

Clauses 2-10 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, I beg to move:

That the Bill be returned.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): Now, we shall have further discussion on the situation arising out of heavy floods in various parts of the country and the relief measures undertaken by the Government, which was raised by Shri Kalraj Mishra on 14th August, 2007.

On 14th August, Shri Moinul Hassan had not concluded his speech. So, he can now proceed.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

The situation arising out of heavy floods in various parts of the country - *contd.*

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this issue. Sir, actually, I have forgotten at which point I was stopped while participating in the debate on 14th of August. So, I am starting right from the beginning of my speech.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA) in the Chair]

Sir, actually, I was discussing about the flood situation in Kerala. Now, the situation has changed throughout the country. Sir, the Government submitted a report that ten States were flooded. But, at present, we can see that nearly fourteen States are flooded. I am coming to the flood situation in Kerala. In the first instance, primarily the estimated loss was to the tune of Rs. 1500 crores approximately. The affected people mainly included the agricultural labourers, plantation labourers and the fishermen. Many people have become jobless due to this situation. Sir, the Government of Kerala had requested to allot, at least, Rs. 635 crore in cash. As far as help in kind is concerned, the respective Ministry of the Government of Kerala had requested to allot 80,000 metric tonnes of rice and 20,000 metric tonnes of sugar at subsidised rates as an urgent measure to help them to face the calamity. Sir, one Central Team visited the State of Kerala, and, it was reported in a newspaper — I was very astonished to see it — that nearly Rs. 40 lakhs were spent for the tour programme of the Central Team but nothing additional assistance was granted for those who were affected by floods in the State of Kerala. Sir, I know that the Central Team is very much required to assess the situation but when lakhs and crores of people are suffering due to floods, what is the problem to grant additional assistance to the States.

Sir, on behalf of the State of Kerala, I demand that adequate measures should be taken immediately to save the common people of Kerala, the common citizens of

our country, who are suffering due to the natural calamity being faced by the State of Kerala.

Now, Sir, I would also like to mention about the State of Bihar. Yesterday, I came to know that the death toll had reached up to 325. Sir, at present, Bihar is one of the worst affected States of our country. I am not going into the details of the condition of Bihar now. Many previous speakers have mentioned about it. But, I would like to mention here that under the leadership of Smt. Brinda Karat, two Members of our Party, who are Members of Parliament, visited Bihar. They extensively toured throughout the State, and, after that, they submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister regarding the flood situation in Bihar and the relief work that is very much required at present. Sir, in Bihar, people are living on the embankment. Women and children are suffering a lot. What a terrible situation going on in Bihar!

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Mr. Hassan, how much more time will you take?

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: I have just started, Sir. I have taken 15 minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): But, you have been allotted only five minutes.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: I do not know that, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): You know it. But you can take your time. Don't say that you don't know.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Thank you, Sir, for being generous towards me.

No sufficient relief work is going on in Bihar. My specific demand is, please face the people, please face the natural calamity and assist the Government of Bihar, not to some extent, but assist them fully. I would like to cite here only one example of the Madhubani district. It is the worst affected district. It is a famous place for Madhubani paintings. When our team went there, it was actually not 'surrounded' by water; the appropriate word would be, it was 'engulfed' by water. People are forced to do paintings, because there is no other means of livelihood. So, such relief condition is going on in Bihar. I am again requesting the Government to take into account the situation and face the natural calamity which is going on in Bihar as well as in other parts of the 14 States of the country. So far as West Bengal is concerned, three-fourth districts are in a very distressed condition. Over 200 people have already died. Side-by-side floods, river bank erosion problem is also there in my district, Murshidabad, in Malda in north Bengal and in other parts of the States. We are talking about erosion problems throughout the year, but it is not receiving any serious attention on behalf of the Government of India. I again raise the issue of floods as well as the problem of river bank erosion.

So as far as North Eastern Region is concerned, I came to know through some report that out of 60 years of Independence, 59 times floods have occurred in North Eastern Region, particularly in Assam. What is the planning of the Government of India regarding Assam? I remember that in 2004, a Committee was

set up under the Chairmanship of Central Water Commission. The Committee was formed in August, 2004 and they submitted a report in December, 2004. A lot of discussion took place regarding the recommendations of the Committee. They suggested different types of schemes, one short-term and one long-term. But, nothing has been done in Assam or the neighbouring States so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister and the Government what has been done with regard to the recommendations of the Committee which was formed and which submitted its report in August, 2004 and December, 2004 respectively. Our party and our delegation submitted a memorandum before the hon. Prime Minister. We have demanded for foodgrains to the affected people for four months. I came to know yesterday through a newspaper that 3 lakh tonnes of foodgrains were provided to Bihar. It is a good sign. But, our demand is to give it further for four months. Our second demand is to build a flood centre for the river area so that when flood comes, people can get shelter in that particular area. It is also a demand of different States which are flood-prone. Thirdly, this time there is a huge shortage of kerosene oil in the rural areas. Adequate kerosene supply should be continued.

My fourth point is that under the NREG Act, work to construct roads and building houses should be intensified.

My fifth proposal is that since severe crop damage is taking place, the insurance claims should be settled shortly. People should be given quality seeds as early as possible, so that they can take next cultivation. These are the short-term measures that the Government should take in general.

My next point is that the flood control measures should be reviewed. Maintenance of embankment should be done. People are living there for many years. What is happening near riverbeds and embankments? Rivers are not in a position to carry more water. If it continues raining, it will flood every area.

Maintenance of embankment is very necessary. In this relation, I would like to say that today in the Question Hour there was a question on dredging. Yesterday, we discussed the Inland Vessels (Amendment) Bill, 2005. Mr. Ahluwalia is here. He also raised the issue of dredging. Dredging is one of the important subjects. Floods also.

