

यह मतलब है कि कट्टी की जो प्रोग्रेस होती है, तरक्की होती है उस के रास्ते में हमारी हाई कोर्ट या सुप्रीम कोर्ट आ जाय ? पंडित जी कह चुके हैं कि कानून के पचड़े में आकर हम देश की तरक्की को नहीं रोकेंगे, सुप्रीम कोर्ट चाहे जो बोले, हाई कोर्ट जो बोले । इसलिये जब हम समाजवाद की बात करते हैं, सोशलिज्म की बात करते हैं तो हमारे सुप्रीम कोर्ट और हाई कोर्ट के लोग हमारी बात नहीं समझते हैं । इस तरह वे समाजवाद के काम में, सोशलिज्म के काम में एकावट डालते हैं । चूंकि हाई कोर्ट ने कह दिया इसलिये कानून में तरक्की होनी चाहिये, इस तरह अगर हम सुप्रीम कोर्ट या हाई कोर्ट के आसरे में बैठे रहेंगे तो मुल्क की तरक्की नहीं हो सकती । शायद कुछ लोगों ने इनकी दाह है इस में कुछ पला है और पला रहने से यह जरूर है कि हाई कोर्ट ने अभी तक जो फैसला दिया है, वह समझते हैं कि दूसरे जो लोग बसे हुए हैं उन के पक्ष में दिया है । ऐसा प्रतिपामो स्टैंड उन्होंने नहीं लिया है । लेकिन हाई कोर्ट और सुप्रीम कोर्ट का हवाला दे कर मुल्क की तरक्की नहीं हो सकती है ।

दूसरी बात यह है कि गवर्नमेंट बहुत से मकान खरीद रही है, खास कर बम्बई में जो राजे महाराजे थे उन्होंने इधर अपने मकान सरकार के हाथ बेच दिये हैं । उन के मकानों को सरकार खरीद रही है । बम्बई और कई जगहों से रिपोर्ट आई है कि दस, बीस वर्ष से जो लोग उन मकानों में रह रहे हैं, जब से यह बिल सामन आया है, उन में बहुत घबड़ाहट हो गई है और बहुत जगह आर्डर हो गया है कि जल्दी से जल्दी मकान खाली करो । मैं समझता हूं कि जिनजि और प्र इशेट हाउसेज हैं उन से लोगों को जल्दी से जल्दी हटाना सरकार की नीति नहीं है । ती सरकार द्वारा खरीदे हुए मकानों से भी उन पुराने किरायेदारों को नहीं हटाना चाहिये क्योंकि जब हम समाजवाद बनाने की बात करते हैं तो उसमें हम यह कहते हैं कि हम सब को शैंटर

देंगे, मकान देंगे । यह नहीं है कि कुछ लोगों को हम रिफ्यूजी बनायें । खास तौर से बम्बई शहर के बारे में मैं जानता हूं कि बहुत से लोगों को सरकारी स्थानों से हटाने की बात चल रही है । तो आनरेबिल मिनिस्टर इस पर ध्यान देंगे और जहां शहर की सुन्दरता को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार लोगों को हटाने की बात जरूरी समझती है वहां उस को कानूनी अधिकार है लेकिन कोर्ट के फर में न पड़ कर हम आगे बढ़ना चाहिये ।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं इस बिल का समर्थन करता हूं ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will continue the discussion tomorrow.

Mr. Bhupesh Gupta will raise a discussion on the water supply in Delhi. What time do you propose to take?

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Twenty minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right.

#### DISCUSSION ON BREAK-DOWN OF WATER SUPPLY IN DELHI

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, I rise to discuss a matter with which we are all greatly concerned in this great capital city of Delhi. For the last seventy-four hours or so there has been a severe water-supply crisis on us, and we do not know when we shall be able to come out of this terrible crisis, because the statements that have appeared so far from the official circles leave little room for hope but give rise to a considerable amount of apprehension.

We have read the debates that took place in the Municipal Corporation and in particular, the statement made by the Commissioner, Mr. Nayak. We have also carefully studied the speech made by the hon. Minister in the

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.] other House. But all these statements do not at all indicate as to whether and how the water crisis is going to be solved. It is not only the water crisis which we are facing now. Electricity supply is again threatened due to paucity of water and the foretaste of it we are getting in this very chamber now. This crisis of water-supply break-down is unprecedented, no doubt. But then these things have become a common occurrence in this great city where the great ones of India live. It was only two or three years ago that there took place a great contamination in water as a result of which seventy thousand people were struck by jaundice and three hundred died. At that time, the Government was a little shaken up, but immediately they got into their old ruts. Only recently we have known that there was a deluge in this city and everybody seemed helpless. The Government did not know how to protect its services. The telephone service was completely disrupted and you know what happened to us. Only the other day it took place. Well, after these things, if I say that this great City of Delhi, thanks to the gentlemen opposite and their colleagues, has become a city of break-downs, will I be wrong? As we know, this crisis which has overtaken us is nothing unforeseen nor was it beyond human control. I shall come to that later. But I would like to describe the conditions under which our people have been placed today.

As you will see, long queues have appeared around the wells to take water from there. They are going to get water from wells that had not been cleaned for years. The University yesterday was without a drop of water. Promises galore were made about improvements in this and the other House by the hon. Minister. We know that in certain other places also, the water scarcity became extremely acute. In this connection, I would like to mention about the

Anand Parbat—that area with colleges around—where three thousand people live, there water supply completely stopped and the Military Engineering Service which used to supply water, for reasons best known to themselves, suspended the supply. Children went without water; patients went without water and the hospitals were facing great difficulty. And, of course, the plight of the common citizens is all well known. Today, I do not know where we stand. I do not know if the hon. Minister had been to that area to see this thing. Yesterday, he only sent one of his Deputy Secretaries though the Prime Minister thought fit to visit that place. When the Prime Minister visited that place, he was not deliberately shown a certain place. And the 'Hindustan Times' of today reports in bold print—"The authorities seemed to have been careful not to take the Prime Minister towards the southern end where the Najafgarh Nullah flowed back and contaminated the intake mains on Sunday." Here it is stated in one of the responsible newspapers of the country, according to them very very responsible. I suppose that it is to spare the authorities from this kind of embarrassment that the hon. Minister did not care even to visit that area.

(Interruption.)

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH (SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR): I have gone.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA (Madras): The hon. Minister has visited the scene with the Prime Minister.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Well, the Minister has faded out of the picture completely, it seems. Anyway, I am glad that he has been there. Then he should have taken him to that area. Why was he not taken? Anyway, water will not flow if the hon. Minister goes there. The sense of responsibility in such a matter is to be exercised in the proper way. I am not concerned with that aspect of the matter now.

The crisis became extremely serious. Today, we are told that one does not know what will happen. The alternative is between stopping supplies altogether or supplying contaminated water asking the citizens to die. I do not know what is the position. According to my information, it seems that the Commissioner was thinking of these two grim alternatives and was to make his decision. I would like to be enlightened on this subject. As far as the supply is concerned, you know what has happened in the course of the day. Some trickle has come, bringing little promise and perhaps less water also.

Sir, this is the position. The question is why are we in this situation? Was it preventible? Or is it an act of God which you could not have prevented? According to me and according to all those who have spoken on the subject—except the hon. Minister—everybody thinks that it was a preventible calamity. If steps had been taken in time, probably, the City of Delhi would not have gone without water. We have got plenty of material before us. Here is the report of the Jaundice Enquiry Committee which made a whole number of recommendations. Three years before the question had been gone into, problems had been examined, suggestions had been made, by so competent a Committee as the Jaundice Enquiry Committee and hon. Members opposite slept over this all these years—three years—and the Administration did not raise its little finger to meet the situation. Some petty little things have been done, but they could not stop the present calamity, as we all know.

Sir, Delhi is short of water. We require about one hundred million gallons of water a day. According to the hon. Minister, we require now 90 million gallons a day. The supply is 62 million gallons a day. Therefore, we have got an overall deficit in water supply. There is shortage in everything, except, of course, in certain

other matters which concern them. Water is in short supply. Therefore, that has been one factor.

Now, Sir, the question is, what has been done in the course of the last three years to augment the supply? Recommendations have been made by the Jaundice Enquiry Committee. We shall come to that later. Then again, we know that the problem of contamination is very acute. Time and again, the water of Delhi—the drinking water of Delhi—has been contaminated by sullage water, as is well known to everybody. It became such a serious problem that it took human lives three years ago in that jaundice epidemic. Now, what has been done to prevent this contamination? On the contrary, the Commissioner admitted in the Corporation itself yesterday that on Sunday, contaminated water was supplied. Note the words—"On Sunday, contaminated water was supplied." Was it not possible for them to create a situation when the Najafgarh Nullah will not contaminate the water in the intake positions so that this contamination should be avoided? Nothing of that kind was done. A number of comments were made in the Press, but they were not doing anything. So, we fear that contaminated water is being supplied and would continue to be supplied to us by the authorities.

Now, this crisis did not come all of a sudden. It is not like that Japanese art which comes all of a sudden. It came first of all with your knowledge. Sir, 300 people were there at the pumping station working. Surely if the water begins to recede, they know it, and actually they knew it. The Commissioner was informed. He knew of the approaching danger and crisis on the 13th of this month. But he did not take his Councillors and even the Mayor into confidence. The Mayor was informed only on Sunday, and others were not at all informed, not even the officers of the Administration. Here you have got a bureaucrat sitting at the top of the Administration expecting that things would

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]  
move according to his bidding. Sir, we have very serious criticisms to make when so much power has been concentrated in the hands of an executive officer who is responsible to nobody, but to the Centre. Now, it has been shown how irresponsibly, how bureaucratically and how arrogantly he behaves. He did not take even the Mayor of Delhi Corporation into confidence. She herself had said that she did not know it until Sunday. Many did not know until Monday. Such is the position here. I am therefore saying that the Government owes us an explanation as to why such a thing happened. I do not know when the hon. Minister was actually informed about it, or whether it so happened that these bureaucrats were so bureaucratic that they did not even care to inform the hon. Minister. It is for him to explain as to when he was actually informed about this thing. Therefore, Sir, we find that citizens were kept in the dark, the Corporation was kept in the dark, the Mayor was kept in the dark till the crisis overtook them. Such is the way our Government behaves. Such is the way how this Administration behaves. It is a very serious thing, Sir. I had no doubt in my mind that if such a thing were to happen in a city like London or Paris or any other city in this civilised world, the officer responsible for such callousness would have been summarily dismissed from his position or made to explain his conduct. But nothing of the kind is being done here. He issues sermons, delivers lectures and does whatever he likes. That is what is happening here.

