

SHRI SARADA MOHANTY (Orissa): Sir, I associate myself with the sentiments expressed by my friend, Shri Pravat Kumar Samantaray.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Shri Raj Mohan Gandhi. You were asking whether the Minister is here or not. The Minister is very much here.

Need to go into various aspects of Tehri Dam Project causing Hardships to people

SHRI RAJ MOHAN GANDHI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, I am grateful that he is here and I am going to request him through you, Sir, to convey to the Prime Minister my very serious concern on the Tehri Dam issue. This morning, I had a telephonic message from the affected area that very serious blasting relating to the Tehri Dam project is going ahead despite the district authorities expressing objection and unhappiness. The Dam authorities had given an assurance to the district authorities that they would not go ahead with the blasting as the blasting was causing very grave concern and even shock to the earthquake affected areas. Last night, on the radio or television, I heard, Mr. Vice-Chairman, that the Minister for Energy had once again made a categorical statement that the Tehri Dam project was going to go ahead exactly as planned. The Prime Minister, on the other hand, was on record after the earthquake saying that he had some questions, misgivings and reservations. The U.P. Government have passed a resolution requesting the Central Government to review the Tehri Dam project. The people of the area are extremely concerned. Representations of all kinds have been made and I hope that the Government will not take a decision behind closed doors and execute it despite the serious concern and anxiety felt by a large section of the public. And there is one particular question which has not yet been answered and that is about the peak ground acceleration. The present project is designed only to withstand a peak ground acceleration of 0.25 G whereas it is the estimate of the world's top seismologists that there could be a peak ground

acceleration of IG. This is a very serious gap between what is provided for and what will be necessary in case another earth quake occurs in the area. So I have two requests to make. One is the Government should come out with a clear statement that a review is going to be made and the anxieties and fears of the public are going to be given due weight. And my second request is that pending the appointment of another adequate body there should be a proper debate in this House on the issue, on all of its aspects, so that an impression does not spread in this country and in the world that this Government is callous, that this Government is undemocratic, and that it does not take seriously the anxieties and fears of the public. Thank you.

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

On the situation arising out of the recent unprecedented floods in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry caused by a severe cyclonic storm—Cond.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Now we proceed to the Short Duration Discussion regarding the flood situation. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran was on his feet, but he did not complete it. Now he is absent. Smt. Renuka Chowdhury.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, at the outset I would like to place on record that an important issue like floods which has attacked three of four of our larger States in the country has taken from Thursday to this afternoon for the House to even consider it in its collective wisdom as an important enough subject. Other individuals like Mr. Karunanidhi have superseded it... (Interruptions)... Sir, at the outset I would also like to ask the House, through you, to convey my most heartfelt condolences to the families of the victims of these floods to the survivors, if any, and through you, I would also urge the Government and the concerned Ministries to help some of the relatives to trace the bodies of these people because in certain areas like Andhra Pradesh the floods had swept the people and the

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bodies for many miles. People have not been able to find their relatives. Through you, I urge that the local authorities should be authorised and strengthened to speak.

On 28th October, 1991 a deep depression was formed over the South-West Bay. On the 29th morning it was to cross the Tamil Nadu Coast. On 14th November the Cyclone Warning Centre, Visakhapatnam, informed that the cyclonic storm located in the Bay of Bengal. On the 14th November itself with a gale of 70 to 80 kms. per hour this cyclone hit my State of Andhra Pradesh causing heavy losses to crops, bridges, damages to *kachha* house in Nellore and Prakasam districts. It was accompanied by heavy lashing rains. Nellore and Prakasam districts were inundated by rains and we had a very heavy loss of life and damage to property and public utility services. Along with this, cumulative rainfall from 28th October to 19th November resulted in massive damage to private and public property. Not only this, continuous rains resulted in water-logging. The crops were destroyed. Forty per cent of our crops which were till then considered a bountiful harvest for my State were reduced to nothing. This is not a personal loss. I would consider it as a national loss. The loss of foodgrains which are destroyed is going to affect everybody. Let me put on record that this heavy rainfall has caused damage to the standing crops—a huge loss—worth of Rs. 249 crores. It is only a preliminary assessment. Mr. Jakhar, who had been there subsequently, may have the up-to-date figure. Besides this, we have lost almost one lakh houses in the State, not to mention animal husbandry, poultry, pisciculture and commercial crops. The damage to roads and buildings is to the tune of Rs. 219 lakhs. This again is a preliminary assessment. The loss in October-November was to the tune of Rs. 484 lakhs. These are the losses that have been caused. I want to put aside these statistics. I don't want to reduce the people who have lost their lives in the flood to mere statistics. Resorting to statistics is a method for survival. There is

a plethora of situations like this since independence in a continent like ours which is geographically bound to be a victim of cyclonic and other natural calamities.

Is it not pathetic that forty-four years after independence we are still discussing the fundamentals of how to deal with the vagaries of nature? Our nation, India, with all its science and technology—we are now on the nuclear map of the world—is not able to move on time. Though the Visakhapatnam centre gave the cyclonic warning the State Government of Andhra Pradesh could not evacuate its people and we lost human lives. What is going to happen? We keep on questioning about the remedial measures. This is not for the first time that we are discussing cyclone relief measures in this august House. During the 6 years of my term this is the ninth time we are discussing it. In 1989 there was a flood in Andhra Pradesh. We discussed it here, again ninth time. This is going to continue if we are not going to have a comprehensive and concrete plan on how we intend to deal with it. We cannot wish away the flood. I wish we could. There is pressure on every inch of land. If the people do not have the intelligence to take care of nature's rule it will prevent us from evolving checks and counterchecks and social and economic systems. Nature's rule is something beyond our hands. But we can look into it. We, as a learned society, as educated people, are not able to evolve a system. We can evolve a better and effective calamity control system than what is already existing. The reasons for this are something else; it is not just the cruelty of nature. For instance, in Andhra Pradesh river Swarnamukhi has changed its very course. I don't think anybody in his survey, aerial or otherwise, has been able to take cognizance of this reality. The river has taken a changed course because the land—the river banks—has been distributed as Government *patta* land to people who, ignoring nature's rule, are cultivating the river banks or constructing commercial building complexes. It is there in evidence to see in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Commercial building complexes are existing on the river banks. Where is the intelligence in this move? What is the

answer, the State Government has to this terrible thing happening to Government land? Farmers in my State have been agitating against this. They have been drawing the attention of the Government repeatedly for desilting the river and for fortifying the river banks. But for some reason and for lack of a long-term commitment to the people of this country, nothing was done. We are forgetting the very concept of democracy that democracy is by the people, of the people and for the people. We have a governance, which is involved and which becomes self-interested and which for petty political gains make subverted attempts, instead of drawing up plans for the country and the State. For petty political gains they have eroded the natural wealth of this country. The river Swarnamukhi, by changing its course has caused havoc in the State. Repeatedly the farmers had been asking for irrigation channels and for repairs of tanks and drainages. I fail to understand the attitude of the Government. This is where my anger rises. There is anger because it is not true that we are helpless as we like to imagine that we are. It is the folly of man and not the nature. How small we are as people that we fail to have vision for the country. How small we are that we do not have a dream for this country. It is sad that we are not able to fight the vagaries of nature and that we are not able to harness her anger and put it into collective productivity. Real estate commercial crop, pisci culture viz-a-vis standing crop which are the graneries of this country all have been washed away. We talk of crop insurance. There are inherent flaws in this system. What is crop insurance? For purposes of crop insurance, mandal is taken as a unit. This is just to oversimplify.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR):
Mrs. Chowdhury, please conclude.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY:
Please permit me, Sir, I have waited over the week-end for this and I am sorry to say that I am not going to be graceful about giving up the time. Human lives are involved. My sisters there have become widows.

Now we have been giving the mantra of crop insurance scheme as a viable alternative. Under this scheme, a farmer is required to pay his premium for insuring his crop. But when it comes to payment, when the crop has failed, mandal will be considered as a single unit. Sir, this is like telling the farmer, you take an individual life insurance policy and pay the premium amount, but when it comes to payment, the payment will be made only if the whole village dies. It is very unfortunate that I have to draw a parallel like that. But that is what the scheme is trying to say. Unless everybody else's crop fails, the farmer will not be paid even if his crop has failed. The farmer gets nothing. The farmers from my State will kill themselves. They have outstanding loans and the State Government has done nothing so far. The Centre here is giving us denominations and collecting by their permutations certain amounts of money to compensate for the loss that the farmers have incurred. I beg of the Centre that they should come up with some comprehensive plan for the State to fight floods in future. It is not just the State of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh is almost half as big as the country. People have been washed away. Property has been lost. We cannot even think of farming there for some time. There is the problem of water logging. We cannot even conceive of a second crop. Mr. Balram Jakhar had been there and in his wisdom he did not even think it fit for the Prime Minister to visit the State. I would like to leave a single thought, let not the State Government make merry in a tragedy like this. I want to know if the Centre has a comprehensive plan. No nominations should be given for the contracts of work that will be taken up on salvage. Tenders should be called for so that jobs are not given to family members and friends. I would also like the Government to come forward with a concrete plan on the assessments that have been made and their plans for fortifying the river banks. What is the budget that the Centre plans to set aside for this purpose? What are the methods that the Government is going to employ to clear the tanks and canals? How much com-

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pensation is the Government planning to pay to the farmers whose pumps have been submerged in sand? What does the Government plan to do about casting of wells? In Andhra Pradesh, we have wells? In Andhra Pradesh, we have Swaranamukhi going to be redefined geographically both on the map and in reality? What action are they going to take against those people who have been occupying river banks because this tragedy has double impact on account of the weakness of man for mere commercial gains? Then, I forgot about one thing and that is about the modernization of the delta areas. Certain roads, like the Tirupati-Raichur road, etc. are not there at all!

