

[श्री चांद राम]

चाहेंगे इसलिए हम इस बात की कोशिश कर रहे हैं कि अगले साल के प्लान के अन्दर इनलैंड ट्रांसपोर्ट को बढ़ावा देने के लिए कुछ प्राविजन ज्यादा करावें। पिछली बार जो प्लान था हमने उसमें 24 करोड़ रुपया रखा था वह थोड़ा कम था और सारे देश के लिए तो मैं डिपुटी चेयरमैन साहब, इस मामले में कुछ और ज्यादा नहीं कहना चाहता हूं और उम्मीद करता हूं

श्री श्याम लाल पादव : जमुना घाट, वाराणसी के घाटों के लिए नहीं कहा।

श्री चांद राम : घाटों का मामला जैसा मैंने जिक्र किया, यह एक स्टेट सवर्जैक्ट है। हम स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को लिख देंगे लेकिन जैसा मैंने अर्ज किया, हमारी कोशिश है कि नेशनल वाटरवेज बिल हाउस में लाया जाएगा, उसके बाद हम घाट वगैरह की बात पर भी नेशनल लेवल पर विचार करेंगे। इन शब्दों के साथ मैं उम्मीद करता हूं कि इस सदन के आनरेबल मेम्बर साहेबान इस बिल को स्वीकृति देने में सहमत होंगे।

श्री कल्याण राय : कभी कभी जहाज पर भी सफर कीजिए, सिर्फ मोटर पर नहीं।

श्री चांद राम : किया है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now I will put the motion. The question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Inland Steam-vessels Act, 1917, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 34 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI CHAND RAM: Sir, I move:

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 176

Unprecedented havoc caused by the recent Cyclone in the Coastal Districts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other Southern parts of the country

SHRI N. G. RANGA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I rise to raise a discussion on the unprecedented havoc caused by the recent cyclones in the Coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and other southern parts of the country resulting in heavy loss of human life and damage to crops and property.

Sir, when I was a young boy I used to hear our leaders talking with great trepidation about what was then known as Bander Suba. It took place 115 years ago. The harrowing tales of the suffering of those people still haunt the minds of our people today. A similar such thing has struck the Andhra coastal areas. A little earlier Tamil Nadu coastal areas were also struck by a devastating cyclone. In the beginning it was thought that only about 100 people were the victims of the Tamil Nadu cyclones. Later on it came to be put at 500. In Andhra Pradesh also it was thought that about 1,000 people died. That was the report on the 20th November. Then the figure was raised to 10,000. Now they say that from one area alone as many as 15,000 people have perished.

SHRI LOKANATH MISRA (Orissa): Times of India says 20,000.

SHRI N. G. RANGA: 15,000 is from one area alone. In another paper it is put down as 20,000. We do not know how many people have actually died. It is quite possible that as many as 50,000 people have become victims of this terrible disaster. And now just think of the families of these 50,000 who have died.

Yesterday our comrade and friend, Shri Prakash Veer Shastri, passed away, thanks to the sabotage process that is going on ever since our friends have taken charge of the reigns of power. We are still suffering from the shock of it. Our friend and comrade has gone. He was so intimate to us. We are still suffering from the pain of it. It must be the same with every one of the families of these 50,000 people who died due to this cyclone, as a result of these gales and hurricane. What must be the misery that those people must be going through! And there must be many more people who must have suffered many injuries which did not result in their death but they have suffered. They have lost their houses, their huts, their hovels. They may be hovels, Sir, but they were sheltering them from sun and rain earlier. But they were not big enough, strong enough, pucca enough to protect them during this tragedy. Now all those huts have gone. How many lakhs have become homeless, we do not know. Even many pucca houses and big buildings have gone, and this is a disaster which is almost unparalleled during this century anyhow. But this is not the first of its kind, Sir, It happened last year, though on a smaller scale; the year before last also it happened on a smaller scale, yet equally tragic. Ten years ago it happened; 15 years ago it happened. It has become a seasonal affair on the east coast as well as the west coast of peninsular India. Yet, little has been done to provide permanent protection to the people, especially those who do not have pucca houses. Is it not high time our Government began to think about it? But can I expect the Government to act in a big way and

think of a long-time programme and policy and set apart sufficient funds when the Government has not shown evidence of its serious concern about the sufferings of these people?

Sir, from the press we learn that the Home Minister was in Hyderabad on the 20th. We read about the tragedy. He too must have read about it as we all have read about it. So, the very first thing he should have done was to rush to those places which have suffered from this disaster. What was it that needed his presence here in such an emergent manner that he should have thought of coming back to Delhi, the place which has become so affectionate to our friends as it used to be affectionate to our friends on the other side for all those years? What brought him here instead of rushing him to visit the places of disaster and suffering there? I am very sorry, Sir, that this should have happened. By contrast, it is the President of the Republic who rushed there, and I am glad that he has done so. He has performed his minimum duty. Not that he can bring back to life all those people who have died, not that he can conjure up into existence all those huts, hovels and homes which have been destroyed, but he has gone there to express his sympathy. That is the kind of thing that is needed from the Government as a whole. We talk of humanism but where is the sense of humanity in us? We do not rush to the places of disaster and suffering in a calamitous experience such as this. That was the reason why, Sir, yesterday I made an appeal to this House, through you, that the Prime Minister himself should go to that place and I hope he would take time by the forelock and go there before it is too late. I also hope the Ministers as many of them as can possibly conjure up the necessary sympathy for the suffering people, would go there. I am glad that some MPs have gone there; some MPs on our side are going and some have already gone. But then, we have to think of relief to and rehabilitation of all those people.

[Shri N. G. Ranga]

Those who have died cannot be brought back to life anyway. The Andhra Chief Minister has sent a token grant of Rs. 1,000 for each one who has died. Sir, what is Rs. 1,000 in these days? It is not enough even to provide a burial. Can each of the dead be provided a burial? It is like war time when common burial, collective burials have to be resorted to. In Divi taluk, in Bapatla taluk, in my own Ponnur taluk, in Repalle taluk—which is my neighbouring taluk—hundreds of corpses have to be buried now. Where relations are there, they will take care of the dead bodies. But is one thousand rupees enough? Can anything be done with one thousand rupees? That is not even a token. Two lakhs of rupees were offered from the Prime