Now, Sir, as far as the problem is concerned, I should like to say a few things here. First of all, on page 44 here you will find a series of very reasonable and workable suggestions which are made by the Jaundice Enquiry Committee. The Committee recommends that the advice given by the Director from Poona should be

implemented without delay—mark the words ‘without delay’. In this report this suggestion was made after an enquiry into the outbreak of the jaundice epidemic. Now, what were the suggestions? There was a suggestion for augmentation of the river supply by canal water in the hot weather. This suggestion was made and it was pointed out that it would not cost more than Rs. 8·7 lakhs. Then, Sir, some committee was appointed under the Irrigation Ministry. That Committee made its recommendation that a supply of 250 to 300 cusecs should be discharged into the river from the Bawana Escape which is in the Punjab. What has happened to this recommendation? Even at this late hour can you say what you have actually done with regard to the recommendation which was made by the Committee appointed under the Irrigation Ministry? That is one suggestion. Then, Sir, another suggestion was made for tapping an alternative source of supply from the Hindon river. But we have been told that nothing practical has been done about it, and it is now over a period of ten years that nothing substantial has been done so far. Was it not possible to hold a high level conference in that case to settle the matter or to arrange an alternative supply from Punjab or from U.P.? This is the question that I wish to pose to the hon. Minister. And yet everybody knows that Delhi lives on the vagaries of Jamuna and we are in between floods and recession, and people are left to the mercies of the wild nature. This is the position that is obtaining now. What are we doing about it? What is the Government or the Administration doing about it? That is for the Government now to explain before this House.

Sir, then about contamination many suggestions were made. The Najafgarh Nullah was discussed. You have the Coronation Pillar Plant. Contamination does not take place unexpectedly, because the source of contamination is there and it remains there

always. Here you have got the Najafgarh Nullah which drops into Jamuna sullage water at the rate of 800 to 1,200 cusecs in the peak period, and the normal flow is 500 cusecs. This is the position. At the same time we have got that Coronation Pillar Plant. The capacity of the plant is only 120 cusecs. In the normal times 350 cusecs of sullage water is flowing into the river which can contaminate our drinking water. This is the position. This position has been there for years, and it is there today also. What have you done to improve the situation? It is no use telling us these things. You tell us as to whether the proportion has changed in favour of drinking water. This is the question that I pose to the hon. Minister. Our storage capacity again is very poor. At present our storage capacity is 30 million gallons which is a supply for only eight hours. How can you get on with the vagaries of Jamuna with this very meagre storage capacity? Was it not possible during all these years to build more reservoirs and catchment areas to improve the storage position? Was that absolutely difficult for the Government? Let the Government explain the whole position now.

It is no use building Asoka Hotel and big palaces in this City of Delhi to show how this City is flourishing and growing when the citizens are not even guaranteed the barest water supply. Is this your way of building a Welfare State? It is a shame as I said yesterday, that a crisis of this kind should have overtaken us in this great City of Delhi. Just imagine the amount of human misery that it has caused. The actions of the Administration and the Government have defamed this country in the eyes of the world; they have defamed this city; they have defamed this Government before the eyes of the world. How small would we look before the world at large when they know that even after 11 years of independence we have not been able to guarantee a safe water supply to

our people, a continuous water supply, an unbroken water supply? Now, Sir, this is the place on which the attention of the world is focussed. We are on the footlights of history and the history of the world is before us, and in this capital city of our country where everything should be very fine we see as if we are living in a medieval age. The hon. Prime Minister speaks very often of the atomic age for political purpose. I would like to know, what is the use of speaking of the atomic age when you are actually driving back to the ages of eighteenth or nineteenth century? You cannot even ensure this pure water supply to your citizens. Now, Sir, this is very important. Therefore, I hold the Government entirely responsible. It is no use accusing the Corporation of Delhi which has been newly founded. Water supply is now, of course, under them. But previously it had been under the Central Government. Therefore, the Central Government is responsible for this dereliction of duty, for this callousness, for this negligence and for this disregard of the recommendations of an official enquiry committee. All this responsibility must be shouldered first and foremost by this Government. Secondly, it is the responsibility of the Administration which watches the situation. Sir, this is one of the most scandalous things that have happened from the administrative point of view. But Mr. Karmarkar cracks jokes. I heard his speech; I read his speech. It is full of jokes. Well, sometimes humour has its own place, but today is not the time for humour or for jokes, nor is it the time for throwing some repartees to the Opposition. You must explain your conduct today as to why this thing has been allowed to happen. This is most important. Secondly, you must give us an assurance and tell us very frankly what you are going to do. Where exactly do we stand? I do not know what will happen tomorrow. Can you Sir, say what will happen to you tomorrow? Are you assured of water supply? Can any

[Shri Bhupesh Gupta.]

hon. Member of this house say that he will have his water supply, let alone the poor people, those who live under all kinds of difficulties? This roughly is the position. I am extremely sorry that I have to speak like this on this subject, because we thought we had left those days far far behind, but when in a big city like Delhi we are left without any water supply we feel we have been landed in a desert, and there is not even a little oasis of hope, from what I see. What is the guarantee that recession will not again take place? Sir, Delhi has been rendered hopeless by the very people in whom the country entrusted the responsibility of ensuring its water supply. This is a serious thing, a serious indictment of the Government.

I do not want to bring in party politics. But I think when the Government is so complacent and so unmindful of its responsibilities and so callous about the people, it becomes the bounden duty of the Opposition to raise its voice loudly and to echo the sentiments and feelings of the entire people. I am sharing their sentiments and expressing their feelings. Every syllable I am uttering in this House expresses the sentiments of the people of Delhi, regardless of party affiliations. Today we are prepared to solve this problem, but I would like to know what steps they are going to take in this matter, or whether they are continuing in this scandalous manner. So, this is the position.

Finally, let me pay my tribute to those men and women who are working day and night to ensure a supply of water to the city, and also to the men of our army who have lent a hand in this great work. This is the only sign of comfort in this picture that we have got people to rush to the service of the nation and who are in a position to meet such a calamity, whereas the Government creates a calamity and hides it. Therefore, finally I do pay my humble tribute to those men and women and I wish

them all success. But if Delhi were to be assured of water supply and the crisis is to be got rid of, it is essential that the Government must be shaken out of its complacency and forced to take measures as recommended at least in this enquiry committee's report. It brookes no delay. Let there be discussions and conferences among all the parties to decide how we should move in this matter. Let it be announced immediately that within a limited time we shall implement the recommendations of the Jaundice Enquiry Committee's Report. It is quite possible, it does not require much money at all. Only a few lakhs of rupees will be required. While you are spending two or three crores in putting up certain constructions like the Asoka Hotel, is it not worth spending a few lakhs for the life and health of the people? It is the duty of the Government to move fast in this matter. They should take every action and find all the necessary resources. We shall be with them. But if they only want to create these water famines, there shall be resentment, there shall be opposition and there shall be suffering and above all, there shall be shame which all of us have to share before the eyes of the world.

श्री ओंकार नाथ (दिल्ली) : उपसभापति महोदय, मैं विरोधी दल. . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Before you proceed, how many hon. Members wish to speak? Shri Onkar Nath is one. Any more?

(About half a dozen hon. Members stood up).

Then the House will have to sit till about 5.30 and each speaker will take ten minutes.

श्री ओंकार नाथ : मैं विरोधी दल के नेता के एक एक शब्द को बड़े गौर से सुन रहा था। मैं समझता हूँ कि आज यह मौका हमारे लिये कोई राजनैतिक सवाल उठाने

का नहीं था और न यहां पर आग उगलने का था, जब कि शहर को पानी की जरूरत है। किसी चीज को हीट देने से या आग पर गर्म करने से जो पानी होता है, वह भी कम हो जाता है। जब वे बड़ी जोर से यह कह रहे थे कि मंत्री महोदय कल हंस कर बात कर रहे थे, तब मुझे "हिन्दुस्तान टाइम्स" की एक तस्वीर याद आ गई। आपने देखा होगा कि एक आदमी हंसता हुआ तीन बाल्टियां एक साथ लिये जा रहा है। उसको देखते हुये मैं यह कहूंगा कि दिल्ली का बेपढ़ा शहरी हम राजनीतिज्ञों से अच्छा है। वह अपनी समस्या हल कर रहा है और हम एक दूसरे को बुरा भला कहने में लगे हुये हैं। इसके अलावा मैं यह भी समझता हूं कि चाहे बड़े से बड़ा मसला हमारे सामने आये, हमको उसे हंसते हंसते और शांति से हल करना चाहिये।

एक तो जो तस्वीर उन्होंने हमारे सामने रखी वह वह नहीं है, जो वाक्यात से ताल्लुक रखती है। एक घंटे के लिये भी दिल्ली में लाजपतनगर और दूसरी कई रेफ्यूजी कालोनीज में पानी नहीं बन्द हुआ है और बराबर जारी है, क्योंकि वहां ओखला से पानी मिलता है। उसके अलावा जहां तक पुरानी दिल्ली का ताल्लुक है, कोई ऐसी गली या कूचा नहीं है, जहां पांच सात कुएं न हों। उनका इन्तजाम वहां के लोग खुद कर रहे हैं और वे लड़ने में नहीं लगे हुये हैं। यह ठीक है कि नई दिल्ली में पानी बहुत कम मिला। मैं उन लोगों में हूं, जिनके यहां १७ तारीख से आज तक पानी नहीं मिला। कल मैंने अपने यहां खाना नहीं बनवाया, क्योंकि पानी नहीं था। कल शाम को और आज सवेरे नीचे की मंजिल में पानी आया, लेकिन मैं दूसरे फ्लोर में रहता हूं, इस लिये मुझे पानी नहीं मिला। इसके माने यह नहीं है कि मैं अपना दिमाग खो बैठूं।

यहां इस मसले पर बहुत ज्यादा कहा गया कि पहले एक कमेटी बनी थी, लेकिन उसकी रिपोर्ट पर अमल नहीं हुआ है। अगर एक मरीज मलेरिया से बीमार हो जाता है, तो हम