Before I conclude, I would like to say one thing. Such a great tragedy has taken place in our country and yet, what is the role that the media plays in our country? How is it that the people of this country—I consider this matter as one of the utmost importance—the students in schools and colleges and the people in public employment are not motivated at all to donate something towards the cause of an Indian who is suffering in this tragedy? Why is it that my nation has not thought it important enough to rise collectively and come forward to think, “An Indian, a colleague of mine or a friend of mine is drowned”? How is it that the media has taken recourse to publishing trivialities, but is not doing enough on this? And, how is it, Sir, that the House itself—I am sorry to say this—because of personal bias, political bias, has reduced this subject a subject like this to a mere farce? I have been waiting for this since Thursday last. The cyclone took place on the 19th of last month and it is 2nd of December today and my people have been waiting all these days to hear that Parliament has taken cognizance of this very vital issue. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Honourable Members, there is one difficulty now. Shri S.K.T. Ramachandran was absent when I called his name. You

are aware that if a Member's name is called and he is absent he loses his right. I have given a ruling like that. But, with your permission, if the House agrees and if there is a request from such a Member, I may permit him. So, what is your consensus?... (Interruptions)... All right. I think we can give him some time. Yes, Mr. Ramachandran.

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I request the House to excuse me and I am very much grateful to the House.

Sir, I am very sorry that we Tamils are consuming more time of the House.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Yes, you are right!

SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Sir, this morning, Tamil Nadu was on fire here and, in the afternoon, Tamil Nadu is under water! We are driven between fire and water within four hours!

Sir, how can I describe that horrible day, 15th November? The holocaust in the form of the cyclone crossed Karaikkal on that day. You know its tremendous speed? It was 150 kms. per hour! Just before the cyclone, there were continuous rains for about a week. The whole eastern coast of the State was in floods and the cyclone added to the misery of the people.

Do you think the disaster is describable? Is it measurable? Is it calculable? No, Sir. Many districts were submerged under water. The districts of Nagapattinam-Qaid-e-Millat, Thanjavur, South Arcot, Chingleput, Madras and the Union territory of Pondicherry were fully under water. All these districts were totally submerged under water. People used to say that they could not make any distinction between the sea and the land. About four lakh acres of land were submerged. Several huts and houses were damaged. About seven thousand kilometres of roads were damaged. Thousands and thousands of breaches were there—breaches in the tank bunds, in the canal bunds and in the river bunds and elsewhere too. Hundreds of villages have been marooned. About a lakh of families have been rendered homeless. Their houses were totally

damaged. Their cattle had been washed away. You know the plight of the farmers there? He has no house to live in; his house has been ruined; his cattle has been washed away; and he has no means of living. So, Sir, most of these districts are in such a sad plight. The State Government of Tamil Nadu has assessed the damage. They would require about Rs. 390 crores to meet the demands for repair and all those things. I do not know whether it is actually enough or they require more. But, Sir, the Ninth Finance Commission has earmarked only Rs. 39 crores per annum for Tamil Nadu. And already Tamil Nadu Government has drawn Rs. 9 crores for drought relief schemes. Now, only Rs. 30 crores are left with them. Their demand is Rs. 390 crores. How are they going to meet the demands? So, I request the Central Government to come forward to their rescue. It may be the case that they have to stick to the rules and regulations. But, at the time of such calamities, such disasters, the Central Government should be somewhat liberal and lenient. Sir, tomorrow, our Chief Minister is going to meet the Prime Minister. I would like to request the Prime Minister and the Central Government to release immediately as much required by the State as to relieve the poor farmers from their saddest plight. They are homeless; they have lost all their wealth; and they are put now naked fellows.

So, Sir, considering the magnitude, considering the gravity of the situation, I would like to request the Central Government to take steps on a war-footing. Sir, I wanted to speak more. I have the guilty conscience because I was not there when I was called, and I am grateful to the House for allowing me to speak. Now I will end with my concluding remarks.

Sir, last year, we were fighting for Cauvery. We were just crying for water. What a sad plight. Sir, now we are in water! We are crying in water. And I request that the nature's bounty should always be respected, nature's grace should always be respected. If we take some stand which goes against nature, nature become automatically furious, and I

think, she wants to punish us. So, it has ravaged not only Tamil Nadu but Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh also. So, considering all this, as I mentioned the other day, we should all find the means, we should find the device to stop such calamities or at least to minimise the evils of such calamities.

With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI K. G. MAHESWARAPPA (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, my colleagues from Karnataka who had already spoken in the House had given the details of the extensive damage caused due to floods and cyclones. Sir, there was an extensive damage to life and property in the month of June and August due to heavy rains. The losses were estimated to be about Rs. 44 crores during the heavy rains of July and August. In fact, the Karnataka Government submitted a memorandum regarding the damage, and asked for relief in the month of August itself. The hon. Minister is present here. The Central Government did not concede to the request of the Karnataka Government made in the month of August. That is one phase of the damage due to heavy floods in the months of August-September. Then again due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal in the last week of October, 1991, unprecedented rainfall was witnessed particularly in Bangalore, Kolar and Tumkur districts. I may bring to the notice of the hon. Minister, who has recently visited and seen the extensive damage in some parts of the districts, that there was 25 cms rain in a single day and 37 people and 2000 cattle died during the October floods. Then on 14th November, due to the depression in the Bay of Bengal heavy rain was witnessed, this time in Mysore and Bangalore. So, the devastating effect of these three stages—first in the month of August, second in the month of October and third in the month of November, is unprecedented. The hon. Minister must give some consideration to Karnataka. For the last 40 years such kind of calamity has not happened in Karnataka. So, a memorandum was submitted requesting for Rs. 130

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crores for relief. Recently, the hon. Minister announced a relief of Rs. 150 crores for all the three States. It is absolutely inadequate if it is for all the three States. There is no breakup of figures so far as aid from the Central Government is concerned. So far as the damage is concerned, I do not want to take much of the time because the Minister has personally seen it and a detailed memorandum has been submitted. But I want to make my submission regarding the relief measures to be taken and financing of relief expenditure to the States affected by natural calamities. This question has been considered time and again by the Finance Commission, the 7th Finance Commission, the 8th Finance Commission and the 9th Finance Commission also. Various possibilities have been considered. The 9th Finance Commission has recommended that annual assistance from the Central Government is not feasible. It has also come to the conclusion that 'to create an insurance fund' also is not feasible. The hon. Minister is aware that the matter was referred to the Finance Commission and it suggested after examining all aspects of the matter that national insurance was not feasible. That is the report of the Finance Commission. But the 9th Finance Commission has made several recommendations—about 12 to 13 recommendations—as to how to fund calamity affected States, whether the Central Government should always send a team to visit the States, receive memoranda, make spot-inspection and send Central teams. An impression is created that the States suffering from natural calamities ask for exorbitant relief measures. But always the Central Government aid is cut to a very minimal size. This should not be the attitude of the Central Government. It should assess correctly as to the actual damage done in each circumstance. In fact, Karnataka has never utilised funds earlier because there was no such serious calamity. I am reading one recommendation of the Finance Commission: "The present arrangement for financing the

relief expenditure should be replaced by a new one where greater autonomy...and responsibility are placed upon the States and they are provided adequate means and wherewithal to carry out the schemes. 'Once this is done, the State would be expected to follow the path, of self-reliance and would not have to look up to the Centre. We propose to replace the present scheme involving provision of margin money preparation of State memoranda, visit of Central team'. Their proposal is creation of a calamity relief fund for each State. You are aware, calamity relief fund has been created for each State where the Central contribution is 75 per cent and State contribution is 25 per cent. How the funds have to be disbursed, has been left to the State. But this scheme itself is not enough to meet the demand. Even this recommendation of the 9th Finance Commission on evolving this scheme, does not adequately meet the exigencies. Therefore, here I would like to read out from para 6 of the report of the Finance Commission which says: "During the period covered by our report, if any region faced a calamity of such dimension and severity as to warrant its handling at the national level, we are confident that the Centre will take appropriate action as the situation demands and incur necessary expenditure." I rely on this recommendation, forgetting other deliberations of the Finance Commission. In an extraordinary and a special case, the Central Government goes to the extent of providing any amount of relief and I would again appeal to the hon. Minister, because he has inspected the area; he has toured the affected area and I would appeal to him to give more funds to Karnataka because the calamity is very severe in Karnataka.

