in his hands. It will go to the Tribunal under the Act that we have passed.

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : I would like to know when it is to be handed over to the Tribunal under the Inter-State Water Disputes Act. I would like to know that from the hon. Minister.

As I said, if these two projects are completed, then there will not be any flood in future. This time no flood forecast or warning was given by the neighbouring State, and this is a matter of criticism by the people. I would like to know from the Minister when this flood forecast and warning scheme will be implemented for the three rivers, namely, Tapti, Narmada and Mahe. Thank you.

SHRI G. A. APPAN (Madras) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, people are speaking many things about the prevention of flood or flood control. In this connection I am to add that some time back for the Marketing Final examination of the London Institute of Marketing and Sales Management there was a question. For the whole flood prevention and soil erosion scheme the hessian produced in Calcutta is being exported in a large measure, and it earns foreign exchange. It is not the foreign exchange that matters here. Some two or three years back when I read about these flood control methods, I was really very sorry to note that this hessian, which is exported from Calcutta to America and other countries, has not been fully utilised, at least to some extent, in our country. Immediately I wrote, some three years back, to the Government of India and to the Governments of Kerala and Madras whether they had experimented anything on this hessian project for the soil erosion and flood control schemes. I could not get any reply all this time from any of them. Perhaps they thought it was from an insignificant source. It was from a very small source that people in America began to introduce this scheme. It was implemented by using the Indian-made hessian of the Lindley Corporation of Calcutta, if I remember right. I wrote for a small sample of the hessian that is being exported from India to America to save that country from soil erosion to a great extent. I did not bring the details here. Perhaps all these details to a great measure cover somewhere about 30 pages or so. And in Delhi I never thought that this subject was coming up here today for discussion, or else I would have placed the whole facts before the House.

[Shri G. A. Appan]

There is a talk somewhere of damage through floods. There is a talk elsewhere of dearth of water even for drinking purposes. These are the extremes on either side. Let us make the best use of our experience. Why should we allow even a particle of water to go into the ocean? The ocean is very vast; the sea is very vast. Let the sea surrounding us get its water from somewhere, but let us not waste our water, flowing from our hills, flowing from our plains, to fall into the ocean. But let us try to canalise, capitalise and use these waters for cultivation. Then how to prevent floods? In my last speech somewhere about the 2nd week of May 1968, I remember stating many things about the food procurement. In this food procurement also flood control will be greatly useful. So, let us construct dams rather than spend a lot of money importing food and food products. Can we not use the money that we spend on the import of foodgrains to construct dams, to canalise the waters and to prevent floods? By these floods we lose human lives and cattle and a number of houses are washed away creating great damage and loss to the national wealth, to the national productivity. A large portion of the alluvial soil that is being deposited along the river beds is also being wasted when we are not able to provide sufficient embankments, sufficient bunds, and all these things. Not only that but soil erosion also affects the cultivation, the food crops and many other things. We have also to spend a huge amount of our hard-earned money to prevent soil erosion. In this connection, I just request this venerable Government through the august body of the Council of States to kindly see whether we cannot appoint a Committee to find out ways and means and to know how things are being done and implemented in America. Of course, I will be able to place the full details before the Minister-in-charge very soon. The Committee should go through their experiments for the country's cause to a greater extent and relieve us from damage, loss, catastrophe and all these things.

SHRI KOTA PUNNAIAH (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to congratulate the Government and the Minister concerned for the anxiety shown in controlling the floods and the steps taken. This is a very important problem. This is not

today's or yesterday's problem, it is not a man-made problem. But the problem is there. We have been facing the problem since many years. But what is that that we are doing to control the floods? That is very very important. Whether nature controls man or man controls nature, this is the crux of the problem. In spite of the best efforts of the Government and the engineers, there are floods causing misery and destruction every year, whether it is the Narmada or the Tapti or the Krishna or the Godavari. Whether it is in Assam or Andhra Pradesh or Gujarat or U.P., wherever there are rivers there are floods. This problem is going on. This is like the food problem. We have the famine problem. There is the drought problem, there is this flood problem also. This problem should be tackled immediately. We cannot hear the pathetic stories. When we are told the miserable stories about the victims of these floods, we are taken aback. What is it that we are doing to control the floods? I know that Dr. Rao is not only Minister of Irrigation and Power, but he is also an expert engineer. He knows the measures. But they should be implemented. I am not a technical person, I do not know anything about flood control, I cannot suggest remedies. But I can describe the plight of the victims of these floods. In the matter of floods also, I see a discrimination. The poor sections of the society are the worst victims of these floods because they live at low-level places and they cannot have these cement concrete buildings. Whatever they possess, only their huts, they can be very easily knocked away by floods. So they are becoming homeless. The Narmada claimed 100 lives, the Tapti claimed 200 lives. Every year there is death and suffering of men and women and innocent children. We hear all these things. It is heart-rending. I only appeal to the Government to take necessary steps to control the floods immediately, whatever the cost might be. This position we cannot accept. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether there is any machinery to find when the floods come so that we can warn the people and shift them from their areas to the other areas. From this point of view, it is very important. I would like to ask him to answer how many rivers there are which have been classified as rivers of sorrow, turbulent, aggressive and tame. Floods bring misery and destruction every year causing loss of life, property and everything.

I would like to ask the Minister what is the loss sustained during the last ten years, area-wise, by these floods, what are the steps that the Government have taken to remedy this situation and how far they have been successful in meeting this havoc by floods, and also whether the Government is contemplating any permanent measures to meet the situation. I would request him to answer my questions and see that this problem is tackled immediately. Otherwise, we are not doing justice to mankind because they are the worst victims. They are losing their lives, their wives, their children and their property, and we can very well understand what kind of torture and misery they undergo. I appeal to the Government, I request the Government to take necessary measures, suitable steps, to control the floods as early as they can. Let us not think of money particularly in this respect. We can anticipate other things, but we cannot anticipate when the floods come, when they would take away the lives and property of the people of this country. So, I request the Government through you, Mr. Vice-Chairman, to take immediate steps to remedy this misery and meet the challenge of these floods.

श्री एन० के० शेजवालकर (मध्य प्रदेश): श्रीमान उपमहाधक्ष महोदय, फ्लड के बारे में बहुत कुछ कहा जा चुका है और यह निर्विवाद है कि इस वर्ष मारे हिन्दुस्तान भर में बाढ़ें आयी हैं और उन के कारण अत्यन्त नुकसान हुआ है। इस सबध में एक स्टेटमेंट माननीय मंत्री जी ने प्रस्तुत किया है, लेकिन मुझे भय है कि उस पर विश्वास किया जा सकता है या उस के आधार पर कोई निर्णय लिया जा सकता है।

मैंने पहले मुझे यही निवेदन करना है कि वास्तव में वह एक अपूर्ण स्टेटमेंट है। लगभग चार स्टेट्स के बारे में यह बताया ही नहीं जा सका है कि उन का नुकसान क्या हुआ। उन का कितना क्षेत्र एफेक्टेड रहा या जनहानि कितनी हुई या पशु हानि कितनी हुई। स्टेटमेंट से कुछ प्रकट नहीं हो रहा है। आश्चर्य की बात एक और भी है। कुछ प्रान्तों में जब कि रिपोर्टें भेजी गई हैं कि कोई हानि नहीं हुई है,

वास्तव में वहाँ हानि होने के प्रमाण हैं। अभी हरियाणा के सबध में माननीय सदस्य ने सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट किया ही है। इसी तरह से पंजाब के बारे में मैं सदन का ध्यान आकृष्ट करना चाहता हूँ कि एक समाचार जुलाई के अंत में आया था और उस में उन्होंने यह बताया था कि पटियाला डिस्ट्रिक्ट के अंदर एक बांध टूट गया जिस के कारण 20 लोगों की मृत्यु हुई। उस में आगे यह भी लिखा था कि पंजाब सरकार और हरियाणा सरकार, दोनों एक दूसरे को दोष दे रही हैं कि गलती दूसरे की है। बावजूद इस के कि पहले से सूचना दी गयी थी कि बांध जो है उन की सुरक्षा का ठीक से प्रबंध किया जाय किन्तु वह नहीं किया गया और इस कारण 20 लोगों की मृत्यु हुई। ऐसा दोते हुए भी जो स्टेटमेंट है उस स्टेटमेंट के अंदर पंजाब के सामने निल लिखा हुआ है। इसी तरह से गुजरात के बारे में लिखा हुआ है "इट इस वीग एसेस्ड" बात ठीक है। यह संभव नहीं है कि इतनी जल्दी उस की रिपोर्टें यहाँ पर प्राप्त हो जाय परन्तु मैं समझता हूँ कि जहाँ तक जन-हानि का प्रश्न है, समाचार-पत्रों में यह बात आ चुकी है कि टोल 100 के ऊपर पहुँच चुकी है। परन्तु लोगों का यह कहना है कि टोल 1000 के ऊपर है। चार्ट के कालम न० 9 में दिया गया है कि कुल जन-हानि 155 की हुई और इसकी अपेक्षा कहीं अधिक जन-हानि केवल गुजरात में हुई है। इसी प्रकार से और भी जो प्रान्त छोड़ दिए गये हैं जिनका एसेसमेंट नहीं किया जा सका उनमें है मध्य प्रदेश, महाराष्ट्र, उड़ीसा और राजस्थान। इसमें राजस्थान का भी जो आकड़ा दिया है कालम 11 में वह 300 लाख रुपए का बताया गया है जबकि 7, 8 और 10 के खाने में लिखा है "नाट एवलेबिल"। जब बाकी के लिए आकड़े 'नाट एवलेबिल' हैं तो यह 300 लाख रुपए का आकड़ा कैसे करार दे दिया गया है, यह मेरी समझ में नहीं आया। इससे यह स्पष्ट हो जायगा कि वास्तव में यह जो स्टेटमेंट है यह बिल्कुल अंधा है और इसका कुछ भाग गलत भी है। इन आकड़ों के आधार पर कोई निर्णय लेना मेरे ख्याल से धोखे से खाली नहीं

