

Public Importance

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

The situation arising out of floods and drought in various parts of the country

SHRI N. RAJANGAM (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman Sir, the Chief Minister Of Tamil Nadu Shri M. G. Ramachandran had submitted a memorandum in July, 1986 seeking central assistance to meet the drought situation. The State Government requested for Rs. 301/- crores of financial assistance. As against that only Rs. 31.77 crores was approved as central assistance. The State Government has already spent Rs. 150/- crores on the drought hit areas. As per the information given by the central team which visited the Tamil Nadu State in August, 1986, the State had received good rainfall in the month of October, I am thankful that it was mentioned as 'good' and not 'heavy' rainfall. They mean to say that this rainfall is quite sufficient but the most surprising thing is that it rained only for two days in October. On the pretext of this 'good rainfall' the assistance sought by the State Government has been curtailed by the centre.

Our Honourable Chief Minister, considering the drought hit areas and especially the plight of the agriculturists has exempted them from the payment of interest on the loans they have received from the cooperative societies. Thus an amount of about Rs. 145/- crores as interest on loans has been exempted. The State Government had high hopes on the centre. Depending on the centre's assistance they could spend so much money to meet with the drought situation. The good deeds of State Governments should always be encouraged by the centre. So, I request the centre to sanction the funds which could meet the requirement of the State Government.

The Government is not able to foresee these natural calamities. Whenever they occur they try to meet the calamities by temporary relief measures. We only say that there should be co-operation and unity among people which in turn will

English translation of the original speech delivered in Tamil.

strengthen the country. But where is it? My suggestion is that Ganga and Cauvery rivers should be linked. Drinking water is the basic need of every human being and rivers of the nature are God's gift to them. There are a number of disputes among the States about the distribution of river water which adversely reflects on the concept of unity and integrity of our country. To save the rain waters, tanks or reservoirs should be constructed which will facilitate 1000 to 1200 hectares of land. So, I request the centre to grant some special funds for the expenditure to be incurred in the construction of these reservoirs. The river water is flowing into the ocean. About three to four districts alone are benefited by the river water and the rest of the water goes waste. Many expert engineers have suggested that reservoirs should be constructed there. If the rivers of Ganga and Cauvery are linked, the whole stretch of land from Himalayas to Tenpagudi in Tamil Nadu will turn fertile.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government I request the centre to sanction special grants for the proposed Ganga Cauvery scheme.

During the British period there was proper communication system which facilitated the centre to know the situation in the States. We were warned by the Government also. But now the situation is changed. We are making great studies in the field of Science and Technology but we are not able to find out when it will rain and when there will be a cyclone.

River Ganga is a God's gift to people. The River Ganga came down to earth through Bhagiratha by his tapasya. So, these waters are a blessing to people and should be shared by all the human beings. How can certain sections of people be deprived of its benefits. If there is a dispute in sharing the river waters then there can be no unity in this country. Food, water and shelter are the basic needs of mankind and it is the duty of the Government and God as well to provide them.

In conclusion, I request the Central Government to look into this matter of sanctioning grants for the Ganga Cauvery scheme. Instead of wasting the river

[Shri N. Rajangam] waters it can be better utilised for irrigating agricultural lands. Large tracts of dry land can be made fertile if the river water is properly utilised. With these words I conclude.

Thank you.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE (Assam); Respected Vice-Chairman, Sir, as the time at my disposal is not very long...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE): Very short.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE; Thank you for reminding me. So, I will not speak about the problems of floods and drought in its all-India ramifications and dimensions, and I will confine my speech only to the State of Assam from which I come-

Sir, the year 1986 has indeed been a very very bad year for our State as we have faced the wrath of floods and the wrath of drought also in the same year. In June and July we faced the wrath of drought, and in October we have faced the wrath of floods. Devastating floods occur every year in Assam. This year the Government of Assam sought a Central assistance of Rs. 83.93 crores from the Central Government. But before there could be any positive directions towards this financial assistance, ironically there are heavy floods in Assam in both the valleys, and the estimated loss is about Rs. 333.67 crores. The rivers of Brahmaputra and Barak and their tributaries were in spate and a vast area of land, was inundated including Hojai, Nowgong, Badarpur, Jorhat, Sonai, Lakhipur, Borkhola, Katigora, Dholai, Udharband, Silchar, and many other places.