Today, in the Question Hour, there was a question on climate change. We are talking about global warming. We must consider why the climate is changing. Why is it going on? Another question is that an international treaty is there involving India, Bangladesh, and Nepal. We must reconsider all these things. What is needed is desiltation of the major north Indian rivers like the Ganga. It is very much required today. The quantum of water flow to riverbed is constantly declining. It is a trend that we are seeing in West Bengal and also in other parts of the country.

Sir, many times, we talk about relief work. I have seen the report of the CAG. It is related to Maharashtra. In 2005, the CAG reported that out of the total relief work, only 25 per cent goes to the ultimate beneficiary. Next year, in 2006, the situation became a little bit better. It said that 43 per cent of the total relief sanctioned both by the Centre and the State reached the ultimate beneficiaries. That is what is going on. So who will take care of it? Monitoring is one of the best

methods. On the ground level, we should provide a monitoring system. Otherwise, ultimate beneficiary will not get the relief we are talking about.

I have had an opportunity to hear Late Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in one meeting. He has said that if we grant one rupee in Delhi, only 14 paise reach the ultimate people, the poorest of the poor. It is also reflected in the CAG Report. It is reflected everywhere.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY (Karnataka): Sir, I was there. It was 17 paise.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: There is not much difference between 14, 15 and 17. But ultimately people are the loser. It is a natural calamity which will be faced by the Government of India and the State Governments together. It is needless to say. I will raise one question at the end of my speech. The National Disaster Management Authority has been formed. But, my observation is further strengthened that neither it's mandate nor the resource allocation has been decided so far. So, I would like to request that it is a tragic incident every year in our country. People are suffering from floods, erosion, hailstorms, etc. So, what are we doing? We are the people's representatives. We are coming here representing lakhs of people. We have some commitment to the people. We should do something, at least, to save our beloved countrymen, those who have lost their valuable lives in different parts of the country. With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Thank you. Now, Shri C. Perumal. Technically you have six minutes, but, the kind of discussion that we are having, we will be a bit liberal. ...*(Interruptions)*... I said that you have six minutes, but feel easy. Cover more points if you can. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI C. PERUMAL (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir. On behalf of the AIADMK Party, I rise to participate in the debate on the flood situation in the country. Floods cause annual destruction and also generate annual discussion in Parliament. Maybe, if floods are effectively controlled, Parliament would be dried up of discussion on one of its pet subjects.

Sir, we may proudly say that our river valleys were cradles of civilization, but, today I lament that they have become graves of civilization. The loss of human lives, the loss of cattle and other living beings and the loss due to destruction of crops and property on account of perennial floods over the past 60 years of independent India, particularly our persistent failure to considerably minimize the damage due to floods, are serious blots on our national pride. On the one hand, we claim to become super power in another dozen of years, and on the other hand, the colossal damage caused by floods, continues unabated. There seems to be no perspective planning, if not to conquer, at least, to control floods.

Floods stand out from earthquakes and Tsunami because floods come with proper notice. Natural disasters which strike mankind without notice should certainly be called natural calamities. Floods, except the flash floods in urban areas, strike people after it swells the rivers steadily. We know the season, we know the extent of rainfall and we also know when the danger marks are crossed. Thus, floods come to us with notice and we can easily judge, in advance, the damage it can cause. I would therefore like to put floods in the category of incidents which may be called "Annual Avoidable National Damages".

It is a national shame that we continue to lose lives and property due to floods with no significant control on the damage. It is a clear demonstration of our under development. Floods will come, quietly take away the lives of people and cattle, wash away property and crops, Government will make an assessment, relief will be provided, some deaths due to drowning will be prevented by pressing the Army into action—these are routinely happening. We are yet to develop a long-term policy for substantially minimizing the loss of lives, crops and property. It is high time that such a policy is framed together by scientists, researchers, administrators and managerial experts. Parliament should discuss it and put a minimum credible structure in place to avoid the annual affair of death and destruction caused by floods.

This year's floods have been the worst in the recent memory. Floods this year have claimed 1258 lives, displaced 31 million people across 20 States and Union Territories, damaged property worth Rs.12.68 billion, destroyed 68,160 livestock, affected 2.1 million hectares of crops, damaged 5,92,427 houses and completely destroyed 1,31,754 dwelling units. The Government has every fact and figure in this regard. Here, I would like to assail the Government's attitude of giving a political angle, sometimes, to relief measures. If there is a Government of the same party in the State as at the Centre, then the Centre, without hassles, would rush relief, and its extent would be more than what the State has asked. If it is a Government of the opposite party, the response will be lukewarm, relief would move from the Centre at snail's pace, that too, in an order far less than what the State has demanded. This condemnable attitude of the Central Government requires to be amended with more objectivity in assessment of damage and provision of relief. When floods come, political parties should refrain from fishing in troubled waters. The man who dies in a ruling party's State and the man who dies in the opposition-ruled State has only one life, and that too, of the same value. The Central Government should never see the death and destruction caused by floods through the political prism.

In order to build objectivity in the assessment of damage and provision of relief, and to avoid bureaucratic delay, there should be well settled standard operations procedure against damages caused by floods. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Can he read from the verbatim text?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Take it easy. Don't be that technical...*(Interruptions)*... He is trying to pull your legs. Go ahead.

SHRI C. PERUMAL: We have got interpreters for all the languages except Tamil...*(Interruptions)*... No, no. The House has to arrange Tamil interpreter. I can raise a discussion. All the languages are protected except Tamil. What is the reason?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Mr. Perumal, you are fully protected. Have I told you anything? You go ahead.