किसी डाक्टर से सलाह करते हैं, और वह मलेरिया का जो इलाज बतलाता है, वह कर दिया जाता है। उस रिपोर्ट में यही है कि नजफगढ़ नाले से पानी का कंटेमिनेशन न हो और इस साल कंटेमिनेशन बिलकुल नहीं हुआ। उस वक्त शिकायत यह हुई थी कि हमको शहर में इम्प्योर, अपवित्र, गन्दा पानी दिया गया और इस दफा आपकी शिकायत यह है कि हमको इम्प्योर ही पानी क्यों नहीं दे दिया गया। आपको हमारे हेल्थ मिनिस्टर साहब ने बताया है कि वह इस बात की फिफ्ट में थे कि पानी ऐसा न हो कि गन्दा हो और गन्दा पानी न चला जाये। इस ओवर काशस होने की वजह से यह बात हुई। मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि १७ तारीख को १ बजे तक बल्कि ५ बजे तक पूरा पानी दिया गया। १७ तारीख की शाम को और १८ तारीख को सुबह पानी नहीं आया। फिर १८ तारीख की शाम को पानी आया और १९ तारीख की सुबह को पानी आया और मैं समझता हूं कि आज शाम को बराबर ३ या ४ घंटे तक पानी आयेगा। यह आक्षेप किया जाता है कि सेक्रेटरी को भेज दिया और मंत्री महोदय नहीं गये। जैसा कि आपको बताया गया, मंत्री महोदय वहां खुद देखने के लिये गये। मुझे भी पहले बहुत परेशानी थी कि क्या होगा, लेकिन जब मैं वहां गया और मैंने वहां देखा कि ३ हजार आदमी रात दिन काम कर रहे हैं, तो मुझे बहुत संतोष हुआ। कार्पोरेशन का जो पानी का इंजीनियर है, वह शस्त्र वहां सुबह ६ बजे से रात तक डटा रहा है, उसने दूतून कुल्ला नहीं किया है, मंजन नहीं किया और वहां लगा हुआ है। फिर भी आप कहते हैं कि लोग गैर-जिम्मेदारी से काम कर रहे हैं। इसी के साथ ही उन्होंने एक लफ्ज यह भी कहा कि कार्पोरेशन पर इसका दोष नहीं डाला जाये। क्यों नहीं डाला जाये? क्योंकि उसमें कुछ सियासत की बात आती है। क्यों कार्पोरेशन पर इसका दोष नहीं डाला जाये? इसलिये कि पानी की कमेटी के जो चेयरमैन हैं, वह एक कांग्रेसी नहीं हैं, जनसंघी हैं। मैं

[श्री ओंकार नाथ]

नहीं चाहता कि इस मामले में राजनीति को लायें। कार्पोरेशन का इस मामले से ताल्लुक है, क्योंकि कार्पोरेशन पानी सप्लाई करता है। मेरी समझ में नहीं आता कि कैसे कार्पोरेशन का इस मामले से ताल्लुक नहीं है। हां, यह दूसरी बात है कि इस मामले में दोष उनका भी कुछ नहीं है। आप हर एक चीज को गवर्नमेंट पर मढ़ना चाहते हैं। अगर आप लोग एक घंटे भर के लिये भी वहां जा कर देख लें, तो फिर किसी मेम्बर को कुछ कहने का हौसला ही नहीं रहेगा। सब लोग वहां पूरी कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

देहली में आठ-आठ, दस-दस साल से कभी पानी की कोई तकलीफ नहीं रही है। आप कहते हैं कि यह चीज रोज की हो गई है। मैं कह सकता हूं कि बम्बई कार्पोरेशन में, कलकत्ता कार्पोरेशन में, कानपुर में, हिन्दुस्तान के किसी भी कार्पोरेशन में कहीं भी २४ घंटे इतना बढ़िया पानी नहीं आता है, जितना कि दिल्ली में आता है। बात यह है कि मलेरिया का इलाज हो गया था और अगर दो साल में, तीन साल में फिर पेट में दर्द हो जाये तो फिर उसका इलाज भी हो जायेगा और दूसरा इलाज हो जायेगा। अगर कभी कोई एक्सीडेंट हो गया था, तो उसका इलाज हो गया। अब यह बिल्कुल नई चीज है जो कि पहले कभी नहीं हुई थी। इस चीज का पिछली इन्क्वायरी से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है। इस बार अगस्त में ही यमुना सूख गई और १२०० फीट दूर तक सूख गई। तो यह पहला मौका था, जब कि ऐसा हो गया; हमेशा तो सितम्बर अक्टूबर में जाकर यमुना परे हटती है। इसका नजफगढ़ नाले से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है, इसका पानी की गन्दगी से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है।

मैं पूछता हूं कि क्या कभी किसी शख्स ने दिल्ली में पानी की कमी महसूस की? जहां टैप्स नहीं थे वहां हैंड पम्प दे दिये गये हैं। तो दिल्ली में हर जगह काफी पानी दिया गया है।

मैं इस बात को हरगिज मानने के लिये तैयार नहीं हूं कि देहली के अन्दर आम तौर पर पानी की सप्लाई की हालत और दूसरे शहरों के मुकाबिले में खराब है। मैं जहां कहीं भी जाता हूं, वहां देखता हूं, बनारस जाता हूं तो देखता हूं कि सुबह दो घंटे और शाम को एक घंटे पानी मिलता है और वहां नलों पर भीड़ लगी रहती है। दूसरे शहरों में भी ऐसा ही कुछ रहता है। ऐसा कहीं नहीं है कि चौबीसों घंटे धड़ाधड़ तीनों मंजिलों तक पानी आ रहा है; और बावजूद प्लश सिस्टम के लिये अलावा जरूरत होने के आ रहा है। तो मैं यह अर्ज कर रहा था कि हमको वाक्यात को देखना चाहिये। इसमें न कार्पोरेशन के इंतजाम की कोई बात है और न कोई दूसरी बात है। दिल्ली की जो हालत हो गई है उस तरह की मिसाल क्या दुनिया के किसी और शहर के बारे में मिलेगी कि जहां पर एकदम से, एकाएक दस बारह लाख आदमी आ गये हों। यहां की आबादी पहले सवा लाख थी और बाद में फिर तीन लाख हुई और आज यहां २३ लाख की आबादी है। जब ४०० आदमी रोज दिल्ली में आ कर सेटिल होते हैं, तो आप ही बताइये कि ४०० आदमियों के लिये पानी चाहिये या नहीं। तो फिर गवर्नमेंट का इन्तजाम करने में कुछ समय लगता है। मशीनरी कोई ऐसी तो है नहीं कि जो दिन के दिन में ही आ जाये। उसके लिये समय लगेगा। हिंडन से पानी आने में वक्त लगेगा, एक दिन में तो यह हो नहीं सकता। माना कि बम्बई में ७० मील से पानी आता है लेकिन आप यह देखें कि उससे पहले पांच साल में वहां क्या हालत थी। तो मेरा कहना है कि आप पांच साल रुक जायें और तब आप देखेंगे कि हम उससे लाख दर्ज अच्छे हैं।

मैं यह नहीं कहता कि सरकार को इधर ध्यान नहीं देना चाहिये। सरकार को कतई इस तरफ ध्यान देना चाहिये और दिल्ली की पानी की सप्लाई बढ़ानी चाहिये। उनको यह भी बात याद रखनी चाहिये कि आठ



दस साल बाद दिल्ली की आबादी पचास लाख हो जायेगी; और उनको पचास लाख के लिये पानी का इंतजाम करना चाहिये। लेकिन मैं समझता हूँ खाली असंतोष फैलाने से कोई सेवा गरीब की या अमीर की या शहर वालों की नहीं कर सकता है। आपने कहा, लंडन या पेरिस में ये वाक्यात होते तो न जाने क्या कर दिया जाता। आखिर वाक्यात दुनिया में होते रहते हैं। लेकिन हमने कभी नहीं सुना कि छोटे छोटे वाक्यात होने में प्राइम मिनिस्टर और हेल्थ मिनिस्टर या मिनिस्टर पहुंचते हैं। हां, डिपार्टमेंट के हेड और कारिदें जरूर जाते हैं। लेकिन पानी की सप्लाई बन्द हो जाने पर हमारे प्रधान मंत्री भी गये, हेल्थ मिनिस्टर भी गये और कार्पोरेशन के मेयर भी। सभी ने अपना अपना फर्ज आशा से अधिक पूरा किया है। मैं समझता हूँ, यह जो आवाज उठाई जा रही है, वह केवल राजनीति को बीच में लाने के लिये है, इसका वाक्यात से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है।

आपने यह भी बताया कि हम लोगों की सही नुमायंदगी नहीं करते। आप ही सब लोगों की नुमायंदगी करते हैं। मैं शायद कह सकता हूँ कि दिल्ली में मैं अपने इलाके की नुमायंदगी तो करता हूँ। शायद आप देहली वालों की तरफ से यह नहीं कह सकते। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि शहर के लोग आराम से न सही, यह भी ठीक है कि तकलीफ उनको हुई है, पानी कम मिला है, मगर इतने बेहाल भी नहीं हैं, जैसी कि तस्वीर आपने खींची है। आपको मालूम है, हमारे देहली के अन्दर अगर एक फकीर जख्म को लेकर सामने बैठ जाये, तो जुर्म समझा जाता है। मैं समझता हूँ आज पार्लियामेंट के वे मेम्बर जो ऐसी बातें करते हैं, वे उस जुर्म को करते हैं, जब वे ऐसी दयनीय तस्वीरें पेश करते हैं और यह कहते हैं कि छोटे-छोटे बच्चों, बूढ़ों, मर्द और औरतों को एक बून्द पानी नहीं मिल रहा। ऐसा करना मैं समझता हूँ हमारी शान के मुताबिक नहीं है। यह कहना कि

किसी के लिये पानी है ही नहीं, ठीक नहीं है। हर इलाके में, अस्पतालों में, ट्रकों में भर-भर कर पानी पहुंचाया गया है। ऐसी बात नहीं है जैसा कि नक्शा आपने खींचा है। मुझे याद आता है, मौलाना आज़द ने एक बार कहा था कि "पुरफरेब तखैयुन है जो आपके सामने रखा गया है"। तो यही चीज़ है जो यहां हो रही है। लेकिन अगर हमारे वे मेम्बर नगर-नगर, गली गली, कूच-कूच घूम कर देखें—मैंने भी जगह-जगह घूम कर सच्ची मंडी और चांदनी चौक घूम कर देखा है—तो मेरा ख्याल है वे ऐसी हालत नहीं पायेंगे, जैसी कि उन्होंने बयान की है और मिसाल दी है। कल यहां भी पानी नहीं था, आज आया है, कल और ज्यादा आ जायेगा और घबराने की कोई बात नहीं है। (Interruption). इसलिये मैं आपसे अर्ज करूंगा कि हम इस चीज को. . .

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: If you make such speeches, Jamuna will recede faster.

