

गया। उस में जाली शेयर भी निकल आये, गैर जाली शेयर भी निकल आये। यह दो करोड़ रुपये का जो पोर्टफोलियो एल० आई० सी० में जमा है उस का दाम 11 लाख हो गया है, उन का दाम खत्म हो गया है। जब खरीदे गये थे तब देखा जाय कि किस दाम में खरीदे गये थे। यह एल० आई० सी० तो बी० आई० सी० में फंसी हुई है। ऐसी ऐसी जगह फंसी हुई है जहां कि कोई बजनेस-मन पैर रखने की हिम्मत नहीं करता। यूँ यह सरकारी रुपया है, शेयर होल्डरों का रुपया है, 53 करोड़ रुपया सालाना खर्च करने को है, दो सौ करोड़ रुपये सालाना की आमदनी है। मोनोपोली, मोनोपोली, 75 मोनोपोली का जिक्र तो सुना, लेकिन सब से बड़ी मोनोपोली 1200 से 1500 करोड़ रुपये की जो है यह ऐसे आदमियों के हाथ में समझला दी गयी है जिनका नाम सुन कर अर्जुन अरोड़ा साहब कहेंगे कि यह पब्लिक सेक्टर है या प्राइवेट सेक्टर है। यहां तो दोनों सेक्टर गुत्थमगुत्था हैं, दोनों एक दूसरे से मिले हुए हैं। दोनों एक साथ बैठ कर, मिल कर षडयंत्र करते हैं और दोनों देशों के गरीबों का, पालिसी होल्डरों का रुपया बर्बाद कर रहे हैं। आज 6½ सौ करोड़ रुपया गवर्नमेंट सिक्क्योरिटीज में और एलेक्ट्रिसिटी बोर्ड्स में लगा हुआ है। उस का भी बुरा हाल है। इसी में एक तालिका दी गयी है कि जो गवर्नमेंट सिक्क्योरिटीज खरीदी गयी थीं उन का दाम पौना और 80 परसेंट है। सब जगह गरीबों से रुपया वसूल करो, उन की बात करो . . .

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री महावीर प्रसाद भार्गव) : गुप्त जो, अब गरीबों की बात दूसरे दिन करियेगा। अब दूसरा काम लेना होगा।

श्री बालकृष्ण गुप्त : सब को टाइम मिला मुझे नहीं मिला।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री महावीर प्रसाद भार्गव) : 5 बज दूसरा काम निश्चित है। टाइम का सवाल नहीं है।

5 P.M.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 176 RE DROUGHT SITUATION IN THE COUNTRY

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Now we take the one-hour discussion about the drought situation and consequent famine conditions in certain parts of Mysore, Andhra Pradesh, etc. I have got a very long list. So what I propose is to give ten minutes to the three movers each and then five minutes to others. Mr. Mulka Govinda Reddy.

AN. HON. MEMBER : Five minutes only.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : I have got a list of 16 names. I do not know how long the House would like to sit. One hour discussion can be stretched at the most to *H* hours. Beyond that it will not be proper.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI (Rajasthan) : The sense of the House may be taken.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Yes. Let us start. Mr. Govinda Reddy.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : (Mysore) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission I rise to raise a discussion on the drought situation and consequent famine conditions prevailing in certain parts of Mysore, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. Mr. Vice-Chairman, we have spent more than Rs. 20,000 during the last three Five-Year Plans, and after 22 years of independence we are faced with the question of famine almost every year in some parts of the country or the other. On the other hand, we are faced with **devastating floods** damaging crores of rupees worth of crops and other properties. This is a very sad commentary on the performance of the Congress Government which has been in office for such a long time. Yet, some-

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times the Government will come forward and say, "What can we do if the rains fail?" That is exactly the reason why the Planning Commission was asked to prepare a plan to control floods and to prevent the recurrence of famine. I am sorry to say that the Government has not bestowed its thought on this very important question of increasing food production in this country.

We have spent nearly Rs. 2,000 crores in importing foodgrains from other countries and still our Food Minister goes about with a begging bowl for wheat, rice, etc. If proper attention was paid to the agricultural aspect of our economy, this should not have arisen.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, famine is staring at us in Mysore, Andhra, Rajasthan, Assam, Bihar, Orissa and Uttar Pradesh. The very fact that the Deputy Prime Minister visited one of the districts clearly shows the acute conditions that are prevailing there in that part of Andhra Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, which was known for producing rice and spare it for other States in India, is itself today undergoing a severe state of famine conditions.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, The Indian Express' of 3rd May says that there was famine in 12 districts of Rajasthan. 'The Statesman' of New Delhi of 6th May talks of 75,000 living on roots in famine-stricken areas of Assam. So the situation is very serious. I would like you to refer to the press note that was published in the 'Deccan Herald' on August 5, 1968 under the caption "Monsoon failure threatens drought in State". It says:—

"The behaviour of the South-West Monsoon so far this year in the Southern States of Andhra, Kerala, Madras and Mysore had been erratic in the extreme.

It lashed Kerala in all its elemental fury, causing widespread damage to standing crops and property, but has failed in the eastern half of Mysore State and made a belated appearance in Andhra.

The situation in Mysore is somewhat pitiable and even alarming. The State, for the fourth year in succession, is partially in the grip of drought

following the failure of the monsoon." Here is a statement issued by the Leader of the Opposition. It was published in the 'Deccan Herald' of the 24th August. It says :—

" 'With more than half the State in the grip of drought, the Government's efforts so far to provide relief to the affected was like a drop in the ocean, Opposition Leader S. Sivappa declared in Bangalore on Friday.'

"Addressing a news conference, Mr. Sivappa also charged that even the totally inadequate relief steps were tinged more with politics than humane considerations. Unless the entire issue was treated on a war-foot, ing, lakhs of people would die of starvation, he declared."

"Mr. Sivappa said that if the Government was really serious about saving the lives of the people, it would have to spend at least Rs. 50 lakhs a day on co-ordinated efforts.

"While it was for the Government to find the necessary finances, in his opinion, employment could be found for a large number of people if the canal work on the Hemavathy Project, completion of the half-laid railway track in Chitradurga District and other such schemes were immediately taken up."

"The problem of scarcity this year was more acute,' Mr. Sivappa said, 'because added to it, was the effect of the three previous years of drought. Water, fodder, food and employment had all become big problems and the rural people had no money to buy foodgrains even if they were available."

And this is what the Deputy Speaker of the Mysore Assembly, a Congress-man, Mr. D. Manjunath, says—

"Deputy Speaker, D. Manjunath has urged the Chief Minister immediately to arrange for energising irrigation pumpsets in the 5,000 acres of gardens in Hiriya Taluk, so that they could be saved from extinction."

Here is a report from Channapatna which says :—

" 'Villagers in the taluk were emigrating in search of food and work, and many were eating roots and shoots', Messrs B. J. Linge Gowda, M.P.C.C. General Secretary, and M. V. Rajasekharan, M. P., said here recently."

Mr. Vice-chairman, the 'Deccan Herald,' an English daily of Bangalore, in its editorial of the 21st August, has this to say :—

"...After an on-the-spot study of several villages, they have reported that irrigation wells have gone dry, cattle are emaciated, and that the helpless people are anxiously looking for succour from the Government. This is only a partial picture of the more or less gruesome condition existing in other chronically drought-hit areas of the State, because of the fourth successive failure of the monsoon. Only last month, an Opposition M.P. and a few former legislators had apprised the State Revenue Minister of similar "conditions in Tumkur District. With practically the same tale heard from the districts of Bidar, Raichur, Bellary, Kolar, Chitradurga, Hassan and parts of Mysore, more than half the State is in the grip of near famine."

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : It could have been better to say what you know rather than tell the House what others have said.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:

This is all what I know and to substantiate what I want to say, I quoted these statement by various leaders.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Please wind up in two minutes.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY:

Mr. Vice-Chairman, out of 19 districts, 15 districts are affected by famine conditions. Though there may not have been starvation deaths, starvation deaths are bound to occur if sufficient efforts are not made to meet the situation. I, therefore, urge that the Government of India, instead of pleading its inability to finance the entire relief measures, should come forward with a scheme to finance the relief measures in Mysore State. The State of Mysore has asked for Rs. 20 crores for meeting the situation. The Government of India has allotted only Rs. 2.63 crores, out of which only Rs. 1.5 crores has so far been given to the State of Mysore. This paltry sum will not be enough to cope with the situation. Even the study team that was sent by the Planning Commission said that relief measures could not be started in adequate numbers on account of the very 7—35 R. S./68

severe financial situation which the State was facing. Therefore, the State is not in a position to meet the challenge, that is now posed before it, all by itself. The Central Government should come forward with all the necessary assistance, both financial and technical, to see that the situation is met and the people are saved from starvation and death.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would like to suggest the following for the consideration of the House. The Central Government should make adequate funds available to the State for undertaking relief measures of a permanent and semi-permanent nature. I suggest that the Chitaldrug-Royaldrug railway line, the Hospet-Hariar railway line and the Tumkur-Mandia railway line should be taken up so that these works of a permanent nature provide adequate relief for the people who suffer from these famine conditions. Mr. Vice-Chairman, I would also like to suggest that the Central Government should immediately process all the schemes that are placed before them with regard to the feeder channels of Vanivilas Sagar, Nayakanahatti and Ranikeri tanks and the Hemavathi "project. Mr. Vice-Chairman, digging of wells should be undertaken. And rigs are badly required. The Central Government should place some rigs at the disposal of the State Government so that they can undertake on a planned basis the construction of wells and energisation of these wells. For lift irrigation ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : That will do. You have taken 15 minutes.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Two minutes more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : If everybody starts ' taking 17 minutes, we cannot finish even by 8 O' Clock.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Yes, I am finishing. Mr. Vice-Chairman, the problems that are facing us are very big. The challenge is there, but the Government has not realised the dimensions of the challenge. Therefore, the Government should see that a Famine Development Authority is constituted to solve the problems regarding the famine conditions that are occurring in parts of Mysore, in parts of Andhra Pradesh, in parts of Madras and in parts of Maharashtra so that a

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 permanent solution for this chronic problem could be found. Thank you. I have taken only 12 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : No, you have taken 15 minutes.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY
 (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to place before the House the problems regarding the famine conditions that we are facing in Andhra Pradesh. I know that these conditions exist in other parts of India also, but I would like to confine myself exclusively to my state of Andhra Pradesh because of the limited time at my disposal. Andhra Pradesh had earned the name Annapurna for India, but may I say in Hindi अन्नपर्णा के घर में
 अन्न की कमी हो गई आज ।

To-day in the land of Annapurna, there is not only shortage of food, but there is shortage of drinking water also. When one thinks of Andhra Pradesh, immediately one thinks of the Krishna-Godavari delta. But people forget that there are areas of chronic deficit like Rayalseema and other districts in Telen-gana, Mehaboobnagar and Nalgonda. Even in 1961, the survey made by the Government of India said that 60 per cent of the total famine area in the country was in Andhra Pradesh, and 70 per cent of the famine-affected population was in Andhra Pradesh. And I would also like to place it before the House and the Government that all the 20 districts of Andhra Pradesh are today affected by famine. Out of the 180 taluks, 171 taluks are affected. And 17,340 villages in Andhra Pradesh are in the grip of famine and scarcity of drinking water. The rainfall has gone down by 43 per cent in the Andhra area. And what is the result ? The production of dry crops this year is estimated to fall by not less than 30 per cent. And the production of non-food crops has also fallen by 35 per cent. What has happened in the wet area ? Against 63.55 lakh acres to be transplanted, we have transplanted so far only in 21.81 lakh acres. This, too, has been done only with a sprinkling of water. And if there is no rain, everything will be lost. That means, instead of getting 33.85 lakh tons of rice, we will be getting only 11 lakh tons. That, in lay man's language, means, that 70 per cent of the total

production in Andhra Pradesh will be lost because of this famine. The gross value of the loss is estimated to be about Rs. 500 crores as far as food production is concerned. This is what has happened as far as the production side is concerned.

Then I would like to place before the House the number of agricultural labourers who are out of jobs. Nearly 150 lakh agricultural labourers are out of work... (Interruption) I do not want to bring in politics here. Whoever is responsible should be blamed. So work has to be provided to these people. (Interruption) Now, since production ' has fallen, we have to buy milo, jowar, etc., from the other States and the Government of Andhra Pradesh has to subsidise them. So in every field, money is needed.

Now, the next important thing, after food production, is the question of drinking water. After 20 years of independence, we are not able to give food, we are not able to give employment and we are not able to give even drinking water. The most precious gift of nature has become very dear to us because it is denied to us. I may place before the Government of India that there is a great need of rigs in Andhra Pradesh. In Rayalaseema and in the Deccan Plateau—as my friend has said about Mysore—if we go down to a depth of about 120 feet or 150 feet there is plenty of underground water available. We have experimented this in the district of Anantapur and it has been highly successful. To-day if adequate number of rigs are made available, we can bring about a revolution and supply enough water to the people. You can transport food ; you can transport anything; but how much water can you transport ? I have been getting letters and telegrams arkiut the condition there. Women and children are employed to bring water. It has even affected the growth of hair on their heads because day after day, morning and night they are carrying" water. It is no laughing matter. It is a result of hard work. Day and night they have to bring water from a long distance for drinking or cooking purposes. It is a choice between the children and the adults.