SHRI C. PERUMAL: The Centre and the States must evolve a cooperative mechanism to deal with floods on long-term basis. Villages must be empowered

even by amendment of the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules of the Constitution to have both financial and strategic powers and to have physical infrastructure ready for tackling damages caused by floods. The statistics relating to village population, the crops in the fields, the number of cattle and other such vital parameters essential for assessing damage caused by floods are always available with the local administrative machinery. The extent of men, cattle and crops lost must be a matter of quick calculation by the local political administration like panchayats. The cost of damages, as worked out by the village bodies, must be almost final. The States must have powers to divert unspent funds from other heads to relief measures on an immediate basis, which is the first phase of providing money to panchayats to ameliorate the sufferings of the people caused by floods. The final phase is the release of money to cover the exact cost of damages calculated on the basis of per capita cost of human life and cattle lost and per acre of crops of various varieties destroyed. The cost may be shared on 20:80 basis by the States and Centre. For this purpose, it should be mandatory for all States and the Centre to reserve 5 per cent of the budget for meeting such costs.

On a long-term basis, both the Centre and the States must apply their energies to geo-physical solutions. We must specially construct a network of canals to spread out swelling waters from the rivers both, for storing rain waters and for mitigating the rising rivers. In this connection, I would like this House to recall the visionary scheme of Puratchi Thalaivi in making it compulsory for individuals and urban and rural planners to have the rain water harvesting structures in every dwelling unit with the multiple objectives of storing rain water for drinking purposes, reducing the wastage of waters and lowering the impact of floods. The scheme was acclaimed by the whole world, and I urge upon this Government to enforce a National Scheme of Rain Water Harvesting structure in each and every existing as well as future houses all over the country and name the National Scheme after Puratchi Thalaivi as a minimum honour to her bold and meaningful initiative in Tamil Nadu. Sir, dedicated village guard forces must be raised to undertake this construction work of special canal network to suck in the excess river waters from the rivers during rainy seasons. It may be taken up under the National Rural Employment Programme. Habitations routinely inundated by rivers must be identified and the people must have two alternative habitats, one during non-flood seasons and another, a very restricted makeshift arrangement for stay with rationed food, during flood seasons. The local administrative machinery must compulsorily shift people from their regular habitats to these makeshift arrangements during those particular months, whether floods come or not. It should be a standard operating procedure. Habitations in routinely flood-affected areas should be slowly discouraged. Plantations and crops suitable for non-flood seasons must be raised in fields in routinely flood endangered areas to minimise the damage caused by floods to crops.

The villages in areas routinely affected by floods must be equipped with necessary physical infrastructure like boats, life saving vests etc., to save people and cattle from being drowned and destroyed by floods. The designs of housing in these areas should be modified in such a way that houses are built a few feet above ground level to survive waters of reasonable depth inundating them, besides the alternative make-shift arrangements in place for flooding seasons. As we have earthquake resistant houses, we must also have flood-surviving houses.

As far as the destruction caused by flash floods in urban areas is concerned, we need to have a key component of preventing flash floods as vital part of our Master Plans. It is, again, a shame that in highly developed cities we lose lives to floods. It may happen in the United Kingdom and the United States in the same way, but that is no solace for our suffering. Let our urban planning, with our best brains, guide these nations too, to minimise the damage caused by flash floods in mega cities. Let our urban planners and researchers be the pioneers of a city planning which averts the destructive effects of flash floods.

What we require, therefore, is a long-term strategy to save human lives, cattle, crops and property from continuous annual destruction by floods. We are not conquering nature, but we should hope to regulate it to our fullest advantage. Our nation, a few days back, marched into the 60th year of our freedom, but not without the fear of floods. Let us resolve to enslave our rivers to our advantage and free the people from the fear of floods with freedom, both for men and nature. Nature may be aimless but men have aim, and that aim is to plan to control floods. Should we do that or should we continue to perish, is the question that must be answered immediately. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Hon. Members, it is 5 o'clock. I have to take the sense of the House. Can we continue because this is an important discussion?

प्रो. राम देव मंडारी (बिहार): सर, कुछ देर चला लीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): कितनी देर?

प्रो. राम देव मंडारी: सर, कम से कम एक घंटा और चला लीजिए। बहुत इम्पोर्टेन्ट विषय है? ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): मोइनूल हसन जी ने तो बोल दिया। He wants that we should close now.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, I am sitting here. ...*(Interruptions)*...

एक माननीय सदस्य: गृह मंत्री जी का बयान ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: The next day. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): What did you say?

SHRI R. SHUNMUGASUNDARAM: The next day we can have it.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): So, we close now.

श्री आर. षण्मुगसुन्दरम: सर, इसे अगले दिन में रखा जाए।

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Sir, it is a very important issue.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): छह बजे तक तो चलाया जाए? Let the House do some work also.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: We can continue, Sir.

श्री कलराज मिश्र (उत्तर प्रदेश): चलाइए।

5.00 P.M.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): चलाए? ठीक है छह बजे तक चलाते हैं।

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI (Maharashtra): How many speakers are more? ...*(Interruptions)*... Can it be over today?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): No; it can't be over even if we continue till mid night.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Today, you put unreasonable restrictions on the time of speakers. ...*(Interruptions)*...

You will have to put unreasonable restrictions on the speakers, if you want to finish it today. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): No, I couldn't hear you.

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: If you insist on finishing it today, then, you will have to impose restrictions which may not be very reasonable. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): Even then it will not be finished. We can't finish it today. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: So, I think, to do justice to the subject, you postpone it. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): So what will be better?

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: To do justice to the subject, you postpone it.