Lastly, I have a personal appeal to make to the hon. Minister who may kindly make a note of it because the State Government has also not included this calamity in their memorandum. About providing assistance so far as this calamity is concerned, I leave the matter to the

Minister. But I appeal to him with regard to Bhadra irrigation project which is one of the major projects of Karnataka. It irrigates nearly three lakh acres. But the main Bhadra channel through which water comes for irrigation has completely collapsed. Eighty feet channel has collapsed and the Bhadra dam is full and water cannot be taken through the channel, because as I said, it has collapsed. But this matter has not been included in the memorandum submitted by the State Government. Hon. Minister may kindly take note of it and see whether any technical assistance can be given for reconstruction of the channel or any Central assistance could be provided, because it involves huge expenditure. The farmers will not be able to grow anything for the summer crop because there is no water to irrigate three lakh acres of land. The State Government is sleeping over the matter and reconstruction work on the channel has not yet been taken up. At least, the Central Government should advise and give its technical opinion to the State Government to immediately start repair work of the Channel so that farmers are able to irrigate their lands. It is a matter of life and death for thousands and thousands of farmers. In my district, these farmers are affected and it is for the first time I am bringing it to the notice of the Central Government. It is unfortunate the State Government has not yet brought this serious calamity to the notice of the 4.00 P.M. Central Government. I request the Minister who has been sympathetic to the farmers all his life to give some relief to the Bhadra project. Ask the Central technicians to immediately visit the place and find out how best the channel which has collapsed could be reconstructed and water could be allowed to the farmers of the Bhadra project.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Now we are again caught up with the flood of our own and our rules do not permit it. Very little time is left to the parties. As the subject is of vital importance, I am permitting. We are overflowing the rules. I request the Members to confine their speech to five minutes each.

प्रो० आई०जी० सनदीः (कर्नाटक) आदर्शणीय वाइस चैयरमैन साहब, आपने मुझे जो बोलने का मौका दिया है, इसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूँ। गत दस वर्षों में कर्नाटक कहीं बाढ़ कहीं अकाल का शिकार हो गया है। सुजला सुप्ता का हमारा सपना सपना ही रह गया। 1980 से 1989 तक कर्नाटक सूखाग्रस्त रहा। दिवंगत प्रधानमंत्री श्री राजीव गांधी स्वयं सूखाग्रस्त कर्नाटक के क्षेत्रों का दौरा करने गये थे और छपा भरी नजर से उन्होंने उसकी सहायता की थी। अपने मददगार श्री राजीव गांधी को खो देने के बाद कर्नाटक की नजर देश के दुखी लोगों के एकमात्र आधार प्रधानमंत्री श्री पी. वी. नरसिंह राव और उनकी सरकार की ओर है। बंगलूर, बेलगाम, हुब्ली-धारवाड़, बीजापुर, गुलबर्गा, रायचूर, कोलार, हासन, मडया, मैसूर, उत्तर कन्नड़ और दक्षिण कन्नड़ जिले के कई गांवों की बाढ़ की हालत बयान नहीं की जा सकती। इससे कलेजा दो टूक हो जाता है। वहां पर 50,000 से ज्यादा घर धराशायी हो गये हैं, लाखों घर बसने के लायक नहीं हैं, उन्हें तुरन्त मरम्मत की नितान्त आवश्यकता है, सैकड़ों आदमी, मवेशी, अकाल मृत्यु के शिकार हो गये हैं, वहां पर पी. डब्ल्यू. डी. की सड़को का पता नहीं है, बिजली के खम्भे और तारों को नुकसान पहुंचा है, हजारों माइनर इरीगेशन टैंक्स बाढ़ के शिकार हो गये हैं, लाखों एकड़ जमीन में धान, ज्वार, आलू, मेज की जो खड़ी फसलें थीं, वे बरबाद हो गयी हैं। इसके अतिरिक्त अधिक वर्षा के कारण पहाड़ों से चट्टानों का गिर जाना, कर्नाटक एक्सप्रेस रेल दुर्घटना जिसमें कई लोगों की मृत्यु हुई है वह रेल मंत्री जी जाफर शरीफ के आंखों से खून के आंसू बहा चुकी है। वहां पर 1,363 लाइव स्टॉक का नाश हो गया है। उत्तर कन्नड़, दक्षिण कन्नड़ जिलों का करीब 74 किलोमीटर अरबी समंदर का किनारा क्षत-विक्षत है, वहां लाखों नारियल के पेड़ जड़ समेत उखड़ गये हैं।

“जिद है हालात की बिजलियां गिराने की।
हमें भी जिद है आशियां वहीं बनाने की।”

[प्रो० आई० जी० सनदी]

लाखों किसान, मजदूर, बेसहारा, गरीब आशा भरी दृष्टि से राहत की ओर देख रहे हैं।

कर्नाटक सरकार ने बाढ़ पीड़ित बुखियों की अविलंब जो सहायता की है, मैं उसकी प्रशंसा करता हूँ। वहाँ पर नौसेना के बोट्स की मदद ली जा चुकी है, एयर फोर्स के हेलिकॉप्टरों की सहायता से बाढ़ पीड़ितों को अनाज और दवाई पहुँचाई गई है, दस करोड़ रुपये की धनराशि फसलों से हाथ धो बैठे किसानों को परिहार के रूप में दी गयी है। आश्रय कर्नाटक सरकार की गई आवास योजना है। इसके अन्तर्गत घरबार खो बैठे गरीबों के लिये इसी साल 42,000 मकान बनने जा रहे हैं। हर मकान की कीमत 15,000 रुपये से कम नहीं है। बाढ़ से दिगड़े हुए रास्तों का सुधार आरंभ हो गया है। इस पर 13 करोड़ रुपये का खर्चा होगा। कर्नाटक सरकार को केन्द्र सरकार से नेचुरल कैलामिटी फंड मिलता है। लेकिन इसमें केवल 27 करोड़ रुपया मिला है। इस धनराशि के अलावा सरकार 80-90 करोड़ खर्च कर रही है। प्लैंड प्रोग्राम से भी पैसा लेकर बाढ़ पीड़ितों की रक्षा की जा रही है।

प्रकृति विकोप के इन मुसीबत के दिनों में केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से अधिक सहायता न मिली तो कर्नाटक की दुखी जनता की मदद असम्भव है। मुसलाधार वर्षा और बाढ़ से कर्नाटक को जो नुकसान हुआ है, उसका आँखों देखा हाल केन्द्रीय कृषि मंत्री श्री बलराम जाखड़ जी देख चुके हैं और वे वहाँ की स्थिति से वाकिफ हैं। उन्होंने बाढ़ संज्ञस्त इलाकों का दौरा किया है और वहाँ के दुखियों का दुख बांट लिया है। सब लोगों का अधिक से अधिक हित करना ही एक सच्चा, गौरवपूर्ण और मानवोचित सिद्धांत है। बापू के इस सिद्धांत को स्मरण रख केन्द्र से यथाशक्ति सहायता दिलाने का भरोसा उन्होंने कर्नाटक की जनता को दिया है। मैं इसके लिये उनका आभारी हूँ।

अंत में मैं मद्रास सदन के माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से अनुरोध करना चाहता हूँ कि जो मेमोरेण्डम कर्नाटक सरकार की ओर से दिया गया है, राज्य की नाजुक आर्थिक हालात को ध्यान में रखते हुए 100 करोड़ रुपयों की विशेष सहायता "नेचुरल कैलामिटी फंड" के रूप में अग्रर दी जाय तो इससे कर्नाटक की चार करोड़ जनता केन्द्र सरकार की कृणी रहेगी। सहायता मांगते समय मुझे कबीर के इस दोहे की याद आ जाती है :

"मांगन गये सो मरि गये, जो कछु मांगन जाही ।
उनके पहले वे मुये, जिन मुख निकसत नाही ।"

धन्यवाद ।

†SHRI J. S. RAJU (Tamil Nadu):
Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, at times, nature exhibits its fury in the form of rain, flood, cyclone and earthquake. Some two months before there was earthquake in the northern part of the Country. Now because of the depression in the Bay of Bengal, a few days ago, the Southern States had experienced unprecedented rains and cyclone. We have to learn lessons from such vagaries of nature. In the outset, on behalf of A.M.K. I offer my heartfelt condolences to the families of the people whose precious lives have been lost in the floods and cyclone. I also express my sympathy for those who have lost their properties.

Sir, when the rains set in, people of Tamil Nadu were happy because they thought that they would not have to face the problem of scarcity of drinking water this year. The farmers were joyous of the prospect of bountiful *samba* crops in spite of the little damage to their *Kuruvai* crops. But to their utter dismay, the floods and cyclone of indescribable magnitude damaged both *Kuruvai* and *Samba* crops. The fury of nature has taken a toll of 185 precious human lives. 2,62,287 huts have been damaged; 900 irrigation tanks and lakes had breached. 1 lakh 40

†English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

thousand five hundred hectare paddy crops were submerged; commercial crops like sugarcane and plantation have been badly damaged; highways and rural roads have been ravaged; many houses, bridges, railway bridges and school buildings have collapsed; and telephone poles and telegraphic cables have been broken, jeopardising Communication network. Even bags of paddy ready to be taken home after harvest have been washed away.