Minister's Fund. I felt that it 3 P.M. was a very strange thing, an unfortunate thing. When some of us, the Members of Parliament from Andhra, met the Prime Minister, he was good enough to say that he was offering Rs. 5 crores as a token to start with, just as he had offered Rs. 5 crores to Tamil Nadu also. In Tamil Nadu there were about 500 people in all who died, whereas in Andhra the number of people involved is 15,000. Will Rs. 5 crores be enough even as a token? How many crores of rupees will be required? How much has been the loss of the whole of Andhra as a result of this tragedy? On each acre of paddy land, a peasant had had to invest not less than Rs. 2000 and he was expecting Rs. 4000—Rs. 3000 at least. All that crop which was ready to be harvested, which was gold spread on the land, was simply falling down and had only to be reaped—some of it had already been reaped—has been washed away. Over such a vast tract of land over the delta region—the rice bowl of Andhra, the rice bowl of India—covering about two million acres, the crops have been lost. And then easily 50,000 acres of garden orchards are gone. Beetle gardens, sugarcane crops, tobacco

and ground-nut crops have all gone. Has anybody estimated the total loss on account of all this? It would be not less than Rs. 500 crores. The Andhra Pradesh Government would soon be able to send a proper estimate of the losses sustained by the Andhra peasants and workers. Now, what are we to do about the workers? The peasants have lost all their properties out of which alone they could possibly do something for the workers to help them maintain themselves. But where is the work for the workers? They have lost their hovels, houses and huts. Everything has gone. Their clothes are also gone. Even CARE, an international organisation, is rushing help to Andhra. But we have not heard as yet of any place that clothes are being sent by the Government of India and the associations of the textile mills in order to provide some clothing for all those people who have become de-clothed. This is the misery of Andhra.

The same misery is being suffered by our friends in Tamil Nadu—though on a smaller scale, yet it is suffering. It is misery, it is sacrifice on the part of everyone. But the most important thing is that millions of people have become homeless. They have to be provided with house-building material, with money and many other supplies, in order to help them to find some shelter. They have also been hungry—in Tamil Nadu for the last ten days and in Andhra for the last six days—and they have to be provided with food and various other things. The Andhra Minister says that the Government have enough of food-grains. It is not enough that food-grains are in possession of the Government. The supplies have to be rushed to the people in places of suffering. And food has to be supplied free not for one day but for two weeks or four weeks, until they are able to find some shelter where they can possibly try to cook something for their maintenance.

(The Vice-Chairman (Shri H. M. Trivedi) in the Chair)

Sir, here was this cyclone. In order to warn our people, we have established a Metrological Department which has been developed during the last 6 or 7 years. Thanks to the organisational genius of Dr. K. L. Rao! Yet, it has further to be strengthened, if necessary, with the latest scientific equipment. Supposing they are provided all these things, even then that Department and the officers there have got to have proper links with the radio, with the press, with the Government—with all the concerned Departments of the Government, both at the Centre as well as at the State level. That has yet to be developed. I hope it would come to be developed.

Then, Sir, air raid shelters have been built in the western countries. Once they doubted experience of suffering by the people caused by air raids, what did they do? They built air raid shelters. Even in this country during the War time the British Government tried to build some of these in Bombay and other places. In all the western countries they have built them. Should we not also build these anti-cyclone sheds, shelters, in our country to be there permanently? One might wonder why I made this suggestion. What happened? How have all these people come to die in Bapatla alone? As a result of the warnings given by our Metrological Department through the radio, hundreds of people went for shelter to the cinema homes, the churches, the temples and various other bigger places also, those structures collapsed and those people died. This is how the large scale death toll has come to be. Otherwise, it would have been much less. That is all the more reason why there is need for having a regular plan for the whole of the South to build permanent anti-cyclone shelters in the coastal areas at the cost of the Government. The shelters would be there and whenever there is a warning for this kind of disaster the homeless people and the hutment

people would be able to go and find shelter there.

Sir, that is also not enough. It is true that the Andhra Pradesh Government is doing its best to place as much funds as possible at the disposal of the district authorities and has given them the authority to spend freely and usefully, but not in a reckless manner, for the relief of these people. Is that money enough? Therefore, the Prime Minister has come forward with this token grant of Rs. 5 crores. Would this be enough? Would even Rs. 500 crores be enough? It would not be enough. Supposing that it is not enough, more funds have got to be found from out of the allotments for various other developmental schemes. Therefore, there must be a world organisation. We should take note of this particular disaster and begin to press on the conscience of the rest of the world, the United Nations Organisation and its associated organisations and ask them to constitute a world-wide fund to relieve this kind of suffering masses who become victims to cyclones, typhoons, floods, famines and so on. That is the kind of scheme that I have suggested to the F.A.O., the World Health Organisation and other associated organisations also. One of my friends here, Shri H. M. Patel, who is our Finance Minister and who was at that time a civilian and M. P., has also signed that memorandum. We sent it. Shri Jagjivan Ram who is our Defence Minister, was then the Minister for Food. He said that he had placed it before the World Food Organisation, what was known as the Rome Organisation. Unfortunately, they did not take sufficient notice of that particular scheme nor have they developed any such fund. We need such a fund on the world scale but there is also a need for a fund at the national level and also funds at the State level, to be made up by supply of annual grants, and these should be permanent funds so that it would be possible for the world as well as the concerned countries to go to the rescue of such people like ours who become

[Shri N. G. Ranga]

victims of such sudden disasters. Today it is the cyclone and tomorrow it may be and the other day it was the drought in several parts of our own country. The Gangetic and the Punjab valleys are visited by floods annually. Who suffer? They are not the rich people, not the upper-middle class people, nor the service people, but only the peasants and the landless workers and other helpless people whose conditions are much worse and they are those who cannot be described as anything except human-beings but without anything to possess or without anything to claim as their own, even a hut or a hovel. Now to protect all these people, we need all this; we have to take these protective steps. In order to do this, the Government has got to take the initiative at the Government of India level. How can we expect this Government to do it? How could I have the courage to expect the earlier Government to do it when they did not have the peasant-mindedness and rural-mindedness and the human side of it? Now, why do I say such a harsh thing? Here are the Ministers. They seem to think that Hyderabad is too far away and that from Hyderabad, Vijayawada is further away. And Bapatla, Repalle, Tenali, Krishna district, West Godavari district and all these coastal districts, where are they? Where are they in the Janata Government? Are they there? No wonder they are not able to respond just as well, as spiritedly, as feelingly and as wholeheartedly as one would expect them to do. I hope at least now this disaster would give them the necessary shock as it has given us also. And I hope, Sir, that they would not make any distinction between the political colour of the Andhra Government and the Tamil Nadu Government and the political colour of this Government. I hope that in a non-partisan manner and with a full national-mindedness, they would be able to come to the rescue of these people not only in this dis-

aster but also in formulating plans for the permanent protection of these people from year to year, from decade to decade.