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): पोस्टपोन तो होगा ही, लेकिन जितना काम हो सकता है, उतना काम तो किया जाए।

SHRI SHARAD ANANTRAO JOSHI: Okay, Sir. ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): ऐसा करिए कि अभी थोड़ी देर तो चलने दीजिए। Let us do like this. Let us listen to Prof. Ramdeo Bhandari. Then we will reconsider it. भंडारी जी बोलिए।

श्री राजनीति प्रसाद (बिहार): सर, भंडारी जी के बाद मेरा भी नाम है।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): एक ही पार्टी के सब लोग आज ही बोल देंगे!

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं आपका आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ और माननीय सांसदों का भी आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ कि उन्होंने मुझे आज बोलने का अवसर दिया। महोदय, मैं कहाँ से शुरू करूँ और कहाँ खत्म करूँ, यह मुझे थोड़ी परेशानी में डाल रहा है। मैं जिस जिले से आता हूँ, उस जिले की चर्चा अभी मोइनुल हसन साहब ने की है। वृंदा कारत जी वहाँ गई थी। वहाँ गोली चली थी। मधुबनी में बाढ़ पीड़ितों पर गोली चली थी, एक ठाकुर मारा गया था, और दो गरीब घायल हुए थे।

गोली सामान्य स्थिति में नहीं चलती है। वहाँ ऐसी स्थिति थी कि बाढ़ पीड़ितों को जिन्हें सहायता की आवश्यकता थी, जिन्हें राहत की आवश्यकता थी, उन पर गोली चली। हम सभी को गृह मंत्रालय की तरफ से किताब के रूप में एक रिपोर्ट मिली है। मैं गृह मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने अपने मंत्रालय की ओर से एक बहुत ही समेकित रिपोर्ट तैयार करवाई है। 20 राज्यों में एक और संघ शासित प्रदेश में बाढ़ आई है। उनमें से 10 राज्य ऐसे हैं जिनमें पूरी तरह बाढ़ आई है। बिहार बाढ़ से सबसे पीड़ित सबसे बड़ा राज्य है। मैं कलराज मिश्र जी तथा और भी माननीय सांसदों का आभार व्यक्त करता हूँ कि उन्होंने अपने भाषण में बिहार के बारे में बहुत चिन्ता व्यक्त की है। बिहार में लगभग 2 करोड़ जनसंख्या बाढ़ पीड़ित हैं। जब गृह मंत्रालय की यह रिपोर्ट तैयार हुई थी, उसके बाद भी बिहार में बाढ़ की स्थिति में कोई विशेष सुधार नहीं हुआ है। कभी नदी में पानी आता है, कभी थोड़ा घट जाता है स्थिति वैसी की वैसी ही रहती है। अखबारों में जो लेटेस्ट रिपोर्ट छपी है, उसमें मरने वालों की संख्या 352 है। 20 जिले शुरू से ही प्रभावित हैं, 210 प्रखंड हैं। जब यह रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित हुई, तो उस समय लगभग 6-7 हजार गाँवों में बाढ़ आने की चर्चा की गई। इस समय अखबार में जो रिपोर्ट प्रकाशित हुई है, उसके अनुसार 9,064 गाँव हैं, 12.40 लाख हेक्टेयर में 338.24 करोड़ रुपए की फसल बर्बाद हुई है, निजी मकान 1,77,728 हैं, जिन्हें बनाने में 174 करोड़ रुपए लगेंगे। इस प्रकार बाढ़ से दो करोड़ की आबादी और हजारों गाँव प्रभावित हुए हैं। यह कोई पहली बार नहीं है कि बिहार में बाढ़ आई है। जब भी वर्षा ऋतु आती है तो मेरा ज़िला मधुबनी टेलीविज़न पर आता है। मधुबनी दो बातों के लिए प्रसिद्ध है, एक तो मधुबनी पेंटिंग्स के लिए और दूसरा बाढ़ के लिए। बिहार में अभी 44 जिले हैं। उत्तर बिहार के लगभग 20 जिले हर साल बाढ़ से प्रभावित होते हैं। हम यह मान कर चलते हैं, वहाँ की सरकार और वहाँ की जनता भी यह मानकर चलते हैं कि बाढ़ तो आनी ही है। बाढ़ का दीर्घकालिक सॉल्यूशन है, वह नहीं हुआ है, उसका कारण हम बाद में बताएंगे कि वह क्यों नहीं हुआ है? हर साल बाढ़ की तैयारी पहले से की जाती है। सरकार भी उसकी तैयारी करती है। बिहार में लगभग 3000 से अधिक किलो मीटर में 12 नदियों पर बांध बने हुए हैं। हर साल बाढ़ में वे बांध कहीं न कहीं से टूटते हैं।

मेरे गाँव होकर एक कमला बलान नदी जाती है। इस बार भी वहाँ पश्चिम की दिशा में बांध टूट गया है। बांध तो टूटते हैं, मगर इसके लिए सरकार पहले से तैयारी करके रखती है बांधों की मरम्मत की जाती है। गाँवों में झील या टापू जैसी स्थिति बन जाती है। गाँव से बाहर नहीं निकल सकते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति वहाँ पर अगर अधिक समय तक बनी रही तो जिले में जाने तक के लिए कोई रास्ता नहीं मिलता है। हेलिकॉप्टर के सिवा कहीं से कोई रास्ता नहीं था कि मैं अपने जिले में जा पाता। ऐसी स्थिति में आने वाली विपत्ति के लिए हमें पहले से तैयारी की जरूरत पड़ती है। अनाज जमा करके रखना पड़ता है, गोदाम में, स्कूल में या कॉलेज में जहाँ भी ऊँची जगह हो। कॉलेज में तैयारी करनी पड़ती है रहने की जगह के लिए क्योंकि बाढ़ में जो लोग घर छोड़ कर निकलते हैं, उनके लिए व्यवस्था की जा सके। ये सब तैयारियाँ, इस साल ठीक से नहीं हो पाई हैं। इस सब के लिए 393 योजनाएँ बनाई थीं, लेकिन 20% भी उनका कार्यान्वयन नहीं हो सका। हम जानते हैं कि बाढ़ आनी है, हमने उसकी तैयारी नहीं की, हमने भूल की।

