

# LOK SABHA

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## SYNOPSIS OF DEBATES (Proceedings other than Questions & Answers)

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Wednesday, July 25, 2018 / Shravana 3, 1940 (Saka)

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### SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) *Re: Special Category status to Andhra Pradesh.*

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS; AND  
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)**  
*responding to the issue raised by an hon. Member, said:* Hon. Member has expressed his anguish and pain over the division of Andhra Pradesh. While replying to No Confidence Motion, hon. Prime Minister had refuted the politically motivated allegations. He had also said that the Government of India is for the welfare of Andhra Pradesh.

(ii) *Re: Mob lynching incident at Barmer, Rajasthan.*

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS; AND  
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR)**  
*responding to the issue raised by several hon. Members, said:* Several incidents of mob lynching have also taken place in West Bengal, Kerala and Rajasthan. I will bring this issue to the notice of hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

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**\*MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

- (1) **SHRI RAKESH SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to start helicopter service from Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh to various tourist places in the State.
- (2) **SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH** laid a statement regarding need to withdraw draft notification declaring Palamu Tiger Reserve in Jharkhand as Eco-Sensitive Zone.
- (3) **KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL** laid a statement regarding need to address water-shortage problem in Bundelkhand region.
- (4) **SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI** laid a statement regarding need to set up a head post office in Sheohar district, Bihar.
- (5) **SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV** laid a statement regarding need to open branches of nationalized banks in rural areas.
- (6) **SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM** laid a statement regarding need to provide stoppage of Shakti Punj Express and Triveni Express at Meral Railway station, Garhwa district, Jharkhand.
- (7) **SHRI RODMAL NAGAR** laid a statement regarding need to establish Agriculture College in Rajgarh district, Madhya Pradesh.

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\* Laid on the Table as directed by the Chair.

- (8) **SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO** laid a statement regarding need to rollback the increase in school fee for students of non-employee category in Kendriya Vidyalaya run by Atomic Energy Education Society in Jadugoda, Jharkhand.
- (9) **SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY** laid a statement regarding need to upgrade the post office in Maharajganj district headquarters, Uttar Pradesh as Head Post Office and also set up a Post Office Passport Seva Kendra there.
- (10) **SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN** laid a statement regarding need to declare Rohtasgarh Fort in Bihar as a tourist place of national importance.
- (11) **SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI** laid a statement regarding need to set up an agriculture based industry in Bhupalsagar, Chittorgarh district in Rajasthan.
- (12) **SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL** laid a statement regarding need to run a local train from Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus Railway station to Bhiwandi Road Railway Station in Mumbai.
- (13) **SHRI RAJEEV SATAV** laid a statement regarding including nearby populous villages in Daman under Municipal area to ensure their planned development.
- (14) **DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA** laid a statement regarding peace talk with NSCN-IM.

- (15) **SHRI D.K. SURESH** laid a statement regarding crash in Cocoon prices.
- (16) **SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA** laid a statement regarding need to resolve problematic provisions in the proposed National Medical Commission Bill.
- (17) **SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA** laid a statement regarding curtailment of frequency of Rajdhani Express from Bhubaneswar to Delhi.
- (18) **DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE** laid a statement regarding acquisition of land under the Maharashtra Private Forest (Acquisition) Act, 1975.
- (19) **SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE** laid a statement regarding spread of fake news/messages on social media.
- (20) **SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR** laid a statement regarding need to include 'Thathera' caste of Bihar in the list of most backward Classes.
- (21) **SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA** laid a statement regarding need to provide special incentives and package to Punjab.
- (22) **ADV. JOICE GEORGE** laid a statement regarding the safety of Mullaperiyar Dam in Kerala.

(23) **SHRI RAJU SHETTY** laid a statement regarding need to provide reservation to Maratha community of Maharashtra.

