

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

The House re-assembled after lunch at two of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

MESSAGE FROM LOK SABHA

**Motion regarding nomination of two Members to the Joint Committee on
Offices of Profit**

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I beg to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha, signed by the Secretary-General of the Lok Sabha.

"I am directed to inform you that Lok Sabha, at its sitting held on Wednesday, the 26th July, 2017, adopted the following motion :-

"That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do elect two Members of Rajya Sabha, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, to the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit in the vacancies to be caused by the retirement of Shri Dilipbhai Pandya and Shri Sukhendu Sekhar Roy from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so elected by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

I am to request that the concurrence of Rajya Sabha in the said motion, and also the names of the members of Rajya Sabha so elected, may be communicated to this House."

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

**Situation arising out of recent floods in various parts of the country,
particularly in Assam**

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Calling Attention. Shri Ripun Bora and Shri Prasanna Acharya to call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the situation arising out of recent floods in various parts of the country, particularly in Assam.

SHRI RIPUN BORA (Assam): Sir, I call the attention of the hon. Home Minister to the situation arising out of recent floods in various parts of the country, particularly in Assam.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, where is the Minister's statement on floods? It is a Calling Attention.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, first of all, you call the attention of the Minister. Where is the statement of the Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): It has already been circulated ...*(Interruptions)*... I lay a statement on the Table.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Statement may please be circulated.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, India receives heavy rainfall from June to September every year during the South West (SW) Monsoon Season. The rainfall during this period accounts for about 70-90 per cent of the total annual rainfall over India. As a consequence of this rainfall, flooding of rivers is a natural weather phenomenon. This year, monsoon set in over Kerala on 30th May, the monsoon has already covered the entire country by 19th July, 2017. In terms of area-wise distribution, 89 per cent of the area in the country received excess/normal rainfall, and 11 % of the area received deficient rainfall till date.

Over 40 million hectares' land of the country is prone to floods and river erosion. The flood-prone regions of India are the Himalayan Rivers Basin (Kosi and Damodar rivers in particular), the North Western River Basin (Jhelum, Ravi, Sutlej and Beas rivers) and the central and Peninsular River Basin (Narmada, Chambal, Godavari, Krishna, and Cauvery river).

During the current South West monsoon season, various parts of the States of Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Punjab, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand and West Bengal reported to have been affected by heavy rains/flash floods / and rain-oriented calamities of varying degrees. As per the information of damage received from these States, 508 persons have lost their lives, 24,811 cattle heads have perished, 63,215 houses/huts have been damaged, and about 2.8 lakh hectares of crop area have been reported affected due to heavy rains/flood/landslides etc.

Primary responsibility to deal with natural calamities rests with the State Government concerned. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistics to effectively deal with such exigent situations.

The concerned State Governments have been taking necessary relief, preparedness/preventive measures, which *inter-alia*, includes, distribution of relief, evacuation and shifting of the people to safer places, setting up of multipurpose relief shelters/camps. State Governments have also taken necessary health and hygiene measures to prevent outbreak of any epidemic during floods/post flood calamity period. State authorities are monitoring rainfall, water level of the rivers/dams in coordination with the IMD and CWC, as well as issuing weather advisories to all vulnerable districts.

With regard to Assam, there are 2 major rivers system (*viz.* Brahmaputra Valley and Barak Valley) in the State which causes floods. The State faces acute flood problem in the flood plains of the river Brahmaputra and Barak and other smaller river sub-basins. Assam has faced two waves of floods till 19th July, 2017, affecting 29 districts out of 33 districts, resulting in loss of human lives, livestock and large scale damage to the dwelling houses. The State Government is providing necessary relief assistance affected people in the State. As per information received from the State Government of Assam, about 59430.45 quintal rice, 11142.18 quintal dal, 3541.71 quintal salt, 37249.89 liters M. Oil, and 58092 numbers of tarpaulins etc. have been provided to the affected people in different districts of Assam. The State Government has mentioned that 1160 relief camps (357 relief camps + 803 relief distribution centres) have been opened, and 1,31,416 inmates are housed in these camps, so far. However, at present the situation is under control in the State. The State Government is closely monitoring rescue and relief operations in the districts to deal with any eventuality. The Ministry of Home Affairs is also keeping constant, round-the-clock watch on the situation in the country including, Assam.

In order to assess the loss of immediate nature, upon receipt interim memorandum an Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) was constituted on 21st July, 2017. The Inter-Ministerial Central Team, in consultation with the State Government, are visiting the affected areas of the State, from 25-28th July, 2017, for on the spot assessment of damages of immediate and temporary nature. Further, action would be taken in the matter, in accordance with the established procedure.

To ensure effective preparedness, the Ministry of Home Affairs conducted annual meeting of Relief Commissioners/Secretaries, Department of Disaster Management of State /UTs on 17 May, 2017 to review the status of preparedness and to discuss other disaster management-related issues. The representatives of various Central Ministries/Organizations rendering emergency support functions, also participated in the meeting.

[Shri Kiren Rijiju]

During the conference, the emphasis was laid on close coordination with forecasting agencies, such as, Central Water Commission (CWC), India Metrological Department (IMD), GSI and INCOIS.

As stated earlier, the State Governments concerned are primarily responsible for undertaking necessary rescue, relief and preventive measures in the wake of natural calamities. Apart from providing logistics support, the Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by extending financial assistance through State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) as per the laid down procedure. An amount of ₹ 9,382.80 crore has been allocated as Central share to all the States in their SDRF accounts for the year 2017-18. An amount of ₹ 3387.15 crore has so far been released, as the instalment of Central share of SDRF for the year 2017-18 to 21 States. In addition, financial assistance from NDRF amounting to ₹ 1,555.84 crore has been provided during 2017-18, so far, to different States which were affected by calamities of severe nature. In addition to regular schemes of crops damage, the farmers are also entitled for compensation under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojna of the Ministry of Agriculture, which is being implemented by the State Government. The Ministry of Home Affairs have deployed about 88 specialized teams of NDRF in 26 States and UTs with 304 boats, another necessary search and rescue equipment. Based on vulnerability profile of different regions of the country, NDRF teams have been presently stationed/deployed at 12 Bn HQ viz; Guwahati (Assam), Haringhata (West Bengal), Mundali (Odisha), Arakkonam (Tamil Nadu), Pune (Maharashtra), Vadodra (Gujarat), Bhatinda (Punjab), Ghaziabad (Uttar Pradesh), Bihta (Bihar), Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Doimukh (Arunachal Pradesh). Besides, pre-positioning of the NDRF teams has already been done at 31 different locations in the country, depending on the vulnerability profile of the area. In addition, NDRF teams also assist to the State administration in distribution of essential relief material and provide medical support to affected people at the time of emergency. NDRF also conducts mock drills along with the relevant departments and State agencies in the country for effective management of floods, response and rescue operations.

Hon. Prime Minister has reviewed the flood preparedness of the nation via PRAGATI on 12th July 2017. Hon. Minister of State (PMO & DONER) has reviewed the flood situation of the North- Eastern States, including Assam, on 13th July 2017. Hon.

Minister of State for Home has visited and reviewed the flood situation of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh from 13th to 15th July 2017. I would like to assure the hon. Members that the Government of India will give due importance to the valuable suggestions given by them during the discussion to deal effectively with the situation caused by floods and other natural calamities.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ripun Bora.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Thank you, Sir, for admitting such a burning issue in the House today, and for giving me this opportunity to initiate this discussion.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Your time is five minutes.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: No, Sir. In five minutes, I can't complete my speech. Eighty three people have died in Assam. Anyway. Flood is a regular phenomenon in Assam, and this time, the flood is not only restricted to Assam, but, this has spread to other parts of the country also. So, this is a concern of the whole country. Now, before I highlight the quantum of damages and the devastation caused by the floods, I want to bring to the notice of this august House the main causes of the flood. Basically, Sir, the main causes of the flood are, there is heavy siltation in Assam, and there is no system of regular removal of the siltation, and the embankment and the dams in the river. Due to heavy siltation, the river's breadth has come up to the level of embankment and dam. As a result, what happens? Water flows over the dam and the embankment. The embankment is very old, and almost, all these years, it has become worst, and there is no regular maintenance of the embankment. So, these are main causes of floods in Assam. Now, why has this flood become unprecedented and devastating in Assam in spite of the fact that it is the regular phenomenon? Normally, every year, before the onset of monsoon, the State Government makes the contingent plan. But, this year, the BJP Government in Assam has not made any advance contingent plan in Assam. They have not made any buffer stock of rice or other relief materials. There is no proper direction to the State Administration. As a whole, the entire administration became a mess. There is no interdepartmental coordination. There is no stock of medicines; there is no drinking water. The entire administration was at a loss what to do, and what not to do. Moreover, the State Government has no funds to repair the embankments that have been breached. Apart from that, in the year 2016, that means, the last year, there were also the devastating floods. So, the damages caused by the floods on the embankments have not been repaired by the BJP Government for want of funds. So far

[Shri Ripun Bora]

as the quantum of damage is concerned, it is very horrible. In Assam, out of 33 districts, 23 districts have been affected, 26 lakh population has marooned under water, on the streets and embankments. More than one thousand livestock and wild animals, including the one famous rhinoceros of Kaziranga National Park, were also killed and washed away in this flood. The other thing is that the State Government has failed to erect, to construct high platform in the Kaziranga National Park for safety of these wild animals. Apart from that, it is very unfortunate that 83 people died, including children, and the most unfortunate part is that out of that, 25 people died because of electrocution of underground electric wires, which were covered by flood water. Sir, 1200 number of roads, 15 numbers of RCC bridges, 100 numbers of RCC culverts and 187 numbers of bridge approaches and 20 numbers of embankments were washed away by this flood during this one-and-a-half months, and more than two lakh hectares of crop area has been damaged. Now, Sir, if we see the apathy of the Central Government and the State Government, it will be very horrible. Though flood, as I have already said, is a regular phenomenon, but in the year 2014 when the Prime Minister, Modiji, first visited Assam on 28th of November after becoming Prime Minister, our Chief Minister, Shri Tarun Gogoi gave him a memorandum about the flood problem. He assured to help us. But, after that, not a single paise has been released. Even in 2015, the Assam Government submitted a proposal for Rs.1500 crores damage, which has not been sanctioned and released. Even in 2016, the BJP Government of Assam, Chief Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, had submitted a proposal to the Centre for Rs.10,000 crores, which has also not been sanctioned. The most unfortunate part is that there is a highly technical Authority, that is, the Brahmaputra Board ...*(Time-bell rings)*... Only two minutes, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your questions. ...*(Interruptions)*... Put your question as to what the Government should do. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: The Government decided to change the name of the Brahmaputra Board as the North East Water Authority. But later on it was again decided to change it as the North East Brahmaputra River Rejuvenation Authority. After that it was again decided to change it to Brahmaputra Barak North East River Development Corporation. Sir, you see the insincerity of this Government that it took three years' time to change the name of the Brahmaputra Board, which has not yet been approved and implemented. As a result of this, this highly technical Board is lying idle without

making any plan. *(Time-bell rings)*... One minute more. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, the most important aspect of the apathy is that in 2015 when there was flood, the Prime Minister visited Jammu & Kashmir; the Prime Minister visited Tamil Nadu. He offered special packages. We appreciate it, Sir. Even two days back, the Prime Minister visited Gujarat also, we appreciate it. But we say with our great resentment that the Prime Minister is not a Prime Minister for a particular State, he is the Prime Minister for the whole country. In Assam, in 2014, 2015, 2016 and even this year also, after Modiji came to power, there were floods for four times, but he never visited Assam, he never offered any special package to Assam.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is okay. ...*(Interruptions)*... All right. ...*(Interruptions)*... That is all. ...*(Interruptions)*... You had five minutes and you have taken eight minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... You put your questions in five minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will go by rules. ...*(Interruptions)*... There are some rules to follow. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: With this step-motherly attitude, with this partisan attitude, how can he say that Assam is a part of the country? ...*(Interruptions)*... ...*(Time-bell rings)* Sir, I have only one point. Shri Kiren Rijiju is here. Therefore, ...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, please conclude.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: The people of Assam wanted the Prime Minister to visit, the Home Minister to visit, but what happened? We have such a serious disease. We want big surgeons, but you have sent one pharmacist there. What will this pharmacist do?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made your points. Why do you give a lecture? Sit down, please.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: He was there for three hours.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Calling Attention is only for clarifications, not for giving a lecture.