श्री ओंकार नाथ: मैंने सुना नहीं आपने क्या कहा। मैं यह समझ रहा था कि अपनी सारी तकरीर में अगर विरोधी दल हमारे सामने कोई तजवीज रखता, जिससे पानी का मसला हल होता, जैसे कि कुएं जो कि बन्द हैं उनको खोल दिया जाये, हैंड पम्प लगाये जायें, ट्यूबवेल ज्यादा तादाद में खोदे जायें, या इसी तरह की कोई तजवीज रखी होती; लेकिन एक भी तजवीज उनकी ओर से नहीं आई। मैं कुछ कहना चाहता था लेकिन क्या कहूँ देहली की जबान में जिसको "गाली गुप्ता" कहते हैं, उसका जवाब न देना ही मुनासिब है; नहीं तो मैं जवाब में बताता कि उनका कहना कि ये बुरा किया, वह बुरा किया यह नहीं किया कहा तक ठीक है। कुछ लफ्जों की तुलना नहीं होती; हालात से; लेकिन जो हालात उन्होंने बयान किये मैं समझता हूँ वे सही नहीं थे। कल हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री के अफसरान के साथ मंत्री महोदय वहां गये, उन्होंने वहां

[श्री श्रीकार नाथ]

जाकर जब नक्शा देखा तो फौरन आर्डर किया कि पानी चार बजे जारी कर दो और देख लो कि कितनी परसेंटेज उसमें खराबी है। अगर थोड़ा खराब हो गया है, तो ऐलान कर दो कि पानी थोड़ा कर, उबाल कर लोग पियें। मैं समझता हूँ वह खराबी जो है भी, वह कम से कम है और अब पानी की मिकदार भी बढ़ गई है। हां, अब आगे के लिये सोचिये जिससे सब के लिये पानी का इंतजाम हो सके। वहां नदी के किनारे बन्द बना दिया है, नजफगढ़ नाले का पानी रोक दिया गया है और वह बन्द सौ या डेढ़ सौ गज परे बन रहा है। उसके अलावा वहां एक जगह बन्द काटना पड़ा, जिससे होकर ट्रैक्टर जा सके। वहां मिलिटरी के ट्रैक्टर काम कर रहे हैं और बिलकुल 'वार बेसिस' पर इसको डील किया जा रहा है। इसके बाद भी वाक्यात से आख मीचना और कहना कि यह खराब है, वह खराब है, दिल्ली में पानी का कहत है, किसी को पानी नहीं मिल रहा है, मैं समझता हूँ, यह सब सिवाय प्रोपेगंडा के कुछ नहीं है; लोगों को डिमौरालाइज करना है। जितनी मुस्ती से यहां काम हुआ है, उतना कहीं भी नहीं हुआ है। किसी भी स्टेट में आप यह नहीं पायेंगे कि इससे ज्यादा फौरी हल कहीं निकाला गया है। देहली में पहले से नार्मल पानी का इंतजाम और जगहों से बेहतर है। लेकिन पहली दफा यह एब्नार्मल, अनएक्स-पेक्टेड घटना घटी है, जिसका शायद ही किसी को एक्सपीरियेंस होगा; हमको नहीं, कार्पोरेशन को नहीं, गवर्नमेंट को नहीं, और किसी को नहीं। इस तरह से चौबीस घंटे के अन्दर अन्दर अग्रस्त में जमुना में पानी बारह सौ फुट नीचे चला जायेगा, यह किसी को मालूम नहीं था। आपने देखा, इससे पहले उसका पानी कितना चढ़ा हुआ था . . .

श्री व्यंकट कृष्ण ढंगे (मुम्बई) : उनका यह कहना है कि बाद अज खराबी बसरा स्वाज्ञा बेदार शुद।

(Time bell rings.)

श्री श्रीकार नाथ : मैं अब आपका ज्यादा समय नहीं लूंगा। मैं आपसे अज कहूंगा कि ऐसे मौके में इस तरह का बावेल मचाना हम राज्य सभा के सदस्यों को शोभा नहीं देता। लोक-सभा तो जनता की सीधी नुमायंदगी करती है, वे जोश व बहाव में बह सकते हैं, वहां दूसरी बात है, लेकिन राज्य सभा वालों को अपने को ज्यादा जिम्मेदार समझना चाहिये। पब्लिक सेंटिमेंट को भड़काना राज्य सभा के मेम्बरों को, मेरी राय में, शोभा नहीं देता। यदि प्रतिपक्ष को कोई सजेशन देना हो, तो लिख करके हेल्थ मिनिस्ट्री को भेज दें और वे कैरी आऊट होने चाहियें। शुक्रिया।

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL (Bombay): Sir, it is a distressing fact that after so many years and in the capital city of India we are faced with this unique phenomenon that there is not a drop of water. I am staying in a Government managed building which is looked after by Government and, for the last twenty-four hours, there is not a drop of water coming out from the tap. What I am saying is exactly the truth and my experience. I have seen water supply and how it is managed in other cities. I have been Mayor of Bombay and I was the Chairman of the Standing Committee when we introduced the Vaitarna scheme. I want to know whether the Delhi Corporation or the Delhi authorities ever consulted any expert on their problem of water, any expert who has got an eye to the future and who visualises that the city is going to grow. I say that the Government have acted without any imagination. They have not taken any advice. Mr. Khosla is a Member of this House and he would have been able to advise Government if they had wanted it. I say that this problem of water of this capital city of Delhi has been completely mismanaged. There is a very popular Indian saying—possibly it is in every language—that when there is a fire, we go out to dig a well.

That is the stage in which we have been caught.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: They would not even do that.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: We are told that there is shortage of water. It seems that there is shortage of electricity in this House. The air-conditioning plant seems to have gone out of order.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: That is also due to shortage of water.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: There is shortage of something in the upper regions of the human anatomy.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR (Uttar Pradesh): Is this also based on personal experience?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: My experience of this House is very short. If you accept that as a Member of older experience, I am prepared to bow to your older and wiser experience.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Personal experience is confined to one's personal self.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Your experience is longer, Sir.

There is another disquieting feature about which I must draw the attention of this House. In this country, it seems that nothing must happen without the Prime Minister going there. The Prime Minister is worried with so many problems; he has the international situation; he has the situation inside India. In one part of India, there is great turmoil and people are agitated. Gujarat wants to be separated and will not brook the tyranny of the majority.

SHRI DEOKINANDAN NARAYAN (Bombay): How is this relevant Sir? How does this arise here, Sir?

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will the Prime Minister interfere and

go and see there? I think, Mr. Deputy Chairman, I am quite in order. Will you ask the gentleman not to disturb me?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anyway, we are not concerned with Gujarat or Maharashtra.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I am pointing out that the Prime Minister should be spared to think of these things which are much more important from the country's point of view than be bothered with the water supply which is more a domain of Mr. Khosla and some other engineers. Sir, that is what I am trying to say. My friends on the opposite side need not try to get touchy about it. Let us recognise that this is a problem before us and face it.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA (Uttar Pradesh): But he is a Mahratta.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: In this city of Delhi, there are many contractors. Has Government approached any of them for augmenting their labour force so that they could dig the channel quicker? They have put 3,000 or 2,000 men. They could put 10,000 men and the water supply position could be solved very much earlier. I say that the method of tackling the problem is not correct. The method needs to be revised. It is not with the idea of making a big show and making a psychological approach on the peoples' mind that the Prime Minister has gone to see it. Certainly the Prime Minister can go to see and certainly it is a good thing that he went there, but I suggest that other people should do this much more and spare the time of the Prime Minister, one hour of his time, by not taking him to these small things.

SHRI JASPAT ROY KAPOOR: Small indeed!

(Interruption.)

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I suggest for the benefit of my friends on the opposite side that the Prime

[Shri Dahyabhai V. Patel.]

Minister is certainly a wise man but he is not an engineer and this is a problem for the engineers. Will my friends on the opposite side not even recognise that?

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: No.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: Will my friends on the opposite side recognise that there are much more important problems that need the Prime Minister's attention? I only mentioned the problem of Gujarat as an example. Why do they get so touchy about it? If it is a serious problem why don't you put your heads together and tackle it? That is what I wanted to say. I wanted to say that the problem here is being bungled. We are taking too much time on not very essential matters; we are wasting time. Why can't we get together and tackle essential matters as they need to be?

श्री निरंजन सिंह (मध्य प्रदेश) : उपसभापति महोदय, यह जो पानी का सवाल है वह हमारे नेशनल करैक्टर के ऊपर रोशनी डालता है। हो सकता है कि कुछ लोगों को गवर्नमेंट को सपोर्ट करना अच्छा लगता हो लेकिन वे सच्चे दिा से अपने हृदयों को टटोलें और देखें कि उनके दिल में क्या बीत रही है। अभी जो मित्र बोल रहे थे उन्होंने कहा कि मुझे कई दिन से पानी नहीं मिला और उसके बाद वे कहते हैं कि वे बहुत परेशान हैं।

श्री ओंकर नाथ : मैंने कहा था कि मेरे फ्लैट के सेकंड फ्लोर में पानी नहीं आया, यह नहीं कि मुझ पानी मिला ही नहीं। मैं तो रोज नीचे फ्लोर में जाकर स्नान कर रहा हूँ।

श्री हर प्रसाद सक्सेना : वे दिल्ली के नुमाइन्दे हैं।

श्री निरंजन सिंह : अगर वे दिल्ली के नुमाइन्दे हैं तो इसीलिये मैं दिल्ली की बात करता हूँ। लेकिन पानी के बारे में जिनके ऊपर आफत आती है उन्हीं को मालूम हो सकता है

कि उनके ऊपर क्या बीतती है। मैं जिस वक्त यहां १८ तारीख को आया तो मुझे मालूम हुआ कि पानी नहीं मिल रहा है। मैंने अपनी प्यास सोझा पीकर बुझाई। आज भी कास्टी-ट्यूशन हाउस में पानी की कमी है और जो थोड़ा पानी उपलब्ध है उसके बारे में लिखा है कि उसको उबालकर पीजिये। एक तरफ तो आपके इंस्ट्रक्शन हैं और यह मनोभावना है कि आदमी खराब पानी पीकर बीमार न पड़े। दूसरी तरफ आप ऐसा काम कर रहे हैं कि जिस से आदमी बीमार पड़ जाय और मर जाय क्योंकि प्यासा कब तक ठहर सकता है। यह कहा जाता है कि ड्रेनेज बनाने के लिये तीन हजार आदमी काम पर लगे हुये हैं फिर भी शहर में लोगों को पानी नहीं मिल रहा है। हमने गमियों के दिनों में दूसरी जगहों पर देखा है कि जब पानी की कमी हो जाती है तो लोग ट्रकों में पानी भरकर लाते हैं। आपको गोली चलाने के लिये मिलिटरी बुलानी पड़ती है। जैसा कि मंत्री महोदय ने कहा . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are concerned only with Delhi water supply. We have no time for other things. There are about 8 or 9 speakers. Please confine yourself only to Delhi water supply. Don't you go to firing and all that.

