

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): Sir, I beg to present the Forty-eighth Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—

Reported Heavy Toll of Human Life and Damage to Property and Standini Crop caused by the Recent Severe Cyclone and Hurricane in the Coastal Areas of Orissa and West Bengal.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, we shall take up the Calling Attention.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE (Maharashtra): Sir, I had given notice for a Special Mention yesterday and today also. I do not know why my Special Mention has been rejected. It is regarding...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It has not been permitted. So, you cannot raise it. Don't write anything.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: *

MR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Shri Santosh Kumar Sahu.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU (Orissa): Sir, I beg to call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Rural Reconstruction and Irrigation and Civil Supplies to the reported heavy toll of human life and damage to property and standing crops caused by the recent severe cyclone and hurricane in the coastal areas of Orissa and West Bengal. (Interruptions)

SHRI PILOO MODY (Gujarat) I want to know what part of the discussion is being recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Calling Attention is being recorded and nothing else.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Whether it is heard or not heard, it is being recorded.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If some Members don't want to hear, what can I do?

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Sir...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: If some Members are out to disturb the proceedings, what can I do? Don't record.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन्, मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है... (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: आप क्या कहना चाहते हैं.... (व्यवधान)

श्री नरसिंह नारायण पाण्डेय (उत्तर प्रदेश): श्रीमन्, मेरा पाइन्ट आफ आर्डर है। आपने कार्लिंग एटेंशन नोटिस को पेश होने की इजाजत दे दी है। अब यह सब क्या हो रहा है।

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gujarat): Sir, Mr. Khobragade is a very senior Member of this House. He has been occupying the Chair which you are occupying now. He gave notice of a Special Mention which, as I can understand now, related to Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. There is some difficulty about allowing him to make his Special Mention. I do not know. But there is no point in trying to shut him out completely.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani, there is no question of shutting it out (Interruptions) I would like to seek your help in this matter. If a Special Mention has not been

allowed by me and if the Member wants to rise on a point of order, and in the garb of the point of order wants to raise to same matter which has not been allowed in the House, how can I allow it? If you sit in the Chair, I don't think you will allow it. So, please...

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: You can ask him and you can examine it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unless he hears me, how can I ask him? Under the garb of the point of order, I cannot allow it.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Why should it be disallowed two days running? Are you suggesting that there are things more important?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not necessary... (Interruptions) There are so many other things. So, he can meet and discuss with me and I can tell him instead of taking the time of the House.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI (Maharashtra): Sir, my humble suggestion to you is this. You may have your own reason and I agree with you that under the garb of the point of order, the Special Mention should not be pushed through the House. I agree with you. This is the procedure. But, I would request you, Sir, that Mr. Khobragade is a senior Member and he was a Deputy Chairman of the House....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Why are you unnecessarily raising that? I have...

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: At least, tomorrow he should be allowed to make that Special Mention.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not insinuate. I don't disregard him in any way. He is a senior Member.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: The way in which you have treated him and he was not to be recorded...

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are a senior Member. Every Member is a senior Member. That is no reason. So, why do you raise that point? Yes, Mr. Rameshwar Singh.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : श्रीमान्, मैंने आपको जो खत लिखा है उसमें मैंने "टाइम्स आफ इंडिया" की कटिंग रखी है ...

श्री उपसभापति : बैठ जाइये । मैं बता दूँ ... (व्यवधान) ...

SHRI PILOO MODY: This is not a private matter between the two of you. We want to hear what he wants to say.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I will tell you. He has raised certain matters. An article has been published in some newspaper by some person. He has discussed the procedure.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Which paper and what procedure?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The procedure followed by our Secretariat, at the Secretariat of the Rajya Sabha. The convention in this House has so far been—I would like to be enlightened on this aspect that the procedure or the activity of the work done by the Rajya Sabha Secretariat has never been discussed on the floor of the House. If there is any difficulty, if there is any problem, you can meet the Chairman and discuss it with him. But so far as the working of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat is concerned, we have never raised that matter in the House. This has been the convention. Mr. Rameshwar Singh wants to highlight certain observations made in a certain newspaper about the working, about the func-

[Mr. Deputy Chairman]
tioning of the Rajya Sabha Secretariat. Therefore, I would like to request him to please follow the convention and not to discuss the Secretariat. We have followed that convention so far. There is nothing like that. A newspaper correspondent may write anything he likes. But you should not make the House a forum to discuss that, and you should not break the convention. That is my humble request to the hon. Member.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : आप पहले मेरी बात तो सुन लें ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have heard you, I have seen your letter. Your letter is here. There is no question of hearing. You want to discuss a matter which has never been done in the House.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : मैं सदन की मर्यादा रखता हूँ । मैं चाहता हूँ कि सदन का कार्य ठीक हो । आप इस कटिंग पर मत जाइय आप जाइये कि क्या कारण है कि सदन के सदस्य, जो माननीय सदस्य है, सम्मानित सदस्य है, उनकी भावनायें यह है कि जो सेक्रेटरीशेट के अन्दर काम होता है ..

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I do not allow this thing. Don't record.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : *

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please do not cast aspersions on the Secretariat which has never been done. Mr. Rameshwar Singh, you are new to the House. I would request you and you can consult any member. Mr. Advani is there. This has never been the procedure in the House, whatever may be the grievance.

*Not recorded.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : एक आदमी के नाम पर कोई विषय होता है, सारे हाउस का समय बरबाद होता है ।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a different matter.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : आप करप्शन पर बहस नहीं करायेंगे, ला एण्ड आर्डर पर बहस नहीं करायेंगे, गरीबी के मवाल पर बहस नहीं करायेंगे, सैंड्यूल कास्ट और शैड्यूल ट्राइव्स पर बहस करना हम चाहेंगे तो सरकार उस पर बहस नहीं करायेगी :

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये ।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : जहाँ मीना राम केसरी चाहते हों, प्रणव मुकर्जी जी जो कहेंगे वही वे मानेंगे (व्यवधान) यह बोलेंगे ..

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, अब आप बैठ जाइये ।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : यह जो माननीय सदस्य इस सदन में आए हैं । हम लोग यहां पर आए हैं देश की हालत को सुधारने के लिए आए हैं, देश में (व्यवधान) ...

श्री उपसभापति : आप कृपया बैठ जाइये । ठीक है । हो गया । (व्यवधान)

श्री बीलू मोदी : यह तो मीताराम का मामला हो गया (व्यवधान)

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : आप इस पर अपनी व्यवस्था दीजिये ।

श्री उपसभापति : व्यवस्था मैंने दे दी है (व्यवधान)

Cyclone in

Bengal

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह आप अपनी व्यवस्था दीजिए। (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : व्यवस्था मैंने आपको दे दी है। (व्यवधान)

SHRI B. N. BANERJEE (Nominated): Sir, the Rules of the House are made for all the Members of the House and proper proceedings of the House. On that point there is no dispute. But, Sir, unfortunately, some Members, important or unimportant or VIP Members, are gradually coming to say that for some Members the Rules of Procedure do not apply. Every day, Sir, I do not mention the names, some Members must rise on nothing but points or order and take away the valuable time of the House. Every day, Sir, these things happen. Very senior Members are here and they can consider it. Now, Sir, suddenly the point Mr. Khobragade raised...

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : क्या करें खोबरागडे जी, उनके सवाल को अलाउ नहीं किया ...

(व्यवधान)

SHRI B. N. BANERJEE: ...that is an important point. And, it has always been the practice that when a Member feels aggrieved why a short notice discussion or a short notice question has not been accepted, he is quite within his right to go and tell the Chairman, or the Deputy Chairman, whoever has done it, and impress upon him his point of view. But, Sir, what we are hearing here every day is why my question has not been admitted, why short duration, short notice, has been disallowed, why somebody else has been allowed? Sir, is it the practice of this House or are you going to make it a practice of the House that every day at 12 o'clock all that we will discuss is these points and the Calling Attention on a matter like the Cyclone in West Bengal and Orissa is unimportant? And we discuss only why a particular notice was not admitted. Let them go and discuss

that with the Chairman or Deputy Chairman and if they are wrongly advised, that should be revised.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: The question is why are you raising this today only?

SHRI B. N. BANERJEE: Certainly not. Everyday it happens.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Why did you not raise this question earlier? You are saying today that this happens every day. Why are you raising it today.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. N. BANERJEE: I am not saying that, no, no.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Then why did you not raise the question earlier and raised it today only? Do you think that the revision of the Lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes is less important, is unimportant? That is more than important than cyclone in West Bengal and Orissa.

(Interruptions)

SHRI B. N. BANERJEE: You did not hear me properly. I said, your matter is very important. It is for the Chair to see that it should come up. (Interruptions) What can I do? You know, Mr. Khobragade...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think the House knows Mr. Khobragade very well.

(Interruptions)

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : बेनर्जी साहब ने कहा ... (व्यवधान)

श्री उप सभापति : आप बैठ जाइये (व्यवधान) Do not record anything.

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह :

Cyclone in

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE: Sir...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not record anything of Mr. Khobragade. Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAGADE:*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): Sir, according to the report received...

(Interruptions)

SHRI PILOO MODY: This discussion is being stifled. What do you have to say about it? The fact that all important matters are not being allowed, what do you have to say about that? The only thing you have to say is that...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Do not record Mr. Mody (Interruptions)

SHRI PILLO MODY: *

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, according to the report received from the Government of Orissa, a severe cyclonic storm which subsequently developed into a hurricane was first detected over Bay of Bengal on the 8th instant at 5.30 P.M. It moved northwards along with Orissa Coast with wind speed exceeding 120 K.M. per hour and crossed the coast near Sagar Islands on the 10th night. Preliminary situation report received indicated that coastal areas mostly in the district of Balasore and Cuttack were affected.

2. The State Government reported that adequate precautionary measures were taken to warn the people and the people were evacuated where necessary from the low lying areas. The State Government stationed Additional District Magistrates at Kendrapara and Jaipur in Cuttack Dis-

trict and at Bhadrak in Balasore District to organise relief operations.