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, यह इम्पोर्टेंट इश्यू है, इसके लिए टाइम थोड़ा और बढ़ाएँ। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: This is the attitude of this...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is all. Nothing more will go on record. You have taken nine minutes. That is all. Sit down.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Sit down. Nothing is going on record. Now, Shri Prasanna Acharya. Hon. Members, there are 18 names. Calling Attention Motion is not for making a lecture or a speech. It is for seeking clarifications, putting specific questions. Therefore, one Member can be given three minutes maximum. So, each one should confine to three minutes. At the end of three minutes, I will ring the bell and I will say, 'Nothing more will go on record.'

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH (Karnataka): Sir, in the morning, the External Affairs Minister gave us a lecture for half-an-hour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is from a Minister.

SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH: That was in Zero Hour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Remember, when you were the Minister, how many lectures you gave?

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): I was also present. Shri Jairam Ramesh never gave lectures during Zero Hour.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have to give time to every Member. Otherwise, I will restrict to six or seven Members. I will give three minutes. There is no exemption. You should know how to put questions in three minutes. Shri Prasanna Acharya, you can take only three minutes.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA (Odisha): Sir, at least give me five minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no; you can take only three minutes. Only the initiator will get more time.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, in the current flood situation, various States have been more or less affected. States like Assam, Odisha, West Bengal, Gujarat, Rajasthan and many other States have been affected. In some States the situation is serious. In some other States it is very serious. Sir, let me present the soft picture of my State, on what is happening, what is the calamity there in Odisha. Sir, Odisha has been a natural calamity-affected State since centuries. Sir, you can't believe, in the 19th century, we faced 70 natural calamities and that is one of the reasons why the economic

*Not recorded.

development has been hampered because of the natural calamities. Sir, the current flood in many districts of Southern Odisha, *i.e.*, Rayagada, Nawarangpur, Koraput, Kalahandi and partly Malkangiri districts have been severely affected in the first phase of the flood in Odisha. In the second phase, flood came in rivers Baitarani, Budhabalang, Subarnarekha and Jalaka which has seriously affected the Northern districts of Keonjhar, Bhadrak, Jajpur and Balasore. Sir, in river Nagawali, Banshadhara and Kalyani and other tributaries, there is a heavy flood which has seriously affected Rayagada Block and Kalyansingpur Block. These are the two tribal blocks of the State and in Kalahandi district, the Tuamul-Rampur Block is severely affected. Even the headquarter town of Bhuwanipatna, roads have been damaged and communication disrupted. Sir, many railway bridges have been washed away in the floods and rural roads have been severely damaged. Many villages have been marooned and communication has been cut off. Houses have been completely damaged. Several people, male and female, are missing and feared to have died or swayed away in severe floods. Sir, the whole country knows about our State Government, led by Shri Naveen Patnaik, which is capable enough of dealing with natural calamities. In the last cyclone Phailin, the way the State Government tackled was praised by everybody in the country. So, in these floods also, preemptive steps by the State Government were taken which saved valuable lives, both human and cattle. Sir, hundreds of families, along with their cattle and other valuables, were timely evacuated. Sir, floodwater has inundated crops in thousands of hectares causing heavy damage to farmers.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, you put your questions.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, the ODRAF has promptly plunged into rescue operations.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your question.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, I will put my questions.

As hon. Member, Mr. Bora from Assam, was saying that the hon. Prime Minister belongs to the whole country, it is a good gesture that he has visited Gujarat and two more States and announced grants to those States for immediate relief.

Sir, it would be widely welcomed if the hon. Prime Minister can find time to visit or do an aerial survey of some States, including Odisha. It would be a good thing. The

[Shri Prasanna Acharya]

country is one. This is a federal country. There are several units in the federal structure. And, the hon. Prime Minister and his Cabinet colleagues have a greater responsibility to look after the whole country, not one or two States.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your questions. There is no time.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, kindly give me two minutes. The issue is relating to floods.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, no. You only take one minute.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, if it is a man-made calamity. What can we do? And, it is happening in Odisha!

Sir, Mahanadi is the lifeline of Odisha and also Chhattisgarh. But, without concurrence from Odisha, which is the lower riparian State, six barrages above Hirakud have been constructed by the Government of Chhattisgarh over Mahanadi River. These are causing serious problems to Odisha in the form of floods and drought. We have been appealing the Central Government to intervene. But, there is no response as yet. I reiterate, it is a federal country and ours is a vast country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Next. Ms. Dola Singh.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Sir, one minute, please. During Shri Vajpae's Government, a good step was initiated *i.e.*, inter-linking of rivers. I don't know why the UPA Government did not continue with it. I would like to ask the hon. Minister and the Government whether they are rethinking to revive inter-linking of rivers programme initiated by our former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpae. Sir, let there be an amendment to the National Calamity Relief Fund.

There was Cyclone Phailin in Odisha. It has caused severe damage and we are yet to receive full assistance from the Central Government. Whatever you receive, you receive after 2-3 years of calamity. How will States like Odisha Assam and other smaller States survive? So, I reiterate, ours is a federal Union and there are several States in this federal country.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. That is all. Sit down.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Hence, the Central Government should not discriminate between the States. BJP is discriminating between BJP-ruled States and

non-BJP-ruled States which is a dangerous symptom in the country. So, I urge upon the Government of India, through the hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs, who is young, capable and who will reply to this debate, to look after this. Otherwise, you will disintegrate India. Thank you.

MS. DOLA SEN (West Bengal): Sir, in the event of natural calamities, it is essential for the Centre and the States to work together to ensure that there is minimum damage to life and property and maintain the federal structure of our Constitution.

However, I must point out that the cause of these floods is not completely due to natural causes. These are man-made floods, as we .. are witnessing in West Bengal. I hold the Central Government greatly responsible for this mismanagement. Due to heavy rains, water levels in barrages rise. But, the sudden release of water, without any prior intimation to the State Government, leads to a flooding situation which is beyond management. In Bengal, some low-lying areas of Labhpur in Birbhum district; Purulia, Ghatla in West Midnapore; and Goghat, Rambah in Hoogly districts have been inundated. This causes mostly due to discharge of water by DVC from its barrages without intimation.

Even after having a capacity to store water up to 425 feet in Panchet dam, DVC released water from the dam when the level was just 417 ft. This can be attributed to lack of dredging of river and not removing encroachments there. This is also happening because the DVC dams have failed to hold water up to their capacity, more so, because the Central Government has failed in its duty to provide funds for dredging and modernization of these barrages. Every year, since 2012, Bengal has been trying to address the problem of dredging the river to increase the capacity of the reservoir. Even after writing numerous letters to the Central Government to address the matter at the earliest, no help has been forthcoming. The dredging of the Farakka Barrage has not been done even once because the funds are yet to be released. In February, 2017, a high-level panel was set up by the Centre to prepare guidelines for desilting of the Ganges, which suggested the shores in front of Farakka should be dredged to address the situation. But these recommendations have yet to see the light of the day. This multiplication of causes eventually led to untold miseries of the people of Bengal who are now battling with a grave flood-like situation. ...*(Time-bell rings)*... One minute, Sir. It was only because of the forethought of our Chief Minister, Ms. Mamata Banerjee, that preemptive measures were taken and we could bring the situation under control. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay, now put your question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. DOLA SEN: Measures such as prior warnings to fishermen; setting up control room at the State Secretariat; and distributing tarpaulin sheets in all affected areas have saved the lives of lakhs of people in the State.

The Eleventh Finance Commission has recommended a two-fold increase in dredging, taking it up to 298.28 million cubic meters for major ports and 367.18 million cubic meters for non-major ports. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR, DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MS. DOLA SEN: The Central Government needs to take immediate action in this regard. Thank you very much.

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, we all sympathize; we all stand by the flood-affected people in all parts of our country, particularly in the North - East.

It has become a routine that we discuss drought situation at one point of time and the flood situation at another point of time. We will have to take adequate measures to mitigate the impact of climate change, as far as our country is concerned. What we witnessed recently is that they are not flash floods, as such. These floods could have been predicted. I do not know what the technology we have. But, the Minister's reply says that the MHA has deployed about 88 specialized teams of NDRF in 26 States and UTs and 304 Boards. I do not know what these specialized teams are. What are they doing? How is the disaster management looked after? How is the national disaster management strengthened?

Sir, in this regard, I would like to suggest that the Government should think of linking the rivers. It is a serious issue. The Government can take up this issue with the elected Chief Ministers of the States. This question has to be revived and discussed because in a country like ours, rivers can be linked. If Godavari and Krishna could be linked in Andhra Pradesh, why can't the other rivers be linked? This is a very serious issue. The Government will have to apply its mind.

Finally, the reply says that the primary responsibility to deal with natural calamities rests with the State Government concerned and the Central Government supplements the

efforts of the State Governments by providing financial and logistics support to effectively deal with such a situation.

Two years back, we had floods in Chennai. The city of Chennai was drowned and the State Government had asked for adequate financial support. But the Centre did not extend as much assistance as demanded by the State Government. It should not happen in the case of North-East; in the case of Assam. They are asking for a special package. The Central Government should, at least, show some sympathy to the affected people of the affected States. Simply saying that the primary responsibility lies with the State Governments and that you will give some financial assistance is not correct. You will give means what? You will give some little financial help. That is not enough. In the case of Chennai, we saw it. When Andhra Pradesh was attacked by cyclone, we saw such a financial crunch. So, it should not happen in this case. The Centre must apply its mind. ...*(Time-bell rings)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

SHRI D. RAJA: I appeal to you that you take a meeting of all the Chief Ministers, discuss the inter-linking of river waters so that we could effectively mitigate the impact of climate change in our country. Thank you.

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा: सर, यह Calling Attention बहुत important है, इस संबंध में मुझे एक बात कहनी है और वह यह है कि सरकार ने इस पर बहुत संक्षेप में जवाब दिया है, जो बहुत casual है। सर, पानी बहुत महत्वपूर्ण रिसोर्स है और हिन्दुस्तान में इस रिसोर्स को बहुत ज्यादा बरबाद किया जा रहा है, जब कि अभी कुछ समय पहले किसानों के मामले में बहस चल रही थी कि बहुत से किसान इसलिए बरबाद हैं क्योंकि उनको पानी नहीं मिल रहा है और यहां हालत यह है कि फ्लड को मैनेज करने के लिए सरकार को जो मीन्स लगाना चाहिए, उनको ये कर नहीं पा रहे हैं।

सर, हम एक बात साफ-साफ कह देना चाहते हैं कि जितनी भी प्रोग्रेस आम आदमी के द्वारा, किसानों के द्वारा, इंडस्ट्रीज़ के द्वारा की जा रही है, यह जो बाढ़ आती है, जैसा कि हमने उत्तरांचल में देखा, जैसा कि हमने अभी असम में देखा, गुजरात में देखा, यह सारे के सारे economic process को dilute कर सकता है। जीडीपी की ग्रोथ के मामले में जितना बड़ा खतरा इस बाढ़ से है, मुझे लगता है कि इसको लोगों ने estimate नहीं किया है।

सर, चाहे कश्मीर का इश्यू हो, चाहे उत्तरांचल का हो, चाहे असम का हो, चाहे पश्चिमी बंगाल का हो, चाहे गुजरात का हो, चाहे राजस्थान का हो, चाहे चेन्नई का हो, चाहे यूपी का हो, लगभग सारे स्टेट्स, जो बाढ़ से प्रभावित हो रहे हैं... उनकी बाबत यह कहा जा रहा है कि हर साल करोड़ों लोग इससे प्रभावित होते हैं, लाखों हेक्टेयर्स जमीन प्रभावित होती है, खेती नष्ट हो जाती है, मकान खत्म हो जाते हैं और कैटल खत्म हो जाते हैं। इस तरह से किसानों का total destruction होता है।

[श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा]