Lastly, we have to think of these peasants. We cannot but admire them. Now they have lost everything. They would again be there to sow their seeds, to raise their crops and provide food for our people and provide employment for themselves as well as their agricultural workers. And that is the kind of spirit of enterprise which deserves praise, which deserves appreciation. Contrast it with the attitude of the capitalists, the textile magnates. They take away everything possible from the textile mills as a miserly cowherd draws all the milk from the cow and leaves it dry. And when the textile mills are no longer paying, they throw them into the hands of the Government and the Government is obliged to spend Rs. 6 to Rs. 10 crores every month in order to maintain these textiles mills and all those workers. So are not the peasants. The peasants do not go to the Government for the elementary things of production. They maintain themselves as independent, self-employed peasants. Sir, do they not at least deserve crop insurance from this Government? Once in four years or once in three years in the worst areas and once in seven years in the better areas they lose their crops. When they lose them, should they not be provided with the necessary insurance? Should we allow them to go on suffering time and again in this manner without any kind of support or help from the State Government or the Union Government? Therefore, I would like the Union Government to think—now that they have begun to think very energetically of the rural people and rural areas—of the urgent need for providing crop insurance as well as insurance against these calamities. Thank you.

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, as all of us know, Andhra

Pradesh has experienced an unprecedented cyclone and the devastation that has been caused is colossal. I need not repeat all the facts of the devastation. Only a few facts will suffice. The figures of the dead vary but by scanning all the reports we can easily say that at least 20,000 people have lost their lives. We do not know the number of cattle that are dead. We do not know the number of sheep that are dead. Millions of huts have been washed away. This calamity, as Prof. Ranga said, has reminded us of the calamity which took place 115 years ago. A hundred and fifteen years ago there was a similar cyclone accompanied by tidal waves and it was said that 30,000 people died in that. Once again the same thing has happened and easily another 20,000 people have died now. In all these 113 or 115 years have we not developed any protective or preventive measures? Are we in the same helpless position as we were 113 years ago? Have we not the capacity at all to protect ourselves from the fury of nature? Should we leave the poor people helpless before the fury of a cyclone? We have developed a meteorological department; we have developed satellite information service; we have developed radio. What for? Should these things not be canalised to see that we take precautionary measures in time so that at least human life is saved? Cyclones cannot be prevented. Cyclones cannot be diverted. We have no capacity to do that, but we can take certain preventive measures so that human life at least is saved. In this connection I would say that there is gross negligence on the human side. A cyclone hit Madras. After that cyclone a warning was given on 16th November that the cyclone with greater intensity may cross the coast at Madras. And then on the 17th November it was said in the press and on the radio that it was going northward and it was definitely likely to cross near Masulipatam on the 17th November. This information was given by the press and

the radio, by the meteorological department. And on the 18th morning our great Chief Minister came to Delhi. After this information was received on the 17th our great Chief Minister came to Delhi on the 18th. He was in Delhi on the 18th. He was in Delhi on the 19th. On the 19th at 3 O'clock he was informed of the cyclone. And yet he continued to stay in Delhi. On the 20th also he continued to stay in Delhi politicking, and on the 20th evening he flew back to Hyderabad after everything was over. To put it mildly this is callous indifference on the part of an important functionary of a State. We have in the Chief Minister a key person in the State. And the State Government has a responsibility to take the necessary steps to protect the people. When warnings were given, when cyclones have been hitting the Andhra coast, why was it not possible...

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY (Andhra Pradesh): I would request the Member to correct his statement. The Chief Minister left for Hyderabad on the 19th evening along with Mr. Charan Singh.

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY: No, it is wrong. I have enquired from the Andhra Pradesh Information Service this morning....

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: No, you are wrong.

SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY: No, you are wrong, Mr. Janardhana Reddy. The Chief Minister left on the 20th evening. I left by the 19th evening plane along with Mr. Charan Singh. The Chief Minister was not there in that plane. He left on the 20th. Please take note of it. Now, Sir, what should have been done? A conscientious Chief Minister, a competent Chief Minister, should have gone to Vijayawada, should have mobilised all the jeeps, should have mobilised all the forces under his control, should have taken the help of the army authorities. The army authorities were ready. Then, why

[Shri R. Narasimha Reddy]

was it not possible to evacuate these 20,000 people from the dangerous areas near the sea? Was it so difficult? Could we not spend a lakh of rupees to evacuate these 20,000 people? If we had evacuated them to safer areas, this death toll would not have been there. This was not done because the cyclone was taken casually. The authorities there had not the vision or foresight to see that these things were likely to happen. The meteorological report said that the cyclone was going to be very intensive and the speed of the gale would be between 125 and 150 kms. per hour. Actually it was 150 kms. and the tidal waves were advancing at a height of 18 feet. Even today, after four days, in Diviseema 13 villages are not to be seen there. They are called lankas. They are covered by the sea. In these 13 villages alone 10,000 people have perished. Even today nobody has gone there. That is the situation. Nearly 25 villages have been marooned and in these 25 villages about one lakh of people are living. Nobody has gone there till now. This is the position.

Are we so helpless? Should we just leave these people like that? I charge the State Government with gross neglect of duty. If only recourse had been taken to these steps, we could have saved the lives of these people.

I must also say something regarding the humanitarian aspect. Our Home Minister, Shri Charan Singh, went to Hyderabad on the 19th. I was also in that plane. He landed there on the 19th and he was informed of the cyclone. I must tell our hon. Home Minister that the people of Andhra Pradesh expected him to cancel his police engagements and rush to the people. Unfortunately the Home Minister did not cancel his engagements. He fulfilled all his engagements on the 20th and then came back to Delhi. This is a thing which I cannot appreciate. This is a thing which the people of Andhra Pradesh

cannot appreciate. Whether it is Janata or Congress, humanitarian consideration should be there. It would have been a grand gesture, it would have been a great gesture if the hon. Minister of India had cancelled his engagement and gone to those areas. After all, nobody can give life to those who have died. But I am really sorry that this gesture did not occur to his mind. This is about the humanitarian aspect.