जब बाढ़ आनी थी, तब परिवार के मुखिया को राज्य छोड़ कर बाहर नहीं जाना चाहिए था। वे विदेश चले गए थे। परिवार बीमार हो और मुखिया कहीं बाहर

चला जाए तो परिवार की क्या स्थिति होती है, आप उसका अंदाज़ा लगा सकते हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री कलराज मिश्र: तब बाढ़ तो नहीं आई थी।

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: लेकिन बाढ़ आने वाली थी। मैंने आपसे कहा ना कि हम लोग मान कर चलते हैं कि बाढ़ आनी ही है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री कलराज मिश्र: मैं समझता हूँ कि यह आरोप नहीं लगाया जाए ...**(व्यवधान)**...

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: मैं आरोप नहीं लगा रहा हूँ। मैं यह कह रहा हूँ कि अगर परिवार बीमार हो तो परिवार के मुखिया को ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसमाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): भंडारी जी यह बात कर रहे हैं कि मैनेजमेंट में भी एक विज्ञान हो तो अच्छा है। वह और कुछ नहीं कह रहे हैं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि (उड़ीसा): बिहार में डिप्टी सीएम का भी प्रावधान है ...**(व्यवधान)**...

उपसमाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): पाणि जी, आप बैठ जाइए ...**(व्यवधान)**... आप चेयर को देख कर बोलिए, आप उधर क्यों बोल रहे हैं।

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: नहीं-नहीं, मिश्र जी ऐसे ही बोल रहे थे। अब मैं मुख्य मंत्री जी का नाम ले रहा था और वहां पर उनकी संयुक्त सरकार है, तब वह कुछ तो बोलेंगे।

इस तरह स्थिति यह हो गई कि स्टेट में बिल्कुल अफरा-तफरी का माहौल फैल गया। ऐसे समय में हमारे दल के नेता श्री लालू प्रसाद जी, जो रेल मंत्री हैं, उन्होंने एक संयुक्त मैमोरेंडम ले कर प्रधान मंत्री जी से भेंट की। उस पर श्री राम विलास पासवान जी और लालू प्रसाद जी के हस्ताक्षर थे। वह संयुक्त मैमोरेंडम लगभग 10-12 एमपी, जिसमें राम विलास पासवान जी के भाई भी थे, जो लोक सभा में सांसद हैं, हम सभी लोग प्रधान मंत्री जी के यहां गए। प्रधान मंत्री जी ने बहुत ध्यान से हमें सुना। उन्होंने एक बात कही कि अभी तक बिहार सरकार की ओर से कुछ भी मांग नहीं की गई है। उनके साथ एक ऑफिसर बैठे हुए थे, उन्होंने कहा कि 550 करोड़ रुपये अभी-भी इस फंड में बिहार सरकार के पास हैं, जिसका बिहार सरकार उपयोग कर सकती है। उसका उपयोग भी अभी नहीं हुआ है, हमारे पास कोई रिपोर्ट नहीं आई। साथ ही हमारे पास लगभग 175 करोड़ रुपये तैयार हैं, जैसे ही वे उपयोगिता प्रमाण पत्र भेज देंगे, यहां से हम यह रुपया रिलीज़ कर देंगे। लेकिन कोई लेने वाला नहीं है। कोई लेने वाला नहीं है। जहाँ करोड़ों लोग बाढ़ में फँसे हुए हैं, वहाँ इसे लेने वाला कोई नहीं है। इतना ही नहीं ...**(व्यवधान)**...

श्री कलराज मिश्र: उन्होंने बाकायदा 320 करोड़ का मैमोरेंडम दिया था ...**(व्यवधान)**... जब सोनिया जी गई थीं और पाटिल साहब गए थे। ...**(व्यवधान)**... जब ये दोनों गए थे, तब दिया गया था ...**(व्यवधान)**...

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: उसके बाद आया होगा, मिश्र जी ...**(व्यवधान)**... उसके कुछ समय बाद ...**(व्यवधान)**... मैं बता रहा हूँ कि जिस समय हम लोग वहाँ गए थे, उस

समय तक कोई मेमोरेण्डम नहीं आया था। वह बाद में आया है। महोदय, मैं गृह मंत्री जी को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि जैसे ही उनके नॉलेज में ये सारी बातें आईं, उन्होंने और माननीय श्रीमती सोनिया गाँधी जी ने तुरन्त बिहार के दौरे का कार्यक्रम बनाया। जगह-जगह हेलिकॉप्टर से उतर कर बाढ़ पीड़ितों से रूबरू बातचीत की तथा उनके दर्द को जाना। फिर वहाँ से आने के बाद— आप जो कह रहे हैं, मिश्र जी, भारत सरकार ने कहा है कि हम बिहार सरकार की पूरी मदद करेंगे। सेना के चार हेलिकॉप्टर्स की व्यवस्था हुई। उस समय भी दानापुर में नावें थी मगर उपयोग नहीं हुआ। ऐसे बाढ़-प्रवण क्षेत्र में पहले से राहत तथा बचाव का प्रबन्ध करना बहुत आवश्यक है।