[श्री एन० के० शेजवालकर]

होगा। इस पर विचार करके ही निर्णय लिया जा सकेगा।

मैं सदन का ध्यान इस ओर तो आकर्षित नहीं करना चाहता कि वहां पर कितनी जनहानि, घन-हानि और पशु-हानि हुई है, किन्तु मेरा ऐसा ख्याल है कि जो बाढ़ आ रही है इसमें ईश्वरीय प्रकोप को ही कारण न मानते हुए, मनुष्य द्वारा जो परिस्थितियां उत्पन्न की गई हैं वे भी कारण हैं। उदाहरण के लिए राजस्थान की जो घग्घर नदी का बांध है उसके चैनल से फूट जाने से पानी बह कर आया उससे उस क्षेत्र के अन्दर भीषण बाढ़ आई। आश्चर्य की बात यह है कि स्वयं रिपोर्ट में लिखा हुआ है पृष्ठ 9 के ऊपर कि इसी प्रकार की स्थिति गत वर्ष भी थी। अन्त में आखिरी पैराग्राफ में आखिरी लाइन यह है कि "where breaches have occurred last as well as this year." मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि इसको किस तरह से जस्टीफाई किया जा सकता है जब एक बार ठोकर खाने के बाद भी हमारा शासन उसकी व्यवस्था नहीं करता, तो फिर दोष किसका है? इसको मनुष्य-निर्मित संकट न कहा जाय तो क्या ईश्वरीय प्रकोप कहा जाय? मैंने पंजाब के बारे में अभी निवेदन किया। मन्दसौर में भी जो स्थिति उत्पन्न हुई वह इस प्रकार हुई कि वहां का इरीगेशन टैंक फूट जाने से बाढ़ आ गई — मन्दसौर मध्य प्रदेश का एक भाग है। इसी प्रकार राजस्थान के अन्दर एक इरीगेशन टैंक फूट जाने से दस फुट पानी उस शहर के अन्दर हो गया। क्या यह सारी स्थिति केवल ईश्वरीय प्रकोप मात्र है? मैं तो एक ही निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि ये सारे आकड़े देखने से वास्तविक स्थिति का अनुमान होता नहीं। हां, इतना तो जरूर कह सकता हूँ कि इसमें जो बनाया गया है — उतना तो निश्चित है, निर्विवाद है — उससे कहीं अधिक मात्रा में हानि हुई है।

इसमें फुड क्राप्स के बारे में बताया गया है कि 22 करोड़ रुपए की हानि हुई है। जैसा कि मैंने निवेदन किया, गुजरात, राजस्थान इसमें

प्रमुख रूप से नहीं है। इसके अन्तर्गत 3 हजार 9 लाख रुपए की हानि बताई गई है। उमका विचार करते हुए एक कहावत ध्यान में आती है, जो अभी एक माननीय सदस्य ने कही—

"Prevention is better than cure."

अगर पिछले 10 वर्षों के आकड़े निकाले जाय, हानि कितनी हुई है यह देखा जाय तो मैं समझता हूँ कि उस हानि की रकम को बाढ़ को रोकने की योजनाओं में व्यय किया जाता तो यह हानि तो होती नहीं, उस योजना को पूर्ण करने के बाद आगे के लिए भी उमकी सम्भावना नहीं रहती लेकिन उसकी तरफ विशेष ध्यान नहीं दिया गया, उसको प्रायोरिटी नहीं दी गई, इससे ऐसा प्रतीत होता है।

अभी भी स्टेटमेंट में मैं एक बात नहीं पा रहा हूँ। इसमें बताया गया है कि 25 प्रतिशत व्यय किया गया है। बाकी सारे स्थानों के बारे में बाढ़ों को रोकने के लिए शासन के द्वारा कोई स्थायी योजना बनाई गई, ऐसा कोई सुझाव इस स्टेटमेंट में नहीं है। मैं आशा करना हूँ कि माननीय मंत्री महोदय इसके सम्बन्ध में भी प्रकाश डालेंगे कि क्या इसके बारे में स्थायी योजना का उनका विचार है और इन दुर्घटनाओं को टालने के लिए उन्होंने क्या योजना बनाई है।

एक बात मैं और कहना चाहूंगा कि कुछ सकुचित स्वार्थों के कारण ही या अपने प्रतिनिधित्व के कारण ही कुछ प्रान्तों के झगड़े का यहाँ पर सवाल उपस्थित किया गया है। मैं समझता हूँ कि जब यह ट्रिब्यूनल बन जायगा जजेंज का उसके बाद ऐसी किसी को शिकायत नहीं रहेगी। उसके बाद भी शिकायत हो सकती है परन्तु मेरा एक सुझाव है। मैं भी मध्य प्रदेश से हूँ। जो बिना झगड़े वाली योजनाएं हैं नर्मदा के ऊपर की वे भी पूर्ण हो जातीं, उनके बारे में भी विचार कर लिया जाता तो आज जो नर्मदा का प्रकोप गुजरात में हुआ है उससे कुछ न कुछ राहत अवश्य मिलती, ऐसा मेरा विश्वास है।

अन्त में, मैं मंत्री महोदय से यही निवेदन करूंगा कि इस संकट को स्थायी संकट मान कर इसको प्रायोरिटी देकर इसके हल को ढूँढा जाय तो आगे के लिए समस्याएं कम मात्रा में उत्पन्न होंगी। धन्यवाद।

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, there is a saying particularly in the villages of the Maharashtra area. There is a tribe there which worships the God Mahadeo and roams about begging in villages. During the day they go round the villages begging but at night they always go to the Mahadeva temple and think about their prospects. There they say that this is not a good way of life and that they must build their own houses and earn their livelihood. The same thing is going on, Mr. Vice-Chairman, in this country. For the last twenty years since we got independence, the Government, the planners and so many people in the country come together and say that some flood control programme must be worked out.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, there is utter lack of perspective in planning. Particularly during the last three Plans these things have been brought forward time and again by politicians, engineers, I mean hydraulic engineers, if I may say so, that some flood control measures must be adopted and some money provided for in the Plan. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I can rightly appreciate the Prime Minister's feeling that flood control measures cannot be thought of in isolation. It is really a food and agriculture problem. And in that respect, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I find from the survey made that a sum of Rs. 100 crores has been lost during the last ten years on account of damage from floods. Now what is required is an allotment of Rs. 10 crores to Rs. 15 crores per year towards afforestation, embankments and some other schemes. So, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I only request the Government to take the view just now that flood control is not a thing to be planned at a time when there are floods and then forget all about it. That would not solve our problem. We have been doing that for the last so many years.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am told that an assessment has been made that a

sum of about Rs. 1,500 crores is required for the building of projects, like dams, multi-purpose projects, afforestation projects, soil conservation projects and projects mentioned by my friend, Mr. Appan, regarding growing shrubs and plants to prevent floods. All these projects must be taken up under an integrated plan for the whole country. They must be drawn up and things must be carried out as per plans.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am not going to take much time of the House because many things have already been said from this side as well as from the other side which deserve our merited consideration and I do think that the Government will give their utmost attention to them. My purpose today is just to highlight planning deficiencies of flood control methods and, therefore, I am here to press the Government to start making some specific allocation for this purpose during the Fourth Plan period. The problem of flood control is not to be viewed in isolation; it is very much integrated with our agricultural and food problem. It is also integrated with our soil problem. It is also integrated with our underground drainage problem.

So this is a very huge problem 5 P.M. and for the present difficulties, some short-term arrangements should be made. Government should devise plan and implement all these long-term programmes, but as a short-term measure, I would suggest that immediate arrangements should be made to forestall these floods and an adequate warning system should be devised for all the major rivers where floods occur. In the Koyna region because of Dr. K. L. Rao's initiative, an adequate warning system has been evolved and now the villagers and the people staying round about those villages are more than satisfied that they can safely rely on these warnings through the radio or through some such means and they can take adequate protective measures and avoid danger to life at least.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I am not going to bring in politics here. But my friend, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel has unnecessarily criticised the Congress again, particularly the Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao. I strongly oppose this obsession of Mr. Dahyabhai Patel. He will not see the good in the Congress or anywhere . . .

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL : I have not criticised Dr. Rao. I criticised the administration before he came.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI : Anyway he should realise that after a long period we have a technocrat as Minister in this Government who will deliver the goods. I would like to suggest in this connection that in every Ministry, one of them must be a technocrat because this age is an atomic age where technology and science play a great part. I can understand the political approach, but politics is not everything in a developing nation. We are now competing with the vastly developed countries. So, Mr. Dahyabhai Patel, please understand that here is a technocrat who can do the right job in this country. If you give him a free hand, he will deliver the goods and he will solve all the problems raised by you and I support him. I have got full faith in Dr. Rao and his ability to deliver the goods. So, Mr. Vice-Chairman, I only want to say that we should leave aside obsessions and support Dr. Rao's efforts in taking effective flood control measures.