3. Roofs of large number of kutcha houses were blown off, number of trees up-rooted, roofs of the Block Office buildings, staff quarters and garage have been blown away in one block. Many primary school buildings have been damaged and communication links were disrupted. Saline inundation was reported in low lying areas causing damage to standing paddy crops. Four fishing trawlers and two country boats are reported to be missing while one power boat capsized. Though brtaches were reported man lives and cattle losses are being ascertained, according to the preliminary report three persons were reported to have died in a village due to house collapse. Betal Vines were reported to have been damaged. Three breaches were reported in the embankment near Kantipur.

4. Steps were taken by the State Government to disburse house building grants immediately in affected areas.

5. The Government of Orissa has got a margin money of Rs. 871 lakhs during the current year with which it can meet the expenditure for providing any emergent relief to the affected people.

6. As regards West Bengal, the State Government have Reported that a severe cyclonic storm accompanied by heavy rain and tidal waves swept over wide areas of Midnapur and 24 Parganas Districts on the 10th and 11th December, 1981. Extensive breaches of embankments for flood protection have taken place. According to the State Government, 93 human lives have been lost and nearly 20 lakhs people have been affected. Several thousand houses have either collapsed or badly damaged. Besides, extensive damage has been caused to the standing paddy and rabi crops. The State Government have

reported that loss of property and damage to crops are still being assessed. The State Government have reported that people had been rescued and given shelter and relief. The Public Health Department have sent teams for vaccination and large quantities of clothes in the form of 25,000 pieces of tarpauline, 12,000 pieces of cotton blankets, 24,000 pieces of dhoti, 16,000 sarees and 38,000 garments for children have been rushed to the affected area. In addition, 500 kgs. milk powder has been sent. Cash assistance provided so far by the State Government is of the order of Rs. 1.5 lakhs. Arrangements are also being made to reach potable water for the human and cattle population in areas where water tanks and ponds have become saline. In this the Calcutta Port Trust Authority is assisting by providing barges. The State Government have got a margin money of Rs. 1360 lakhs and it can meet the emergent expenditure for providing relief to the effected people.

The Government of India expresses their profound sorrow for this calamity which has befallen the two States and convey their heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families.

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये तो अपने आप शांति हो जायेगी। अगर आप सुनना नहीं चाहते हैं तो हम क्या करें ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI PILOO MODY: He is reading which nobody is hearing.

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये। सुनना चाहते हैं तो इनको बैठाइये... (व्यवधान)

SHRI PILOO MODY: You say this is the procedure of the House. What is this man mumbling?

(Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये कृपा करके ...

श्री बी. सत्यनारायण रेड्डी आंध्र प्रदेश श्रीमन्...

(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : आप बैठ जाइये मिस्टर रेड्डी ... (व्यवधान) देखिये अगर माननीय सदस्य इतनी आपत्ति करेंगे। हर व्यक्ति खड़ा होकर शांत करने के लिए अपील करेगा तो इसका मतलब है कि सदन में शांति नहीं रह सकती। आप नहीं सुनना चाहते हैं ... (व्यवधान) हम कार्यवाही को आगे बढ़ायेंगे, आप सुनना चाहते हैं तो सुनिये नहीं सुनना चाहते हैं तो ... (व्यवधान)

I am helpless; you want to maintain peace but you don't hear me.

SHRI PILOO MODY: I want to ask you one question.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani, you have been the Leader of the House. I cannot hear so many persons together... (Interruption) No, there is no point except to maintain silence and hear the Minister. There is no other point.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Why are the Members of the House agitated is because you asked the Minister to read his statement. I think this is the last nadir of the Parliamentary practice. Granted that you may want us to keep quiet, granted that we should keep quiet and everyday we do keep quiet, but all the time we wanted to raise, the point and for you to ask the Minister to read his statement. I think, is the lowest ebb that this Parliament can see... (Interruptions). What will happen now is that he will have to re-read that statement.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No, I am not going to read it out again.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are very much concerned with Parliamentary democracy but you do not allow the Minister to read his statement. What can I do?

SHRI PILOO MODY: What have we done everyday except to allow him?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let him now complete the statement.

SHRI PILOO MODY: If you want only Mr. Kesri to ask questions, you go ahead. I cannot understand it...

(Interruptions)

श्री उपसभापति : देखिए, दोनों बातें नहीं चल सकतीं। ... (व्यवधान) आप धीरे मचाएं और सदन को चलने न दें। ... (व्यवधान) दोनों बातें एक साथ कैसे चल सकती हैं। ... (व्यवधान) मेरी बात सुनिये ... (व्यवधान)

SHRI PILOO MODY: Only a mad man will read a statement like this.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Only a mad man will stand up like this.

SHRI PILOO MODY: And he says 'I would not read it again'. What sort of arrogance is this?

श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी: उपसभापति जी, आज की समस्या यह है कि यहां मे कुछ लोगों ने कुछ मुद्दे उठाये ... (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति : वह तो खत्म हो गया ।

SHRI PILOO MODY: You have said that nothing will go on record. Then, his statement should not also have been recorded, as per your instructions. What sort of procedure you are following?

श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी: हो सकता है कि आप उनको कहे कि ठीक नहीं है, और आप उनको कहे कि नहीं, आपकी बात ठीक नहीं है, लेकिन उसके आगे ... (व्यवधान) कई लोग बात कहना चाहते हैं कि और आप उनको कहते हैं कि आप कुछ भी कहिए, आप बोलते जाइये। कोई सुने या न सुने, आप बोलते जाइये। ... (व्यवधान) This is not the way.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Advani, please resume your seat. The way you are doing....

(Interruptions)

SHRI PILOO MODY: This is steamrolling.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You are out to teach sermons to the Chair and to other side. But you do not take any lessons yourself. You do not want the House to proceed calmly. An issue has been raised by two hon. Members. He made his point. The matter ended there. Then, I called the hon. Minister. At this stage, so many people stood up. You do not want to hear because, that is not important. What he is saying is more important and the Calling Attention is not important. What can I do? I would request you, Mr. Advani... (Interruptions) What you expect from others, please do it yourself.

श्री लालकृष्ण आडवाणी: उपसभापति जी, मैंने हमेशा चैयर का और हाऊस का भी सहयोग किया है। लेकिन आज क्या होता है कि जिस समय बनर्जी साहब बोल रहे थे, आपको लगता है कि लास्ट वर्ड हो गया और—

The matter ends there. No before Mr. Banerjee spoke. But after Mr. Banerjee spoke, when some hon. Members wanted to say something, you said 'No'. Immediately after Mr. Banerjee spoke, other hon. Members wanted to express their views. At

that point of time, you asked the hon. Minister to read his statement. This is not correct.

(Interruptions)

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI (Uttar Pradesh): Sir, we have great respect for you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us go ahead.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: But Sir, the Opposition should not be brushed aside in this way.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: How is the Opposition being brushed aside, Mr. Shahi? I do not understand.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: We expect some tolerance from the Chair. When some hon. Members wanted to express their views...

(Interruptions)

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN (Tamil Nadu): Sir Mr. Banerjee said something. On this, some hon. Members wanted to express their views...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I have heard all of them. I heard them long before. Then, he raised a point of explanation. And the matter ended there.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: I would only say with folded hands that the words of Mr. Banerjee should not be taken as a verdict by the Chair.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Unless you co-operate...

(Interruptions)

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: We have co-operated to the maximum extent. We are ready to co-operate again. But this is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a lot of difference between words

and deeds. I do not want to comment. Not you I mean. But others.

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: We expect some tolerance...

(Interruptions)

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: Sir, I think, when the hon. Member raised the question, you gave your ruling.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That I have said.

SHRI ERA SEZHIYAN: I am not saying anything on that. The matter would have ended if some hon. Members had spoken and then the statement by the Minister begun. Afterwards, Mr. Banerjee made some comments. On this, some hon. Members wanted to have their views expressed. Mr. Piloo Mody also said something. At this time, you said 'nothing will go on record'.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: Why should Mr. Banerjee cast reflections on us. He does not know...

(Interruptions)

SHRI NAGESHWAR PRASAD SHAHI: A nominated Member has no such right.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PILOO MODY: Sir, you have got the sequence of events wrong. The matter would have ended and the Calling Attention would have started. Then, Mr. Banerjee made some comments. He has every right to make these comments. He has every right to his views. As against that, we have also the right, the same right—I am saying, the same right; I underline the words 'same right', to make comments which may be in disagreement with what Mr. Banerjee has said. At that time, you asked the Minister to start speaking. On the one hand, you told the Reporters not to record and on the other hand, you asked the Minister to proceed with his statement. I

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would like to know, which of your two instructions are to be followed in the letter?

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The Minister's statement went on record.

SHRI PILOO MODY: The Minister's statement should also have gone unrecorded. Now, if you want to make peace with us, the best thing is to ask the Minister to read his statement again now that we have blown our steam off.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: We want to react to what Mr. Banerjee has said.

(Interruptions)

THE LEADER OF THE HOUSE (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): If the things go in this way, it would be really difficult. What happened rightly or wrongly, you in your own wisdom disposed of certain matters. Thereafter you called the Minister to make the Statement—after Mr. Banerjee's statement—Now it is not proper to say whether somebody is a nominated member, somebody is a senior member.

SHRI B. D. KHOBRAKAGE: Nobody is raising that point.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Mr. Khobragade, please...

SHRI RAMANAND YADAV (Bihar): Mr. Kulkarni has spoken about...

(Interruptions)

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: I have not said that. How do you say that I have said that? But I have got the right to reply. Do not say...

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: If somebody has not mentioned it, there is no question. (Interruptions). Here each and everyone has got equal right. Nobody has more right or less right.

SHRI PILOO MODY: Except Shri Sita Ram Kesri.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: Shri Kesri has little less right

than you.