महोदय, दो तरह की समस्याएँ हैं। एक लॉग टर्म है और दूसरा शॉर्ट टर्म। शॉर्ट टर्म, जैसा कहा कि जो बाँध हैं, उनकी बाढ़ से पहले मरम्मत कर देनी चाहिए, जमींदारी बाँध भी हैं उस बाँध की भी मरम्मत कर देनी चाहिए थी। महोदय, दीर्घकालीन जो व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, उसके बारे में मेरे सामने एक बहुत अच्छा लेख है। वह उसी के सम्बन्ध में लिखा गया है। उसके अनुसार बिहार राज्य का 73 प्रतिशत क्षेत्रफल फ्लड-प्रोन है। लगभग 10-12 नदियाँ नेपाल से आती हैं। उनका 61 परसेंट पानी नेपाल में है। मैं बता रहा हूँ कि अगर आप रात में सोए हैं, आपके उत्तर बिहार में एक बूँद भी पानी नहीं गिरा हो, फिर भी सुबह उठ कर आपको लगेगा कि चारों तरफ पानी-ही-पानी है। उस पर हमारा कोई कंट्रोल नहीं है। नेपाल में अगर वर्षा होती है तो वहाँ से पानी आता है, रातों रात जमीन का स्वरूप बदल देता है। जमीन का स्वरूप कहीं ऊँचा तो कहीं गड़ड़ा हो जाता है। नदियाँ, सिल्ट भरने की वजह से, ऊँची हो गयी हैं, कंट्री साइड है, वह नीची हो गयी है। ऐसे में अगर थोड़ा भी पानी आता है, तो वह या तो ओवर टॉप कर जाता है या बाँध तोड़ कर बह जाता है और सैकड़ों-हजारों गाँवों को लील जाता है। यह स्थिति है बिहार की। ऐसी स्थिति में दीर्घकालीन उपाय बहुत जरूरी है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को बाढ़ से सावधान रहना पड़ेगा। कोई भी सरकार हो, उसे इस समय के लिए तैयार रहना ही पड़ेगा।

महोदय, दीर्घकालीन उपायों में नेपाल में जलाशय बनाना होगा। जब 2001 में बी.जे.पी. की सरकार थी, कुछ बात हुई थी। जो दीर्घकालीन उपाय हैं, उनके बारे में मैं कुछ कहना चाहूँगा। सप्तकोशी हाई डैम बहुदेशीय परियोजना, बराह क्षेत्र में। बराह क्षेत्र नेपाल में एक जगह है। कहते हैं कि बराह के रूप में जब भगवान का अवतार हुआ था, तो वहीं हुआ था। उसको हम लोग बराह क्षेत्र कहते हैं। दूसरा है— बागमती बहुदेशीय परियोजना, नूनथर में। वह भी नेपाल में है। कमला जलाशय परियोजना, शीशापानी, बागमती बहुदेशीय योजना एवं कमला बहुदेशीय योजना, गंडक, अधवारा समूह और महानंदा नदियों पर जलाशय, डाइवर्जन योजनाओं का सम्भावित अध्ययन किया जाए। ये सारी बातें हैं। यह सब कुछ नेपाल में होना है। जलाशय का निर्माण करना है, हाई डैम बनाना है। इस प्रकार यह सब कुछ नेपाल में होना है। जब यह नेपाल में होना है, तो नेपाल के साथ जो विचार विमर्श चल रहा है, उसमें थोड़ी-सी जल्दीबाजी करनी पड़ेगी। वह अलग देश है। उसके साथ बहुत होशियारी से बात करनी पड़ती है, ताकि उसके सेंटीमेंट्स को भी ठेस नहीं पहुँचे। उसके भी इंटररेस्ट्स हैं। वह भी अपना इंटररेस्ट देखेगा। इस प्रकार, दीर्घकालीन सोल्यूशन जब तक नहीं होगा, नेपाल के साथ समझौता नहीं होगा, वहाँ डैम नहीं बनेंगे, जलाशयों की एक श्रृंखला नहीं बनेगी, तब तक इसका परमानेंट सोल्यूशन नहीं होगा। बिहार सरकार बाढ़ से लड़ने के लिए तैयार नहीं है, नहीं तो निर्दोष लोगों पर गोली नहीं चलानी पड़ती।

उपसमाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): भंडारी जी, कितना समय आप और लेंगे?

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: सर, बस खत्म कर रहा हूँ। मधेपुरा के सोनवर्षा प्रखंड में लोग मारे गए हैं, इस समय भी गांव की जो स्थिति है, वहां लोगों के रहने की व्यवस्था नहीं है। सबसे अधिक दिक्कत तो महिलाओं को है कि शौच के लिए कहा जाए। यह भी एक बड़ी समस्या बनी हुई है। हमारी पार्टी की ओर से पका हुआ भोजन, खिचड़ी, इस बस की व्यवस्था दर्जनों जगहों पर हो रही है। संभव नहीं था कि कोई एक पार्टी सारी व्यवस्था कर दे, दर्जनों जगहों पर हमारी पार्टी... (व्यवधान)...

