

that can be discussed tomorrow so that we can have some degree of seriousness ... (Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): If the House so desires, I do not mind. Sompalji, please make your statement on the Gujarat situation. ... (Interruptions)...

श्री विष्णु कान्त शास्त्री: मैडम, ... (व्यवधान).....

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): शास्त्री जी, एक सदस्य के कहने से तो नहीं होगा, सारे सदन की जो राय है, वही होगा। ... (व्यवधान).....

No, no, this is not fair. Mr. Minister, please make the statement.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation caused by the cyclonic storm in Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): Madam, I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situation caused by the cyclonic storm in some parts of the States of Gujarat, Maharashtra and Rajasthan. A deep depression was formed on June 5, 1998 around 600 km. South-west of Goa which crossed over to Gujarat coast near Porbandar in the morning of 9th June, 1998 (0900 hrs (IST)). The Indian Meteorological Department had constantly been monitoring the movement of the system and was in regular touch with concerned State Governments. Thirteen cyclone warning bulletins were issued between 5th and 9th June by IMD through AIR and Doordarshan.

According to the latest information received from the Government of Gujarat, 637 persons have lost their lives in the districts of Kutch (428), Porbandar (19), Jamnagar (135), Junagadh (5), Bhavnagar (1), Amreli (1), Banaskatha (3), Surat (1), Bharuch (2), Rajkot (37), Valsad (4), and Nalsari (2). 850 persons received injuries and were hospitalised. 104 persons are missing. Due to wind

velocity of 70 to 150 km/hr., the microwave tower collapsed in Porbandar city resulting in disruption of telecommunication system. Many electric poles, telephone poles and trees have fallen. National Highways are operating normally. There have been some reports of road blockage and damage in remote areas. 64 relief camps have been opened and over 27,000 persons given shelter in the districts of Kutch, Jamnagar and Junagadh. The State Government is taking all necessary rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. According to the Government of Rajasthan, 5 persons have died in Barmer district and one in Jalore district. 4 persons have reported to be injured in Jalore district. Some parts of the districts of Barmer and Jodhpur received rainfall between 125 to 240 MM, causing damage to electric lines, uprooting about 150 poles and some trees, besides killing some heads of cattle.

According to the Govt. of Maharashtra, two fishermen are reported missing in Ratnagiri district.

Two columns of Army in Jamnagar and three columns in Porbandar assisted the civil authorities in rescue and evacuation of people from marooned areas, providing medical aid and distribution of food packets. 5 helicopters have also been positioned at Jamnagar and Bhuj. The petroleum installations like pipeline, tanks have also suffered considerable damage in Kandla. The Ministry of Petroleum has constituted a Task Force to monitor on daily basis the restoration of operations at Vadinar/Kandla and ensure maintenance of uninterrupted supply of petroleum products. The Power Minister Shri R. Kumaramangalam, has directed the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited to put at the disposal of the Gujarat Electricity Board its services, equipment and personnel for emergency restoration on transmission lines. Hon'ble Home Minister, Shri L.K. Advani is visiting the affected areas in Gujarat to review the relief and rehabilitation measures.

The Crisis Management Systems at the national level have been activated. Under the Calamity Relief Fund in 1998-99 an amount of Rs. 154.83 crores has been allocated to Gujarat, Rs. 75.64 crores to Maharashtra and Rs. 198.56 crores to Rajasthan. 75 per cent of this amount is contributed by the Government of India. First instalment of Central share of CRF for the current year amounting to Rs. 29.03 crores to Gujarat, Rs. 14.18 crores to Maharashtra and Rs. 37.23 crores to Rajasthan has already been released in April, 1998. In order to supplement the resources of the Government of Gujarat, the second instalment of Central share amounting to Rs. 29.03 crores has been released on 10th June, that is, yesterday, in advance. In addition, Rs. 50,000/- to the next of kin of each deceased is being released from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Before you call for clarifications, I would like to make one statement on what we have agreed. We have agreed that clarifications will be sought on the statement on Gujarat. After that the Mover of the Statutory Resolution will move the Resolution on this Bill. Thereafter we will adjourn. And it will be taken up tomorrow at 5.00 p.m.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): At 5.00 p.m. or after 5.00 p.m.?

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: If the House agrees, then, tomorrow after 5 o'clock a detailed discussion will take place. The Mover of the Statutory Resolution is here, he will move the Resolution.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): As decided by the House, I will go according to that. There is a list of Members before me, who would like to seek clarifications on the statement made by the Minister. Mr. John F. Fernandes.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): This is a tragedy of the century, Madam. As already mentioned by my colleague,

Shri Rajubhai Parmar, there are press reports that over 5000 people were barraged in Gujarat alone. But the Statement of the honourable Minister says that 550 persons lost their lives. When the whole system

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA (Karnataka): It is 637.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: It does not come close to 5000.

SHRI S6MPAL: I had said 637 in Gujarat because some information was received while we were sitting in the House. Six hundred and thirty seven is the figure.

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES: But still it is not close to 5000. That is my argument. Madam, when the whole communication system is disrupted — the honourable Minister did mention that the microwave tower at Porbandar has been uprooted — I don't know what the source of information of the Central Government is. Is the Government only relying on hearsay as far as records are concerned? We know that the cyclone started on the 5th. Three days prior to the cyclone, signal number six was hoisted in those areas, in the coastal Saurashtra area. This area is basically occupied by the Kharwah community. They are poor people who are involved in farming of salt. They live in shanties in the fields and there is no communication there. These people are totally illiterate. They are being exploited by the multinationals. This is the idea of the salt making companies. I would like to know whether the District Administration had taken any measures. The Minister did mention that it was broadcast on AIR and Doordarshan. These people do not even have electricity in those shanties. I would like to know whether the District Administration had made any attempts to shift these people. After the cyclone you have given relief to 27000 persons in 64 relief camps. But that is subsequently. This is subsequently. But no attempts were made, Madam, for three days, to shift these people because these people

were not aware of the colour of the flag. Flag No. 6 was hoisted in the coastal area. But somebody had to go and tell these people. These people could not leave the place because they had to collect the salt.

Here, I would like to know whether the Government would see that, in future, the Karwa community which collects salt in these coastal areas is insured. If they had an assurance from the Government that their production was insured, they would have left that area and gone away. They remained there only because they would lose their collection, the result of two months of hard work. As you know, this is, basically, a periodical business. It is done in the months of April, May and June. There was no safety and security for them, financially. Madam, this is the main reason why, when the cyclone hit that area, so many people lost their lives. The whole area was washed away. I am told, in this area itself, about 3,000 people were washed away. The Government has no report on it. I do not know on what basis the Government is saying that it is only 630.

Secondly, Signal No. 9 was hoisted at the Kandla Port. It indicated that there was danger. It becomes the responsibility of the port authorities. Kandla Port comes under the Major Port Trusts Act. It comes under the Central Government. When Signal No. 9 was hoisted at the port, it was the duty of the port authorities to see that the ships which were anchored within the port area were moved out into the deep sea. This was not done. For three days, this was not done. As a result of this, two ships got disanchored and the Kandla Port has been totally damaged. Both the berths, jetties, at the Kandla Port have been damaged because the ships which got disanchored came and hit the jetties at the port. I would like to know as to what action is proposed to be taken. This is important because this port cannot be operated for the next three months.

Repair work cannot be undertaken in the Monsoon season. Therefore, what action you are contemplating against these people?

Thirdly, the communication links have been totally cut. I would like to know whether the Signal Corps of the Army has established communication in that area. Since the microwave tower is not there, we have to have satellite communication. I would like to know whether the Government, whether the Central Government, has moved in this direction because Communications comes under the Central Government. I would like to know whether you have moved any equipment there to see that these areas are connected by satellite communication. Otherwise, it would be difficult for the people from this area to communicate with others, with their kith and kin. The entire area has been totally cut off.

Besides this relief, which is a regular feature of any Government — we act after the cyclone hits and not before it — I would like to know whether these precautions were taken. I am told, the Home Minister is there. Our President has also gone there. She has gone to visit these areas.

Lastly, Madam, I would like to know whether the Government would come before the House, at least, tomorrow — tomorrow is the last day — with the information as to what is the actual damage. The Government should also tell us whether it is a fact that 5,000 people are missing in the Gujarat area itself.