Sir, this has become a sort of annual ritual every year. Last year also there were devastating floods. I would like to suggest some short-term and long-term measures to fight effectively the menace of floods. The present embankments should all be converted into road-cum-bund. The steamer services which at present run up to Badarpur via Bangladesh should be extended up to Lakhipur. The Government should sanction

liberal grants to tide over the economic crisis which we are apprehending. And the FCI should create a buffer stock as we are apprehending shortage of food-stuff. I would beseech on the Government of India to send a Central team of experts so that they could have an on-the-spot study of the situation and if possible try to replace the backdated technology because of which every year we are having these floods. In long-term measures, the Barak Dam, that is the Tepal Mulch Project, for which the survey work has already been completed, should be immediately, taken up to save the people of the Barak Valley because every year there are floods and the Silchar Town which is a heavily populated town, is exposed to the wrath of the floods. And every year a few crores of national wealth is wasted. Then the work of taming the Brahmaputra should also be completed soon, and the work of draining of the river Barak should be undertaken.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to a very important point. That is, Sir, the present Government is following a policy of discrimination while distributing the flood-relief materials. The people who are in Nowgong, Jorhat and Hojai area, that is in the upper-Assam belt, are getting rice, atta, dal, mustard oil, kerosene oil and cloth. I do not grudge if they get more, even if they get apple, even if they get vegetables, even if they get dry fruit. But the people of my district, the Karimganj and Silchar district, the people of the Barak Valley are getting only rice and dal. I do not know why they are getting only rice and dal. This money is going from the Centre. Is it for some political vendetta that they are getting only dal and rice? I must know this point. Through you, Sir, I would ask the hon. Agriculture Minister to give me a specific answer about this.

Last year also the Government sanctioned an amount of Rs. 22 crores and the guideline was, for a house which was completely destroyed the owner should get Rs. 500. I understand that this was the Central guideline. But at present the Government is distributing only a paltry sum of Rs. 40 for the owner of a house which was completely destroyed. Again, Sir, this Government gave a sanction of Rs. 25

crores. This money was earmarked for taking flood control measures in the Barak Valley, but out of that money 5.00 P.M. an amount of Rs. 12.75 crores was diverted for completing the flood control measures in the Bramhaputra Valley. This is a sheer discrimination as the money was already earmarked by the Central Government for the Barak Valley, but that was diverted. I think this AGP Government is following a policy of discrimination against the people of the Barak Valley only because the Valley went all out to support the Congress (I).

Lastly I would like to draw the attention of this House towards the fact that during the floods the whole Barak Valley is cut off; from the rest of the world. If a major thing happens or if there is a foreign aggression, our army will not be able to approach those areas in such conditions. Because we are living in a border district, there should be some emergency lines of approach so that in times of calamity that line of approach is established.

I would once again draw the attention of this august House towards the discriminatory policy being pursued by the AGP Government.

As a student of English literature I would read one line from Wordsworth's 'LINES Written in Early spring:

"Have I no reason to lament,
What man has made of man?"