So, we have equal right and our objective is to see that we can transact the business. Sometime some matters are raised and the Chair allows some indulgence. Sometimes the Chair takes a view and we accept it. Therefore, let us not stretch it too far. After all, this is a private members' business. If the Minister is not to make the statement, he would be quite happy. Therefore, on a number of times I have made a request to the hon. Members not to interrupt during Questions and Calling Attentions because they are primarily initiated by the private members. If some private members are raising the questions, why should other private members interrupt? Actually, Sir, you would appreciate that some of the members wanted to listen to the observations, but in their anxiety also if 10 persons at a time say that the Minister be asked to re-read the statement, it is neither audible to you nor to me nor to the Minister. (Interruptions) Ten persons at a time said that they wanted to listen to the Minister's statement. They wanted you to direct the Minister to read his statement. So, I would request you to kindly allow the normal business to be transacted.

SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Statement must be read again.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now let him read the statement again. Please read it aloud.

श्री बुद्धप्रिय मौय (आंध्र प्रदेश) : मेरा व्यवस्था का प्रश्न है। माननीय उपमहापति जी, पीलू मोदी को, ऐसा लगता है, सबसे ज्यादा अधिकार इस सदन में है। यदि मैं भूल नहीं करता...

श्री नागेश्वर प्रसाद शाही : यह व्यवस्था है ?

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श्री बुद्धप्रिय मौर्य : अभी व्यवस्था पर आ रहा हूँ आप की तरह बात नहीं करूँगा, व्यवस्था की बात करूँगा। आप रिकार्ड देख ले। जिस समय यह चर्चा चली थी, आपने आदेश दिया था कि मंत्री महोदय अपना वक्तव्य दें, उस समय पीलू मोदी जी ने कहा :

"You dummy, Deputy Chairman".

क्या यह आपको शोभा देता है ?

SHRI PILOO MODY: I will clarify what I have said. I will tell you what I have said. I said: "You sit there like a dummy." There is a lot of difference.

SHRI BUDDHA PRIYA MAURYA: Is it desirable?

(Interruptions)

SHRI PILOO MODY: I do not think what was happening in the House was desirable. I have told you exactly what I have said, but do not misquote me.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: All right, please read it again.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: My difficulty is that I have to obey your orders.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: My difficulty is that I do not have the same privilege as some hon. Members opposite seem to have.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You are most welcome to come and join us. We can pass a resolution on your behalf.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: My other difficulty is, you asked me to read the statement when there was a lot of noise in the House. I read the statement at the top of my voice and now my voice has failed.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Read slowly.

SHRI PILOO MODY: You can ask Shri Sita Ram Kesri to read it. We do not mind.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: I can lend him to you for the time being.

SHRI ARVIND GANESH KULKARNI: I will read it for you.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: According to the report received from the Government of Orissa, a severe cyclonic storm which subsequently developed into a hurricane was first detected over Bay of Bengal on the 8th instant at 5-30 P.M. It moved northwards along with Orissa Coast with wind speed exceeding 120 K.M. per hour and crossed the coast near Sagar Islands on the 10th night. Preliminary situation report received indicated that coastal areas mostly in the district of Balasore and Cuttack were affected.

The State Government reported that adequate precautionary measures were taken to warn the people and the people were evacuated where necessary from the low lying areas. The State Government stationed Additional District Magistrates at Kendrapara and Jeypur in Cuttack District and at Bhadrak in Balasore District to organise relief operations.

Roofs and large number of Kutcha houses were blown off, number of trees uprooted, roofs of the Block office buildings, staff quarters and garage have been blown away in one block. Many primary school buildings have been damaged and communication links were disrupted. Saline inundation was reported in low lying areas causing damage to standing paddy crops. Four fishing trawlers and two country boats are reported to be missing while one power boat capsized. Though details of casualty of human lives and cattle losses are being ascertained, according to the prelimi-

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nary report three persons were reported to have died in a village due to house collapse. Betal vines were reported to have been damaged. Three breaches were reported in the embankment near Kantipur.

Steps were taken by the State Government to disburse house building grants immediately in affected areas.

The Government of Orissa has got a margin money of Rs. 871 lakhs during the current year with which it can meet the expenditure for providing any emergent relief to the affected people.

As regards West Bengal, the State Government have reported that a severe cyclonic storm accompanied by heavy rain and tidal waves swept over wide areas of Midnapur and 24 Parganas Districts on the 10th and 11th December, 1981. Extensive breaches of embankments for flood protection have taken place. According to the State Government, 93 human lives have been lost and nearly 20 lakh people have been affected. Several thousand houses have either collapsed or badly damaged. Besides, extensive damage has been caused to the standing paddy and rabi crops. The State Government have reported that loss of property and damage to crops are still being assessed. The State Government have reported that people had been rescued and given shelter and relief. The Public Health Department have sent teams for vaccination and large quantities of clothes in the form of 25,000 pieces of tarpauline, 12,000 pieces of cotton blankets, 24,000 pieces of dhoti, 18,000 sarees and 38,000 garments for children have been rushed to the affected area. In addition, 500 kgs. milk powder has been sent. Cash assistance provided so far by the State Government is of the order of Rs. 1.5 lakhs. Arrangements are also being made to reach potable water for the human and cattle population in areas where water tanks and ponds have become saline. In this the Calcutta Port Trust Authority is assisting by

providing barges. The State Government have got a margin money of Rs. 1360 lakhs and it can meet the emergent expenditure for providing relief to the affected people.

The Government of India express their profound sorrow on this calamity which has befallen the two States and convey their heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, cyclones, hurricanes and tornadoes are natural calamities which produce great human tragedies by way of loss of life, standing crops, houses and public buildings. Science and technology have not developed to such a great extent by which we can eradicate completely the evils of these natural calamities but, of course, to some extent their effects can be minimised. In this case, Sir, it has been pointed out by the hon. Minister that on the eighth evening actually the hurricane or cyclone Centre was observed in the Bay of Bengal and expected to move towards the districts of Cuttack and Balasore in Orissa and Midnapore and 24 Parganas in West Bengal. The gravity of the situation can be imagined when in West Bengal alone not 92 persons—as stated by the hon. Minister in the Lok Sabha—but 117 persons have died according to the *Statesman* today including three persons in Orissa due to house collapse. Sir, the specific question here is, so many satellites are moving, meteorological science has developed so much but whether the first formation of the hurricane was seen and properly publicised. Actually, the Government had taken various steps to publicise it over the radio but my point is whether this meteorological information was radioed only at Calcutta and Paradip, or precautions were taken to ascertain as to which villages would be affected and whether these villages were actually informed so that this loss of human life would not have been there.

Then the other question is, as we know, in the papers it came that

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saline water due to three metres high tidal bores will come and affect the low-lying areas of Cuttack and Balasore districts in Orissa and the Midnapore and 24-Parganas districts of West Bengal. But it is not only the low-lying areas of these districts that are affected. Every alternate four or five years we find that such natural calamities occur and saline inundation takes place which causes great losses to the standing crop and the land. Such suffering befalls not only the people of Bengal and Orissa but also the people of Andhra Pradesh because these areas on the eastern coast including Tamil Nadu are susceptible to cyclones, not to speak of other natural calamities. Now I want to know whether the assessment reports have already come or how soon they will come so that we can be informed about the damage to the crops and also the extent of saline inundation in the different States. Also we have not got the final information about the total crop damage.

Then I would like to tell about one more important thing. In those low-lying areas of West Bengal, specially Midnapore and 24-Parganas, and in Orissa, people raise commercial crops like betel creepers and when with the wind they all go down the whole crop is destroyed and the sufferings of the farmers who have invested huge amounts of money in the crops cannot be imagined. So I would like to say that these things must also be taken into consideration.

The other most important aspect of the question is that these natural calamities like cyclones, hurricanes and tornadoes should not be taken as local catastrophes. In the Constitution and for financial arrangements it has been stated that these are natural calamities which should be taken up on a national priority, and the Central Government comes to the help of the local State Government—as rightly pointed out by the hon. Minister. But, Sir, here I would specifically like

to ask one point. In 1971 the Government of India Ministry of Irrigation and Power appointed a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. P. Koteeswaram, the then Director-General of Observatories, Indian Meteorological Department, especially to study the situation of cyclones, hurricanes and tornadoes in Orissa, whose recommendations are valid also for the other States of West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. It suggested the installation of high power storm detection radars specially at Calcutta and Paradip with other stations at Digha and Chandwali and in Andhra Pradesh at Vijayawada or some other place on the coastal belt as a permanent solution. The hon. Minister has been kind enough to say that a Central team will visit the area which will look into all the reports after getting the preliminary reports from the Governments of West Bengal and Orissa. Here I would specifically like to know, because this natural calamity occurs frequently and specially because the present Government has laid much emphasis, in the Sixth Five-Year Plan, on the eradication of rural poverty and regional imbalances and because these areas are susceptible to tidal bores and saline inundation, whether the recommendation of the Committee appointed by the Irrigation and Power Ministry of the Government of India in 1971 that high power storm warning radar systems should be established in the coastal belt would be taken into consideration. They also made a very strong recommendation about preventive measures like storm shelter, wind-breaks, bunds, afforestation along the coastal line and saline inundation bunds. It is a very important recommendation. In modern times we know that in Holland and other places they have constructed the coastal line embankments so that the effect of these natural calamities could be minimized. So I would urge upon the Agriculture Minister to call the Ministers of Irrigation and Power or the Chief Ministers of these coastal States like West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh,

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Tamil Nadu and to undertake a programme for construction of embankment that wherever saline inundation is a regular problem and tidal bore comes with every cyclone or hurricane it would be better if some steps are taken. Then the Natural Calamities Fund at the Centre should be strengthened and the States must participate in it so that these problems can be looked after well. Afforestation of these areas will work as a windbreak. So this must be taken up very vigorously.