Now, why should this happen at all? As long as 1971, the Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee gave its report. It had recommended three main items. One is what Prof. Ranga said, namely, protection against cyclone. The most important thing is that they had recommended the purchase of a special plane. If this special aircraft fitted with the equipment for surveillance of cyclones had been supplied to the Meteorological Department, they could have watched the process of cyclone and warned the people easily 70 hours ahead. Sir, this report was submitted in 1971. The previous Government did not do anything and nothing is still being done. We are having air-buses, boeings and other things for our luxuries. Is it not possible to buy this aircraft in order to give timely warning to our people and protect them from the fury of cyclones? This has to be purchased immediately. These preventive measures should not be left to the State Government. The Central Government should purchase it. It should be the responsibility of the Union Government. The Prime Minister should personally take upon himself this responsibility because this is a national calamity. In addition, the Union Government should construct shelters. Thirdly, in these lankas there is no communication. Communications must be there. This is how foreign countries answer the furies of nature. We too have to do it. This aspect must be taken into consideration. Finally, about crop insurance. The damage done to the crops is colossal. Twenty lakhs of acres of paddy have been destroyed. If it is

twenty lakhs and if you calculate the production at the rate of two tonnes per acre, it means that forty lakhs of foodgrains have gone from the granary of Andhra Pradesh and they are lost to the nation. Then, Sir, the plantain crops have been destroyed; coconut groves have been destroyed; betel leaves and tobacco crops have been affected. If once in three or four years crops are destroyed like this, where will the ordinary peasant go to get money to rehabilitate himself? He cannot get it at all. Therefore, in these cyclone-prone areas, in these areas which are normally affected by cyclone, at least crop insurance must be introduced. Sir, I support the proposal of Shri Ranga regarding the crop insurance scheme in these areas. So, these are the measures that should be taken so that at least in the future people do not suffer. Sir, twenty thousand people of this generation have perished and this is the first incident of this kind in this century. Even the American President Carter, from the far away America, has expressed his sympathies and is ready to help and so many other people are willing to help. Let us mobilise all that help and support and it is task of the Government of India to approach the various voluntary organizations all over the world and also the various governments and then build up a fund, not only to face the present calamity, but also the future ones. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI S. KUMARAN (Kerala): Sir, you are aware that our people in the southern parts of the country are suffering from the effects of the recent cyclonic storm during the last ten days or two weeks. Reports are available from various sources as I do not know how far they are correct. But from the available reports it seems that in Tamil Nadu, the death toll is about 500 and in Andhra Pradesh it is about twenty thousand. Deaths have taken place in other places also. I would like to request the Central Government and the Minister in particular to enlighten

the House on the latest position. Please enlighten us on the latest position with regard to the death toll and the damage to property and the total loss. No official reports have so far been made available.

Sir, though Kerala has been affected less in comparison to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, the reports that are available from Kerala—yesterday I received a message from the Chief Minister of Kerala—it seems that in Kerala 72 deaths have been reported and an equal number of persons are missing, mostly on the sea. According to this report, 3,400 huts have been damaged in all and 19,000 houses have been partially damaged. Total damage to the crops has been, in terms of area, 36,000 acres and crops on about 51,000 acres of land have been partially affected. Landslides have taken place in many places rendering substantial areas unfit for use and fishing has been stopped and prohibited in the sea. 620 fishing vessels have been damaged and a large number of boats with crew are missing in the sea. There has been sea erosion along the entire coast north of Quilon and there has been breaching of roads and communications and the life along the entire coastal belt has been affected. 32,000 persons have been evacuated and they are being rehabilitated and the actual damage has been assessed at ten crores of rupees.

[**THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (Shri U. K. Lakshmana Gowda)** in the Chair]

There are other things which are to be taken into account. There are remedial measures which are to be taken and whose cost is yet to be assessed. Then, there are more rehabilitation requirements and there is loss of employment to the people. All these things are to be assessed properly. Sir, as compared to the other two States, that is, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, Kerala has been affected less; but the State is also a small one....

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD (Kerala): But the State of Kerala also is a small one.

SHRI S. KUMARAN: Yes. The State of Kerala is a small one and its capacity also is very limited. Sir, in this connection I want to ask this question to the Central Government. We are living in the twentieth century. I can appreciate the conditions in 1864 when there was a cyclonic storm and some calamity was there in Andhra. I can understand that. But now more than a hundred years have passed. Science has developed so much. Certainly, some arrangements are there. The Meteorological Department is functioning. But even then thousands and thousands of people have died. What is worse, even the assessment is not correct. Even an assessment is not possible. Hundreds and hundreds of villages are under water. How? Sir, this is a very deplorable thing that in the twentieth century we cannot prevent these things. I understand that the Meteorological Department found some symptoms of a cyclonic storm and the State Government or the Central Government received some reports from the Meteorological Department. If so, when it was received?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV (Uttar Pradesh): When did they receive this report?

SHRI S. KUMARAN: Why proper preventive measures were not taken? In the recent past, we received reports from other countries of the world about forecasting cyclonic storms and earthquakes and the measures were taken using the entire Government machinery and the military coming to the rescue of the people. But in our country, thousands and thousands of people, poor people, do not have any such experience. A ruling party M.P. charged the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh of negligence. I charge both the Central and the State Governments. Both of them are equally responsible for this disaster.

Then, again, Sir, some financial assistance is given, some food is given, some clothes are distributed. Of course, as a token contribution it is good but not adequate. It is not a political question. It is not a party question. It is a national question. The Central Government asks the State Government to do something. The State Government asks the District Collectors, and so on. Sir, I do not agree with this method of solving the problem. This is a national question. The people of the South—of Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and other States should know that we are part of India...

AN HON. MEMBER: Of Karnataka also.

SHRI S. KUMARAN: So, Sir, it should be handled as a national question and all other State Governments should be asked to come forward to share the rehabilitation works. The Central Government should take upon itself this responsibility. This is my submission. So that our people in the South may feel that they are part of the country, part of India. In this connection, please allow me to relate one of my experiences. Immediately after Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri's death, I got an opportunity to visit the Soviet Union. I visited Tashkent there. We discussed various things with the officers there. I asked how the various independent Republics are unified into one country voluntarily, that is Soviet Union. They gave us many examples. One example is this. They told us that there was an earthquake 10 years ago. How did they solve the problem? The Parliament there was summoned on the spot within hours. They chalked out a plan and all the other Republics were given rehabilitation responsibility of one or two districts of the affected areas. After one or two years, they built a better republic there. They said that that was the experience of their national unity. I would suggest that the Central Government should call upon Punjab,

U.P. and other States to take rehabilitation responsibility of one or two districts of the affected States and help the suffering people there. Then only, the people will feel that they are also part of the nation. (*Time bell rings*).

I will give another suggestion. The help of the international agencies should be taken. There are many agencies of the U.N.O. They have given something. We can approach them for more funds. The Central Government should take the major responsibility. The help of the State Governments and voluntary organisations also should be taken in order to solve this problem. This is my suggestion. I have a few suggestions to make for immediate relief. There should be supply of free food on a large scale to the people in the affected areas and fodder for the cattle. There should be grants to the urban and rural poor to rehabilitate themselves and to rebuild their dwelling places. There should be inoculation of the entire population in the affected districts and effective protection measures against epidemics. Loans and grants should be given to the peasants for starting agricultural operations after the waters recede and the seeds should be supplied. Assistance to traders and small industrialists to restart their business ventures and factories should be given. All government dues in the affected areas, including land revenue and suspension of loan recovery, should be written off. Thank you.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: I would not take much time. I would like to have some clarifications. The hon. Minister mentioned here on the 21st of November that it was known on the 16th and 17th of October by the Meteorological Survey Department that some cyclone is coming and that its intensity will be very severe, as it happened later on. What steps were taken as a result of this information received from the Meteorological Department?