सर, गवर्नमेंट ने बड़े प्रोजेक्ट्स दिए हुए हैं। 6 अप्रैल, 2016 को माननीय मंत्री जी ने जवाब में बताया था कि हमने बहुत सारे प्रावधान किए हैं, लेकिन बड़ा अफसोस है कि सीएजी की रिपोर्ट में यह साबित किया गया है कि जो भी पॉलिसी ले डाउन की गई थी, उसका अनुपालन करने में यह सरकार असफल रही है। सीएजी की रिपोर्ट कहती है, "There were huge delays in completion of river management activities, and works related to border area projects, which were long-term solution for the flood problems of Assam, North Bihar and Eastern UP are being taken up." यह बहुत दुखद है।

सर, करना क्या है और कहना क्या है, मुझे यह समझ में नहीं आ रहा है। आज हालत यह है कि सरकार यह कह कर अपनी जिम्मेदारी झाड़ ले रही है कि ये सारी की सारी प्रॉब्लम्स को राज्य सरकार को देखना है। हमने इस बात को observe किया है कि जिस भी राज्य में बड़े स्तर की बाढ़ आती है, वह राज्य सरकार लगभग दिवालिया हो जाती है, उसके पास लगाने के लिए पैसा ही नहीं बचता है। ऐसे में total reconstruction की जरूरत पड़ती है और भारत सरकार अपनी जिम्मेदारी का मतलब यह समझ लेती है कि हमें सिर्फ मदद करनी है। अभी यहां डी. राजा साहब बता रहे थे कि तमिलनाडु में बाढ़ से बहुत बड़ा नुकसान हुआ था और वहां के लिए 1 हजार करोड़ रुपया दिया गया। अभी गुजरात में 500 करोड़ रुपया दिया जा रहा है। जो नुकसान हुआ है, क्या आप इस meager help से उसको पूरा कर सकते हैं? आप उसको कभी पूरा नहीं कर सकते हैं। इसमें इतना बड़ा डैमेज पूरे इन्फ्रास्ट्रक्चर का होता है, पोलिटिकल सोशल सिस्टम का होता है, क्या आप उसको भगवान के हवाले छोड़ देंगे कि अगले बार देखा जाएगा? सर, यह बाढ़ का मामला तो रेग्युलर हो गया है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your question and conclude please.

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा: सर, मैं conclude कर रहा हूँ। मुझे लगता है कि हिन्दुस्तान में भारत सरकार को बहुत ही जिम्मेदारी का परिचय देते हुए एक स्थाई कार्य योजना बनानी चाहिए। जहां पर बाढ़ लगातार आ रही है, वहां की जो प्लानिंग होनी है, जो वहां का नियोजन होना है, वह इस दिशा में होना चाहिए कि लोग बाढ़ के साथ जीना सीख लें।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay.

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा: सर, आज परिस्थितियां एकदम उलट हैं। टोटल destruction हो रहा है और गवर्नमेंट कुछ नहीं कर रही है। मौसम के क्या हालात हैं, कितनी बारिश होगी, यह सब किसानों को बताने का कोई सिस्टम नहीं है। इनके पास कम से कम दस साल का कैलेण्डर होना चाहिए, क्योंकि आज कल तो बहुत हाई टेक मशीनें आ गई हैं, computers लग गए हैं, इसलिए उनको मालूम होना चाहिए कि किस साल कितनी rainfall होगी और उसका fallout क्या होगा ताकि इसकी पहले से तैयारी हो सके। ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Put your question and conclude please.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: Sir, I am just concluding. मैं प्रश्न भी पूछने वाला हूँ। मेरा सवाल यह है कि उत्तर भारत में जो नदियाँ हिमालय से आ रही हैं, उनके बहुत strategic repercussions भी हैं और वे बॉर्डर एरियाज़ में हैं। मैं उत्तर प्रदेश के लखीमपुर खीरी से आता हूँ, जो नेपाल से लगा हुआ है। सर, जो नदियाँ नेपाल से आ रही हैं, उनमें बहुत बड़ी तादाद में बालू है और ये नदियाँ बालू से भर चुकी हैं। हम लोगों ने बहुत कोशिश की, कोर्ट भी गए, लेकिन नौकरशाही ने आज तक इस मामले में कोई सहयोग नहीं दिया। आज स्थिति यह है कि हजारों की तादाद में, लाखों की तादाद में लोग उससे प्रभावित हैं। उनकी फसलें बरबाद हो गई हैं, खेती चौपट हो गई है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... जो तथ्य प्रकाश में आ रहे हैं कि किस तरह से climate change आपकी पूरी economic progress को mitigate कर सकते हैं, क्या आप दोबारा Planning Commission को revive करके, बड़े पैमाने पर हिन्दुस्तान के किसानों के लिए, देहातों के लिए, Flood control के plan स्थाई रूप से तैयार करके, लोगों की accountability फिक्स करेंगे ताकि हमारे लोग बरबाद होने से बच सकें, धन्यवाद।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. That is a very good question.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of State for Home Affairs towards certain things. Actually, India, every year, is getting floods in different parts of the country. It has become a regular phenomenon. This year, many States, starting from Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal to Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Kerala, Karnataka, have got floods. The most important part is, there are some States which get continuous floods every year like Assam. In North-Eastern States, there is not even one year when there are no floods. In other parts of the country, sometimes flood comes and sometimes it does not come. Therefore, this is a very important thing which the Government has to bear in mind that in States where floods are coming continuously like Assam, Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland and other hill states, what is the solution. The Government has given a reply but it is a general reply.

I would like to tell you that it is not a calamity alone. It is a regular phenomenon. It is not linked with the Home Ministry alone. This is linked with the Home Ministry and also with the Ministry of Water Resources. Both must do it. In your reply, you have said that it is always the State Government's responsibility to look after these calamities. Calamity is different but getting floods continuously every year is actually a different thing. It is not calamity alone. So, there are two options. The option of linking the rivers is there from the beginning. The UPA Government had been planning this for a number of years. They had even prepared a blueprint. But it takes time to implement such things. I want to make

[Dr. T. Subbarami Reddy]

some suggestions. So, you bear in mind the suggestions while giving the reply. Here my suggestion is, take Assam, which is suffering from Brahmaputra river. So, for States like Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, etc., you must have a permanent solution like either linking it with other rivers or constructing irrigation projects. The State Governments cannot afford the irrigation projects. You cannot throw blame that the State Governments should do it. It is not possible. Therefore, the three Ministries, namely, the Home Ministry, the Finance Ministry and the Ministry of Water Resources, put together, must work out a permanent solution for States which get continuous floods every year. Then only it would be possible to arrest the loss of human lives, animals and properties. So much loss to human lives and properties is taking place due to these calamities.

Sir, I don't want to take much time. I want a categorical reply from the Minister, as the Home Minister, on behalf of the Government of India, and on behalf of the NDA Government, as to what is going to be his future plan to control these calamities. What is your planning for a permanent solution? You must plan that. You should not merely say that you have given financial assistance or some other assistance. There is no use of that. This is one thing.

Secondly, you choose the States which are getting this problem every year permanently and how you can help it. Other parts of the country also need to be seen. Connecting rivers require huge funds. Therefore, the Government is not focusing on it. So, my suggestion is, you must take the World Bank aid and also the Asian Development Bank aid for it and work it out in a big way, in a phased manner. It may take 10 years or 15 years. But if you connect rivers in a phased manner, it is going to be a permanent solution for the people of India. Therefore, I suggest that you must make an effort and apply your mind to it. The NDA Government claims that it is working for the prosperity and progress of the country. Let me see what you are going to do in this regard. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You have made suggestions. But you did not ask questions.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I sought clarifications also. I want a clarification from him as to how they are going to do it. I gave him not only suggestions but I also asked certain questions.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Treat it as a question, not as a suggestion.
...(Interruptions)...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, I am seeking clarification as to how he proposes to solve this problem. The reply that the Minister has given is a theoretical reply, not a practical one.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is okay. Now, Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Assam is once again submerged in floods, an annual feature that the people of the State have been living with since time immemorial. Year after year, there is loss of life, damage to crop and property and loss of cattle and wildlife, but does it have to be this way? We would like the Government to do a few things which can prevent these floods. Would the Government be constructing reservoirs to hold water during the monsoon season and to reduce floods? Countries like Netherlands practise 'a room for river', where wetlands are rejuvenated, which work as flood cushions. Assam has around 3,500 wetlands. If we rejuvenate them, they can act as flood cushions. Increasing the forest cover and constructing storage dams upstream would increase power generation and also help in regulating the flow of water. The main long-term solution would be to ensure optimal and equitable sharing of water resources in the country, which is, inter-linking of rivers. Would the Government be looking into this? Under the Peninsular Rivers Development component, our revered leader, my mentor and our beloved leader, the late hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, had repeatedly urged the Government of India to implement the inter-linking of the Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna, Penna, Palar, Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundar rivers as also to divert surplus waters of the West flowing Pampa and Acchankovil rivers to Vaipar in Tamil Nadu. Based on the Supreme Court Order of 27.02.2012 and after our persistent requests, the Government of India constituted a special committee on interlinking of rivers, which is yet to make significant headway. I would reiterate and appeal to the Government to consider the legitimate demand of our revered leader, the late Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, to nationalize all inter-State rivers because there is always a dispute between two States in sharing the waters. So, all inter-State rivers must be nationalized so that the water resources of the country could be optimally utilized.

Sir, at this juncture, I would also like to say that we have been, time and again, requesting the Government to release money out of the National Disaster Relief Fund because Chennai is still recovering from the floods of last year. We need to carry out more rehabilitation work and undertake relief and restoration measures. We have already taken many new initiatives. We have got many storm-water drains constructed and taken other initiatives.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Time over.

SHRIMATI VIJILA SATHYANANTH: Sir, I would like the Government to think about releasing Rs. 8,481 cores that was demanded by our hon. Amma for covering the actual damages and undertaking relief measures after the Chennai floods.

Thank you, Sir.

श्री अशोक सिद्धार्थ (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभापति जी, भारत में प्राकृतिक आपदाओं में बाढ़ एक मुख्य आपदा है। भारत दुनिया के सबसे अधिक बाढ़ प्रभावित देशों में आता है। भारत के लगभग 23 राज्य बाढ़ की दृष्टि से अति संवेदनशील हैं। अगर हम भौगोलिक क्षेत्र के दृष्टिकोण से देखें, तो भारत का 1/8वाँ भाग बाढ़ से प्रभावित होता है।

मान्यवर, आज कॉलिंग अटेंशन में बाढ़ पर मुझे बोलने का जो मौका मिला है, उसमें खास तौर से मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि दक्षिणी-पश्चिमी मानसून में एकाएक आई तेजी की वजह से इस समय देश के उत्तर तथा उत्तर-पूर्व के कुछ राज्यों में उत्पन्न बाढ़ की स्थिति से वहाँ का जन-जीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हो गया है। आज उत्तर प्रदेश सहित आठ राज्य – उत्तराखंड, ओडिशा, बिहार, असम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, मणिपुर, गुजरात और राजस्थान बाढ़ की चपेट में हैं। बाढ़ का सबसे बुरा असर प्रभावित इलाकों के ग्रामीण समाज तथा अर्थव्यवस्था पर पड़ता है। जल प्लावन की वजह से अनेक गांव तबाह हो चुके हैं, लाखों लोग त्राहि-त्राहि कर रहे हैं। बेजबान पशुओं के लिए यह बाढ़ आफत साबित हो रही है। उत्तर प्रदेश के दुधवा नेशनल पार्क से लेकर के असम के काजीरंगा नेशनल पार्क तक जो वाइल्ड एनिमल्स हैं, वे इस बाढ़ से ज्यादा प्रभावित हुए दिखाई देते हैं। मान्यवर, भारत में जून से लेकर सितम्बर तक दक्षिणी-पश्चिमी मानसून के चार महीनों में अत्यधिक वर्षा से बाढ़ आना कोई नई बात नहीं है। लेकिन कहते हैं कि सवाल यह नहीं कि शीशा बचा या टूट गया, सवाल यह है कि पत्थर कहां से आया। बेशक बाढ़ एक प्राकृतिक आपदा है, लेकिन इसके लिए स्थितियां निर्मित करने के लिए मानव समाज और उसके स्वार्थी क्रियाकलापों की भूमिका भी हमेशा रही है। दरअसल यह सब नतीजा है विकास के उस आधुनिक दृष्टिकोण का, जिससे मानव प्रकृति को अपना मित्र समझने के बजाय गुलाम समझता रहा है। हमारे देश में परम्परा सी बन गई है कि प्राकृतिक आपदा हो या अन्य कोई घटना, उसके पश्चात ही देश के कथित बौद्धिक बल के लोगों के बीच चर्चा और चिंतन का दौर शुरू हो जाता है और समय के साथ ही प्राकृतिक आपदा जैसे मुद्दे भी गौण होने लगते हैं। यही कारण है कि 2013 में उत्तराखंड, 2014 में जम्मू-कश्मीर, 2015 में तमिलनाडु के चेन्नई शहर में भारी वर्षा के कारण आई विपदा के बाद ऐसा लगा था कि भारत देश के लोग, खास तौर से सरकारें, इस ओर चिंतित नजर आएंगी, लेकिन नतीजा ढाक के तीन पात जैसा ही है। जहां तक मैं समझता हूँ कि प्रति वर्ष बाढ़ जैसी प्राकृतिक आपदाओं पर सदन में और सदन के बाद चर्चाएं होती रहती हैं, लेकिन चर्चाएं चर्चाओं तक सीमित रहती हैं। जो सरकार का उत्तर आया है, उसमें उत्तर के हिसाब से अगर हम देखें तो जो रूटीन उत्तर रहता है कि बाढ़ की समस्या के बाद हमने यह कर दिया, हमने वह कर दिया। उत्तर प्रदेश हो या अन्य प्रदेश हों, उन प्रदेशों में जो बाढ़ की समस्याएं हैं, उनमें प्रदेश की जिम्मेदारी बनती है। इन सारी बातों को लेकर ...**(समय की घंटी)**... मान्यवर, बस, एक मिनट। मैं अपना प्रश्न रखना चाहता हूँ। जब हमारे देश में