So, this is the State of affairs. If we are not able to get water even at this stage, I think it will be a very sad

commentary on the authorities, whoever may be responsible for it. Sir, whenever there is famine or flood, as was pointed out, we immediately rush measures at that time. But my experience and the experience of every Government has been that whatever money is sent at that time—it may be some crores of rupees or more—in trying to give relief either in famine or in flood areas, that money becomes a wasteful expenditure, because it is only a short-term measure. As has been rightly pointed out by my friend, Shri Mulka Govinda Reddy, some permanent measures for the flood and famine areas or for the chronic drought areas have to be taken. And I appeal to the Government of India that at least in the Fourth Plan there should be some complete and co-ordinated scheme for this purpose. May be the whole thing may not be done in one Plan; it may stretch to two or three Plans but some permanent measures for eradicating this shortage of water and for looking after the flood areas of the country are very necessary. Even after 20 years of independence if we just believe in these short-term methods, I can only say that they will never solve the problem. May be that it is a sort of momentary relief but certainly it has proved to be a wasteful expenditure—expenditure on short-term measures. So you will have to take long-term measures for the flood and famine areas. It is high time that at least in the Fourth Plan you should have a sort of permanent famine and flood relief schemes.

Sir, as far as immediate measures are concerned, drinking water has got to be provided to the people immediately. I have been told, there are a number of rigs available. Last time when there was a famine in Bihar, rigs were collected from various sources, from the Ministry of Steel and Mines and from some other industrial centres, from wherever they were available. May I make a humble appeal to the Government of India to please try to collect all the rigs that are available either from the public sector or from the private sector and give them to Andhra Pradesh? The Government of Andhra seems to have requested you for about Rs. 1 crore in foreign exchange for rigs. Please see that it is granted immediately. In some areas, I understand there are some varieties of rigs, some pneumatic rigs, but I do not know the other technical names. Anyway, whatever they are, please try to get them

immediately, because these things cannot wait. Many things can wait but the supply of drinking water to the people cannot wait.

As far as fodder and food are concerned, fortunately for another two months or so the Government of Andhra Pradesh has got some buffer stocks. And I am proud to say that in spite of our own difficulties, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has honoured the commitment which it had made to the Government of India. We had promised to give them 4.2 lakh tons and we have already sent about 3.15 lakh tons. And the Government of Andhra Pradesh has already appealed to the Government of India saying that it cannot provide more. I hope you will appreciate our own difficulties. Beyond 80 per cent, if we are not able to supply, it is because of our own difficulties. We have also approached the Government of India and also the Government of Madhya Pradesh for milo and jowar. But we are told the cost may come up to Rs. 67 or Rs. 74 per unit, I don't know what that unit is called. But then the Government of India will have to pay to the extent of three-fourths by way of subsidy for these things. Otherwise we will not be able to cope with it and we will not be able to buy it and supply it to the people of Andhra Pradesh in the immediate future. Of course as far as wheat is concerned, I think we need not bother the Government of India. Sir, our expenses for drilling wells, providing relief works for those people who are unemployed, buying food and transporting it to the relief areas, all these expenses will be far beyond the capacity of the Andhra Pradesh Budget. It has been estimated that all these things would cost about Rs. 50 crores. I know many States will ask for Rs. 30 crores, Rs. 40 crores, Rs. 50 crores or Rs. 60 crores from the Government of India. So probably the Government of India may say that it cannot provide all this money. But, Sir, it is not every time that we ask for this money from you. We are placed in the worst situation we have ever known for the last 100 years or so; it is unknown in the history of the living people. Never has such a situation been faced by Andhra Pradesh during the last 100 years. Previously if one part of Andhra Pradesh was affected, at least the other parts used to supply food but this time all the 20 districts have been severely affected, not

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only the wet areas but even the dry crops, millets and non-food crops have been affected; it is almost a complete failure; there may not be more than 20 per cent, or 30 per cent, of the usual expectation. So I appeal to the Government of India that whatever Foreign exchange we have demanded must immediately be granted to us and whatever money the Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked for should be given to us, so that we can tide over the extremely difficult situation that we have been confronted with, so that we may not be the weakest link in the country's economy, which we have never been in the past. Royalaseema and Telengana have always been the weakest links in the economy of Andhra Pradesh. If the help we have sought for is given to us, we will be able to contribute substantially to the economy of India and we will not be a sort of weak link. I am making this appeal with a very sad and humble heart and I hope our appeals will not go waste. I have absolute faith in the Government of India and I am sure they will try to do all that they can in this matter. Thank you.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय थोड़े दिनों पहले हमने इस सदन में बाढ़ की स्थिति पर चर्चा की है। यद्यपि सरकार के दो विभिन्न मंत्रालय बाढ़ और अकाल और सूखे की स्थिति का विचार करते हैं लेकिन समस्या का कुल मिला कर परिणाम जनता पर एक है और अगर इन दोनों विभागों में कोई ऐसी व्यवस्था बँठ जाय तो इस से समाधान करने में भी बहुत सहुलियत होगी। अत्यधिक वर्षा के कारण बाढ़ आई, वह एक पक्ष है, लेकिन अनेक जगहों पर जो बने हुए बांध हैं उनमें जो मिट्टी वर्षा-नुवर्ष जमती जा रही है, और जिस पानी को हम सफलतापूर्वक बड़े कठिन समय के लिये बचा सकते हैं, जब वह हमारे हाथ से निकल जाता है तो थोड़ी भी वर्षा का अभाव क्यों न हो, एक और बड़ी जटिल समस्या इसमें से उपस्थित होती है। सारे देश में विशेषकर इन पाँच छः प्रदेशों में बाढ़ के साथ साथ कुछ हिस्सों में वर्षा के अभाव से भी एक समस्या बन खड़ी हुई। राजस्थान का जहाँ तक सवाल है, राजस्थान के कुछ जिलों में यह अकाल का

लगातार पाँचवाँ वर्ष है...

श्री राम निवास मिर्धा (राजस्थान) : सातवाँ।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : कुछ जिलों में यह सातवाँ वर्ष है। मैं मिर्धा जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ जिन्होंने मुझे याद दिलाया, जैसलमेर में सातवाँ है। श्रीमती यशोदा रेड्डी ने इस बात की अनुभूति की कि पानी के अभाव में पानी ले जाते, ले जाते सर पर किस प्रकार के निशान बन जाते हैं। अगर मंत्री महोदय इस वर्तमान स्थिति में राजस्थान के कुछ उन जिलों में जायें, पहले भी उनको जाने का मौका मिला होगा, तो मालूम होगा कि आज भी पेय जल का अभाव वहाँ पर है। यह दुर्भाग्य है कि वहाँ उन क्षेत्रों में कुंआं खोदने से काम नहीं चलता क्योंकि अत्यधिक गहराई तक खोदना पड़ता है और उसमें भी कई बार ऐसा खारा कड़वा बाना निकलता है कि ज़बान को छू जाय तो ज़बान जल जाती है, अर्थात् कुएं बनाने मात्र से भी इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं होता। एक रास्ता है और वह यह कि इस इलाके में ट्यूबवेल का काम सफल हुआ है और ट्यूबवेल आर्गनाइजेशन ने कुछ कुएं खोदे थें। लेकिन यह अफसोस की बात है कि ट्यूबवेल का आर्गनाइजेशन ट्यूबवेल खोजने की जिम्मेदारी से अपने आप कुछ टेक्नीकल कारणों को लेकर उस काम को बंद कर रहा है कि इतना मिलना चाहिये, इतना सरकार को देना चाहिये था। मैं समझता हूँ कि पेय जल उपलब्ध करना यह केन्द्रीय सरकार को जिम्मेदारी है और उसको मानकर कि यह एक बेसिक एमिनिटी आफ लाइफ है, उसके बिना व्यक्ति अपने जीवन को रखने में कठिनाई मालूम करेगा, इस बात पर विचार करना चाहिये। ट्यूबवेल आर्गनाइजेशन के मारफत या ज्यादा ट्यूबवेल खोदकर वहाँ पर पेय जल का सवाल हल हो सकता है।

जहाँ तक राजस्थान नहर का सवाल है, आपने छोट छोट कारणों को लेकर उसको गंगा-नगर जिले तक ही समाप्त कर दिया है। बीकानेर का जिला, बाड़मेर का जिला और जैसलमेर का जिला, यह आपने सेकन्ड फेज में रखा है,

और इन इलाकों में नहर का बनना बंद हो गया है। अब वह इलाका मरुस्थल है और कुंए भी ज्यादा खोदने का स्कोप नहीं है। यह मरुस्थल टिड्डियों के पैदा होने के लिए एक अच्छा स्थान है। टिड्डियां वहां पर अंडा दे रही हैं जो कि सारे देश के लिए एक संकट है। इस क्षेत्र में भी इस वर्ष अंडा देने के समाचार मिले हैं। कुछ क्षेत्रों में "फांका" जो एक कीड़ा होता है वह खड़ी हुई फसल को बरबाद कर रहा है। यह समस्या राजस्थान नहर के विस्तार की या पेय जल की समस्या नहीं है, यह सारी सीमावर्ती क्षेत्र की न केवल सुरक्षात्मक समस्या है बल्कि टिड्डियों के जो ब्रीडिंग सेंटर बन गये हैं उनको खत्म करके सारे देश को संकट से बचाने में मदद देने वाली समस्या है। इस पहलू से खाद्य मंत्रालय कम से कम इस सवाल को हाथ में लेकर इस प्रश्न को फिर से उठाये और मंत्रिमंडल के स्तर पर इस सवाल को लेकर खड़ा हो तब ही जाकर यह काम होगा।

इस इलाके में आजकल माइलो दिया जा रहा है सरकार की तरफ से और सिवाय माइलो के और कोई दूसरी चीज नहीं दी जा रही है। जो माइलो दिया जा रहा है वह भी सड़ा हुआ दिया जा रहा है। मैं इस सवाल को पहले भी यहां पर उठा चुका हूं। इस समय वहां पर और कोई दूसरा खाने का पदार्थ नहीं है। आप अपनी जिम्मेदारी को हटा देते हैं यह कह कर कि जब हमने दिया तब तो अच्छा दिया था। जब वह माइलो गोदामों में सड़ा रहा था तो उसको हालत क्या होगी, यह सब लोग अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं। जब वह माइलो लोगों के पेटों में जायेगा, जब वह बीमारी पैदा करेगा तो महामारी का कारण बनेगा। इसकी जिम्मेदारी हम को लेनी होगी। वहां पर माइलो 45 रुपये प्रति क्विंटल के भाव पर दिया जा रहा है। जो क्षेत्र पिछले पांच, सात वर्षों से अकाल पीड़ित है, उसकी जनता को इस भाव पर माइलो दिया जाना कहां तक उचित है, इस पर सरकार को विचार करना चाहिये।

मनुष्य की चिन्ता के साथ साथ वहां पर पशुओं का भी सवाल है। प्रतिवर्ष का यह नियम है कि जब वर्षा नहीं होती है, अकाल पड़ता है, तो हर साल सैकड़ों और लाखों मवेशीं उन जिलों से घास की कमी के कारण मध्य प्रदेश की तरफ और राजस्थान के पूर्वी जिलों की तरफ चले जाते हैं। इधर जब वर्षा शुरू होती है तो इस आशा से घर पहुंचते हैं कि उन को घर पहुंचते ही वर्षा मिलेगी और अपनी खेती को सम्भाल लेंगे। इस तरह से पशुओं के चरने के इंतजाम की आशा में ये लोग घर लौटते हैं। लेकिन वहां पर वर्षा न होने के कारण पेड़ों की पत्तियों तक जिन्हें मवेशियों को खिलाया जाता है, वह भी उपलब्ध नहीं होती है। आज वहां पर ट्रकों से चारा पहुंचाया जा रहा है। अब आप अन्दाजा लगा सकते हैं कि 12 लाख मवेशियों को जो जैसलमेर जिन में हैं 10 ट्रकों से घास पहुंचायी जा रही है। अब ये 10 ट्रक कैसे 12 लाख मवेशियों की आवश्यकता को पूरी कर सकते हैं। यह तो ऊंट के मुंह में जीरे के समान हुआ। आप रेल मंत्रालय से इस संबंध में बातचीत करें और घास की विशेष रेलगाड़ियां उस अभावग्रस्त क्षेत्र में तत्काल पहुंचायें और इसका इंतजाम करवाने की कोशिश करें। घास का वहां पर पहुंचाना बहुत आवश्यक है। वह पशुधन, राजस्थान के एक हिस्से का पशुधन, सारे देश में, अच्छी नस्ल का गिना जाता है। वह पशुधन लाखों की संख्या में चारे के अभाव के कारण, पानी के अभाव के कारण लाखों की संख्या में मर रहा है।

हमने वहां पर ट्यूबवेल बनाये ताकि इस इलाके की सिंचित भूमि में केवल खेती हो। मेरा आप से सुझाव है कि खेती के होते हुए भी अगर पशुओं के लिए चारा नहीं है तो लोगों को इलाका छोड़ना पड़ता है। जहां पर ट्यूबवैल्स लगाये गये हैं, उस कमान्डेड एरिया में, चरागाह के लिए भी जगह छोड़ी जानी चाहिये। अगर इस तरह का प्रबन्ध

[श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी]