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### **DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

*Re: Recent flood and drought situation in various parts of the country.*

**SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN** *initiating the discussion on behalf of Shri Jitendra Chaudhury, said:* At the very outset, I would pay my homage to the innocent people who have lost their lives due to flood and heavy rainfall throughout the country. The flood has affected Kerala, Maharashtra, Assam and some parts of Tamil Nadu. Alleppey and Kottayam districts of Kerala are the worst affected districts. The intense rainfall has caused a significant damage to life and property. Out of 1033 villages, 965 villages have been affected in the hilly areas of Idukki. About 119 persons have lost their lives. Total crop loss is around 21,197.76 hectares. Over 413 houses have been fully damaged and around 11,403 houses have been partially damaged. The total estimated damage is about Rs. 1,384 crore. Cyclonic storms have caused huge damage to the fisheries and agriculture sectors of the State. The total loss is estimated at Rs. 22073.67 lakh. Intense rainfall and wind have cause severe damage to the animal husbandry and dairy sector. Infrastructure facilities are completely damaged in both the districts as also in many other parts of Idukki, Mallapuram, Kozhikode and Thrissur. The

State Government and the Central Government have to come together to deal with these issues. The Government of India is not ready to go beyond the laid down norms under the NDRF. So, the State is not getting the actual amount of compensation. The State Government has to bear a huge financial burden for providing relief to disaster victims. The Government has set up a National Disaster Mitigation Fund. The Central Government should also take the initiative to set up such a Fund. The Government of Kerala has requested for a comprehensive special package of Rs. 7340.40 crore for the victims of the Ockhi cyclone. This request was made four months ago but the State got a very meagre amount. There was a suggestion from Shri Swaminathan for a special package to Kuttanad. There was a mention of a special package for Alleppy, particularly Kuttanad district in the recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission. That recommendation has only partially been implemented. Though there is an Army unit in Kerala but that unit as well as the Air Force are not equipped well to carry out effective relief work. Functioning of the Indian Meteorological Department is not at all satisfactory. I appreciate the combined visit of hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs and others there after our all-party delegation met the hon. Prime Minister. I request the Government to increase the amount of compensation to Kerala. As far as Ockhi cyclone relief is concerned, we gave a representation asking for the Central assistance of Rs. 7,340 crore, but we got only Rs. 4,000 crore. So it is difficult for the State Government to meet all the

expenditure relating to relief. The norms have to be changed. The Government should send a Special Team and discuss with the Government of Kerala.

**DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:** India is a land of diversities. On the one side there is havoc of flood and on the other side there is drought like situation. Due to climatic change accurate forecast of weather is not possible. When we talk about monsoon in India that is about normal monsoon but its distribution is not normal. There is flood like situation in Rajasthan and we are facing drought like situation in the foothills of Himalayas. We always talk about flood and drought during the monsoon session whereas we should have a serious discussion in the winter session also on this subject as to how we are readying ourselves to tackle the flood and drought situation in the next year. We should formulate our policy as per that discussion. The NGT located in Delhi takes the decision in respect of the other parts of the country without lending a thought to the regional variations on the ground. The State of Bihar has been worst affected by flood which can chiefly be attributed to the concentration of silt in the rivers. Since the rainy season starts here during returning monsoon, obviously the condition shall worsen here. Hon. Prime Minister is very sensitive. Flood affected farmers received Rs.48,000 under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Even those who had not insured, were credited Rs.18,000 directly in their Accounts. Not just that, it was within 44 hours that all the roads under Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana got motorable. The principle reason for the incidence of drought situation is that we don't tend to look

at various areas in their specific perspective. Driven by the spirit of cooperative federalism, we will have to think as a unified nation and devise area wise policy. The provision of subsidy allotment is of such nature that each and every district receives subsidy whereas the fact remains that the geographical condition of various regions is markedly different. The only way out to desilt the rivers located in Bihar is to extract sands therefrom. The NGT also puts an embargo when it comes to resorting to certain remedial measures.

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** To begin with, I would like to pay homage to the 120 people who have lost their lives during this calamity. Within four months, we have lost more than 250 people because of these calamities. Sadly, a meagre amount is given to them. Kuttanad is the rice bowl of Kerala. This is a low level land. Hectares of paddy fields and cash crops has been damaged due to devastating flood and rains. The economic loss is yet to be estimated. The condition is very pathetic. The children and the senior citizens are suffering the most. The farmers have been subjected to not only mental agony but also financial losses. In addition, the poor fishermen too need special care and protection. Kerala being the third most densely populated has a high degree of vulnerability. As per the National Remote Sensing Centre of ISRO 50,007 hectares of land area of Kerala has been affected by flood. The incidence of flood has raised the groundwater level of the low-lying parts of Alappuzha and Kottayam making most of the toilets in the area non-usable causing severe threat to life. Even after this