As a man from Cachar I would like to say, have I no reason to lament what the AGP Government is doing to the people at Cachar?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: Natural calamities like floods, droughts, cyclones etc. are very common in this vast country having varied agro-climatic conditions and zones. We should not also forget the fact that this country was under foreign rule for many many years and these foreign, rulers exploited its resources for their own benefit, but had not taken any measure to control the natural calamities like floods and droughts. It is only after independence that the Government took a

number of measures, particularly the long-term measures, to control floods and to prevent drought and to mitigate the difficulties of the people who are under drought and floods. A number of hon. Members—rather, I will say, all of them— have stressed the point that long-term measures should be taken. I want to inform them through you that the Government knows this point very well and the Government has taken a number of measures for the control of floods, droughts etc. I would like to tell the hon. Members that we know that the short-term measures are not going to help us for a long time. They will certainly mitigate the difficulties of the people for some time, but in the long run they will not help us. Therefore, the Government has taken a long-term measures for control of droughts and floods. So far as the drought is concerned, the surest measure which we can take to prevent droughts is irrigation. In 1950-51, there were only 22.6 million hectares under irrigation. Prior to Independence it was much less. Because I have got the figure upto 1984-85, I would like to inform the House that upto 1984-85 62.9 million hectares of land was brought under irrigation. During the Seventh Plan the Government wants to bring 75 million hectares of land under irrigation. During the Sixth Plan more than Rs. 10,000 crores was spent on irrigation work. Though the total potential for irrigation is 113.5 million hectares, it is not possible to tap all the resources due to the constraints on resources. But the Government is following a steady policy of bringing the land under irrigation. Another measure which we have taken is the Drought Prone Area Programme. At present 13 States consisting of 70 districts and 511 block., are covered under this programme. The total allocation for the Sixth Plan was 404.34 crores and the expenditure was to the tune of Rs. 337.42 crores. Under this programme a number of measures were taken. Soil and moisture conservation to the tune of 24.6 lakh hectares. Creation of irrigation potential particularly the minor irrigation 3.28 lakh hectares and afforestation and pastures were made in the area of 3.87 lakh

hectares. There are a number of other measures taken under this programme.

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Similarly there are other programmes called Desert Development Programme. Under this programme the States which are having deserts like Rajasthan and Gujarat and some other States, I think, about five States, 21 districts and 126 blocks are covered. Expenditure to the tune of Rs. 73.55 crores has already been incurred and a total allocation for the Seventh Plan is Rs. 94.85 crores.

Then, there is another programme called Soil and Water Conservation Programme. There is NREP, RLEGP and crop insurance scheme. All these programmes are long-term measures which are 'aimed at preventing droughts.

There is a drinking water programme also under which the Government of India is helping the States for providing safe drinking water to the rural population.

Sir, these are some of the measures the Government is taking for control of droughts. Now coming to the floods, there is a national programme of flood control. Up to March, 1980 Rs. 986 crores had been spent under this Programme. From 1980-85, that is, during the Sixth Plan period the expenditure incurred is Rs. 67 crores and up to March, 1985 it comes to Rs. 1.743 crores. Under this programme 14,152 KMs of embankments are made. Then 26,119 KMs long drainage channels are constructed. 375 towns are protected. And 4,696 villages are raised to a higher level. This programme is for covering the entire flood prone area which is 40 million hectares and so far we have covered 13 million hectares. The Central Water Commission is looking after all these Programmes. We have taken other measures like setting up of Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Basin Flood Control Board. Then, there are other tributaries of Brahmaputra and Ganga and for that also there are some schemes envisaged in the Seventh Plan. About Rs. 947.39 crores are allocated under this programme. So, these are the long term measures the Government of India is taking in order to control the

