

[Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita]

is there in the staff pattern of both the regional offices.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): If the House agrees, there is only one Special Mention and we can complete it and take up the statement.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes. Need to provide immediate relief to the victims of landslide in Mizoram

SHRI HIPHEI (Mizoram): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I thank you very much for calling me to make my Special Mention about a great tragedy that has befallen my State, Mizoram, today.

Sir, I rise to speak with a very heavy heart to inform this august House about the greatest tragedy in the recent memory of Mizoram. I was period and shocked when this bad news was brought to me. I immediately organised a prayer meeting in the Mizoram House, Chanakyapuri, and prayed for the victims, the bereaved families, and the rescue teams. That was the only thing I could do on my part. In this connection, Sir, my thanks are also due to the media persons for highlighting this great calamity in the national press and the other media. Mizoram is a very small and remote State and any happening there is not much known to the people of other parts of this vast country of ours. Through the press and the other media, the incident has now become known to many of us. Sir, it is really a Sign of love and sympathy on the part of the press people.

Sir, according to the latest information I could gather, about 67 persons have been, buried alive 26 dead bodies, including two women and one child, have been recovered, and 14 injured have been hospitalised. 17 houses and two labour camps were swept away. The incident took place at South Hlimen, about 13 kms. south of the State-capital Aizawl, at about

5 a.m. on 9.8-1992. The rescue team, consisting of police force, Fire brigade, voluntary organisations and villagers are making their best efforts to rescue and recover the remaining missing victims. In spite of the best efforts, the team could not make much headway due to big boulders, rocks and heavy spoils as the place is inaccessible. The bulldozer and other machines into operation. Manpower is quite inadequate to dig out the bodies.

Sir, the loss of over 60 lives at a time is really a great loss. The whole population is badly affected and their everyday work has become standstill. So, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you. Sir, that an additional rescue team should immediately be arranged to reinforce the present team. I would also like to appeal that an expert team be sent immediately to ascertain the real cause of the landslide, and suggest measures to be taken in order to avoid any further danger. The State needs the Centre's assistance and the nation's sympathy at this hour of distress. We are grateful to the hon. Prime Minister for his message of sympathy and condolence. The need now is to offer relief and succour to the victims. The State Government will take some time to assess the damage caused which may run into crores of rupees. Immediately, the Centre may sanction outright grant to the State Government whose financial position is quite bad, so that relief can be provided adequately.

I would humbly submit that the Government may inform the House through you about the action taken in this regard during the current session itself.

श्रीमती सरस्वती बहिन (उत्तर प्रदेश) :
मैं अपने आपको इससे सम्बन्ध करती हूँ और
केन्द्र सरकार से मांग करती हूँ...
(व्यवधान)...

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA (West Bengal): Sir, we all associate...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Please sit down, I request you. This is a natural calamity and an unfortunate incident that has taken place. The whole House will associate with what Mr. Hiphei has said, and I call upon the Government to look into the immediate requirements of the victims and find out the causes. Immediate relief should be rushed and if necessary, even rescue team as required under the local situation, should be sent by the Government. I hope the Government will take note of it and act immediately,

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: In addition, I suggest that a Central team of officials should immediately go and visit the place to assess the damage. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA): Yes, whatever is required.

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: I hope the entire House will agree with me. Let there be a high-power delegation of officers who should visit the place and assess the damage and find out in what way the Central Government can help them because it is inclement whether and the situation is very bad there. Therefore, the Government send a delegation.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the Mandal Commission recommendations regarding reservation

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI SITARAM KESRI): Sir, The Election Manifesto of Congress-I Party for the General Election 1991 contained a commitment that in implementing special measures for the Socially and Educationally Backward Classes (SEBCs) in regard to reservation, preference would be given

to the poorer sections among the SEBCs, and if candidates are not available from the poorer sections, the benefit would go to other members within the SEBCs.

In view of the importance of this issue, consultations were held with the political parties. In the light of the consensus evolved through consultation with the political parties, the OM of 13-8-1990 providing for 27 per cent reservation in favour of the SEBCs against vacancies in civil posts and services under the Government of India to be filled through direct recruitment was amended vide OM: dated 25-9-1991, which provided for the following:

(i) Within the 27 per cent of the vacancies in civil posts and services under the Government of India reserved for SEBCs, preference shall be given to candidates belonging to the poorer sections of the SEBCs. In case 'Sufficient number of such candidates are not available, unfilled vacancies shall be filled by the other SEBC candidates.

(ii) 10 per cent of the vacancies in civil posts and services under the Government of India shall be reserved for other economically backward sections of the people who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservation.

(iii) The criteria for determining the poorer sections of the SEBCs or the other economically backward sections of the people who are not covered by any of the existing schemes of reservations are being issued separately.

The 5-Judge Constitution Bench hearing the writ petitions filed against the OM of 13-8-1990 as the subsequent OM of 25-9-91, desired to know as to how far when the Government would be able to give the list of economic criteria as referred to in the OM of 25-9-1991. The Court was informed that government would