बाढ़ एक तरह से रेग्युलर प्रोसीजर सी बन गई है, तो फिर क्यों नहीं हमारे पास उपग्रह, सैटेलाइट जैसी सुविधाएं हैं, क्योंकि उनके माध्यम से हम इन-इन क्षेत्रों में टेक्नोलॉजी का उपयोग करके यह जान जाते हैं कि इन-इन क्षेत्रों में भारी वर्षा होने वाली है, जिससे उस क्षेत्र में रहने वाले लोगों को दूसरी जगह स्थानांतरित करके उनको सारी सुविधाएं देने का काम कर सकें, ताकि इस तरह की प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से न सिर्फ मनुष्य को बल्कि बेजबान जानवरों को भी बचाया जा सके, धन्यवाद।

श्री शिव प्रताप शुक्ल (उत्तर प्रदेश): धन्यवाद श्रीमन्। मान्यवर, यह बाढ़ एक प्राकृतिक आपदा है और मैं समझता हूँ कि न केवल भारत बल्कि विश्व का कोई भी देश बचा नहीं है, जिसमें बाढ़ की स्थिति ऐसी न हो, जहां चिंता का विषय बनता हो। जहां तक भारत का संबंध है, लगभग 400 लाख हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र की पूरी की पूरी रेंज में बाढ़ हिन्दुस्तान में आती है। उसमें से भी 77 लाख हेक्टेयर क्षेत्र ऐसा है, जो प्रत्येक वर्ष बाढ़ से डूबता है तथा लोग प्रभावित होते हैं और डेढ़ से दो हजार लोग ऐसे होते हैं जो प्रत्येक वर्ष बाढ़ में मरते हैं। मुझे लगता है कि हम लोग अगर इस बात पर विशेषकर विचार करें, अभी जो विजिला जी बोल रही थीं निश्चित रूप से मैं उनसे सहमत हूँ। आदरणीय अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी ने इसी बाढ़ को ध्यान में रखते हुए "नदी जोड़ो" का एक कार्यक्रम चलाया था। लेकिन बाद की सरकारों को पता नहीं क्या लगा कि उन्होंने उसको रद्द कर दिया। आज आवश्यकता इस बात की है कि जब असम में बाढ़ आती है, जब ओडिशा में भी बाढ़ आती है, जब उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, गुजरात, राजस्थान में आती है तो कभी-कभी हम लोग सोचा करते थे कि राजस्थान तो रेगिस्तान का क्षेत्र है। आज वहां भी इतनी अधिक बारिश होती है, वहां भी नदियां पूरे तौर पर ऊफान पर रहती हैं। इस कारण राजस्थान में भी 72 से अधिक लोग मर गए हैं। गुजरात में सैकड़ों लोग मर गए। आज स्थिति यह है कि जब तक हम इस बात पर विचार नहीं करेंगे और इस देश में बाढ़ से पहले की स्थिति में पूरे तौर पर disaster management नहीं करेंगे, चाहे वह सरकारी स्तर पर हो या स्वयंसेवी संगठनों के साथ जुड़कर हो, लेकिन निश्चित रूप से हमें इस बात पर विचार करना पड़ेगा कि सबको साथ लेकर एक बार बाढ़ से पहले बाढ़ की तैयारी पूरे तौर पर करें। जैसा अशोक जी ने कहा, यह बिल्कुल सच है कि हमारे पास चैनल्स हैं और उनके आधार पर हमें इस बात की जानकारी हो जाती है कि यहां-यहां पर अधिक पानी बरसेगा, लेकिन कुल-मिलाकर केवल उतना ही नहीं है। भारत आज satellite के मामले में विश्व में बहुत आगे है, लेकिन इस सबके बावजूद भी आज disaster management की बहुत आवश्यकता है। जब हम disaster management कर लेंगे, तो समस्या का समाधान हो सकता है। जब माननीय मंत्री जी अपना जवाब देने के लिए खड़े होंगे तो मैं यह जरूर चाहूंगा कि वे इस बात को उद्घृत करें।

सर, आज नदियों की स्थिति ऐसी हो गयी है कि जो बड़े कल-कारखाने हैं, हम स्वयं नदियों में कचरा डालते हैं, शहरों के किनारे की नदियों की आज यह स्थिति है, चाहे गंगा हो, कावेरी हो, कृष्णा हो, सतलुज हो या ब्रह्मपुत्र हो — ये सभी नदियां बाढ़ लाने का काम करती हैं। इसी प्रकार गंडक और कोसी नदी बिहार के क्षेत्र को प्रभावित करती हैं, नेपाल से पानी चला आता है। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... ऐसी स्थिति में मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार प्रयत्न कर रही है — यह सही है कि अभी गुजरात में माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने 500 करोड़ रुपए देने का काम किया है, लेकिन उन्होंने तत्काल दृष्टि से यह कदम उठाया है। उसके पहले हर वर्ष जब हमें इस पर विचार करना होगा तो यह सोचकर

[श्री शिव प्रताप शुक्ल]

करना होगा कि हम प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से लड़ नहीं सकते, लेकिन संघर्ष कर सकते हैं। संघर्ष करने की स्थिति हमें सबसे पहले लानी होगी और उसके लिए कोई भी राजनैतिक दल राजनीति न करे, बल्कि देश का हित सोचकर जो देश के लिए प्रभावी योजनाएं हैं, उनके लिए काम करे और उसके लिए दो चीजें सबसे अधिक महत्वपूर्ण हैं — नदियों का जोड़ना और disaster management, धन्यवाद।

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, as my colleague, Mr. Raja, pointed out, the same House discussed, a few days back, about the situations arising out of drought in one part of the country, and now we are discussing about the situations arising out of floods in other part of the country. Sir, two different experiences in two different parts of the same country means there is something we have to concentrate on. Sir, the Government is coming out to help those affected. The States are pleading. Whether to the tune they are demanding or not, but they are giving something. The States have received. But in between, Sir, so many precious human lives are lost, cattle are lost and agriculture is damaged. So, something has to be sorted out which should be a permanent solution.

Sir, two of my colleagues have already mentioned that and I would like to reiterate this to make the Minister concentrate on this. Would the Government contemplate on linking of rivers? Until and unless it is done, this situation in the country will never come to an end. So many people have died because of flood in the northern region, so many people have died because of drought and farmers have committed suicide in the southern region, cattle have lost their lives; we are suffering even for drinking water. When one part is with surplus water, the other part is suffering for lack of water, then why don't you link the rivers? This has been a long-pending demand and no Government pays heed to this demand. It has become a slogan; we speak here or we pass resolutions in our party conferences or speak in the meetings. Where it has to be done in reality, it has not been done so far. Sir, this is the most important thing I would suggest. Rather than Government extending help to the affected people in Assam now and to other regions, as we have already suggested, at least, link the southern rivers, starting from Godavari. That would solve the problem which exists in the States of Tamil Nadu and other regions. You have to take it very seriously. Every year, we need not repeat. Whatever else happens here or not, in any session, these two debates don't fail to happen. So, in order to avoid future recurrence of the worst situations arising out of flood and drought and to save the precious human lives and the lives of the cattle which work for us and to revive the agriculture, which is declining in our country, the Government has to concentrate on the linking of

rivers; and, as a prelude to that, let it start with the linking of southern rivers. Sir, I must say this and I would expect the Minister to take it seriously, contemplate on this and to react to this. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Positive suggestions made within the allotted time. Thank you. Now, Shri Vijayasai Reddy.

SHRI V. VIJAYASAI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, my esteemed colleague Mr. Ripun Bora has explained the flood situation in Assam. I would like to explain the similar situation in Andhra Pradesh and the contrary situation in Rayalaseema also. Sir, in north coastal Andhra Pradesh, the rivers of Nagavali and Vamsadhara have already shown their anger and taken the toll, and the flood situation, particularly, in these two river regions is very grim. Sir, the outflow from Thotapalli barrage on Nagavali was approximately around 1 lakh cusecs and the outflow from the Vamsadhara has gone up from 20,000 to 40,000 cusecs. It has resulted in damage of 1,000 acres of crop, many houses have been damaged and cattle also have died. This is on north coastal Andhra Pradesh. On the contrary, there is a grim picture of drought in the Rayalaseema region of Andhra Pradesh and the crops are drying up. In the Rayalaseema region, almost 221 mandals are facing the drought-like situation. There is 31 per cent deficit rainfall in Anantapur District and 26 per cent deficit rainfall in Chittoor. Out of 670 mandals in Andhra Pradesh, rain has come in 290 mandals and 221 mandals have recorded a deficit rainfall. So, I call upon the hon. Minister to find out the solution. The only solution which I could suggest is interlinking of rivers. That is the ultimate solution.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister that keeping in view the flood situation in north coastal Andhra region, that is, Nagavali and Vamsadhara, and also the contrary situation in the Rayalaseema region, whether the Central Government has worked out any package or programme to come to the rescue of Andhra Pradesh people. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Ritabrata Banerjee.

SHRI RITABRATA BANERJEE (West Bengal): Sir, flood has become a regular phenomenon, and, every year, a discussion in the House is also a regular phenomenon. Last year, as far as Assam is concerned, due to the Brahmaputra flooding, 1.8 million people had been affected due to rainfall in July-August 2016, and, more than 200 wild animals had died. This year, the situation is going towards that.

[Shri Ritabrata Banerjee]

Now, we do not disagree that climate change has its effect leading to natural devastations but there is a problem. In West Bengal, there is a huge flood in different areas and many areas have been submerged. Without giving any intimation, the Damodar Valley Corporation have released water, which has created the basic problem. This point has been raised by others also.

Now, Sir, I want to come to some different points. As far as the Brahmaputra and its flood monitoring system is concerned, the Brahmaputra is the fifth-largest voluminous river in the world; its flow is fifth-largest in the world. Right now, the Brahmaputra is shared by India, China, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The river basin does not have any kind of monitoring system in place. Since it is an international river, it is very difficult to monitor this river without treaties or agreements between the countries. Presently, there is only a knowledge-sharing between these four countries, and it is not at all enough. That is the basic problem why every year, Brahmaputra is flooding in such a big way.

Flood risk management, its assessment and proper monitoring system in place is very necessary. It can avoid the loss of life and also the loss of property. But, Sir, the moot point is not to provide relief, I reiterate again, the moot point is not to provide relief after flooding. An operative, pre-emptive measure of flood monitoring will not only save lives but also save a huge amount of money which the Government spends on relief operations. This is very important. This has to be kept in mind. In the Brahmaputra and other rivers, many hydel power projects can be planned. This will not only create jobs but will also help in saving the areas from flooding.