कर दिया जायगा तो उस इलाके के लोगों के लिए, वहां की इकोनोमी के लिए, बहुत ही अच्छी बात होगी। जिस तरह से आप अनाज उत्पादन करने के लिए ट्यूबवैल के पानी का प्रयोग करते हैं, उसी प्रकार से ट्यूबवैल के पानी से चरागाह बना सकते हैं। इस तरह से वहां गांवों में चरागाह बनाये जा सकते हैं जो वहां की ह्यूमन इकोनोमी के लिए एक इनडिस्पेन्सिबल पार्ट है। अगर आप इस बात पर विचार करेंगे, उस इलाके में चरागाह की व्यवस्था करेंगे, तो इस संकट को कम करने में मदद मिल सकती है।

दूसरा मेरा निवेदन यह है कि वन रोपण का कार्यक्रम प्रभावी ढंग से करें क्योंकि वर्षा का दृष्टि से यह बहुत जरूरी है। आज उस क्षेत्र को ऊसर बनाने और डिफारेस्टेशन की जो प्रक्रिया चल रही है उसको रोक जाना चाहिये। आखिर यह सारी जिम्मेदारी केन्द्र की है और उसे ही इसे हल करना है तो इस सारी चीजों को रोकने के लिए कौन सी स्थायी बातों को लेकर चलना होगा, उन चीजों का भी हमें इसमें समावेश करना चाहिये।

इसके साथ ही साथ मेरा निवेदन यह भी है कि वहां पर लोगों को जो अनाज मिल रहा है वह बाजरा है जो वहां के लोगों का एक स्टेपल फूड भी है। आज वहां पर बाजरे का भाव 32 रुपया मन तक पहुंच गया है। आप इस बात की व्यवस्था करें कि केन्द्र के गोदामों में जहां कहीं बाजरा है उसे वहां भेजा जाए। वहां के लोग आपके चावल और गेहूं में दखल देना नहीं चाहते हैं। लेकिन कम से कम मोटा अनाज जो वहां के लोगों के लिए नितान्त आवश्यक है, उसको वहां पर उपलब्ध करने में मदद की जाय।

फिर एक टेक्नीकल चीज है। अकाल की घोषणा अक्टूबर में होती है। अक्टूबर और नवम्बर में होती है। जहां पर लगान माफी का सवाल है, रेमिशन आफ लैंड रैवेन्यू का

प्रश्न है, मैं समझता हूं कि अक्टूबर और नवम्बर का महीना जो है, इस पर विचार करने में एक लाजिक है और मैं इसे स्वीकार करता हूं। लेकिन जहां पर कई वर्षों से फेमिन हुआ है, उस अभावग्रस्त क्षेत्र के लोगों के लिए राहत की स्कीम प्रारम्भ कराइये क्योंकि इस समय उनके सामने जीवकोपार्जन की, साधनों की, काम की और रोजगार की समस्या है। पिछले 5 और 7 वर्षों से परिस्थितियां इस प्रकार जटिल होती जा रही हैं कि आप फेमिन एरिया डिक्लेयर करने के लिए अक्टूबर की टेक्नीकलटी में न जाकर, आज जो वास्तविकता वहां पर है, वहां के लोगों के पास आज खाने को नहीं है, उसकी ओर विशेष ध्यान दें। उनके पास जो खाने को था वह उन्होंने जुलाई के महीने में जो वर्षा हुई थी उसको बीज के रूप में डाल दिया। जुलाई के प्रारम्भ से आज अगस्त का अंतिम सप्ताह आ गया है और वर्षा के अभाव में डाला हुआ बीज सब नष्ट हो गया, तबसे तबसे हो गया। इसलिए यह आवश्यक है कि वहां के लोगों के लिए राहत कार्य तत्काल प्रारम्भ किया जाय। अक्टूबर में फेमिन कोड को लागू कर की टेक्नीकलटी में न जाकर फेमिन आपरेशन के कार्य आरम्भ कर दिये जाने चाहिये। इसके साथ ही साथ जो उजरत, मजदूरी की दर है, वह भी आवश्यकता के अनुसार तय की जानी चाहिये।

और इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था बनायें कि मजदूरी इन लोगों की समय पर मिले। पहले के अनुभव हमारे सामने रहे हैं कि काम प्रारम्भ होने के बाद भी मजदूरी समय पर प्राप्त नहीं होती और लोगों के सामने उसी प्रकार की कठिनाइयां रहती हैं। अगर इन राहत के कामों को इरिगेशन मिनिस्ट्री से अपना संबंध जोड़ कर किया जाय और जो स्थायी काम हैं सफाई के, पानी को रिटैन करने वाली जितनी एजेंसीज हैं उन का उचित समय पर उपयोग किया जाय, मरुस्थल को कम करने के लिये और देशव्यापी टिड्डियों का संकट जो आ रहा है उसे दूर करने के लिये योजना बनाने की आवश्यकता है, तो इन सब चीजों को मिला कर हम अकाल

और अभाव की स्थिति का इलाज कर पायेंगे इन को दूर करने के लिये आप प्रभावी कदम उठावें, यही मेरा निवेदन है।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Now I want to be fair to all Members. There are thirteen names before me. If I give five minutes each, the Minister will be called at about 7 o'clock. If I give seven minutes each, the Minister will be called at about 7.30. And if I give ten minutes each, the Minister will be called at about 8 P. M. I would like to know from the House up to what time they want to sit so that I can adjust accordingly. Will the House like to debate this up to 8 P. M. and I call the Minister at 8 P. M. ?

HON. MEMBERS : No, no.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Then will the House like to deliberate on this subject up to 7.30 P. M. and I call the Minister at about half past seven ?

{No hon. Member dissented.}

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Then I will give about seven minutes to each Member. Shrimati Lalitha (Rajagopalan)..

SHRIMATI LALITHA (RAJAGOPALAN) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, the great drought especially in Andhra Pradesh reveals the fact that we cannot depend upon the mercies of nature alone for agricultural operations as was in olden days. Andhra is supposed to be the granary of the South, and now it is almost a famine-stricken area and it will become a completely famine-stricken area if there is no monsoon in another fortnight, and the loss of agricultural production in Andhra Pradesh this year due to acute drought is expected to be about Rs. 362 crores. The overall production of rice is expected to be only 12.75 lakh tonnes this year as against 33.84 lakh tonnes in 1967-68, a decrease of about 62.3 per cent. From this hon. Members can very well realise how serious the situation is. According to the information available from the office of the Special Commissioner of Andhra Pradesh Government, the failure of the rainfall was widespread and had affected 151 Taluks in 11 districts and a population of nearly 12 million people; this is about 40 per cent. of the State's population. Naturally, this is really a very, very seri-

ous situation, and I am very happy that the House has the opportunity of discussing about it at least now, towards the close of this session.

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

Now, Sir, I would like to say that the drought situation is everywhere. It is in Andhra, Madras, Gujarat, Raja-sthan and other places. So this drought situation should be given national importance and national consideration as far as agricultural production goes, and in this connection I would like to say that we have not made any efforts to see that this does not happen.. Not only in the case of drought, also in the case of floods, the Government have taken very little measures to overcome the problems posed by them and to see that there is no recurrence of either drought or flood at least in areas where they ought not to occur. Every year we see that lakhs and lakhs of crops are being destroyed by flood. In this connection, I would also point out that I have been persistently putting questions—since I became a Member—in the matter of setting up an irrigation commission, and I would like to remind the House again that since the British left we have not had an all-India irrigation commission appointed yet. Even in this session I have put a question, and I got the reply that it is still under consideration, though the newspaper reports say that it is going to be appointed soon. And this all-India irrigation commission should be given the most important work of seeing that all big irrigation projects which give good results, as well as the projects which can yield quick, economic results are implemented and given priority in the Plan. And I just cannot understand how the Irrigation and power Ministry is still considering appointing an all-India irrigation commission.

Then, Sir, we have been trying desert cultivation in Rajasthan and other places. At the same time, we have not gone far in any way in having intensive cultivation. To produce more crops we should give incentives to the agriculturists by way of credit, fertilizers, manures and so on. Now, from time immemorial Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh and Ramanathapuram in Madras State have been famine-stricken areas, and we have not made any

[Shrimati Lalitha (Rajagopalan)]

efforts to see that something is done there whereby the areas could be brought under cultivation because both the States are the granary of the South. At the same time, we are experimenting on desert cultivation. Here I would not blame only the Centre regarding this. At the same time, I would also place the responsibility on the States also, because food and agriculture is a State subject, and the States also should take the matter on hand immediately they find that there is something very serious to happen, and the Centre should also immediately co-operate with the States and take all necessary measures to overcome the famine, and also help the States to overcome the famine.

I would also like to point out that it has been stated often in this House by the Minister that we will be self-sufficient in food in three or four years and we will not need to import any food-grains from outside. But the measures we have been taking do not point to that happy situation to come. Though we have given top priority to agriculture in the Fourth Plan next only to family planning, I just cannot understand yet why they have not made any serious effort to convince the people that we are really on the path of attaining self-sufficiency in food within the next three or four years and are vigorously trying to promote agriculture all over the country. In this connection, I would also like to say that we should undertake a better survey and study of those areas which are chronically famine-stricken and also at the same time the areas which are suddenly affected by this sort of serious drought. If a better survey is made, we can map out the areas and say that in such and such an area this is occurring as a regular feature every year and in such and such an area this is occurring sporadically. Thereby we can have a complete record of the whole thing and we can see what we can do to help the various areas and help such areas so that they are not affected by drought. Again, I would like to come back to the situation in Andhra. The situation is very, very serious and forty per cent, of the people are affected by this. I am sure the Minister, with the help and co-operation of the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, will make all efforts to see that they avert this famine.

Thank you.

6 P.M.

श्री रुद्र नारायण झा (बिहार) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, यूं तो अपने देश में प्रति वर्ष देश के कुछ हिस्से में सूखा और कुछ हिस्से में अकाल होता ही रहता है और मैं समझता हूँ कि पिछले 20 साल में हर साल जब कभी सूखा हुआ या अकाल हुआ तो सिवाय कुछ रिलीफ के काम के और कोई स्थायी समाधान इस के लिये सरकार ने अभी तक नहीं निकाला। मैं समझता हूँ कि अपने देश में लगभग 32-33 करोड़ एकड़ जमीन पर खेती होती है और अभी लगभग 7 करोड़ एकड़ में ही सिंचाई की आंशिक या पूर्ण व्यवस्था हो सकी है। इस तरह से 26 करोड़ एकड़ जमीन अभी भगवान के भरोसे पर है, प्रकृति की मर्जी पर है और उस का फल होता है कि आये दिन हम किसी सूबे से बाढ़ की चीत्कार सुनते हैं और कहीं अकाल के आर्तनाद से हम परेशान होते हैं। मैं अपने सूबे बिहार की बात बतलाना चाहता हूँ। हमारे बिहार राज्य में काफी नदियाँ हैं जो सदाबहार हैं। साल भर उन में पानी मिलता रहता है। गंगा है, गंडक है, बूढ़ी गंडक है, सरजू का कुछ हिस्सा है, उसी ढंग से सोने है, कोसी है, बिलेन है, बैती है, अनेक नदियाँ हैं जिन में साल भर पानी बहता रहता है और पानी की कमी नहीं है। बिहार के दो-तिहाई हिस्से की जमीन ऐसी है जहाँ आंध्र प्रदेश, राजस्थान या दूसरे सूबों की तरह बहुत ज्यादा गहराई में जाने की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती है। 25-30 फुट नीचे पानी काफी मात्रा में निकलता है उसके बावजूद भी हमारे सूबे में आपने 1966-67 के साल में देखा कि एक सौ वर्ष का सबसे बड़ा सूखा और अकाल का मुकाबला हमारे बिहार सूबे को करना पड़ा। यूं तो सारे देश में जैसा कि मैंने बतलाया आज भी 80 प्रतिशत जमीन सिंचाई के अभाव में हर साल प्रकृति पर निर्भर करती है, लेकिन सारे देश में जो सिंचित जमीन है उससे बहुत जमीन पर हमारे सूबे में सिंचाई का प्रबन्ध है। मैं सरकार से यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जो परिपाटी आज तक है कि हर साल सूखा और बाढ़ के नाम पर कुछ रिलीफ के काम चलें उतने से ही अपने आसू पोंछने का काम यह

सरकार करती रहेगी तो इस देश में यह समस्या स्थायी रूप से बनी रहेगी। आज इस बात जरूरत है कि चाहे जिस कीमत पर हो इस समस्या का स्थायी समाधान निकाला जाय।