श्री निरंजन सिंह : असल बात यह है कि मिलिटरी बुलाई जाती है और तीन दिन पहले से गवर्नमेंट को पता था कि पानी की कमी हो रही है तो उसने नजदीक के शहरों के वाटर वर्क्स से पानी लाने की व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं की? यह कहा गया है कि दिल्ली में कुओं से पानी दिया गया। पुरानी दिल्ली में इस तरह पानी मिल गया होगा मगर नई दिल्ली में जहां कुएं नहीं हैं, आप बाहर से पानी क्यों नहीं लाये। जब सरकार पानी देने का प्रबन्ध नहीं कर सकी तो क्यों नहीं ट्रकों द्वारा मिलिटरी से मंगाया गया जबकि उसे यह बात मालूम थी कि यह कमी सिर्फ ८ घंटे तक ही रहने वाली नहीं है? सरकार को यह बात

मालूम थी कि दिल्ली में पानी की अक्सर कमी हो जाती है तो उसने पहले से ट्यूब वैंस और पम्पिंग स्टेशन लगाने की व्यवस्था क्यों नहीं की ? यह कहा जाता है कि इस समय पानी की कमी को दूर करने के लिये तीन हजार आदमी रात दिन काम कर रहे हैं तो क्या इससे पानी की कमी हमेशा के लिये दूर हो जायेगी ? इसके साथ ही साथ दिल्ली में रह कर सरकार के पास इतने साधन हो कर भी उसने उन साधनों को पूरी तरह से नहीं जुटाया इसका हम सब लोगों को बहुत क्षोभ और दुःख है। यह बात नहीं कि हम पानी के मसले का उपयोग पार्टी के फ़ायदे के लिये उठा रहे हैं और पानी के बवंडर को लेकर आपको कंडेम करना चाहते हैं। हम आपको कंडेम इसलिये करना चाहते हैं कि आप में वह फ़ारसाइटेडनेस नहीं है, वह कैपिसिटी नहीं है जिसके द्वारा इमरजेंसी के समय आप आदमियों को संतोष दे सकें, उनकी कमियों को पूरा कर सकें। इतना ही मेरा कहना है।

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR** (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I would like to know how many minutes I shall get.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** 7 or 8 minutes.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR:** Sir, I have had the opportunity of listening to the debate in the Lok Sabha yesterday and today here too. Now, I was just wondering. Every good thing has some bad things attached to it. Where there is light there is shade; there is darkness. The good party system too has got some very bad points attached to it and they were very badly exposed yesterday and today also. I heard people talking about water, about the thirst of the people for water and the suffering of the people without an iota of that expression of suffering on the face.

**DR. R. B. GOUR** (Andhra Pradesh): We are not actors.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR:** All the time the thought behind their mind was the advancement of their own party. Why for everything the advancement of the party? Are our parties left behind so much that we need every calamity to be utilised for the advancement of our party? No. We should utilise such moments, such great moments—these are great moments; these are good moments—and these moments of suffering give us the opportunity of *atmanirikshan*, for the searching of our hearts. They give us that jolt and make us pause for a while and think whither we are going, what we are doing and what we should do and what may be ahead on the road. Many a time when we go to the hill stations, to the hill-side, on the roads when there is a curve we find the “danger ahead” signal. Nature has its own way of putting the signal on the road. It means danger ahead; be prepared. And this is the way of nature, to make a river turn its course and give a jolt to the people, make them realise what they would do, what they should do and how they should be prepared for greater dangers that may confront them sometimes. And this is what we find, how in this little jolt we are misbehaving. Some people are defending this because they feel this will be a slur on their party or the party in power. Some people who are supposed to be in opposition take this opportunity for advancing their party and their party's points so much so that even our revered friend Shri Patel, had to talk about Gujarat, he found the opportunity to talk about Gujarat too, Why this?

**SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL:** Because that is uppermost in my heart.

**SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR:** Apparently he knows about Delhi, that the same man who worked under him in the Bombay Municipal Corporation, Mr. Nayak, is managing the affairs of the Delhi Municipal Corporation here, and the same man who while serving that great city of Bombay earned praise for his meritorious work and

[Shri Prithviraj Kapoor.]

was honoured by the people of Bombay is now here. This is not a small thing; it is much more than that. Yes, there might be mistakes on the part of a few people here or there. But the lesson to be learnt from this water problem is much more than this. It is not a small subject; it is not a small thing. These are the moments when our national character is put to test. This is a sort of touchstone to find out how much gold is there in our national character. Living after this hundred years of slavery we have got to wake up as a nation and be prepared for moments which may be much worse than this. Mr. Churchill at that critical moment in British history during the last war said: "I have nothing to offer you except blood, sweat and tears." Did that nation cry and start shouting against it? No.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We are concerned with Delhi water supply.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR: Yes; Delhi water supply. For this let us turn our eyes inside and as my friends have said, let us find out ways and means of meeting this calamity and such calamities which may befall our cities—still bigger and other calamities—that might befall us instead of inciting the people by our speeches here and putting them on the wrong path. The truth is hidden by other motives of advancement of party interests or covering up of the party on the other side. Why should it be done? Nobody is going to hang anybody for this thing; they should know it nor is anybody going to be appointed straightway as Minister or something by decrying some Minister or the other. This is a very great moment and we should find out ways of preparing our people, not to incite them and make them lose their balance and do things which might disturb the nation's life as it has been disturbed in so many other towns on some issue or the other. People have done that for their self-advancement and ruined so much of the good work that had been done over so many years.

SHRI V. K. DHAGE: Is the hon. Member in order in trying to impute motives to the speeches here? We have not said anything to incite people.

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ KAPOOR: I just wanted to say this that we have to be prepared for greater moments. This is Nature's indication; this is Nature's *sanket* 'Be prepared'. God forbid, but if anything happens tomorrow, we should not start just frightening the people, make them run away and make them create a lot of trouble. We should face the calamity. We have got wells. In Bombay in war days we could open up so many wells in so many days. We have got wells here in every street, in every house. We can do that now; we can use hand-pumps and get water. The work can be done. This is a moment when Seva Samities get the opportunity to work and serve the people. They could bring in their volunteers who can bring water and serve the people. Instead of that if we only create discontent among the people we will be making them weaker for the coming events. If anything happens they must be prepared to face them. There was bombing in Calcutta and there was so much of rushing of people that the bridge would have given way, while on the other side, what do they do? A man orders, move back; don't get into the water; let the ship carry you below and they obey. So I, as a very humble back-bencher of this great House, have a prayer to offer to this great House—instead of thinking of advancement of party interests or of covering up of some party, let us do a little bit of searching of our hearts, let us prepare ourselves and prepare the people to meet still graver and much more difficult situations than this and face them boldly. Let us use our brains for a change and prepare the entire nation for greater deeds, for mighty deeds, not only for helping ourselves but for helping other nations too.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir,

according to me this question is a simple one. We have to see what has happened. And undoubtedly a very serious thing has happened in the capital. We have to see whether it is due to any natural calamity or due to incompetency of the Government or lack of foresight. Our capital has become the world capital. We try to show to the world that we are not lagging behind other great nations and today in this capital of ours what has happened? Does it bring credit to our country and our Government? That is what we have to judge. As far as this particular calamity is concerned, this was not unexpected; that it was known for a number of years was clear from the statement of the hon. Minister yesterday that Jamuna is showing a tendency of going towards the east bank. If that is so, the residents of Delhi and of this country—because our national honour is involved in this—are entitled to know from the Government why this has been allowed to happen. If an atom bomb had fallen on this city or an earthquake had taken place, one could have understood that a sudden calamity fell on the capital and the Government was caught unawares. But when this tendency had been evident, when they knew that this was going to be the condition, Parliament as representative of the people is entitled to know from the Government what they have done on their part. If they have done something, they deserve congratulations but if they have not done anything and they have allowed the things to come to this pass, they need condemnation. This is the position according to me.

Sir, as I have said, no earthquake has taken place; no atom bomb has fallen. It is a thing which has developed in its natural course and it has been happening for a number of years. My friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, has given the history and full details in regard to this episode and it is not necessary for me to go into it again and repeat it but I would submit that

when this was the case why did the Government allow the thing to come to a pitch where a serious calamity of the proportion of what has taken place today has happened. It is not that there is only shortage of water in Delhi but the national honour of our country is at stake. Here you have embassies from the various countries and big countries. What opinion, what notion, they will have of our capacity? We have got in this great country of ours good engineers. Why was no advice taken from them? My friend, Mr. Patel, just now mentioned how one of our Members who is an eminent engineer, was not consulted. Whatever that may be, the question remains that the Government through their complacency allowed things to come to this pass and they are unwilling to take responsibility for this mishap. That is our greatest grievance. What is the remedy and what is not the remedy, it is for the Government to decide. If they cannot decide, they must make room for others to come who can do better than they. If they have worked in an irresponsible manner then condemnation has to be given to them.

Sir, we have seen that, whether it is a small thing or a big thing, the Prime Minister is drawn everywhere and very aptly Mr. Patel has referred to this. It is a very good thing because the Prime Minister is not only the Prime Minister, a party man or a Congress leader, but he is a national leader and therefore his hands are full but we would like to know what the Government and the Ministers were doing and why in a matter like this they cannot discharge their responsibilities properly. God forbid, but if we were to be faced with some serious calamity, we do not believe that the Government can come up to the standard where they can save the country. We saw in the papers this morning that the Prime Minister visited various places. I dare say the Minister himself visited that place; the Mayor also visited the place. But when things have come to this pass,

[Shri Jaswant Singh.] such things would not help. If they go and try to receive sympathies from the people and from Members of Parliament, it is useless. The question is why they allowed things to come to this pass. What has happened now? The Prime Minister has gone and given a very good chit to the army. He said that at midnight they responded to the call. It is the duty of the army to respond to do such things. He has also given a good chit to the labourers. They have been paid for this work. But I was surprised to see that even the Prime Minister has not condemned the Ministry as to why they allowed

things to come to this pass.  
5 P.M. It is a good thing to boost the morale of the army and also to boost the morale of the labourers who are doing a good job, but he should have expressed regret for the failings of the Ministry and the Government in allowing things to come to pass in this way.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY (Bombay): What evidence have you got against the Ministry?