Now I have some specific questions to the Minister. This is one. I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating any international treaty. I already mentioned the names of four countries. These are: China, India, Bangladesh and Bhutan. The Brahmaputra flows through these four countries. I would like to know whether the Government is contemplating any international treaty. Because without having any international treaty, monitoring and study cannot be done which is very essential. My party and I believe that a national water commission is necessary. This is happening every year. Every year, people are dying, devastation is continuing and there is a discussion. A national water commission is the need of the hour.

This is my last question. In the western countries, particularly Germany and the Netherlands, and in the European countries, very effective water management system

is there. In fact, UNESCO has an institute called the Institute of Water Education. The IWE is a premier institute. I want to know from the Minister whether the Government has any plan to have consultation with them because these people are working the world over. UNESCO Programme is running world over. They are working in the developing countries. They are working in different African countries. I want to know whether the Government has any plan to consult these people and take the help of these people in fighting floods. This is my humble question to the Minister. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA (Assam): Mr. Deputy Chairman, my colleagues have already raised the question of flood situation all over the country and more specifically in Assam and the North East Region very effectively. I understand that the Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Mr. Kiren Rijju, himself has visited Assam and Arunachal region where this devastating flood is happening. Hon. Minister of DoNER also has been reviewing the situation. This year, the flood has been unprecedented. Assam had floods last year also and the year before that. As Mr. Banerjee has said, floods are a regular phenomenon and discussion on floods is also a regular phenomenon. But floods this year are so devastating that it affected 28 districts of Assam and 3,563 villages in 109 revenue circles have been affected very badly. About 21,59,000 people are very badly affected.

Sir, the Districts which are most badly affected are: Dhemaji, Lakhimpur, Biswanath, Sonitpur, Udalguri, Darrang, Nalbari, Barpeta, Bongaigaon, Chirang, Kokrajhar, Dhubri, South Salmara, Goalpara, Kamrup, Morigaon, Nagaon, Hojai, Karbi Anglong, Golaghat, Jorhat, Majuli, Sivasagar, Charaideo, Dibrugarh, Karimganj, Hailakandi and Cachar. These 28 districts are very badly affected and 1,81,00,178 hectares of land and crops have been adversely affected by the devastating floods. As I said, every year floods come and every year we discuss it. The DoNER Minister knows that his infrastructure projects are washed away by floods every year. We are investing so much in infrastructure in the North Eastern Region, but it is washed away in floods and the nation incurs a huge loss because of this.

Again and again, the flood situation and the devastative nature of Brahmaputra River have been discussed. It is the third largest river in the world. May I correct Mr. Banerjee? Brahmaputra River has a catchment area of 5,80,000 square kilometres in Tibet, Bhutan, China, India and Bangladesh. In terms of distance, as I said, it is the third largest river. ...*(Time-bell rings)*...

3.00 P.M.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please put forward your question.

SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA: Sir, Assam falls in the highest rainfall intensity zone of the country. So, it is clear that Assam has been regularly suffering. It has been recognised nationally that Assam is a flood-prone area where excessive rainfall takes place. There has been a demand by successive Governments, including the present Government, to declare Assam flood as a national calamity because the proportion and devastation of floods are very significant. That is why, successive Governments have demanded to declare it as a national calamity. I want to ask the hon. Minister: When will floods in Assam be declared as a national calamity? A package of about ₹ 2,000 crore has been submitted to the Government for immediate relief. When will this package of about ₹ 2,000 crore be released? These are my two questions. I want to remind the Minister that even in the last year of 2016, a Central team was sent to Assam. They submitted a package and the package was announced. But, it was never released. So, will the Government release this package immediately? This is my question. Thank you, Sir.

श्री लाल सिंह वडोदिया: माननीय उपसभापति जी, मैं आपकी अनुमति से देश में वर्तमान समय में आई बाढ़ और जल प्रलय के बारे में अपने विचार सदन के सामने रख रहा हूँ। महोदय, इस जुलाई माह में गुजरात, राजस्थान, महाराष्ट्र, असम, उत्तराखंड, ओडिशा और पश्चिमी बंगाल में भारी बारिश के कारण जनजीवन प्रभावित हुआ है, स्कूल्स बंद हो गए हैं, लोगों के घर डूब जाने के कारण उनको अन्य स्थानों पर स्थानांतरित करना पड़ा है। देश के किसानों ने अपने खेतों में जो धन की फसल बोई थी, वह भी बरबाद हो गई है। यदि मैं राजस्थान और गुजरात की बात करूँ, तो राजस्थान के कई जिलों में तेज़ बारिश के कारण जोधपुर, बाड़मेर, पाली और जालौर आदि जिलों में जनजीवन अस्त-व्यस्त हुआ है। वहां पर जानवरों का भी नुकसान हुआ है और अकेले आबू में 800 mm वर्षा होने के कारण पानी मैदानों में आ गया। इसी तरह से गुजरात के बनासकांठा, साबरकांठा, पाटन, अमरेली और सुरेन्द्रनगर जिले में सैकड़ों गांव टापू बन गए हैं। हमारे प्रधान मंत्री माननीय नरेन्द्र मोदी और मुख्य मंत्री विजय रूपाणी ने हवाई सर्वेक्षण करने के बाद वायु सेना, बीएसएफ, एनडीआरएफ, एसडीआरएफ की टीम लोगों की मदद के लिए भेजी और हेलीकॉप्टर और मोटरबोट की मदद से गुजरात में 25,000 लोगों को रेस्क्यू ऑपरेशन करके बाहर निकाला। इसके बावजूद भी वहां पर 80 लोग मर गए।

माननीय उपसभापति जी, मेरा आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह कहना है कि ये जो बाढ़ आती है, ये cloudburst होने के कारण आती है, बादल फटने के कारण आती है। बादल फटने की जानकारी हमको कभी भी किसी भी यांत्रिक व्यवस्था से नहीं मिलती है।

महोदय, मेरी आपके माध्यम से सरकार से यह विनती है कि जो cloudburst होते हैं, वे ज्यादातर उत्तराखंड में होते हैं, जम्मू और कश्मीर में होते हैं, या आबू में हुआ है या गुजरात में भी हुआ

है। इसके कारण एकाएक 25 इंच बारिश होने के कारण लोग न तो किसी सुरक्षित जगह पर जा सकते हैं, न अपने जानवरों को बचा सकते हैं और न ही अपनी फसल को बचा सकते हैं। दूसरे देशों की तरह ऐसी cloudbrusting का पूर्वानुमान देने से कम से कम आदमी और जानवर तो बच सकते हैं। हो सकता है कि हमारी फसल ज्यादा बारिश होने के कारण निष्फल हो जाए, लेकिन जो human casualties होती हैं और हमारे cattle मारे जाते हैं, साथ ही इसके कारण गरीब लोगों की आजीविका का भी जो नुकसान होता है, वह बचना चाहिए। इसलिए अगर cloud brusting के बारे में संशोधन करके कम से कम दो-तीन दिन पहले इसका पूर्वानुमान जारी कर दिया जाए कि ऐसी बारिश आने वाली है, तो जहाँ भी बारिश की संभावना है, वहाँ से लोग अपने सुरक्षित स्थलों पर shift हो सकेंगे।
...(समय की घंटी)...

दूसरी बात, माननीय उपसभापति जी, ये नदी जोड़ने की बात कर रहे हैं। इसमें एक खतरा यह भी है कि 12 महीने बहने वाली नदी में से पानी लेकर उसे जो सूखी नदी है, उसमें जोड़ने की बात है, लेकिन अगर एक साथ सारे भारत में बारिश हुई, तो नदी का पानी कहाँ जाएगा, इसके बारे में भी सोच कर दोबारा सोच-विचार कर इसकी बात करनी चाहिए। आपका धन्यवाद।

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (Odisha): Sir, the situation is such in the whole nation now that we are all equally concerned and equally worried. Sir, I may be from Odisha, I will definitely speak about Odisha, my own State; but, at the same time, I am equally concerned about all other States which my colleagues have spoken about, be it Assam, be it Arunachal Pradesh, be it West Bengal, Rajasthan, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana. Sir, geographically Odisha is located in such a way that it is highly prone to natural calamities. Almost every year, or maybe alternate year, we face a severe natural calamity. Sir, this year, the situation now is, since 15th of July, the railway bridges have been affected, the electrical connectivity, the mobile connectivity, the telephone communication and everything has been affected severely. National Highways have been affected. Schemes like *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana* in rural villages, roads and everything has been affected. People are facing severe problems; but, the people of Odisha, at the same time, feel privileged and honoured to have a dynamic and great leader like Naveen Patnaikji who always handles such situations with such courage and bravery that people of Odisha love him. Sir, I request the present Government to please consider Odisha's demands that are pending since long. As we are prone to natural calamities, we have been demanding for a special category status for the State, although, you will say जब प्रधान मंत्री जी खुद ओडिशा के बाहर जाकर दूसरे राज्यों में ओडिशा के बारे में बोलते हैं कि अगर सबसे पिछड़े जिले देखने हैं, अगर भुखमरी देखनी है, अगर गरीबी देखनी है, तो ओडिशा जाइए। अगर प्रधान मंत्री जी बाहर जाकर ऐसा बोलते हैं, तो definitely it is his responsibility, it is his duty to provide a special package to the Odisha

[Shri Anubhav Mohanty]

people, but, I don't know why he is silent in the House. He loves to speak outside the House. I am a good listener of his speech. मुझे उनके भाषण अच्छे लगते हैं। He speaks good dialogues, but those dialogues must be turned into actions. Sir, again I will come to the flood situation. Sir, I think the procedure for granting and providing financial assistance to those naturally affected areas is very slow and takes long. 2013 में we had Phailin. लेकिन उसके पैसे मिलते-मिलते दो-तीन साल लग गए। इस हाउस में बार-बार हमने यह आवाज उठाई थी। मेरे colleagues, जो बीजू जनता दल से हैं, हर किसी ने इसके बारे में आवाज उठाई थी। सर, ये इतने instalments में मिलते हैं कि लोगों के लिए काम करना भी मुश्किल हो जाता है। Sir, still my State Government has been efficient enough, मैं उनको invite करता हूँ। I invite the Union Government to come and see in Odisha how beautifully, how dynamically we have constructed flood relief shelters, लोगों के लिए कैसे और किस तरह से काम किया जाता है, लोगों के पास कैसे खाना पहुँचाया जाता है। You ask us. We will give you special assistance without any kind of further questions. Naturally, we are affected. But, at the same time, man-made calamities are also affecting Odisha. ...*(Time-bell rings)*... I will finish. I will not take much time. I have already put one question.

The second question is this. The present man-made calamity in Odisha is related to Mahanadi. Will the Union Government assure this House that its good offices will restrain Chhattisgarh Government from its on-going projects in the upper stream of Mahanadi? Our demand from the State Government is to form a tribunal to solve this problem. When are you planning to form a tribunal and solve this problem? And, Sir, it is a deeper concern of all of us in the House since every single State is facing flood situation right now. The States are in a very, very critical condition. It is the duty and responsibility, इतने वोट पाकर, इतनी मेजॉरिटी पाकर आपने जो सरकार बनाई है, you are responsible and accountable to every single voter of the nation. So, please, take immediate steps to solve every single problem that the nation is facing. Thank you.