I would humbly submit and request the hon. Minister that these things, coastal bunds and afforestation in the coastal areas, should be initiated, as the initiative was taken by the Irrigation and Power Ministry of the Central Government in 1971. I would also urge upon the hon. Minister to see that the financial institutions like the RBI must take steps in regard to the crop damage which causes so much misery. This time, the paddy was to be harvested. It was a standing crop. Wherever saline inundation is there, it is total loss, which can be well measured but where the gale came with such a speed it caused damage to the standing crop and the backbone of the farmers are being broken in these and peripheral areas. So my submission is that it must be taken up with due urgency and it should be treated as a national calamity and some semi-permanent measures should also be initiated.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I hope you would agree that while every effort is being made to minimize the damage occurring from natural disasters like cyclones, earthquake or floods, this is another phenomenon of nature which it is not possible to avert, like earthquake or volcanic eruption. All that can be done is to provide certain shelters and steps could be taken to see that wind-breaks are provided, as the hon. Member has suggested, communications are improved, roads are cons-

tructed, embankments are constructed against tidal waves to save people's crops and in the villages platforms can be constructed so that they can store their grain at a higher level to save it from the fury of the tidal floods. All these recommendations have been made in the Koteswaram Committee's report and they are being implemented by the various State Governments. The main recommendation of that Committee is about setting up of an efficient system for warning. We have already done it. Most of the recommendations have been implemented and all along the coast cyclone warning radars have been set up at Calcutta, Paradip, Visakhapatnam, Machchlipatnam, Madras, Karagil, Bombay, Goa. In all these cases, the Government's attention had been called and there was a warning sufficiently in advance. The first time when the formation of this cyclone was noticed in the Bay of Bengal was around 5th of December, but then it was hoped that it would cross the Indian territory. As early as on 7th the first warning was issued even from the All India Radio station, Delhi and after that five bulletins were issued right up to the early morning of 11th. The cyclone took a track which was probably abnormal. It went in one direction, then it diverted its direction and skirted the Orissa coast. That is why there was not much damage in Orissa. Then it entered West Bengal. There was heavy damage in West Bengal, there is no doubt about it. I have already said that we are waiting for the assessment of the damage from the State Government. Immediate relief has been provided by the State Government concerned. They have substantial amount of margin money at their disposal during the year to take steps to provide relief on the spot, immediately.

So far as the system of warning is concerned, apart from the radar stations, the Meteorological Offices all over the country and along the coast keep track of all such phenomena.

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They even monitor information from satellites. They also get information from the naval stations of other countries, and they warn the people in advance. In this case the offices of the Orissa Government and West Bengal Government in the affected districts were also warned at least 48 hours in advance, right up to the district level block level also. The Chief Secretaries were also contacted and the Port Authorities were alerted. Distress signals were put up to warn the fishermen from the 8th of December onwards. There are different kinds of signals for alerting, for danger, then for greater danger, than for imminent danger. These signs were all put up all along the coast by various ports.

All that we can now do is to see that when the State Governments approach the Central Government, we provide assistance to them with finances if they are not able to meet the situation within the money at their disposal. The Central Government meets 75 per cent of the expenditure as non-Plan grant, and it should be possible for us to try and mitigate the misery of the people who have been affected.

SHRI SANTOSH MITRA (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the recent cyclone in Orissa and West Bengal has caused serious damage in the coastal areas of these two States. In West Bengal the severe cyclone storm coupled with high tidal waves, lashed the coastal regions of 24-Parganas and Midnapore, district, and as result of this cyclone and the tidal waves, more than 1 million people have been affected in the three districts, that is, 24-Parganas, Midnapore and partly Howrah. This is the figure and these are the affected areas in West Bengal. The cyclone has taken a toll of 117 lives according to the Press report. Particularly the worst affected areas are the south 24-Parganas District and a part of the coastal region of the Midnapore District. The grim situation is still continuing because of the dearth of drinking water and the break-out of gastro-en-

teritis and other stomach ailments. The highest number of casualties were reported from Pathar Pratima where 38 people died, followed by Kasaba in where 27 people died in the 24-Parganas District. Sir, about 32,000 acres of land with standing crops have been completely inundated, as a result of which the crops have been destroyed. Two hundred kilometres of embankments were completely washed away and 1,315 kilometres of embankments have been seriously damaged.

The West Bengal Government has started relief operations. The Relief and Rehabilitation Minister, Shri Radhika Banerjee, the Irrigation Minister, Shri Prabash Roy, the Health Minister, Shri Nani Bhattacharjee and the Social Welfare Minister, Shrimati Nirupama Chatterjee rushed to the affected areas to assess the situation and arrange for relief work. The panchayats of the local areas have started extensive relief work and rescue work. About 7,200 people have been given shelter in Government camps in Alipur sub-division and Diamond Harbour sub-division in 24-Parganas. This is a death-blow to the rural economy of the State and such a natural calamity has never happened in the history of West Bengal in the month of December. One third of the Sunderbans area has been seriously affected. The worst affected areas are Pathar Pratima, Kultali, Kakdwip, Basanti, Mathurapur Jayanagar, Sagardwip, Bhargar in 24-Parganas and the Maishadal sub-division of Midnapore.

Sir, in this context, I would like to know the hon. Minister whether any Central team has been sent to assess the extent of the losses caused by the cyclone on the 10th December, and whether any decision has been taken in regard to the release of Rs. 20 crores that has been asked by the Government of West Bengal and by the State Irrigation Minister. I would also like to know from the hon. Minister what concrete steps have been taken in this regard. What steps have been taken for the repair and restoration of the embankments damaged by the cyclone? And what steps are being taken for

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checking the recurrence of such a menace? Something can be done. say, embankments can be constructed in the rural areas to prevent damage by tidal waves. Why could not the danger signal be given by the Meteorological Department well in advance? Further, I would ask the hon. Minister whether the Central Government has asked the State Government what sort of help and co-operation is needed for relief work to solve the problems created by the cyclone.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am very happy to note that the hon. Member is satisfied about the steps that the West Bengal Government has taken to provide immediate succour to the people affected. It is primarily the duty of the 1 P.M. State Government to provide relief. We have received a request from West Bengal Government for an *ad hoc* advance assistance of Rs. 20 crores. That is being examined by the Ministry of Agriculture in the Relief Department and the Ministry of Finance. No decision has yet been taken. They have also requested that a Central team visit West Bengal. But we are waiting for a detailed report from West Bengal Government. They have not even indicated as to how much money they have already spent on relief measures out of this amount of Rs. 13 crores and 16 lakhs that is at their disposal already for such purpose. On receipt of detailed information we shall see what can further be done.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The discussion will continue after lunch.

सदन की कार्यवाही दो बजे तक के लिए स्थगित की जाती है।

The House then adjourned for lunch at one minute past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at four minutes past two of the clock.
Mr. Deputy Chairman in the Chair.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, the Minister does not seem to realise the gravity of the situation. From the statement it is clear that the Government of India does not want to take any responsibility with regard to the relief measures and the Minister seems to have satisfied himself by saying that there is enough marginal money both with the State Government of Orissa and that of West Bengal. I do not say that they are discriminating against anybody. But as a matter of policy, this attitude is wrong. These States on the east coast of our country, namely, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal are always vulnerable to such an attack. This is not the first time that we are discussing about cyclone in this House and this not going to be the last time also. Every year we have to discuss about this. Either it will be about Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh or Orissa or West Bengal. The States may differ. But cyclone has become an annual feature. So, a fundamental approach is necessary to such a serious problem. What can a State Government do in such matters? How can they provide sufficient funds for cyclone relief? So, the Government of India should examine this much more deeply and see whether, even as a part of our planning, a separate fund could be created for relief work. So, this attitude of depending on the margin money available with the States will not do and that would not be adequate. This is number one.

The other thing is about the preventive measures. Regarding preventive measures, Sir, I would suggest that the Government of India must have a plan for all these east-coast States, starting from Kanyakumari and going up to Calcutta, and they must have safety measures. Several Committees have been appointed by the Government of India to examine the question of mitigation of the suffering of the people as a result of cyclones. They have made several recommendations and one of the important recommendations is to construct safety shelters. So, such shelters should be constructed in the coastal areas in

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large numbers so that the people, the poor people who are living in huts in these areas, may be shifted as soon as the warning is obtained by the local authorities. So, this can go a long way in giving relief because the people who are affected are generally the poor people living in thatched sheds and huts and also living in the low-lying areas. So, special arrangements must be made for giving them protection.

Then, Sir, there is another thing. From the information available from the reports available to us, we can say that the meteorological system in our country has advanced. Many experiments have been conducted about the nature of monsoon and its movement, on how the cyclone is gathering and how it is moving. Therefore, it should be possible for the Meteorological Department to inform the country precisely as to how and when a cyclone will hit or attack. So, this is possible. But the trouble is that this information is not immediately carried to the local people through the local administration and arrangements are made for shifting them to safer places. Herein lies the weakness. So, Sir, the Government of India must have a master plan for such a safety scheme so that the people may be saved from such calamities because we have to educate our people to live with it. We cannot avoid it. Cyclone is both a calamity and a blessing. Science has not developed to such extent that the cyclone part of it can be separated from the rains. Cyclone also brings rains, much-needed rains. So, we have to train our people, especially those in the coastal areas, to live with such cyclones and we should not allow them to suffer thinking that it is a God-ordained calamity. Man can overcome nature and man can understand the laws of nature and can protect the country. So, it is the responsibility of the Government of India to protect the people from such natural calamities just as it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the country from foreign aggression. So, Sir, this is what I would like to say as far as

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this aspect is concerned. The West Bengal Government have made a suggestion. The hon. Minister says that he has not received any detailed report so far. I do not know about it. But even if there is no such report, is it not the responsibility of the Minister to send a message and not act quickly? It should be left to the concerned State Governments alone. That is why we are raising it here. If the State Government has not sent any report to the Central Government, it should not be utilised for blaming the Government but the Government of India must get the details from both the State Governments and render whatever help is necessary. It should not be a part of the Plan expenditure of the State Government; it should be apart. I would suggest that it should be a part of the grant in future also, because every year it will happen in some State or the other. I have already stated this. For the future also, there should be a fund for cyclone relief, for safety and for preventive measures. (Time bell rings) With these words, I conclude.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Member that we do not realise the gravity of the situation. The very fact that we are discussing this in both Houses of Parliament and we have been asking the West Bengal and Orissa Governments to provide us all the information so that it can be transmitted to the hon. Members, shows that we are deeply concerned with the misery of the people, the affected people.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: But there is not a word of sympathy in your statement.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: No, Sir, probably the hon. Member has not carefully listened to my statement. I can read it again.