श्री रुद्रनारायण पाणि: भंडारी जी, मेरा आपसे एक अनुरोध है कि लालू जी के ऊपर राम विलास जी ने जो केस किया है आप उसका जिक्र कर दीजिए।

उपसमाध्यक्ष (श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया): आप यह क्या बात कर रहे हैं? यह क्या फ्लड की बात है? ... (व्यवधान) ... वह आप छोड़ो, यहां फ्लड की बात है। आप फ्लड की बात करो।

प्रो. राम देव भंडारी: शादी-ब्याह के समय ढोल कहीं बजता है और आप गाना कोई शुरू कर देते हैं।

महोदय, मैं कह रहा था कि सरकार को दीर्घकालिक योजना बनानी पड़ेगी। बाढ़ में जो मरे हैं, उनको पूरा मुआवजा देना पड़ेगा। मैंने समाचार पत्रों में पढ़ा है, कि नीतीश कुमार जी ने पंजाब के मुख्य मंत्री जी को निवेदन किया है कि वे पशुओं के लिए चारा भेजें। यह अच्छी बात है, सभी प्रदेशों से मदद होनी चाहिए। कोई भी राज्य हो, किसी की भी सरकार हो, जब ऐसी घटना होती है, तो सभी प्रदेशों से मदद होनी चाहिए, मगर प्रदेश सरकार का भी कुछ दायित्व बनता है। सरकार जब अपने दायित्व में कहीं कमजोर पड़ जाती है, तो मुसीबत बढ़ जाती है। इस बार यही हुआ कि पहले से तैयारी नहीं थी, परिवार के मुखिया बाहर चले गए थे, अराजकता की स्थिति बन गई थी, अफरा-तफरी हो गई थी, कलेक्टर एसओएस कर रहा है, बार-बार कह रहा है कि हमको मदद दीजिए। मगर उन्हें मदद नहीं मिलती है। कलेक्टर पहले से ही कह रहा है कि ऐसी स्थिति बन सकती है, मगर उस पर किसी ने ध्यान नहीं दिया। पूरा मैनेजमेंट चरमरा गया था, ऐसी स्थिति बन गई थी, जो नहीं बननी थी।

महोदय, बिहार की जनता का बड़ा भारी नुकसान हुआ है। इस नुकसान की भरपाई नहीं हो सकती है, मगर उसके घाव आप सहला तो सकते हैं, उस घाव को भरने का प्रयास तो कर सकते हैं। केन्द्रीय सरकार पूरी तरह तैयार है, नहीं तो इतनी जल्दी माननीय सोनिया गांधी जी, माननीय गृह मंत्री जी वहां मुआयना करने नहीं जाते, जगह-जगह हेलीकॉप्टर से उतर कर लोगों से बात नहीं करते। सभी ने बिहार के लोगों का दर्द समझा है। बिहार एक पिछड़ा राज्य है, आर्थिक रूप से कमजोर भी है, मैं इस बात को मानता हूँ। मगर इन्होंने बिहार की जनता के दर्द को समझा है। अपनी बात समाप्त करते हुए मैं निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि अधिक से अधिक, मैं आपकी तरह नहीं हूँ, जब बिहार में हमारी सरकार थी दिल्ली में आपकी सरकार थी यहां दिन-रात बैठकर पैसा रोकने का काम होता था। छोटी सी भी घटना होती थी तो उसको बहुत बढ़ा-चढ़ा कर आप बोलते थे, हम ऐसी बात नहीं करते, हम जनता के दुख-दर्द को समझते हैं, हम किसी राज्य या किसी सरकार की बात नहीं करते। उनके दर्द को समझ कर हम अनुरोध करते हैं कि भरपूर सहायता केन्द्रीय सरकार की ओर से बिहार सरकार को जानी चाहिए, इसके साथ ही जो दीर्घकालीन योजनाएं हैं, जो

नेपाल सरकार के साथ मिलकर बनाई जा सकती हैं उससे बाढ़ का परमानेंट सोल्युशन होगा, उसके बाद ही बिहार की जनता बाढ़ से राहत पा सकेगी।

महोदय, मैं एक बार फिर से बिहार सरकार को कहना चाहूंगा कि बाढ़ पीड़ितों पर गोली मत चलाइए, लाठियां मत चलाइए। आप मदद नहीं दे सकते हैं, तो प्यार से दो बात कर लीजिए, उनको समझा दीजिए कि हम आपके लिए व्यवस्था कर रहे हैं। बिहार में बुद्ध, महावीर हुए हैं, अहिंसा के प्रति बिहार की जनता कटिबद्ध है, वह हिंसा में विश्वास नहीं करती है। इसलिए सरकार भी हिंसा में विश्वास न करे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद।

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir. I am happy to see that our hon. Home Minister is present when the debate on flood situation is going on in the House. Sir, I share the strong feelings expressed by the hon. Members on the tragic losses occurred during these floods. The devastation is really very immense and the loss of human lives, loss of cattle, loss of property is immense. There is no question of denying this fact. We must adopt a two-pronged strategy to tackle floods because floods have become recurrent phenomena in our country. Not only floods, we witness droughts also. These natural calamities, how we are going to confront or we are going to face that is the issue which we really should discuss. As far as short-term strategy is concerned, the Government should rush all immediate relief to the affected areas and the affected people. I urge upon the Central Government to extend all possible help to all the States which have been affected by floods, and the States will have to mobilise their own resources to extend relief to the affected people. There must be proper coordination between the Central Government and the State Governments. It is of no use blaming each other at a time of natural calamity like this. But, having said this, I must point out that the State Governments have more responsibility because they are the immediate Governments which have to tackle the situation.

Sir, as a party, the CPI sent a delegation of two Parliament Members to flood affected areas in Bihar. They could visit only Begusarai and Khagaria. They could not visit Madhubani and Darbhanga. That was the situation there. After they came back, they, in fact, gave us a very disturbing report. The situation in Bihar was the worst. Now, I must tell this august House we will have to see what we can do in a given situation like this. Both the Centre and the States must work in coordination and provide all immediate relief to the people affected due to floods. But, at the same time, the Central Government and the State Governments must have some long-term strategy. Here I come to certain things which have been accepted by the UPA Government in its own National Common Minimum Programme. It addresses some of the issues related to floods and other natural calamities. In fact, the National Common Minimum Programme reads, "Long pending schemes in specific States that have national significance like the Sethusamudram Project, flood control and drainage in North Bihar", this requires cooperation with Nepal as well, "and prevention of erosion in Padma, Ganga and Bhagirathi. Flood control in West Bengal will be completed expeditiously. A flood prone area development programme will be started and the Central Government will fully support flood control works in Interstate and international rivers." I think, it is one of the well thought out strategies for flood control, in particular, for Bihar and West Bengal. And it talks about Nepal also. We will have to talk to Nepal also because we have some international rivers also. So, we have to see how the Centre has been thinking to

