

Bratin Sengupta, do you still want to say something? You have to finish it in just one minute.

SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, I want to associate myself with what Shri Angou Singh has said. Thank You.

Special Central Assistance to Andhra Pradesh on account of Heavy Loss due to Hailstorms

DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, it is most unfortunate that my State of Andhra Pradesh is reeling under severe calamities one after the other. Sir, once Andhra Pradesh was a rice bowl which used to contribute maximum quantity of rice of the Central Pool. Today it has become a begging bowl. Recently, there was a hailstorm in which ten districts were affected and 46 lives were lost. Not only loss of lives paddy, commercial crops, cattle; thousands of houses have collapsed. Our Chief Minister, Shri Chandra Babu Naidu, has taken the initiative and released Rs. 10 crores as immediate relief and announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 1 lakh for the deceased families. It is unfortunate that so far the Central Government has not responded. Some time back the hon. Prime Minister was in the House and I thought that, at least, he would respond. Unfortunately, the hon. Prime Minister has left on some other work. So, I request the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests who is present here to convey our feelings to the hon. Prime Minister.

Sir, two days back, five persons of one family in Banswada village of Nizamabad district had committed suicide because of this hailstorm. They lost their entire paddy. This is a dangerous sign. So, I personally, humbly and earnestly request the Central Government and the hon. Agriculture Minister to release Rs. 25 crores immediately and not to wait till the Central Team goes there, studies the situation and submits its report, so that the farmers can be rescued, their houses

can be constructed and a new life can be given to those who have lost their paddy, etc. I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Mr. Narayanasamy wants to associate.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Yes, Sir.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Please, be brief.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, with your kind permission I associate myself with my colleague's sentiments. There are unusual and unseasonal rains in Telangana districts and coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. Most of the rabi paddy crop has been damaged. So, I request the Union Government to rescue the farmers. Thank you Sir.

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TRILOKI NATH CHATURVEDI): Thank you, hon'ble Members. The Special Mentions are over. I think you have suspended your lunch break or rather you had decided to abridge it or abbreviate it. So, now we adjourn for lunch just for half an hour. We will meet at 2.15 P.M.

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

The House reassembled after lunch at twenty-two minutes past two of the clock, The VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN) in the Chair.

**THE APPROPRIATION (RAILWAYS)
NO. 3 BILL, 1997
—(Contd.)**

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN): The hon. Railway Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, would now reply to the discussion.

रेल मंत्री (श्री राम विलास पासवान): उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं सभी माननीय सदस्यों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ कि जहाँ उन्होंने बहुत ही सार्थक बहस के माध्यम से रेलवे को लाभान्वित करने का काम