मैं अपने सूबे की बात बतलाता हूँ कि हमारे यहां अगर ट्यूबवैल का इन्तजाम हो या नदियों में जो पानी है उसके लिये अगर बजरे पर, नाव पर या छोटे छोटे जो जहाज होते हैं उनपर पानी निकालने का पम्प बैठा कर पानी देने का काम हो या गंगा जैसी नदियों से अगर नहर निकालने का काम हो, तो जैसा कि मैंने कहा कि बिहार के दो तिहाई हिस्से में समतल जमीन है, हलकी मिट्टी है और तीन चार फसल तक पैदा हो सकती हैं। आज भी हमारे सूब के बहुत से हिस्से में जहां ट्यूबवैल का इन्तजाम है, पानी की व्यवस्था है, लोग चार फसल तक पैदा करते हैं। बैसे आज जो परिस्थिति है उसमें हमारे सूब के किसी न किसी हिस्से में हर साल सूखा पड़ता है जैसा कि भंडारी जी अभी बतला रहे थे कि राजस्थान में कुछ हिस्सा ऐसा है जहां लगातार, तीन, तीन, चार, चार साल से सूखे का असर पड़ता रहा है। वहां के लोग परेशान रहते हैं और हम लोग कुछ कर नहीं पाते हैं। मैं सरकार के सामने यह मुझाव रखना चाहता हूँ कि इस समस्या को स्थायी ढंग से हल करने के लिये वहां जो पानी है उस पानी का सही ढंग से उपयोग हो। हमारे देश में एक तरफ अतिरिक्त पानी बाढ़ का रूप ले लेता है और दूसरी तरफ कुछ हिस्सा पानी के अभाव में सूखता है, लोग पीने के पानी के अभाव में मरने की स्थिति में पहुंच जाते हैं और जानवर पानी के अभाव में मर जाते हैं। यह एक विचित्र चीज है कि एक ओर अतिरिक्त पानी है और एक ओर सूखा है। इन दोनों का समन्वय ठीक ढंग से किया जाय, पानी का संचय किया जाय और सूखे वाले एरिया में अगर उसका उपयोग हो तो यह संकट जो हमारे सामने आता रहता है यह नहीं आयेगा। जैसा मैंने बतलाया कि निश्चित रूप से बिहार की जैसी जमीन है और जितना पानी का भंडार पृथ्वी के नीचे और जमीन पर नदियों के माध्यम से है, अगर सरकार उसका

संचय करने में सहायता करे और तेजी के साथ वहां ट्यूबवैल और लिफ्ट इरिगेशन का इन्तजाम सही ढंग से हो तो कम से कम इतना मैं कह सकता हूँ कि अधिक दिनों में नहीं, तीन-चार साल के अन्दर बिहार एक सरप्लस स्टेट हो जायगा जो पिछले अकाल के समय में या अकाल के बाद थोड़ा सा प्रयास हुआ उस प्रयास से निश्चित रूप से इस साल से—इस साल जो बिहार में पैदावार हुई है वह बिहार में जो 10-11 लाख टन या ज्यादा से ज्यादा 12 लाख टन के आसपास हुआ करती थी, मैं समझता हूँ कि पिछले साल की अपेक्षा 15-16 लाख टन अधिक हुई है। पहले बीस साल में 12-13 लाख ट्यूबवैल बिहार में लगे या एलेक्ट्रिकल लाइन दी गई उसकी जगह पिछले साल 17-18 हजार नये ट्यूबवैल लगे और उनको एलेक्ट्रिकल लाइन दी गई। उससे वहां सिंचाई की व्यवस्था बड़ी है। वहां कुछ जगह लिफ्ट इरिगेशन का काम भी शुरू हुआ है। अगर इस चीज को तेजी के साथ चलाया जाय तो मैं समझता हूँ कि इस समस्या का स्थायी रूप से समाधान हो सकता है।

जो बात बिहार में है वही बात कम व देश के हर सूबे में है। लेकिन हमारे देश में ऐसी योजनाएं बनीं कि बहुत सा रुपया ऐसे कामों में लगाया जाता है जिन से हमको न तत्काल लाभ मिलता है और न सुदूर भविष्य में कोई अधिक लाभ मिलने वाला है। फर्टिगि फ्रस्ट के आधार पर इस देश के जीवन को अगर सही ढंग पर चलाना है, अर्थ नीति को व्यवस्थित करना है तो ऐग्रीकल्चर को प्रकृति की मर्जी से निकाल कर मनुष्याकृत योजनाओं के हाथ बांधना पड़ेगा। अगर सही ढंग से खेती का काम बढ़ा, सही ढंग से खेती चलाई गई तो मैं समझता हूँ कि देश की अर्थिक अवस्था भी ठीक आधार पर बनेगी। आये दिन आप यह रोने कल्पने का काम करते हैं कि इतने लोग हमारे यहां ऐग्रीकल्चर पर लगे हैं, खेती पर लगे हैं, लेकिन खेती में जो पैदावार होती है उसकी हालत यह है कि हम को दूसरे देशों के सामने हाथ फैलाना पड़ता है, भीख मांगनी पड़ता है। मैं समझता हूँ कि किसी सभ्य देश के लिये यह कोई गर्व

[श्री रुद्र नारायण झा]
की बात नहीं है। यह कोई अंतरिक्ष में जाने की योजना नहीं है। मिट्टी के नीचे और नदियों में जो पानी है वह पानी खेत में पहुंचाना है और योजना बना कर उसको सही उपयोग में लाना है। अगर ऐसा हुआ तो मैं समझता हूँ कि यह जो सूखा और बाढ़ की समस्या है इसका स्थायी समाधान हो जायेगा। अतिरिक्त पानी और पानी का अभाव, इन दोनों के लिये अगर ठीक ढंग में काम का संचालन किया गया तो मैं समझता हूँ कि अपने देश से अकाल और सूखा सदा के लिये लोप हो जायेगा।

MISS M. L. MARY NAIDU (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, while certain areas in our beloved motherland are suffering from floods, other areas are affected by drought. Parts of Mysore,, Rajasthan, Assam, Bihar, Orissa, Uttar Pradesh and Madras are having drought conditions.

With your permission, I will start by bringing the present picture of Andhra before the House. My friends have already brought it. From the rainfall point of view, Andhra can be divided into three divisions; Rayalaseema, a chronic famine area which has got an yearly rainfall of 150 mm. This year even that has failed. Next comes Telan-gana which has got 500 mm. per year and it is called an endemic area or something like that. But this amount of 500 mm. of rainfall is not equally divided; some parts have heavy rains while others have scarcity of rains. Therefore in this area they will be having floods and famine, both together. However this year uniformly that also failed. The only area which brings the name of Annapurna to Andhra is the coastal area with 300 mm. of rain which never fails. We are always certain of it but this year that also failed. That is why the situation has become so acute. The little rain that Andhra had has fallen in such a way that it is of no use. They have sown the seeds but they are drying up. As my friends have already said, Andhra which is called Annapurna, is facing a calamity which was not witnessed in the past 100 years.. 17,340 villages in 151 taluks are in the grip of a drought. If God does not send rain within a week—not as my friend, Mrs. Rajagopalan said, within a fortnight because they cannot wait that long—there will be no drinking water both for man and beast in these 17,340 villages. The State Government is fully aware of the difficul-

ties and they are taking every care to meet the situation but the problem is too tremendous for the State alone to manage. Out of these 151 taluks, 65 taluks had famine last year also and the House can imagine the plight of these 65 taluks with a second year of drought. What purchasing power can they have ? Practically all of them are small farmers or farm labourers.

Here permit me to mention that in spite of drought in 65 taluks the State Government last year supplied nearly 30 lakh tonnes of rice to the Central Government according to its commitments and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture was good enough to compliment the Andhra State Government on that. But, alas, here is Andhra looking up to God and offering prayers—they are doing that in every part of Andhra—for rains. I have already mentioned that there will be no drinking water for man or beast in the next few days if we do not have rains. Next to God, the people are looking up to the Chief Minister. They number about 1 lakhs in 70,000 villages and they have no purchasing power whatsoever. What can the Chief Minister do ? What can the people do ? They are also aware of the fact that last year and the year before they had to part with their rice in order to be sent to the other States of the country. When there was no drought itself, they had to send rice. They are hence quite aware that when there is drought in several parts of the country, nobody will help them with rice. They may send a little rotten wheat from Punjab or elsewhere, but they are rice-eating people and they are desperate. They do not know what to do.. They are just looking up to the Chief Minister who has come rushing here-and he is as helpless as the people are—because there are 180 lakhs of people just sitting. They have neither the purchasing power, nor the foodgrains. So,, the Government of Andhra Pradesh has. to supply them with at least one meal a day and also work to earn Rs. 1.50r per day to pay for it. Both these have to be supplied. They must supply food-grains and work also, to earn the amount with which to pay for it. That is the position in Andhra. The situation is already being felt because in certain parts people have started looting foodgrains. They are too hungry. They cannot see their children suffering. So, they have taken to looting. This will pose a serious threat to the law and order situation in the State. Unless

relief works for giving employment to people and thus enable them to purchase foodgrains are immediately undertaken, the State will be in a mess..

As my friends have already mentioned, acute scarcity of drinking water is the immediate problem. Wells have dried up. People are buying water that is taken in lorries from far-off places. The Central Government must immediately collect all the rigs from where-ever they are available and send Army personnel to deepen the wells, as once before our late, beloved Prime Minister Nehru did in Rayalaseema. Only that can save and it has to be done on a really urgent basis and not wait for the papers to go from one office to another office, from one State to another State. (*Time bell rings*). I have hardly begun and you ring the bell. Yesterday we just bombarded our poor Deputy Prime Minister for hours and hours and we sat till eight o'clock. Here people are dying of hunger and thirst and no food and we cannot even discuss it. ..

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN (Andhra Pradesh) : You carry on with your speech. Why do you go into other things ?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : We have decided that it will be only 5 or 7 minutes for every Member. If you so decide, you can take ten minutes, but we have to stick to certain programme. I hope the hon. Member will realise it.

MISS M. L. MARY NAIDU : I will not carry on. Thank you very much. There is no use and others can say as much as I can say. Thank you very much.

श्री येल्ला रेड्डी (आंध्र प्रदेश) : वाइस चेरमेन महोदय, अनावृष्टि की हालत आंध्र प्रदेश में जैसी पैदा हो गई है ऐसी हालत कभी पैदा नहीं हुई थी ।

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

बारिश का मौसम जब से शुरू हुआ है कई जिलों में एक बारिश तक भी नहीं हुई है, जैसे कि रायलसीमा के जिलों में एक बारिश भी नहीं हुई है; तेलंगाना के बाज इलाकों में एक बारिश नहीं हुई है आज तक । बारिश का मौसम शुरू होने के बाद जहां कहीं बारिश हुई है तेलंगाना और दूसरे एरियाज में वह भी एक आध बारिश शुरू में हुई, उसके बाद फिर कोई बारिश नहीं

हुई दो महीने से मुसलसल कोई बारिश नहीं हुई । हालत यह हो गई है कि वहां के तालाबों में एक कतरा पानी भी नहीं है । नतीजा यह हुआ कि धान का ट्रांसप्लान्टेशन हुआ नहीं । तेलंगाना के 8 जिलों में तालाबों में पानी आया नहीं । तेलंगाना में, जिसका नतीजा यह हुआ कि ट्रांसप्लान्टेशन हुआ नहीं । पैड़ी की काश्त होती है तालाबों के तहत वह नहीं हुई । इसलिए वहां कन्डीशन बहुत खराब हो गई है । थोड़ा बहुत कहीं हुआ है तो बावलियों के तहत हुआ है । बावलियों के तहत जो काश्त हुई है, पैड़ी की काश्त है वह बहुत कम हुई है । तो सिचुएशन इतनी खराब हो गई है कि तेलंगाना के इलाके में, जहां से मैं आता हूं, अनाज नहीं मिल रहा है । लोग भूखे मर रहे हैं; भूख तो नहीं मर रहे हैं, भूख के मारे दर-दर फिर रहे हैं अनाज के लिए; कोई अनाज देने वाला नहीं है; कहीं अनाज नहीं मिलता और लोग फाके करके दिन गुजार रहे हैं ।

पानी न बरसने की वजह से, तालाबों में पानी न आने की वजह से बावलियों में अन्डर-ग्राउन्ड वाटर लेवल भी कम होता जा रहा है; दिन ब दिन कम होता जा रहा है । वेल्स से भी काश्त कर लेते तो वह खादिय भी पूरी नहीं हो सक रही है इसलिए कि जहां पहले 10 एकड़ एक बावली से काश्त होती थी वहां उससे एक-आध एकड़ काश्त होना मुश्किल हो गया है क्योंकि वहां अन्डरग्राउन्ड वाटर-लेवल कम होता जा रहा है । जो एक-आध एकड़ काश्त कर ली है वह भी सूखती जा रही है । ऐसी भयानक सिचुएशन वहां पैदा होती जा रही है । आंध्र के कोस्टल एरिया के दो-तीन जिलों के अलावा सारे आंध्र प्रदेश में हर एक जिले में तकरीबन यही हालत है । रायलसीमा के कई जिलों में और भी बुरी हालत है, वहां पहले से भी बारिश नहीं हुई है । तेलंगाना में भी बुरी हालत है । शुरू-शुरू में तेलंगाना के बाज इलाकों में 1-2 बारिश हुई है, उससे ज्वारी की काश्त हुई है, खरीफ की फसलों की थोड़ी बहुत काश्त हुई है । वह भी अब पानी न होने की वजह से, बारिश न होने की वजह से दो महीने से मुसलसल

[श्री येल्ला रेड्डी]

बारिश न होने की वजह से सूखती जा रही है। कई इलाकों में सूख गई और बाज इलाकों में थोड़ी बाकी है, सूखती जा रही है। पानी के लिए लोग तरस रहे हैं कि आज बारिश होगी, कल बारिश होगी; आसमान की तरफ देखते हुए इन्तजार कर रहे हैं लेकिन बारिश होने की कोई उम्मीद नजर नहीं आती। 8-10 दिन के अन्दर अच्छी बारिश नहीं हुई तो जो यह रहे-सहे खेत हैं खरीफ के वे भी सूख जाएंगे, खत्म हो जाएंगे। तो इसका नतीजा यह होगा कि किसी को कुछ मिलेगा नहीं। इतनी बुरी हालत है कि इसके बारे में गवर्नमेंट को बहुत सीरियसली सोचना होगा। अगर थोड़ी देर तक और अच्छी बारिश नहीं हुई तो अभी तो ड्राउट की, स्केयरसिटी की कन्डीशन्स है, 15 दिन के बाद मेरा ब्याल है कहत की कन्डीशन्स पैद हो जाएंगी।