floods and to prevent the droughts. However, the magnitude of the problem is very big and it requires lot of money resources and everybody in this House knows that the Government has constraint of resources. So, it is not possible to do it over-night in a country like ours which is very vast. However, the Government has devised mechanism to help the State Governments where there is flood, drought or other natural calamities. We know that the States are also hard-pressed of resources but Sir, with the available resources we have to help the State Governments because there are a number of other things which the Government of India has to do and we have to do it as directed by the Finance Commission, the guidelines provided by the Finance Commission, the procedure laid down by the Finance Commission. There are a number of hon'ble Members who have said that the recommendations of the Finance Commission should be amended. We cannot change it. Shri Gurupadaswamy was insisting upon change of norms and he also insisted that why not there be a National Grid. This is not a new idea. In 1971, Dr. K.L. Rad suggested it and I know that in our manifesto, we incorporated it also. He was also a Member of the party. He knew it very well that why this programme was not implemented *in toto*. It is only because of the constraints of resources that the Government was not able to implement this National Grid idea. Otherwise, we know that by National Grid, not only we can control the *floods*, not only we can provide irrigation but we can also have internal waterways, we can reduce our transport costs on many items. That is just possible but because of the limited resources, it is not possible. However, within the limited resources, we try to help the State Governments. The opening speaker and the mover of the motion, Shri P. Upendra made some points. His points are not new. These are the points made by his Chief Minister, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. He visited Delhi on 30th October, 1986. He met the Prime Minister. He met the Finance Minister also and he met the Agriculture Minister and he has written a letter also. The letter is with me. I have gone

through it very carefully and the same points are reiterated by Mr. Upendra. I know the difficulty of the states. The Government of India is aware of it and the Prime Minister is very sympathetic to the Andhra Pradesh State Government. He also told to the Agriculture Ministry that everything possible should be done to help the State Government and We should provide all necessary help to the State of Andhra. Sir, but there are certain things which are just not possible because the normal plan takes care of it. When we talk about floods' Or droughts, it is only providing assistance for relief to the State and within that parameter, we have to work and - we have to help. So far as other points are concerned, there is a normal plan. Now the points which are made, I would like to reply to them one after the other. The first point which the Chief Minister made and let me refer to Mr. P. Upendra instead of Chief Minister here is that Rs. 132.37 crores is a very small amount and it should be increased. Now the procedure laid down by the Eighth Finance Commission is that a high-level team goes there. It is an inter-ministerial team; it consists of many disciplines. For example there is a representative of the Works and Housing Ministry. He goes and sees the roads. Experts are sent by different Ministries, including Finance and Planning Commission. They visit the State, they assess the damage and then they recommend in their report, which is again discussed in a high-level committee which is presided over by the Member in charge of Agriculture in the Planning Commission. After careful examination of the report, they recommend to the Ministry of Finance who ultimately give sanction to the ceiling of assistance to be given to the State Government. Now, all this procedure is gone through and after careful consideration, this amount is sanctioned.

Then he has mentioned that the embankments of Godavari- should be raised because the flood has crossed the earlier levels. This is necessary, I agree with him. There are no two views on this. I have no difference of opinion about raises of the embankments of Godavari. But

this can be done under a normal plan, not under the relief operation.

Then he mentioned about the need for an assistance of Rs. 45 crores for the rabi crop production programme -to compensate the loss of the kharif crop. He has said that only Rs. 4.4 crores has been approved. I have explained just now that the Central team recommends and according to their recommendation we have to go.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY (Andhra Pradesh) How much time will it take for the Central team to make recommendations?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: We have to go by their recommendation. We are not experts by ourselves. When resources are limited, we have to go. . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (DR. BAPU KALDATE); He has asked about the time. How much time will it take?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It will take the minimum possible time, I can say to the hon. Member. There is no difficulty because there is a margin money. Earlier the margin money was Rs. 100.55 crores, which has been raised by the Eighth Finance Commission to Rs. 240.75 crores. In the case of Andhra Pradesh, it was Rs. 8.55 crores and it has been raised to Rs. 24.50 crores. This margin money is available to the State Government. Also they have their own resources. Whenever the State Government feels any difficulty, it requests the Government of India and we give ways and means advance. There is provision for Ways and means advance for the interim period because we know that it will take some time for the visit of the team, then for scrutiny by the committees, etc. We know it. Therefore, there is provision for ways and means advance which we give to the State Governments We have given to the Andhra Pradesh Government also. We have already sanctioned the amount to Andhra Pradesh. There is no problem about it. BUT there is a system,