Thank you, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Shri Ish Dutt Yadav. He is not here. Shri Bratin Sengupta.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Madam, Vice-Chairman, if it is clear from what has been said by Mr. John Fernandes that the worst-affected have been the salt workers. (*Interruptions*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Mr. Parmar, please have some patience. Your names are there.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: The worst-affected have been the salt workers. As per newspaper reports, in the Karwas colony alone, more than 5,000 people are feared dead, after being drowned.

There is no need to describe the tragedy, the calamity, that has taken place. The question is whether the authorities concerned, whose responsibility it is, are undertaking relief operations on an emergency footing. The next thing is to take up reconstruction. I would like to know from the Government whether they are planning adequately for the reconstruction work, after the emergency relief operations are over, was flown. There was no seriousness on the part of the Government. No serious warning was given to the people. Actually the people were not told what was going to happen. They defaulted in flying signal No. 4 instead of signal No. 10. This has resulted in this mass destruction of men and material. Number two, as Mr. Fernandes just now said, many rumours are afloat all over the newspapers etc., and I am not going into each and every one of them. Kandla is one of the main export-oriented ports of our country. The reports are that Kandla will be out of order at least for three months. No exports will be possible from Kandla. What will be the alternative? This will affect our economy in a tremendous way. How do they seek to compensate it? How are other ports within our national territory and beyond our national territory to take up the burden? Are the nearby ports going to take up the burden? Is the Government going to negotiate with the appropriate authorities for that?

Madam, as I said, rumours are afloat like anything. I will be glad not to believe many of them. For example, if I am allowed to show this, this is today's

regional newspaper called the "SANDESH" from Ahmedabad and many other cities of Gujarat. It says that 5,000 people are dead. I will be happy, I will be glad if this is not true. But, if this newspaper has got a certain access which even the Army, Government and others have not got, then, really credit should go to it for bringing the facts to the people at this point of national tragedy. If this is not true, this kind of rumours and this kind of propaganda should be disallowed, and the Government should appeal to all concerned not to spread unnecessary scare and all that.

If the newspaper reports published from Ahmedabad and other places are true, the Army has not yet been able to get access to many of the areas nearby Kandla in particular and the *jhopad pattis* in particular. What emergency measures, even if it is necessary to have support from international, governmental and non-governmental agencies, does the Government contemplate? I request the Minister to spell this out.

Thank you.

श्री राजूभाई ए०परमार (गुजरात): महोदया, मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से कुछ क्लैरीफिकेशंस चाहूंगा। उनके वक्तव्य में जो मृतकों की संख्या बताई गयी है, वह 637 बताई गयी है। मैडम, टोटल 12 डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में इसका इफैक्ट हुआ है और 637 डेथ उन्होंने बताया है। लेकिन मुझे यह बताने में बहुत दुख हो रहा है कि जो फिगर उन्होंने बताया है, वह बहुत कम है। मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि उन्होंने जो फिगर दी है, उसका सोर्स ऑफ इनफॉर्मेशन क्या है। हमारे कच्छ के सांसद श्री अनंतराय जी वहां बैठे हुए हैं। हम डेली हमारे डिस्ट्रिक्ट के लोगों के साथ बात करते रहते हैं और वहां से भी हमें इनफॉर्मेशन आती रहती है। वहां की जो ग्राउंड रिएलिटी है, वह टोटली डिफरेंट है। यहां पर जो फिगर है, उसमें और जो ग्राउंड रिएलिटी है, उसमें बहुत बड़ा अंतर है। मुझे यह बताने में कोई ऐतराज नहीं है कि खाली कांडला में जब इस समुद्री तूफान का इफैक्ट हुआ तो पूरी कालोनी जो कांडला के बगल में पूरी बस्ती है, जहां करीब पांच हजार से ज्यादा लोग रहते हैं, वह पूरी की पूरी कालोनी समुद्री तूफान की चपेट में आ गयी और उसकी वेक्स कि जो

हाइट थे, वह सात मीटर से अधिक थी। वह करीब दस मीटर थी। तो जो फिगर बतायी गयी है, वह बहुत कम है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से गुजारिश करूंगा कि इसके बारे में इमीडिएट असैसमेंट टीम सेंटर की भेजी जाए। अभी वहां पर जो सिचुएशन है, कल से थोड़ी शांति होती जा रही है। तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से गुजारिश करूंगा कि सेंट्रल टीम असैसमेंट के लिए खास तौर से जो ज्यादा प्रभावित डिस्ट्रिक्ट है, जूनागढ़, जामनगर, कच्छ, पोरबंदर और राजकोट, उसके लिए टीम भेजी जाए। जो सिचुएशन का मुआयना करे कि क्या सही सिचुएशन वहां पर है, कितने लोग वहां मरे, कितनी प्रोपर्टी का डेमेज हुआ, कितनी क्रोप का डेमेज हुआ, कितना पशु-धन का डेमेज हुआ, इसकी पूरी जानकारी हो सके तो कल सदन के उठने से पहले हमको बताएं ताकि सदन को भी पता चले कि क्या परिस्थितियां वहां पर है।

दूसरी खास बात जो मैं बताना चाहता हूं कि यह कि इन्होंने जो रिलीफ कैलेमिटी फंड से इंस्टॉलमेंट रिलीज की है इसके लिए मैं इनको धन्यवाद देता हूं। सैकेण्ड इंस्टॉलमेंट ही इन्होंने एडवांस में दे दी है लेकिन जो प्रोपर्टी और अन्य डेमेज के फीगर आए हैं वे डेमेज फीगर बहुत ज्यादा है। हमारी रिपोर्ट के मुताबिक करीबन तीन हजार करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान पूरे इफेक्टिव एरिया में हुआ है। अभी जो धनराशि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से दी जा रही है वह बहुत कम है। तो मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय से गुजारिश करूंगा यह जो राशि दी है यह तो कैलेमिटीज रिलीफ फंड से दी है लेकिन जो एक्जुअल डेमेज है उसमें सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के जो भी कारपोरेशन वगैरह है उनमें हुआ है और स्टेट गवर्नमेंट का भी हुआ है। उसके बारे में स्पेशल कुछ प्रावधान करके स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को हैल्प किया जाए ताकि जल्दी से जल्दी जो लोगों का नुकसान है, उसके रिहैबिलिटेशन का काम भी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट कर पाए।

मैडम, एक दूसरी बात जो मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री महोदय के ध्यान में लाना चाहता हूं कि वहां जिन लोगों की मृत्यु हुई हैं उनमें ज्यादातर साल्ट वर्कर्स हैं, जो डेलीवेज पर वहां काम करने वाले हैं। उन साल्ट वर्कर्स को हम अगारिया बोलते हैं। मैक्सिमम जिनकी डेथ वहां हुई है वे सब डेलीवेजर्स हैं। और जो हाउसेज भी डेमेज हुए या खत्म हो गए हैं वे भी इन्हीं लोगों के हैं। तो मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूं कि जो ये गरीब लोग, अगारिया लोग, जिनका मैक्सिमम डेमेज हुआ है हाउसेज के जरिए, और उनके रिलेटिव्स भी काफी उसमें मर गए हैं उनको कुछ स्पेशल सहायता

सेण्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से करने के लिए मैं आपके माध्यम से गुजारिश करूंगा।

दूसरे, आज के टाइम्स आफ इंडिया में एक प्रैस रिपोर्ट है। माननीय मंत्री जी ने भी अपने वक्तव्य में बताया कि जो साईक्लोन आने वाला था उसकी इन्फार्मेशन 5 तारीख से लेकर 9 तारीख तक आल इंडिया रेडियो और दूरदर्शन पर बार-बार एनाउन्स की गई। लेकिन कल हमारे स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के होम मिनिस्टर श्री अरन पांडिया ने एक प्रैस क्लीपिंग की। उसमें उन्होंने कुछ डाउट भी क्वाइट किया है। मैं आपके सामने टाइम्स आफ इंडिया में जो स्टेटमेंट है बताना चाहता हूं।

"Doubts are being raised about administrative preparedness to deal with the situation and the official efforts to blame the Meteorological Department for failing to give correct information well in advance. Mr. Panda, who is the Home Minister of the State Government, admitted there was an information gap. The matter has been taken note of and will be discussed with the Chief Minister."