very severe flood, and human casualties, the Central Government is unwilling to go beyond the laid down NDRF norms. It should be beyond the NDRF norms. While Kerala notified the Mitigation Fund and is utilising it effectively, the Central Government is yet to notify the NDMF and provide funds to the Government of Kerala for undertaking long-term disaster mitigation works. The funds available in the State Disaster Response Fund is too little to cater to the enormity of crisis. I would urge upon the Government to declare the flood and casualties caused by rain a natural calamity and take measures to declare an inclusive financial package beyond the norms. This apart, immediate steps should be taken to address such calamities in future.

**\*SHRI C. MAHENDRAN :**

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** Floods have caused considerable damage across India in this season. Many States like Assam, Kerala, Maharashtra, Gujarat, etc. have been affected. All cooperation should be extended by the Central Government to these States. The State of West Bengal receives water from the rivers like Damodar, Subarnarekha, Ganga, Padma, Mahananda etc. Apart from passing of heavy flood discharge, a huge amount of silt is also carried by these rivers, which gets deposited in the river beds leading to decrease of water carrying capacity in the rivers and drainage channels. The flood situation is aggravated

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\* Please see supplement.

when water is released by the Damodar Valley Corporation and people of Bengal are affected due to it. The State faced an unprecedented flood situation during the monsoon of 2017. The estimated cost of damages was to the tune of Rs.18,193 crore . However, the Central Government only granted an assistance of Rs.838.95 crore under the National Disaster Relief Fund. The State Government has formulated three comprehensive flood management projects with Central assistance under FMP. The work on Ghatal Master Plan was launched and proposal for obtaining investment clearance was submitted. The cost of the project is Rs.1238.95 crore and it has also been approved by the Government of India. But, the money has not reached the West Bengal at all. Funds for two ongoing projects under FMP had not yet been released. More importantly, the Government of India agreed to take up anti-erosion works on the banks of the Ganga for a total stretch of 120 kilometers. A preliminary project report identified 28.80 kilometers at an estimated cost of Rs.1000 crore in the districts of Malda, murshidabad and Nadia to take up anti-erosion works.

The Central Government should immediately provide adequate funds. The anti-erosion work was taken up at the international border and 100 per cent funding from Central Government of Rs.96.56 crore was approved. Only Rs.25.34 crore had been released by the Central Government in 2015-16. I request the Government to release funds in this regard.

**SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO:** The Prime Minister says that he wishes to double the income of farmers. For that, he has raised the MSP on rice but I can tell you that this will not benefit the farmers of Eastern India. The second Green Revolution remains just an empty rhetoric of the current Government. In Odisha the rainfall is erratic and unpredictable. It is because of climate change. Yet, the Government of India has been unable to devise a concrete plan to tackle the adverse impact of climate change on agriculture. Out of the Rs.2,340 crore budget for Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana in Odisha, a mere Rs.47 crore has been released so far. The Central Government has not taken a single step against the Chhattisgarh Government which has built an illegal dam on Mahanadi. The lack of drainage facilities on National Highways in the cities of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack is now causing a flood like situation in urban areas of Bhubaneswar and Cuttack. The average growth rate of agriculture has remained at below 1.5 per cent. This, coupled with demonetization, has crippled the farmers and landless labourers of Odisha. I am sure the hon. Minister will explain as to how much credit has been actually deployed to the agriculture sector. The Government is constructing the Polavaram dam which will inundate thousands of acres of tribal land. The Government should announce rake point at 30 railway station in Odisha to help the farmers. As regard Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, the Government must impress upon insurance companies to ensure that money is released in a timely manner.

**SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV:** The climate change is the main cause behind the conditions of drought and flood and in this regard I would like to know as to how many trees have been planted over the years and how many trees are alive in the country. During the previous 3-4 years, Maharashtra has been suffering from drought conditions. It has wreaked havoc with the crops and horticulture crops but the Government has been very stingy in providing financial help to the farmers. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has not been so much effective in providing succor to the farmers. The Government should ascertain as to how much money is being given by the insurance companies to the farmers. I would like to request that the bank loans of the farmers should be waived of in the time of natural calamities like flood and drought. In district Buldhana, just 18 per cent of the farmers have been given loans. None of the nationalized banks is ready to disburse loans to the farmers. The Government deposits money in the accounts of the farmers directly but for this purpose it should provide broad band facility in every village. Some tehsils of my district Buldhana suffer from low rainfall whereas other tehsils suffer because of excess rainfall thereby causing damage to crops. In such circumstances, we should provide compensation to the farmers on individual basis. Further, if there is drinking water shortage in any village, we should supply water according to the population living there.

**\*SHRI D.K. SURESH**

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\* Please see Supplement

**\*SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT**

**\*SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE**

**\*SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH**

**\*DR. P. K. BIJU**

**\*SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE**

**\*SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN**

**\*SHRI ARKA KESHARI DEO**

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):** Andhra Pradesh is not only battered by every kind of natural disasters but also by the A.P. Reorganization Act. The coastal region suffers repeated cyclones and floods. Calamity Relief Fund was constituted for each State with certain amount allocated to each State. It should be increased substantially to help the States affected by the natural calamities. We have to develop our capabilities in Seismology to be able to forecast such natural calamities. Special Category Status has not been give to it yet. For constructing the capital city of Amravati, a lot of funds is required. But, the Centre is going back on its promises. Even the creation of Railway Zone at Visakhapatnam is hanging in balance. Regarding Polavaram Project, 53 per cent of the work has been completed. I request the Government to release the balance amount of Rs. 1935 crore. Every year, Rayalaseema region is facing an extreme drought situation. To ensure continuous water supply to this region in the future, the completion of Polavaram Project is important.

**SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY:** We receive a total of 70,000 TMC of water in our country. In a country with a population of around 130 crores where agriculture is the primary activity, I want to ask as to why water is not used effectively. The Government should ensure judicious allocation of surplus water to the needy States. There should be no water wars between States. Our State also was deprived of water and rights to access water. The Government of Telangana has undertaken irrigation projects in massive scale in order to protect the interest of the people of the State in the event of drought or unforeseen climatic changes. Our efforts have already shown results as in the last two to three years the State has not witnessed any major floods in the region. Through our Mission Kakatiya, we are reviving 46,000 ponds and lakes in all the villages of Telangana. It has now been converted into a people's movement. Since 2014, 17,860 tanks have been restored and repaired at a cost of Rs. 9000 crore approximately. Our commitment to farmers has not only been restricted to paper. Under the Rythu Bandhu (Kisaan ka Dost) Scheme, we are providing an input grant to our farmers of Rs. 8000 per acre per year. This Direct Transfer Benefit will be provided to 58 lakh farmers in the State. We have also launched a Life Insurance Scheme for all the farmers. The scheme provides for life cover up to 5 lakhs to all the farmers between 18 to 59 years of age. The State Government will pay the premium of more than 50 lakh farmers to LIC.

**SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA:** Today, drought and flood are a common feature and their co-existence poses a potential threat which cannot be eradicated but has to be managed. Andhra Pradesh has a long coast line and is often devastated with floods. Uttar Andhra and Rayalaseema areas are drought hit. In the entire country the district which receives the lowest rainfall is Anantapur. This year, 121 mandals across the State have been categorized as drought mandals and 3.94 lakh acres are declared as famine struck. Even a farmer having 20 acres of land is not able to cultivate his land and as many as four lakh farmers have migrated from Rayalaseema for their livelihood to nearby areas. In Uttar Andhra, besides severe drought, there is fluoride issue. Adoption of micro irrigation techniques by farmers is the need of the day. However, such systems will need to be subsidized. Stringent application of water harvesting measures too is required at all levels. Waste water recycling facilities in urban and industrial centres should be allowed for non-drinking uses.

**SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI:** Bihar has not received rain so far and it is facing so much drought that cracks have been coming up in the land. Paddy growing farmers are in a pitiable situation. Due to drought the soil has hardened so much that it has become uncultivable. Farmers are doing farming by taking loans. I would like to request the hon. Minister to pay attention to the plight of the farmers in Bihar. In Bihar, 11 crore people are affected by this. There are 7 districts in the Taal area which provide grains to the whole country. The

government should take a decision at the earliest and declare Bihar drought affected.