In cities like Madras and Bangalore, poor and down-trodden people who lived in low-lying areas have lost all their little belongings. They are in total misery now. In some places, because of landslide, railway tracks have been damaged affecting running of trains, causing hardship to people.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the General Secretary of the Congress (I) Shri Janardhan Poojary visited the affected areas on behalf of his party to assess the damage. The hon'ble Railway Minister is fortunately here. A high-level Central team comprising of the Union Minister of Agriculture Shri Balram Jakhar, the hon'ble Railway Minister and the Union Minister hailing from Tamil Nadu Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam visited the areas affected by floods and cyclone. I am sure they would have submitted report to the Prime Minister. They all said in Union voice that "the flood situation is serious." The Tamil Nadu Government reported in the beginning that the damage could be to the tune of Rs. 340 crores. However, in the latest report, the Tamil Nadu Government has indicated that the loss is to the tune of Rs. 390 crores and 53 lakhs. In a meeting with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Balram Jakhar, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam and also other members of the Central team promised that they would plead with the Centre to release more funds for relief works. I hope they would stand by their promise. It is not enough to shed tears and make promises. The feelings of sympathy alone would not mitigate the sufferings of the people. The Government has to provide adequate relief without delay. Out of the 39 crores rupees

allocated, Rs. 9 crores have already been spent in providing immediate relief.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Funds have already been allocated.

SHRI J. S. RAJU: Mr. Narayanasamy says funds have been allocated. But how much? Rs. 400 crores was demanded by the Tamil Nadu Government. But the allocation is about 30 crores.

Sir, that is why the President of D.M.K. Dr. Kelaingnar, who adorned the Chair of the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu till recently argued before the Finance Commission to allocate more Natural Calamities Relief Fund for the Coastal States. He had detailed discussions on this matter with the then Finance Minister Prof. Madhu Dandavate. Therefore, I urge upon the Centre to accept this demand and allocate more funds to coastal States. Sir, we are not envious of the perennial rivers like Ganges, Yamuna and Brahmaputra in the north. But when these rivers are in spate causing damage to people, we have seen how the Centre spends money in thousands of crores. We don't question as to why you give? But we have the right to ask, why don't you be so magnanimous when it comes to South? Our late lamented leader Dr. Anna rightly called the seat power as 'deaf Delhi.' He said so because centre turns a deaf ear to the voice of people in distress and to the voice of reason. Because of this attitude the people of Tamil Nadu feel that Delhi is far away unwilling to listen to their problems.

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I have some suggestions to make. We know what the Central and the State Governments do at times of natural calamities. The affected people are given some food, clothes and a paltry sum as compensation and the Ministers make aerial survey of the affected areas. These are video taped and shown all over the Country. That is all we do. We forget about it the next moment. We never put our head into finding a permanent solution. We formulate many plans and schemes and spend huge amount to execute them.

[Shri J. S. Raju]

Here I wish to make a pertinent point. As far as north is concerned, it is the question of releasing the surplus water into the ocean. But as regards south, it is the question of storing the surplus water for future use. So, it is time the Government worked in the direction of formulating schemes for storing surplus water in the Southern part of India.

Sir, we can rebuild schools and houses, repair the bridges and roads and revive the communication network. But with a sense of paralysing calamity I ask, who will wipe the tears of the farmers who stand aghast having lost their livelihood. Crops worth crores of rupees have been damaged. They have nothing to hold on to. Their fortune has been reduced to unspeakable misery. Therefore, I plead with the Centre to be magnanimous and give 100 per cent compensation to the farmers. Such act alone can save them from this pitiable plight.

Last week some hon'ble Members said that the Prime Minister went to his constituency in Andhra Pradesh to thank the people but did not visit the flood affected areas in the State. I have a genuine question here. Why the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu did not visit the affected areas in the State?

SHRI M. VINCENT (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vive-Chairman, Sir, he is giving a wrong information. Indeed, our hon'ble Chief Minister visited all the affected areas in Madras braving rain and storm. Our Chief Minister went to these places getting drenched in the rain and without bothering for the security even. A planned conspiracy is going on against the life of our Chief Minister (*Interruptions*).....

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Mr. Vincent, let us not waste the time... (*Interruptions*)... Nothing is going on record... (*Interruptions*)... Nothing will go on record. Please sit down.

SHRI M. VINCENT:*

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBALAI (Tamil Nadu):*

SHRI J. S. RAJU: If the Chief Minister thinks that Madras alone is Tamilnadu I am not responsible for that. Even the Prime Minister and the Governor of Punjab are in security-risk group. Yet they keep travelling to various places to discharge their duties. So, I charge that the Chief Minister of Tamilnadu did not visit the affected areas in Tamilnadu.

SHRI M. VINCENT:*

SHRI J. S. RAJU: Hon'ble Member Shri M. Vincent is going to retire in a few months time. By shouting here he thinks he can get another term. If my speech here is going to be of any help to him, he should thank me.

SHRI M. VINCENT:*

SHRI J. S. RAJU: If something is not understood, it is the fault of the ears hearing it. The Speaker can't be responsible for that. What I want to ask is this. Why a Chief Minister elected by the people did not visit the flood affected areas? This is my specific question. ... (*Interruptions*)... If other minister are to visit those places, why at all we should have a Chief Minister? Even officers can look after these works. ... (*Interruptions*)...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI (Maharashtra):*

SHRI M. VINCENT:*

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN (Tamil Nadu):*

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Order, Please...

Please conclude your speech, Mr. Raju.

*Not recorded.

SHRI J. S. RAJU: Sir, meteorological warnings were given well in advance. But the Government did not evacuate the people living in coastal and low-lying areas... (Interruptions)... As the hon'ble Member, Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury said, the Government should go in for short term tenders to provide immediate relief... (Interruptions)... I once again call upon the Centre to provide immediate and adequate relief to the people in distress. Thank you.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the hon. Member from the DMK party who spoke before me, mentioned about many important things about the cyclone and floods. But he also mentioned that Delhi is very far away and that Delhi has got deaf ears. Delhi is not very far away. If you will come by plane, you will be able to come within two-and-a-half hours, and by train you will be able to come within a period of one-and-a-half days. These days you can make instant trunk calls to Madras. I have seen our hon. Members making two calls and getting information this morning. So near is Madras that they are able to get very quick information and they have very quick travel also.

Delhi is not deaf. That is why immediately after our hon. Chief Minister wanted a team to go there, as soon as she wanted it, the hon. Minister for Agriculture went there. Shri Janardhan Poojari from the Congress Party went there. Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam also went there. Shri Narayanasamy also went there. On behalf of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil Nadu Government, we are thankful to the Government of India and to the Central Team for having responded to our request so quickly and having toured Tamil Nadu.

Sir, about the cyclone on the 15th of November, the details have been given by many hon. Members. Within the short time available to me I do not want to go into the details of what happened because it has already been enumerated in detail both by Mr. Narayanasamy and Mrs. Jayanthi Natarajan. A

report has already been submitted to the hon. Prime Minister.

It has been said that our Chief Minister has not visited the cyclone-affected areas. Madras city is very important. It has been very badly affected. One of the very badly affected places in Tamil Nadu is the Madras city, as it is known, and our hon. Chief Minister on the very day and the next day went about many flood-affected areas and cyclone-affected areas. Hon. Members may also be aware that last year, almost a year back, there was a cyclone. A severe cyclone had occurred then. Then the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Mr. Karaunanidhi, had also visited the Madras city.

Immediately after visiting the Madras city, she deputed many of our Ministers to all the districts. They have gone to those places, and they have got all the facts. All the facts have been given to the hon. Minister and to the Team very quickly. In the absence of the Agriculture Minister I have thanked him most profusely on behalf of my party, on behalf of Tamil Nadu and the Tamil Nadu Government for having responded to our request and having gone there so quickly and assessed the situation.

Sir, as it has also been mentioned, the Tamil Nadu Government was allotted only Rs. 39 crores. Out of this, the Tamil Nadu Government has said that it has spent Rs. 9 crores, and it wanted Rs. 30 crores. Already it has been mentioned here that Rs. 30 crores have already been given by the Government of India for relief work. But the main purpose for which we wanted the Team to go there was not getting Rs. 30 crores because Rs. 39 crores had already been allotted. The State Government had spent about Rs. 9 crores. It is more or less the bounded duty of the Centre to give the other thing, Rs. 30 crores, because it is an allotted amount.

The only problem that we have taken up with the Government of India is that the total damage is about Rs. 391 crores. We want the Government of India to give as much as possible to the

[Shri G. Swaminathan]

Government of Tamil Nadu. I remember that when there was a cyclone in Punjab, the Rajiv Gandhi Government gave almost Rs. 187 crores to the Punjab Government during 1988. So, I think, that the Team which has assessed the situation, will be able to release more fund to the Tamil Nadu Government.

But the point is that the relief has to be given as early as possible, and more funds have to be allotted. (*Time bell rings*)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BHASKAR ANNAJI MASODKAR): Please conclude.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, only one or two more points I want to raise.