सारे आंध्र प्रदेश में, दो तीन जिलों को छोड़ कर, फेमीन कंडीशन्स पैदा हो जायेंगी इसलिये अभी से गवर्नमेंट को चाहिये कि फौरन ही कुछ स्टेप्स लेने चाहियें, खास तौर से वेल्स को डीपन करने के लिये कुछ इंतजाम करना चाहिये, उसके लिये फ्रिड्स का इस्तेमाल करना। फौरन एक्सचेन्ज की भी जरूरत होगी। इसके अलावा लोगों को काम भी देना पड़ेगा। जब तक उनको काम नहीं दिया जायेगा, अगर आप उनको अनाज भी सप्लाय करेंगे उनके पास खरीदने की ताकत नहीं है। इसलिये उनको काम भी मयस्सर करना पड़ेगा। उनको अनाज तकसीम करने का इंतजाम करना पड़ेगा इसके साथ यह पानी का इंतजाम करना होगा। जानवरों तक को पीने के लिये पानी नहीं मिल रहा है और खास खास जगह आदमियों को भी पीने का पानी नहीं मिल रहा है इसलिये वेल्स को डीपन करने की बहुत जरूरत है, निहायत जरूरत है और फौरो जरूरत है। उसके साथ अनाज की तकसीम हो जाय और काम देने के लिये वर्क्स शुरू कर दिये जाने चाहिये। जब तक गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया से काफी पैसा न मिले

वहा की गवर्नमेंट हालात से नहीं निपट सकेगी। इसलिये मैं गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया से दख्तास्त करूंगा कि इन बातों की तरफ ध्यान दे।

SHRI N. PATRA (Orissa) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, once again monsoons has failed in different parts of the country over an extensive area. Previous to me a lady Member from Andhra depicted a very gloomy picture of the distressing drought situation prevailing in many parts of the country.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : The other hon. Member has also said it.

SHRI N. PATRA : Others have also spoken about Andhra and our friends have spoken about the conditions prevailing in Rajasthan and Mysore also. I was speaking about Andhra because I was going to draw the attention of the House to the contiguous areas of Andhra State, that is, the portions of Orissa that are called ex-Madras area, both the contiguous areas of Ganjam and Koraput, which are also facing similar conditions. Therefore, when my Andhra friends spoke, I felt they must also have referred to the same acute conditions of drought prevailing in both the areas of Ganjam and Koraput. From my own personal experience, when I made a short journey to my area, I visited different parts of the Parlakimedi subdivision. I also come from that area. The Gram Panchayat, Gurandi, to which I belong, was never affected by drought or floods, but this year my panchayat which has protective water resources and big irrigation tanks also is finding it very difficult to protect the areas sown by paddy. Only 1/4th of the area has been transplanted, but 3/4th of the area has not been sown. Even that small area could not be maintained in spite of the best efforts of our brave kisans to save the crop. Therefore, when you think of arranging any relief for the State of Andhra, its contiguous Orissa area has also to be taken into account, please. Actually Andhra State is suffering; it is very near to us; reports are coming in; when we go to some parts of Orissa, we cross also certain parts of Andhra State, and I see the very dismal condition prevailing in Andhra and the contiguous Orissa area. Therefore, without going into details of the distressing conditions, I would draw the attention of the hon. Minister to take into account also the

bitter conditions of drought and famine prevailing in that contiguous area of Orissa.

SHRI K. C. PANDA (Orissa) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, it is really pitiable that our country is facing again and again the same condition which was prevailing in many parts, which culminated in famine conditions. I would specially mention about the land of Lord Jagan-nath.. He is the lord of the universe, not of Orissa or Bharat, and Orissa is continuously facing all calamities, flood, drought and cyclone for the last three years, and in spite of that Orissa was supplying food to States outside, and it was considered as a surplus State. But this year, I read in the papers, Orissa Government has already decided not to supply rice or paddy outside the State in view of the serious condition prevailing in the State.

My friend, Mr. Patra, has already revealed the condition of Ganjam and Koraput which are contiguous to Andhra State. The area which is contiguous to Madhya Pradesh and Bihar is facing the same trouble. In Kalahandi, in one of the subdivisions, Dharamgarh subdivision, out of 69,000 acres only 47,000 acres of land have been transplanted by paddy. This is the recent information I got. From Balangir, I got a resolution of the Relief Committee, as I happen to be a member of the Relief Committee, which was presided over by the Collector. The Committee is very anxious about the pockets of drought where the cultivators have not yet ploughed their land. Although in some portions of Orissa flood is devastating the valuable paddy lands of Orissa which are considered as the granary of Orissa—why of Orissa, rather the granary of the country because for so many years we have been supplying rice to places outside Orissa even—serious drought conditions are now prevailing in many other districts. I do not want to say to the House that entire districts are facing the same condition. But there are certain pockets affected. The district authorities, including the Orissa Government are now seriously thinking about the pockets. There is flood in some parts of the district and there are pockets affected by drought. Daspalla is a portion of Puri district which has faced for the last three years drought condition, and the people have just been eating roots and leaves. When we were sitting here in the last session, we were

hearing the story, but no better condition prevails even now. Every year Orissa has the first monsoon in the middle of June, but the Members will be astonished to know now that till the third week of July monsoon did not favour the people of Orissa, and the seeds sown had all dried up.. That is called in the local language gaja marudi. We have read in the papers and I have got letters and information from district officers that gaja marudi has prevailed in pockets throughout the entire State. And the cultivators who had already sown their seeds could hardly get further seeds to sow in their land and they took recourse to loans and all these things.

I would like to mention something about the serious drought and famine condition in Kalahandi and Bolangir areas, where one tola of gold was sold for a bag of broken rice. This is my own experience. And you will be astonished to know that the Government sources had information that 247 maunds of silver utensils and wares and ornaments were sold by the people in one market. How will the people survive if such famine conditions prevail in the State. So, I would request the authorities to take special efforts to relieve the people of their distress. And if there is no rain by October next, the same condition-what prevailed in 1966--will be there and especially drinking water and irrigation water facility will be the problems. This House will be astonished to know that in Orissa during the three Plans only 360 irrigation wells were supplied with electricity whereas in other States there are thousands of wells which have been supplied with electricity. So, my request to the Government is to take special steps and care for the neglected areas, neglected not only by our Plans but neglected by nature even. We must fight against nature. We must dig deep wells. When such wells are possible in Dandakaranya, why is it not possible in other parts of the same area. This version is not of my own, it was said by the ex-Governor, Dr. A. N. Khosla, a specialist in this line, during his tour of Bolangir. So I request the Government to take speedy action in the matter.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE (West Bengal) : Sir, a few days ago in this very session the hon. Food Minister was eloquent about the great and big harvest that we have got and his note was optimistic. A stamp was issued, I under-

[Shri A. P. Chatterjee]

stand—why 'understand', everybody has seen it—saying that there is a wheat revolution in the country. Now, it is tragic rather—and I should say tragically funny—that only a few days after such optimistic outbursts from the Cabinet and also after issue of the stamp of wheat revolution, we had to discuss and debate two important things. One was the flood situation and now we are discussing the drought situation. And I see that the drought situation has got into as many as seven States. I understand that this is a Union of 16 States. Now, out of them, seven are in the grip of drought, four are in the grip of flood. And I do not know how many will be left to bask in the sun-shine of prosperity which the hon. Food Minister held out to us only a few days ago.

This vicious circle has to be broken somewhere and at some point. This is a tale of drought alternating with flood and flood alternating with drought. This has become out tale since 1947 when the present ruling party took over power.

श्री नेकीराम (हरियाणा) : उपसभाध्यक्ष जी, मैं आपकी इजाजत से अपने दोस्त से, जो बोल रहे हैं, एक बात पूछना चाहता हूँ। उन्होंने जो कुछ कहा उसको सुनकर मुझे ख़ुशी हुई है। हमारे हरियाणा में इतना नुकसान हो गया है तो उनके पास अगर जादू है तो वे बतलायें।

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : I quite understand that any Congress Member, however tall and stout he is, cannot certain prevail upon the rain god to give rain when there is no rain, or to lessen the rains when there are heavy rains. There is no doubt about it. But the point is not that.

श्री नेकीराम : आपने कहा कि हम ऐसे उपाय निकालेंगे। तो मैं आपका शुक्रगुजार होऊंगा अगर आप यह बतला दें कि ज्यादा वर्षा को कैसे रोका जा सकता है क्योंकि कैनन में इतना नुकसान हो गया है। वहाँ पर घरों में पानी चढ़ गया है तो आपका जादू कहाँ है।

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Just listen to words of wisdom. The point is not that. The point is that there will be vagaries of nature. (Interruptions.) I do not know why the hon. Member is so restive at the name of the ruling party.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : You continue your speech.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : Sometimes one is more loyal than the king and I think he is more a Congressman than even the Congress front benchers. Let him have the satisfaction about what he is so much enthusiastic.

The point is that drought and flood, these are natural vagaries, no doubt. Vagaries of nature will be there and are there in every country. But the point that misses the attention, that escapes the attention of the Government is that in agricultural planning, food production has to be programmed in such a fashion that this drought and this flood will have to be adjusted because, after all, we cannot have rain for the demand. We cannot order, get the floods away from the shores of our land at our command. There is no King Canute in the Cabinet who can ask the floods to recede and there is no corresponding or prototype King Canute to "say that there will be no drought. Therefore, there should be an irrigation programme and an intelligent irrigation programme for the purpose of fighting the drought and if that irrigation programme is intelligently brought out and worked, that can be a protection against flood also.

As far as West Bengal and Bihar are concerned, we know that crores of rupees were sunk down the drain, so to say, in constructing the Damodar Valley Project and all those other projects. But who does not know the dismal failure of those projects? We know; in the Damodar Valley Authority, when there is drought they never know how to release water; they cannot release water because, they will say, "the reservoir is dry. When there are floods, they will release the water because the reservoir is such that it cannot go on containing the water. This year, in West Bengal in Midnapore, a greater part of the flood situation is due to the fact that the Damodar Valley Authorities released more water than should have been released, just because the reservoir could not contain more water. That is the whole position. The irrigation projects are not properly thought out and planned and the flood control measures are not properly thought out and planned, and we live from hand to mouth. And whenever there is some more wheat than usual, we call it a wheat revolution and dance in joy, and we never do anything in order to prevent the drought

or the flood, or even think something about a buffer stock, not merely a buffer stock of foodgrains, but a buffer of resources to fight the rain and to fight the danger of drought. I can say to the hon. Minister : You should have a real plan for irrigation and for flood control. You should have a real, intelligent plan. And you should not surrender to the vagaries of those technicians who do not know anything about irrigation and flood control except sitting in their rooms. They must associate themselves with the cultivators; they must get the wisdom from the cultivators and the people. Unless they do this they cannot have any concrete and effective flood control and irrigation measures. Unless you do all these things, unless you have a properly thought-out plan for all these things, all these things will recur and will have to be discussed again and again in Parliament, whether it is floods or drought.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE : This is the importance, Sir, given by the Cabinet to the debates. The Minister is not here.

श्रीमती पुष्पाबेन जनार्दनराय महंता (गुजरात) : वाइस-चेयरमैन, सर यहां ज्यादा समय तो नहीं है इस लिये सिर्फ गुजरात की बात श्रीमती पुष्पाबेन जनार्दनराय महंता : कच्छ के सात ताल्लुकों में बिल्कुल बारिश नहीं हुई है और जैसा कि अभी भंडारी साहब ने बताया जैसी पानी की दिक्कत राजस्थान में है उसी तरह की मुश्किल कच्छ में भी है। मैं जानती हूँ कि दो साल पहले बड़ा भारी अकाल वहां था। उस समय भी वहां बहुत से पशु मर गये थे चूंकि उन को पीने के लिये पानी नहीं बहुत से हमारे पशु मर गये हैं।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA) : Well, the Minister has just gone for two minutes. He will come back just now.