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: They have totally failed in their duty. There is no water to drink.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: They are not fit for the posts and they have acted in an irresponsible manner and they need the greatest condemnation of the country and Parliament. That is what I feel like.

Then, in the end, one more thing and with this I will resume my seat and that is this. It may be that the Corporation did not wake up because they were busy otherwise. On Sunday the elections to the electoral college were taking place and it may be that the Corporation was busy in this connection, and therefore they did not pay

heed to what was coming and in that respect the Corporation also does not deserve our praise.

With these few words, I thank you.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND (Madhya Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman.....

DR. R. B. GOUR: Her name was called, but she was not here . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Have some consideration. She is a lady Member.

DR. R. B. GOUR: I want to submit. . . .

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No submission. I have called her to speak.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Sir, at the outset I must thank you for giving me this chance. When I rose up it was after the names of some other Members like Mr. Amolakh Chand, where my name was put down, and finding that there were many other speakers to speak before me, I took the occasion to get a drop of water outside—a thing which can be excused. Now, without wasting time, let me proceed. I am speaking because I consider that this is not a party question at all. In my opinion, it is a human question and for that reason if we on this side of the House sit quiet with the wrong idea that this is a question of party loyalty, we are not to call a spade a spade or not to own up our responsibility or not to express our sympathy which we feel from our hearts, it would be not at all doing our duty. We know very well that our Ministers well-trained in democratic principles are always ready to accept criticism on the floor of the House even from party Members . . .

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Absolutely.

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: . . . because they know the motive from which it has come. What I would like to say and the reason why I am speaking today is that



though the Jumuna may be said to be behaving in an erratic manner, it should have been known in my opinion and in the opinion of many, I think, to the administration directly responsible, to the engineers, that after such heavy flood and after knowing that every year it was going to the eastern bank they should have been ready to cope with such an emergency. I feel that though they were apprehensive till about four days earlier, the very fact that the operations had not started till day before yesterday shows that there is something lacking either in their judgment or knowledge or their regard for public concern. I feel for that reason if people on this side keep quiet, these people in the administration would consider that the criticism from the Opposition is for the sake of criticism in the nature of Parliaments and in so far as the Members from this party have kept quiet they do not take a very serious view of the matter.

I do not agree with Mr. Jaswant Singh who said that the Prime Minister did not condemn the Ministry and it was not in the papers. Surely, he understands that administration is carried on on different lines. It is not for the Prime Minister in front of the press to say: "All right, I will go and scold the Minister". The fact that the Prime Minister had himself gone to the place has shown what regret he feels and that regret is also on behalf of the Minister. But I would like to expressly mention one point which has been in my mind ever since the thing happened yesterday and that is about the two thousand and more people who suffered from the virus disease of jaundice last time and the many who lost their lives. The people who suffered from jaundice were undergoing suffering at that time, but some of the weaknesses or the complications that arose became their companions for life. From that point of view even if we may tell the educated or the rich people to take precaution, to boil water and drink it, I feel it is not possible for people to escape the

effects of the water that may have run through the pipes earlier. That will have left some contamination, even after six or seven days, even if that water runs through, it would be difficult to escape the effects from this infection. That is a very serious thing. For that reason, taking this occasion, I would like to mention a thing that should be done for the future and that should have been done certainly by this administration this time. The Minister cannot go and look into every nook and corner. If anybody is to be blamed, it is the administration that is to be blamed and they should have been dealt with a little more severely even last time. They should have, knowing that this is the nature of the Jamuna, taken care to see that whatever tube wells, whatever other supplies of water are there, even though they themselves might have been contaminated after the recent floods, were kept ready in a condition to be tapped at any time.

DR. W. S. BARLINGAY: It is not necessary. Who could have foreseen all this?

DR. SHRIMATI SEETA PARMANAND: Such a calamity is not unknown any yet nothing has been done. The papers said many of the wells have not ever been used and even today though there is in existence plenty of water we know that such water is not usable. Such a calamity is not only due to inundation. I do not know at what other times such a calamity will occur—may be sudden bombing sometimes or what happened in Kashmir. I am told certain water supply was tried to be poisoned there. For a big city like this at least water should be available from three or four different sources. So, I would like here to own up the irresponsible way in which the administration, the engineering staff, have grappled with the situation. They should have foreseen the situation or provided for the situation. And as such I am positive that every Member on this side only because he may not speak

[Dr. Shrimati Seeta Parmanand.]

or not ask for a one hour discussion, does not mean that he is not conscious of the gravity of the problem. He feels equally very badly about it and we ourselves should see that in future not only these things are done, but a Committee of Members of Parliament by sudden surprise inspection take steps now and then without giving notice to the administration. I would again like to draw the attention of the Minister concerned to hold an enquiry into the happenings as to how the officers concerned had not taken proper steps and to associate some of the Members of Parliament with it, so that they feel satisfied that everything was done, after knowing what the officers have to say at that enquiry.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, first and foremost I would like this to go on record that I very strongly protest on behalf of our party against the remarks that this matter has been raised just to promote our party interests. We have raised this problem before the House just because it is a human problem concerning the entire people, the entire country in a way. I must at the outset also say that it was a painful problem for me to listen to the speech of Shri Onkar Nath. I am sorry he thought that we were utilising this problem to spit certain fire. Well, it is certainly not a problem to be looked at from the party angle. Shri Prithviraj Kapoor wants to be complacent even after the incident has happened and in my opinion he has only qualified himself to become another Health Minister of this country. The problem is that here is a question that was facing the citizens of Delhi. Now, this is not a surprise at all. It is not a surprise that the Jamuna has receded to the eastern bank. It is not a problem that was not known to the engineers; it is not a problem that was not known to the Corporation. It was not a problem that was not known to the administration and the Ministry. Even the Jaundice Enquiry

Committee, which went into this question, had a sordid story to tell. It begins with the recession of the Jamuna from the western to the eastern bank. Then also it was suggested that short-term and long-term measures must be taken in hand in order to save the situation in Delhi, in order that the population of Delhi, the growing population of Delhi, the growing water requirements of Delhi which are to the tune of 150 million gallons may be met not only through these measures but also through developing alternative sources that the irrigation board has suggested and by constructing head-works at the Hindon river also. Not only that. The Committee have said that in the months from September to November after the floods, the situation is going to recur again and again and, therefore, there must be water reserves, so that such a situation is tackled properly.

SHRI D. A. MIRZA: Since then, the Government have taken up the matter.

DR. R. B. GOUR: Let Mr. Dawood Ali Mirza, who has not yet become even a Deputy Minister, not intervene in this debate.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Order, order.

DR. R. B. GOUR: May I request him and through you request the House to see that this problem is not new? Three months ago the Municipal Corporation passed a resolution at the instance of a Communist member, Sarla Sharma, that the matter must be taken up. What is it that the administration has done even after that resolution? Shri Onkar Nath is not well informed when he says that we are blaming the Water and Sewage Committee. Even the Water and Sewage Committee in the Corporation was not taken into confidence. The matter was not raised there. The Commissioner knew it, the administration knew it. They knew that such a situation after the serious floods during the

months of July and August was going to be faced, that Delhi was going to face it. Yet, why this complacency? And you do not want us to be angry against such a complacency, and you do not want us to see that such a matter is raised in this House in a responsible manner to see that this complacency is not at the root of a similar recurrence of calamity in the future.

Yesterday, Sir, the hon. Health Minister said in this House that for a couple of years more we were going to face a similar situation at this time of the year. Does it mean that he is not going to take up this question of an alternative supply even now? Does he want to tell us that even in September next year also we will face a similar problem? Does he mean to tell us that in September, 1960 also we are going to face a similar problem? This is a problem, Sir. That is why we have repeatedly asked what are the other short-term measures you will take. You will have to explain to the House, you have to take the House into confidence, you have to take the country into confidence, you have to come to the people of Delhi with this particular suggestion as to what you are going to do. It is quite true that short-term measures could have been taken. I am told that water was brought for a certain section of the elite in New Delhi, in lorries. Why? You could have taken measures, you could have done something for all sections. But how is it that these things are not taken into consideration? When Shri Onkar Nath said that we had not given suggestions, it pained me. Suggestions there are in the Jaundice Enquiry Committee Report, suggestions there in the Committee appointed by the Irrigation Ministry, suggestions there are in the Corporation resolution, suggestions there are even in the debate raised in the other House, and suggestions there are in every speech if you carefully examine the speeches that are made in this House. I would

like to know what Government wants to do with those suggestions. It is not suggestions which are lacking. What is lacking is zeal on the part of the Government to take these suggestions and implement them.

SHRI AMOLAKH CHAND (Uttar Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, it is admitted that no water was available yesterday, that the course of the river is changing, that the matter is so important that we drew the attention of the Prime Minister to the need to go and see things for himself. All other responsible people also did go there, and I take this opportunity to congratulate our armed forces who came to the rescue of the people when they were thirsty, when there was no water available. It is not the first time that the army has come to the rescue of the people who suffer from thirst. I know, Sir, when recently there was a scarcity of water in the City of Delhi, military tanks were placed in those localities where water could not be supplied. The very fact that the army personnel were called and were working day and night and that the Prime Minister went to the spot does show that the matter was so important that it could not be neglected and left to remain where it was.

Now, Sir, the course of the Jamuna is changing. That is right. Delhi, the capital, which has also changed its face from place to place, as is known from the history of the recent past, is also responsible to some extent. But now, Sir, what we have to do? Heat has been created, fire has been created in this House, and in this condition of water scarcity I take my courage to take a few buckets of water to throw over it so that this heat may die on the floor of the House.

Now, Sir, this was a calamity which was not foreseen. It is said that the authorities did not know about it. Certainly they did not know that it would affect the city in such a manner.

[Shri Amolakh Chand.]