तो मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से पूछना चाहूंगा कि और यह बात स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के मंत्री महोदय ने भी कही है तो उसमें क्या तथ्य है और ऐसी कोई बात है कि देयर वाज एक कम्युनिकेशन गैप और देयर वा एक इन्फार्मेशन गैप, तो उसके बारे में मंत्री महोदय क्या कार्यवाही करने जा रहे हैं? और खासतौर पर जो कांडला पोर्ट पर डेमेज हुआ है उस पर मैं माननीय मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहूंगा कि यदि कोई पाइपलाइन, आयल की पाइप-लाइन पेट्रोल की पाइपलाइन है और कैरोसिन भी वहां पर उतर रहा है तो उसकी वजह से कोई टैंक वगैरह टूट गया हो या पाइपलाइन टूट गई हो तो उसकी वजह से वहां पोल्यूशन क्वाइट होने की भी संभावना है तो उसके बारे में भी मंत्री महोदय क्या करने जा रहे हैं, इसके बारे में भी मैं जानकारी लेना चाहता हूं। आपने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया इसके लिए धन्यवाद।

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, first I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to his statement. He has stated in his statement that the number of dead persons is 500. But when he came to the House he has corrected it as 637. That means he has shown 87 more

persons as dead. The question is simple. The Government has no definite information. As and when they receive information about the dead bodies they go on increasing the number. In the first instance, the Government of Gujarat was not prepared to admit that more than 100 persons have died. Now, more and more dead bodies are being recovered and they are correcting their own figure. It is a very serious thing to which my hon. friend, Rajubhai Parmar has referred. It has been reported in *The Gujarat Samachar* and in *The Times of India* that the Home Minister of Gujarat, Shri Haren Pandya said that there was an information gap between the Government and the Meteorological Department. Actually there was an information gap. Who is responsible for this? The poor Agharias fell victim to the cyclonic storm. These people collect salt near the shore of the sea. They carry it in *thailas*. Then, it is given to the wholesalers or their cooperatives. There is a colony. They live over there. They were not properly informed that waves up to 8 metres high would come. They were not aware of what was going to happen. The whole colony of the poor Agharias was washed away. These people are the poorest of the poor people. Of course, salt also was washed away. It does not matter. But the whole colony was washed away. As the dead bodies are coming from the high sea to the shore, the Government is increasing the figure of the dead persons. The question is simple. The information gap has resulted in this loss of life and property. The hon. Minister must take note of it.

Signal No. 4 was raised at the Kandla Port. As per the Meteorological Department's instructions Signal No. 10 should have been flown. That signal No. 10 was not flown. Only signal No. 4

My hon. friend, Shri Anantray Devshanker Dave and I were discussing about this tragedy for the last three days. The Kandla Port has been practically washed away. Valuable machinery has been damaged.

I have received information from IFFCO that they were pumping out phosphoric acid directly to the plant. The plant is located near the port. Phosphoric acid was pumped out from the ship to the plant. Some other ship dashed against it and damaged this ship. Many other foreign ships have come from the sea to the shore end lying on the sand. Many other ships have disappeared and they were sunk. Now, the damage to the property is more than Rs 3,000 crores. Two Editors of *Gujarat Samachar* and *Sandesha* were on the spot. The hon. Minister may kindly take note of it. Today's news papers from Gujarat have come out with photographs. Actually a lot of damage has been caused to the electricity infrastructure. The infrastructure has been totally washed away. In four districts, about 29 sub-stations were switched off because of electrocution. The situation is very serious.

Madam, I know that there is a limit to the assistance which is given to the States in case of natural calamities. But here is a case of calamity which was not properly notified to the people. Some wrong signal was raised at the Port. No proper information was given to the Agharias. An extraordinary situation was there. Therefore, my submission to the Government and to the hon. Minister is: please increase this limit of financial assistance to the Gujarat State in view of the serious natural calamity. I know that in the case of Hyderabad, this limit of financial assistance was increased as a special case and special assistance was given to the State Government. The magnitude of the Gujarat tragedy is much more serious than the Hyderabad tragedy. People were not knowing what is going to happen. Eight to nine metre high waves came and washed away the whole area. So, a special consideration may be given. As far as Kutch is concerned, the people of this area are the poorest of the poor. So, all assistance should be given to them and the Government should see to it that Kandla

port start humming with activities as early as possible. Whatever damage has been caused to roads, to other installations at the port, should be restored as early as possible. The whole of Gujarat is looking at the Centre for help. So, the hon. Minister should respond properly.

SHRI VAYALAR RAVI (Kerala): Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister itself speaks of certain indifference on the part of the Government. I entirely agree with what my hon. friends have said. I don't want to repeat what they have already said. In the first para of his statement it has been stated that thirteen cyclone warning bulletins were issued between 5th and 9th June by IMD through AIR and Doordarshan. I had also seen the Press report that the Army was alerted. It means the Government of India was also knowing that something was going to happen. That is why you have alerted the Army. I am referring to the Press report. I may be wrong. The bulletin had also been issued giving a warning that something was going to happen. The State Government had been informed about the happening well in advance. Now, instead of showing sympathy for those who have died and instead of referring to various relief and rehabilitation operations, I would like to know as to what the State Government have done to evacuate the people, especially the salt workers living in colonies. Is it easy to evacuate them within 24 hours? Nothing has been done. In fact, instead of alerting the Army at Delhi, you could have told the State Government to evacuate the people. You only thought of doing something after the tragedy had struck. You never thought of doing something before hand. If you had done so, you would have saved so many human lives. Of course, the damage would be there. But you could have saved the human lives. I believe that there is a lapse on the part of the State Government, especially, the State

Government of Gujarat, to save the lives of thousands of people, and the Government of India could not direct them to do so in time. How many days were there in your hand? You had five days' time, that is, from 5th June, 1998 to 9th June, 1998. It has not come as the West Bengal tornado had come. It has come with a forwarning. The Minister might say that there was an information gap. I would like to state that there was no information gap. The information was already with you. I would like to know the reason for the inability of the State Government to take precautionary measure in advance. Do you have any information with regard to the evacuation operation of the Gujarat Government to evacuate the people? I feel that the Government of India could not direct them to do so in time. Secondly, so far as the Kandla port is concerned, I would request the Government to see to it that the normal operations at the port are restored as early as possible. It is facing a serious crisis. Some trade union people rang me up in the morning. They wanted me to raise this matter in the House and request the Government to take a serious note of this natural calamity.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH (Gujarat): Madam Chairperson, I think the first thing to which I would like to refer is that this was truly a disaster of a very high order. This fact has already been stated by my hon. colleagues. In Saurashtra, cyclones come very often. In fact, in one of the earlier cyclones, I was present there. At that time, I was the Vice-Chairman of the Narmada Planning Group, and I was walking the canals of the Kutch area. During that cyclone, we had winds of the range of around 85 kms to 90 kms per hour velocity. This time, we were talking about winds of the range of 130 kms to 150 kms per hour velocity. On the 9th, I was in Gujarat. Since I am from Ahmedabad, I had gone to a few villages because of the M. P. Local Area Development Scheme. The hon. Minister is my very good friend. He should take a

serious note of this thing. If you read the newspapers, if you read the "Gujarat Samachar" and "Sandesh" of the 9th, they were talking about 'Meghraj ni Savari' because, as you know, Gujarat was going through a very great heat wave, 43°-44°, and people were thinking they welcomed the rain, and in the villages, I went to, there was no understanding at all. I mean, now we are talking about great communication, but I found there was no understanding at all that something like this was going to hit. Even in Ahmedabad, in the western parts of Ahmedabad, you could suddenly see the intensity of the whole thing and the damage it was creating. Now the figures are coming in. Of course, the damage in Porbandar, in Kandla, is truly of a very high order, but even in places like Bhavnagar, there are reports of deaths. And I can assure you that even in Ahmedabad District, in Banaskantha, there are reports of deaths. So, Mr. Chairman, this is really a disaster of an unimaginative order. With due respect, I would say, it does not speak very highly of the sensitivity of the Government in not allowing us to raise the matter and postponing the discussion on the second day, when something of this magnitude has happened. I see all kinds of issues we are raising, but this kind of an issue which should have really bothered us, and which we should have been talking about, we have been trying not to take seriously! And with due respect, through you, Sir, I would like to inform my dear friend, Shri Parmar, that Rs. 29 crores which was given in April was the normal instalment. So, the only thing that has been given on the 10th is Rs. 29 crores which is giving as an advance. It is so inadequate in relationship to what is going on that I would like the Government to give us a -clarity that adequate funds will be immediately made available, plus, of course, there will be the teams which will be set up to properly assess what is going on. Nothing has been mentioned about news in the newspapers in Gujarat. At 11 o'clock yesterday, the news was 700 people

dead', and, as Brahmakumar Bhai said, officially the death toll is about 600, but, I think, very responsible newspapers in Gujarat are reporting that the figure is four to five thousands, and it would be very imprudent to ignore these kinds of reports that are being made. So, please, for God's sake, at this stage, look at this issue with the kind of seriousness that it deserves and give Gujarat, at least, some inkling that you are with them in this hour of crisis. The immediate relief I don't think can be met with Rs. 29 crores. About the whole issue of shelter, a very quick assessment has to be made of the people who have been displaced, and what is required to help them.