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:** Several states in the country have received heavy rainfall causing floods over there. It has caused maximum damage to the crops, to the fields, to the farmers and to the poor. People are facing a lot of difficulties in Saurashtra and South Gujarat due to heavy rains. 789 villages in 11 districts in Gujarat have been badly affected. Around 1 lakh hectare land has been affected but our Chief Minister has sent 20 units of NDRF there and has made efforts to send cash vans over there. Water has been provided through tankers to the places requiring water. Before the rainy season, the Gujarat Government had launched 'Sujalam Sufalam Jal Sanchayan Abhiyaan' under which 13,000 ponds have been desilted and 5500 kms. of canal network has been cleaned. Around 32 rivers have also been revived. I would request the Government to use the technique of drawing clouds to the drought affected areas, if such a technique is available.

**\*PROF. SUGATA BOSE**

**\*SHRI PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI**

**\*SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA**

**\*SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP**

**\*SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL**

**\*SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI**

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\* Please see Supplement



**SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA:** Every year there is rain during monsoon session. Some parts face floods while others face drought. Maximum impact of natural calamity is on agriculture. We are facing the problem of water management. The biggest concern is that the water level in our reservoirs is decreasing. This is a matter of great concern for all of us. We should consider it seriously and provide solution in this regard. I would like to request the Government that compensation amount should be increased to at least Rs.10,000 per acre. Similarly, various inter-state issues should also be resolved. Construction of check dam is also very necessary. So mining and forest development subject should be attached with agriculture. Apart from that, farmer should be considered as a unit under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. There is also need to set up corporation for the better implementation of Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Similarly, Government should give utmost priority to resolve the water crisis.

**SHRI MADHUKARRAO YASHWANTRAO KUKADE:** The people of 22 villages of my Bhandara-Gondia parliamentary constituency had boycotted the bye-election due to the non-completion of Indira Sagar Yojana . Due to the non-completion of this project, agriculture has been affected in this area. So, it is my request to the Government that this project should be completed at the earliest. Similarly, Bawanthadi project should also be completed. Apart from that potable water is not being made available to the people living in the district headquarter of

Bhandara and 32 villages because of the inflow of contaminated water in Venganga in Nagpur. Similarly, Thiroda and Sadgorni taluka in Bhandara district have also been affected. These areas are reeling under drought situation. So Government should take steps to complete all the projects in Bhandara-Gondia district. Apart from that, I would like to request the Government that adequate compensation should be provided to the land owners affected by Bouth project. Union Government should cooperate in providing financial assistance. I would also like to request the Government that financial assistance should be provided for Dhampewada project and it should be completed on time.

**\*SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM**

**\*SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA**

**\*SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA**

**SHRI PRATAP SIMHA:** Because of heavy rains in Coorg, the entire road network is damaged. Even the national highways are not motorable. So, we were expecting a good relief package from the State Government. But we did not get it. I am really hopeful that the Union Government will certainly pay heed to our demands and help us. Moreover, power supply is completely cut off in Coorg and in many parts of Karnataka. Under the five years of Congress rule, we got only Rs.300 crore and out of which only 50 per cent of the money was released. It is only because of a non-functional Congress Government in the State that Coorg is

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\* Please see Supplement

suffering. A total of 9,163 houses have been damaged and 130 deaths have taken place in Karnataka. Yet an amount of Rs.187 crore has been lying with respective District Commissioner Offices. I request the Members of the Congress to ask their Chief Minister to come with a delegation to the Centre. We will certainly help you. We will stand by the people of Karnataka. Finally, I would request the Government to bring some changes in the NDRF guidelines. If the house is completely damaged or gets collapsed because of heavy rains, the maximum amount one can give for a family is Rs.1 lakh only. With Rs.1 lakh you cannot build a house or re-construct a house. So this amount should be increased.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** I would like to know from the Government about the status of the interlinking of river projects. I would also like to submit that this is the need of the hour that we should decide our duty and priority in this regard. Today water is our first priority. Maximum number of rivers like Ganga, Kosi, Gandak, Kamla, Mahananda, Balan are situated in Bihar but interlinking of 17 rivers has not materialised yet. During the last 70 years, only 25 to 30 per cent amount have been spent by the contractors, mafias and politicians for this purpose. I would request that inquiry should be conducted in this regard. Similarly, forest areas are also reeling under crisis due to the connivance of capitalists, mafias and industrialists across the country. In Bihar 18 districts are reeling under the drought like situation. So agriculture should be accorded the status of industry. Similarly, farmers sharecroppers should be included under the peasant category. Apart from