The Ninth Finance Commission allotted a total relief fund of Rs. 804 crores for this. Out of Rs. 804 crores, the Centre has to give Rs. 603 crores, and all the States put together, Rs. 201 crores. This was about Rs. 240.75 crores more than what was allotted by the Eighth Finance Commission. How they have come about it is that they have taken the total grants approved by the Government of India over the past ten years. It is based on the approval, not on the actual amount spent by both the States and the Centre. The Ninth Finance Commission has stated that there is a contention between the States and the Centre whenever natural calamities of this kind are there. The States want more funds, and the Centre is not able to give them what they want. Some States accuse the Centre that it is not coming to their help at the point of time when they require it. So, the Ninth Finance Commission felt that this kind of contention need not be there and that the States can be allotted the total funds so that the dependence upon the Centre and the accusation against the Centre may not be there. I feel the calculation is not correct. It is based only on the approved funds given by the Centre both in the form of loans and grants. The total expendi-

ture on these calamities is nearly four times more. The West Bengal Government had asked for Rs. 107 crores, but the Central Government gave only Rs. 20 crores or Rs. 25 crores. Always 25 per cent of the amount asked for is approved. If you do not want the States to be dependent upon the Centre, you should take the total amount spent on natural calamities by both the Centre and the State into account. You should devise a formula by which the Finance Commission will allocate the total funds based on the extent of damage. If that is done the Central team need not visit there and we can spend the amount on our own. Then this kind of contention will also not be there.

I may also point out that the allocation of funds was made to us on the basis of the price prevailing between 1969-70 and 1977-78. Taking 1969-70 as the basis, the price escalation has been given 15 per cent. During the period of last ten years the price escalation should be 75-80 per cent. Taking only 15 per cent price escalation on the wholesale price, you say Rs. 240 crores you have allotted more than what was allotted by the 8th Finance Commission. This is not reasonable. I would request that the Government should take up this matter very seriously and recommend to the Finance Commission in such a manner that the total funds are allocated to the States and that they are not dependent upon the Centre.

Finally for the disaster relief and the plan funds, we are spending only 60 paise per individual whereas Japan is spending \$60 per individual. So, we have to allot more funds under our Plans so that whenever this kind of calamity happens, disaster reduction amount can be taken as Plan allocation by the Centre. As a result the expenses incurred by the States will not be more.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shrimati Jayanthi Natarajan) in the Chair]

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH (Andhra Pradesh): Our Government must have

given data to the Government of India regarding the extensive loss in Andhra Pradesh. I am thankful to the Union Minister of Agriculture who has visited the affected areas in Andhra Pradesh. He must have seen the actual extensive loss sustained by the agriculturists and the artisans in the affected places. Paddy crops were extensively lost. Several lakh acres were actually inundated at the time when the paddy crop was ripe. I do not know how the Government is going to estimate the extent of the loss. The people living in the coastal belt in Andhra are very unfortunate, because with the commencement of the Krishna Delta during the last 100 years—the information about it is available with the Irrigation Department—every year we have been experiencing either cyclone or tidal waves or floods or rains. These are the things which the people of the coastal belt of Andhra in particular have been experiencing. Therefore, the amount of aid that you are going to give is not going to provide the required relief to the agriculturists. On 20th of last month I attended the bankers' meeting at Ponnur Mandal. I asked them how many acres of paddy crop was actually insured. Only the Andhra Bank had furnished certain figures. Other banks could not immediately furnish the information in regard to the loans advanced by them and also the premium collected on behalf of farmers and debited to the General Insurance Company. The Andhra Bank has given short term production loans to the tune of Rs. 2,07,60,201 covering an area of 22,33,724 acres. All the thirty-one branches of the Andhra Bank have paid premium to the General Insurance Company on behalf of the agriculturists amounting to Rs. 3,55,609. There are 300 branches of all Banks in the whole of Guntur district. The premium collected by all the branches of the Banks functioning in the district might have been Rs. 20 lakhs. I asked the bankers since all the agriculturists have lost their paddy crops, what is compensation that they are going to get according to the crop insurance scheme? They said that they are not aware of the procedure.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Please make your concluding remarks.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: The RBI has issued instructions...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): The time is already over.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: I have taken only two minutes.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): No, you have taken four minutes.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: I am only the Congress (I) Member speaking from Andhra Pradesh.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): You have already taken four minutes. The party time is over. Kindly make your concluding remarks.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH: The Reserve Bank of India has instructed the banks there to collect the premium on behalf of the agriculturists. In order to claim the insurance compensation, the agriculturists do not know whom to approach. The bankers said that they do not know anything about it. That was the reply given by them. The RBI has instructed them to collect the insurance premium on behalf of the agriculturists and pay to the General Insurance Company. In spite of that they said that they do not know anything. The hon. Agriculture Minister who is here has always been taking up the cause of the agriculturists. I am sure he will be able to tell us about this thing. The bankers have also said that the General Insurance

[Shri Pragada Kotaliah]

Company will take into account random crop cutting in the Mandal. Then they actually worked out the production of paddy. If that was the case, the village level agriculturists who have taken short-term loans and paid premium are not going to get insurance compensation. I do not know the full details of the crop insurance scheme. However, it needs to be amended.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Kotaliah, please conclude; otherwise, I will call the next speaker.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTALIAH: The agriculturists who pay premium should get compensation for the loss of his crop. He is not getting it.

With regard to other things. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Please conclude. I have to call the next speaker.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTALIAH: Madam, you give me two minutes more.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): The party time is already over.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTALIAH: Please be sympathetic towards me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): It is not a question of sympathy.

The time is over.

SHRI PRAGADA KOTALIAH: I am the only Congress (I) Member from Andhra Pradesh speaking on this subject. Nobody from Andhra Pradesh has spoken on behalf of Andhra Pradesh, I got an opportunity to speak, why don't you allow me two more minutes?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I am sorry you are diverting. . .

SHRI PRAGADA KOTALIAH: No, if you are so particular, I am stopping my speech.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Vincent.

SHRI M. VINCENT: Madam Vice-Chairman, Tamil Nadu has been hit by the unprecedented floods and cyclone causing havoc all over the State. Despite the security risk, our Chief Minister visited some of the flood-affected areas, drenching in rains and braving the cyclone. She has deputed the Ministers to all the flood-affected areas of the State because she was advised against visiting all those areas due to security reasons.

Under the Chief Minister's instructions, the flood relief works are going on a war-footing through the State. Our Chief Minister has already given the details of losses, amounting to Rs. 390.53 crores to the Central team headed by the Agriculture Minister. The cyclone and floods have taken a toll of 185 human lives; 2,62,828 houses have been washed away; 409 cattle-heads died; 7048 kilometre long roads have been ravaged; paddy crops on an area of 1,40,500 hectares are lying submerged and damaged; 833 tanks have been breached; and 416 bridges have been damaged. While the total damage is estimated to be a staggering Rs. 390.53 crores so far, the natural calamity relief fund allocated for the current year is only Rs. 39 crores. Out of that, more than Rs. 9 crores have been spent on providing immediate relief.

The Central team suggested that Tamil Nadu could ask for the relief fund to be allocated next year for the State. Since the allocation for the natural calamity relief fund is very meagre for 1991-92, I demand that this allocation should be increased to Rs. 300 crores for next year, in view of the serious damage suffered, as a special case. Enough funds have not been earmarked for flood relief during this year for the Tamil Nadu Government to meet the demand. Floods occur once in a few years. Hence, irrespective of the limited earmarked fund and demand, the

Central Government must release Rs. 390 crores to meet the requirements of the Tamil Government. Paddy crops on 1,40,500 hectares have been damaged. Therefore, I demand that the Centre should give 100 per cent subsidy to totally waive the crop loan given to all the farmers in those areas. The Centre should also instruct the local banks to provide the necessary financial assistance to the affected farmers. The prevailing crop insurance scheme is very defective. It has also to be corrected.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Please conclude, Mr. Vincent. There is no more time.

SHRI M. VINCENT: Just one more minute, Madam.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I am sorry. Please conclude now. I have to call the next speaker.

SHRI M. VINCENT: I am concluding, Madam. The hon. Minister for Agriculture, after visiting the affected areas of Tamil Nadu, noted that large sections of the population have been affected by the rain and waterlogging. Roads have been badly damaged and some areas are totally cut off. Irrigation has been affected and many houses damaged. The hon. Agriculture Minister, Mr. Jakhar, said that he wanted to take immediate steps to lessen the burden and share the problems of the affected people. In spite of this admission, it is not fair to sanction a small amount for relief works. When the damage is to the tune of Rs. 390 crores, you have released a paltry sum of Rs. 7 crores. There is a proverb in Tamil, "Yaanaippasikku solappori" which means giving cornflakes to a hungry elephant. The Centre should not bargain with the States when the people are in deep distress. You should magnanimously release Rs. 390 crores at once to match the requirements of Tamil Nadu. Then alone the ravaged roads can be repaired; the damaged bridge can be reconstructed; and the breached embankments of lakes and tanks can be rebuilt.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Vincent, kindly conclude.

SHRI M. VINCENT: The Central Government waits for the report of the State Government. Then there is a big gap between the demand of the State Government and the assistance given by the Central Government.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I am calling the next speaker.

SHRI M. VINCENT: I am concluding, Madam. As regards the allocation of funds to States for natural calamities, the Central Government depends on the norms recommended by the Finance Commission. These norms of relief have to be changed.

The Central Government should immediately announce, today itself, an adequate amount of assistance to all the flood affected States of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, without any reservation and delay. The problem of floods is no longer a State problem alone. It is a national problem and it demands urgent attention and top-most priority from the Central Government. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Shri Sarada Mohanty. You have only one minute.