I am happy that in your oral statement you said that because I am going to make that suggestion myself. Last year when the power system on the Tapi river had tripped, I had asked the Power Grid to put an emergency restoration system which maintained the power in to Gujarat from the Tapi river, and in the floods we gave them similar instructions. I want to make a request to the Government because I handled these matters; immediately there were all kinds of objections that people raised — "Who is going to give the money? What is going to happen." This is not the time, Mr. Minister, to get into all that, and I hope, the Government will give us an assurance that very clear instructions will be given to the Power Grid that at this stage, they must go and restore electricity, and this whole question of how funds are to be shared and so on, can be looked much later on.

In fact, these reports that we are getting—I speak with a sense of responsibility because I had been the Minister of Science and Technology; you know that the Met. is a part of that Department—gave 'indications about the cyclone. There is a report in one of the newspapers that I read today, that indicates that the Gujarat Government

was given the assessment, that the cyclone would hit the southern parts of Saurashtra, and it hit the northern part. I am sure, I can find the newspapers in our library. I read ten newspapers; so, I don't remember exactly which one it is, but there is a newspaper report, date-lined from Ahmedabad, which makes this specific point. If this is correct, Mr. Minister, it is a very serious matter and it has to be gone into.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Have they evacuated people from the south?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: They might not have done that. But these are Government of India agencies. Please don't tell me that on the 11th of June, 1998, India doesn't have the technology to track a cyclone. What are you talking about? During an earlier debate, when I was talking about science and technology, I had mentioned this point. If this is true, the Government owes us an explanation. Is it true that our people could not anticipate that a cyclone would hit the areas around Porbandar and north of that? They were talking about the areas to the south. It is a very serious matter. I would like to have a clarification on this.

I want to make a point in a general way that the Saurashtra area has been definitely discriminated against by the Gol agencies, as far as the ocean belt is concerned. This is a point which I have been making for quite some time. The Cyclone warning scheme of the Department of Ocean Development was not implemented in Gujarat. I think it is wrong. There is a shore-to-fishing vessel communication system. In this Budget ten States are mentioned under the Department of Ocean Development. Gujarat is not one of them. I would like to know whether the State did not want it. One indication that I had given was that when this scheme was started in the beginning of the Eighth Five Year Plan the present Government was there but they didn't want it. As far as the

communication methods are concerned, they are definitely outdated. My friend was talking about scellitics and so on. We don't have that kind of a system in Dariya Kantha Vistar, the ocean talukas, of Gujarat. In fact, I was so desperate when I was the Minister for Science and Technology. I sanctioned Rs. 5 crores for setting up an Ocean Science and Technology Cell. Knowing that all these things are going on in the Government. I located this cell in the Bhavnagar University so that there is at least, some control over it by the people who are in the public domain rather than neglecting it. Dr. Vidyut Joshi, who is a very dear friend of mine, who is the Vice-Chancellor, heads the cell. I request the Minister to involve him right now in these activities. At least now, for God's sake improve the communication system so that this kind of things are not repeated. There are other States which have gone to the World Bank and other places and taken a lot of money. In Gujarat we are still using the wireless. Even today the system is what it was in 1983 when, I remember, I was stuck up somewhere in Veraval. Today also we are using the same kind of communication system. There are ocean States in this country which have got modern communication systems. Please do something in that respect in the case of Gujarat. People use such kind of material and build such kind of houses that cannot withstand this kind of pressures. New technologies are now available for reconstruction. These must be used. My friend is quite right. After all this area is historically important to us. Please remember that. It is at Khara Ghoda that the British kept on hitting one freedom fighter at a time. Now these people are there and they are very poor people. I have visited them. In fact, when I was the Chairman of BICP, I produced a plan for the rehabilitation of these people. They are people with skin diseases because they have to sit all the time in salt, hours on end they have to stand in salt. They are so poor even today.

I suggest that at least the kind of standards that had been developed, say, for Latur or for Morbi where we had a dam disaster in Saurashtra, should be there. For urban areas we don't have standards. At least for rural areas there are standards. Please remember that some of the best cattle wealth of India is in Saurashtra. There is going to be a huge loss. Cattles are dying, Somebody will have to do something. So far as cattle are concerned and so far as grass is concerned, I know that we do have some standards. His Department knows how to handle the situation. So far as urban areas are concerned, being a Princely State, urbanisation is very widespread in this area. There are small urban areas on the coast line which will all be hit. I would like to say that standards should be thought of from the very beginning.

We have made one more proposal. I would request the Minister to ask his colleagues to look into that. There is the Charotar Vidya Mandal which is one of our most important educational and research institutes. I am talking of voluntary * bodies because with all this neglect one can only talk about them. The Charotar Vidya Mandal has made a proposal that they should be given a medium-term weather forecasting system. They want to operationalise it with the help of Panchayats and other bodies. When I was Minister, apart from giving them the Regional Sophisticated Instrumentation Centre, I told the Meteorology Department to have a medium-term weather forecasting system. They are supposed to forecast the weather five days beforehand. They are spending Rs. 30 crores on this scheme. You kindly implement it in their areas. Along with the Panchayats, you also involve the Charotar Vidya Mandal. Sir, they can involve such voluntary agencies. This is my request to the hon. Minister, they should get in touch with Vidut Joshi and Bhavnagar to prepare a plan. They have contacts with the local people. If we can help you, please ask us. Let the Government support them. Let the

Charotar Vidya Mandal, at least, produce a proper system so that there can be a contact point between the weather and the people of ocean Talukas. Let us have a rehabilitation scheme for urban areas. Kindly do something for cattle. These are all things which we should be doing in the next two or three weeks. We must immediately place some money at the disposal of the Government of Gujarat. We must have more rehabilitation centres for the displaced persons because this is an area of nomadic people. We must also see that something is done for cattle and we must restore power.

In this part sowing starts in the month of June. It is a groundnut belt of India. If there are losses—I don't have to tell this to the Minister because he is a farmer—in terms of groundnut, in terms of fertilizer and so on, I would request the Minister to take it into account and give them some assistance in this great hour of crisis.

Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Shri Onkar Singh Lakhawat—I have five more names before me. Then the Minister would also reply to these clarifications. Please conclude in two minutes.

श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावर (राजस्थान) : महोदय, जिस तेज गति से राजस्थान के अंदर तूफान आया है, वह कच्छ से होता हुआ आया था, उसने बाड़मेर के जालौर, कोसाचो का प्रभावित किया। राजस्थान के इतने बड़े हिस्से को इस तूफान ने और चक्रवात ने प्रभावित किया, मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि राजस्थान की सरकार और उसके मुख्य मंत्री श्री भैरोसिंह शेखावत ने जैसे युद्ध का मुकाबला करते हैं, सारे सरकारी अमले को, जनप्रतिनिधियों को, सरपंच से लेकर पटवारी को, सबको तैनात कर दिया और इसलिए वहाँ जान और माल की हानी कम हुई, परन्तु हमको सड़क का, बिजली का, पानी का, टेलीफोन का बहुत ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ। वहाँ पर पशुधन को जितना नुकसान हुआ, मैं निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि वह किसी भी स्थिति के अंदर कम नहीं था। बहुत बड़ा क्षेत्र, भौगोलिक दृष्टि से इतना प्रभावित इस चक्रवात से हुआ कि उसमें करोड़ों रुपए का