श्री तारकेश्वर पांडे (उत्तर प्रदेश) : उप-सभाध्यक्ष महोदय, गुजरात की जो भीषण बाढ़ है और उसमें जो धन और जन की हानि हुई है उसको अखबारों में पढ़ कर के रोमांच हो जाया करना है, बड़ी प्रलयकारी बाढ़ है। मेरी मान्यता है कि इस बाढ़ में दैवी प्रकोप तो है ही लेकिन साथ ही साथ मनुष्य को इस बाढ़ को रोकने के लिये जो उपाय करने चाहिये और इस आने वाली विपत्ति से जो युद्ध करना चाहिये, उस तरफ जितना प्रयास करना चाहिये, वह नहीं किया गया है और इस हद तक सरकार दोषी है।

अब मैं उत्तर प्रदेश के बारे में दो एक शब्द कहना चाहता हूँ। एक केन्द्रीय बाढ़ कंट्रोल बोर्ड बना है और इसकी चर्चा बहुत सुनते हैं और यह भी सुनते हैं कि बड़े योग्य, एकमपर्ट, अनुशासन-सम्पन्न, सर्वगुण-सम्पन्न व्यक्ति उसमें रखे गये हैं लेकिन एक उर्दू का शेर हमको याद पड़ता है :

“बहुत शोर सुनते थे पहलू में दिल का
जो चीरा तो इक कतरा-ए-खून निकला ॥”

तो इसका बहुत शोर सुना है। मैं बाढ़-ग्रस्त क्षेत्र का रहने वाला हूँ, गंगा और सरजू के मंगम पर बसा हूँ और उम पीड़ा को मैं ही जानता हूँ, उसे विशेषज्ञ नहीं जान सकते, कागज कलम और दावात से एयर-कंडीशंड कमरे में बैठ कर के जो काम करते हैं उनको उसका ज्ञान नहीं हो सकता है। मैं आपको एक शब्द कहना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार इस प्रवृत्ति का त्याग करे, इसका मोह छोड़े। सौभाग्यवश जो इस वक्त के हमारे मंत्री हैं वह योग्य हैं और एक एकमपर्ट भी हैं, विशेषज्ञ भी हैं, अनुभवी भी हैं, आयु भी उनकी है, सब कुछ है, तो उनसे मेरी यह प्रार्थना है कि जरा इस तरफ वह ध्यान दें कि विशेषज्ञों के अतिरिक्त जो अनुभव रखते हैं उनको भी इसका बहुत ज्ञान होता है। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश की भगवान की कृपा से इस वर्ष उतनी हालत खराब नहीं है, जितनी कि गुजरात की है तो भी स्थिति शोचनीय है। वहाँ सरजू, घाघरा, गंडक, राप्ती और महानारायणी में बाढ़ है।

श्री के० एस० चावड़ा : मानसून तो अभी चाल है।

श्री तारकेश्वर पांडे : जी हाँ : सरजू, घाघरा, गंडक, राप्ती और महानारायणी में बाढ़ है। नैनताल और अलमोडा में अतिवृष्टि के कारण बाढ़ है और धन और जन की हानि हुई। इसमें जो जिले अंकित किये गये हैं उसमें दो एक जिले छोड़ दिये गये हैं। मेरठ, बाराबंकी, गौडा, देवरिया, बलिया, इन जिलों में बाढ़ है। इनका विवरण नहीं दिया है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि मंत्री महोदय इस पर विचार करें। छितौनी का बाध देवरिया जिले में संकट में पड़ा हुआ है, स्टेशन संकट में पड़ा हुआ है और हर साल वह प्रलयकारी दृश्य उपस्थित करना रहता है। मैं चाहता हूँ कि सरकार स्थायी रूप से कोई उसका प्रबन्ध करे। हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश के लोगों की परेशानी एक और भी है कि वहाँ पर जनतंत्र नहीं है, राष्ट्रपति शासन है, तो हमारी पुकार जो है वह दिल्ली तक ही आ कर सीमित हो जाती है, वहाँ हम अपनी कोई पुकार सुना नहीं पाते।

दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि आपने जो वर्णन किया है तो पता नहीं कि कैसी रिपोर्ट आपको मिलती है, हम करीब दो सप्ताह से बलिया नहीं गये हैं और हमारे समाचार देने वाले सब समाचार हमको देते हैं और अखबारों में भी समाचार मिलता है लेकिन सरकारी कर्मचारियों को यह समाचार नहीं सुनाई पड़ता है। मैं कहता हूँ कि सरकारी कर्मचारी को जिसने आपको सूचना नहीं दी है उसको आप दंड दें। वह यह है कि बिलथरा रोड के समीप मटिया गांव है, वह आधा गांव घाघरा नदी में जलमान हो गया है, सब घर गिर गये और तबाह हो गया वह गांव। तुरीपार श्रीनगर बांध बड़े प्रयास से श्री कमलापति त्रिपाठी के उद्योग से बनाया गया था और क्या उसकी स्थिति है। चान्दपुर के समीप वह बांध गिरने लगा, टूटने लगा। हम सब वहां मौजूद थे। यह पार साल का जिक्र है। हम बारहा कहते रहे कि इस बांध की रक्षा के लिये कोई उपाय कीजिये। कोई उपाय नहीं किया गया। छोटे मोटे उपाय कर के एक रिग बांध बांधा गया। अब उस रिग बांध और इस बांध को प्रोटेक्ट करने की चेष्टा की गई। कब चेष्टा की गई, जब कि वह आधा कट गया। वह प्रलयकारी दृश्य है कि उसका वर्णन मैं नहीं कर सकता हूँ। इसको तो मैंने अपनी आंखों से देखा है। 25-30 गांव जलमग्न हो गये, घरों में पानी चला गया। अब जानवर कहा रहेगा, आदमी कहाँ रहेगा। हमारे यहां, हमारे इलाके में, यह भी पद्धति है कि अनाज जो है, गल्ला जो है उसको जमीन में गाड़ कर रखते हैं। तो सब अनाज सड़ गया। कोई किसी प्रकार की राजकीय सहायता नहीं, वह अप्राप्य है। कोई पहुंचता ही नहीं, चर्चा किससे की जाय। कौन करे? मैं चाहता हूँ कि इस पर आप विशेष ध्यान दें।

दूसरी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि बलिया बेरिया बांध की ठीक यही स्थिति है गायघाट के समीप। मुझे वह दिन स्मरण है जब कि हमारे मंत्री महोदय ने इस स्थान का निरीक्षण किया था। और उन्होंने कुछ अपने विचार

और सुझाव सब लोगों की सुन कर के और अपनी आंखों से देख कर के दिया था। उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार दोनों प्रदेशों के बड़े इंजीनियर्स वहां उपस्थित थे, हमारे सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के इंजीनियर्स भी मौजूद थे, मंत्री महोदय भी थे। उन्होंने वहां देखा होगा। अब वहां की स्थिति क्या है। लाखों के करीब जनता जो है वह रात-भर जगी रहती है, कहीं रात में शोर हुआ कि बांध टूट गया तो सब लोग अपनी छत पर खपरैल पर चढ़ जाते हैं। बड़ी भयावह स्थिति है, मैं चाहता हूँ इस तरफ आप उसी प्रकार से ध्यान दें जिस तरह से जब चीन ने हमला किया, जब पाकिस्तान ने हमला किया उस वक्त फौजो ने जिस प्रकार ध्यान दिया और आगे कदम बढ़ाया उसी प्रकार से ध्यान दें तो जन और धन दोनों की रक्षा हो सकती है।

पाचवी बात मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि एक बांध है बकुलाहा संमार बोला बांध। इसकी बहुत लम्बी कहानी है और उस कहानी में मैं इस समय नहीं जाना चाहता। दस वर्ष का समय हो गया और इस विषय में मंत्री जी को लिख चुके हैं और उन्होंने कृपा करके उस स्थान का निरीक्षण भी किया, मौसम अनुकूल नहीं था और वह बांध का पूरा निरीक्षण नहीं कर सके लेकिन मेरा अनुमान है जिस तरह से उनकी बुद्धि तीव्र है, वह अनुभवही हैं, विशेषज्ञ हैं, उन्होंने सारी स्थिति को समझ लिया होगा, मांप लिया होगा। आपके साथ एक बड़ी फौज थी उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार सरकार के आफिसर्स की ओर दूसरे लोगों की ओर केन्द्र सरकार के लोगों ने सभी ने देखा कि उस बांध में कई जगह कट गया है और वह बांध नहीं बांधा गया है। आपको यह दृश्य दिखायी देगा कि दक्षिण तरफ गंगा नदी, उत्तर तरफ घाघरा नदी, जिनके विकराल संगम में कोई बांध नहीं है, प्रत्येक गांव हर साल जलमग्न हो जाते हैं, मकान जलमग्न हो जाते हैं। बार बार यहा बांध बांधा गया, उसमें बिहार सरकार ने कुछ आपत्ति की। पूनम में कोई एक शीघ्र केन्द्र है हमारी सरकार का, लेकिन दस वर्ष हो गये उस केन्द्र ने यह कहा है

[श्री तारकेश्वर पांडे]

कि बाध बाधा जा सकता है, यानी पेड़ के ऊपर से फल गिरा और उस फल को केन्द्र सरकार ने अपनी फाइल में बंद करके रखा है, परमात्मा जाने वह बाध कब बाधा जायेगा। मुझसे कहा गया बिहार की गवर्नमेंट भी बाध बाधना चाहती है। किमी के बाध बाधने में हमको किसी प्रकार का एतराज नहीं, उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को नहीं, वलिया की जनता को नहीं, आप कृपा करके उस बाध को पूरा का पूरा बाध तो दीजिए।

अब बाढ़ के सबंध में मेरा सुझाव है। मैं बाढ़ का अभ्यस्त हूँ क्योंकि लगभग 40 वर्ष से मैं बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में काम करता रहा हूँ, उस अनुभव से कहता हूँ कि इस वक्त जो सरकार है वहा उसको तो मैं सुना नहीं सकता हूँ क्योंकि वह सरकारी कर्मचारियों का शासन है। फिर भी मैंने उनको लिखा है और आपके द्वारा ससद् के सामने उन सुझावों को सुना रहा हूँ। मैंने कुल 9 सुझाव दिये हैं।