SHRI SARDA MOHANTY (Orissa): Madam Vice-Chairman, every year, our country is facing devastation due to natural calamities such as rain, flood and drought. Mostly, southern and eastern States are being affected by rain and flood causing heavy damage to human life, cattle, etc. and to the agriculture of poor farmers and to their huts. This year also, rain and flood caused heavy damage in Orissa, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In Orissa, rain and flood caused damage to the World Bank-financed "Indravati Hydro Electric Project". Lakhs and lakhs of people have become homeless and are being put to

[Shri Sarda Mohanty]

starvation. In order to satisfy the hunger, they are taking unhealthy food and water which cause various ailments and at least, put them to death without any treatment.

My suggestion is that the Central and the State Governments should create a medical squad with medicines and the squad should rush to the calamity area as soon as the calamity occurs, in order to save the marooned people from diseases.

Secondly, the Centre should form a Parliamentary Committee to assess the actual loss caused to the State and there should be a separate department in the Ministry of Agriculture to deal with natural calamities.

Thirdly, in order to check the misuse of money given to the State for natural calamities, the Parliamentary Committee should ascertain from the affected people whether the relief reached them or not and they should place their reports on the Table of both the Houses for the perusal of Members. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Jadhav, do you want to speak about Maharashtra? But the subject is about the south.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV (Maharashtra): Yes, Madam, I want to speak about Maharashtra. You were also present here when I had raised the issue. Mr. M.A. Baby was in the Chair. I have raised the issue that the problem of floods and drought is also there in Maharashtra. Then the Minister also reacted and the Chair also reacted that I can raise the issue of Maharashtra in this discussion. But I do not know how it has not come in the proceedings. But a ruling has been given by the Chair. You can go through the record and decide. (Interruptions). Madam, don't think that Tamil Nadu is the entire India. There are other parts also. (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I am

sorry, Mr. Jadhav. There is no need for you to make that kind of remark. (Interruptions). I am equally concerned about the whole of India as you are. There is no need to make that kind of remark. (Interruptions)

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Then, why don't you allow me to speak? (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): It has got nothing to do with it. (Interruptions)

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Is it the privilege of the Chair? Since you are sitting in the Chair, you are not allowing me to speak. (Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Let me read it out to you. The subject is Short Duration Discussion regarding the flood situation.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I know that.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): You know that. (Interruptions). Kindly hear me first.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: I have read it carefully.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Kindly hear me first. Instead of putting out your point, I strongly object to your making this kind of remark. I object to your making this kind of remark. If I am sitting in the Chair, I know very well that... (Interruptions).

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: You were very much here. (Interruptions).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): I know very well that the discussion is about Karnataka. Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and

Pondicherry. Therefore, this is what the discussion is about.

There is no need for you to make remarks like this.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Please listen to me.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): No, I will not listen to you. You keep on making these remarks. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: If you are not going to give me a chance, then in protest, I will walk out. We have the problems of Maharashtra also.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Now, Mr. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Madam... *(Interruptions)*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Mr. Minister, will you kindly yield? Mr. Jadhav, please go ahead and speak. In spite of your insulting remarks against the Chair, please go ahead and speak. I don't want to bring the Chair into disrepute. For your personal allegations, I don't want the Chair to suffer. *(Interruptions)*. I don't want to hear anything else. Kindly go ahead and speak. If you insist on this attitude; I don't want to bring the dignity of the Chair down. So I am allowing you to speak. Please go ahead and speak.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Madam Vice-Chairman, thank you very much. At the time of the start of the discussion, I had raised the issue that floods and droughts are prevalent in Maharashtra also and Chair agreed to it. The entire House agreed to it. *(Interruptions)*.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI-MATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): No, I am sorry.

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: There were two tragedies which took place in Maharashtra. Firstly, in the month of July, there were heavy rains and floods in M...ra-Nagpur district. I am not going to emphasise on that. But that tragedy had taken away 1000 lives and about 1200 houses had collapsed,

The Prime Minister, the Chief Minister, the Defence Minister and the Minister of Agriculture also visited the floor affected areas. We have tried to give relief to the flood-affected people. After that, from the month of July till today, in the entire Vidarbha, in the entire Marathwada and some parts of Western Maharashtra there were no rains. About 18,000 villages have been affected by a severe drought. I think the Minister of Agriculture knows the intensity of the drought. The Chief Minister has stated that Rs. 700 crores are required to light the drought. The Centre has released Rs. 44 crores to fight the drought. The irrigation backlog of Marathwada and Vidarbha is about Rs. 1,000 crores. The present drought is worse than the drought of 1972. Today itself, the State Assembly of Maharashtra is discussing the same issue—floods and drought in Maharashtra. Today, they have assembled in Nagpur and they are discussing this issue.

(THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA) in the Chair.

And even in all the news papers it has appeared that Maharashtra is badly affected by this serious and worst drought of this century. From 30th July onwards in about 18,000 villages not a single inch of rain was there. There was a total destruction of Kharif crops. Rabi crops were not sown at all. There is a serious problem of drinking water. It is not that the human beings are suffering, but the animals are also suffering. There is no fodder for them. I request the hon. Minister through you that a Central Government team should be sent to Maharashtra immediately to assess the damage and that production-oriented schemes should be started in Marathwada and Vidarbha. Sir, as you know, Marathwada and Vidarbha are the most backward regions of Maharashtra. Even the irrigation projects which have been going on for the last 40 years have not yet been completed. One thousand crores backlog is there. I request the Central Government, through you, to release a fund of Rs. 1,000/- crores for completing the different irrigation projects in different parts of Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Government had started the Employment Guarantee Scheme in 1972 when there was

[Shri Vithalrao Madhavrao Jadhav]

a serious drought like this. The Government is also starting an employment guarantee scheme. One scheme is providing employment for 24,000 workers. I would request the hon. Minister, the Central Government and the State Government for provision of percolation tanks, tubewells for irrigation projects, drinking water, animal fodder. Other relief measures should also be taken. I would request that a committee consisting of Members of both the Houses of Parliament should be formed for assessing the damage caused by floods, drought and natural calamities. Wherever a tragedy happens, this committee should visit that place and submit a report to Parliament. The Central and State Governments must work together to fight the natural calamity. We are facing these natural calamities for the last so many years, but till today we could not create a Parliamentary committee. I would request the Government, through you, to create a Joint Parliamentary Committee of Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha. Whenever a natural calamity occurs, this committee should visit the place to assess the intensity of the calamity and submit a report in this regard... (Interruptions)... Just half a minute. Additional foodgrains should be supplied on a war-footing to the drought-affected people. Employment-generating works should be started. Irrigation projects, national highways, railway projects and other developmental works should be undertaken under the Employment Guarantee scheme in Maharashtra. The flood and drought-affected people should be helped on a war-footing. With these words I conclude. Thank you.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, I have to thank all the Members who have participated in this discussion and I share their grief, their anxiety, their pain at the destruction caused by these floods. I also share the grief over the loss of life of those people and their relation. It was a tragic thing to have happened, but as the nature would have it, we can only try to save and salvage something out of it. But what has happened I have seen myself. I have gone there, talked to the people, walked in the streets and those houses which have been devastated, the mud

houses that have collapsed the crops that have been submerged, the roads that have been broken and wrecked the railway tracks that have been uprooted. It is a saga of calamities, a sort of unbelievable severity, but we have to face it. In that context I am giving the full background of how it all happened. The same was the case with the Prime Minister. He felt the same thing. He told me, "I prefer to go and see things myself." He discussed all the things in Hyderabad with all the officers concerned and he also asked me to proceed on a tour to Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Karnataka. For full three days I was there. I went from place to place. Talked to those who are in the office. But I may just narrate how it all happened in chronological order and then we may try to see how we can do something to ameliorate the feelings and how, we can prevent such things in future. Let me say that the things demanded and as the things stand today, there is a lot which can be met and which cannot be met. I cannot even visualise how to compensate those who have been affected. As one belongs to the farmers' family or someone connected with farming I can understand their suffering when the crops are taken away before their very eyes. This is something beyond description. It cannot be comprehended. How can you compensate for that? We can only alleviate. We can only sympathise. We can only make them stand once more on their legs.

India Meteorological Department reported that a depression formed on the morning of 12th November, 1991, over south-east Bay of Bengal at about 800 kms. east south-east of Madras with its centre near latitude 11.0 degree N, longitude 87.0 degree E. Moving initially in a west north-westerly direction it intensified into a deep depression on the 13th morning with its centre at about 450 kms. east south-east of Madras. The system rapidly intensified into a cyclonic storm by the same evening when it was centred at about 350 kms. east south-east of Madras. Moving further in a westerly direction it crossed Tamil Nadu coast near Karaikal (30 to 40 kms. north of Nagapattinam) in the early hours of November 15, 1991. After crossing the coast the system weakened into a deep depression and lay centred at about 100 kms. west of Cuddalore a

8-30 hours IST of November 15. Thereafter it slowly moved in a north-westerly direction, weakened into a depression and lay centred about 50 kms. west of Vellore on 16th morning. The system further weakened and became unimportant by the same evening.

In association with the cyclone, gale force winds of speed ranging over 90 kmph were reported by the meteorological office at Karaikal at the time of landfall of the cyclone on Tamil Nadu coast near Karaikal. Around the cyclone, winds reported by some stations were between 80-90 kmph. The cyclone caused wide-spread rainfall over Tamil Nadu, South Central Andhra Pradesh, Rayalseema and South Interior Karnataka during the period 14th to 17th November, 1991. Heavy to very heavy rainfall occurred at a few places over the above areas during the same period. Fairly wide-spread rainfall also occurred over Kerala, Telangana and North Coastal Andhra Pradesh.