नुकसान हुआ है, परन्तु आदमी कम इसलिए मरे कि सरकार सावधान थी। सरकार युद्ध के मोर्चे पर लड़ रही थी- जनप्रतिनिधि मौजूद थे, सरकारी अमला मौजूद था और लोगों को सावधान कर दिया, इसलिए वह सब छके-पंजे सावधान थे और उनको सहायता उपलब्ध करने जैसी स्थिति थी। इस कारण से हमारे यहां जान-माल की क्षति कम हुई है। इस सम्पूर्ण परिस्थिति के अंदर सरकार ने जिस तरह से इसका मुकाबला किया है, मैं उसके लिए तो धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूं माननीय मुख्य मंत्री जी को। केन्द्र सरकार ने, हमारे दूर संचार ने, मीडिया ने, मौसम विभाग ने बहुत पहले जानकारी दे दी और उसी का परिणाम था कि हम समय रहते हुए हर जगह मंत्री को, अधिकारी को और जनप्रतिनिधियों को विश्वास में लेकर यह सारी व्यवस्था कर सके परन्तु एक दिक्कत यह है कि हमारे यहां अकाल पहले से चल रहा है, यह एक विपदा और आ गई है। सारे सिस्टम को रेस्टोर करना होगा-बिजली को, टेलीफोन को, सड़क को और जो पशुधन की हानि हुई है, जो हमारे यहां खेती की हानि हुई है, कुछ एरिया में औलावृष्टि भी हुई है। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन करना चाहूंगा कि वहां केन्द्रीय अध्ययन दल को वे शीघ्र भेजे ताकि वास्तव में जो क्षति हुई है उसकी जांच की जा सके। महोदय, मैं यह भी निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि प्राकृतिक आपदा कोष का जो क्राईटीरिया बना है, उसमें जो राशि देने की बात है, वह इतनी कम है इस प्रकार की आपदाओं को देखते हुए उसमें परिवर्तन करने की आवश्यकता है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह निवेदन भी करना चाहता हूं कि दूसरी किश्त जो राजस्थान की है, उसको अविलंब रिलीज करना चाहिए ताकि उसके माध्यम से लोगों को राहत पहुंचाई जा सके। धन्यवाद।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे (गुजरात): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं कुछ छोटी-छोटी बातें पूछना चाहता हूं। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता है, यह खबर कहां से आई है? मैं यह भी पूछना चाहता हूं कि गुजरात में जो डैमेज हुआ है, क्या गुजरात सरकार की ओर से केन्द्र सरकार के पास कोई फैक्स या कोई मैसेज आया है? अगर आया है तो कितना डैमेज हुआ है? तीसरी बात मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूं कि कांडला में कितने लोग मरे हैं? वहां पर एक सॉल्ट सैस जो गवर्नमेंट क्लेक्ट करती है, उसका नोटिफिकेशन 14 जुलाई को खत्म हो गया है। उसके पीछे बोर्ड बना नहीं है। इसलिए मैं आपसे निवेदन करना चाहता हूं कि नया नोटिफिकेशन जल्दी से जल्दी इशू कर देना चाहिए। उस सॉल्ट सैस की

करोड़ों रुपए की रकम वहां पड़ी है। उस रकम से इन लोगों के घर बनेंगे, रास्ते बनेंगे और उनके घर पर छप्पर पड़ेगे। वह सब काम इसी रकम से हो सकेगा।

महोदय, कांडला पोर्ट ट्रस्ट सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के नीचे है। कांडला पोर्ट ट्रस्ट ने इस साल ज्यादा से ज्यादा मुनाफा किया है और उनके पास अभी भी पैसा है। कांडला पोर्ट का काम 3-4 महीने नहीं चलेगा इसलिए वहां ज्यादा राशि लगाकर पोर्ट ट्रस्ट का काम जल्दी ही शुरू होना चाहिए।

महोदय, वहां बिजली का बड़ा नुकसान हुआ है। आज कच्छ में पीने का पानी नहीं है और जो रकम केन्द्र सरकार ने दी है नेचुरल कैलेमिटी फंड में से, मैं जानता हू कि उसकी 2 इंस्टालमेंट्स होती है। वैसे प्रोसीजर है कि कहीं ऐसी आपदा अगर आ जाती है तो पहले से ऐडवांस इंस्टालमेंट देते हैं। तो मैं यह कहूंगा कि सन् 2000 तक का इंस्टालमेंट 154 करोड़ रुपया दे देना चाहिए गुजरात सरकार को और जहां से भी कोई और राशि मिले, उसके लिए प्रयत्न करना चाहिए।

महोदय, अंतिम बातें मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय को खुद वहां जाकर दौरा करना चाहिए। वे वहां एक हाई-पावर कमेटी ले जाएं। वे छोटे-छोटे गांवों में जाएं। पूरे कच्छ के इलाके में बड़ी तबाही हुई है। वहां पर उनका जाना चाहिए। मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि मंत्री महोदय इतना ऐश्वोरेंस देंगे और गुजरात की पूरी मदद करेंगे।

श्री बंगारू लक्ष्मण (गुजरात): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, गुजरात में जो कैलेमिटी हुई है, यह बहुत ही दुःखद है। मंत्री जी ने अपने स्टेटमेंट में मरने वालों की संख्या सपडेट की है। जैसे-जैसे समाचार प्राप्त होंगे, हमें सही स्थिति का पता चल सकेगा। अभी तो वहां पूरा कम्युनिकेशन सिस्टम टूट गया है। ऐसे हालत में स्वाभाविक है कि थोड़ी देर से समाचार सरकार के पास पहुंच रहे होंगे और जैसे-जैसे समाचार प्राप्त होंगे, निश्चित रूप से इस संख्या में परिवर्तन होगा। जो अंदाज अखबारों में लगाया जा रहा है, उससे मुझे लगता है कि बहुत ज्यादा नुकसान लोगों के जान और माल का हुआ है। पिछले साल भी आंध्र में तूफान आया था। वहां पर भी तीन दिन पहले से, चार दिन पहले से लगातार चेतावनी दी जा रही थी लेकिन लोगों ने उस चेतावनी की तरफ कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया, उनको समुंदर में जाने के लिए माना किया गया था लेकिन फिर भी मछुआरे समुंदर में गए। जो लोग समुंदर के किनारे रह रहे थे उनको सरकारी कर्मचारियों की तरफ से कहा गया था कि यहां

से हट जाओ लेकिन वे नहीं हटे। क्योंकि उनको अंदाजा नहीं होता कि कितने भयानक रूप से यह चीज आएगी इसलिए आम तौर पर यह बात होती है। कई बार यह भी हुआ है बहुत बड़ीई वार्निंग दी गई है कि इस प्रकार से होगा। फिर वहां से लोग भयभीत होकर भाग जाते हैं। लेकिन बाद में हुआ यह है कि तूफान अपना रुख बदल करके दूसरी तरफ चला जाता है। शायद कुछ इस प्रकार की बात गुजरात के साथ हुई है जिसके कारण यह सारा कुछ वहां पर हुआ है। जैसा अभी राजस्थान के अन्दर हुआ। अभी तीन दिन पहले एक मंत्री के पास मेरा टेलीफोन गया। तो उन्होंने कहा कि हम लोग तूफान के बारे में चर्चा कर रहे हैं, एक-एक जिले के अंदर एक-एक जिले के अंदर एक-एक मंत्री के जाने की बात चल रही है। तो इस प्रकार की बात हो रही थी। तो मुझे नहीं लगता कि किसी मंत्री ने यह कहा है कि हमें वातावरण की कोई सूचना ही नहीं मिली थी। लेकिन इस पर भी विचार कर लिया जाना चाहिए, इस पर भी सरकार को ध्यान देना चाहिए कि यह किस प्रकार से कम्युनिकेशन गैप आया है उस विषय में। आज आडवाणी जी वहां गए हैं। सारे मामले का जायजा लेने के लिए वहां आफिशियल टीम को भेजना आवश्यक है। केवल इतना ही नहीं, वहां पर विभिन्न मंत्रालय जैसे-एनर्जी, इलेक्ट्रिसिटी उसी प्रकार से कम्युनिकेशन मिनिस्ट्री, सरफेस ट्रांसपोर्ट मिनिस्ट्री तथा अन्य जो मिनिस्ट्रीज हैं उसमें इस विषय को लेकर भी तुरन्त सब प्रकार के राहत वहां पहुंचाना चाहिए। विशेष तौर पर यह जो गरीब मजदूर मरे हैं तथा इनको जो प्राईम मिनिस्टर रिलीफ फंड से तो 50 हजार रुपया दिया लेकिन राज्य सरकार क्या दे रही है इसकी भी जानकारी आपने नहीं दी है। अगर वह भी जानकारी हो ते दे दीजिए। लेकिन प्रयास यह होना चाहिए क्योंकि यह जो डेली वेजिज पर काम करने वाले मजदूर हैं इनके लिए कोई सुविधा नहीं होती। इस कारण से उनकी आर्थिक स्थिति खराब होती है। अतः 50 हजार से काम नहीं चलेगा। सरकार को सोचना चाहिए कि उनको बड़ा मुआवजा किस प्रकार से दिलाया जाएगा। इन सारी बातों को लेकर एक डीटेल्ड रिपोर्ट अगर कल शाम तक सदन के सामने आ जाए तो अच्छा होगा। बस, मैं इतनी बात कहकर समाप्त करता हूं। धन्यवाद।

SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI (Gujarat): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is worst of the worst calamities that have been faced by Gujarat and particularly so, because 1,600 kms. of sea-shore has been affected, involving about 12 districts of the State. It is but natural that

ordinary life has been disrupted. Electricity has been disrupted. Sir, the waves were of the height of about seven to nine meters. Kandla and Wadianar has been affected badly. My friends mentioned much about the Mooravi calamity of 1980. That was not because of the cyclone. That was because of a crack in the river due to which the dam had broken down and about 10,000 people were affected. The calamity had mounted more in the Machho river.