मेरा पहला सुझाव है कि लगान तथा अन्य प्रकार की वसूली मुक्तवी की जाय।

दूसरा सुझाव है कि बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में जो स्कूल के बच्चे पढ़ते हैं चाहे दिल्ली में हो, लखनऊ में हो, इलाहाबाद में हो, बम्बई में हो, जहा कहीं भी पढ़ते हो, उनकी पूरी फीस माफ की जाय।

“तीसरा, जो लोग साधन हीन हैं, गरीब हैं उनके लिये जो प्राइमरी स्कूल गावों के समीप हैं उनको केन्द्र बना कर दूध दिया जाय तथा खाने पीने का कुछ इतजाम किया जाय।

“चौथा, सस्ते गल्ले की दुकानें प्रत्येक गाव सभा में खोली जाय और जो बड़े गाव हैं उनमें एक से अधिक खोली जाय।

पाचवा, जो साधन हीन परिवार हैं, जिनको गरीब कहते हैं, उनको मुफ्त राशन और कपडा दिया जाये।

छटा, बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में भयावह बीमारियां दोनों समय होती हैं, बाढ़ के समय भी और बाढ़ के उपरान्त भी होती हैं। मनुष्यों में भी होती हैं जानवरों में भी होती हैं। इसलिये मेरी प्रार्थना है कि सरकार अपने जो स्वास्थ्य अधिकारी हैं, मवेशियों के भी हैं और मनुष्यों के भी हैं, उनको सचेत कर दे कि दोनों भयावह परिस्थितियों का मुकाबला करने के लिये तैयार रहे।

सातवा, बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में यह स्थिति आ जाती है कि गावों में पानी चला जाता है, लोग कहा जाये, पूरा गाव जलमग्न हो जाता है। तो इस स्थिति का मुकाबला सरकार ही कर सकती है। हम लोग अपनी कांग्रेस कमेटियों के जरिये यह कार्य कराते हैं। डाह्याभाई चले गये, आलोचना तो वह बहुत करते हैं लेकिन कम से कम उत्तर प्रदेश में हमने बाढ़पीडित क्षेत्रों में उनके लोगों को काम करते किसी को भी अपनी आखों से नहीं देखा है। हम कांग्रेस में जो लोग हैं हम अभी भी सेवा कार्य, सहायता कार्य करते हैं, हम धन संग्रह करते हैं, काम भी करते हैं। हम सरकार से भी प्रार्थना करते हैं कि वह इस काम में हमारा हाथ बटाए। वह काम है बाढ़ग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में जो गाव जलमग्न हो जाये, डूब गये, उनमें मनुष्यों और जानवरों को नावों पर लाद कर जो स्थान ऊंचा है वहा पहुंचाए और जानवर और मनुष्य दोनों के खाने का समुचित प्रबन्ध करे।

आठवा, जब बाढ़ आती है तो फसल डूब जाती है और नष्ट हो जाती है और भयानक बदबू पैदा होती है। उसे जानवर खा नहीं सकते। इसलिये जानवरों के चारे का प्रबन्ध अत्यंत से किया जाय।

नौवा, मैं समझता हूँ आप इससे परिचित होंगे अनाज जो कुछ है हम खा जाते हैं, कुछ अनाज हमारा डूब जाता है, नष्ट हो जाता है। अब आगे आने वाली रबी की फसल के लिये क्या होगा? उसके लिये सरकार का कर्तव्य है कि बीज भंडारों को सबल बनाए और अलग अलग

से बीज भेजे जिससे कि खेती की जा सके ।
(*Time bell rings*) आपने यह जो सूची मे दिया है कि उत्तर प्रदेश मे 20 आदमी मरे हैं और जानवर 101 मरे हैं, यह हास्यास्पद है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री महावीर प्रसाद भार्गव) :
पाडे जी, आप 9 सुझाव कह रहे थे इसलिये मैंने आपको टाइम ज्यादा दिया । अब आप समाप्त कीजिए ।

श्री तारकेश्वर पांडे : तो मैं आपका बड़ा अनु-
गृहीत हूँ क्योंकि मैं भी बाढ़पीड़ित हूँ, मुझे नहीं देगे तो क्या दूसरों को देगे ? मैं समाप्त करता हूँ । मैं उस सख्या को कम मानता हूँ लेकिन इस सख्या के सबध मे विशेष इसलिये कहता हूँ कि डाह्याभाई जी की तरफ जब मैं देखता हूँ, चाहे वह हमारी कितनी ही आलोचना करे, लेकिन वह अतिपीडित मानव है और अतिपीडित मानव व्यग्रता मे, प्रलाप मे, कुछ कह भी दे तो सरकार जो बड़ी है उसको क्षमा करना चाहिये । मैं इसी ससद् से आशा करना हूँ कि गुजरात प्रदेश मे जो प्रलयकारो स्थिति हो गई है उससे समूचा देश, समुचित ढंग से सहानु-
भूति प्रकट करे और आर्थिक सहायता प्रदान करे ।

SHRI SURESH J. DESAI (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, there have been serious floods in several parts of the country, especially in Gujarat, West Bengal, Rajasthan and, to a lesser degree, in 4 to 5 other States. In South Gujarat, particularly in Surat district, from which I happen to come, the situation has been more serious. The hon. Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao, has been kind enough to visit that place and he has got the reports personally from the Chief Minister of Gujarat. I will confine myself more to Surat district because several reports have come to me from people whom I personally know. Now that the reports are coming, the situation has to be faced. It must really be heart-rending in some areas when waters enter the houses and the children have to be put on the shelves. The whole family was in 5'

to 6' water for 24 hours and the children had to be put and kept there, on the shelves. In a number of factories the waters entered and there was water 8' to 10' deep. Extensive damage has been caused to many goods, raw materials, food stocks and cattle. The Southern Gujarat Chamber of Commerce in a statement has said that in Surat district alone Rs. 23 crores worth of damage has been done and in the satellite town of Udhna about Rs. 1 crore worth of damage has been done. As the Chief Minister of Gujarat has said, more than 1,600 persons have been killed in the South Gujarat floods. In other parts of the country also, Sir, there has been extensive damage, especially in West Bengal, Rajasthan and some time back in Assam, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh also.

Now, Sir, the main question is about preventive measures which have to be taken. Preventive measures for flood control are as important as food production. Unfortunately we have not been giving that priority to flood control measures which should have been given earlier. We gave priority to food production but this is as important as food production because if extensive damage is caused and the standing crops are washed away, what is the use of producing more food when that food is washed away by floods? Every year practically we have floods in some part of the country or the other and so more importance should be given to preventive measures.

As far as South Gujarat is concerned, the Minister has said that if the Ukai dam is constructed, the danger to Surat city will be less. That may take some 2 or 3 years more to be constructed but meanwhile something should be done so that some flood control measures—preventive measures—are taken. Till that is done—that is also a matter of huge expenditure—the immediate needs are these: If the Minister can speak to the other Ministries, especially to the Steel and Metal Ministry, to send some corrugated iron sheets to Gujarat as early as possible, it will greatly help. They can give an *ad hoc* quota of corrugated iron sheets. I had a talk with Mr. Sethi, the Minister of State in that Ministry, and he was very sympathetic. I hope Dr. Rao will also speak to him so that

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an *ad hoc* quota of corrugated sheets is given to Gujarat as early as possible. The other requirement is food. Large stocks of food-grains have been washed away. If the Food Ministry can give additional quota of food to Gujarat immediately, that will be very helpful. About 50,000 tonnes of milo have been requested by our Chief Minister. That should be made available. Thirdly, if he could speak to the Commerce Ministry, some clothing from the Mill-owners' Association can be made available. All these are immediate requirements of the situation. The situation is very grave especially in South Gujarat because I have got personal reports from a number of friends who have been there and something must be done immediately so that some relief can be extended to them. Thank you.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : Mr. Vice-Chairman, technically I belong to drought area, not a flood area but I feel that in a matter like this, it is national problem and whether it is in Assam or Gujarat or Kerala or Maharashtra, we are all affected. We all feel it and it is our duty and obligation to see that we give as much help as we can to our brethren who are affected by these calamities. There are two methods. One is the short-term measure. Regarding that, I feel in the Central Government, apart from the help from the Prime Minister's Fund, there must be an agency which should come into operation immediately. As many Members have pointed out, apart from the agencies in the States, in the Central Government also there must be some agency which must come immediately into operation with money, experts and all the necessary things so that immediate relief may be given. As regards the long-term measures, I was really very much hurt to see—as has been very correctly admitted in the statement itself—that only 25 per cent. of flood control measures have been taken up and 75 per cent. remains to be done. As we have decided to give top priority to agriculture, as this serves a double purpose—one to control floods and the other to help agriculture—so, without going into details I would appeal to the Minister to come out with his plans before the House. By Brahmaputra every year there is a heavy toll of lives and damage to crops and property.

I read somewhere that after the earthquakes the situation has become still more difficult; otherwise the flood was not there so frequently. These are matters I would like the Minister to consider and he should give the House his plan for flood control and the amount that he requires, so that the whole country may feel the urgency and the need to undertake these measures. I am sure Parliament, irrespective of the States, irrespective of the parties—as was evidenced from the speech of many Opposition Members including Dr. Ahmed—feels that we are all one in giving our help in whatever way possible so that the floods in the country are effectively controlled. I do hope that the Minister will come with a full programme of the measures that he thinks are necessary in order to have effective control over this problem.

Regarding the disputes between Gujarat and Maharashtra or Madhya Pradesh or Andhra, I feel . . .

SHRI K. S. CHAVDA : The flow of water from the Narmada is greater than the five rivers of the Punjab State and it is not tapped.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : I share your grief but these are matters in which our approach must be helpful. I do not blame Madhya Pradesh or Gujarat or Maharashtra but I do feel that we are looking more from the point of view of the State and not from the national point of view. Let us sink our differences and be determined that whatever it may be, let us treat this as a national problem and approach this matter. It matters very little if a few thousand cultivators in Andhra benefit more or those in Maharashtra or Mysore benefit more. To me it is immaterial so long as the people feel that justice is done and these forces of nature are controlled for the service of humanity. I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity.