था। हम अनाज तो बाहर से ला सकते हैं, मगर हम पानी कहां से लायें। यह बड़ी मुश्किल है। इस समय मैं सदन को यह याद दिलाना चाहती हूँ कि जब तक कच्छ और जैसलमेर के लिये पानी का अच्छी तरह से प्रबन्ध न होगा तब तक वहां की स्थिति सुधरे नहीं सकती। इस प्रदेश में बारिश ज्यादा होने वाली नहीं है और हमेशा हम को इस दिक्कत का सामना करना पड़ेगा। नर्मदा योजना जब तक पूरी नहीं होगी, जब तक वह पालिटिक्स से बाहर नहीं निकलेगी, तब तक पानी की दिक्कत हमारे प्रदेश में रहेगी। मैंने अपनी आंखों से देखा है कि पानी बिना पशु कैसे मर जाते हैं, पानी बिना मनुष्य कैसे हैरान हो जाते हैं। जब हम आंखों से देखते हैं तो समझ में आता है कि बिना पानी के कितनी मुश्किल होती है। आज वहां खेती के लिये पानी नहीं है, ट्यूबवैल्स भी वहां नहीं बनते हैं। बनते हैं तो उन से पानी खारा निकलता है, कटु निकलता है। ऐसी ही स्थिति बनासकांठा की भी है। सौराष्ट्र में जो ओखा बाराही प्रदेश है, जो कृष्णा का प्रदेश है वहां भी पानी नहीं है। वहां हजारों लोग अपने पशु ले कर नदियों के किनारे चले जाते हैं और बारिश होने पर ही वापस आते हैं। आज गुजरात की परेशानी का कोई पार नहीं है। जिस प्रदेश में ज्यादा बरसात होती है, वहां अच्छी बरसात नहीं हुई, इस लिये जो हमारे भाग हैं, जो हमारा ताल्लुक है वह सूखा रहता है। आज हमारे दक्षिण गुजरात में बाढ़ आयी हुई है और उत्तर गुजरात में पानी का अकाल है। पहले थोड़ी बारिश हो गयी, लेकिन अब पानी का अकाल है। हम जानते नहीं कि भगवान कैसे दिन हम को दिखाने वाला है। मेरा आप से यह निवेदन है कि जब तक नदियों में छोटे इरिगेशन के साधन नहीं बनाये जायेंगे तब तक यहां यह मुश्किल रहेगी। आप टैंकर से पानी कितने लोगों को पहुंचावेंगे। और कितने लोगों को पानी पिलावेंगे। इस तरह से चलना हमारे लिये बड़ा मुश्किल है। तो इसलिये मैं आज आप से निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि आप को इस के लिये जल्दी से जल्दी सोचना चाहिये।

[श्रीमती पुष्पाबेन जनार्दन राय महेता]

एक बात और भी है। वहाँ माइलो नहीं है, बाजरा नहीं है और इस तरह से खान के लिये भी मुश्किल है। हमारी सारी फसल भी पता नहीं कैसे हो पायगी। बारिश न होने की वजह से फसल भी नहीं हो रही है। जो फसल हुई है उस में काले जन्तु आ गये हैं जिन को मसी बोलते हैं। वे फसल को खा जाते हैं। तो एक तरफ अकाल है और दूसरी तरफ जो फसल है भी उसे ये जन्तु बर्बाद कर जाते हैं। यह भी एक मुश्किल है। एक तो गुजरात डेफिसिट स्टेट है अनाज के मामले में और इस के अलावा वहाँ सुरेन्द्रनगर डिस्ट्रिक्ट में बिल्कुल फसल नहीं हुई है। दूसरी जगहों पर भी नहीं हुई है और कच्छ तो बिल्कुल अकाल में है। एक भाई ने बताया, जिसे हमारे यहाँ गुजरात में अनावारी कहते हैं, वह किसी एक खेत में जा कर फसल कितनी हुई है इसका अनुमान लगा लेते हैं। अगर वहाँ एक खेत में फसल ज्यादा हो गयी तो मान लिया जाता है कि उस क्षेत्र में फसल अच्छी हो गयी है। गुजरात में बरसात की दिक्कत है और फिलहाल वहाँ अनाज पहुँचाना चाहिये, फाडर पहुँचाना चाहिये, और पानी तो भगवान चाहेगा तो आ जायगा, लेकिन उस के लिये एक लांगटर्म योजना होनी चाहिये। 1500 रुपये की मस पानी बिना मर जाती है। मैंने पिछली मर्तवा देखा था कि कच्छ में हजारों पशु मर गये थे। वहाँ घास तो सरकार ने पहुँचाई, लेकिन पानी बिना वे मर गये। मेरा निवेदन है कि वहाँ के लिये पानी का इंतजाम जरूर किया जाना चाहिये। मिस्टर नरसिंह राव ने अपने एक स्टेटमेंट में कहा था कि अगर ताप्ती और नर्मदा की योजनायें पूरी हो गयी होती तो सूरत जिले की इतनी खानाखराबी न होती। तो आज इन सारे प्रश्नों पर हमारा ध्यान जाना चाहिये और मैं प्रार्थना करती हूँ कि जल्दी से जल्दी इन प्रश्नों को हल किया जाना चाहिये। मंत्री जी गुजरात के प्रश्न पर खास लक्ष्य दें क्योंकि वहाँ अकाल ही नहीं, बाढ़ भी है। इसलिये प्रार्थना है कि हमारे प्रदेश पर जो

आफत है उस का ध्यान कर मिनिस्टर साहब उधर ध्यान दें और कुछ करें। मैं आप का आभार मानती हूँ कि आपने मुझे समय दिया।

SHRI B. T. KEMFARAJ (Mysore) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I place the very true picture of the drought situation in Mysore. Sir, out of 19 districts nearly 16 or 17 have been seriously affected and there are 20,309 villages in these 16 districts where 12,913 villages have been seriously affected. There was no rainfall and the affected areas have a population of nearly 22 lakhs. Sir, for starting relief "Work, for taking up necessary irrigation work and other provisions, for giving relief to the people of these areas, an estimated cost of 8 crores and 30 lakhs has been asked for from the Central Government. But the Central Government has released only 1 crore and 50 lakhs of rupees. Sir, out of this amount of 1 crore and 50 lakhs, Rs. 1 crore and Rs. 93,55,00 have already been allotted to all the divisions in the State and the relief work has been in progress. Now, Sir, as it is, there are no funds with the State Government to execute the work and if no further amount is immediately released, I think, the position will become very acute and many of the persons will have to starve actually. Therefore, Sir, I request that the Central Government may take the matter seriously into consideration and see that immediate and necessary help is given. Sir, the second point which I want to urge is that in the Bangalore district eleven talukas have been affected. In the Tumkur district all the ten talukas have been affected. In the Chitaldrug district, out of 9 talukas, 7 have been affected. In Shimoga out of 9, 3 talukas have been affected. In the Mysore district all the 17 talukas have been affected. In Mandya 6 out of 7 talukas have been affected, a district which is supposed to be the granary of the State. In the Hassan district, 7 out of 8 talukas have been affected. In Coorg all the 3 talukas have been affected. In Belgaum out of 10, 6 have been affected, and in Dharwar, out of 16, 9 have been affected. In Bellary 4 out of 8 have been affected. Therefore, you will see that there is a serious drought condition prevailing in Mysore due to the failure of rainfall for the last three years continuously.

There is no water available in the wells for drinking purposes. Mr. Vice-Chairman, unless rigs are supplied to

the wells and unless some of the works are undertaken by giving liberal grants to the State Government, the situation in Mysore will become worse. The Hemavati project should be taken up. Feeder channels to Vanivilas Sagar should be dug, and wherever possible railway lines should be laid. These things may be taken up. Restoration of tanks, construction of village roads, deepening of gokattas and repairs to irrigation lanks and their construction may kindly be taken up immediately. The study team also, which has visited Mysore in the month of June, has seen the conditions, but after their return the situation has further worsened; it has gone from bad to worse. The situation is very acute and serious. Therefore, immediate relief from the Central Government to the tune of Rs. 830 lakhs should be given to the State if the State has to be saved from starvation deaths.

SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, I do not want to say anything about other States because I do not know anything about them. I will concentrate on Andhra Pradesh alone. Andhra Pradesh is in the grip of a very serious famine the like of which it has never seen. Only in 1952 in Rayala-seema, from which place I come, which is a chronically drought-affected area, such conditions were seen. The water famine was so acute that people rushed to places wherever some water was available. They even quarrelled amongst themselves for a little water. Military personnel had to be despatched to that area to deepen the wells and to bore the ground for underground water. That was the condition then and Pandit Nehru toured that area. Today it is not Rayalaseema alone that is affected, it is the entire State which is in the grip of drought. The entire State of 20 districts, with 151 talukas and more than 70,000 villages and with a population of nearly 11 crores is affected. The situation is so serious that if rains do not fall within a week or ten days the entire population will have to depend for their day to day living on Government help alone. That happened in 1952 in Rayalaseema when Panditji and other important leaders toured that area. Recently Shri Morarji Desai had been to Rayalaseema where he saw the sorry plight of the people. That is the situation. I do not want to go into further details. What I want to stress is that

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this problem has to be tackled on a war footing as was done in 1952. In 1952, not even a single soul was allowed to die in that famine for which the credit goes to the Central Government for their assistance. Today also I warn the Government to rise up to the occasion to study the situation and do what it can.

There are two aspects of the matter that have got to be tackled. One is the immediate relief and the other are permanent measures to tackle these famine conditions.

Regarding immediate relief, everybody knows that relief works have to be started. Fair price shops have to be opened everywhere because the people have no purchasing capacity; they have got to be given subsidised food. That is very essential; otherwise people without any purchasing capacity will almost starve to death. It should not be allowed to happen. I think no civilised Government will allow that to happen. I do not know what they are going to do. The situation is so serious that it may develop into another Bengal famine of 1943 if there are no rains for another week or ten days. I hope the Government will not allow that to happen.

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM) : Do not talk of that.

SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY: I hope the Government will definitely take into consideration the situation existing there. I hope they are already in possession of facts which the Andhra Pradesh Government would have supplied them.

As far as long-range tackling of the problem is concerned, there are certain long-range measures which they should take. Previously a number of Commissions to enquire into these famine conditions were appointed and they produced a number of reports. But what is the result? Nothing has been done. No concerted effort has been made to get rid of the pestilence of famine permanently. To get rid permanently of this famine, certain measures had to be taken. Whatever the measures and whatever the cost involved, the Government has got to see that there are no areas where people suffer from famine and die of starvation. Famine areas should be removed from the map of India. There should be no area where people suffer from famine conditions. The Government of India should tackle

[Shri Y. Adinarayana Reddy]

all these problems at a higher level. They should create an authority with enough funds at their disposal to develop these chronically drought affected areas of which there is not only Rayala-seema but many other areas in the entire country. I stress this point. It is the duty of any Government to give immediate relief so that people do not die. They should see to it that no famine occurs anywhere in the country. It is a very serious matter. I hope the Government will definitely tackle this problem at least in the near future. Already 20 years have passed since we got independence and if we are having pockets of areas where we have got chronic famines every year even today then it is rather a matter of shame on us.

Sir, in Andhra due to drought the Government has to suspend collection of land revenue and loans and given remissions to the people. In such a condition the Andhra Pradesh Government alone will not be able to finance all the works that are to be taken up. So the Government of India should necessarily come to the rescue of the people there and see to it that conditions are improved and until mere are rains the situation there is tided over. Thank you.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU (Andhra Pradesh) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, coming as I do from Andhra Pradesh I am expected to speak with a sense of responsibility particularly when the question pertains to our State of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is considered to be the granary of India so far as rice is concerned. It is a tragedy that this area, inspite of being a granary, has been forced to ask for help from the Central Government to feed its population. Now Andhra Pradesh is facing a crisis almost unprecedented in its history. There are occasions, as pointed out by my friend, when parts of Andhra Pradesh suffered very serious drought conditions. But this year, unfortunately, the entire State of Andhra Pradesh has been affected and it is suffering a good deal. What is the reason for this? The reason is obvious. It is due to the failure of the South-West Monsoon. There is a great deficit of rainfall. If you look at the figures of rainfall, you would see that from 1-6-68 to 15-8-68, there was a deficit of 37 per cent in rainfall if we take the entire State into consideration and 43 per cent

of deficit if we take Coastal Andhra alone into consideration, and 42 per cent if Rayalaseema alone is taken into consideration. Now even here, even though there is some rainfall, it is not uniform. It is sporadic and patchy with long dry spells. That is the reason why there is a lot of suffering. The situation is such that there is no drinking water even. All the wells are dried up, all the tanks are dried up except in districts like Krishna and Godavari, the delta areas, where there is canal irrigation. Wherever you go, you find that there is no water even to drink. That is the unhappy state of affairs in which our State of Andhra Pradesh has been placed on account of the unprecedented drought conditions.

My hon. friends have given figures. I do not want to repeat them. But I may give some broad figures again so that the magnitude of the problem may be impressed upon the mind of the Government. Nearly 13 million people, particularly the rural population, have been affected on account of the drought conditions. People living in 151 talukas and in 17,350 villages—practically 40 per cent of the entire population of the State—have been affected by this drought. Such is the magnitude of the problem, and I would like the Government to take serious note of this situation.

Then regarding the extent of loss of crops, I may tell you, Sir, that the estimated rice production this year is 12.75 lakh tons as against 33.84 lakh tons last year. So, a loss of more than 55 per cent is estimated. " These estimates are not given by politicians who are prone to exaggeration. These are estimates made by hard-boiled public servants who are prone to underestimate things. I would even request our able Food Minister to go and visit this place personally so that he might realise the gravity of the situation.

SHRI JAGHIVAN RAM : I have already visited.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : I would like you to visit the entire area.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : You visited recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD, AGRICULTURE, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AND COOPERATION (SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE) : Very recently.

SHRI K. P. MALLIKARJUNUDU : I would like him to visit the entire Andhra Pradesh, all the districts of Andhra Pradesh which are affected by the drought conditions. Of course, I was told—I was not present—that our Deputy Prime Minister also had an opportunity of visiting the Anantapur district and he made a very pertinent observation. He could realise that the loss is immense. He seems to think that it is impossible to give compensation for the loss sustained by the people. "We can only at best give some kind of relief. What can be given is relief and not compensation." So we would request earnestly the Food Minister and the Government of India to come to our rescue, to give us some immediate relief; the immediate relief that is needed is estimated at Rs. 22.94 crores.