Now, communications have been disrupted. Not only that, electricity has been disrupted. And it is not that the State Government had not informed the people. The State Government had deployed the Tchsildars and the police officers. Even today's newspapers have said so. But because of disruption in electricity and absence of communications in these 12 districts, it is but natural that the figures will be wrong. Yesterday we had a figure of 197. Today when we went through the newspapers in the morning, it was 411. Probably when this statement was being typed, it was 550. When the statement was being read, we found that the figure had reached 637. And because of these disruptions, it will be difficult for the State Government to collect the figures because in Banaskantha where the salt workers are working, as all my friends know, even up to 100 kms. there is no telephone facility. Sometimes, there is no light in Banaskantha. Sir, naturally, all these village people were working in salt plants. There may be more casualties also. At the same time, the number of dead people may also increase in Banaskantha and Kandla. The whole Kandla port has been washed off. So far as the signalling system of the Defence is concerned, it has also been affected. Therefore, I would suggest two-three things.

Sir, so far as the relief is concerned, it is very less. A relief of Rs. 154.83 crores has been given. I don't think the State Government would be able to meet the particular demand. The newspaper

reports state that property worth Rs. 12 to Rs. 14 crores has been damaged, but I think, the damage must have been much more than that. So, I would urge upon the Central Government to sanction a better amount so that the State Government can meet the particular demand. I would like the hon. Minister to assure us that in future the comman man should be informed of the disaster well in advance. I hope they would do necessary improvement in the communication system.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Shri Prafull Goradia. I think this is your maiden speech.

SHRI PRAFULL GORADIA (Gujarat): Sir, I am speaking for the first time and I hope that my maiden speech will be treated as inconclusive so that I can speak at a greater length in future. Nevertheless, Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I must point out that this is an unprecedented calamity in the history of Gujarat, as far as I know. To compare it with Moorvi or any other tragedy would be making a joke of it. I don't think such a natural calamity has overtaken Gujarat ever before. I think, in this hour of tragedy, it would be better if we don't politicise the issue and have a debate between this Government and that Government and whether the State Government did anything or not. I would like to assure Dr. Alagh—of course, he is not here— that while he is feeling intensely about this tragedy, we all Gujaratis, on whichever side of the House we may be, feel equally strongly. No one should assume any monopoly over sympathy for the dead and affected. It is not true that the Government of Gujarat did not take any steps, from personal information I have and this will come out as the days go by, as many as 10,000 people were moved out of the Kandla Port as well as the surrounding salt works. So, to say that the Gujarat Government was not taking it seriously, I think is not fair. As has been repeatedly described, as high as nine-metre waves came and what possible protection could

anyone have taken? As far as the number of dead pcop'c is concerned, it is really sad because there must be so many houses and so many *bast'a* which must have been wholesale washed away into the ocean. How to count all this? Those figures even at the end will never be valid. I think the figures of actual tragedgy must be much greater. I should say that we should all unite and sympathise and send as much help as possible and not politicise this issue.

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR: There is no question of politicising the issue. (*Interruptions*) He should not say that there is no concern for the tragedy. (*Interruptions*). At this hour we should not talk like this. Nobody is politicising it. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): He has not said that anybody is politicising. (*Interruptions*) Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the concern expressed by the hon. Members is understandable in the wake of such a calamity which has taken a very heavy toll of human life and cattle life and property at such a huge scale. So far as the source of figures is concerned all the Members have repeatedly said about it. Our source essentially remains the State Government reports and we have to depend on it. So far as reports being published by newspapers are concerned, we do not know their sources, what is their source through which they give out such figures, as rightly 'pointed out by some hon. Members. Unnecessary scare created if more number of deaths in the calamity are reported and we should not go by those wild reports. May be, they have some idea. But, the State Government or, for that matter, the Central Government and other agencies have to act more responsibly unless they have really verified physically the occurrence of death; otherwise, they should not report it so. So far as the changes in figures are concerned, the latest figures which I have given are based on the information received up to

8.30 p.m. and the statement which I had prepared earlier was up to some point of time during the day. Naturally the figures keep on changing and these reports surely keep on coming and we cannot be sure of the figures. As rightly pointed out by the last speaker, Shri Goradia, the validity of the figures will always be doubtful. So far as India Meteorological Department's warnings are concerned, they put up these warnings on AIR and Doordarshan. No doubt, these reports are also published in all the national dailies. We had been seeing them for two-three days and Dr. Alagh is here, I cannot doubt his scientific judgment and information. But, Sir, in case of such a natural phenomenon, nobody can be sure of mile-to-mile movement of such a phenomenon like typhoon or cyclone. They are known to change their course abruptly because they are not influenced by one parameter. In the whole globe and the whole environment, there are several things which influence even up to the last moment. So, you can never be sure that they would pass through this band of physical parameter. There can only be estimated distances and estimated ranges which they are expected to cover and hit. *(Interruption)* I am coming to the recommendations. Pharwas and Agarias, the two communities are salt collectors and surely their plight is pitiable. It is so far a long time. So far as provision of insurance and some safety cover to meet such emergencies are concerned, I do not know whether they are covered under the Industrial Labour Act or not, or whether they are covered by something else. If it is not there, some such schemes should be thought of and whether it will be covered by the State Government or the Central Government, this point can be studied and some measures taken. Raising of wrong flags is raised by one of the hon. Members, I think it is either Parmar Sahab or Fernandes.

Mr. Fernandes had said that Flag Number 9 was raised.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Flag Number 10.

SHRI SOMPAL: Mr. Fernandes had said 9 and you had said 4. There is a conflict between the numbers. It cannot be understood that an authority like the Port Authority can raise a wrong flag in such an hour.

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: But, they have given the wrong information ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SOMPAL: May be. It may be your information. I do not have any information ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: The whole Press in Ahmedabad reported that instead of flag No. 10, flag No. 4 was flown. That is there in the newspapers. ... *(Interruptions)*... The information has been eroded by the Government ... *(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SOMPAL: This can be verified. The only thing which I would like to undertake is that information will be collected and placed before the House. ... *(Interruptions)*... As Mr. Fernandes said, ships could have been moved to the high seas. I do not know why this was not done because people who are on the ships and who are at the port know it better. May be, moving the ships at that hour to high seas would have made them run into the cyclone itself. How far it was away from the port or down south, ... *(Interruptions)*... this is their judgement. How can we, sitting in Delhi, know unless we contact the port authorities and the ship authorities? As far as communication system, use of satellite system and army communication system, is concerned, army communication system is being used. With regard to reconstruction of the port and houses — Dr. Dasgupta has asked about it — I submit, naturally, reconstruction has to be taken up later on. The immediate concern is of emergency relief which is being undertaken by the concerned agencies, including the Government and its various Departments. They are helping in this regard. With regard to taking of

international help, I do not know anything so far in this regard. We feel that the emergency relief undertaken by the State Government with the help of the Central Government and other Departments would be adequate. I do not think it is needed immediately. Unless somebody comes in support, ...*(Interruptions)*... I do not know what the system is and whether the Government can ask for such help. But, if somebody comes in support, I do not think there can be any two opinions that we refuse it. Mr. Rajubhai Parmar has again asked about the figures. I have already given the information in this regard. Regarding the Central team I would like to say that a team headed by the hon. Home Minister is already there in Gujarat. They might be on their way back. As soon as some more details are available, the House would be informed. Regarding a new Central team the Government of Gujarat has formally sent a request today. We have received it only in the evening. This team will be deputed. I assure the House in this regard. This team will be deputed only when the State Government formally asks for it. In the evening this demand has already landed with us. With regard to assessing the total damage, I would say that it will take some time. Madam, their concern is for emergency and immediate relief. Regarding inadequacy of funds, I would submit that two tranches have been released from the Calamity Relief Fund which was constituted after the assessment made by the Tenth Finance Commission and the recommendations accepted by the National Development Council. If need be, the remaining instalments can also be released. If the State Government is not able to meet the requirement, the Central Government would not be found lacking in extending support. Regarding damage to installations of companies, including IFFCO, I would like to inform that IFFCO has reported that no major damage has happened to the phosphoric acid ship. This has been reported through the communication sent by them. So far as damage to port and jetties, including