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The main point which he has made which has a justification also is about "treating this calamity as one of rare severity: That is the point which the Chief Minister has also made, that this is a calamity of rare severity and the State should be helped with liberal assistance. I can only assure the hon. Member that we will examine this issue, because I have to discuss it with the Finance Ministry also. So far as we are concerned, we will be more sympathetic to the State and I am sure that the hon. Finance Minister also will be very sympathetic to the State. We will examine this issue. I cannot give any assurance at this stage as to whether we will treat it, as a calamity of rare severity or not. I can only say that we will try our best, we will look, into it with all sympathy

SHRI PARVATHANENI UPENDRA; But you have recommended?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; I have said that we will examine it. There is a tribal tract and in that tract employment generation is required. We have approved Rs. 1.50 crores for irrigation works in tribal areas which will provide employment to the tribals. Other repair works, RLEP, tribal sub-plan works, etc. are available for generation of employment in these areas. The honourable Member made another point and that is construction of shelters, cyclone shelters. Now, these are long-term plans and cannot be covered by relief expenditure. They can be done under a normal plan amount. They can include it in their plan which they are submitting to the Planning Commission. So, Sir, this is what I have to inform the honourable Shri Upendra. Then, Shri Sharad Yadav is here, He mentioned about some report. I requested him to give me a copy of it and he said he would send me a copy. But we do not go by the reports of such voluntary organisations. Government has a good organisation to examine the situation. The State Government- are there to report to us. There are universities which are conducting research. There are other organisations which are helped by the Government of India. And we go by their studies. X would however, certainly like to exa-

mine the report which he mentioned. I can only assure him that nobody has died of hunger in this country, I have no reports from any State. He mentioned about Ganga and Yamuna floods. In my introductory remarks I mentioned that we have two boards for Ganga and Yamuna and their tributaries. I do not like to go into the details of it because it is a matter dealt with by the Minister of Water Resources. Then, he wanted a commission which can go into all these. We had a commission in 1976. Agricultural Commission was appointed and its voluminous reports are there in our Ministry. We have examined them. We are implementing the recommendations of that Commission. Most of its recommendations are implemented and we are implementing the remaining. Therefore, at present there is no necessity of having one more commission. It won't help. On the contrary, what I told him was. ••

श्री शरद यादव : मैं मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहता हूँ मेरा बहुत सवाल था। सिंचाई पर जो आपका पहला पंचवर्षीय योजना में बजट था वह 20.2% था और 7वीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में यह 9.4% हो गया है। कहने का मतलब यह है कि आप जो दूरगामी उपाय करने वाले हैं वे घट रहे हैं यानि बजट एलोकेशन घट रहा है। इस बात को भी मैं मंत्री से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जो आपका दूरगामी योजना है वह योजना आपको क्यों घट रही है। इसका भी तो जवाब देना चाहिए।

श्री योगेन्द्र मकवाना : इकेला डर रेशन का कोई बजट नहीं है और भ्र बजट होता है।

I was reminding the honourable Member that food production has increased more than three-fold. In 1950-51 it was 50 to 52 million tonnes, in 1983-84 it rose to 152.37 million tonnes. Though there was a drought in the last year, that is, 1985-86, the food production was 150.5 million tonnes; it has not declined. Even in 1984-85 it was 146.22 million tonnes. so it has increased although there was a drought. And this year also I can assure you

that it will be more than 150 million tonnes. I am sure about it. It will not be less than that. Then, Sir, an honourable Member said that the severity of floods this year was greater than last year. It is not correct. In 1985-86, 1,826 lives were lost due to floods. But this year the figure is 1,078. So, it is not correct to say that this time it is more severe. Sir, there is one point on which I will agree with Mr. Sharad Yadav. I have no hesitation in admitting that we are short of pulses and oilseeds. But we have taken a number of measures particularly under the dryland farming to increase our production of oilseeds and pulses. A number of other areas which were not under oil crop are coming under oil crop now. Soyabean cultivation has been extended from Madhya Pradesh and from Rajasthan it has come to Gujarat. In my own district, Sir, groundnut was unknown and nobody knew about groundnut. But there is groundnut production in the irrigated areas and the production is very high. So, a number of new areas are coming under oilseeds and pulses cultivation and I am sure that within one or two years we will be self-sufficient so far as oilseeds and pulses are concerned and there will be no difficulty and we will not be importing any oil from outside.