Now, apart from these things, there is the other difficulty of unemployment of agricultural labour. Lakhs and lakhs of agricultural labourers are affected by this drought. They are unable to get employment. So all these 40 or 50 lakhs of agricultural labourers are going to suffer for want of employment. Even though the Government of India may give some help, unless it goes to the agricultural farm labour, it will not be possible for them to purchase food. And food also is not available. We are also asking for more and more supplies of food. The Government of India has to help us by giving us more food. It is really tragic that our State of Andhra Pradesh, which can supply food to the whole of India, is now in such a position that it has got to ask the Government of India for help in the matter of food. That is the most unfortunate and tragic situation in which we are placed. So, first of all I would request our Food Minister to go and visit the State of Andhra Pradesh. If that is not possible, I would ask him to send a team of officials immediately to our State and assess the situation and see whether our estimates are right or wrong, whether the relief asked for by us is genuine, legitimate, or not. That is the first request. Secondly, I would request them to give us as much relief as possible, at least to the extent of Rs. 22.94 crores which is immediately required. It is not relief in the form of long-term measures; it is relief in the form of short-term measures. So I would like the Government of India to see that these things are done. Our State of Andhra Pradesh which had

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been supplying rice more than all the provinces put together, is now in such a condition that it is forced to ask for help from the Central Government. With these few remarks, I conclude. I think you for the opportunity given to me.

SHRI SANDA NARAYANAPPA

(Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would not like to waste time. We are already at the fag end of the allotted time and most of my hon. colleagues have already covered almost all the points. But I would like to bring to the notice of the Government one or two points as the Food Minister and the Minister of State are here.

We have completed three Plans, Sir, and according to our Planning Commission, the increase in agricultural production should be 5 per cent this year. But unfortunately nature has not co-operated with our ideas and programmes. On one side, there is flood, and on the other, there is drought and famine* and these two clubbed together have damaged very much the food prospects of the country. Now we have already discussed about the flood-affected areas, the relief measures to be extended to those areas and the immediate problems to be attended to in that connection. To-day we are discussing the famine conditions that are prevailing in parts of Gujarat, Madras, Mysore, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Assam, Orissa and other States. Regarding Andhra Pradesh—we come from that State—we have to congratulate the Government of India for having already released Rs. 4 crores towards relief works. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and the Civil Supplies Minister have both toured the entire State. They have assessed the situation and they have formulated and submitted a scheme to the Government of India for about Rs. 61 crores. Out of this amount, the Government of India have already released Rs. 4 crores and the relief works are now being continued. We have to congratulate the Government of India for this immediate help.

Now the drought is continuing in the entire State in a most acute way since the monsoon has failed. Indra, the controller of the clouds, seems to have no mercy for us; he seems to have forgotten us. That is why we are in the midst of drought and trouble. On account of the failure of rains, till the end of August, the rice production in Andhra Pradesh has been estimated to

[Shri Sanda Narayanappa]

come down to nearly one-third of the production last year. Last year, 1967-68, the rice production was 32.34 lakh tons.

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But this year's estimate is only 12 lakh tons. The Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister was good enough to give 3 lakh tons of rice, with all our difficulties, to the Central pool in order to help other brethren in the other areas of the country and in order to strengthen the relief measures formulated by the Government of India. In this connection, I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture that the Andhra Pradesh Government has now prepared an estimate and has forwarded it to the Government of India, and that estimate contains the following figures:

	(Rs. in crores)
Relief works till March	17.44
Drinking water Supply	2.00
Distress taccavi loans	2.00
Gratuitous relief	1.00
Subsidised Supply of food-grains, seeds, etc.	0.50

They have prepared an estimate for Rs. 22.94 crores and it is now under the consideration of the Government of India. Today hon. Members from the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha went and saw the Prime Minister. We requested the hon. Prime Minister to pay a visit to those drought-affected, famine-affected and chronic famine areas, and see the conditions of the people there, and to formulate some plans for giving permanent relief to them. We also requested her to immediately send milo and coarse grains there at subsidised rates so that the people may be able to purchase their foodgrains and at least have one square meal a day till the conditions improve. She was very sympathetic to us and she promised that she would try to go over there and see the situation for herself. Besides, during this month, the hon. Deputy Prime Minister visited some of the drought affected areas, especially Anantapur, and he addressed all the legislators, Pancha-yat Samiti Presidents and Zila Parishad

Chairmen and also the M. Ps. He was convinced that permanent relief should be given to the famine and drought affected ryots. He estimated the loss to be a huge one and he said the people could not be compensated with short-term relief works but some permanent relief works should be undertaken. He was convinced that underground water to be tapped was the only source that could drive out famine from those areas. As far as the drinking water problem is concerned, he was convinced to extend all help. We request the Government of India to immediately rush all the rigs that could be made available and other machinery, boring and drilling machinery, to Rayalaseema and other places where the drinking water scarcity is acute; such areas must be given priority for boring and drilling wells, so that they can get rid of the scarcity of drinking water problem. It does not matter if the drilling and boring machinery is to be imported from foreign countries and even if it costs a few lakhs of rupees by way of foreign exchange, it is justified because we have to face a very serious situation. The Government of India should immediately accord sanction to procuring such machinery from abroad. From other States also, wherever such machinery is available, the Government should try to procure these drilling and boring machines and send them to the affected areas to give immediate relief. The relief works must be continued and milo and other coarse grains may be immediately supplied at subsidised rates.

Another thing I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. We know that the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is there. In these famine affected areas they can start certain programmes of weaving and spinning khadi; besides they may start village industries so that people may get some work and thus the unemployment problem will be solved to some extent and the people will be able to earn something by doing that. In addition to this, Sir, mineral wealth is abundant in Andhra Pradesh, and should be tapped. By doing so we can start some industries and thereby we can provide work for the unemployed labour so that the pressure on land can be reduced. Those who possess land can till the land and those who do not possess land may divert themselves to industries, small and cottage industries, etc. If all these programmes are co-ordinated, formulated and implemented effectively, I think then

only people badly affected with chronic famine in Rayalaseema will become prosperous and they can thus come up to the level of the people in other areas who are prosperous. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: If you allow me for two minutes only, I would like to say that my friends have given great details; there is nothing to add to them. But I feel that this is not the occasion when we want to think of long-term schemes. That could also be thought over. At present it is a very emergent situation. I am grateful to the Food Minister; he has been there. We are grateful that the Deputy Prime Minister has also been there. We are also grateful that the Prime Minister has promised to be there **but** what I feel is that if we go about these things only in a routine manner, then it will be bad and we will suffer. The only thing that I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Food Minister and the Government is that this is an urgent matter and it should be treated on a war footing and whatever relief has to be given, it should be given without any delay. That is the only submission I want to make.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, about 16 hon. Members have participated in this debate and all of them have naturally expressed their concern in regard to the drought situation developing in some parts of our country. Sir, I submit that I share the concern of the hon. Members. In our country, the drought situation naturally attracts considerable attention of the people, of the State Governments and the Centre because droughts when they develop affect very much the life of lakhs of people and perhaps in certain areas millions of people. Most of our people naturally depend on agriculture; our agricultural economy is affected most seriously when droughts are most severe. But at the outset I would like to submit that the picture is not so alarming as some hon. Members have tried to paint. No doubt, in certain areas a difficult situation is developing but as a result of a discussion on the floor of the House we should not try to create an impression as if a situation is developing which will not remain under our control or which we will not be in a position to face. May I submit that more serious situations had developed in the past in this country but as a result of the initiative of the Centre, as a result of the co-operation of the State

Governments and as a result of the co-operation of hon. Members we had faced the situations very courageously, boldly and we had taken practical measures to meet the situations and to see that the suffering of the people was reduced to the minimum. This year, unfortunately, some of the areas which have become subject to drought are those areas which were providing food to some of our States. For instance, Andhra has been one of **the** surplus States. In fact in Andhra there are some areas which are subject to recurrent droughts like Rayalaseema but there are other areas in Andhra like the coastal areas and Telangana where failure of rainfall is rather not a frequent thing but even those areas have become subject to deficient rainfall this year.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Is there any programme of the Government for the chronically drought areas?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I am coming to it. As I said the situation was like this. Shri Adinarayana Reddy was trying to point out that a situation like Bengal is going to arise..

SHRI Y. ADINARAYANA REDDY: I said that it should not be allowed to develop like that.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : We should not try to give an analogy which would try to create an impression that a situation like the Bengal famine is likely to develop,

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: That was before Independence.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: In fact a more serious situation than the Bengal famine developed in 1966-67 but as a result of the Government's immediate action, Government prompt action and very co-ordinated planning, etc., we could meet the situation and the situation always remained under control. I think in 1968 the situation is not likely to be of the magnitude of 1966-67 and that is why, as has been suggested by another hon. Member, the Member should observe some restraint and should not make references to very serious situations in the past. In fact, we have so much experience of handling the situation which developed as a result of drought that, to my mind, I have no doubt that we shall be in a position to overcome the situation even if it develops to some extent in certain areas. Shri

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Akbar AH Khan was making a reference that we should not try to meet the situation in a routine way but that we should try to take up some emergency measures. May I submit for the information of hon. Members that we have now such a well-co-ordinated and well-planned approach to this problem that as soon as in any part of our country the drought situation develops, we take prompt action. There is no red-tape and nothing comes in the way and even in regard to the drought situation which is developing in some parts of the country, we will be taking equally prompt steps and emergency steps and no red-tape will *come* in the way of providing prompt relief to these parts of the country.

SHRI YELLA REDDY : The rainfall has been deficient in an extensive area this time.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Some Members quoted figures about the rainfall. I have also some figures about the rainfall deficiency in certain parts of the country. For instance, in Western Raiasthan there has been deficient rainfall to the tune of 37%, in Mysore to the tune of 20% and 17%, in North Mysore to the tune of 20% and in South Mysore 17%, in Madras to the tune of 55% in Coastal Andhra 36%. Telangana 40% and in Rayala-seema 42%. In order to study the rainfall pattern I went into the previous history of rainfall and I found that even in the past there were years when in July-August, which are the months of substantial rainfall, when there was a very severe shortfall of rain in July-August. For instance, in 1899 in Rayalaseema in July there was deficient rainfall of 84% and in August about 37% but in September the position was retrieved and there was surplus rain to the tune of 43% in 1899. In Telangana also a difficult situation developed in 1908 and there was deficient rainfall but in September the position was retrieved and there was surplus rain to the tune of 161%. Similarly in Madras and Mysore I found generally whenever there was deficient rainfall in July-August, in September the position was retrieved.

AN HON. MEMBER : Rainfall does not help anybody.

MISS M. L. MARY NAIDU : Are you waiting for September rains

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: But it is very difficult to make any forecast about the rainfall. I quite appreciate the anxiety of Members and some suggested and asked that even if there is a rainfall in September how will the position improve?

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY:

In those years, it was only one part of Andhra that was affected by drought but now it is through out Andhra.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Suppose there is no rainfall in September, even the problem of drinking water would become difficult. The problem, of fodder would become difficult. As the situation develops, perhaps we can take a balanced view a little later, not that I am suggesting that relief measures are not to be taken or postponed. I am only making a humble suggestion for the appreciation of Members that a balanced view of the situation may be taken only in September but without waiting for September necessary steps are being taken both by the State Government and the Centre to provide relief in all the States where the drought situation has developed.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY : That is not the correct situation.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: The Minister could have said that this year of drought will be followed by the next year of good rains.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Mr. Chatterjee, while speaking, made one drastic remark that we have done nothing to meet the drought situation and he even ridiculed the approach to the food policy and the food problem. May I submit that though in certain areas we have a drought situation but I think by the way we have planned our food strategy, we shall be in a position to meet the situation with some confidence. Take our approach to buffer stocks. This year we have a plan to have a buffer stock of 3 million tonnes.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Security is man's worst enemy.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Personally I feel that with this approach

in a good year of crop if we are going to have a buffer stock at our disposal, then we shall be in a position to meet the food situation even if a drought situation develops in some parts because in a vast country like ours, one cannot say that drought will never take place because Members will remember that last year though we had a bumper crop, we had the highest recorded yield last year, but even then, we had drought in Orissa. Last year we had drought in parts of Andhra and in some parts of Mysore. I am not minimising the gravity but I say that in a vast country like ours there may be the situation, as was referred to by some Members, where in some areas there are floods and in some there are no rains at all. There may be some areas having excess of rains also but taking the vastness of the country I do not think we can avoid these things. Then there seems to be an impression in the minds of Members . . .

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: You say that you do not think you could avoid these. That is a pessimistic view that such drought is bound to happen. Is that your view?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: You may have your own views. From the climatic condition and the distribution of rainfall during the last century or twoj we know that the natural conditions are not within human control.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: So you cannot do anything?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Some factors are there which are completely beyond human control.

But whatever is possible and within human reach, we are trying to do.