other installations, is concerned, I understand that they must have insured these things. The damage assessment will be done, and if there is any, naturally, the reconstruction has to be taken up. Regarding publicising the warning and information by the IMD and the reported statement by the hon. Home Minister of Gujarat, I do not have any information. We will confirm it and after having seen it in Delhi it seems that the report may not be correct. We will find it out. It has to be confirmed. Without confirming it we cannot say that he has given such a statement that there was a communication gap. Regarding pollution and damage to pipeline, I would say that we have to verify it. But, there is no report that the pipeline has been damaged and a particular element is leaking. Shri Brahma kumar Bhatt has pointed about the *Agharias* and Flag No. 4. I have already responded to this. He mentioned about damage to property. Right now, I have no proper information. He asked about special assistance. I have already said that two instalments have been released and if need be, two more can be released. The share of calamity relief in case of Gujarat is quite high because the assessment is done on the previous incidents and calamities recorded in the history and Rs. 154 crores is really, as compared to other States, quite high.

Shri Vayalar Ravi has asked whether the Army was alerted. Yes, Sir; the Army was alerted and the State Government must have informed the people. We have to verify the information whether they had issued some advance warning, physically, on the ground.

So, far as Prof. Alagh's allegation that the Government did not come to the House yesterday is concerned,—Sir, this is for your information — we had sought permission of the Chair in writing yesterday itself. I had given a written communication. It is on record. But, it is the prerogative of the Chair as to when to permit the concerned Minister and the Government to make a statement. But,

we had sought permission of the Chair yesterday itself. Sir, yesterday, I had made a statement in the other House i.e., the Lok Sabha.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: My question was not about the degree of insensitivity, but on attempts at postponing the discussion to night.

SHRI SOM PAL: It is a matter of perception. Dr. Alagh. It is the usual tendency of the Opposition people to dub insensitive so far as the Government is concerned. I do not expect such a remark from a person of your stature and sensitivity.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: I must say that I am really sorry that you have said this. You are absolutely right that it is a matter of perception. That is all I can say and let it be examined. Your perception differs from mine is all that I can say. It has nothing to do with Opposition and Ministers.

SHRI SOM PAL: Sir, again, Dr. Alagh has mentioned about newspaper reports. I have already remarked about them and I stand by those. So far as instructions to Power Grid Corporation are concerned, a very clear instruction has been given by my hon. friend. He is sitting here. It can be verified here and now from Mr. Rangaraja Kumaramangalam ...*(interruptions)*... So far as movement of this cyclone is concerned, it was reported that it was moving in North-North-Western direction. The tracking has been reported in the newspapers and naturally, the course cannot exactly be identified mile-wise and the range affected by it. It was being tracked regularly by the I.M.D.

It was suggested by Dr. Alagh that an ocean warning system and a communication system should be created, strengthened and updated scientifically. It is a very good suggestion made by Dr. Alagh. It should be taken up. As per the information given by him, he has already installed something in the Bhavnagar University and it needs be updated and

supported. Sir, surely, the Government would consider this. Putting up such systems not only in Gujarat but also in other coastal areas should be taken up in course of time but it is a matter of development and naturally, resources have to be provided for such things. This suggestion surely will be considered

Some hon. Members were asked about the building of houses. Naturally, the houses which have been destroyed need to be rebuilt and the State Government will take it up and if need be, the Central Government can also help. But, it is to be done under a system because the Central Government's funds cannot be spent abruptly. The Central Government has to go by certain rules and regulations like the one in case of Calamity Relief Fund which has been instituted after the Tenth Finance Commission's recommendations and acceptance thereof by the National Development Council.

One more very important point which has been made by Dr. Alagh is about the need for evolving and updating the disaster management course. I think, there is a serious lag in this. We are still going by the codes which were evolved in the British time and they have not been updated as they should have been. A serious exercise and a comprehensive exercise in collaboration with all the Ministries concerned and the State Governments concerned, research institutes, has to be undertaken and they should be updated. This is a regular exercise. After intervals and gaining experience out of such calamities, these codes have to be developed including fore-warning system, immediate management and the long-term measures to be undertaken for rehabilitation and reconstruction and all that. These codes have been developed including fore-warning systems, immediate management, and long-term measures to be undertaken in rehabilitation and reconstruction. Medium-term weather forecasting system, I think, is in place with IMD now. But, taking into the other areas again is a

matter of resources and it must be taken up, but even in the most developed countries, I have seen, such a natural phenomenon does cause damage. I have seen a country like America, when cyclones come they do go in for creating huge and vast damage in spite of all arrangements which can be available at best in the world and by world standards. Such things cannot be totally ruled out.

So far as involving voluntary agencies is concerned, yes, Gujarat Government must be aware of it, and we do take the suggestion. We will approach voluntary agencies and voluntary agencies themselves can be expected to be sensitive of such matters. They will surely come out in support. When I went to Orissa I saw voluntary agencies doing relief work in a missionary spirit.

As far as establishing more rehabilitation centres is concerned, some rehabilitation centres have been set up and if their numbers and arrangements are not adequate, naturally the Government would look into it.

Now comes the matter of assistance to farmers for the next crop. Yes, it is one component which the Government would be asked to take into consideration, and if need be the Central Government will also give some assistance by way of C-DOT inputs or whatever it is.

श्री ओंकार सिंह लखावर ने कहा कि वहां केन्द्रीय दल भेजा जाना चाहिए। इस का उत्तर मैं पहले ही दे चुका हूँ। आपदा कोष के आधार के संबंध में उन्होंने प्रश्न पूछा है, शायद वे चले गए हैं, जैसा उन्होंने बताया है और जो इंताजाम व्यवस्थाएं राजस्थान सरकार द्वारा की गयी हैं यह बहुत ही अच्छी बात है। उस से केन्द्र सरकार को भी सीख लेनी चाहिए।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: ने भी सूचना का आधार पूछा है तो मैं उस की पुनः पुनरावृत्ति करना चाहता हूँ कि राज्य सरकार की जो रिपोर्ट है या जो सूचना है, उसी के ऊपर हम को निर्भर करना पड़ता है। गुजरात सरकार और अन्य सरकारों ने हमें सूचनाएं भेजी हैं, उसी के आधार पर यह आंकड़े प्रस्तुत किए हैं।

मान्यवर जहां तक हानि के आंकलन का प्रश्न है, गुजरात सरकार ने अभी-अभी सूचना भेजी है कि उन का अभी तक का आंकलन 1200 करोड़ रुपए की हानि का है। यह निश्चित है कि यह एकदम पूरा आंकलन नहीं होगा, इस से ज्यादा भी हो सकता है, पर अभी तक का उनका जो आंकलन है वह 1200 करोड़ रुपए का है, इस की सूचना अभी-अभी प्राप्त हुई है। नमक सेस को एक अधिसूचना के माध्यम से अगडिया या जो नमक मजदूर है और दैनिक मजदूरी करते हैं, उन के सहायतार्थ उपयोग करने की जो बात उन्होंने कही है, उस पर केन्द्र सरकार को गुजरात सरकार के साथ अवश्य विचार करना चाहिए और यदि इस प्रकार का कोई कोष उपलब्ध है तो निश्चित रूप से उस का उपयोग इन लोगों की जन धन की हानि की क्षति-पूर्ति के लिए किया जाना चाहिए। मान्यवर, कांडला बंदरगाह को जो क्षति हुई है, उस का पुनर्निर्माण शीघ्रतिशीघ्र किया जाए, इस बारे में किसी को शंका नहीं होगी। दल भेजने के संबंध में मैं पहले ही कह चुका हूँ।