Sir, Shri Jaswant Singh, who is not here now, made some points. He said that he is the only Member from Rajasthan. But, immediately after that, Mr. Birla started speaking who also comes from Rajasthan. I pointed out to him that there is another Member from Rajasthan who can also speak on behalf of that State. Sir, I have every sympathy with the honourable Member. I agree with his that the only wealth in Rajasthan is the cattle wealth so far as the marginal and small farmers and the landless labourers are concerned. Because of the drought, the cattle wealth there is facing a very difficult situation. The Government of India last time provided fodder from different areas to Rajasthan. We gave them transport subsidies also. We requested the Ministry of Railways to provide wagons on a priority basis for the transportation of fodder and there was no difficulty. But this year is rather a

better year than the earlier one and I do not think that there will be any difficulty in providing fodder to the Rajasthan Government. The moment there will be difficulty and the request comes from them, we will explore other areas for getting fodder to provide it to them. But so far I have not received any memorandum from the State Government because they may be preparing it. They have to collect the figures and they have to assess the situation and then alone they can submit the memorandum. Therefore, I have not got the memorandum from Rajasthan also from Maharashtra. He wanted that the animals should be allowed to move into other States. It is not my domain. It is the State Government which can allow it. I can only request the State Governments. Then, Sir, he said that there are no tankers for transportation of drinking water and there are no rigs available for drilling. Sir, last year we provided money to them and we provided Rs. 11 crores to the State Government of Rajasthan only for rigs and tankers and we asked the State Government to purchase them immediately so that they could drill very deep in rocky areas. I do not know whether they have purchased them or not and I have to enquire. But I am sure that the Government would have spent this amount of Rs. 11 crores and they might have purchased the rigs and the tankers. Shri Jaswant Singh should enquire about it from the State Government. I am going to enquire about it. He also mentioned that somebody told him that there is a new technology by which they are going to provide water and he said that he was surprised at this strategy.

There is a new Technology Commission for drinking water in the villages and water management. There are four Sub-Commissions in this Commission. Sub-Commission-I looks after low cost water treatment. Sub-Commission-II looks after development of traditional sources of water collection structures. There are water structures but they are abandoned; they are not maintained. This Sub-Commission will look after this. Sub-Commission-III will look after ground water resources. Sub-Commission-IV looks after

[Shri Yogendra Makwana] sanitation and drainage facilities. Under this about 75,000 villages would be covered during these two years and under MNP and ARWSP problem villages also would be covered. So this is about the new technology.

Then, Shri K. K. Birla was speaking. On almost all the States in general and he wanted that irrigation facilities should be increased. I have just given figures, and I do not want to repeat them again.

Hon. Member, Shri Satya Pal Malik, who is also not here, was very specific. He asked whether the guidelines are given by the Government of India or not. The hon. Member is not here. But to put the record straight, I will inform the House, Sir, that every year the Secretary, Agriculture, writes letters to the State Governments about the floods and droughts, about what action they should take, how they should prepare themselves and what should be the requirements of the State Governments. Every year we have our meeting with the Relief Commissioners of the State Government, and in this meeting we discuss oil these matters and we guide the State Governments. Then he was asking about monitoring. Yes, monitoring also is done by the Government of India. He said that the money should be given immediately. We try our best to give as much as possible, as early as possible. But there are certain formalities and procedure which should be followed. For the interim period, as I explained just now margin money is available, the resources of the State Governments are available, and there is no difficulty. Then, he was for afforestation. That is also; one of the programmes the Government of India has taken up in rural development programme.