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: You will be reading it for the third time.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: If you did not listen to me on two occasions, I

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can read it for the third also for your information:

"The Government of India express their profound sorrow on this calamity which has befallen the two States, and convey their heart-felt sympathies to the bereaved families."

This is the last para of my statement. I hope that if that would satisfy the hon. Member, Mr. Kalyanasundaram, I am very happy—if only words can satisfy him.

About the question of providing permanent shelters all over the coast where areas are cyclone-prone, vulnerable to such disasters, Sir, we have financial constraints in the matter. Primarily it is the duty of the State Governments. Hon. Members would agree with me, I hope, that wherever there is such a calamity, it is the State Government machinery which comes into operation immediately. The Central Government has no agency of its own.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I did not suggest that the Central Government should do it. The Central Government should provide funds for it.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: But I made it very clear that funds are provided from year to year for meeting such situations and there is a sum of Rs. 13 crores and 60 lakhs at the disposal of the West Bengal Government made every year in the allocation. A sum of Rs. 8 crores and 74 lakhs is given to the Orissa Government, as I stated in my statement, every year. And it is only when the State Government finds that this money is not sufficient then they approach the Government of India. Unless we know that they cannot deal with the situation within this money, how can we send more money to them; unless we received a report? As I have already said, the West Bengal Government has asked for an *ad hoc* grant in this case, without giving us the information that Rs. 13 crores or more than that has

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already been spent. The information which I have given in my statement is that they have spent about rupees one lakh and fifty thousand on relief measures.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: This is with regard to casual relief.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: But they should give us an idea as to what is their requirement. Unless this is done, it is not possible for the Central Government to rush its officers to assess the situation themselves. The West Bengal Government officers, as has been earlier said by an hon. Member from West Bengal, are visiting that place. There officers are assessing the situation. They are waiting for a report. Even for payment of Rs. 20 crores on *ad hoc* basis, their request is being looked into and we shall be able to take a decision in consultation with the Ministry of Finance soon.

SHRI NARASINGHA PRASAD NANDA (Orissa): You will remember that on the 11th of December, I had mentioned about the cyclone by way of a Special Mention and you had been pleased to direct the Government to make a statement. Unfortunately, the statement did not come. Meanwhile, the Calling Attention was admitted. Now, we have a statement from the hon. Minister on this cyclone which affected the two States of Orissa and West Bengal. The statement clearly reveals that neither the Government of Orissa, nor the Government of West Bengal have made a complete assessment of the loss sustained by the two States as a result of this cyclone. Whatever preliminary reports have been received by the Government of India have been placed before us by way of information. I would like to submit that the claim made by the Government of Orissa—I cannot say anything about West Bengal Government—is wrong and I have very reliable information to show that the State Government had not taken precautionary measures to warn the people. The

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people were not evacuated from the low-lying areas and they remained where they were. The report given by the State Government to the Government of India is absolutely incorrect. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has tried to ascertain through some other agency, apart from the report submitted by the State Government, whether this information is correct. When this Calling Attention was being discussed on the floor of the Lok Sabha yesterday, the Chief Minister's wife who happens to be a Member of the Lok Sabha, was asked by the hon. Minister of Agriculture whether the Orissa Government had done anything for the cyclone-hit people. She said, "Yes, Yes". But her 'yes, yes' is not a 'yes' which you get from an impeccable source. Hers is an interested version. I think the hon. Minister will agree with me on this point.

One thing that I do not notice in this Statement is that in the District of Cuttack more than 4-1/2 lakh hectares of paddy crop is under saline water. This is the season when the crop is ripe. When the crop is ripe and the whole area is under saline water, you can imagine the extent of loss to standing crops on 4-1/2 lakh hectares of land. The loss will be much more than Rs. 8 crores. The marginal money which is there with the State Government of Orissa to meet this kind of situation is not sufficient. I am very happy when the hon. Minister says that the Government have accepted the recommendations of the Koteswaram Committee. I would like to know what steps they have taken about the scheme for afforestation to create wind break along the coastal belt which is cyclone-prone. This is not clear from the statement. I would like to know whether other permanent measures, apart from installing radars to give warning to the inhabitants of the cyclone-prone areas, have been taken. Apart from that, what other permanent measures which are contained in the recommendations of the Dr. Koteswaram Committee have already been undertaken by the Gov-

ernment of India? I would like to know that from the hon. Minister. Secondly, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would be willing to ascertain what kind of precautionary measures had been taken by the State Government. I am aware that the A.I.R. announcement was there. The A.I.R. bulletins were there. So far as the Government of India was concerned, it had given sufficient warning. I have nothing to say about the Government of India so far as the warning part is concerned. But at this time when Orissa was hit by the cyclone, the Chief Minister was touring one of the interior districts, called Phulwari. He was not even in the capital or near about the place of cyclone. And our information is that no adequate measures were taken. People living in the low-lying areas were not evacuated to higher places. We have this information. I would like the hon. Minister to verify this fact and tell us, if not today, if it is not possible to tell today, but on a subsequent day on making an independent enquiry.

Lastly, Sir, since this statement is an incomplete statement, based on incomplete information furnished by the State Government on the basis of their preliminary assessment, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether, after the full assessment of the loss and damage is made, whether it is by the Central team or by the State Government team, he would come to the House on his own to make a full statement giving us full information about the loss sustained by the State.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I wish I could give more detailed information. But you would kindly appreciate my difficulty. We have to depend upon the reports from the States. And if the States take some time in providing complete information to us, we cannot do anything more. All the points which have been raised by the hon. Member about the steps taken in time by the local authorities can only be looked into when a Central team visits

Cyclone in

[Rao Birendra Singh]

the area, and those points shall be borne in mind.

Sir, I have already said that the main recommendations of the Koteswaram Committee have been receiving the attention, particularly the setting up of meteorological warning stations, radars all along the coast. While preparing the development plans, each State takes into consideration the needs of these disaster-prone areas also with regard to communication, afforestation, renovation of drains, dredging, construction of embankments to protect certain areas. And this has been done even in the case of Orissa State. Orissa State has been provided funds for most of these works for protection against cyclones. But, as I said, this is a phenomenon which can hit anywhere. You remember, Sir, some time back there was a typhoon that hit Delhi. Delhi is not a typhoon-prone area. It was for the first time, perhaps, in centuries or in the living memory where a typhoon of this nature was experienced by Delhi. And even motor-cars were put on the tops of the trees and the roofs were blown off. So, it is not possible to fully protect people against such calamities. But as I have said earlier, the Government of India is fully alive to the needs for protecting the people. And as development continues in these particular areas, more and more attention will be paid towards financing the schemes for protection.

श्री राम लखन प्रसाद गुप्त (बिहार) :
उपसभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय ने यह कह कर संतोष व्यक्त किया है कि साइक्लोन के ऊपर सरकार कुछ नहीं कर सकती है। यह आपत्ति इस प्रकार की है कि एकाएक आ जाती है। जहां तक सूचना देने की बात है वह भी ठीक समय पर दी गई है, यह भी संतोष की बात है। मुझे भी गोवा में ओसीनेग्राफी रेडर हो देखने का मौका मिला। मुझे

दिखाया गया है कि हजार, बारह सौ किलोमीटर पहले तूफान हो, साइक्लोन हो तो कैसे हम लोग जान जाते हैं। इस तरह से सूचना दी गई है यह खुशी की बात है और संतोष की बात है। यह बात भी सही है कि बंगाल में 233 किलोमीटर का इम्बैकमेंट बिल्कुल समाप्त हो गया, घस गया। मंत्री महोदय ने कहा है 13 करोड़ 60 लाख मॉर्जिन मनी बंगाल में जमा है। उड़ीसा में 8 करोड़ 71 लाख जमा है। इसके अलावा भी अगर और राशि मांगी जाएगी उसका 75 प्रतिशत जो राहत कार्य में खर्च होगा वह केन्द्रीय सरकार देगी, यह ठीक है। मैं यह सरकार से जानना चाहता हूँ कि दोनों राज्य सरकारों ने इससे ज्यादा रुपये की मांग की है या नहीं की है ?

श्री उपसभापति : यह तो बता दिया दूसरा प्रश्न कीजिए।

श्री राम लखन प्रसाद गुप्त : यह जो डा० कोटीसवरम् कमेटी बनी थी उसमें साइक्लोन के पहले क्या करना चाहिये-साइक्लोन के समय क्या करना चाहिये और साइक्लोन के बाद क्या करना चाहिये उसमें लिखा हुआ है। यह रिपोर्ट भी शायद उनके पास होगी। उसके मुताबिक एक बात तो यह बताई जाती है कि साइक्लोन के समय जो पूर्व सूचना देने की बात है वह ठीक दी गई है। बाकी और जो नियम हैं या जो उनके सुझाव हैं उन सुझावों के लिये क्या किया गया है, यह दूसरी बात मैं जानना चाहता हूँ। तीसरी बात यह है कि उसी कमेटी की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार नेचुरल कैलिमिटी फंड बनाने की बात है। इसमें कहा गया है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकार नेचुरल कैलिमिटी फंड बनायें। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरह के फंड बने हैं या नहीं और नहीं बने हैं तो इसके क्या कारण

हैं ? इसी के साथ मैं यह भी जानना चाहता हूँ कि राहत कार्य के लिये जो रुपये दिये जाते हैं केन्द्र से उनके क्या नाम्स हैं। किस तौर पर, किस आधार पर वे दिये जाते हैं ? जो सूचना दी जाती है इसमें भी यह बात है कि बहुतों को सूचना नहीं मिलती है। यह कहा जाता है कि सबको रेडियो रखना चाहिये। हमेशा रेडियो रखना चाहिये यह अलग बात है। मैं एक बात कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो मछुयारे बोट ले जाते हैं मछली मारने के लिये, उनके पास लाइसेंस होता है। उनके लाइसेंस में एक शर्त पक्की तरह से जोड़ दी जाए कि हर एक अपने पास रेडियो रखे ताकि जब इस तरह की सूचना दी जाए तो वह उसे मिल सके। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या सरकार इस प्रकार का कोई विचार रखती है ? अगली बात मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि सेन्ट्रल स्टडी टीम कंस्टीट्यूट की गई है या नहीं ? अगर की गई है तो उसकी रिपोर्ट कब तक आ जाएगी ? साइक्लोन को मिनिमाइज करने की बात भी कही गई है इस रिपोर्ट के अन्दर। साइक्लोन को कैसे मिनिमाइज किया जा सकता है इस पर कोई प्रक्रिया सरकार के द्वारा अपनाई गई है या नहीं ? यह मैं साफ सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ।