Otherwise why was the question of digging a new channel to bring the water up to the pumping station not taken up? It was not taken up until yesterday or the day before yesterday. We know, Sir, that till the day before yesterday we had no intimation that there would be such a position that we would not have even a bucket or two buckets of water for our needs in the morning. I am not very much concerned about the people living in New Delhi, but certainly about other places. I am informed, Sir, that even today there is scarcity of water in Vinay Marg and other suburbs of this city of New Delhi, where people are practically living in slum conditions. By slum conditions what I mean is that there are few taps, and there are no public hydrants from where water may be taken in case there is no water supply from the pipe. But all that now has gone, we are getting water and we hope that the situation will improve hour by hour, day by day. But the question that arises is this. This is not the first calamity. We should see it in a way as to what would be the position if there is another calamity, say, after a few months. I understand that under the rules of the Municipal Corporation and the New Delhi Municipal Committee all the wells which used to serve as a stand-by have been stopped for purposes of drawing any water. I know the subsoil water during the last rain has also affected them. But these are conditions which are abnormal, which could not be foreseen, and to create heat and fire on a calamity which has befallen the city is not a very fine thing. What I submit is that the Health Ministry, the Municipal Corporation and all of us who are interested in the solution of this problem should see that the people get water at least for cleaning purposes and for their daily purposes. We should think of what stand-bys should be created. Such things may occur. What I am going to suggest is that attempts should be made to have more tube-wells in far-off areas. There

should be all these wells and they should be in such a condition as to allow renovation at a very small cost. They should be put into service whenever needed. Yesterday I had occasion to move in the old City from place to place. There I found that there were queues of people with buckets in hand near the wells which were prohibited from being used. But there the people are drawing water and are selling it and anyhow carrying on normal activities. We should be prepared to face such occasions. God forbid there should be such occasions in the future, but the administration should run their water supply in the most effective and efficient manner. Everyone would agree that there should be efficiency, foresight and vision. But even after this if something should happen, we should not try to make the picture horrible which may, instead of creating confidence in the people who are suffering, create more panic. I am grateful that the Prime Minister spared some time from his multifarious activities and important problems to go and create confidence in the people that they will get water. They will get water, and I am glad to note that water was available today. We got water for some few hours, whereas we were getting water all the twenty-four hours, and I am sure that with more attention to their future planning, they may be able to solve this problem. I regret very sincerely the heat generated in the discussion of this problem. We would have to discuss this calamity in a calm atmosphere, the calamity which has befallen those who are residing in the City of Delhi, whether they be in the Diplomatic Enclave or they be in the slum area. Human need for water is the same, whether a man is getting Rs. 5000 or Rs. 10 a month. There is no distinction. Therefore, I submit, Sir, that we should consider all these points and then make up our mind and then apportion the blame with care and caution.

Thank you.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Mr. Deputy Chairman, I should like to deal

with the various points made in the debate with two preliminary observations. One is that I appreciate very much the sturdy outlook which some of the hon. Members who spoke showed in their speeches. I particularly refer to the speeches of Shri Onkar Nath, my esteemed colleague, Shri Prithviraj Kapoor and also Shri Amolakh Chand. It is rather a hard job; it is an unpopular job when everyone was going round without water yesterday and today. Many of us have suffered. It is rather unconventional and unfashionable and looks rather unsportsmanlike not to join in attacking someone whenever any wrong takes place. It does not matter whom we are attacking, but somebody has to be attacked and that gives a sense of inner satisfaction. I say this not to palliate. (*Interruption.*) Sir, unhappily I am not able to hear him, but I would request my friend, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, not to interrupt the line of thought because I have given myself only 20 minutes and I should like to do full justice to all that he has said particularly.

Sir, I say this because, ultimately, a nation's building its character is tested on such occasions. I am not at all minimising the inconvenience caused day before yesterday, yesterday and today. One of my esteemed friends here—and in the other House also, I heard that a complaint was made—asked, "What will the foreigners think about it?" That shows, in my mind, a sort of inferiority complex from which we must get out first. It is a question of failure of water supply in Delhi. It is not a question of what the foreigner will think. But it is a question as to what it is that we can do for our people. What about the children? What about the old men? What is the inconvenience caused to them? How is it to be cured? The first and the last question is not what any foreigner might think about the failure of water. Sir, I have had the privilege of having talks, long and short, with many distinguished foreigners—if I might be permitted to

say without any sense of egotism—perhaps a little larger number than those friends who refer to foreigners in this House. One of the frequent observation—almost universal observations—that the foreigners have made is, "We, who come from abroad and we, who judge things, have seen things that have been done during the last ten years, but if we are impressed with one thing more than any other it is—what is it in the nature of Indians that they are found so much complaining about? They should agitate, they should complain. They should get things redressed. But why is it that, in spite of so many things that are progressing, they find themselves in some petulant, quarrelsome mood, not being satisfied with what has been achieved and what is to be achieved in the future?" So, the first thought that rises in my mind is, it is not a question of what the foreigners thought about it when there was shortage of water. Whatever the foreigner might have thought about it, if there was any remissness, it had to be looked into. If there was no remissness, we have to see why this calamity arose and what are the measures that are to be taken about it. That is what strikes me. When I listened to the speeches of the Members who spoke with a sturdiness of mind, I thought that all was not lost because ultimately, there are far worse things. People referred to atomic bombs. Of course, Sir, if an atomic bomb comes, then there is no question of water scarcity; there will be scarcity of human lives and there will not be any time to think of these matters. I am not wishing for an atomic blast in the City of Delhi. But suppose something more serious occurs. What is it that we are going to do? Are we going to grouse. Are we going to complain? Are we going to be bitter about it? Or are we going to get busy as to how to cure things?

In this matter, many things were said. For instance, my friend, Shri Dahyabhai Patel for whom I had and have also a very great regard, said

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.] many things. I am prepared to excuse the many things which otherwise I might not excuse. One of the things he said was, "Why not get people from Bombay?" Now, we have brought, at very great sacrifice to Bombay and with great difficulty, one of the best administrators that the country has produced.

SHRI DAHYABHAI V. PATEL: I did not say that.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: You did not say that? Pardon me. Somebody else said that.

And then again, about the engineer, I would say that we have got from Bombay Mr. Modak, who has been our perpetual adviser. We have been taking his advice and his advice has been precious. We have been taking all possible advice from all possible quarters.

Sir, the other observation that I was trying to make is this—I am not really interested in it—that to my friend, Shri Bhupesh Gupta, all looked black, not a streak of light anywhere. Everything was down; everybody was remiss, right from the Prime Minister perhaps down to the last coolie that was working there—everything was blacked out. (*Interruption*) You never said that? But what you said amounted to that.

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: I think that you are highly responsible for it.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: I think that that was in the course of the observations some time back, in the declamation. I must say that he has succeeded in making a very good declamation, though without much basis.

The mere matter of the fact is that till the day before yesterday morning, things went on normally as they were, excepting last year when there was a water shortage just about the same season. And I have before me questions and answers asked in this House

—answers which have been fully given without keeping anything back. We are going to have this trouble because during this season immediately after the flood, there occurs this shortage. This time it has been aggravated more. Now, there it is. What has happened till day before yesterday morning? Everything was normal. Yesterday noon and afternoon and the day before yesterday noon and afternoon, at some places in the night also, water was supplied. For the first time, water failure was to this extent, partially day before yesterday evening and then yesterday morning. Let me be frank with this House. I think that it was my friend, Dr. Shrimati Secta Parmanand, who gave us a warning about changes. Now, I wish that sometimes Members are so amenable—it is not yet too late. I wish to take them on a trip to the Wazirabad Intake any time, so that there might be an appreciation of the problem because ultimately—whether it is the Opposition or the Government, it does not matter—a proper appreciation of the problem makes things better. My friend, Shri Dahyabhai Patel, referred to scarcity of something here. In any case, we are not responsible for that wherever it exists. But, Sir, the thing is like this that unless we know a problem, we could not tackle it. I could not visualise this problem until I had gone there. It applies to Shri Bhupesh Gupta also. I say it applies to every one of us. It does not matter whether it is because of monopoly of wisdom or monopoly of ignorance.

So, coming back to the point, it was not till I visited the place, till last year, that I was able to appreciate what the problem was. It was not till I visited the place yesterday noon that I was able to appreciate what the problem was like. What is the matter? The answer that I have given in this House last year makes it quite clear. We had the engineer's evidence in order to get over this question of partial scarcity during these days when the floods suddenly recede and along with them, the river changes its cur-

rent. The engineers suggested two broad measures. One was the lining of the right side bank of the river with stones pitched for 3,000 feet. It was done last year. Then, again, we were asked last year in this House, "How long would it take for the weir to be built?" Foundations have been dug and after that, were the floods not as strong and severe as they were, the work would have proceeded. Last year, we told this House that it would take two years' time for this. That was the time that it would take. One year passed. The estimated time to complete that weir is about this time next year before any floods come in. When that is complete, then we do hope—we are quite sure, according to technical advice—that this would not recur. This is not bound to recur. But not only we are not complacent, but I should like the House also not to be complacent, because though not to this extent, but to some extent, we might have this inconvenience again in September. Let it not be said that we did not give any notice. Let everybody who wants to store water get some storage pot and keep it ready for himself. (*Interruption.*) Listen, let me complete this. We have to be fair to the House. I am not an expert at polemics. It is not that just because I happen to occupy this seat that I have to defend what has been said including what my friend was going to say. I am not prepared for that. I am not a blind defendant. Let me be frank. What will happen if we are likely to have another flood in September? Let us be fair to the situation. Either by my suggestion or by Mr. Bhupesh Gupta's declamation, things are not going to alter. Suppose we have another huge flood and again, a huge quantity of back water goes to the left bank. Very likely we may have to shorten the hours of water supply. Who can say that this calamity will not happen again? If something worse happens we shall have to think about the methods to prevent it. We cannot say what the measures will be.

They used to say—the poets were very cruel to the lady-folk—that they

were fickle-minded and all that. That is all nonsense. We have learnt in the modern times about it. What about the fickleness of the rivers? I cannot change the course of Jamuna as I like. Suppose the flood is going to be severe and unhappily, it does not give us any notice that it will change the course within the next 24 hours. What will happen? I am praying—we are all praying—that it will not be so bad. But there will be this inconvenience because it takes time to control it. They said, "Why did you not give us notice?" Now, as I said, it is for the precise reason that we had ourselves no notice. So far as the river was concerned, water was flowing touching both the banks till the 13th. On the 14th morning, some portion of the river began to recede and the river was getting shallow. Ever since the 14th till yesterday, the river surface was going down by about 9 to 1 inch in depth. It went down. It never said how much it would go down. It is very obvious that, if you want to dig a channel when the water is there, you cannot do it. When there was only one island on the 15th, you could not do it. On the 16th it receded. Now, just imagine this. Even yesterday when I saw it, there was this channel bringing water to the Wazirabad Intake. There was the river running there. Between that, there was the wet land. One of the army bulldozers which was sent got stuck up there. We have not many of them. It is all very easy to refer to technical advices without knowing what they say, to comment without knowing what exactly the situation is. Now, on the first day, there were 500 labourers; on the second day, a thousand; on the third and the fourth day, two thousand and three thousand. Yesterday, there was the full complement of three thousand. But just imagine. The workers also have their own limitations. What are we going to do? The water might have disappeared from the surface. Anyone who knows anything about rivers knows that if you step one foot below, there is water. But you cannot straightaway do it on

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.] solid earth. Yesterday, half of what the workmen were doing was futile. The Corporation called upon the army, and I must say that the army has done a very fine job. The task was very difficult for them, but they did a very fine job.