श्री बंगारू लक्ष्मण ने कहा है कि ऐसा भी होता है कि चेतावनी देने के बावजूद लोग वहां से नहीं हटते। यह बात सही है क्योंकि उन को उस की गंभीरता का अंदाज नहीं होता। कई बार चेतावनी दी जाती है और अगर इस प्रकार का चक्रवात नहीं आए तो लोग कहते हैं कि सरकार ऐसे ही बोलती रहती है। इस तरह की चीजें लोग अज्ञानतावश करते हैं, पर उन्हें सरकार की बात को गंभीरता से लेना चाहिए। चक्रवात अपना मार्ग परिवर्तित कर लेता है और प्राकृतिक घटनाओं व आपदाओं के संबंध में ऐसी बातें अप्रत्याशित नहीं हैं। बहुत जगहों पर देखा गया है कि यह थोड़ा-बहुत इधर-उधर हो जाता है और इस तरह की आपदा में पचासों किलोमीटर इधर-उधर होना कोई अनहोनी बात नहीं है। उन का यह सुझाव कि सभी मंत्रालयों के प्रतिनिधियों और विभागों को इस में सम्मिलित कर टीम के तौर पर काम किया जाए, अच्छा है। इस बात को पहले से किया जा रहा है। राज्य सरकार द्वारा मृतकों के आश्रितों को क्या दिया गया है, इस संबंध में एक सूचना अभी प्राप्त हुई है। प्रत्येक वयस्क मृतक के लिए गुजरात सरकार ने 50 हजार रुपए की और अल्प-व्यस्क के लिए, मायनर के लिए 30 हजार रुपए की राशि अनुकंपा के आधार पर देने की घोषणा की है। इस के अतिरिक्त

श्री सोमपाल: गोपाल सिंह जी 0 सोलंकी ने कोई नई बात नहीं कही। प्रफुल्ल गोड़दिया जी ने आशा व्यक्त की है कि सरकार ने आवश्यक कदम

उठाएँ होंगे, इस संबंध में मैं इतनी बात और बताना चाहता हूँ कि सेना इस मामले में सभी प्रकार की सहायता कर रही है। उसके संबंध में डिफेंस अथोरिटी से, सेना हैडक्वार्टर से सूचना मिली है, -

Emergency Communication restoration teams are in readiness to move out at the earliest to commence communication network repair and to set-up alternate radio links and establish field telephone networks at the basis. Transport aircraft are on stand-by to fly in relief or fly out aircraft detrainments. As soon as the storm abates, helicopters will be pressed into service for civil aid. The Headquarters at South West Air-Command is already in dialogue with the Gujarat State Government for planning relief work. The Ministry of Defence is given advance clearance for using I.A. helicopters for civil relief. This action is in hand. To evacuate aircraft from Uttarlai airfield also in anticipation of possible flooding. This is what has been reported by the Defence Ministry.

Some information has been provided by the Petroleum Ministry that they are also cooperating and helping in the relief work. The Ministry of Telecommunications is connecting important telephone numbers to other exchanges, wherever it is possible. The source of information of these figures are, the State Reports, the Ministry of Defence Reports, the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas; the Department of Telecommunications reports and IFFCO's own report.

SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA: Has any damage been reported from the Petroleum Ministry?

SHRI SOMPAL: No damage has been reported by them. There is information. This is 1200 crores, this information I have already given. The Government of Gujarat has requested the hon. Home Minister for an assistance of Rs. 500 crores and for deputation of a team. This I have already announced. A team will

be sent and this demand will be considered, and within the means, the resources will be made available to the State Government. With these words, I thank the Members for sitting so late and seeking information so keenly on this calamity.

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे: सर, एक ही बात कहना चाहता हूँ। मैं इस सरकार को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि टेलीकम्युनिकेशन डिपार्टमेंट ने वहाँ इस आपदा में भी अच्छी तरह से काम किया है। एक भी टेलीफोन इस राज्य सरकार ने 5 करोड़ रुपये कच्छ और जामनगर दोनों जनपदों के लिए राहत राशि की घोषणा की है, पोरबंदर और जूनागढ़ जिले के लिए एक-एक करोड़ रुपये और दूसरे जो जनपद है, जिले हैं उन के लिए 50 लाख रुपये प्रति जनपद राहत राशि की घोषणा पूर्व ही कर दी है। दौरान बंद नहीं रहा है और जबसे यह क्लेमिटि हुई, हम बराबर यहाँ से बात करते रहे हैं, कोई भी टेलीफोन बंद न होने से हम उधर बात करते रहे हैं। इसके लिए हम सरकार को बहुत बहुत धन्यवाद देते हैं कि कम्युनिकेशन डिपार्टमेंट ने बड़ा अच्छा काम किया है।

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: The new information is that the Gujarat State Government has requested to send a Central team along with a compensation of Rs. 500 crores. Will this be an all party team?

SHRI SOMPAL: This is an official team. This is called an official team. There is a crisis management group here at the Centre consisting of several representatives of various Ministries and this team usually is sent by the Ministry of Agriculture. But if need be other Ministries are also involved.

श्री राजूभाई ए० परमार: सर, मैं मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूँगा, अगडियों के बारे में कोई स्पेशल कुछ किया गया है?

श्रीसोमपाल: सर, अगडियों के बारे में मैंने कहा कि एक तो जो नमक सेस का कोष उपलब्ध है, जिसके संबंध में यहाँ एक माननीय सदस्य ने कहा, उसकी जानकारी लेकर यदि इस कोष में राशि है तो उसका उपयोग किया जाना चाहिए। अगर उसके लिए कोई वैधानिक प्रावधान करने है तो वह कर दिए जाने चाहिए। यदि कोई नोटिफिकेशन, अधिसूचना या ऐसी चीज जारी करने की बात हो तो वह की जानी चाहिए। मान्यवर, इस

प्रकार के गरीब लोग, जो दैनिक मजदूरी के आधार पर और इतने कठिन और दुर्गम स्थानों में इतने भयावह व्यवसाय में लगे रहते हैं उनकी स्थिति वैसे भी बहुत खराब रहती है, शारीरिक रूप से भी वे व्यवसाय के कारण ही अक्षम हो जाते हैं, गरीबी तो एक विभीषिका है ही, उनका तो व्यवसाय अपने आप में स्वयं में एक विभीषिका है, उनके बारे में निश्चित रूप से सोचा जाना चाहिए। एकदम तो मैं कुछ कहने की स्थिति में नहीं हूँ परन्तु आपके इस विचार पर निश्चित रूप से ध्यान दिया जाएगा।

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to seek a small clarification. There is the BICP Committee's report on salt workers. It has suggested a number of practical steps which can be taken to ameliorate their lot.

SHRI SOMPAL: I assure the hon. House and Prof. Alagh that I would look into the recommendations. There are certain recommendations which are feasible and which we can go in for. (*Interruptions*) I would be grateful if a copy is sent to me.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Secondly, in regard to cattle, if you could give us some assurance, it would be good. It is a cattle-rich area.

SHRI SOMPAL: The suggestion which had been given earlier and the recommendations of the BICP Committee would be considered.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: I am talking about cattle. Gir is one famous variety. I am asking about the cattle loss.

SHRI SOMPAL: What is the variety?

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: Gir is one. There are other varieties. It is a cattle-rich area. Per-head price of cattle is very high in that area. This loss aspect should be considered.

SHRI SOMPAL: We will take up the matter with the State Government; whether there could be some system of compensating for the loss of cattlehead. We will take it up with the Government of Gujarat.

SHRI YOGINDER K. ALAGH: I would repeat. We thank you for everything that you have said. But, as far as the crop

is concerned, it is very urgent because sowing takes place very early.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): He has already said about that.

We will now take up the Statutory Resolution disapproving the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Ordinance, 1998; and the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Bill, 1998. Shri Dipankar Mukherjee to move the Statutory Resolution.

I. STATUTORY RESOLUTION SEEKING DISAPPROVAL OF THE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSIONS ORDINANCE, 1998.

II. THE ELECTRICITY REGULATORY COMMISSIONS BILL, 1998.

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE (West Bengal): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I move the following Resolution:

That this House disapproves of the Electricity Regulatory Commissions Ordinance, 1998 (No. 14 of 1998) promulgated by the President on the 25th April, 1998.

Sir, it is already 10.30 p.m. I will continue tomorrow.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): We will continue this tomorrow.

SHRI R. KUMARAMANGALAM: It can be continued tomorrow, at 5 p.m., Sir. The time may please be specified.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): We will take it up tomorrow, at 5. p.m.

SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE: Sir, he has already moved the Resolution.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SANATAN BISI): Yes, yes.