Secondly, Sir, I would like to know from the Minister whether all these affected areas have been given help in regard to food, housing and transport. What has been done about it? I think these points do not require any political considerations as suggested by my friend, Mr. Reddy, on the other side. It is a calamity. From the map that was published in the newspapers, one could see that the cyclone came from one side of the Bay of Bengal, crossed the land, went to the other side of the Arabian Sea and then took a turn. So, the entire area has been under the influence of the cyclone. And it was not humanly possible to do much. But certain things should have been done and some precautions should have been taken. I would like to know what steps were taken as promised by the hon. Minister in his earliest statement.

SHRI P. RAMAMURTI (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I do not want to say about the magnitude of the calamity that has fallen on the people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. And Kerala has also, unfortunately, been added to the list. Fortunately, we have been spared the terrific fury of the cyclone. As far as Kerala and Karnataka are concerned,

Kerala also has its own share, and to a certain extent Mangalore district has got its own share. It is not necessary for me to go into the details of these things nor do I think it proper at this time to enter into recriminations and find fault with the Government's failure or no failure. These are not the things which interest me much. We can sit in judgment over this at a later stage so that we can draw lessons from this and avoid such contingencies in future. Just now I am interested in the succour that the Central and the State Governments may give to the people of these States concerned. Any amount of sympathy expressed by a resolution of the Parliament is not going to

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help in their suffering. What they want is something material to be done. And with regard to that I want to make certain suggestions.

Firstly, what I want to now impress upon this Government is that the State Government personnel will not be able to cope with the problem of rehabilitation, with the problem of helping the thousands of people who have been marooned and the tens and thousands of people who have lost their houses. Their huts have been washed out, their houses have collapsed and particularly the poorest sections of the people have neither the work nor do they have any houses to live in. In these conditions, giving them some doles of Rs. 100 or Rs. 150 to build their houses is not going to be of any avail whatsoever. They will continue to remain without houses. And epidemics also will burst out in a very heavy form. Therefore, in order to prevent these things and alleviate their sufferings, the first thing that I would suggest is that the Army personnel must be moved. The Army personnel is accustomed to dealing with such difficult and intricate problems as they have to cross in war operations difficult terrains and all that. The Army has trained personnel, and particularly the sappers and miners can do a little work in this matter. Therefore, I want adequate number of Army personnel to be moved into these two States forthwith without any difficulty. They should have been moved long ago. Along with the Army personnel, a large number of tents which are available with the Army personnel must also be moved with them so that all these people who are houseless can immediately be provided with these tents. The Army personnel can put up these tents where these people can be housed until new hutments can be built for all those people. This is the first concrete suggestion I would like to make. If they do not do that, any amount of money that

is being given here is not going to be of any use. First of all, we must save them from the inclement weather. Therefore, it is necessary that they should have some roof over their heads. Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh has not got the tents. We are not accustomed to have the tents. Therefore, first of all, the tents must be moved there in large numbers to house these thousands of people until new hutments can be built. The second thing that I want to say is that along with the Army personnel, doctors or the medical personnel available with the Army should also be moved so that they can be of assistance to the local doctors. The local doctors cannot cope with the problem. They have got enough problems on their hands. Therefore, the entire range of doctors that are available with the Army, the Navy and the Air Force must also be moved to these States so that they may be able to cope with the problem of epidemics and render timely medical assistance. This is the second suggestion that I would like to make.

Thirdly, Sir, what I would like to point out is that giving them cash assistance is not going to be of much use, particularly when they are starving. They are likely to spend the entire money without much benefit. Therefore, what I would suggest is that material for building their huts must be given to them, thatches must be given to them. These things must be pooled together by the State Governments and the Central Government and building materials like bamboos and thatches must be given to them. I am talking of poorest sections of the people. I am not talking of well-to-do sections of the people. They can manage for themselves. As far as the lakhs and lakhs of poorest sections of the people are concerned, enough bamboos and enough thatches—which are not easily available now because in the entire coastal region all the coconut trees have fallen—must be given to them. These things have therefore got to be mobilised

from the neighbouring State of Kerala and other neighbouring districts and they have got to be given in plenty and the entire distribution must be organised in a systematic way. Unless this is done, these people will have no roof over their heads. This is a very important thing that the Government must do. Giving them these things in kind is the most important thing. I would like the Government to seriously ponder upon this suggestion.

The next thing that I would like to say is in regard to taxes. I know that the State Governments concerned are going to give relief with regard to taxes that they have got to pay and also the loans that they have got. This debt relief they are certainly going to have. They are not going to collect these taxes from them. I do not know what the attitude of the Reserve Bank is going to be. Will they be very strict? Even in those days when debt relief had been given, the Reserve Bank collected all its moneys from the co-operative societies and they collected it with a vengeance, because the Reserve Bank would not give any exemption. I want the Central Government to give a directive to the Reserve Bank that they should also exempt and that they should give total relief as far as these people are concerned. Let not the Reserve Bank say: Does not matter what happens to these people, my money must come. This should not be the attitude of the Reserve Bank. I know crores of rupees owed by the Birlas and the Tatas and such other big business houses have been written off. When crores of rupees owed by these big people have been written off, why should the loans of these poor peasants, who do not have the wherewithals to repay it, be recovered. Therefore, the Government of India should immediately publicly announce that they are directing the Reserve Bank of India to waive all these loans which are owed by these poorest sections of the people in these areas so that they are at least care-

free from now onwards. This is the fourth suggestion that I would like to make.

Then, Sir, as a matter of fact, everybody knows that the entire crops have failed and for months together these people will not get anything whatsoever. The agricultural labourers and poor peasants are without anything whatsoever and the Government of India cannot, certainly, go on feeding them. It will not be possible for them to do that. Therefore, what I would suggest is that immediately undertake a programme of work, even regarding reconstruction of this devastated areas, building roads, constructing thatched houses. All these things will require tremendous amount of man-power. All these people who have been rendered homeless and workless can be mobilised and can be made use of. I would suggest that instead of paying them some cash wages, you should give them two kilograms of rice per day because they are accustomed to rice or whatever else is there. No wheat will be there but you have got plenty of rice in your godowns, according to your statement. Therefore, move this rice to these areas, give these workers 2 kgs. of rice per day and along with that give them a rupee at least, so that they can supplement it. This will keep them going for another three months till agricultural operations can start once again and they can get work. This is of utmost importance. I would impress upon you to do that.