that, there is a need to interlink the rivers and more fund should be provided for the work related to canals and borings. It is also requested that a special package should be provided to Bihar, particularly for the areas of Kosi, Simanchal and Magadh. Desilting of rivers has also become essential because this is the main reason behind the flood. Similarly, I would also request that Bihar should be declared as a drought affected area.

**\*SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA**

**\*SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR**

**\*SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA**

**\*SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI**

**\*SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY**

**DR. ARUN KUMAR:** A very serious issue of flood and drought is discussed every year. First of all, the use of polythene should be stopped in any way in the country as it has two adverse impacts. First it disturbs the water percolation system and secondly it has destroyed the industry of plate making with leaves. I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister towards the fact that the concretisation of canals needs to be discontinued as it also disturbs the water percolation system. On the one hand, the concretisation of canals and on the other hand, developing rain water harvesting system are nothing else but sheer wastage of money. 36 districts of Bihar, namely, Jahanabad, Gaya, Nawada, Aurangabad

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\* Please see Supplement

etc. are severely drought affected. We are also facing water crisis. Somewhere ground water is not found even at 400 feet. I would like to request the Government to bring villages and farm lands back on the growth trajectory by implementing C2 formula as recommended by Dr. Swaminathan. Moreover, the mechanism of the procurement of foodgrains from the farmers should be streamlined so that there is no scope for the middle men.

**SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:** A large number of people from a number of States get affected by flood every year in the country. Some of the districts of Maharashtra have also been badly affected by flood which has claimed the lives of 123 persons. If I directly talk about Mumbai city, I would like to say that it is an unplanned city. The development plan was prepared after the establishment of the city. We could not construct storm water drains as the roads have not been developed with full width and as a result the people of Mumbai city have to face difficulties every year. A slew of measures were taken on the recommendation of the Chitle Committee which are certainly laudable. The river and drains are required to be widened and deepened in order to bail out the Mumbai city from this crisis. The contract system will have to be discontinued across the country to sort out all these problems as it consumes a large amount of time in the the planning process. I would like to request the hon. Minister of Road, Transport and Highways to hold a joint meeting of the Chief Minister of Maharashtra, the Mayor of Mumbai city and the Commissioner in order to solve the road-related issues so

that the people of this city could be benefited. The Union Government and the State Government should provide fund to the Mumbai Municipal Corporation.

**\*SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA**

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** I convey my sincere thanks to Hon. Minister of State for Home Affairs who visited the flood-affected areas and interacted with the affected families and revived the situation across Kerala and specifically in Kuttanad. The flood affected people of Kuttanad and Upper Kuttanad are living in relief camps which have run short of food, water, medicines, gas, vegetables, coconut oil, etc. The State Government is providing maximum support but we need more. As Kuttanad is below the sea level, even if it rains in Western Ghats, water comes into Kuttanad and it adversely affects the lives in Kuttanad area. Kuttanad-Alleppey-Changanassery Road that is the main road connecting Kuttanad and Alleppey to other areas has also got damaged and transportation system has collapsed. The first phase of the Kuttanad package is already over, but the second phase has not been taken up for want of fund. Hence, I would like to request the Government to implement the second phase of the Kuttanad package immediately according to the detailed report prepared by Dr. MS Swaminathan. The Agriculture Ministry under the RKVY and the Water Resources Ministry under the Flood Management Scheme should give sufficient funds. I would like to request the hon. Agriculture Minister and also like to request

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\* Please see Supplement

the hon. Water Resources Minister to have a meeting with the stakeholders concerned and sort out this problem and allot Rs.1,000 crore for restoring the *pedasagaram* outer bund. The Government allotted funds for an initial expenditure of only Rs.80 crore. That is a very small amount. At least Rs.250 crore has to be sanctioned for initial relief work. I also request that kuttanad may be declared as a Special Agricultural Zone.