The cyclone warning centres of the India Meteorological Department at Madras and Visakhapatnam and the Meteorological Centre at Hyderabad provided necessary cyclone alerts and warnings from 13th November, 1991 onwards to the State Government officials and other warnees (like Ports) of Tamil Nadu, Union Territory of Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh, including Chief Secretaries when the cyclone was far away from the coast line. The total number of cyclone warning bulletins issued by the Area Cyclone Warning Centre, Madras for broadcast from AIR stations in Tamil Nadu was 19 and those issued by Cyclone Warning Centre, Visakhapatnam was 5. In all 24 warnings for Ports and Fisheries officials were issued from the above Warning Centres from 12th to 15th November, 1991. Cyclone warning bulletins issued to AIR, New Delhi and Delhi Doordarshan Kendra from headquarters office of the India Meteorological Department, New Delhi, from the evening of November 13, 1991, were regularly broadcast or telecast for the benefit of the general public of Tamil Nadu and coastal Andhra Pradesh. The Director General of Meteorology (DGM) personally kept PM's office, Cabinet Secretariat, Ministry of Agriculture

and the Ministry of Science and Technology informed regularly through special notes from Nov. 13, 1991 till the storm troosed Tamil Nadu Coast near Nagapattinam in the early hours of November, 15th 1991. I think that was the reason why we could save so many lives. Timely help, helped in saving thousands of lives. Coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and South Andhra Pradesh were warned for heavy to very heavy rainfall and gale force winds reaching 80-90 kmph sufficiently in advance. Tamil Nadu Government was advised to evacuate people from the low lying areas of the above districts to safer places sufficiently in advance in order to escape from inundation. The warning issued by the Meteorological Department in connection with this cyclone were timely and adequate. A Central Reconnaissance Team visited the flood affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and UT of Pondicherry to have a first hand information on the damage caused by heavy rains. The team held discussions at Hyderabad on 23-11-91 when the Prime Minister and myself were present. The team held discussions with Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry Government on 24-11-91 in my presence. The team had discussions with the State Government of Karnataka on 26-11-91. Since the 9th Finance Commission had not recommended constitution of the Calamity Relief Fund for the Union Territories. I visited Pondicherry alongwith a Central team on 30-11-91 to assess the damage caused by the recent floods and heavy rains. I also held talks with the Lt. Governor of Pondicherry. he was with me throughout the day. The State Governments are still assessing the actual damage caused by recent floods. Heavy rains in the wake of cyclone storm. The details of damage reported by the State Governments to the reconnaissance team as on 20-11-91 are as follows: As regards Andhra Pradesh, the State Government reported that eight districts viz. Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Cuddapah, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna, Chittoor have been affected by the floods rainfall. The State Government reported a loss of 119 human lives, 6656 cattle heads and damage to 8290 houses fully and 32536 houses partially. 629 tanks were breached besides damage to the roads. In Tamil Nadu, according to the State Gov-

[Shri Balam Jakhar]

ernment, six districts viz., Nagapattinam, south Arcot, North Arcot, Dhar-ampuri, Thanjavur, Chengalpet were affected, 15.12 lakh population in 543 villages have been affected. A loss of 90 human lives and 409 cattle heads were reported, 1.66 lakh ha. area has been affected which includes 10717 hectares of cropped area where more than 50 per cent crop loss has taken place, 1.86 lakh houses have been damaged fully and 0.54 lakh partially. The total damage to crops, houses and public property is estimated at Rs. 359.44 crores. In the State of Karnataka, according to the State Government, some parts of the districts of Bangalore rural and urban, Kolar, Tumkur, Mysore, Mandya, Chitradurga and Hassan received heavy to very heavy rainfall. According to the preliminary survey conducted by the State Government, 11 human lives and 1030 livestock were lost. 16098 houses were damaged fully and 26655 partially. Large areas of agricultural land has been washed out. Roads and bridges have been badly damaged. 31160 hectares of cropped areas has been affected. Total loss is estimated at Rs. 17.23 crore on account of damage caused due to recent rains/floods due to cyclonic storm. In Pondichery, the administration has reported that 11311 hectares area of standing crops has been damaged. 200 hectares of area has been affected due to soil erosion and sandcasting. The damage to the agriculture sector is estimated at Rs. 5.84 crore besides the damage of Rs. 14.25 lakhs to the fisheries sector. 4741 huts have been damaged fully and 27137 partially. It is a matter of great satisfaction that no human lives were lost in Pondicherry due to the timely action taken by the UT administration. Immediately after the receipt of the storm warning, Chief Secretaries and Relief Commissioners of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and UT of Pondicherry were contacted. And they were requested to take 5.00 P. M. precautionary measures to minimise the loss of life and property. The Crisis Management Group functioning in the Department of Agriculture and Co-operation closely monitored the developments. Various Ministries and Departments of the

Central Government have been keeping themselves in constant touch with the State Governments so as to provide assistance required by the State Governments. Assistance from the Fund was provided to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh as required by them. The Ministry of Food has allowed relaxation in the procurement of damaged paddy as requested by the State Government.

All necessary measures are being taken by the State Governments which included deputation of relief teams, vacation of the people from the low-lying areas, opening of relief camps, deployment of helicopters, distribution of food packets, deputation of medical and veterinary teams and distribution of essential commodities in the flood-affected areas. The policy for financing the relief expenditure is based on the recommendations made by the Finance Commissions set up from time to time by the Government of India. The existing scheme of financing the relief expenditure is based on the recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission. As recommended by the Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount of which 75 per cent is shared by the Central Government as a non-Plan expenditure in four quarterly instalments and the balance is shared by the State Governments from their own resources. There is an annual allocation of Rs. 804 crores in the C.R.F. consisting of Rs. 603 crores Central Contribution and the rest is there from the States. This is a thing which was settled by the States themselves. Prior to this, the procedure was, the Central Team would go, would assess and would try to compensate or do whatever could be done. But then it was decided by the States and it was, I think, decided unanimously to allocate those very funds which were available with the Centre as Calamity Relief Fund which should be distributed to the States and the States were made responsible for spending that amount or do whatever they like. The Chief Secretaries were made the Chairmen of these Committees and they would also decide what norms were to be followed, how to compensate and in what quantity and so on. That was left to the States and that is what has been done.

Mr. Swaminathan, as you said there is one thing. We had prepared a note for the Cabinet and it is still under consideration and the norms are to be decided as to which one is a national calamity, whether it is disproportionate to this one or not, etc. Naturally, this has to be decided and has to be equated throughout the country. We cannot discriminate against one or the other. Naturally, we have to take into account all these things. As you know, the quantum of allocation in C.R.F. was decided according to the average of ceilings of expenditure approved during the last ten years and, as you know, the amount needed is much more, but the amount available is not that much. So, we have to make sure that the people are able to stand on their own feet again. You have to help them and you have to compensate them. But you cannot compensate them fully. This is how the financial position stands today. I feel for the farmers because their anguish is in me also. I feel for them. Everything is there. But I do not have that much of money and that much money is not available with me. I would have to cut the cost according to the cloth. Therefore, I have to just see and I will put it up before the Cabinet. We will bring about something new to see how a national calamity or this type of calamity is to be treated in future. We are trying to do something which will be of help to the farmers and I will explain to you just now as to what we have done.

Additional Central assistance can be provided only in a situation of rate severity which requires handling at a national level. However, the scheme provides that if the State Governments find that expenditure during a particular year exceeds the amount available under the CRF, they can ask the Union Government for advance release equal to 25 per cent from the Central share of the SRF during the next financial year. The Central Government at its discretion can, however, allow a higher percentage of advance release of Central share depending upon the gravity of the situation. The position with regard to relief from the CRF to the States affected by

cyclone I will explain to you just now. But we can, if the situation so demands, allow the next year's instalment.

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: Just one minute. Please permit me to ask one question.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Just wait; wait for a minute. An amount of Rs. 86 crores has been allocated to the State CRF of Andhra Pradesh, consisting of Rs. 64.50 crores as Central share. Andhra Pradesh comes under another scheme of the World Bank for the cyclone affected areas. And that is quite a lumpsum. I am told that it is Rs. 713 crores I want it to be speeded up so that it can take care of it because the same area is again affected here. So, they have got some leverage there. And they can make the people stand on their legs again. An advance release of Rs. 61.16 crores of Central share was made last year, that is, 1990-91 in the wake of cyclone of May, 1990. This amount was required to be adjusted against the State's entitlement of Central share during the years 1990-94. In view of this, the quarterly Central share of State CRF during the current year comes to around Rs. 12.30 crores instead of normal share of Rs. 16.12 crores. The Central Government released its entire share of Rs. 49.21 crores to the State Government for 1991-92. The 4th quarterly instalment was released in advance on 21-11-1991 which otherwise would have been released in January, 1992. The State Government informed the Central team that they have so far released Rs. 40.34 crores, i.e. Rs. 29.95 crores for drought and Rs. 10.39 crores for floods, to the district authorities for relief measures.