Then, Sir, I come to the question of funds. No State Government can cope with this tremendous calamity I do not want this Government to say: We will give you some money but later on we shall adjust it against your plan expenditure. This cannot be done. That means the plan projects will go *phut*, and they will not be able to do any developmental work. Therefore, this cannot be a question of loan. There is no question of loan by the Central Government arising in

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this matter. Therefore, all the assistance must be in the form of outright grant. I know the Central Government will say, where are we to go for funds. I am raising a particular question and I want an answer on the floor of the House itself. We know, Sir, the Chinese war took place in 1962 when the emergency was clamped. The Government of India also imposed, what is called, the War Risk Insurance and every industry was asked, per force, to give half per cent of the total value of fixed assets to the Government of India as premia for that War Risk Insurance. The rate at which it was collected, not less than Rs. 200 Rs. 300 crores were collected year after and it was going on for 13 years. The Chinese war had ended within a few days but none the less for years together the emergency was on, the emergency was lifted hardly for one year when Pakistan war also started. Actually, the external emergency ended only after the last elections. Therefore, for a period of 13 years, the emergency was on and all these 13 years, year after year, this fund was collected, this insurance premia were collected. It must have amounted to nearly Rs. 3000 to Rs. 4000 crores. I want to know what has happened to these 3000 to 4000 crores of rupees. Has that also been spent by the previous Government? If it has not been spent, the Government must have funded it, because you have not spent a single pie. Out of that war insurance fund, not a single pie was spent because no calamity took place, no war damage had taken place and no industrialist was paid anything. So, if these Rs. 3000 crores are there with the Government, to what better use can it be put than for outright grant to the State Governments and to the people concerned so that they can rehabilitate themselves? So, the entire amount—whatever money is required by them—must be given out of that fund. If that money has been eaten away, let them say that in the name of war insurance, they collected the

money and they ate away that money. I know, as far as the Budget figures are concerned—I have seen the Budget figures year after year—there was no account as far as this money is concerned. I did not see it in the Consolidated Fund of India. Therefore, I would like to know where that money is. And if that money is there, I want that entire amount to be spent. Let not the Government of India say: We have no money.

These are the concrete suggestions I would make. I would request them to think seriously. Just giving copious sympathies and shedding copious tears would not help the people. They are sick of these sympathies. So I want these things to be done forthwith.

Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI U. K. LAKSHMANA GOWDA): Mr. Krishnan, you are going to speak in Tamil. I think the Interpreters have been informed.

†SHRI E. R. KRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice Chairman, Sir, the entire Tamil Nadu is reeling under the relentless fury of Nature, the unprecedented cyclone with unheard of severity, causing wide scale devastation, loss of life, extensive damage to standing crops and property. Standing crops on six lakh acres of fertile field have been destroyed. More than 2.5 lakhs of people have lost their abodes. Many thousands of people, particularly the peasants, have been uprooted from their land and from their moorings. Many towns in Tamil Nadu have become isolated islands surrounded by swirling waters. The Kuruvai crop in Tanjore district known as the granary of Tamil Nadu, ready for harvesting, was washed away. The Nagapattinam harbour has been destroyed. The lighthouse in Nagapattinam has been made useless for the ships on the high seas. The town of Srirangam, with its hoary temple of Sri Ranganatha, is floating in six feet deep water. Chidambaram,

†English translation Original speech in Tamil.

known all over the world for its temple sculptures, is also literally in deep waters. The people in the town are swimming in the flood waters. In Karur, the dam across the river Amaravati, a concrete dam, has fallen like an earthen pot. Another bridge on the river Amaravati has been brought down by the fury of the cyclone. In Pudukkottai district many villages have become small seas. Water is flowing in the streets of Vedanchandur. In Dindigul Cudealore and other towns of Tamil Nadu, the people are actually floating on water. I may be excused for repeating that thousands of acres of Kuruvai crop which feed the 4.5 crores of people of Tamil Nadu have been inundated. Our beloved Chief Minister, Shri M. G. Ramachandran had fruitful discussions only recently with the Chief Minister of Karnataka about the requirement of Cauvery water for Tanjore District and the Chief Minister of Karnataka was also magnanimous enough to assure continuous supply of Cauvery water to Tanjore district. It is an irony that the fertile fields of Tanjore district should have been inundated by the flood waters, our Government was begging for water from Karnataka.

Sir, suddenly the children have been orphaned. The men are bemoaning the loss of their beloveds. That women are bewailing the loss of their bread-winners. The parents have become barren in a jiffy. The hostel in Annamalai University was in eight feet water. The students had to take shelter in the first floor of the hostel building. They could not have food for two days. All their valuable books have been lost.

Sir, our Chief Minister, Shri M. G. Ramachandran was omnipresent throughout the affected area. He made an aerial survey of the cyclone affected areas. He saw to the arrangement of dropping food packets to the encircled people in various areas. By

his benevolent presence he soothed the sorrows of the suffering people. He supervised the proper distribution of food packets. Continuously for three days food packets were dropped from the planes. The people living in the low-lying areas were shifted to schools and colleges in the high lands when there was the threat of cyclone occurring a second time. On the 17th of this month in Madras there was advance warning of the impending inferno. There were continuous and repetitive announcements over the All India Radio about the possibility of cyclone re-appearing. Even the speed of the cyclone was mentioned frequently. This helped the people to move away from the area of danger. The Government of Tamil Nadu functioned like an Army deployed on a war front. Thus, the Officers and the Government of Tamil Nadu gave protection to the people.

I heard the Members saying that the death toll in Andhra Pradesh was 20,000, in Kerala it was some thousands and in Tamil Nadu the death toll was only 500. If the death toll in Tamil Nadu is so small, it is primarily due to the untiring efforts of the Chief Minister, Shri M. G. Ramachandran who led the team of energetic officers in the relief work. Our Chief Minister did not sleep for 25 days. In fact he was the Commander-in-Chief of the relief work, deploying his force depending upon the intensity of the suffering of the people. The valuable lives of many people in Tamil Nadu were saved mainly due to the far-sightedness and verve of our Chief Minister.

In appreciation of the good work being done by the State Government, the Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, sent a cheque for Rs. 1 lakh for the relief work of the cyclone victims. The progress of the relief work was maintained minute by minute, in fact second by second. The people of Tamil Nadu are beholden to the State Government headed by Shri M. G. Rama-

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chandran. The Central Government has also extended its whole-hearted cooperation by sending Rs. 5 crores as the first instalment of financial assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu and also Rs. 5 crores to the State of Andhra Pradesh. We are all appreciative of the generosity of the Central Government.

Here I would like to refer to one unfortunate episode. On our request, the Government of India agreed to despatch 50000 tonnes of rice to Tamil Nadu. It is regrettable that the officers of the Food Corporation, perhaps immune to the exigency of the situation, are insisting on the advance deposit of Rs. 7.5 crores before 50000 tonnes of rice are despatched to Tamil Nadu, from the godowns.