DR. K. L. RAO : Mr. Vice-Chairman, I must express my grateful thanks to the various Members who have participated in this discussion for the very excellent and thought-provoking ideas they have given. I am greatly benighted and thought-provoking ideas as I was hearing the debate with great interest. I shall very briefly give a

review of the States that have been affected by the floods and pass on to some general observations.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) in the Chair.]

At the outset I must submit that this country of ours is blessed with a very large number of beautiful rivers—big and small. A river is a very interesting fruit of nature. A river never carries the same amount of water in any two years. It never repeats itself either in magnitude or in the timing of the occurrence. A river may carry very little water this year. For example, in the Tapi, the one that has given the largest trouble—some years the annual flow is about 9 million acre feet but there are some years in which it is less than 3 million acre feet. That is an interesting freak of nature. It is highly varying and complex. Similarly, the floods may come in July or August or in October and sometimes it comes in December as well. Sometimes small rivers can give a lot of trouble. Some four years ago in Andhra there was a small river, Chandravanka, a tributary of Krishna, and it got swollen, when there was a sudden rainfall, and rose to 20 feet. More than 100 people were washed away and many were in hospitals. There was a town which was completely washed away. So, every river has interesting characteristics. So I say that flood control is a massive one specially in a country like ours which is blessed with beautiful rivers.

Having said that I must submit one or two things here. Many Members said that we have done very little and only 25 per cent. of protection of our lands has been done and more than 75 per cent. remains to be done. Now that is so because flood control is a costly affair and a very time-consuming one. In the United States of America, it is a very strange coincidence that the United States of America and India have about the same amount of area which is subjected to flood damage. That is about 500 lakhs of acres in India and about 480 lakhs of acres in the United States. The size of the problem is about the same and the Americans have spent so far 4,000 crores of rupees in Dollars. They have secured about 40 per cent. only. We have spent 190 crores of rupees and have secured

about 25 per cent. Indeed it is a very creditable achievement that we have done. If we have not been able to satisfy all the honourable Members or if we are not able to ensure that this flood damage does not occur, it is really not so much a matter of planning; it is a question of money, the question of finances. It is really a question that we have started only fourteen years back. As the honourable Member, Dr. Ahmad, has said very correctly, the most important thing for correct planning is the flood control data, the collection of data. We did not have any data whatsoever. In the last ten years we have been concentrating and obtaining data and this data collection has given us greater confidence to go about and to frame these various projects.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Has the data been completed? Has it been collected?

DR. K. L. RAO: Yes, Sir. We have a fairly good amount of data. We are collecting a good amount of data. As the honourable Member, Dr. Ahmad, said, it is not a long-term data but we have got some good data and we have been collecting some of the data. If we do not publish it, it is for obvious reasons—because of Pakistan we do not want to make public our Gandak system, etc. Therefore, we do not publish these documents. Nevertheless we have collected a fairly comprehensive data on which a very good plan can be drawn.

There is one other thing which I would submit. Our annual appropriations are not great. Being a country which is poor, our annual appropriations are small. Therefore, with that we have got we are trying to frame those projects—because we have to restrict our activities to those projects—which are to be done in those areas where there is a greater possibility of a large amount of loss of life or a large amount of damage. And in that respect and it is in pursuit of this policy that a large amount of money has been spent, very well, in Bihar State. In the State of Bihar, out of Rs. 190 crores, the highest amount—Rs. 44 crores—was spent and with a good result. I should say the control of the Kosi is indeed a very creditable achievement. Those friends

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who are in the Kosi area, in Darbhanga, the northern part of Bihar, know very well how wonderfully prosperity has grown up in those areas. I myself knew that area before this Kosi flood control work was started and now there is a completely vital change. For travelling up to Belepur, a distance of 20 miles, before this Kosi flood control work, I used to take nearly two days. Now we can go within less than half an hour. Beautiful roads have been constructed. Everything has been stabilised. It is a remarkable thing, I should say. I would say the honourable Members must try to pay a visit to these interesting areas where flood control works have achieved wonderful success. And likewise in the Gandak, it is a fairly well-controlled river. With the completion of the Gandak project there will be better and far more control. There are some rivers in north Bihar like the Adhwara system and the Bagmati system and so on. There are systems. These have to be controlled in north Bihar. We cannot give everything all at once. We have chosen the most difficult Kosi river which is supposed to be the greatest river of sorrow in India just as the Yellow river in China. I had the advantage of seeing and studying the Yellow river in China personally and we have achieved a greater success than them in fact on the Kosi river,—of course, due to the kindness of nature. I should say. Therefore, when you take Bihar, of course, I can understand the impatience of the honourable Members of Bihar complaining that flood control works for other rivers have not been done here. That is quite correct. But on the whole if you take a comprehensive view we should say that we have done quite well in Bihar and achieved something substantial.

The next province that is subjected to a great amount of trouble, which has a very complex, the most difficult and complex flood problem, is that of Assam. Naturally we will say, why is it that every year we have the Brahmaputra floods and what is it that you are not able to do anything? Many people asked me the same thing. In fact, the former President Dr. Radhakrishnan used to ask me—the first thing he used to mention was the river Brahmaputra and say, “Rao, what is this you are not doing anything at all in this area?” That is the unfortunate

thing of it. The Brahmaputra is the biggest river of our country flowing in the narrowest valley of our country. If it was flowing otherwise it would have been a wonderful beneficiary. The whole of Assam valley is only 50 miles broad of which this river occupies 10 miles at some places, not less than six miles and if you put even a small weir on the river the whole of the Brahmaputra valley will be flooded. Therefore, in the case of the Brahmaputra it is a very complex problem. Also it is the highest seismic zone in the world. In the 1950 earthquake it was of the highest recorded intensity in the world. And, therefore, as the honourable Members say—and it is true—that the Brahmaputra bed is going up. It has gone up because all the silt comes from the Himalayan rivers. Big landslides occur. All these landslides are washed down.

In fact, I had been to the USSR a few years back. I saw a very interesting programme there. The engineers there are very intelligent people and they work a lot of plans for every country. They study every country. There I have seen some very interesting plans by which they want to divert the Brahmaputra at the corner where it enters into India. They want to put a barrage there and take away to the Mangolian desert. The Brahmaputra is at that place 12,000 feet high and the Mangolian desert 3,000 feet above the sea level. If the river can be taken there they will produce large enormous amounts of power and whole desert will be converted into a beautiful garden. It is an excellent project. The only thing is that China has to cooperate in that endeavour. When I was told about this project I said, we will be most happy to participate in the project because at least it will take away the Brahmaputra river from us and will solve our flood problem. That is to say, the Brahmaputra is a very very naughty river. It does not do any benefit to us, except perhaps a little bit of shipping facility; but it poses all the problem. Now in such a case while no doubt we should all the time be engaged on flood control how to achieve anything substantial, for the development of the valley—this has got to be thought over. Planning has to be done correctly. Now some honourable Members and quite a lot of people from the Brahmaputra area, from Assam valley believe that dredging is the solution for that. For the

Brahmaputra dredging, apart from the costs that it will involve, there is no estimate for the cost of such a dredging. If you want to dredge, say, about a mile long and five hundred feet wide it will cost more than a crore of rupees. Here is the river which is about six miles broad and where are we going to deposit this earth? There is no place. Even on an experimental measure I cannot say it will straightway succeed in the places where there is erosion. That is to say, a river always meanders. It always bends and flows. Whenever a river bends it causes erosion there. Erosion means when the river flows fast with great velocity it will take away the soil. That is the greatest and the most difficult problems connected with the rivers. Erosion takes place where a river takes a turn. Rivers always flow in the form of a snake. If we go by air and see, we find that no river is straight. All the rivers flow always in the form of snakes. And in that process erosions occur. Whether it is the river Ganga, the Brahmaputra or any river, erosion always occurs. It is the costliest item to be attended to. Take for example, Dibrugarh—a big city, a beautiful city. And I must mention the great foresight of our late Prime Minister Panditji. Houses were falling one after the other; he came to inspect that town. And he said; he caught hold of one of the engineers who happened to be there and he said, "I will throw you into this river if you do not do, something for saving the town." He also told me, "I want the designs for this." We were trying to say, "Oh, it is a very difficult task." But he would not hear anything. "I am not prepared to hear anything from you. I must get the designs from you", said he. So we exercised our minds, and then we brought out a design. And I never thought that that design would stand up. But, as luck would have it, that design was executed and it saved the town of Dibrugarh. But it has cost some crores of rupees. So the question is one of how much we can afford to resist erosion, and where is it to be done.