proceed on this because on Brahmaputra, we have the same problem. In north Bihar we have the same problem. There must be a long-term strategy to control these floods. Again, I must point out that the same National Common Minimum Programme talks about one more strategy: "The UPA Government will make comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country, starting with south-bound rivers." I do not know how far the Centre took the initiative to study this feasibility. Because it is an issue, now people talk about linking the southern rivers and it can be discussed at the national-level also. Somewhere, some beginning has to be made and that is not being done, that is what I try to point out. The Centre has not taken any initiative or enough initiatives on this issue because there must be some kind of a national opinion, national consensus also to undertake such a huge and massive programme. ...*(Interruptions)*...

So, I would like to know what initiatives the UPA Government has undertaken. The National Common Minimum Programme also speaks about exploring the possibility of linking sub-basins of rivers in States like Bihar, and these are all long-term perspectives. We do not address anything long-term. Whenever there is flood, we cry and we shout, and we try to put the responsibility on each other; but, we must, as a nation, as a people, have a long-term perspective. We have rivers and some are perennial and some are dried up and how are we going to address this issue?

Then, when we talk about floods, when we talk about drought, we must really address the question of preserving forest, conserving forests and I find in Orissa that we have floods and, at the same time, we have drought also in that State. Some part is flooded and some part is experiencing drought.

Recently, I came across a report which says that the State Government of Orissa has sent a proposal to the Central Government for really; handing over more than 3,000 acres of forest land to Posco. I am not discussing Posco issue here and that is a separate issue. Whenever an opportunity comes up, I would speak on Posco, but here my point is that the existing forest land, more than 3,000 acres, is handed over to Pasco when the whole world is discussing about global warming and preservation of forest, increasing the forest cover everywhere; but this is what is happening in our country. Then, how can we maintain the balance in our country? That is what I really urge upon the UPA Government to stand by its own commitments given in the National Common Minimum Programme for flood control, for linking of rivers. In particular, Bihar has several proposals. They will have to be considered. The State Government must take immediate relief measures and my party joins everyone of you in sharing the agony and the tragedy of the people and my party extends all sympathies. But expressing sympathy alone is not enough in the given situation. Immediate relief and long-term measures not only for flood control but for control of drought are necessary and both the Central Government and the State Governments must address this issue with some sense of urgency in the context of the emerging global warming. Thank you.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR (Orissa): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Sir, India is a land of rivers. Rivers are like our mother and lifeline of the nation. But during Monsoon flood causes destruction and devastation. The misery and suffering of people in villages increase. Agricultural

land, small mud houses, or domestic animals get destroyed. To fight flood very large Dam Projects like the Hirakud Dam on the river Mahanadi and the Rengali Dam on the river Brahmani in Orissa have been constructed but there has not been any change in the flood situation. During the present monsoon season lakhs of hectares of farm land and thousands of villages in Orissa only have been affected. In the past, when N.D.A. was in power, there was a scheme to interlinking major rivers. This was considered a very good idea not only to divert floodwater but also to distribute water during summer to dry areas. It appeals that there is no progress on the scheme.

Not only villages but also city like Mumbai, Kolkata, Ahmedabad, Surat including Patna, Bhagalpur, Dharbhanga and Cuttak get flooded due to bad drainage system during monsoon. So is the case of Sambalpur town in Orissa on the riverbank Mahanadi it had a good sewerage and drainage system in the past. But the main sewerage canal called Dhobijor Nala has been choked due to lack of maintenance, and due to growth of encroachment by people. Such cases are there in many other States in the country, which are confronted with a similar situation during monsoon. It also leads to health problem. Now it is for the Government of State what action plan has been drawn up to check flood. Every year this House discusses flood relief and thereafter nothing much is done other than some compensation, *ex gratia* payment for the death due to flood. Now I draw the attention of the House to the damage and destruction caused so far due to flood in Orissa. Orissa, the disaster zone of the country, has all along been at the receiving of nature's fury. It is severely ravaged by the recurrent floods, cyclones, and droughts during the past several years when its 70% population got exposed to these extreme events. Details of disasters/damage caused, as received from the State Government are like this. The current floods situation, in June-July, 2007, is a calamity of severe nature as the water levels had exceeded all the past records causing extensive damage to natural resources, physical infrastructure, and livelihood. Details of extent of damage suffered by the State during these floods are like this. The socio-economic impact is that the current floods have affected 13.32 lakh people, with loss of 32 human lives and crops in 1,20,761 hectares and with loss of livelihood to lakhs of people.

The State Administration has risen to the occasion and provided whatever help was possible within their means. The State Government has spent huge funds from its own resources for providing relief to the affected persons. For management of current floods the State Government has submitted a detailed Memorandum to the Inter-Ministerial Central Team for grant of immediate relief to the State and it request for financial assistance of Rs. 306.70 crore out of NCCF, restoration of CRF allocation for 2007-08 to Rs. 319.38 crore, special allocation of Rs. 27,810 Indira Awas Yojana houses for flood victims, immediate sanction of funds and 38,600 MT foodgrains to start employment generation programmes. I make an earnest appeal to the Centre that for restoration and rehabilitation works, the above help may be provided to my State Orissa at the earliest.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA): The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. on Friday, the 24th August, 2007.

The House then adjourned at thirty-five minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 24th August, 2007.