4 p.m. Here I am reminded of the saying that when Rome was burning Nero was fiddling. I am afraid that the officers of the Food Corporation of India are holding the lives of many millions in Tamil Nadu to ransom. I demand that without any such pre-condition, the Food Corporation of India must be directed to despatch 50000 tonnes of rice to Tamil Nadu, so that the people of Tamil Nadu can be saved from starvation.

Our hon. Minister of Petroleum, Shri Bahuguna and the hon. Minister of Energy, Shri P. Ramachandran, visited Tamil Nadu and they had discussions with the Finance Minister and the Transport Minister of the State Government. They made an aerial survey of the affected area in Tamil Nadu. From the air they could see water everywhere and not a patch of dry land anywhere. All the crops, coconut trees and plantain trees have been damaged. They were evidently upset when they came back to Madras. Shri Bahuguna was candid enough to comment upon the good work being done by the State Government in giv-

ing succour and relief to the affected people. He was also of the opinion that the loss in Tamil Nadu is incalculable. He expressed his feeling that this catastrophic calamity should not be exploited for political purposes by anyone in the State. Shri P. Ramachandran, our Minister of Energy, participated in the distribution of blankets, food packets etc. to the cyclone victims. He was also appreciative of the endeavours of the State Government in meeting the urgent needs of the people. Some deficiency might be there in such a massive relief programme. That should not be magnified and taken advantage of by political parties. Even a natural calamity should not be made the handmaid of politicians.

Shri Bahuguna gave a cheque for Rs. 10 lakhs and also drugs worth Rs. 5 lakhs. Shri Ramachandran announced a contribution of Rs. 10 lakhs from the public undertakings under his Ministry. We are all grateful to the Central Ministers. During the course of next two-three days, I expect that a Central team would be visiting Tamil Nadu. Our Home Minister, Shri Charan Singh is also likely to visit Tamil Nadu to make a personal assessment of the problems of the victims of cyclone. CARE, an American organisation, have given milk powder and wheat worth Rs. 58 lakhs. The Centre has also given Rs. 5 crores. Whether all this is enough is another matter. All this is like offering sugar candy to a hungry elephant.

The Tamil Nadu Government have given Rs. 1000 per family, hundred rupees per head and also two saris, two dhotis and a bed-spread per family. Shri Bahuguna distributed these things. I would like to take this opportunity of requesting the Central Government not to take shelter under the archaic rules and regulations in the matter of extending financial assistance to the victims of

cyclone. When Bihar was afflicted by earthquake, when Gujarat was in floods, the people of Tamil Nadu not only sympathised with the suffering of the people there but also exhibited their traditional munificence by sending gifts in kind and in cash.

Shri Patwari the Governor of Tamil Nadu, has been functioning enthusiastically and he has said that he would go to all the State capitals in the country and collect funds for the relief work. We are grateful to his untiring efforts.

As soon as the cyclone struck, our Chief Minister Shri M. G. Ramachandran ordered the Ministers to go to different affected areas and to acquaint themselves personally with the problems of the victims. The Ministers had to swim in the swirling waters to reach the people in distress. I am only sorry that some political elements in the State are finding fault with the relief activities of the Government of the State. I wonder whether they like that more people should perish in such natural calamities so that they can take political advantage. It is like the saying in Tamil Nadu that, in the house of a dead person, all his relatives and friends were only worried about sharing his assets. Instead of sympathising with the sorrows of the people, instead of being of some help to them, some political parties in the State are finding fault with the relief measures being implemented by the State Government. I am compelled to say that they would like perhaps to thrive politically on the dead bodies of cyclone victims. This is highly improper and it does not behave anyone in the State to exploit a natural calamity for political aggrandisement. I condemn this atrocious behaviour of some political elements in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Before I conclude, I would like to make the following suggestions.

The efforts of the State Government of Tamil Nadu in assuaging the

sufferings of the people must be supplemented by the Central Government.

The agriculturists must be given long term loans by the nationalised banks so that they are able to reclaim their land, to repair their pump-sets etc. Only with such a massive financial assistance the agriculture in the State of Tamil Nadu can be rejuvenated.

The Railway track and many other Railway properties have been destroyed. Many railway bridges have been damaged. The Railway Ministry should take immediate steps to restore the communication facilities in the State.

The Agriculture Minister should soon bring forth legislation for crop insurance so that the agriculturists during such natural calamities are not made to suffer.

Similarly the works and Housing Minister should enact a legislation for the entire nation in regard to group insurance of houses on the coastal areas.

Finally, the Central Team should expedite its report and ensure early distribution of financial needs of the State.

The cyclone-warning facilities must be strengthened throughout the coastal areas of the country.

No linguistic or regional consideration should come in the way of Centre's financial and physical assistance to the cyclone affected States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Kerala.

On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, on behalf of the leader of the people of Tamil Nadu, Shri M. G. Ramachandran, I express my gratitude to you for having given me an opportunity to place my views on this subject.

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, I came back yesterday from Andhra

[Shri Janardhana Reddy]

Pradesh after seeing the actual disaster that overtook Andhra Pradesh. After the news spread in the country about the great disaster in that part of the country I expected everybody would be concerned about it in Delhi. But, unfortunately, I have not seen that concern; I have not felt that concern in Delhi. Not only the Government, the press has not given the real picture. I can understand if public is in dark because of the press apathy but what happened to the Central Government? Just giving a statement in that House and this House is not going to redress the grievances of those people. The gravity of the situation, is not being felt here. Is it merely for the Agriculture Minister to look into this great problem? Is it not a national disaster? Do you think losing a few people in Andhra Pradesh is just the concern of the State Government? Losing some tonnes of paddy, you think is the concern of the concerned State. Do you not attach any value to it? Do you not realise the gravity of the situation? We expected the hon'ble Prime Minister to rush there. What happened to the Home Minister? It is not the Chief Minister alone who should be concerned with the gravity of the situation. I am glad that the hon'ble President, in spite of his health, has rushed to the places in the South because he is the man of the masses and he knows the sufferings of the people. He is visiting the scene of disaster. He is now touring Andhra and Tamil Nadu. But what has happened to the Prime Minister? Both the Houses have been eager to hear the Prime Minister from his first hand information instead of learning from the press.

I have gone through the statement made in this House by the hon'ble Minister, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh, in which he said that the cyclone warning was given on the 16th Nov. itself by the Meteorological Department that the South-Eastern coast was going to

be hit by a cyclone but he did not know where it was going to be hit.

Sir, whenever there is this kind of calamity it has become customary with the Ministers here to give a statement expressing sympathy, this, that and the other and announcing help of Rs. 150 or Rs. 200 for those who lost their huts, or a thousand rupees for those who lost their lives. Then they keep quiet until such time as the calamity occurs next. But nobody is serious as to how to meet the gravity of the situation. Every two years this sort of calamity is occurring and we politicians utilise the occasion for political purposes.

