

[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 सेकण्ड 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 रहा 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.

since the farmers like anybody else cannot be discriminated against in a major crisis like the present one. The very policy of the Reserve Bank of India and other governmental agencies suffers from traditional bias against the farmer as a class. While almost all the other sections of the society are being helped in one way or the other, in the case of a national calamity, there is no reason why the farmers alone are left in the lurch for no fault of theirs.

I, therefore, suggest that a detailed random survey be conducted of the crop damage in the recent cyclone in Andhra Pradesh to pay compensation to the farmers appropriately. The compensation should be in the form of cash assistance. There would be no problem in identifying the victims of cyclone destruction in the farm sector. Unless such assistance is extended immediately, the farmers are likely to take desperate measures, as in the case of the cotton farmers who committed suicide in the recent past. As it is a national calamity, we have certain aspirations and the millions of farmers across the country have no doubt that the Government would come to their rescue.

The relief operations in Andhra Pradesh are going at slow pace. At several places the police had opened fire against the victims who were demanding relief from the Government. In places like Man-galagiri, Chirala and oilier places in Andhra Pradesh, it is very unfortunate that the cyclone victims were subjected to police firing and killing. I would like to suggest to the Government to take up the matter with the FAO, WHO, IMF and the World Bank to seek further aid because maybe it is beyond the capacity of the State Government as well as the Union Government to undertake all relief operations. So I would like to suggest to the Government to take up the matter with the international organisations to get adequate funds for relief operations in Andhra Pradesh.

**श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान (आंध्र प्रदेश):** मैं डा० शिवाजी ने जो स्पेशल मेशन रेंज किया है, उसके साथ एसोशिएट करता हूँ और हुकूमते-हिन्द से मुताल्लवा करूँगा कि वह लाखों एकड़ जमीन, जो ज़ेरेआब आ गई है और जो स्टैंडिंग क्रॉप तबाह हो गई है उसके ताल्लुक से जल्द से जल्द सवें कराये और किसानों को कैश की शक्ल में मदद करें।

**Dr. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh):** Madam, the entire country's sympathies are with Andhra Pradesh, but we see in the press that the Andhra Pradesh Government is intending to suspend all the relief measures from today. This is very grave and, as is known, the suffering people are not able to get any aid. Only about 25 per cent of the cyclone victims are able to get some relief.

**SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA (Bihar):** The Government should at least clarify.

**DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:** That is why there is a lot of unrest and several police firings have occurred. Police opened fire on mobs of cyclone victims, the situation is becoming very grave, and we want the honourable Minister for Food and Civil Supplies to come out with a statement about the latest position and what action the Government of India will take to ameliorate the conditions.

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry):** Tell your Prime Minister to sanction more funds. ... (Interruptions)... We are pleading your case. Tell your Prime Minister to grant more funds.

**DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:** The State Government is running away from its responsibility.

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:** You are not able to understand what we are saying. We are coming to your support. ... (Interruptions)...

**DR. G. VIJAYA MOHAN REDDY:** The State Government is not discharging its responsibility.

**SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY:** You are part of the Government here.

**THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN:** Honourable Members, it is a very serious matter. If some Members are supporting you, why should you get angry?

**SHRI PASUMPON THA. KIRUTTINAN (Tamil Nadu):** They are finding fault with the Central Government which has already granted so many crores.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Madam, at least one information should be given. I would like to know whether the relief operations are going to be suspended from today. I would request the Government to clarify the position whether the State Government is going to do so.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Madam, I am not here to politicize the issue, I am not here to criticize the State Government or the Central Government. We need more funds. It is beyond the capacity of the State Government as well as the Central Government. So I would like to appeal to and advise the Government to take up the matter with international institutions! That is one aspect. The second aspect is. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Agreed, Now, take your seat.

SHRI G. G. SWELL (Meghalaya) : Madam, Ally one sentence. He has said that the Government of Andhra Pradesh has suspended the relief operations from today. It is a very serious statement. We would like the Government to come forward and say whether this is true or not.

DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI : Let us have a debate on this. Let us have a Half-an-Hour Discussion or a Short-Duration Discussion on this

DR. G. VUAYA MOHAN REDDY There is a lively discussion on Andhra Pradesh , -

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Now we are discussing something else about Andhra Pradesh

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Madam, I would request the Government to spare some time to clarify, the position, whether they have suspended the relief operations or not.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN The Legislative Councils, Bill, 1990 Shri Ganesan. This is the last speech on the subject and then I will ask the honourable Minister to- reply.

SHRI V GOPALSAMY (Tamil Nadu) : Madam this is his maiden speech

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Not all maidens should be elaborate-some maidens have to be brief

SHRI V NARAYANASAMY : In the name of a maiden speech they should not drag Chief Minister Karunanidhi here to praise him *(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. ...*(interruptions)*... Mr. Narayanasamy, don't speak on every subject. Please keep your mouth shut sometimes. Please give some rest to your mouth sometimes. ...*(Interruptions)*...

### THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS BILL. 1990 CONTD

SHRI R. GANESAN *alias* MISA R GANESAN (Tamil Nadu): Madam Deputy Chairman, before I begin my speech, first and foremost I would like to thank my respected leader; the hon. Chief Minister Dr. K. K. Kalyanaram, and the hon. Union Urban Development Minister, respected Thiru M. K. Murasoli Maran for giving me an opportunity to come to this great House as a Member of the Rajya Sabha, and I wholeheartedly thank them for the same

This is my maiden speech, and it is really a great honour bestowed on me by my leader in giving me this opportunity to participate and to deliver my first maiden speech on this historic Hill to provide for the creation of Legislative Councils for Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

I mention it as a great honour because I am directly connected with this subject, and there lies the diplomacy of my leader Dr. K. K. Kalyanaram.

At the time of Abolition of the Upper House in Tamil Nadu I was a Member in that Council representing the Madras Graduates Constituency. Though I was elected in the year 1954 for a term of six years, only for two years I was there as a