

इस बात का ध्यान रखे कि गोल्डन टैपल या अकाल तख्त को दोबारा हानि न होने पाये।

Relief to handloom weavers in Andhra Pradesh .affected by cyclone

SHRI KOTAIAH PRAGADA (Andhra Pradesh). Madam Deputy Chairman, the entire nation knows that the May 9 cyclone took away many lives. The toll is more than 1,000 so far. There has also been enormous loss of property. It may run into several thousands of crores of rupees. But for the arrangements made for shifting the people from the lowlying areas to safer places, the loss of life would have been much more. More than six million people have been rendered homeless. Several million people have been rendered jobless.

Out of the people rendered jobless on account of the killer cyclone, three lak people are the handloom weavers who have been affected in the eight coastal districts of Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna, East Godavari, West Godavari, Visakhapatnam and Srikakulam. The loss is very great. Many people do not understand how to rehabilitate the handloom weavers. Certainly, the grant of some 10-20 kg. of rice and an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 500 to rebuild their huts are not going to be of much help. It is not possible for the handloom weavers to get themselves rehabilitated. Even if the huts are rebuilt, they require looms, healds and reeds and other equipment, as well as yarn, to commence production. More than 50,000 families have lost their looms, their yarn and other equipment. Because of the heavy downpour for three days, the yarn was drenched in water and it has become unfit for use.

Of course, the Centre has given Rs 66 crores and another Rs. 4 crores from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for relief and rehabilitation of the affected people in Andhra Pradesh. But it is not going to suffice. The entire nation will have to support the entire nation will have to extend assistance for the relief of the affected people in Andhra Pradesh. As far as handloom weavers are concerned.

the cost of a loom comes to Rs. 750. The cost of equipment like healds and reeds comes to Rs 250 and the cost of yarn comes to about Rs. 500. So the total comes to about Rs. 1500/-. Also the cost of yarn depends upon the type production of the cloth. It may be cotton yarn or silk yarn or other thing. For other things including equipment like dobby and jacquards are required for designing etc. They are to be provided to the handloom weavers. Apart from that, the warping wheels, the winding charkhas are broken. The entire thing comes under the textile policy and, therefore, the Government will have to come in a way to help the handloom weavers and their rehabilitation. Just an ex-gratia payment of Rs. 3000/- to purchase loom, reeds and healds is not sufficient. (*Time bell rings*). Madam in 1977 when Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam districts were affected by tidal wave and severe cyclone, the Government of India had sanctioned a rehabilitation project, especially for rehabilitation of the handloom weavers. Even today to purchase equipment like dobby, jacquards and other equipment, assistance will have to be provided under the DRDA or IRDP or NREP and other self-employment schemes. The handloom weavers have already obtained loans from the nationalised banks to purchase equipment.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. Now take your seat, the matter is over. Please take your seat.

SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK (Andhra Pradesh): Madam...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN. If you want to associate yourself, it will come on record. Now please take your seat. (*Interruptions*). You do not understand. It is already 1.15. I have a very heavy business before me. I have to pass this Bill..

SHRI KOTAIAH PRAGADA: Madam, let me conclude. This is a matter affecting lakhs and lakhs of handloom weavers.

[Shri Kotaiah Pragada]

I want that the Union Finance Ministry may announce writing off of the loans taken by the handlooms weavers under DRDA from the nationalised banks. Then only it will be possible for them to obtain loans again under DRDA to purchase the equipment.

Apart from the ex-gratia payment of Rs. 3000/-, I would have liked if the Union Minister accompanied by the Development Commissioner for Handloom had gone to Andhra Pradesh to see the worst affected areas. It is unfortunate, the Union Minister of Textiles or the Development Commissioner have not gone to see the fate of three lakh handloom weavers who have been rendered homeless and jobless.

Therefore, I suggest, let them go there.

see the handloom weaving centres and see what best can be done by the Centre. Also I want that they must sanction a special rehabilitation project as was done in 1977.

SHRI G. SWAMY NAIK: Madam, give me one minute only.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I am not allowing any speeches. If you want to associate yourself, your name will be recorded.

श्री जी० स्वामी नायक: मैडम, एक संकष्ट लूगा मैडम डिप्टी चेयरमैन, अभी जो प्रागदा कोटैया जी ने आंध्र प्रदेश में तूफान के संबंध में अपना स्पेशल मेशन दिया है, उसमें मैं एसोसिएट करता हूँ। वहाँ आंध्र प्रदेश में काफी नुकसान हुआ है। उस दिन 22 तारीख को कृषि मंत्री जी स्टेटमेंट देने वाले थे, लेकिन सुशीला तिरिया जी के अरेस्ट होने के कारण वह स्टेटमेंट नहीं हो सका।

मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि आंध्र प्रदेश में जो तूफान आया है, उसकी वजह से हजारों करोड़ों में जो नुकसान हुआ है, उस पर सरकार वक्तव्य दे और केन्द्र सरकार राज्य सरकार को क्या मदद देने जा रही है, उसको स्पष्ट करे।

Neglect of cyclone relief work in Andhra Pradesh

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI (Andhra Pradesh): Madam, as you are aware, the cyclonic storm in Andhra Pradesh has swallowed more than one thousand people and property worth a few hundred crores of rupee has been damaged. But in the current cyclone, the relief works for the farmers who have suffered the worst damage are being neglected, as usual. According to available figures, the loss suffered by the farmers runs into a staggering figure of more than 500 to 600 crores of rupees. Paddy, orchards and other crops have been destroyed extensively by heavy rains and high-speed gales. Thousands of farmers in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh have thus fallen a victim to this cyclone.

It is a great pity that virtually no assistance is being rendered to these farmers. In the case of famine or drought, there is a recognised time-honoured code for offering help. There are established procedures for carrying out sample surveys of the crops damaged in the affected districts and relief is extended on the basis of such surveys. Yet in the case of severe cyclonic storms, farmers are being left completely unaided for the simple reason that they have no organised voice and as such could be easily ignored under that code. We are aware that there is no comprehensive crop insurance scheme to protect the farmers in this regard. For example, mango, coconut, citrus and sapota orchards have been subjected to indiscriminate destruction which would drastically curtail their yields for years to come.

This aspect is, unfortunately, receiving no attention whatsoever in the present relief programme. In short, the farmers, as a whole, are totally ignored. It is high time that steps are initiated to bring forth a code for relief to the farmers affected by cyclone. As in the case of famine and drought, the damaged crops should be surveyed on a sample basis and assistance rendered accordingly. There should be no financial or other inhibition in the matter.