श्री उपसभापति : कुछ का जवाब तो आप दे चुके हैं। और जो कुछ बताना चाहें वह बता दें।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : जैसा आपने फर्माया, मैं सारी बातों का जवाब दे चुका हूँ। इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि वेस्ट बंगाल में काफी नुकसान हुआ है। जो पहली रिपोर्ट आई वेस्ट बंगाल से उसके मुताबिक एक लाख के करीब मकान या हट बरबाद हो चुके हैं और दो सौ किलोमीटर से ज्यादा के कच्चे इम्बैकमेंट

टूट गये हैं, सारे बाश हो गये हैं और कोई 585 किलोमीटर लम्बे बांधों को नुकसान पहुंचा है। साइक्लोन बड़ा जबरदस्त था इसमें कोई शक नहीं है। लेकिन साइक्लोन की फ्यूरी के ऊपर काबू पाकर इसको घटाया जा सके यह बात मेरी समझ में नहीं आती। 150 किलोमीटर से लेकर एक हजार किलोमीटर या इससे ज्यादा किलोमीटर की चौड़ाई के अन्दर अपना असर यह साइक्लोन कर सकता है। दस किलोमीटर से भी ज्यादा इसकी ऊंचाई आसमान में होती है। इसमें हवाएं भी बहुत तेजी से चलती हैं। ऐसी हालत में साइंस के जरिए से ऐसा कौन-सा तरीका हो सकता है जो इस तेजी को रोक दे, यह अभी तक समझ में नहीं आया है। मैं नहीं जानता कि ऐसा कौन-सा तरीका हो सकता है जो साइक्लोन को भी कम कर दे और उसकी चौड़ाई को भी कम कर दे ? ये चीजें अभी तक मुमकिन नहीं हुई हैं।

श्री सुन्दर सिंह भंडारी (उत्तर प्रदेश) : कोटीश्वरम् कमेटी ने जो सजेरशन्स दिये हैं, उनके बारे में आपने क्या किया है ?

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : उसके मुताबिक काम हुआ है। जो बातें उन्होंने बताई हैं उनमें से बहुत सी चीजों पर अमल किया जा रहा है। राडार से बार्निंग देने की व्यवस्था की गई है। हमारा इन-सेट आपरेशन भी किया जाएगा और उसकी भी मदद ली जाएगी। ऐसे वेदर का मुकाबला करने के लिए क्या किया जा सकता है और उसका क्या खतरा हो सकता है, इस बारे में सारी बातें मैं पहले ही बता चुका हूँ। इसके अलावा दूसरे मुल्कों के सैटेलाइट भी हैं, नेवल स्टेशनस हैं, जो बार्निंग देते रहते हैं क्योंकि इसका संबंध केवल एक मुल्क के साथ नहीं है, बल्कि अगर बंगाल की खाड़ी में कोई तूफान

[राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह]

आता है तो उससे कितने ही मुल्क एफेक्ट होते हैं। दूसरे मुल्कों की नेवी के जहाज भी उसके अन्दर होते हैं। इस प्रकार से आस-पास के हर एक मुल्क को इससे खतरा हो सकता है। दूसरे मुल्क भी सूचना देते रहते हैं।

जहाँ तक मछली पकड़ने वालों को इत्तिला देने का सवाल है, रेडियो से तो वार्निंग हम देते रहते हैं। इस मामले में यह वार्निंग 7 तारीख को शुरू हो गई थी और यह कहा गया था कि आप तीन दिन तक हमारे रेडियो बुलेटिनों को सुनते रहे। अगर एक आदमी के पास रेडियो नहीं होगा तो दूसरे आदमी के पास होगा और उससे उसको पता लग जाएगा, आजकल गांवों में काफी रेडियो हैं। इसलिए अगर किसी एक आदमी के पास रेडियो नहीं है तो उसको दूसरों से इस खतरे के बारे में इत्तिला मिल सकती है। यह ठीक है कि मछली पकड़ने वालों की किशियों में ट्रांजिस्टर सेट लगाना कोई मुश्किल काम नहीं है। लेकिन आजकल रेडियो कोई इतनी महंगी चीज नहीं है कि इसको खरीदा नहीं जा सकता है। सरकार की तरफ से बन्दरगाहों के ऊपर जहाँ-जहाँ भी मछली पकड़ने वाले जाते हैं उनकी सूचना के लिए सिगनल लगे हुए हैं। रात-दिन ये सिगनल काम करते रहते हैं। जितना खतरा होता है उसके मुताबिक सिगनल दिखा दिया जाता है। हर एक मुल्क के मछली पकड़ने वालों को मालूम है कि किस सिगनल का क्या मतलब है। वे सिगनल दूर से ही देखे जा सकते हैं और काफी ऊँचाई पर होते हैं और मछली पकड़ने वाले जानते हैं कि 1 नम्बर के सिगनल का क्या मतलब है, 2 नम्बर के सिगनल का क्या मतलब है और इसी तरह से 5 नम्बर या 10 नम्बर के सिगनल का क्या मतलब है। इस प्रकार से

सरकार की तरफ से सभी कार्यवाहियों की गई है और मछली पकड़ने वालों को तूफान की वार्निंग देने के लिए इंतजाम किया गया है।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : उपसभापति महोदय, इस चक्रवात से सम्बन्धित जो लोग पीड़ित हुए हैं और जिम इलाके के लोगों का नुकसान हुआ है उस पर सरकार गम्भीरता से सोच रही है और देश की जनता भी इससे प्रभावित हुई है। मैं सरकार से दो तीन सवाल करना चाहता हूँ। मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर को शुरू से ही सुन रहा था। हर एक वक्ता क प्रश्न का जवाब मंत्री जी ने बहुत खूबी से और अपने ढंग से दिया है। लेकिन मैं कुछ बुनियादी सवाल खड़े करना चाहता हूँ। मंत्री जी ने दो बातें कही हैं। पहले मैं उन पर चर्चा करना चाहता हूँ। एक तो उन्होंने कहा कि प्रकृति पर कब्जा करना बहुत कठिन काम है। प्रकृति से नहीं लड़ा जा सकता है। दूसरी बात मंत्री जी ने कही कि हमारे पास धन का अभाव है। मंत्री जी जानते हैं कि दुनिया में और भी देश हैं जहाँ पर इस तरह के चक्रवात आते हैं और दुनिया के अन्दर इस सम्बन्ध में जिस टेक्नोलोजी का इस्तेमाल होता है उसका इस्तेमाल भी हो रहा है। लेकिन धन के अभाव में उन्होंने अपनी असमर्थता प्रकट की है। उन्होंने कहा कि बंगाल सरकार के पास 13 करोड़ रुपये हैं, उनके पास 8 करोड़ रुपये हैं, वे इसका इस्तेमाल कर सकते हैं लेकिन मैं बुनियादी सवाल उठाना चाहता हूँ। यह सरकार पिछले 30-32 वर्षों में इस समस्या का समाधान नहीं कर सकी और कोई ऐसा हल नहीं निकाला जा सके जिससे लोगों को जो प्राकृतिक प्रकोप होते हैं, उससे बचाया जा सके। प्राकृतिक प्रकोप जब पड़ता है तो अक्सर सुनते में आता

है सरकार की ओर से, कि प्रकृति के ऊपर हम विजय प्राप्त नहीं कर सकते और सारी जिम्मेदारी प्रकृति के ऊपर डाल देते हैं। लेकिन जब प्रकृति से कोई फायदा हो जाता है तो सरकार कहती है कि हमने यह काम कर दिया, हमारी वजह से, हमारी प्रोप्रेमिव नीतियों के कारण, हमारे कामों के द्वारा इस देश में अन्न का भण्डार बढ़ गया, मछली हमने इतनी पकड़ी क्योंकि हमने समुद्री इलाके को इतनी तरजीह दी। तो जो ये दो तरह की बातें हैं सरकार को इसमें फर्क करना पड़ेगा।

श्रीमन्, उपसभापति महोदय, मैं जो भी तमाम दुनिया के बारे में जानता हूँ, जो खोज-खबर मुझे रहती है उसके अन्दर दुनिया में पाँच सौ वर्ष बाद क्या होने वाला है, पाँच सौ वर्ष बाद जो हमारी जनरेशन आयेगी, जो हमारी पीढ़ी आयेगी, मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि राव वीरेन्द्रसिंह जी इस बात को न सोचते हों, हम तो सोचते हैं कि आने वाले वर्षों में, सौ, दो सौ, वर्षों में हम कोई ऐसा रास्ता निकालें जिससे महाभारी से बचा जा सके, प्राकृतिक विपदाओं से बचा जा सके। मैं नहीं समझता हूँ कि सरकार ने एशियन गेम पर जो इतने करोड़ रुपये खर्च करने का निश्चय किया है, हमारे मंत्री जी इसको मजाक के रूप में लेंगे, मैं जानता हूँ कि जब मैं इस सवाल को उठाऊंगा मंत्री जी कतराना शुरू कर देंगे। मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि आपके पास धन का अभाव क्यों है? मैं नहीं समझता कि आपके पास धन का अभाव है। जो पिछले 30-32 वर्षों से आपकी नीतियाँ रही हैं, उन नीतियों से आप मुल्क को नहीं बचा सकते, प्राकृतिक प्रकोपों से मुल्क को नहीं बचा सकते। क्योंकि एक तरफ तो आपने फैसला कर दिया कि हम मुल्क को फैशन और ऐयाशी की तरफ ले जायेंगे और दूसरी तरफ मुल्क को कंगाली

