

[Dr. Narreddy Thulasi Reddy]

personally requested the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Dr. M. Chenna Reddy, to take immediate and necessary measures. Shri N.T. Rama Rao and the leaders of the all Opposition parties personally requested the Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister and the Government of Andhra Pradesh to take immediate necessary steps. But so far no action has been taken.

Sir, while the issue is very serious, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was in the process of cutting Christmas cake. Sir, it is very objectionable. Because of his irresponsible behaviour, because of this undue delay, the issue is turning more complicated. Yesterday night, one more M.L.A. Mr. Vithal Reddy, belonging to Ramayampath constituency in Medak District was abducted. The M.L.A. belongs to the Congress Party. He was also abducted. It happened because of the undue delay and irresponsible behaviour of the Andhra Pradesh State Government. The Naxalites are also pressing some more demands. Sir, I have no hope in the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. Anyhow, I sincerely and humbly request the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, the Government of Andhra Pradesh and finally the Government of India to take very urgent, immediate and necessary steps to secure the release of the kidnapped and abducted M.L.As. Shri M. Venkateshwara Rao and Shri Vithal Reddy. Sir, through this august House I also humbly request the Naxalites to release the kidnapped M.L.As. on humanitarian grounds. Thank you, Sir.

PROF. C. LAKSHMANNA (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I associate myself with it.

श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान (आन्ध्र प्रदेश): मैं अपने आपको इससे एसोसियेट करता हूँ।

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): The whole House associates itself with it.

SHRIMOTORU HANUMANTHA RAO (Andhra Pradesh): Since even a Congress M.L.A. has been kidnapped, I think the Congress Members will also associate themselves with it.

SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI (Uttar Pradesh): This allegation that the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh is not taking interest in the release of the abducted M.L.A. is wrong, fabricated and false. We also feel agony and we also join you in demanding that the abducted M.L.A. should be released at once. But these allegations against the Chief Minister are wrong. The record should be corrected. It is a problem of humanitarian nature. It should not be politicalised. They are trying to politicalise it.

श्री मोहम्मद खलीलुर रहमान: आन्ध्र प्रदेश में क्या हो रहा है (व्यवधान) सिन्ने रजी साहब नहीं जानते हैं।

श्री सुरेन्द्रजीत सिंह ग्रहलुवालिया (बिहार): पूरे हिन्दुस्तान में चलेगा, इसके बारे में जरा सोचें जम्मू-कश्मीर में (व्यवधान)

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY): The whole House associates itself with it and request the concerned authorities to take appropriate steps to get these two M.L.As. released immediately.

Settlement of claims of compensation under comprehensive crop Insurance Scheme in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I thank you for permitting me to

raise this matter which is of great importance to the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. As you know, Sir, during the heavy rains and floods during the months of July and August last, vast stretches of cropped areas had been damaged in the State of Andhra Pradesh. Particularly in the deltas of Krishna and Godavari the damage is severe and extensive. Nearly 10 to 12 lakh acres of paddy crop was washed away resulting in a total loss to the farmers.

Sir, some of these lands are insured under the Comprehensive Crop Insurance Scheme. This Scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme implemented in different States on 2:1 basis. That is to say, two-thirds of the compensation will be money paid by the Central Government and the remaining one-third will be borne by the concerned State Governments. The objectives of this Scheme are said to be to provide financial support to the farmers in the event of crop failure due to floods drought and other natural calamities. The second objective is said to be to restore to the affected farmers credit eligibility after the crop failure to raise the next crop. To support and stimulate the production of foodgrains is the third objective of this Scheme.

Before I proceed further, I would like to draw the attention of this House to two of the conditions stipulated by the Central Government in implementing this Scheme. The first is that this Insurance Scheme is linked to the loans disbursed by the various banking institutions.