Hon. Members from U.P. very correctly said that at Ballia and Chitauni, the rivers are giving a lot of trouble by way of erosion. The Chitauni bund is a bit better than the Ballia bund and yet, at Gaya Ghat, the fury of

the river is such that, I am afraid, at any time that bund may give way, and if the bund gives way, about 10,000 people, 15,000 or so will be put to naiah, said,—that aspect, I did not realise before; it came to my mind only today when he was speaking—those 10,000 people who may suffer from these floods are the poorest sections of our society, because they are the people who live there. That aspect, I did not know before; at least it did not strike my mind. Therefore, what is happening there is that a lot of people, 15,000 or so will be put to suffering if the Gaya Ghat bank is breached; the water will escape through the breach. There, before I went the U.P. engineers thought of tackling the problem. There are two ways to tackle this erosion problem. One is by what is called 'retiring'; that is to say, you put a bank behind—that is 'retiring'—and let the bank be built at some distance, half a mile or one mile. That is called retiring. The other one is to dump stone and take all steps to fight the river. And the U.P. engineers, before I went for inspection there, they said, "Let us give it up; let us put the 'retiring banks', because 'retiring' is much cheaper." Probably they were economically correct. And when I went there and saw all those people living there, some thousands of people living there, I felt how immense their misery would be and I said to myself, "No, no, the human problem is more important. We should fight it out." So I told the Secretary and the U.P. Government that we should fight out that river through dumping operations. Sometimes dredging may help but it costs quite a lot of money, but under some circumstances we have to do that. And the dredging may help; I won't say it will help; it may help in trying to reduce this effect of erosion, for dredging means this. Where a river is flowing by and has a huge velocity, if you dredge, say, at a distance of about 500 feet away, and dig a course deeper than near the bank, it may be that the water will get diverted, not once for all, but temporarily, not that it will always go in that direction permanently, and the effect of the erosion may be reduced. It is not one of those standard methods, and yet we are trying to get the dredging done for the Brahmaputra, for Assam; we are trying to arrange one or two dredgers for the work. We will try and do the experiment. But the problem is bigger than

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this and that is what I want to submit—the problem of Assam is a very big one. Another trouble in that State is that in order to protect it against inundation by the Brahmaputra, at the place where it occupies the lowest portion, we have put in flood banks. Banks are inevitable. Some people think that banks are not necessary. No; banks are intended in order to protect the very area where the largest amount of havoc occurs. If the river is always at the ridge even with a little amount of water, it will spread to the sides, and if we want to make use of the flood plains, then we must construct the flood banks. That is why banks are inevitable. Of course, if the banks are connected along with some other system like a reservoir, a detention reservoir, or some other device, then, of course, it will be more effective. But embankments as such, under some circumstances, are inevitable, as in the case of Assam and Orissa. In Orissa the Mahanadi flows on a high ridge, and if there is no bank, even though very little amount of water will be flowing the whole area will be covered with water and, therefore, it is that embankments are really important, and the only unfortunate things in the case of Assam is that we have constructed nearly 2,000 miles of embankments, that is to say, nearly half the country's length. Some hon. Members thought otherwise, but I used that statement not in any sense to boast of it. What I meant to say was that one single State has to look after 2,000 miles. It is a very big task. No single State can do that. The burden is too much. In fact, I was pleading that the burden must be shared by the Government of India. Some hon. Member has mistaken that; Mr. Islam has mistaken that and he said that I must have mentioned the canals and the other systems built up in other States. But that is not the point there. What I was trying to say was that the embankments are perfectly useless if they are not maintained, if they are not kept. The moment an embankment is not watched, it is no embankment at all; it is a dangerous thing, and that is what is happening in the case of the Brahmaputra; in the case of Assam there is so much length of embankment that it has become almost unmanageable for the State, and therefore I am thinking that some method has

to be found out and adopted by which care must be taken of these embankments. I should say with pride that the Kosi embankments are being looked after very well, and that is how the Kosi has been a great success. Similarly, in any other river system likewise, this is one of the details that has to be kept in mind.

Now some hon. Members have said that the Statement that was given here was wrong. Some Member said that it was incomplete. He became furious and said that such incomplete and such useless statements, statements which were under-estimates, should not be given. I want to submit in this case that flood control work is not a Central subject. We are not directly in authority at all these works, and we are here a sort of co-ordinating body, a sort of helping organisation, and we have got to depend for these statistics entirely on the States, and the information that is given here is a correct reproduction of what we have got from the States. For example, take Kerala. In the case of Kerala it is nothing else but a reproduction of the statement that they have sent. Tomorrow they may send another statement quite different; it may be more correct. After all, it is also not possible to collect any correct statistics all at once; places are inaccessible, for example in Gujarat. I have said in the statement that in Gujarat about 116 people have been reported as dead so far. It is quite true that the Chief Minister has said that it may run into thousands, a four figure. The papers have reported it. But I cannot do that because, even today, just before I came to the House, I contacted the Gujarat Government. And they still repeated the same thing; they did not have any figure higher than 116.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS :
The Chief Minister does not represent the State, or what?

DR. K. L. RAO : No, no, what I mean to say is this. I do not say that 116 is the correct figure at all. What I am saying is : I myself had been there; I know that the figure will probably be higher. But nobody can assert anything. What the Chief Minister meant to convey by estimating it at a four figure was to indicate that the loss of life must have been very colossal; it is nothing more than that; with that I agree. But only the exact figure

that I have got, I can submit to the House, I must give a correct statement, I cannot give any and every statement. As I submitted, just before I came to the House I contacted on phone the Gujarat Government and they said, "We do not have any other figure than what we have given yesterday, and that is 116. I wish it is 116. All of us wish, the whole House wishes it were so. What I want to submit is. Do not therefore kindly blame me regarding the figures. I am going to submit another statement towards the end of the month. Before the House disperses I will give that statement. I may hope that I will get more information. I will try to get it and give you. But it is not possible for us to be very up-to-date in these matters. As far as possible we will collect and place before the House. Now some hon. Member said—I do not know how he could say that—that in Punjab so many people died, that in Haryana 20 people died, all due to the floods, and that has not been reported in this. What can I do? When the Haryana Government itself tells me that there is no such death there, what can I do? I shall be putting them in the wrong if I were to take the alleged figure of 20 deaths due to floods. (Interruptions). In this connection I must submit that we contacted the Chief Engineer of Haryana and asked him. And he says there are no such deaths due to breaches and so on. May be some deaths, I do not say there are no deaths, there are deaths, of course, due to other reasons, not due to floods going over and sweeping them. Of course there are deaths.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) Mr. Krishan Kant will further verify.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT I never said about deaths.

DR K. L. RAO I did not say that it was by my friend. What I was submitting was about the Statement. Of course I apologise for not being able to be very up-to-date. But nothing else can be done under these circumstances.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI Is it possible to make an assessment for Parliament without statistics?

DR K. L. RAO Quite correct; we talk only in a general way. A detailed discussion after two or three months,

in the next session probably, would be more valuable.

SHRI N. K. SHEJWALKAR : What about Punjab? I have said about Punjab.

DR. K. L. RAO : Then there is another point. Hon. Members have very correctly said that the flood losses are mounting up and sufficient amount of attention is not being paid. But the whole point is this. In this country we do not have any flood plains regulation rules. The flood waters in the rivers come and go in particular areas and in competition with the rivers we go and shut off some of those areas by putting up habitation, cultivation and so on. Cultivation is all right, tolerable but if you go and put up your houses there then it becomes a big problem for the country's resources when the floods are there and the amount of damage goes on increasing. That is why the flood damage has been going up from year to year because more and more people are going and living in these flood plains. Delhi is a very good example in this respect. Every year we must get a flood level of 672 feet. It is a very small amount of water, about one-third of the water that it must carry. If there is not this much of water there will be water famine in Agra and all those places but if this much of water comes some 27 villages will be submerged here. They are all on the banks of the river in the low areas. We are asking them to shift but they won't go. Similarly, for example, in Gaya Ghat and Ballia we have done a blunder there. We should not have allowed the people to settle there. The people could have been allowed to cultivate but they should have been asked to live away from the river, half a mile or a mile away from the river. When the people come and live nearer and nearer the river, it becomes a big problem and it becomes a very costly affair. In this country we are not having any flood plains regulation. I have been thinking that we should have some sort of legislation to regulate these flood plains. We must restrict these areas, we must declare some of them as dangerous zones. In some areas where the flood occurs once in thousand years, maybe we can tolerate some kind of habitation but in the case of areas where the floods occur annually we must prevent the people from inhabiting such areas; we must declare them as dangerous zones. In

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this connection I will be submitting a Bill for the approval of the House.

Now taking up the question of Gujarat, it has suffered the maximum this year and it was quite right that the whole House should have unanimously expressed its sympathy. What has happened is, there are a number of rivers in Gujarat and of these rivers the most troublesome is the Tapti. The Tapti carries about one-third of the water of Narmada. It is not a big river compared to Narmada; it carries only one-third of the water of Narmada but the topographical feature is such that it carries much more silt than is usual in such cases and for some reasons or another—I do not know—it has built up a delta at the end which is lower than the river so that when the water in the river goes up this area of about 300 sq. miles gets flooded. That is the peculiarity of that particular area but floods in Tapti have not occurred so frequently. The last one was in 1959 so much so the people had got into a sort of lull and now it has again happened. And this time it has come with a certain amount of suddenness because there was no warning of any sort. I accept that there has been no warning for the people. The flood waters came in suddenly and Surat town and the neighbouring villages were inundated very suddenly with the result that the loss of life is much more than what it would have been. Probably the loss of life would have been very little if there was a proper warning beforehand. It is a very regrettable thing that somehow this calamity has happened. Another thing this time is, the floods came in so very suddenly. The whole thing was over in just two days; it was just like a dream. It came in the early hours of the 6th and by the 7th evening everything was over and the flood waters had begun to recede. It was a very intensive concentrated amount of water that came this time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN): Could they not find out anything earlier, Dr. Rao?

DR. K. L. RAO: It could have been. That is what I am submitting. If we had a flood forecasting system they could have got a notice of at least 20 hours but that has not been the case.

This is one thing that we have learnt this time that we should have flood forecasting system for most of our rivers. We have such flood forecasting system for some of the rivers. For example in Delhi so far as Jamuna is concerned we know exactly what the level of the water in Jamuna is, when it is rising, when to keep watch on the banks and so on. We have this system in respect of some of the rivers but unfortunately not in Gujarat. In Assam also we have some sort of a system but not a very good one. We are having a sort of an imperfect system but we must have a perfect system for all our rivers so that in the very critical conditions it would be possible for them to operate and be of use.

In the case of this Tapti we are building a dam upstream the Ukai Dam, above this low depression, this low level delta. This Ukai Dam has a storing capacity bigger than Bhakra. It is a very mighty one and if we only complete that dam I can give a hundred per cent guarantee that no more floods will be there and nothing of this sort will happen afterwards.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: When will you complete it? We have been hearing this for the last fifteen years.