Then, Mr. Suraj Prasad mentioned about flood control and some reservoirs in the foothills of the Himalayas, so that it can serve their purpose of water for irrigation hydro-electric generation and flood control. Now, all these are known to the Government and, therefore, the Government of India is undertaking so many programmes. There are a number of programmes of the Ministry of Agriculture

and a number of programmes of the Ministry of Water Resources. There is nothing which is something new. He was asking about the Ganges and Brahmaputra. I have just now mentioned about it.

Shri Kulkarni is not here. There is some misunderstanding in his mind, and he confused me also when he came up with the bill, that the Government of Maharashtra has submitted a Memorandum and that my Joint Secretary visited the State. Yes, was here. But that Memorandum was for flood. The Joint Secretary did visit the State, and Maharashtra is already sanctioned, the amount. So, there is no problem. So far as drought is concerned, we have not received any memorandum from the State Government because they are preparing it. But in earlier years, that is, in pre-monsoon period, we have provided funds to the State Government. This is about drought in the crop year of 1985-86. But the financial year is 1986-87. So, this is current year. In the current year, we have provided Rs. 71.78 crores to the State of Maharashtra, i.e. Rs. 50.10 crores plus Rs. 21.681 crores which were sanctioned in the earlier year. So, we have provided 71.78 crores to the State of Maharashtra. So far as the other memorandum is concerned, we are awaiting it. The moment it is received, we will send a central team; go through all the procedures and provide some help to the State Government. The Member from Tamil Nadu pleaded for providing more help to the State Government. Sir, I have already mentioned the procedure and the limitation of the Government. Mr. Kamalendu Bhattacharjee mentioned about some discrimination between the two areas of Assam which has been done by the State Government. I can only say that I will write to the State Government and I will enquire into the matter.

SHRI KAMALENDU BHATTACHARJEE: For your information, though the extent and intensity of the floods was the same, in both the valleys, we in Borak Valley got ration for 5 days and in Brahmaputra Valley, they get ration for 15 days. Why was it so?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA; I have taken note of his point and I will write to the State Government. I will enquire into the matter. That is the only thing I can say.

I have replied in details to the points raised by the hon. Members. The details of the damage and the details of the memoranda have all be discussed and are given in the statement made by the hon. Minister. I runs into several pages and he has taken nearly 40 to 45 minutes in reading it. I don't like o repeat. Many (Members have cited figures from that statement only. It has provided information to the hon. Members. Now they know the magnitude of the problem. They

know the intensity of it and they can help the State Governments also by mobilising the people in assisting the State Government. This is what I have to say so far as this Calling Attention is concerned. Thank you.

ANNOUNCEMENT RE. ALLOCATION OF TIME DISPOSAL OF GOVERNMENT AND OTHER BUSINESS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI BAPU KALDATE); I have to inform Members that the Business Advisory Committee at its meeting held today, the 6th November, 1986, allotted time for Government Legislative and other Business as follows;—

Business	Time Allotted
1 Consideration and return of the Estate Duty (Amendment) Bill, 1985, as passed by the Lok Sabha.	1 hr.
2 Consideration and passing of the Juvenile Justice Bill, 1986, as	3 hrs.
3 Consideration and passing of the Mental Health Bill, 1981, as reported by the Joint Committee.	3 hrs.
4 Discussion on the 35th Report of the Union Public Service Commission.	3 hrs.

The Committee recommended that the House should sit up to 6.00 P.M. daily and beyond 6.00 P.M. as and when necessary, for the transaction of Government Business.

The House stands adjourned till 11.00 A.M. tomorrow.

The House then adjourned at thirty-nine minutes past five of the clock till eleven of the clock on Friday, the 7th November, 1986.