As regards Tamil Nadu, an annual amount of Rs. 39 crores has been allocated in the CRF of Tamil Nadu consisting of Rs. 29.25 crores as Central share and Rs. 9.75 crores as State share. All the four quarterly instalments of Central share amounting to Rs. 29.25 crores for 1991-92 have been released. The 4th quarterly instalment was released in advance on 21-11-1991 which otherwise would have been released in January, 1992. The State

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of Tamil Nadu reported to the Central team that a sum of Rs. 8.79 crores has already been spent on drought and flood during 1991-92 leaving a balance of Rs. 30.21 crores in the State CRF.

Now, Karnataka. The State of Karnataka has an annual allocation of Rs. 27 crores consisting of Rs. 20.25 crores of Central contribution and Rs. 6.75 crores as State's contribution. The Central Government has already released the entire Central share of Rs. 20.25 crores by September, 1991. The State experienced heavy rains and floods during October, 1991 which caused extensive damage to life and property. Some parts of Karnataka are also experiencing drought-like conditions. The State Government reported that they need an additional assistance of Rs. 50 crores—Rs. 40 crores for floods and Rs. 10 crores for drought—as they have already exhausted the CRF for 1991-92. The State Government requested for advance release of the entire Central share of CRF for 1992-93. This is being examined in the light of the existing scheme of financing the relief expenditure.

Now, Pondicherry. The Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted only for States and not for Union Territories since the mandate of the Ninth Finance Commission is confined to devolution of finance between the Centre and the States. The budgets of the Union Territories are controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs. In the wake of the recent floods and heavy rains under the influence of cyclonic storm, the Ministry of Home Affairs has released Rs. 1.6 crores to Pondicherry Administration for meeting the expenditure on relief operations.

A sum of Rs. 40 lakhs to the Government of Tamil Nadu, Rs. 30 lakhs to the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 5 lakhs to the Government of Karnataka have been released from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund on 23rd November, 1991 to enable the State Governments to provide relief to the affected people. In addition to this...

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: Just a minute. Have you released something in connection with the Mowad flood? The Mowad dam was breached and a flood took place. The Vidarbha region deserves your sympathy.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: The same thing applies to Maharashtra. We discussed this during the last session. This flood in Maharashtra was discussed. I was dealing with the subject. But Maharashtra is not out of the line.

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI: How much have you released?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I will find out and tell you because the same thing applies to Maharashtra. They can do it and we can allow prior withdrawal of the funds. There is no problem in this. Now the question is how to meet out these exigencies when they come. They do come. You cannot predict anything. We can only see if the Meteorological Department's reports are...

SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Just a minute, Sir. You have released Rs. 44 crores for drought in Maharashtra. It has come in the press and the Government of Maharashtra report is also there. Is it enough? Is it the final amount? Or are you going to make a survey and later on give it.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: There is no thing with us. Now, what has been done, according to the 9th Finance Commission, nothing has been left with the Centre. The States have taken upon themselves this responsibility to cater because the average of 10 years was taken. They said that it is we who deliver it, it is not that each year there is a calamity. They can have it in store. They can have it in bank accounts. And they can spend it when the time comes. If they spend it on other items what can you do about it?

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: The calculation was made by the Government of India that over a period of 10 years...

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I can give you that amount. Because no Government on earth, the State Government

or the Central Government in any country, Japan or even America can have the resources...

SHRI G. SWAMINATHAN: We understand the sympathy of the Government of India. But that is only 1/4 of the total damage caused. The assessment of the Centre is always for times and the approval is only 1/4. So, the Finance Commission has taken only the approved fund. The State has to meet 3/4 of the expenditure. Suppose the State of Tamil Nadu has demanded 400 crores, you give only 30 crores. How would you balance it?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Mr. Swaminathan, you have already made your points.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I want to do it. But the question is how much you can do. It is much a high volume which we need and you cannot have it. No Government on earth, no country on earth has that much of resources at its command, not even the richest. Even they cannot make it. It is the collective will of the people who come and try to do it. We must try to do it voluntarily also. We try to get some loans from the Housing Bank. We get some cooperative loans to reschedule some land revenues, water cess to be postponed. All these things come in that way. They are a part of the panacea for the time being. They are not fully recoverable. You cannot recover them fully with the help of the Government. We have only to make them stand on their own legs. This is simply a palliative, this is simply a crutch on which you have to stand and walk again. We have to meet this situation. I talked to the people in Andhra Pradesh. I talked to the people in Karnataka and Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu. I wanted to say something about the diversification of agriculture in the coastal areas. We know that they are cyclone-prone. They do come once or twice in three years. They have come thrice in this year. Naturally, we must see that whatever we can sow there or what we grow there should be resistant to that type of havoc... For that I have discussed with them and I am talking with scientists, agronomists and plant breeders as to what sort of orchards we can grow,

what kind of crops we can grow, like mangoes, cashew-nuts, coco-nuts and all these things. In them we can do something under their protection. So, all these things we can do and I am trying to diversify the agriculture. Because in times to come, it might be helpful. You have to think about it. Just think about erosion. Shrimati Renukaji was saying something has happened to that river. It has changed its course. People have cultivated their land and something has been done. We have to be very wary about all these things. We have to see what we can do to prevent this type of a thing. That has to be done with foresight, with a calculated mind, with a planned sort of approach. That we are going to do. We must realise protection of the soil because the erosion takes place and the flood just washes down because there are no trees available there.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: (ANDHRA PRADESH): Sir, my understanding is, the total amount allocated to Andhra Pradesh is something like Rs. 950 crores as per the devaluation of the rupee. Out of this, Rs. 130 crores are spent so far. The time limit is only 3 years. Already half of the time is over. What does the Central Government contemplate to monitor those funds at a speedy pace?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is the State Government which is the agency to do it. We can only give them assistance. We can only guide them. We can just have discussion with the people who are to come here for our assistance. That is what we do. It is a cumulative effect, which we have to do. We have to generate a feeling among the people to safeguard the routine of nature. If we save nature, nature will save us. When this bed is always coming up by silt, how can just desist it all along? There are huge river-beds like that of Yamuna, Ganges or Brahmaputra, and silt is coming up; erosion is taking place. So you have to inculcate spirit in which each and every individual in this country would try to save nature for himself, for his own survival. I recently had a very nice experience of a home where there was a tree and they were going to build a house and were trying to cut that tree. A small child

[Shri Balram Jakhari]

aged 9 asked as to why they were cutting the tree and they said, it has got to be cut because a house is to be built here. She was very sorry and went inside and wrote a couplet. I myself read it; it was a very nice couplet and she said:

“कदवा पेड़ चिल्लाकर बोला मुझको मत
काटी भाई, मैं तो तुम्हारा साथी हूँ तुम
वर्षों बने कसाई।”

This is something which gives vent to the feelings. Even children have that kind of sympathy for trees. Naturally, we have to project all these things before the people. I will try to bring it to the notice of the Cabinet; I have given a report; it is a long one; I have collected all the facts which I could see on talking to the people. I have seen mud houses which collapsed because it has a porous side; it is a gravel type in Karnataka and in these gravel type mud houses, when the water gets soaked, the walls become too heavy and they cracked and went down. Thank God, no life was lost. But still they are coming up again. We have to make houses which are cyclone-proof and which can withstand the velocity, and at the same time, they have to be cheaper. I asked them to apply for loans from HUDCO and from the Government of India. I am going to put it up before the Cabinet. I am going to see the Prime Minister and tell him what I saw and I will convey all the sentiments which you have expressed here, your anguish, your pain and your distress. I can assure you of one thing more. In it lies something for the future. There has been no rain in Karnataka and those areas where I have gone, like Kolar gold fields and other areas. They have not seen rain for many years. There was no water in the wells; they were absolutely dry. But now there will be water at least for 3-4 years. Water may recharge itself from below the earth and we are going to have good crop next year. I have tried to impress upon them the need to sow as early as possible, particularly the oilseeds and something which they can grow. I am doing to provide them with new varieties

of sunflower and other oilseeds, and also the pulses, so that they can be compensated and have something for the future. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. NAGEN SAIKIA): Now we shall take up clarifications on the statement made by the Minister of Commerce.

**Clarifications on the Statement made by
the Minister on Minimum Release Price for
Coffee**

SHRI JOHN F. FERNANDES (Goa): This is a very comprehensive and a technical statement—a statement of technical nature and I don't think there is much to seek clarification about. But I would like to ask the hon. Minister one thing. In view of the new policy of the Government on the free trade which is free of control, minimum release price has still been retained and I would like to know whether it is linked to flood price. It is not appropriate because coffee is basically an export-oriented commodity and in view of this revised policy of the Government where the rupee has been depreciated, naturally there is a benefit for the exporter. The revised minimum release price is up by two points, that is, only by Rs. 2. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether benefit of the revised policy will go to workers or to the trading community, because there is appreciation of about 20 per cent in dollar value in view of rupee devaluation. I would like to know whether the Minister will see that measures are taken to ensure that benefits or gains are passed on to the workers and not just to traders.

DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Even though coffee industry has made tremendous successes, yet coffee growers are facing some problems. Firstly, the domestic consumption has remained stagnant at 55,000 to 60,000 tonnes over several years. So, how are you going to solve this problem? Secondly, the coffee growers feel that the Coffee Board does not adequately protect their interests and