Then there seems to be an impression with some of the hon. Members that Government is not doing any planning in order to meet such a situation. As far as the problems of scarcity areas are concerned, I think it has two aspects. One is the long-term planning and the other is the short-term planning. Now, as far as the long-term planning is concerned, may I submit for the information of the hon. House that since the First Five Year Plan we have been taking some positive steps in order to solve some of the problems of drought-affected areas. For

instance, take the major irrigation projects. Now, some of the major irrigation projects which have been planned and executed are likely to cover some of the very difficult drought affected areas in our country. For instance, take the case of the Rajasthan canal.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHAN-DARI: You have since stopped its progress.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: May be temporarily. Now the Rajasthan canal is going to cover some of the very severely drought affected areas, areas which are subject to chronic droughts. Now there are many other projects spread all over the country. For instance, in Mysore there are the Tungabhadra project, the Malapra-bha project, the Ghatta Prabha project and the Upper Krishna project. And in Andhra also there are the Pocham-pad project, the Nizamsagar project and so on. Likewise in Madras also.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: No work is going on in Mysore except in the case of the Tungabhadra project. Except on paper there has been no progress in other cases.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: There has been planning and it is being done accordingly.

SHRI YELLA REDDY: You have got the schemes on paper no doubt. But what is the use?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I was referring to the point that there is planned approach to this subject and major irrigation projects are being planned in various parts of the country so that some of the severely drought affected areas may be covered. (*Interruptions by Shri A. P. Chatterjee*) And you have your own views in the matter. Now it is the assessment of the Irrigation and Power Ministry that if we succeed in implementing many of these major irrigation projects, then perhaps 25 to 30 per cent, of the drought affected areas in the country would be covered by these major irrigation projects.

SHRI YELLA REDDY: Are you providing extra money?

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: There has been none so far.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Then there are certain parts of our

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country which are not likely to be covered by major irrigation projects, where we have to give adequate importance to minor irrigation, to percolation, tanks then soil conservation measures, afforestation, etc.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN: Tube-wells.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Yes, drilling wells, lift irrigation, tube-wells, etc.; they are part of minor irrigation planning.

(Interruptions.)

A few years ago, at the initiative of my Ministry a Conference of Chief Ministers of States which are subject to recurring droughts was convened . . .

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: Have you any specific plan for Rayalaseema?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: . . . and considerable thought was given to the problem as to how to tackle and what steps could be taken to provide permanent relief to the chronically drought affected areas. And as a result of the resolution passed in that conference some steps were taken both by the Planning Commission and the concerned Ministries to plan some relief measures and to take some steps so that some of these hard core areas of drought affected regions could be covered.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : It was also decided, Mr. Shinde,—if I may remind you—that a fund should be created for this purpose and that fund should take care of the chronically affected areas—it is a fund outside the Plan outlays. I think I am right and if I am wrong you can correct me.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : And there is the plan which has been prepared now. Of course resources would be always a limiting factor. Within the limited resources available it would be executed.

SHRI AKBAR ALI KHAN : That is the problem.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: And it has been decided that we should not take at a stretch all the drought affected areas but we should take first the hard core of drought affected areas. And a definition has been made that the areas which are subject, every three years, to drought, such areas should be selected first and

tackled first. And on that basis some areas like Rayalaseema in Andhra Pradesh and in all other States including Orissa, Maharashtra, Mysore and Rajasthan have been selected, and we have requested the State Governments to prepare detailed plans in order to undertake some permanent measures to cover those drought affected areas. And we are expecting the plans from the State Governments. We have so far received plans only from two Governments and they are being looked into.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHAN-DARI : Which are the two?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: I think Andhra Pradesh is one, and I cannot say off hand now the name of the other State.

SHRIMATI PUSHPABEN JANARDANRAI MEHTA : Have we included Kutch, which has been repeatedly a drought-stricken area, in the plan?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: We have provided some broad guidelines on the basis of which the definition can be made, and the State Governments have to suggest the areas on the basis of those broad guide-lines.

SHRIMATI PUSHPABEN JANARDANRAI MEHTA: What are those broad guide-lines?

MISS M. L. MARY NAIDU: There is one point please, on which I want to ask.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: If there is interruption in every sentence, I do not think I shall be in a position to complete my reply within a reasonable time. Otherwise I have no objection. If hon. Members have to put some questions, they would be at liberty to put the questions to me after I have done with the reply.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: The hon. Minister should not take these interruptions in that light. We try to understand from you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): Let the Minister finish. Let the hon. Members jot down what they want to ask and ask him at the end.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Sir, I was submitting that the planning for drought affected areas has been

engaging the attention of the State Governments and the Centre and some positive steps have been taken in that direction.

Then, Sir, as far as the short-term planning is concerned, now take the case of Andhra Pradesh to which many of the hon. Members made reference, and specially Shrimati Yashoda Reddy wanted to know what is being done about providing relief to Andhra Pradesh Government. The Andhra Pradesh Government has approached the Centre that we should provide foreign exchange for about sixty-four Helto rigs which are not available in the country at the moment and that we should make the required foreign exchange available to the Andhra Government. Already my Ministry has taken the initiative in this and my Minister, Shri Jagjivan Ram, has written to the Minister of Industrial Development that necessary foreign exchange for the import of these rigs should be made available.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY:

Thank you very much.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE : Then, Sir, whenever any drought situation develops in any part of our country, the normal system is that the State Governments have not to wait for taking up relief measures till Central assistance is given to them, because the Finance Commission has already gone into this matter. And there is a set pattern. Every State Government is required to make a certain provision in their own Budgets for meeting the drought situations which develop from time to time. Now the provisions set by the Fourth Finance Commission in the case of various States are as follows : Rajasthan—Rs. 93 lakhs; Andhra Pradesh—Rs. 75 lakhs; Madras—Rs. 50 lakhs; Mysore—Rs. 33 lakhs; and Orissa—Rs. 123 lakhs. And also, if the State Governments feel that their expenditure is likely to exceed this limit, then they write to us, and as soon as they write to us, we send Central teams to study the situation. Now Members may feel why a Central team should be sent. It is because, instead of the red tape approach, as was hinted at by Mr. Akbar Ali Khan, we have evolved a very practical approach in regard to these matters because, when a proposal is sent, if that goes from the Ministry of Food and Agriculture to the Finance Ministry, to the Planning Commission and Co. other concerned Ministries, it

is likely to take more time. Instead, a team which includes representatives of all the concerned Ministries and of the Planning Commission is sent to the States. They study the situation there, find out what are the requirements of the state Government in order to meet the drought situation, they work out the ceilings and prescribe the amounts, and then the report submitted by such a team is accepted by all the Ministries and on that basis Government make advances to the various State Governments for taking drought relief measures. And even in regard to that, the terms which are provided are very liberal. Fifty per cent, of the Central assistance, which is given, is given by way of grant; that means the State Governments are not supposed to return that amount and 25 per cent is given by way of loan. Only 25 per cent is to be provided by the State Governments and if any State Government is in difficulties at times, considering the merits of the case ways and means advances are made to it. So I was submitting that the State Governments can take immediate relief measures like minor irrigation, soil conservation, etc. for providing employment to the people because whenever a drought situation develops as has been pointed out by many hon. Members all sections of the agricultural population get affected but the section which suffers most is that of the landless agricultural labourers. And with them there is also the question of purchasing power. So in the case of this drought relief we have to attach the utmost importance for providing employment to large sections of our rural population and the State Governments are expected to take steps in that direction.

Now, hon. Members will appreciate that according to our Constitution, drought relief or scarcity relief is a State subject and States are expected to take active steps in order to undertake the various necessary activities connected with relief measures. Our experience during the past few years indicates that all our State administrations act in a very responsible way once such a difficult situation develops. Though many times we quarrel, we criticise each other, in difficult situations we really try to see that our differences do not come in the way of taking adequate measures to tackle those situations. Whenever any difficult situation develops in any State, I have no doubt in my mind that the States

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will competently handle the situation and they will be in a position to meet the difficult situation satisfactorily with the assistance of the Centre and with the necessary cooperation from hon. Members.

Then, Sir, one point which arises as a result of drought situation is (the question of food supplies. We are constantly watching the situation and finding out what are the difficulties of the State Governments. The State Governments also write to us and inform us how the situation is developing and what their difficulties are, etc. For instance, during the last two or three days the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had been here and he discussed the subject with the Finance Minister and with the hon. Minister of Food and Agriculture and other concerned Ministers. Similarly the Minister of Food of Andhra Pradesh is here; he met the hon. Food and Agriculture Minister; he met me also and we tried to look into his difficulties. He indicated that he would require some coarse grain so that he can make it available in various parts of Andhra Pradesh and we have assured him that all his reasonable requirements will be met and he is quite satisfied with our approach in this regard.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA RED-DY: Would you be subsidising the supply of coarse grains?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: First of all, milo is made available at a very cheap rate because the price of milo which is issued to State Governments is only Rs. 48 per quintal. As compared to other foodgrains it is much cheaper and some subsidy element is already there. In the pattern of drought relief, gratuitous relief is also provided for and that is eligible for Central assistance. So if the State Government wants to subsidise to some extent that becomes eligible for Central Assistance.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI: What about its quality?

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: Shri Bhandari raised a point that some milo, which is unfit for human consumption, is being issued. I do not know that particular instance but generally I may assure him that we do not

issue any milo which is unfit for human consumption. After all, distribution is the responsibility of the State Governments. If some quantity stored somewhere becomes unfit and if some single instance is there . . .

SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM: They sometimes forget that there are State Governments; they think we are the only people responsible.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: We take all necessary precautions when we issue foodgrains to the State Governments. We have some inspecting machinery, we have some technical staff and we take care to see that no foodgrain which is unfit for human consumption is issued to any State Government.

SHRI YELLA REDDY: Coarse rice has also got to be subsidised to the poorer sections because the prices have gone up.

SHRI ANNASAHAB SHINDE: It is for the State Government to do that, because providing foodgrains at a cheap rate is part of the drought relief measures and under the scheme some of the items are eligible for Central assistance in which subsidy and other forms of assistance necessarily come in. If any special subsidy is being paid, the State Government has to make out a special case and approach the Centre. What I said in regard to Andhra equally applies to Mysore and other States also.

Then I would like to mention an additional point that the Centre has been taking very prompt steps in order to help the State Governments. In some States there was drought situation last year and the Central teams visited those States and prescribed certain limits. On the basis of their performance, on the basis of the work carried on by them, they asked for some more funds and yesterday only we have released an additional one crore of rupees for Andhra Pradesh. This is additional because some amount had already been advanced. We have released one crore of rupees to Mysore also. Similarly if some other State Governments fall within that category they will also be eligible for similar assistance from the Centre.

Then, at the end, I would like to submit that if any State Government approaches us saying that a difficult situation is developing, we will immediately send our Central team. As far

as Andhra is concerned, the Central team would be visiting Andhra and will be giving their assessment' to the Centre and on the basis of the assessment of the Central team we will be taking immediate steps to meet the situation.

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी : पशु धन के लिये कोई जगह है आप के पास ?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: In fact, a proposal for a Fodder Bank in Andhra was sanctioned quite some time back but the Andhra Government discontinued it. I would request the Andhra Government to take up the project again. If the Fodder Bank is there, some Central assistance also would be there as is usually given for such projects. As far as Rajasthan is concerned, it is engaging our attention and we will take all necessary care to see that some steps are taken to preserve our valuable cattle wealth. Shri Bhandari was objecting to the movement of cattle. He said that cattle herds were moving from western parts Rajasthan to eastern parts of Rajasthan.

SHRI SUNDAR SINGH BHANDARI : Not objecting; I was only pointing out the problem that was there.

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: I quite appreciate the anxiety of the hon. Member. But even in normal years this sort of movement of cattle is there. Whenever there is failure of rain in one part, the cattle owners shift from that area because even drinking water is difficult in those areas. So they shift to other areas where grazing, grass, etc. are available. We shall do our level best to assist the State Governments so that they can help the cattle owners with supplies of fodder.

At the end I would like to submit this: let us not try to create any panic in the country. The situation, as I mentioned in the beginning, is completely under control and I hope with the necessary cooperation of this hon. House and hon. Members we shall be in a position to face the situation with reasonable confidence.

Thank you very much.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Peasants have taken loans both short-term and long-term from the district banks and from taluk development banks but now they are not in

a position to pay their instalments on both short-term and long-term loans. I would like to know whether the Centre is providing some funds to the district banks and the taluk development banks so that they can get over this difficulty and help the peasants.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): Would you reply now or would you reply in the end to all the queries together?

SHRI ANNASAHEB SHINDE: Just as you say.

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Sir, let him answer; otherwise he may forget the points that we have raised.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI M. P. BHARGAVA): No, he won't. Mr. Chatterjee.

SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE: The clarification I would like to have is this (*Interruption.*) After all, I address the Chair and not anybody else. The hon. Minister, a little while ago, said that as far as the question of subsidising foodgrains to be supplied to drought areas is concerned, that is primarily the responsibility of the State Government. Now, am I to take it that the Central Ministry, when it sends foodgrains to the drought-stricken areas, will not exact the price which it demands in the case of other States? That is the clarification I want.

SHRIMATI YASHODA REDDY: May I assure the hon. Food Minister that we will not feel alarmed and we have absolute confidence in the Government of India, as well as in our Government. We have brought these things to the notice of the Government of India because we want immediate measures taken, especially in respect of drinking water. We have absolute confidence and as our Chief Minister has said we will see to it that we maintain calm and order. You need not fear from our side but from your side, let the Ministry send us that quantity on an emergency basis.

SHRI YELLA REDDY: What does the Government propose to do with regard to areas like Rayalaseema which are permanently drought-stricken?

SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Is there any long-term plan for it?

(*Interruptions.*)