और प्राकृतिक विपदाओं से बचाने की बात करते रहते तो राव वीरेन्द्र सिंह जी यह मुल्क इस तरह से नहीं चल सकता। आपने अभी रेडियो की बात कही कि रेडियो हर आदमी रख सकता है। लेकिन श्रीमन्, मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि रेडियो के सैल का दाम 2.50 रुपये, 3 रुपये है और रेडियो में सैल अगर लगाते हैं तो वह एक हफ्ते, 10 दिन से ज्यादा नहीं चलता है। मैं आपसे पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिस इलाके में यह चक्रवात आया है, जहाँ भी देश के जिस कोने में प्राकृतिक प्रकोप होते हैं तो कितने ऐसे गांवों में रेडियो है? क्या आप ऐसे गांवों में रेडियो की व्यवस्था करेंगे? वहाँ पुलिस स्टेशन हैं; गांवों में चौकीदार रहता है। उपसभापति महोदय, हमारे गांव में भी चौकीदार है और आपके गांव में भी चौकीदार है, लेखपाल है, उन लोगों को यह इन्सट्रक्शंस हों, उनको यह कहा जाय कि आप अपने घर पर रेडियो रखो, कम्पनमरी है रेडियो रखता और यह सरकार की तरफ से देंगे। अगर रेडियो के दाम ज्यादा नहीं हैं, जैसा कि आप कहते हैं कि मीडियम वेव रेडियो के दाम बहुत कम हैं, अगर सरकार जनता को नहीं दे सकती तो जो सरकारी मुवाजिम हैं, जो गांवों में रहते हैं, जैसे जो सरकारी स्कूलों में अध्यापक हैं, चौकीदार हैं, डाक्टर हैं इन सरकारी मुवाजिमों के लिये क्या आप कोई रास्ता निकालेंगे ताकि उनको रेडियो मुफ्त दे सकें और उम रेडियो से आप उनको सतर्क करते रहे। जब आप उनको सतर्क करते रहेंगे तो इससे आपको भी फायदा होगा। आपका रेडियो जो होता है वह रोज बोलता रहता है कि देश इतनी प्रगति कर रहा है, आगे बढ़ रहा है, यही रोज की बुलेटिन रहती है। इससे आपको फायदा होगा और देश की जनता को उससे

[श्री रामेश्वर सिंह]

राहत भी मिलेगी, तो यह मेरा प्रश्न न बर एक है ।

दूसरा मेरा प्रश्न है कि क्या सरकार के पास कोई ऐसी योजना है जिस योजना के तहत प्रकृति पर कब्जा किया जा सके । आपने जो "भास्कर" छोड़ा है यह प्रकृति पर कब्जा करने के लिये छोड़ा है । आप जो वैज्ञानिक अनुसंधान करते हैं, या जो एक्सपेरिमेंट करते हैं, यह भी प्रकृति पर कब्जा करने के लिये करते हैं । तो क्या आप ऐसी व्यवस्था करेंगे जिससे इस चक्रवात से बचा जा सके । इस मुल्क में हम फैशन परस्ती पर जो फिजूल खर्ची कर रहे हैं और फिजूल खर्ची करके जो पैसा बरबाद कर कर रहे हैं इन पैसों से इन इलाकों में गरीबों को प्राकृतिक प्रकोप से बचाने के लिये, लोगों को राहत देने के लिये काम कर सकते हैं । अगर फैशन परस्ती मुल्क में रखेंगे तो उससे देश के अन्दर ला एणः आर्डर की सिचुयेशन भी खराब होती है । जब साइक्लोन आता है तो लोग गांव छोड़कर भागते हैं और असामाजिक तत्व लूटपाट करते हैं रहते हैं । गांव वाले अपने बैलों, जानवरों, मवेशियों को छोड़कर भागते हैं तो ये तत्व इनको ले जाते हैं और उनका पैसा और धन लूटते हैं । हमारे धाई ज्ञानी जैल सिंह जी यहां बैठे हैं, वे देश के गृह मंत्री हैं, इसलिए उनका ध्यान मैं इस ओर खींचना चाहता हूं । इसलिये मैंने इसमें जोड़ा है कि चौकीदार और पुलिस के लोगों को आप इन्सद्रक्शंस देंगे, उनको टैक्नोलोजी और मशीने देंगे ताकि जिसके द्वारा वे वहां के लोगों को बताएं । हम सरकार का ध्यान इस ओर दिलाना चाहते हैं । सारे हमारे वक्ताओं ने गुप्ता जी ने, कल्याण-सुन्दरम जी ने, नंदा जी ने

अपनी बात आपके सामने रखी है लेकिन मैं यह दो बुनियादी सवाल उठा रहा हूं । क्या सरकार के पास कोई ऐसी योजना है, अगले 100 वर्ष तक के लिये हम कोई स्कीम बनायें ? करोड़ों रुपए की फसल आज तक बरबाद हो चुकी है, हजारों लोग मारे गये हैं, लाखों घर बरबाद हो गये हैं । इन घरों को बनाने में मुल्क की कितनी दौलत लगेगी । करोड़ों रुपये की फसल बरबाद हो गई है, पानी में डूब गई है, इससे भी देश का नुकसान हुआ है । देश में प्रोडक्शन होगा तभी तो लोग खायेंगे । इन सारी चीजों को बचाने के लिये 100 साला या 50 साला कोई योजना आप बनायें । आपकी पांच साला योजनाएं तो बनती रहती हैं लेकिन वे भी पांच साल में दम तोड़ती रहती हैं । तो मेरा निवेदन है कि आप कोई 50 साल की योजना बनायें । आप फिजूल-खर्ची को रोकिए बन्द कीजिए । पहले देश को इन मुसिबतों से बचाना है । यह जो एशियाई खेलों में आप काम कराते हैं इनमें जितना पैसा लगा रहे हैं इतने में राजस्थान के इलाके में सूखे की समस्या से निपटा जा सकता है । उपसभापति महोदय, थोड़ा विषयांतर हो जाता है, मैं अभी दो मिनट में खतम कर कर दूंगा । लेकिन विषयांतर नहीं हो रहा है क्योंकि जितना साइक्लोन से मुल्क को खतरा है उतना ही सूखे से भी है । यही पैसा आप राजस्थान में दे देते तो वहां लोगों की सहायता हो जाती । पिछले साल राजस्थान में बाढ़ से बहुत तबाही हुई है शायद इतनी तबाही पहले कभी नहीं हुई थी । आप वहां पर नहर खूदवा रहे हैं । नहर कब पूरी होगी, इसका कोई ठिकाना नहीं है । आप एशियाई गेम्स में जितना धन लगा रहे हैं, इतना पैसा आप किन्ही दो स्टेट्स को देदेते तो हम समझते हैं कि वे स्टेट्स अपने आप आत्म-निर्भर बन जाती ।

देश भर में जितना सीमेंट का उत्पादन होता है वह सारा एशियाई खेलों में ही लग रहा है इसलिए मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से बहुत अदब के साथ कहना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार विशेष तौर पर इस ओर ध्यान दे। सरकार ऐसी कोई योजना बनाये जिससे फिजूलखर्ची रुके। सब से बड़ी फिजूलखर्ची पेट्रोल में हो रही है। मंत्रियों की और अधिकारियों की गाड़ियाँ दौड़ती रहती हैं देश का पेट्रोल बहता रहता है तो मेरा निवेदन है कि आप पेट्रोल को फिजूलखर्ची को रोक दीजिये। आपके पास पैसे का जो अभाव है उसको फिजूलखर्ची रोककर पूरा कर सकते हैं और अपने खजाने में उसको लाकर देश के निर्माण में लगायेंगे। क्या कोई ऐसी योजना आपके पास है, क्या आप इस पर सोच रहे हैं? यह दो हमारे बुनियादी सवाल हैं।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : मैं सारी बातों का करीब करीब जवाब पहले दे चुका हूँ इसलिए मैं उन बातों पर नहीं जाऊंगा। मैं माननीय सदस्य की इस बात से सहमत हूँ कि फिजूलखर्ची जरूर सरकार को रोकनी चाहिए। लेकिन एशियाई खेल फिजूलखर्ची में शामिल हैं या नहीं है यह उनकी अपनी अलग राय है तथा मेरी अपनी अलग राय है। मैं समझता हूँ कि एशियाई खेल फिजूलखर्ची में शामिल नहीं हैं। खेल भी किसी देश के लिए जरूरी होता है। भारत इतना बड़ा देश है इसको भी ऐसी चीजों के ऊपर खर्चा करना पड़ता है। यह भी एक तरह की डेवलपमेंट है और न मैं समझता हूँ कि एशियाई खेल अगर हिन्दुस्तान में न रखे जाते तो राजस्थान की सूखे की समस्या हल हो जाती और साइक्लोन से जो मुसीबत आती है उसमें भी हम ज्यादा राहत दे पाते। इस चीज की वजह से फण्ड्स में कोई कमी नहीं होती है। जहाँ भी सेंटर