श्री मधुसूदन मिस्त्री (गुजरात): थैंक यू सर, मैं गुजरात की बाढ़ के बारे में हाउस का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहता हूँ। एक हफ्ते से गुजरात के अंदर लगातार बारिश हो रही है। आज सुबह जब मैं वहां से चला, तब तक भी बारिश चालू थी। नॉर्थ गुजरात के साबरकांठा, बनासकांठा, पाटण, महेसाणा और साउथ राजस्थान के सिरोही, पाली, उदयपुर — इन जिलों के अंदर भारी से भी अति भारी बारिश हुई है। बारिश की वजह से, आज सुबह तक की जो फिगर्स हैं, अभी तक 123 लोगों की मृत्यु हो चुकी है। यह आज सुबह के न्यूज़पेपर की इन्फॉर्मेशन है।

गुजरात के अंदर कितने ही इलाकों के अंदर हर साल फ्लड आता है, जिसकी वजह से हमेशा लोगों के जान-माल का नुकसान होता रहा है। अभी प्राइम मिनिस्टर भी गुजरात आए और उन्होंने वहां हवाई निरीक्षण किया। एक बात अच्छी हुई कि वहां के लिए उन्होंने 500 करोड़ रुपये का एनाउंसमेंट किया। मैं मिनिस्टर साहब से यह जानना चाहूंगा और उनका ध्यान इस ओर आकर्षित करना चाहूंगा कि ये 500 करोड़ रुपये आप कैश में देंगे या काइंड में देंगे या फिर बाढ़ बचाव के लिए आपने वहां कोई काम करवाया होगा, उसी के अंदर आप यह एनाउंसट जोड़ देंगे कि यहां इतने मूल्य का यह काम हुआ है, इसलिए आपके पास 500 करोड़ रुपये आ गए। मैं मंत्री जी से यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक इसमें से कितने पैसे रिलीज हुए हैं और कितने पैसे बच गए हैं?

महोदय, हमारी बदनसीबी ऐसी है कि प्राइम मिनिस्टर कच्छ में गए थे, कच्छ के अंदर उन्होंने नर्मदा कैनाल का उद्घाटन किया था और पानी छोड़े जाने के तीसरे दिन ही उसमें दरारें आ गईं। कल रात भी ऐसा ही कुछ वहां पर हुआ। पूरे बीस साल से भाजपा की सरकार गुजरात के अंदर है और नर्मदा कैनाल का बहुत बड़ा काम उनके शासन के अंदर हुआ है, लेकिन कल रात को उस कैनाल के अंदर बहुत बड़ी breach हुई और बनासकांठा में एक ही फैमिली के 14 लोग उसके अंदर बह गए।

हमारी एक कमनसीबी और भी है कि हमारे प्राइम मिनिस्टर स्वयं गुजरात के हैं, लीडर ऑफ दि हाउस, फाइनेंस मिनिस्टर, डिफेंस मिनिस्टर भी गुजरात से ही चुनकर आए हैं और टैक्सटाइल मिनिस्टर ने भी अभी गुजरात में ही जाकर फॉर्म भरा है। कृषि मंत्रालय में जो राज्य मंत्री हैं, वे भी गुजरात के हैं और मिनिस्टर ऑफ स्टेट फॉर होम अफेयर्स, जिनकी काँस्टिट्यूएन्सी में यह सब कुछ हुआ है, वे स्वयं भी गुजरात के हैं, उन्हीं की काँस्टिट्यूएन्सी में सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ है। मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि वहां पर प्राइम मिनिस्टर गए, वहां के लिए 500 करोड़ रुपये एनाउंस करके वापस आ गए, लेकिन अभी तक भी वहां कुछ नहीं पहुंचा है। 500 करोड़ रुपये से वहां फ्लड की सिचुएशन में कुछ फर्क आएगा, ऐसा मैं नहीं मानता हूँ। गुजरात में इतने बड़े पैमाने पर जान-माल का नुकसान हुआ है, हर तरफ समुद्र की तरह पानी फैला हुआ है, हाइवे भी टूट चुका है। हमारे हाइवे मिनिस्टर भी गुजरात के ही हैं। हाइवे टूट जाने से वहां लोगों का आपस का सम्पर्क टूट गया है, कोई वहां नहीं जा सकता है, एनडीआरएफ की टीम भी अंदर के एरियाज में नहीं जा सकती है और लोग घरों से निकल नहीं पा रहे हैं। एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन की ओर से लोगों को कहा गया कि आप अपने रिलेटिक्स के यहां चले जाएं, हम आपको वहां से निकालकर कोई सुरक्षित जगह नहीं दे सकते हैं।

महोदय, प्रेस के अंदर 25,000 लोगों के बेघर होने की बात आई है, लेकिन वह तीन दिन पहले की बात है। आज की तारीख में कम से कम एक लाख से ज्यादा लोग बाढ़ प्रभावित लोग हैं, जो अपने-अपने इलाकों के अंदर फंसे हुए हैं। लेकिन वहां की सरकार की ओर से हमारे चीफ मिनिस्टर केन्द्र सरकार को रिक्वेस्ट कर रहे हैं कि आप उनको पैसा दो, ताकि ये सब चीजें जल्दी से जल्दी ठीक हो सकें।

मेरी एक विनती और भी है, जिस तरह अभी मेरे भाई ओडिशा के बारे में कह रहे थे कि आप flood resistant shelters क्यों नहीं बनवाते? आपके पास में पैसा है, National Calamity Contingency Fund भी है, हर साल उसमें से आप स्टेट्स को पैसा देते हैं, यह बात अलग है कि वह

[श्री मधुसूदन मिस्त्री]

पैसा पांच साल के बाद आप Development Fund में ले जाते हैं। ...**(समय की घंटी)**... सिर्फ फ्लड पैकेज देते हुए फोटा छपवा दी जाए या एनडीआरएफ की टीम 10-12 लोगों को नाव के अंदर ले जाकर बचा रही है, इसकी फोटो छपवा दी जाए, यह बताने के लिए कि वहां पर बहुत काम किया जा रहा है, यह हमारे हिसाब से ठीक नहीं है। इस वजह से मेरी आपसे विनती है कि गुजरात के इन इलाकों के बारे में विशेष रूप से सोचा जाए और उन्हें जल्दी से जल्दी राहत पहुंचा कर वहां सामान्य जन-जीवन स्थापित किया जाए।

महोदय, दूसरी बात यह है कि जिस प्रकार से फ्लड के वाटर की फोरकास्टिंग हो सकती है और डैम में पानी कितना आ रहा है, उसे आप बता सकते हैं, तो उसी प्रकार से यदि फ्लड आने के बारे में भी कोई फोरकास्टिंग का मैकेनिज्म तैयार किया जाए, तो मेरे ख्याल से यह हमारे देश के लिए बहुत राहत की बात होगी।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I got two names late. But, I am giving them two minutes each. Now, Smt. Viplove Thakur. You have only two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANAND BHASKAR RAPOLU (Telangana): Sir, I had also given my name.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no. Your name is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... Just one second, let me check. No, your name is not here.

SHRI ANAND BHASKAR RAPOLU: But I had given, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But it is not here. ...*(Interruptions)*... Shrimati Viplove Thakur.

श्रीमती विप्लव ठाकुर (हिमाचल प्रदेश): उपसभापति जी, मुझे बोलने के लिए समय देने के लिए आपका बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद। मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहती हूँ कि जब फ्लड आती है, तो जो आपकी टीम यहां से वहां सर्वे करने जाती है, वह 15-20 दिन या एक महीने के बाद जाती है। जब वहां टीम पहुंचती है, तो जिन इलाकों में पानी भरा होता है, वह भी तब तक वहां से निकल जाता है और जो फसल भारी बाढ़ के कारण खेतों में लुढ़क जाती है, धूप लगने के कारण वह भी खड़ी हो जाती है। इस प्रकार से लोगों का जो नुकसान हुआ होता है, उसका ठीक प्रकार से आकलन नहीं हो पाता है। इसलिए मेरा आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से निवेदन है कि जैसे अभी गुजरात, आंध्र प्रदेश और असम में बाढ़ आई, तो आप immediately अपनी टीम को वहां जायजा लेने के लिए क्यों नहीं भेजते हैं? टीम के देर से पहुंचने के कारण बहुत देर हो जाती है और लोगों को समय पर रिलीफ नहीं मिल पाती है। इसलिए मेरा निवेदन है कि इसे बहुत जल्दी किया करें, जिससे वहां के फार्मर्स और गरीबों को रिलीफ जल्दी से जल्दी मिल सके।

महोदय, अभी मुझसे पहले बोलने वाले माननीय सदस्य ने ठीक कहा कि जो हमारे हिमाचल प्रदेश या देश के अन्य हिली एरियाज में क्लाउडबस्ट होता है, उसके प्रेडिक्शन के लिए क्या आप हर

जगह डॉपलर्स लगाने का प्रयास करेंगे, क्योंकि जब तक पहले पता नहीं चलेगा, तब तक हम वहां से लोगों को कैसे बाहर निकालेंगे? मैं निवेदन करना चाहती हूँ कि ये दोनों चीजें बहुत जरूरी हैं। यही मेरा आपसे निवेदन है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Mr. Gohel. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Mr. Deputy Chairman Sahab, I had also given my name. ...*(Interruptions)*...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No; no. It had come very late. Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... See, those who are really interested, should give their names before the discussion starts. If the name is given after the discussion has started, the Chair will have the discretion to decide according to the time available. So, I will decide. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री चुनीभाई कानजीभाई गोहेल (गुजरात): उपसभापति जी, मुझे इस विषय पर बोलने के लिए समय देने हेतु धन्यवाद। मैं नेशनल कैलेमिटीज की जो बात करने जा रहा हूँ, वह गुजरात के संदर्भ में करने जा रहा हूँ। गुजरात में अभी जो बारिश हुई है, वह बारिश नहीं है, बल्कि जल-प्रलय है। इसकी सूचना मिलते ही हमारे प्रधान मंत्री जी यहां से वहां के लिए तुरन्त निकल पड़े और वहां के मुख्य मंत्री और उप मुख्य मंत्री को साथ लेकर प्रभावित क्षेत्रों का दौरा किया। यहां कहा जा रहा है कि इसका सर्वे करना चाहिए, तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि सर्वे कब करना चाहिए? अभी तो उन्हें मदद पहुंचानी है, उनके खाने का इंतजाम करना है और उन्हें प्रभावित क्षेत्रों से बाहर निकालना है। वहां हमारी स्टेट सरकार ने छः हेलीकॉप्टर लोगों को निकालने और सहायता पहुंचाने के लिए लगा दिए हैं। वहां से लोगों को ट्रांसफर कर दिया गया है। वहां 80 से 100 के बीच में लोग मरे हैं, लेकिन सर वहां हजारों की संख्या में एनिमल्स मर गए हैं।

महोदय, ऐसा जो भी हादसा होता है, वह कुदरत की तरफ से होता है। कभी भी ऐसा मैनपावर से नहीं किया जाता है। मैं थोड़ा अलग तरह से कहना चाहता हूँ कि इसी बात को लेकर हम सारे के सारे लोग, किसी पर कीचड़ न उछाल कर, एक डेपुटेशन लेकर, इसके लिए हमें काम करना चाहिए। इस बारे में हमें सभी को गम्भीरता से विचार करना चाहिए कि अगली बार जब नेशनल कैलेमिटी आने वाली है, तो उसके लिए हम क्या कर सकते हैं।

श्री विश्वजीत दैमारी (असम): सर, असम की जो बाढ़ की समस्या है, उसके ऊपर ही मैं मंत्री जी को कुछ कहना चाहता हूँ। यह मुद्दा बहुत ही serious है और सब बोल चुके हैं। वहां की जो situation है, अगर उसको देखा जाए, तो यह सिर्फ इसी बार की बात नहीं है, बल्कि हर साल असम में बाढ़ आती ही है। वहाँ कुछ इलाके ऐसे हैं, जहाँ पर हर साल ऐसा होता है, बाढ़ आती ही है। जब वहाँ फ्लड आ जाती है, तब हर बार उस समय पर relief और shelter की प्रॉब्लम आ जाती है। तो इसलिए

[श्री बिश्वजीत दैमारी]

वहाँ पर कुछ flood-affected लोगों को, for the time being, shelter देने के लिए किसी high land पर permanently एक जगह रखने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। क्योंकि जब वहाँ पर फ्लड होने से affect होता है, तो वहाँ से लोगों को किसी high land पर लेकर आना ही पड़ता है, लेकिन उनके रुकने के लिए भी जगह नहीं रहती है, तो उसके लिए वहाँ पर कुछ permanent व्यवस्था कर दी जाए। वहाँ पर जो flood relief immediately नहीं पहुँचती है, तो हम अगर 4-5 districts में किसी गवर्नमेंट बिल्डिंग के अन्दर ही flood relief को in advance store करके रख दें, तो जो हंगामा होता रहता है, उतनी समस्या नहीं आयेगी। ...**(समय की घंटी)**...