Yesterday, Sir, there was a two-fold problem. I wish the House to remember that yesterday, day before yesterday, today morning we had water, and we have water, not sufficient perhaps, not 62 million gallons. Day before yesterday we had about 20 million gallons. Now if this House had so pleased, we could have given them half the water supply, but not guaranteed. Now, would you have advised us to do that? Would the House, with all its sense of responsibility, have advised us to do that? Would it be the desire of the House that we should not mind what happens day after tomorrow or there should be any outbreak of epidemic? Now, Sir, in accordance with the recommendations of that Committee. (*Interruption.*) There is a big word 'chloride' which in fact means dirt. The chloride content of water, they say, should not be more than about 5 per million parts. It was 7.5. That was tolerable. In fact, day before yesterday they could have pumped out 62 million gallons. That was not difficult at all, but when this chloride content began going up to 15 or so, they had their dilemma. They could not supply the water which they knew was dirty and might have ended in an epidemic, and which might really have been more serious than this inconvenience that we have given. So, the alternative was to stop water. It is not that there is no water at this moment. It is not that we have no water, not that this morning we had no water. We had not sufficient, but partly sufficient water, but the thing was that our test tubes did not show that the quantity of dirt had gone down, over which we had no control.

Then, Sir, something has been said about the Najafgarh Nullah, part of it goes for purification, and then it comes down. About that I might tell the

House that the floods this year were so terrible that whatever quantity of water ran through the course, five times that water had to run through that course, which we could not anticipate. Let me be frank and tell the House that the greater precaution was about the prevention of epidemic rather than the supply of water. If the Corporation has erred or if the Government has erred, we are prepared to take the full responsibility for causing this inconvenience in preference to spreading the disease.

DR. R. P. DUBE (Madhya Pradesh): Why could the Government not ration the water?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Yes Sir, rationing can be done only when there is a definite quantity of water, of pure water. They were able to give 62 million gallons, but they could not anticipate that on the next day things would go wrong. Well, they might have to ration in this sense, say, three hours or four hours supply in the evening. They did not imagine that suddenly by the noon the chloride content would go up from 7.5 to 15. When that happened, they said 'God bless water; stop water.'

SHRI P. N. SAPRU (Uttar Pradesh): Why no notice was given?

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: Sir, notice was given. Day before yesterday they did give that notice over the radio repeatedly and by tom-tom in the city. But ultimately no tom-tom comes to individuals sometimes. Now, my friend is far more experienced than myself. He knows fully well from the Bench and from the Bar what notices mean. Sometimes what happens is that the notice which is meant to be served is not actually served, and things happen like that. And they did their best to give notice. I am surprised that most of the Members of Parliament had no notice about it, though they put it twice on the radio. So, Sir, it is not that we are always having our ear to the radio. So the House will appreciate that that was the situation. And under these circumstances I would even like to have another discussion and ask this House



definitely whether they would like us to serve water for all 24 hours knowing fully well that it is dirty, or they would want us to curtail the quantity of water and make it available for, say, six to eight hours, but purified water.

**SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:** The point is how far you can maintain the supply of pure water.

**DR. R. P. DUBE:** Rationing should be done.

**SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR:** Yes, rationing should be done. I am guided by that . . .

**DR. R. P. DUBE:** That is the only thing that you have not done.

**MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Order, order.

**DR. R. P. DUBE:** Sir, these are points which are technical, but he is saying that . . .

**SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR:** I might tell my friend, Dr. Dube that certainly these matters are technical, but not medical. Sir, the thing is this. My friend misunderstands the point that my friend over there was making. In Bombay you can think of rationing water. In Madras you can think of rationing water. In Calcutta you can think of rationing water. But it is not possible to do it in Delhi. The water that I am drinking this evening has been pumped at the pumping station some six hours back, and there is no sufficient storage. We cannot think in terms of rationing water here, Sir, when these are the conditions. Our storage capacity is at the best about 8 to 10 hours. Well, if you want that we should spend enormous quantities of money and create more and more reservoirs, that is a different thing altogether. But so far as Delhi is concerned, it is just like power distribution. Now power cannot be stored. This water can be stored for about eight to ten hours, but no more, and things have happened like that. And it is only when abnormal things happen

like that that we have to see that these things do not recur. Now, yesterday it was a terrible choice. I contacted the engineer there and asked, "What are you doing this evening, because ultimately there is a limit up to which we can stop people from getting any type of water? If there is no water for 24 hours or 36 hours, we should try to reach every home with a warning 'We are compelled to give you dirty water, but for God's sake boil it before using it for drinking purposes, and things like that'." But Sir, one of our main difficulties has been the absence of perfect vigilance, whether it is the radio, whether it is the oral message or whether it is anything else. In spite of our best efforts, I am not going to believe that more than about 25 per cent. of the people really boil the water—among those who have received the message.

**SHRI D. A. MIRZA:** Poverty is a great handicap.

**SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR:** Poverty is a great handicap. I entirely agree there, but that cannot be solved in an hour's debate now. Sir, the whole difficulty is this that here is a situation which came unexpectedly and there was no other choice but to stop water on account of the handicap that I have already mentioned, and we could not have gone beyond that. The army came to our rescue last afternoon. Yesterday evening at some places we did receive water, people did receive water. Sir, my residence appears to be at a little height. I was informed by the people that they got water for five hours whereas I got it for only half an hour or so. So, here with houses at different levels water is being supplied, and unless it is full 60 million gallons, pressure cannot be equal. If it is 30 million gallons, then it will be half. My friend, Mr. Onkar Nath stays on the upper floor. Of course, ultimately there is compensation for everything. He gets fresh air quite all right, but in times of emergency the man on the ground floor gets his water quite all right, but no fresh air. So, that is another matter. But the

[Shri D. P. Karmarkar.]

fact remains that yesterday in the evening, today in the morning, I hope we have been given a larger measure of water, at least some quantity of water, although I am aware that a large number of people have missed getting water. Of course, that is not a matter for any complacency. I am not prepared to take it as if I am on a point of justification for Government. I have simply placed facts as they are before the House as to how the whole situation came before us unexpectedly.

My friend, Mr. Bhupesh Gupta, referred to the last year's recommendations. They had made 13 recommendations. It is an information one year old now, because we placed it on the floor of the House then, and most of the recommendations were accepted. There is one thing, and that is a long-term programme for our future supply of water in Delhi. Now, the quantity of water that is being supplied is 62 million gallons per day, average water, not yesterday's and today's, and that works out at about 35 gallons per head to the 18 lakhs of population whom that is serving. There is another 4 lakhs of population who are not getting full water. There is an immediate programme before us about which we have spoken repeatedly in this House and in the other House, and this programme will be complete by the end of the next year, which will augment our water supply to about 90 million gallons for a population of, say, 21 or 22 lakhs. The population is fast overtaking us. In fact, last year the people who migrated into Delhi numbered some 60,000 and this year it is 80,000. Like that there is a race between the water supply and the population. Of course, there is a long-term programme for augmenting the water supply and there is a committee of engineers with the Chief Engineer C.P.W.D. as Chairman and a technical committee is negotiating the matter with the Uttar Pradesh Government and Punjab for taking water from Hindon and so on. Of course, these are long-term schemes which will not

get us water supply today or tomorrow or next year. As a short-term measure for next year we have schemes to augment the water supply which may go up by some 30 million gallons and this scheme is today working according to schedule. The weir also, it was impossible to complete this year because of the unexpected and terrible floods. But the original programme stands and by the end of the summer of 1959, I am sure—or almost sure, for in Delhi you cannot be sure of anything—by this time next year, in August we shall have no occasion to discuss this matter, that water has stopped because the Jamuna has turned from the right to the left. We hope to tame the Jamuna by that time by the stone weir and the pier or wall, and so on. That is the situation.

After all, whatever Mr. Gupta or myself may speak will not give the water by itself. Ultimately, the House wants to know through this debate what was the situation and I have not embellished it. I have done nothing more than give what is factually there. This is the situation. This thing came unexpectedly. The best has been done under the circumstances. I am not saying it as a point of justification of the Corporation. Ultimately, it is a body created by the Parliament. They have tried their best. If I am allowed to speak objectively, forgetting for a moment all about the Treasury Benches, I may say that after weighing all the pros and cons of the situation, after having gone and seen things myself, I feel convinced that there was no step they could have been taken which was not actually taken. They have tried all the steps possible under the circumstances. Supposing there was this misfortune that the dredgers and bulldozers could not work yesterday, I dread to contemplate what might have happened to the city. But happily the Jamuna was kind and it allowed the bulldozers to work and the earth to be removed. And the latest position is—I got it through the telephone at about 3-40 P.M. that five

units out of the eleven units have started working since 3-30 P.M. But in view of the fact that the water got muddy—that again is a problem—another unit will start in half an hour's time and one million gallons per hour for 24 hours will be there, i.e. about half the normal quantity of water every day. The daily normal supply is some 62 million gallons and out of that about half the daily quantity, or 30 million gallons is being pumped into the reservoir. And if our discussions and prayers continue, I am sure that by tomorrow we will be getting the water in larger quantities.

In order to see that more efficient arrangements are made, we requested the army for aid and we are grateful for the assistance they gave. We have almost handed over the situation to them. We wanted to hand it over to them because they are more efficient about such jobs in an emergency than any civil organisation. And with their aid, we hope to see the water supply restored to the people as early as possible.

That is all I have to submit, Sir. I deeply appreciate the opportunity that this House has given me of putting

forth this point of view, because ultimately it is best that the people understand what we are doing. It is not a party issue. It is no party issue at all, because a party is not condemned by emergencies and calamities like this and I welcome this opportunity of placing these facts before this House.

SHRI H. P. SAKSENA: I hope you have not handed over the civil administration also to the army.

SHRI D. P. KARMARKAR: No, no. My hon. friend Shri Har Prasad Saksena continues to be in charge of us and in charge of me and as Health Minister I only request him not to speak too much in this House or outside so that his health may be very good.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The House stands adjourned till 11 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at forty-five minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Wednesday, the 20th August 1958.