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:** A damning revelation has been made under the report prepared on the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana by the Union Government that by the year 2025, the ground water for irrigation will be finished in Haryana, Punjab and Rajasthan. I regret to say that during the year 2016-17, hon. Minister of Finance had earmarked Rs.10,000 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana under the budget and everyone had felt that our former Prime Minister, Shri A.B. Vajpyaee's dream of linking the rivers will be realized. But, after revised budget for the year 2016-17, only Rs.5182 crore were allocated for this scheme and thus a reduction of 48 per cent was made. The need of the hour today is that water should be declared as national property. There are several cases of water sharing disputes in almost all States including Haryana. Even after the verdicts given by the Hon. Supreme Court, the disputes have not been resolved. Today, the requirement of water in Haryana is about 36 million acre foot but only 14 million acre foot water is made available for Haryana. I would like to ask whether the

Government would make earnest efforts to complete the Satlaj-Yamuna link river. I also made a fervent request to hon. Prime Minister to help resolve the Barwara link dispute. The Union Government had set aside Rs.1500 crore for the construction of Renuka dam in the last budget but after about one and a half year not a single step has been taken by the Central Government for the construction of this dam. There is also acute shortage of drinking water in hundreds of villages including the villages of my Parliamentary Constituency in Haryana.

**\*DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH**

**\*SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA**

**SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI:** Today, some areas are witnessing floods and some droughts in the country. The water flowing down from the hills of Nepal each year runs into Ghagara river through Gonda Faizabad and affects hundreds of villages causing damage to life and property including the crops. At present, all the districts of Purvanchal including Basti are facing severe drought conditions. Our former Prime Minister Shri Vajpyaee Ji had envisioned a grand scheme of linking rivers for permanent solution of droughts and floods. I strongly feel that this scheme is in the interests of the country and the farmers and, therefore, should be implemented. The Congress Government had given only Rs. 33,580 crore to the States under the State Calamity Fund but

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\* Please see Supplement



our Government under the leadership of our hon. Prime Minister has increased this allocation upto Rs.61,219 crore. Earlier, the farmers used to get compensation only in case their 50 per cent crops got damaged but our Government gives one and a half times more compensation in case only 33 per cent damage is caused to the crops. A dam should be constructed on the Ghagara river to get rid of the floods every year.

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN:** The recent floods have adversely affected 91 districts in 12 Indian States. Around 511 people have died and around 176 people are injured due to the floods. The worst affected State by this flood in this country is Kerala. Alappuzha, Kottayam, Pathanamthitta, Ernakulam, Thrissur and my district Kollam are the worst affected districts during the recent floods. The death toll comes to more than 1.18 lakh people. I would like to make one more suggestion regarding sea erosion. The entire coastal State of Kerala is adversely affected and the sea wall is totally dismantled. Therefore, sea wall construction should also be incorporated as a mitigating measure under the National Disaster Management. India is highly vulnerable to floods. Out of the total geographical area of 329 million hectares, more than 40 million hectares are found to be flood-prone. Seven million hectares of land is affected every year. Average damage cost per year is Rs.5600 crore. A very interesting study has been done by the World Bank which says that climate change will lower the standard of living of nearly half of Indian population by 2050. The worst affected States would be Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh. The basic and the scientific reason for the flood is nothing but climate change. India is one of the world's most vulnerable regions. My first suggestion is that we should have a long

term approach. Uncontrolled exploitation of natural resources, ignoring the ecology and environment in the name of development are the main reasons for the climate change. Everybody is concerned about the GDP and economic growth but ignoring the ecological and environmental aspects is resulting in climate change. The issue of climate change has to be addressed effectively. My suggestion is a National Wetland Conservation Act should be enacted by this Parliament to protect the wetlands. Let there be a national programme on de-silting of reservoirs so the sand for construction can be used and capacity of reservoirs will be augmented. I would like to suggest that a long-term contingency national plan has to be drafted so as to address the flood situation. I would like to request the Central Government to give a special financial package to the State of Kerala to meet up with the present crisis.

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**SNEHLATA SHRIVASTAVA**  
*Secretary General*

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*\*\*Supplement covering rest of the proceedings is being issued separately.*

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