इसके बार, मैं अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ, यह असम की एक बहुत बड़ी डिमांड है, लेकिन इस प्रॉब्लम को असम सरकार सुलझा नहीं सकती है। अगर असम की इस फ्लड प्रॉब्लम को solve करना है, erosion and submerge से protection देना है, क्योंकि यह लाखों-करोड़ों की समस्या है, तो केन्द्रीय सरकार की तरफ से सीधे जिम्मेदारी लेकर इस समस्या का समाधान करने की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। मैं मंत्री जी से आज यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या हमारी सरकार इस तरह की जिम्मेदारी लेगी?

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to call the attention of the Union Government on their unpreparedness, or, poor and weak preparedness to tackle the flood situation in the country. Earlier, it was estimated that there was about 4 crore hectare of land in our country which was flood-prone, but it has now doubled to about 8 crore hectares due to the climatic and environmental complications. Earlier, there used to be only three months' flood complications in the country. But, now, between June and December all along it is there, and even at unexpected places we are facing floods. If a scientific assessment/study is to be considered, between 1978 and 2008, there were 2,500 flood incidents, whereas between 2008 and now, the number has doubled. The flood recurrence has a direct relevance with environmental and ecological complications. The situation of having more than 15 cm of rainfall is automatically leading to some sort of small or bigger floods.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, put your question.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: Cloudbursts and glacier ...*(Time-bell rings)*... and the environmental complications.....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You need not educate us now. You put your question.

SHRI ANANDA BHASKAR RAPOLU: The sea level rise is also going to be a bigger complication. Sir, I am not to make a score or to educate, but in this backdrop, I would like to ask the hon. Minister : Are you going to have a multi-disciplinary and integrated approach for tackling floods, instead of just treating it as a disaster? Detection of disaster is also very weak. Under these circumstances, alongwith the Ministry of Home Affairs, if you include the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and also the Ministry of Agriculture in this activity, then only will you be able to properly address the aftermath and preparedness for the floods. I would like to know this from the Union Home Minister. Thank you very much.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Sir, first of all, I would like to thank the hon. Member, Shri Ripun Bora, for bringing this Calling Attention. In all, about 20 hon. Members have participated in this. Sir, I would like to be very precise. If I respond to all the queries that have been raised by the hon. Members, it will take very long. Moreover, many of the issues that have been raised are long-term issues and they are connected with policy matters. Here, Sir, we are discussing about the flood situation which is prevailing in this country.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA) *in the Chair.*]

So, I would be very precise. I would request the hon. Members to seek a discussion some other day on disaster management for a larger picture, and to understand how, in the whole globe, each and every nation is dealing with the challenge of disaster, be it man-made or natural. Sir, it is a larger issue. Today, I would be responding very specifically to the queries that have been raised. Since 20 hon. Members have raised this issue, I may not be dealing with every one of them but I will be covering some of the issues raised by the hon. Members.

Sir, first of all, the major floods started in North East and then it spread across almost every part of India. Today when I made the statement, in the statement, the total number of death was mentioned as 508 but while I am speaking to you, the latest figure is 600 and the total inmates in relief camps are 2,25,998 and the total crop area affected is 2,40,504 hectares. Now, some of the States have faced severe nature of floods, some States have faced moderate floods and some States are even rainfall deficit. That is why some of the hon. Members have raised this matter that some States are facing drought issue and the other States are facing the flood issue. So, there was discussion on both

[Shri Kiren Rijjiu]

issues, the discussion on flood as well as on drought. Now, today, we are discussing about the flood which started in North-East. While talking about Assam, three hon. Members of Parliament, including the one who initiated the discussion, Shri Ripun Bora, had rightly categorized that the situation in Assam is very grim, very severe. Now, describing or declaring a particular calamity as a national calamity is not enough. We have to treat the problem in the manner in which it deserves. The problem in Assam and the surrounding States of Arunachal Pradesh, Manipur and all that is of a severe nature. So, when it is a disaster of a severe nature, the response of the Government is also corresponding to the requirement on the ground. Now, some of the hon. Members have asked as to why the Government acts only after there is a disaster. That is not the case. Even when it comes to the question of funding, releasing of money, this is also not the case as some of the hon. Members have said that why we released money only after the disaster has struck. That is not the case. Now, let me give the provisions. The provision is very clear, simple and it is streamlined. Every State has been given money which is released in the first week of April of every financial year and that is in the kitty of the State Government. That is advance money which will be required at the time of emergency. Then, you have second instalment. Depending on the requirement for the nature of disaster which every State faces, this money is used. When you exhaust that amount, then Centre will definitely fund it and there is a system. But without waiting for the second instalment, whenever there is a disaster, the inter-Ministerial team is sent. The issue raised by Viplove Thakurji is not correct. The inter-Ministerial team, which she referred to, is to assess the damages caused by any kind of disaster whether man-made or natural. For immediate requirement, the money is already with the State Government. This inter-Ministerial team is sent if you need additional amount. It is not easy to assess the total cost of damages at one go. It takes time. There are systems. There are items being approved by the Finance Commission and as per the rules and prescribed norms, you have to come to the particular amount that how much a State requires. That is why the inter-Ministerial team has to go. Now to say that the system reacts very late, it may not be appropriate. Recently there was a cloud-burst. As you were saying that please predict the cloud-burst, I had stated in the previous discussion on the same matter that cloudburst is a phenomenon the cause of which is very difficult to decipher. It is also difficult to predict it because it happens in a very small pocket of any given area. Scientifically, world-wide, efforts are being made, but it is not easy to predict. I was one of the persons who got caught into the cloudburst.

You must have read in the newspapers or saw in the television that four of our people, including the Wing Commander, senior pilots had lost their lives. They were on a rescue mission and the pilots did not anticipate that there would be a cloud burst. They were on their way back to the headquarters after the rescue mission. On the way, there was a cloud burst and their plane crashed. They died and their dead bodies could be retrieved only after the second day. My plane also made a forced landing. Luckily, there was a field there and we survived. So, it is not that the people working on the ground are not adaptive to the situation. They are there. Sometimes, may be for political reasons or for your constituencies' sake, you raise certain issues to which the Government has to respond. But, at the same time, we must also appreciate people working on the ground. Day and night, our NDRF men are at work. It is not that they are sent there only when there is a disaster. They are deployed in advance. There are regions created countrywide.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Sir, there cannot be any political interest in such situations. We have no political interests.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Please, I am coming to Odisha.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Please do, but there cannot be any political interest for any Member here on this.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: All right. That is why, when NDRF teams are deployed, it is based on experience and based on the regional requirement. It is not as if we send these teams only when there is some sudden occurrence or disaster. When there aren't adequate NDRF teams, we have instructed other paramilitary forces and Indian Army personnel to get into areas where they may be required. So, it is not just the NDRF, the entire Central Forces are there.

Sir, now comes the question of responsibilities of the State. Some hon. Members have stated that the Centre is washing off its hands by stating that the primary responsibility lies with the State Government. This is not a question of running away from responsibility. The States are the authority there. The Central Government cannot overtake district administration. Naturally, the State has to respond. You cannot deploy Central forces in every village. There is a State Government apparatus; there is already a system in place. I can tell this hon. House that in the last three to four years, each State Government and Union Territory has improved its capacity to deal with natural disasters. When I took over

[Shri Kiren Rijjiu]

as Minister and I was given charge of the Department of Disaster Management, the United Nations appreciated our efforts and, within 11 months, I was made the regional champion of the entire Asia-Pacific region, not because we are extraordinary, but because we are honest in understanding the issues and making efforts. We have moved on from disaster management. Now, the question before the Government is how to mitigate the disaster risk. We have changed the way we have looked at and understood all these issues because it is not merely a question of rescue and relief operations; we have to look beyond. So, first point is the preventive steps. What are the steps which would mitigate all the possible losses that we are likely to incur? So, we focus on awareness creation. We conduct mock drills on a regular basis. Awareness camps are being held across the country. Recently, a South Asian satellite has been launched that is especially dedicated to forecast floods and other natural calamities. At the same time, when we assumed Government, the response time of the NDRF was more than two minutes. We thought that it must be less. So, we have developed a system where the response time is just one minute. Life cannot wait beyond a minute. We must put all our machinery in operation within one minute. I personally go to each NDRF camp and ensure that this one minute drill is followed so that in times of disaster, the response time is immediate. Time is very precious. समय के अभाव की वजह से किसी की जान जाए, यह हमें मंजूर नहीं है। इसलिए हमने कहा कि हम जब भी कोई rescue operation करेंगे, वह समय पर होना चाहिए। लोगों की जन्दिगी बचाने के लिए, समय पर operation हो। ...**(व्यवधान)**...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Sir, what about the clarifications that I had sought?

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I am coming to that. I am just making a statement that would address some of the issues that have been raised by many hon. Members here. That is why I wish to make some clarifications. There are some misgivings that the Centre is not releasing money or the Centre is late in responding to the situation, which is not the case. Disaster is not a political issue. So, we cannot afford to just sit back and respond whenever it is required. सर, आप असम से आते हैं। आपने असम का जिक्र किया। मैं आपको बताना चाहता हूँ। Let us be very clear. For Assam, in the last three years' time, we have released adequate and necessary amount whatever is being put forward as a demand. There is no money pending with us which the Assam Government has asked and whatever is required by the Assam Government. Sir, in the present situation, a total amount of 61,299 quintals of rice have already been distributed; 11,574 quintals of dal,

3,708 quintals of salt and 38,328 litres of M. oil has already been distributed. I was in close contact with the Chief Minister of Assam, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. When I visited Assam, two Ministers of Assam Government accompanied me along with some senior officials including the Secretary of the Water Resources Department and I visited three districts and had review meetings in two districts. I was personally satisfied with the manner in which they were dealing with the issues and mitigating the losses and were involving in rescue and relief operations.

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Whatever you have said about the relief, it is not the fact. Only 42 grams of rice per person up to 10th of July were given. ...*(Interruptions)*... But you said about quintals and all that. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Let the Minister finish his reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... If you are not satisfied, you can further put the question. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RIPUN BORA: You have seen the hunger of people. ...*(Interruptions)*... The people did not get relief. ...*(Interruptions)*... The Water Resources Minister was not allowed to go there. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You have finished your time. ...*(Interruptions)*... It is the time of the Minister to reply. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... if you are not satisfied, there are other avenues also. Let the Minister continue. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, Shri Ripun Bora is the person who moved this Calling Attention. He will have the right to seek clarification. I don't know why he is standing in between. Sir, let us be very clear. When disaster of a severe nature strikes, naturally the effect is going to be there on the ground. Whether it is the United States of America or Japan, which are supposed to be most efficient, there are bound to be miseries. What is a natural disaster? When disaster strikes, there are bound to be miseries; there are bound to be effects on the ground. Therefore, we have to bear with it. The flood situation is unprecedented in Assam and you expect that nobody should be affected. When you say that the situation in Assam is grim, it is a severe nature of natural disaster. Definitely, the people are going to face the problem. That is why the Government is. When I went there, I also met thousands of people there. I faced them. People said, "Where is rice? Where

[Shri Kiren Rijjiu]

are tents?" Then I instructed, whatever is there in the provision, there should be no delay in providing them because of human error; no intentional cause should be there which will affect any of the victims. These instructions are very clear. That is why, I am honestly saying whether it is Assam or the current problem being faced in Gujarat, the response has been — let us be very honest — the quickest possible. And, it is not that the Minister has to go and settle the issues on the ground. We are there to oversee and to ensure that the relief operations are going on as per the need of the people.

