

[Shri Morarji R. Desai]

movement to the common struggle for the strengthening of universal peace and security of nations, against imperialism and aggression, for the elimination of the vestiges of colonialism, racial discrimination and the policy of apartheid, in defence of independence and freedom of all peoples and also for the establishment of the new international economic order on the basis of respect for national sovereignty, equality and mutual benefit.

During the exchange of views on the situation in the Indian Ocean, the two sides expressed their support for the desire of the peoples of the area to make the Indian Ocean a Zone of Peace. They called for the elimination of all existing foreign military bases from the Indian Ocean and the prohibition of new ones.

The two sides reaffirm their resolve to work for the further strengthening of the United Nations and of its effectiveness in maintaining universal peace and security of nations and in promoting international co-operation on the basis of the strict observance of the principles and purposes of the U.N. Charter.

The two sides exchanged views on the questions relating to the Law of the Sea and reiterated their intention to facilitate the achievement of agreement on a new convention of the Law of the Sea which would be on the whole acceptable to all States.

The Soviet leaders and people warmly welcomed the visit of the Prime Minister of India to the USSR. The two sides are convinced that this visit and the fruitful exchange of opinion held between the leaders of India and the Soviet Union proved to be a further testimony to the desire of both countries to continue to strengthen and develop Indo-Soviet friendship and many-sided co-operation, to broaden mutual understanding and trust between them.

MORARJI DESAI,

Prime Minister of the Republic of India

L. I. BREZHNEV,

General Secretary of the  
Central Committee of the  
CPSU, President of the  
Presidium of the Supreme  
Soviet of the USSR

26th October, 1977

# REFERENCE TO THE DAMAGE CAUSED BY CYCLONE IN TAMIL NADU AND PONDICHERRY

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I want to bring to your notice and to the notice of the House about how Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry States have been hard hit by recent heavy cyclone and continuous rains resulting in floods. Members of the House may be aware by reading newspapers that for the first time in a decade or two there was a heavy cyclone at the speed of 102-103 K.M. per hour and properties worth crores of rupees have been damaged. Sir, in Tamil Nadu alone 40 people might have died and in Pondicherry the Chief Minister of Pondicherry ...

SHRI KALYAN ROY (West Bengal): On a point of order, Sir. I find that none of the senior Ministers are present. A very important thing is being mentioned in the House. It never happened before. I have been here for nine years. They should hear what we have to say. It has never happened before. I have been here for nine years now. We must follow the old conventions. This is the tradition.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN): I do agree with you but they have got other

61 The damage caused by [14 NOV. 1977] Cyclone in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry

important business. That is not a deliberate action on their part.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: What a strange thing you are saying ...

SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN: I do agree with you but it is not a deliberate action. And so far as Ministers are concerned, it is a collective business: any of us can represent.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: It is very unfortunate.

SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN: I do agree with you that they should have been there but it is not a point which can be raised in the House. We must believe in collective responsibility.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND (Punjab): The Leader of the House is not there.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Sir, I hope you would convey our anguish to the senior Ministers.

SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN: I can appreciate your love and affection for the senior Ministers.

SHRI JAGJIT SINGH ANAND: That anguish arises from love and affection.

SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN: I do not know whether the hon. Member wants to have a senior Minister out of mere love. I don't think they have done anything wrong.

SHRI KALYAN ROY: Mr. Rehman should wait till he is promoted.

SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN: If Mr. Kalyan Roy will be the Prime Minister, I must be the Deputy Prime Minister.

SHRI V. V. SWAMINATHAN: Sir, some two years back there was a flood

in Madras city and, at the same time there was drought in the southern districts of Ramnad and Tirunelveli. For the first time in Tamil Nadu we had a widespread rain continuously for eleven days from 1st November onwards. Only in the early morning of the 12th, at 6.30, we had this cyclone at a speed of 103 kilometres and many districts including South Arcot were hit. Thanjavur which is considered to be the granary of South India, was severely affected. The port town of Nagapattinam was cut off from the other part of the town. Road traffic and rail traffic were also dislocated. There was power shortage in many towns and also shortage of drinking water in the port town. Because there is no rail or road traffic, our revered Chief Minister, along with his Food Minister made an aerial survey. He says that the damage to property would run into crores of rupees. The Chief Minister of Pondicherry says that 15 fishermen were missing and also 25 mechanised boats costing Rs. 80,000 each are missing. The Tamil Nadu Government requested for a military helicopter from Hyderabad to come and help them. He also expressed the hope that the Central Government would come forward for giving assistance in a big way because Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry were hit heavily in all ways. I would request that the Central Government should help them in a liberal way and also give suitable instructions to the Army and Navy to help them in rescuing the fishermen and the fishing boats.

Standing paddy crops as also harvested paddy have been affected. So, massive aid and Food-for-Work programme may also be rushed to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry States.

I would request the Deputy Chairman to convey our feelings to the Central Government so that the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Finance may help in giving all assistance. Thank you, Sir.