Either they are scheduled banks or co-operative institutions. This linkage is rather made compulsory in the scheme. That means, if one borrows some money either from a co-operative credit institution or from a bank, he will only be eligible. And those who have not borrowed any money from any of these institutions and who have raised the crops, are not benefited

by this scheme in the event of failure of that crop due to floods or any other natural calamity. This absurd condition imposed by the Central Government is defeating the very purpose of this scheme. Sir, the next thing is that the area fixed as an insurance unit to determine the eligibility for compensation in the event of natural calamity varies from State to State. For example in the State of Andhra Pradesh, when the scheme was first introduced in 1985, the Central Government insisted that a group of revenue mandals should be taken as an insurance unit. But the then Government, the TDP Government at that time objected to it and they wanted that a revenue village should be taken as an insurance unit. But, ultimately, after protracted negotiations and memoranda submitted by the then Government the Central Government agreed to implement this scheme on Mandal basis. That is, they agreed to treat the Mandal as an insurance unit. Accordingly, they paid compensation to the ryots who have lost their crops in 1986-87, 1987-88 and 1988-89 agricultural year. But recently they have changed this norm and they are now insisting that the insurance eligibility should be determined on the basis of a group of mandals. This is a great injustice to the ryots who have raised their crops and who have lost everything in the floods and rains. According to my information, Sir, the State Government have already furnished the required yield data to the General Insurance Company as well as to the Union Agriculture Ministry, but the claims have not yet been settled. The yields have been either zero or near zero in almost all the mandals affected due to floods. The total amount to be paid to the farmers of Godavari Delta area would be around Rs. 15 to Rs 20 crores.

Therefore, I appeal to the Government, through you, Sir, that immediate steps should be taken to clear the claims where the crop cutting

[Shri Mentay Padmanabham]

experiments are over and the yield data, etc. are available with the Union Government, and that the settlement shall be made on mandal basis as was done in 1986-87 and 1987-88. Sir, another peculiar situation has arisen there. The Kharif season is over and the Rabi has started, and the preparation of land, seed-beds, etc. are under way in those parts to rise the Rabi. Still the claims for compensation are not yet settled, and the farmers are not able to pay their outstanding loans. The co-operative credit societies have also fallen overdue. The NABARD, it appears, is telling those societies, particularly the co-operative institutions that they will not get refinance unless they clear their over dues. As such, neither the commercial banks nor the co-operative institutions as advancing any loans to the farmers who have not cleared their previous loans. This will adversely affect the Rabi operations. I, therefore, appeal to the Minister for Agriculture to issue instructions to the RBI and NABARD to disburse loans to the farmers in the affected mandals pending the settlement of their claims.

Thank you, Sir.

#### **Alleged Delay in the Development of C-DOT Technology**

**SHRI KAMAL MORARKA** (Rajasthan) : Sir, I want to bring to the notice of the Communications Minister through you and the House about C-DOT technology, about telecommunications and other national technology missions' so-called. Sir, a few years ago the C-DOT technology project was launched with great fanfare and great expectations were aroused in the press and elsewhere that we were on the threshold of inventing our own telecommunications technology, to suit the Indian conditions, which will not require

any foreign component, technology, or expenditure of foreign exchange. We were told that within a period of three years we are going to develop our own indigenous exchange, fit for rural telecommunications, the RAX and the MAX, which was greatly publicised in the press.

We do not have authentic figures. But from what we read in the press, Rs. 36 crores were allocated for this purpose and a period of 36 months was given to develop the technology. It was a proposal given by one gentleman called Mr. Sam Pitroda, who was a Non-Resident Indian, and who brought this scheme to India. The then Government in its wisdom was very much impressed by the audio-visual presentation given by this gentleman and he was specially appointed to this post to develop it. We were also told that he will not take any remuneration, he is well-off in America and he is doing it as a national service and that he is going to charge only Rs. 1 as honorarium per month. Now, in spite of raising this issue several times when I was on the other side of the House, information on this was not forthcoming. The various Communications Ministers from time to time whenever it came to the discussion of this gentleman and activities associated with him were quite evasive and they would not reply.

Sir, I demand from this Government, from the Communications Minister, a white paper .... (Interruptions). Please bear with me. I am not blaming anybody. It is a national issue. After all, Rs. 36 crores for three years, and I am sure the money allocated after that must be much more. It is public money and the House is entitled to have a white paper giving what