Sir, with regard to some of the accusations made that the Government has been very selective and that the Prime Minister has announced an amount of Rs. 500 crore for Gujarat and not for Assam, let me be very clear in terms of figures. So, we should not be confused about this particular sensitive issue. The Government of India cannot be biased in its approach and in its intent. It is very clear. An amount of Rs. 500 crore which has been announced for Gujarat, is part of the SDRF amount which is due to Gujarat, the same amount which is due to every State. It has already been demarcated. For NDRF, yes, there is a Committee headed by the Home Minister, where the Agriculture Minister and the Finance Minister are also members. That High-Level Committee, headed by the Home Minister, decides on the special grant under NDRF to be provided as a special assistance which is the result of the report submitted by the Inter-Ministerial Team. SDRF amount is a fixed amount. So, whatever is announced by the Prime Minister for Gujarat is not even the full amount that is prescribed and fixed for Gujarat. We are ready to give more money as and when that amount, which is available with the State Government, is spent. Now, I can mention the amount, which is available with every State, including Tamil Nadu. I can speak about the Chennai flood on how much money we have released and how much money has been used. If you see this data, it will take time. I will not read out the documents and all the figures. You will realise that every State has not completely used the amount provided under SDRF and NDRF as additional amount that we have given. The maximum money received by any State under NDRF has been received by the State of Karnataka for the drought. Then, subsequently, every State has got its due share. *...(Interruptions)...* Yes, I appreciate that Tamil Nadu has used. What I am saying is that there is no zero balance in the accounts of any State for SDRF. There is money left with every State Government. If any State uses that amount, definitely, the additional amount

will be provided. It is not a question of the Central Government doing a favour; it is the responsibility of the Central Government to give all kinds of supplementary help to the State Governments.

Now, Sir, I think I am taking too much of time, but there are too many issues. I will seek the apology of the House that I will not be able to respond to all the queries about which I have facts and figures and everything, but I can point out one or two important things. For Odisha, I have, on record, stated earlier also that for *PHAILIN* cyclone, Odisha Government has done a remarkable job. They have done it. That is why, on the floor of the House, I have remarked that the additional amount, whatever Odisha Government deserves, will be given. So far, for Odisha, we have released Rs.809 crore from NDRF. This has already been released for Odisha Government.

SHRI PRASANNA ACHARYA: Fund for Phailin was given much after the special grant. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I can give a clarification, but it will take time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You have already clarified that.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I have already given this figure regarding Odisha. Now, Sir, some important queries were raised. Whether it is West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu or any other State, it is not the Home Ministry alone which deals with this subject. As this subject-matter comes under the Home Ministry, I am responding here. We have the officials from the Central Water Commission; we have the officials from the Indian Meteorological Department; we have NDMA; and, we have many other Ministries which are directly linked in this entire effort. सर, इसमें एक मंत्रालय काम नहीं करता है, क्योंकि जो relief का मामला है, emergency का मामला है, उसे गृह मंत्रालय इसलिए देखता है कि गृह मंत्रालय को वह जिम्मेदारी दी गयी है और उसके पास फोर्सज हैं, इसलिए immediate respond करने की जो जिम्मेदारी है, वह गृह मंत्रालय के पास है, वरना जैसे bridge टूट जाता है तो bridge तो होम मिनिस्ट्री नहीं बनाएगी, ब्रिज Ministry of Road and Transport बनाएगी, रेलवे ब्रिज टूट जाएगा तो Ministry of Railways बनाएगी, कोई चैनल टूट गया तो उसे Ministry of Water Resources बनाएगी। इस प्रकार बनाने का जो long term काम है, वह तो सब जुड़ा हुआ है, co-ordinating Ministry के रूप में जो Inter-Ministerial Team जाती है तो उसको Joint Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs हेड करते हैं, लेकिन उसमें सारी Ministries के मेंबर्स होते हैं। सर, मैं आपसे क्षमा मांगता हूँ कि मेरे पास पूरा जवाब होने के बावजूद मैं सारे मैटर का एक-एक करके जवाब नहीं दे पाया।

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: I did not touch any State. I asked general question about the preventive measures, which the Government is planning.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): You can respond to some of the points in writing later. Now, we have another important Bill.

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: The Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Water Resources have to deal with it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, regarding Damodar Valley Corporation, because of the extreme rainfall in the entire catchment area, the authorities were forced to release the water, and water from Tenughat as well as Panshet was released with due consultation with the officials of the West Bengal.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE (West Bengal): When you released the water, we just wanted prior intimation.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: No water is released without prior information. It was in consultation with the officials of the West Bengal. No such act will be committed by any of the responsible technocrat or bureaucrat or engineer or the people working on the ground. They cannot commit such a mistake of releasing huge water without informing the downstream people. It will cause huge deluge in the downstream. It is not correct that things are done without consultation with the downstream people.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: The issue that these floods are man-made still remains.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: There are problems, some are natural and some /are man-made. When we talk about disaster management, we can have a long debate and discussion on the ground of policy matters but today, it is a Calling Attention, which is very specific. That is why, I have tried to respond to some of the immediate queries and some of the clarifications. I have the material to respond to all the queries raised by the hon. Members. If necessary, I can reach out, and I can send them the reply in writing. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will ensure that my officials will create a special note for each Member and we will send all the materials to each Member.

SHRI RAVI PRAKASH VERMA: There is a CAG Report regarding the flood management...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Okay. If Mr. Verma has sought it, let me reply. There is a study on the river system, which comes from the Himalayan region. As per the Expert

Committee, the de-siltation is not the ultimate solution. So, as per the expert opinion, we have to look for alternative mechanism to deal with the floods caused by over-flowing of river water from; Nepal, which affects the eastern and northern Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and then further areas; Bhutan, which affects Assam; and, Arunachal Pradesh, which also affects Assam. Similarly, in some other areas also, we have to act as per the recommendations and guidance of the technical committees.

With these few words, I can assure the House that the Government is fully committed to ensure that nobody suffers due to want of action from the Government of India or its bodies. We are fully committed. We re-assure all the State Governments that we will be there whenever you require us.

SHRI MD. NADIMUL HAQUE: Distinction between the man-made and natural floods should not be there.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: There will be no difference. Hon. Prime Minister, on the first day, directed me to go to the North-East. He cannot visit every place. But, the Ministers, the Government officials are part of the Central Government. Hon. Prime Minister is very clear that in terms of dealing with the disaster, we must give top priority to deal with the disaster, whether it is man-made or whether it is natural.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Minister, one Member raised the issue about forecasting of floods. A Committee of Parliament is going through this issue. Forecasting of floods is not impossible. Many other countries have done it. The Parliamentary Committee is also considering the matter, and, I think, they will submit their report very soon.

I think, that is also an aspect on which the Minister can study and have some concrete report. You can consider the floods in some parts of the country as national problem, because those States, in a way, are not very capable to deal with that huge proportion of the problem. I think the Government at the Centre declaring it a national problem or calamity should not be a problem.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, as I have stated, I fully agree with your suggestion. As I also stated, all the problems wherever they may happen, in any part of the country, are a national problem. There are some disasters which are treated as disaster of severe nature. When they are of severe nature, then the intervention of the Government of India will be in proportion to that.

Sir, regarding forecast, I would ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI D. RAJA: Sir, as. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Mr. Raja, please let him complete.

SHRI D. RAJA: As long-term solution, is there any thinking in the Government on interlinking of rivers?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, presently regarding interlinking of rivers, the National Water Development Authority is assigned with this task of exploring various river interlinking projects in the country. You would know that the Ken-Betwa Interlinking Project has already been taken up by the Government after consultations with two States. One is Madhya Pradesh and the other is Uttar Pradesh. The task of interlinking of rivers has been assigned and it is being given due priority. ...*(Interruptions)*...

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: You have not thought of the Brahmaputra. ...*(Interruptions)*... Give it in writing at least. Are you planning to help Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and other States?

SHRI RIPUN BORA: Sir, if it is paucity of time, reply is not required. He can take note of this and he can give me the reply in writing. I want to draw the attention of the Ministry to this issue. Will the Ministry think of having bilateral talks with two countries? One is China and the other is Bhutan. Just now the Minister very rightly said, the floods in lower Assam are because of big dam of Bhutan. They release water at their whim and because of that floods in lower Assam occur. This is about bilateral talks with Bhutan. Similarly, the floods in the Brahmaputra originate from China at Tibet Border. China has constructed a mega dam at Zangbo. What will happen if no bilateral talks are held there? At their whim they will release water and the whole of Assam will be washed away. We need these two bilateral talks at international level. And at the State level, will the Minister ask the NHPC to review their project on the Subansiri river in his State of Arunachal Pradesh where the NHPC is constructing a big dam. It is going to pose a great threat. You know about all this. Will it be considered or reviewed technically? Next is NEEPCO. The Ranganadi floods of Lakhimpur District are because of the big dam of NEEPCO. These are the issues. Will the hon. Minister take note of these issues and address them?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Please take note of these issues.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Sir, I asked three questions. And I mentioned three problems that Odisha is facing right now. One is about the damage to the railway bridges. The National Highways have been affected. And in the area of telecommunications, we are facing a big problem in terms of mobile communication and other connectivity.

Sir, according to hon. Minister's reply, this is not just connected to the Home Ministry. For different issues, we have to communicate with different Ministries. We have spent almost two hours discussing this big issue. More than 20 Members have spoken on this. The entire nation is worried and concerned. Will the hon. Minister tell me that for the restoration of the National Highways, my Government has to speak to the Transport Ministry? For the construction of railway bridges, shall we go to Suresh Prabhujī, the Railway Minister? For the telecommunication problem, to restore the telecommunications and mobile services, should we go to Ravi Shankarji's Ministry? They should have been here to answer all our questions and queries. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): I think the Minister will coordinate that and take it up. ...*(Interruptions)*... अब हो गया। He has already ...

श्री रवि प्रकाश वर्मा: सर, नेपाल में भारत सरकार द्वारा एक पंचेश्वर dam बनना था और उसके लिए treaty हुई थी। वह अभी तक नहीं बन पाया है, जिसके कारण border areas में बहुत दिक्कत हो रही है। हम जानना चाहते हैं कि वह कब तक बनेगा?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): It is a bilateral issue. I think you can take it up with the concerned hon. Minister. ...*(Interruptions)*... Thank you. ...*(Interruptions)*... He said that he will look into it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: There is an assurance from the hon. Minister that he will answer this immediately. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, I will respond to each hon. Member and at the same time, an inter-Ministerial team will go to each State. It will recommend. We will coordinate. You don't need to run. We will coordinate. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: But, Sir, these things need immediate action. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: That is why, a team will be sent. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): A Central team of all the Ministries or a combined team will go and they will assess it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

प्रो. राम गोपाल यादव (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, माननीय मंत्री जी के सामने अभी river linking की बात रखी गयी थी। कई वर्ष पहले, जब मुलायम सिंह जी चीफ मिनिस्टर थे, केन्द्र और उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के बीच में केन को बेतवा से जोड़ने के लिए एक MoU sign हुआ था, जिसे केन-बेतवा प्रोजेक्ट के नाम से जाना जाता है। कई वर्ष हो चुके हैं और ऐसा लगा था कि इस प्रोजेक्ट पर काम शुरू हो जाएगा। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि इस पर काम कम शुरू होगा और कितने दिनों में इसे पूरा किया जायेगा?

श्री किरन रिजिजू: सर, मैं इस बारे में तुरंत बोल नहीं पाऊंगा, लेकिन जैसा कि मैंने पहले जिक्र किया, मध्य प्रदेश और उत्तर प्रदेश के बीच में यह concern है और सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने कमेटी बनायी और दोनों को consult कर के MOU sign हुआ था। जब MoU sign हो गया तो जिम्मेदारी बनती है और उस पर कार्यवाही होनी चाहिए। मैं आपको assurance दे सकता हूँ कि इस पर तुरंत कार्यवाही के लिए हम प्रयास करेंगे और कदम उठाएंगे।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHUBANESWAR KALITA): Thank you. The Minister has given assurance. I think some Members have to go to BAC also. So, we will now have an important Bill, the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public Private Partnership) Bill, 2017. Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey to move a Motion for consideration of the Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public Private Partnership) Bill, 2017.

GOVERNMENT BILL

The Indian Institutes of Information Technology (Public - Private Partnership) Bill, 2017

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move:

That the Bill to declare certain Indian Institutes of Information Technology established under public private partnership as institutions of national importance, with a view to develop new knowledge in information technology and to provide manpower of global standards for the information technology industry and to provide for certain other matters connected with such institutions or incidental thereto, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration.

सर, हमारी सरकार ने इसे अप्रैल में लोक सभा में introduce किया। सर, 19 जुलाई को IIT PPP mode का यह बिल पारित हुआ है और इसे हम राज्य सभा में लेकर आए हैं। सर, IIT PPP mode के तहत देश में इस समय 15 IITs working में हैं। इस विधेयक को लाने का हमारा उद्देश्य एक