DR. K. L. RAO: Rightly the hon. Mr. Patel has a righteous indignation in this respect that this project has been going on for too long a time. We have got to spend about another Rs. 60 crores, Rs. 20 crores on power, Rs. 20 crores for completing the dam and Rs. 20 crores for the irrigation system. I have suggested that in the next two years we must complete the dam and the power plant and we may defer the irrigation system to a further date. At least by June 1971 we should see that we are completely free from this menace of floods in that region. I have written to the various concerned authorities about this and with the great support that this House has given today I am sure consideration will be given to that and the project will be completed in the next two years.

Now in Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra also there are some projects upstream; the Hatnoor project, the Upper Tapti project in Maharashtra and two other reservoir projects in

Madhya Pradesh. If these two are completed it will give added advantage to the higher regions; others will give complete protection to the lower regions. The higher regions in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh also suffer from floods in the river Tapti. One of the things we have got to do is because of the dam and because of the low depression we have got to construct embankments on both sides of the Tapti at least up to 25 miles. The completion of the dam plus the construction of embankments on both sides up to 25 miles will put an end to all this suffering. They must have been suffering for centuries and all that will now end. We will be doing a great service to this suffering humanity in that area by trying to accelerate and complete these two items for the control of Tapti.

6 P.M.

Now, regarding the Narmada, this year it has not given much trouble, except at Broach, which is right at the edge of the river and the town of Ankleshwar, which is about two miles from the edge of the river; these have been affected. Of course, in some other areas in Rajpipla, people have been affected. Compared with Tapti, the loss is much less. Of course, the solution for these rivers is obvious. The Narmada is considered holier than the Ganga. Tradition has it that the Ganga comes and bathes in the Narmada once a year. A very holy river, I only hope that we shall not pollute it with our fighting. We shall try to keep it holy and develop it in the best interests of the nation.

SHRI M. PURKAYASTHA : What about the Barak river in Assam?

DR. K. L. RAO : The hon. Member has reminded me about Assam, the other portion of Assam, the Cachar district. Now, Cachar district is a level land and there the Barak river causes a lot of flood. With the minimum water that comes, not very much, just a little bit of water comes into the Cachar district, inundation starts. We have put up some embankments, but they do not give so much effective protection. The only way is to construct the Barak dam. We can detain the water that causes flood. Detain and then let it down when the water goes down. That will give a very effective control. The construction of the Barak dam will control

the flood situation in Cachar. We have had a lot of difficulties in our investigations. Finally, we have investigated it and the project is ready. It costs Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 25 crores. The only trouble about that is it submerges the Manipur area and that too the Manipur-Naga area, somewhat fertile portions. Every river has to submerge some land or the other. So, we are now discussing it with the Chief Minister of Manipur as how best to overcome this trouble of submersion. Once this is done, the Barak project can be taken up. In fact, our construction will also benefit Pakistan, because Pakistan also suffers a great deal from this Barak river.

Now, what I am submitting is that in the State of Gujarat a very unfortunate thing has happened. We know the control measures for this and we will be getting into these control measures. You may ask: Why is it that this was not foreseen? Why is it that we have not accelerated this project? I can only plead guilty to that. There are so many projects all over India. These rivers are behaving in a very funny way. If the Tapti was in floods every year, we would have been a little more alert about it. For ten years it has gone on well. From 1959 onwards it was very silent and now suddenly it spurts again. That is one thing about this Tapti river. Anyway, we have now woken up to the situation and we are going to take remedial measures for that.

Then, the other State is Rajasthan. It is a very interesting thing that the total rainfall in Rajasthan, so far, is below the average. Take the average of any year and you will find that it has got much less rainfall than what it should have been, but certain areas like Sawai Madhopur, Nagore, Chittorgarh, etc. had a heavy downpour, all of a sudden. They got a very heavy rainfall, with the result that water is considerable everywhere. It has breached a number of tanks and caused a lot of havoc and damage.

The Chambal river is under complete control. We have constructed a dam. In fact, we are looking for water to fill the dam. What we always pray for is that there should be water in the Chambal river. In the last three years it failed. Only this year I am very happy to state that it is filling up. The

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level has gone up to 1294 feet. That means the electric power will be good this year. The Chambal power has been failing for the last three years resulting in heavy suffering to Rajasthan State and especially the Kotah industries have been suffering immensely. Now, this year the rainfall has been good and the reservoir level has gone up from 1250 to 1294 feet. We only hope that it will reach the maximum that it has been designed for. If it rises by ten feet more it will come very nearly to the designed level and that means plenty of power for Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh.

Now, the main trouble in Rajasthan is the Gaggar. This is a river which passes through Haryana and there is always a controversy that the Gaggar comes from Haryana and, therefore, the Haryana people are responsible, and so on. They even say that the Haryana people have sent down this water intentionally to cause trouble to Rajasthan. But unfortunately what happened this year is that Haryana has been treated equally badly by this river. There are a number of villages where the Namadhari Sikhs—a very wonderful set of our countrymen—live. All their villages have been inundated. They are under three, four or five feet of water. Water has flooded the area. Floods make no difference between different people, between State and State, and between various political parties. Hon. Members stressed too often during this debate about the Congress not doing work and so on. The floods have affected completely the Congress and the non-Congress. There is no difference at all. I do not see why Members should think in such terms. That is one aspect which hon. Member need not have touched at all. There are no politics at all in this and much less State rivalries. Floods treat everybody equally. Now, the Gaggar is an ancient river. In olden times it had much less water. When Haryana and Punjab were developed, there is much more water coming because of irrigation water and there is more flood and so on. More water is coming in. It just happened that because it is a desert area people concentrated and built up their habitation right in the middle of the river, in Hanumangarh, in Suratgarh, in Anupgarh, etc. All these places are right in the bed of the river. They call it Nalibed. These

are very prosperous places. They want the water of the Gaggar and they welcome the water of the Gaggar, but not in large quantities like this. They want only some regulated amount of water. Therefore, what we did was we developed a scheme called the Gaggar diversion scheme. It consists of allowing a certain amount of regulated water into the old course. A major portion of the water goes into the depressions. Fortunately in the sand dunes, in the very big desert, there are a large number of depressions, as many as 18 depressions, which will absorb the whole amount of water. A canal, thirty miles long, is taken into these depressions to fill one after the other. This canal runs into a very high embankment at the entrance to the depressions. The ground falls very rapidly, thirty or forty feet it falls. There they have got very high banks. It is there that it breached last year. Again, this year in the upper reach it breached.

Some hon. Members were very critical of these breaches. They asked. What are you doing about it? What can we do if it fails? Unusually it had been breached. We know how to make it completely foolproof, but then it means a very large amount of money. Money has to be dumped in. Anyhow, I am not afraid of criticism, but I am afraid of the fact that because of that breach, the whole scheme has been rendered ineffective. When the breach has occurred, we have to stop it, we have to put back the water in the old course. If the breach had not occurred, if the water had gone into the depression, we would have done a wonderful job. The Suratgarh farm, which is always under water, would have gone on wonderfully well. And, therefore, realising the importance of this, I have suggested that we should take certain steps. Money does not matter. Whatever be the cost, we should make these banks completely free from any chance of being breached. We have to fill up the earth, then put lining on both sides, so that no water seeps through. There will be no danger to the embankment. So, I have suggested two or three alternatives and we are at it. Next year we shall see that the diversion scheme functions. Then we may be able to save Rajasthan and see that the river of sorrow does not do any more havoc in that area.

SHRI KRISHAN KANT: What about Kishau dam?

DR. K. L. RAO : Kishau dam is a construction on the Tons river which is a main tributary of the Yamuna, and it is at a place where on one side is Himachal Pradesh and on the other side is U.P. If the dam is completely constructed, then the water which is going down the Yamuna river in the flood season can be held back and made use of for the rabi crop irrigation in the very hungry area of Guigaon of Haryana, Agra area of U.P., Delhi water supply, and Rajasthan Bharatpur area. It is a very useful one. But the whole trouble always is that we are racing with finances. There the question is one of finance again. I do not know whether we will be able to take it up in the Fourth Plan because so many other projects are on, and at any rate the investigations are nearing completion practically, and it can be accelerated. The main thing is I am not sure whether we will be able to take it up because all the States concerned are complaining of shortage of money. There is not one single rich State in this group. There are five States concerned in this, including Delhi. If all the five people share saying, "All right, we will put two crores, you put two crores", then we can easily take it up. Nobody has got the courage to say that, either Rajasthan or Haryana or Delhi or U.P. or Himachal Pradesh. All are sailing in the same boat. There is no rich State. That is the whole trouble.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : You have forgotten about Suvarnarekha.