की मदद की जरूरत होती है वह अपने नाम्स के मुताबिक होती है और हर जगह मदद की गई है। साइक्लोन की मुसीबत जो बंगाल या उड़ीसा में आई है इसमें जिस तरह से हम मदद देते हैं उसी तरह से दिल खोल कर मदद देंगे। इसमें फण्ड्स हर साल सरकार अपने आप रखती है ऐसी मुसीबतों में राहत देने के लिए और यह जरूरी नहीं कि यह वही फण्ड्स हों। उसमें अगर जरूरत पड़े तो और ज्यादा हम सप्लीमेंटरी डिमांड ला कर या दूसरे तरीके से आपसे मंजूरी लेकर और ज्यादा खर्च कर सकते हैं। दूसरे देशों में जो काम हो रहा है कुदरत की मुसीबतों से लोगों को बचाने के लिए उससे भी हम फायदा उठा रहे हैं। लेकिन आज अगर कोई यह कहे कि कुदरत पर काबू पा लिया है वह बात सही नहीं है। जापान तो बहुत आगे बढ़ा हुआ है। जापान में रोजाना कितने तूफान आते रहते हैं, अमरीका में आप जानते हैं कि कितने टाइफून आते हैं, अमरीका के तट पर टाइफून रोजमर्रा आते हैं। ये कितने धनी देश है लेकिन क्या यह लोगों को पूरी तरह से बचा सकते हैं। कितने जलजले जापान के अन्दर आते हैं। हर नये रोज कितने आतिशजदा पहाड़ फटते हैं, क्या उन ज्वालामुखियों के ऊपर पहाड़ों के ऊपर हम काबू पा सकते हैं या साईस काबू पा सकती है? तो यह भी उसी तरह की मुसीबत है इसमें यह नहीं समझना चाहिए।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : जापान आपसे काफी आगे है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : मैं मानता हूँ, काफी आगे हैं। उनसे हम भी सीखने को कोशिश कर रहे हैं। हमारा भी नेशनल इन्साइट सैटेलाइट जब काम करना शुरू करेगा तो हम उससे भी अपने मुल्क के

[राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह]

लिए खास तौर पर काम लेंगे। दूसरे देशों के जो सेटेलाईट हैं उनसे भी फायदा उठाएंगे और देशों के जितने इस तरह के वाणिज्य सिस्टम हैं उनको भी मानीटर कर रहे हैं। तो अब सिर्फ इतना है कि जो कुदरत की तरफ से मुसीबत आती है उससे कम से कम नुकसान होने पाये और उससे बचाव के तरीके सोचे जायें। इसके लिए एकदम से धन नहीं जुटाया जा सकता है। जिन मूलकों के पास बहुत धन है वे भी इससे छुटकारा नहीं पा सकते हैं। मैं यह बताना चाहता हूँ कि इस तरफ हमारी तबज्जह है। हमारे डेवलपमेंट के कामों में इस बात का ध्यान रखा जाता है कि जहाँ जहाँ इस तरह की कुदरती मुसीबतें आती हैं, वहाँ के लोगों को बचाने के लिए खास तौर पर जिन चीजों को जरूरत हो, प्लान में उनको प्रायोरिटी दी जाय। ये सारी बातें देख समझकर की जाती हैं।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : वह रेडियो वाली बात . . . (व्यवधान) आप अपने अधिकारियों को क्या जो छोटे-छोटे सेठ हैं

(व्यवधान) . . .

श्री उपसभापति : यह शिकायत नहीं है।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : रेडियो की बात यद्यपि आपने कही है लेकिन उसका जवाब अगर मैं दूँ तो शायद आपको पसंद न आये। मान लीजिए कि हम, लोगों को रेडियो देते हैं, चौकीदार को देते हैं तो वह चौकीदार उस रेडियो का इस्तेमाल भी करेगा, इसके बारे में कौन-कौन से अफसर लगायेंगे कि वह बजाता है कि नहीं, सुनता है कि नहीं, तो इन चीजों से कोई हल नहीं निकलेगा और दूसरा रेडियो इतने हैं लोगों के पास, खेत-खेत में हैं . . .

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : नहीं है मैं आपको बताता हूँ केवल बड़े लोगों के पास है लेकिन जिस इलाके की बात मैं कर रहा हूँ।

राव बीरेन्द्र सिंह : बहरहाल यह सुझाव है, यह आ गया है, हमने उसको नोट कर लिया है, लेकिन मैं नहीं समझता कि खाली किसी अधिकारी को रेडियो दे दें या चौकीदार को दे दें तो चौकीदार का बेटा उसको इस्तेमाल करेगा या उसकी बहू इस्तेमाल करेगी। इस बात की क्या गारण्टी है कि वह रेडियो कहां पर होगा और कौन इस्तेमाल करेगा तथा हर वक्त सुनेगा या नहीं।

श्री रामेश्वर सिंह : आप उस पर विचार करिये।

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY (West Bengal): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members have already given an account of the fury and devastation caused by the cyclone, but to give some more information to the hon. Minister, I can cite one instance in 24 Parganas. About other places, my hon. friends have already mentioned. I cite the instance of Goshava. There are three rivers—Matala, Vidadhri and Sugdvani—and in the mouth of these rivers there are 18 small islands. Fourteen of these islands have been washed away. Their men, houses and other materials have been completely washed away. Sir, the fury of the cyclone and the floods cannot be gauged unless one goes there and sees the actual thing. Then only the hon. Minister can appreciate the actual gravity of the situation. I have heard the Minister saying that they are waiting for some more reports before sending a team. I would ask the hon. Minister if he will consider sending some persons just now to see the gravity of the situation. A few years ago, there were floods in Cal-

Cyclone in

cutta. In my residence I had seen not knee-deep water but chest-deep water. This time, the entire 24-Parganas and Midnapur are affected. Lakhs of people are involved. So, will the Minister send some persons at once to see the gravity of the situation and arrange proper relief for those people?

Secondly, the Minister has said—if I understood him correctly—that Rs. 13.60 crores are there and another Rs. 8 crores of margin money has been sent. The West Bengal Government has asked for an *ad hoc* grant of Rs. 24 crores, which is not much. The Minister knows very well that the account of Rs. 13 crores and odd amount was not given to this Ministry by the previous Ministry and that is a disputed amount. So the Minister seems to be getting complacent that already money is there and the relief work can be carried on with that money. If I understood the Minister correctly, he has already referred to that amount and said that there is already an amount of Rs. 13 crores. But so far as we are aware, that amount is a disputed amount and no account was given by the previous Ministry to the present Ministry. So that amount goes. Now, will the Minister kindly consider, in view of the fury and gravity of the situation, granting this *ad hoc* amount, as the West Bengal Government has already sent an officer in this connection? These are the two questions.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, as I have earlier said, we thought it would be better for the West Bengal Government to first assess the situation and send a report and then our expert team could go and see to what extent relief was required from the Government of India. But if the hon. Member and other Members would be happy, we shall send some officers earlier. I will immediately send some officers to West Bengal to see the situation, if that satisfies them better. I have no objection to that; I accept the suggestion. With regard to...

SHRI AMARPROSAD CHAKRABORTY: What about the *ad hoc* amount? That amount is required. (Interruptions)

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: As I said, they have demanded an *ad hoc* non-Plan assistance of Rs. 20 crores. After these officers visit West Bengal, they can come back and help us to take a decision with the Finance Minister.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN (Bihar): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I welcome the expression of sorrow and sympathy by the Government of India and by the hon. Minister to the people who have been affected by this cyclone. But, Sir, if I may say so, these expressions of sorrow and sympathy not only sound empty today but they sound emptier with every fresh case of natural disaster, whether it is cyclone, drought or any other natural calamity. Sir, these natural calamities are frequent and regular visitors to some parts of our country, and the east coast of India is one of them. I do not see any reason why the role of the Central Government should be limited merely to giving financial assistance to the State Governments after the disaster strikes an area.

I think, Sir, that there should be more expenditure on scientific research. I know that natural disasters do not discriminate between developed and developing countries. I know that typhoons visit Japan and tornadoes hit the United States regularly. But I also know that much research is being done throughout the world even about the mechanism to defuse a gathering cyclone, to divert it, to change its course and direction. I would, therefore, feel that some attention should be paid to this task, so that our own science and technology can deal with the problems relating to natural disasters. In this context, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister not only whether the Department of Meteorology

[Shri Syed Shahabuddin]

logy had advance intimation of the coming disaster but whether they have a well-established mechanism for conveying information about the disaster to the people who were likely to be affected, right down to the ground level. My feeling is that perhaps no such mechanism exists.

Secondly, Sir, coming to the question of financial assistance to the State Governments, I would like to raise a question, whether there is any uniform scale of relief for the people who are affected by natural disasters. I feel that there should be such a uniform scale so that the Central Government in dispensing this assistance has got a basis for working out how much money should go to which State at what time. It should not be left to the arbitrary dispensation of the Central Government whose judgement might, I say might, sometimes be affected by political considerations. In these cases of natural disaster the relief is two-fold. One is relief to the persons, to the individuals, to the citizens, who are affected, who have lost their life or limb or who have suffered injuries, who have lost their personal property. The other is damage caused to public works as in this case in Bengal where so many miles of embankment has been lost giving rise to tidal waves and giving rise to permanent inundation of some of these islands making them uninhabitable. Now, both these elements should be taken into consideration in working out the scale of relief.

I would once again take this opportunity to plead for a national organisation for disaster relief and for its linkage with the UN-sponsored international organisation for similar purpose. I had pleaded for it earlier also in the past and I feel that the Government have not given due attention to this very important task. If the disasters come so frequently and

regularly, they cannot be tackled on an *ad hoc* basis. There will have to be a national organisation with regional centres for relief fully equipped to meet with any emergency situation and with regional observation posts so that the information brought in or gathered by our scientists can be immediately relayed to the ground.

With these words I would once again request the honourable Minister not only to convey our sorrow and sympathy to the bereaved families but to deal more sympathetically with the requests that he receives from the two State Governments concerned for additional financial outlay for meeting the relief operations.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: These are all suggestions. As you have rightly observed, the Seventh Finance Commission fixed the amount of margin money for each State on a uniform principle keeping in view the needs of a particular area for relief due to disaster. I do not agree with the honourable Member that we should have hard and fast rules for the purpose of providing relief, because we have to look at every disaster from a human point of view, and it must be flexible. In certain cases we have to provide more relief. But all I can do is to assure the honourable Member that we shall be very liberal and generous in the case of this disaster where West Bengal and Orissa are concerned. We shall be trying to give all possible help and, as honourable Members perhaps know, the Central Government meets 75 per cent of the expenditure as grant, the State Government has to find 25 per cent money. The scheme has to be prepared by the State Government, as to what will be the norms adopted and what will be the scale of relief in each case. And that scheme is then examined by the Government of India. But we cannot go to the extent that it becomes such a precedent that the Government of India cannot shoulder that burden.