DR. K. L. RAO : I have not forgotten about that. I will come to it. Leaving Rajasthan I must take up West Bengal. West Bengal has suffered very intensely this year. Practically all the districts have suffered, and the worst, of course, was Midnapore. In Midnapore what happened is that there are Sabang area, Dugdal and Ghatal, those are the three areas which have suffered very intensely. One of the main reasons is, the water has come—I am wondering where the water has come from. The water has come from Suvarnarekha river. What is happening is, last year also Contai area was flooded, not this year. Contai town is not flooded this year. This year again the water spilled over from the Suvarnarekha river. I find that it is absolutely essential that we should construct a bank on the Suvarnarekha on the Bengal side. But

once you construct it on the Bengal side, then it will have reflection on Orissa. Therefore, we must construct it on the Orissa side which will save Balasore and other neighbouring areas. Therefore, it is that I have thought that we should carry out this construction of the embankment on these two sides of the river Suvarnarekha. I am taking steps in that connection. In West Bengal, there are practically no drainages. There are no drainage channels at all for want of maintenance. All of them are completely rendered ineffective. That is the chief difficulty. Take, for example, the Damodar river. On Damodar river we have constructed the dam. As a result of this the water flowing down the river is much less, far less. The fact that the water was coming less made the people occupy the whole bed of the river. Now there is no Damodar at all in the lower portions. We cannot recognise the Damodar. The whole area is now fields. The nature of course rebels. Nature will not take it lying down like that. So, when the water was coming more and people obstructed it, it has spilled over and spoiled some land, crossed into Mundeswari and joined the Rupnarain. If a little amount of water is let down from the Damodar Valley dam, it immediately affects. Therefore, I have discussed with the officers concerned, and I am very emphatic that we should revive this Damodar river at least to a much lesser extent. Before ten lakhs of cusecs were involved. Now it will quite suffice if we have 2½ or 3 lakhs, much less because of the effect of the reservoir. Therefore, it is very essential that we should have this drainage system developed in West Bengal; whether it is a question of 24-Parganas where there is again very acute flood, or the Howrah or Hooghly district, any district in West Bengal, you take it for granted that it is a question of drainages. The drainages have got to be attended to.

Coming to Orissa, Orissa is a State where you have got a large number of very beautiful rivers, very good rivers. The fact that we have not been able to control of all them except Mahanadi makes immediately that State viable for simultaneous drought and flood conditions. That is the only State where drought and flood are living side by side.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Even in the same year.

DR. K. L. RAO : No other State has got that peculiarity, because the rivers are there but the rivers are not managed. Therefore, it is drought-stricken. When the river goes up, then the flood occurs. There is almost a simultaneous or successive occurrence of both of these. Therefore, the only way to get over that is to undertake construction of reservoirs and development of these rivers. But it all means money. Unfortunately the Orissa plan is so tight that we are not able to push even Rs. 10 crores into that plan. The Population of Orissa is less. If the population is more, we could have pushed in some more money.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : They should develop that ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Orissa can be a very prosperous State and it is one of the best States of India. It is a highly potential State. The only trouble in Orissa is that, as the hon. Member has said, the roadways have not provided a sufficient amount of opening. There is a road Calcutta-Madras road, running right across the whole river system and that road cuts across the whole drainage system and obstructs the flow of water. Therefore it is that there is a heavy congestion. Last year when I went there, I was very sorry that a man-made interference has resulted—all over all are poor people ; everybody has got a mud house, very neat and very nice mud house; everything was in a collapsed condition. Therefore, we should construct as many bridges in that highway as possible. I have been in correspondence; to some extent we have succeeded. Therefore, the subject has to be pursued by the Central Government and by the State as well. Of course it may be that sometimes so much bridgeway is not necessary. Even if it is required once in, say, a few years, even then it is worth it. In that way the hon. Member can pursue that subject more and more and see that it is done.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : Your Transport Ministry have got the national highway.

DR. K. L. RAO : I must speak of Kerala. About the Kerala State, none of the big rivers there has given any trouble. There is heavy, intensive rainfall in two districts, Calicut and Cannanore. The frequency is once in

hundred years. The mountains are very near the coast. That heavy intensive rainfall flows down for a small distance ; the water cuts across the plain, and it has caused the havoc. All the mud houses have simply flowed down and a number of people have slipped out.

In these two districts because of the heavy and intensive rainfall all that damage has occurred. What is required there is not so much flood control but a substantial construction of houses. The collapse of the houses has caused all that death, all that trouble. We have got to ensure a certain amount of minimum safe housing accommodation in such a heavy rainfall area. That is what is required in Kerala.

Now, I have got to reply to the points raised by other honourable friends . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : How long will you take, Dr. Rao ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Another ten or fifteen minutes.

The Government is taking every care to see that the flood control problems are solved. It is paying attention. We have seen the hon. Prime Minister here. She found time to come round here and intervene, to say a few words of cheer. Actually, she wanted to go much earlier to Gujarat. I do not know, whether in this House or in the other House, somebody was asking why the Deputy Prime Minister has not gone there why the Prime Minister has not gone to Gujarat. The Gujarat Government said that the Prime Minister should not come now, that they are all engaged in . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Relief measures.

DR. K. L. RAO : . . . relief measures. Actually when I went there, I went round by a separate plane. Actually I wanted to land in a helicopter. This big plane cannot land anywhere in the flooded areas. But I was consciously stricken, I felt that I shall not ask for a helicopter because it was carrying food packets and by taking that, yourself, you are depriving them of something, instead of doing something useful for that area. It is all right. . .

SHRI Z. A. AHMAD : It is necessary that leading people should go and see.

DR. K. L. RAO : That is true. That is why in the case of Assam the Prime Minister rushed. But here in Gujarat, the Government there said that she should come in the next week, about the 24th or the 25th, and she is going there accordingly. Of course, you know that the Deputy Prime Minister has already gone there.

Now, what I want to submit is that we are alert. After all, it is a national problem, it is our own problem, and we should always try to do the best.

I have taken a lot of time.

I want to submit that having heard the hon. Members, I have thought that we should attend to some of the suggestions. One is this flood-plain zoning. I propose to bring forward a Bill to ensure a regulation, a new approach to the whole problem because we have been so far adopting engineering measures only. We should adopt some new approaches, new things, diagnose the problems, why is it that flood damage is increasing in the recent years? It is not that the flood areas are increasing or the rivers have swollen all of a sudden. It is because of people going and interfering with the flood-plain. The value of the lands rises high. Therefore, we must take steps in the direction of flood-plain zoning.

I think the hon. Mr. Krishan Kant has mentioned that it is very necessary for us to attend to the land management. That is very important. As soon as a water drop falls, we should absorb it or prevent it from running. The flood consists of a lot of drops. When every drop starts flowing, the flood increases and for that, land management is the best. That is to say we should put plants and forests and so on, or make the soil loose or porous. If it is a steep slope, then we do contouring or terracing. As Mr. Ahmed said, some of these are small, little works, which require patience. But once we tackle, the works contribute in a retarding the flood occurrence.

About land acquisition, it is very important. We find people often saying that they do not give the land. When we have to dig the earth, they say, "no." Therefore, something we must do to enable acquisition of lands required for flood control works.

There are rules for financial assistance for relief works. The Finance Commission fixes for each State so much amount of money as the money that the state must spend for natural calamities. When the amount of money that you spend exceeds that amount, 75 per cent of that is given by the Government of India. It is a very well-set formula. And according to that, there is no question of any financial difficulty. This is in regard to relief operations. With regard to damage, for example, the Kerala Government has been given Rs. 1 crore immediately. I had a discussion with the Irrigation Minister about this. The idea is that the tanks have been breached and the estimated cost of repairing all those tanks is about Rs. 1 crore. If we give that money and repair those tanks, as they have the north east monsoon, they will be able to conserve water and use it in the second crop this year itself. It is for that purpose that the money was sanctioned. The State must send in their statement of flood damages and a team goes from the Finance Ministry from the Centre to estimate the amount of finance to be given to the State. Immediate assistance is given in some cases. So, finance is there, I mean, for immediate relief. I quite agree that there is not an organisation which rushes in immediately for the taking up of the relief work. That is very important. That is lacking. In the United States of America, the Army goes in immediately and takes command of the whole flood control situation. I think four years back in Delhi we had a heavy and serious flood. There were conflicting interests between Punjab and Delhi States with regard to the Dasa Bund. The bund was about to breach, there was a lot of trouble. And we called in the Army which did a meritorious work at that rush hour. But the Army was very reluctant in participating in this kind of activity. We should have an army, not all, some army, some units of it, especially trained, with a fleet of equipment and boats etc. They require some special boats, flat-bottomed boats. They require a certain amount of machinery. That was actually suggested at that time. But the proposal was not accepted. If not the Army personnel—they may not be able to spare the Army—we may set up some sort of Home Guards and give them training and equipment. That is a very good suggestion which I shall

[Dr. K. L. Rao.]

try to pursue, that is, organising an anti-flood, flood-fighting force, and then rushing it, to deal with breaches etc. Suppose there is some such force like that, probably we could have mitigated the damages or the effect of suffering; the suffering might be much less.

SHRI BANKA BEHARY DAS : More important is rescue work. Rescue operations can be done by that.

DR. K. L. RAO : That is quite correct, rescue. Or sometimes a breach is to be closed. A lot of assistance can be given.

It was suggested in the other House also that we should associate the Members of Parliament in these discussions because the hon. Members, coming from their respective areas, will have more intimate knowledge, and what is required in the case of flood fighting or the drawing up of plans for fighting the floods is that we must have an intimate knowledge of the rivers. It is no use drawing up a plan from here. In that connection, I was thinking that we should form some sort of a Parliamentary Committee—call it a Consultative Committee or an advisory body of Members of Parliament—and we shall then meet from time to time to especially deal with this old and great problem, and that would be a very good way in which we can get together and decide on the techniques for tackling the floods.

I am sorry, I have not replied to all the Members' points. A lot of them are there. In fact, I have not entered

the problem at all. But I have noted some of these suggestions and I hope I shall have the privilege of serving the House by implementing their suggestions.

I was very much struck by what Mr. Dahyabhai Patel said, that we should not have any more occasions for discussion on the floods. We shall so concert our measures that there shall not be any necessity to have discussions on floods. I think it is a very good wish of one and all of us and I only hope that in the next year we shall take sufficient steps and that nature will also help us.

We shall see that the suffering from the floods and the damages due to the floods are decreased.

I once again thank the hon'ble Members for their very excellent participation in this debate.

DR. Z. A. AHMAD : I want to thank Dr. Rao for his very satisfying reply.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN) : Dr. Rao, we appreciate the comprehensive survey for effective measures to be taken to control the floods.

The House stands adjourned till eleven o'clock tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at half-past six of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 14th August, 1968.