I would not have mentioned about politics but for the apathy of the Home Minister, Mr. Charan Singh. The Chief Minister visited Delhi and mentioned about Mr. Charan Singh visiting Andhra Pradesh. When the cyclone crossed the Andhra border on the 19th evening Mr. Charan Singh was there. The press knew about the calamity. But the Home Minister has belittled the whole affair saying that natural calamity is natural calamity. What could he do? Is it the answer of the Home Minister of a civilised country? He feels that giving assistance to the affected areas is a State subject. If that is so, what is a Central subject? Arresting Indira Gandhi? Perhaps arresting her alone is the Central subject. I am sorry, Sir, I would not have brought up this matter before the House because this is not a political subject at all.

It is a natural calamity with which you, I and every one is concerned. We should sit together and discuss it. Some time back it happened in Orissa. Today it happened in Andhra. It is not a mere cyclone. On the 18th I was in Madras. In the evening of the 17th, papers said that a cyclone was going to hit on the 18th evening. On the 18th morning, the Meteorological Department said that the cyclone was moving towards north and it might cross the Andhra coast between Madras and Nellore—my district. We were

sitting with our fingers crossed. At 11 O'clock they said that it had crossed Nellore and it might hit between Angole and Nellore. Again at 2.00 P.M. they said it was going to cross Ongle. At 4.00 P.M. they said it crossed Vetapalem. This is the efficiency of our Meteorological Department which is giving information. Even if they give information, what is it that you can do there? What is your communication system to remove all these people from the coast? Had it hit between Madras and Nellore, perhaps the Minister does not know, the Government of India would have lost thousands of crores of rupees: The Sriharikota Project of the Government of India is situated on the shore of the Bay of Bengal. Hundreds of scientists would have been washed away. You never cared for them. Not only you but including the previous Government also, I say... (*Interruption*)... I know that. I say that you have no guts to say that. I want to say the same way to Mr. Bhanu Prakash Singh. Last year when there was a cyclonic storm in Andhra Pradesh, I brought the matter of Sriharikota to the notice of the Government. But people like that were there again. They gave a deaf ear. While they were planning the Sriharikota Station and spending a huge amount on installing scientific equipment and pouring scientists there, they never thought of the security measures they have to take there. We have escaped luckily this year but we do not know what is going to happen next time.

What are the measures we have to take at least to face such a calamity? There was a meteorological expert, Dr. Koteswaram, who was working here. He used to say—I do not know how far it is correct—that two days in advance we would be able to know about a storm, its velocity and so on and that by bursting certain chemicals we could stop the tidal waves. You are the people at the helm of affairs. You should pool scientists and scientific knowledge and find out a solution. In the developed countries when they now

about a storm in advance, they take the people away from the coast. There is a need for transporting people in such situations. Some four or five years back I came to know that there was a plan to build a big national highway from Madras to Calcutta near the coast. Estimates have been made and we do not know what has been done about it. If that highway had come up, that would have been the best communications system to remove such people. Now, even if a cyclone warning is given two days in advance, you cannot remove the people. They are in far away places. So, I feel strongly that this the time to think about this problem, to give serious thought to this matter. I quite agree that immediate relief measures must be there, but there should be a concrete thinking about this, there should be a national plan about this. What do you mean by saying that Rs 5 crores will be given to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu? Tomorrow they may give something else after the team's visit to Tamil Nadu. I think a team is going on the 28th. I know a team had gone from the same Ministry last year to Andhra. I had an opportunity to go with them and explain to them the cyclonic havoc that happened in my district. They will come back and recommend something and you may give a few crores of rupees, but that is not going to solve the whole situation. I need not explain how many have been killed. But I must say that 60 villages have been washed away. Sixty villages washed away! How many people have been taken away by the tidal wave, we do not know. The number may be 10,000—20,000 or even more than that. How can one say? It cannot be estimated. Lakhs and lakhs of live-stock are lying there dead. Now the immediate problem is that of health and how to remove these dead bodies. So, Sir, some international agency has to come forward to help them. I was told that France is coming forward with flying hospitals'. I do not know what is the reaction of the Government, whether

[Shri Janardhana Reddy]

they are going to accept it. I also came to know that some of the agencies are coming forward to help meet the situation. But I do not know the reaction of the Government of India thereto. It needs a leadership of modern thinking and not of the same way of thinking as 'why should we take the assistance from outside?'. It is not that kind of thinking which is needed. No prestige is involved here. No politics is involved here. Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of the Minister that it is not enough for him to send some persons from his Ministry to go there and assess the loss and give some advance planning. At least let the Minister pose to the scientists that are there in the country the problem as to how to face this national disaster. It is not a disaster for Andhra Pradesh. As explained by Shri Charan Singh, it is not a State subject. It is a national disaster. You have got to accept it. It is not a disaster for the South alone. You are keeping quiet because it is something happening in the South and is not going to happen in the North. Give a serious thought to the matter. And it is going to repeat again, if not the next year, may be after two or three years. The loss is great. If anything, due to my presence here, after seeing the conditions in Andhra Pradesh, after hearing certain things about Andhra Pradesh, I was able to impress upon the Minister the gravity of the situation. It is the gravity of the situation which makes the President rush there, in spite of his ill health. Give serious thought to it to help people when such a thing occurs as a precautionary measure. You have the IAF people. There are 400 sq. kilometres of land which have been devastated by the tidal waves and all those things. In the Air Force you keep two helicopters at the disposal of the Government. What for? Last time I suggested that whenever there is a disaster of such a kind, there should be an emergency declared—perhaps you are allergic to the word 'emergency'—whereunder the Medical Department, the Air Force, the Navy should take over the area and con-

duct relief operations. That is the only thing which we can do now. Hand over the area to these Departments. Let them take over all this area and later on hand it back to the State. Declare in the area a kind of emergency and hand it over to them. Is it not fair to think along those lines? Is it not fair to think along those lines to take permanent measures to save these people from this kind of natural calamity? I wish Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh—who had visited Andhra very recently and promised something but could not keep up his promise—will at least think over it and pose it as a challenge to the national scientists, and have a dialogue with them.

Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI M. R. KRISHNA (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, it is really something about which all parties and the whole nation are concerned. The magnitude of the losses, both in property and lives is yet to be assessed, and it is presumed that it will be much more than what has been stated in the papers so far. Probably, all the countries in the world must be viewing this with all the seriousness, and it is for our Government to really approach all the agencies through the United Nations and received whatever help that we can get for the victims and for the rehabilitation of the entire area. We should not hesitate to immediately rush with the request.

Sir, whatever amounts might have been earmarked for the Plans etc. I think the Andhra Pradesh Government and even the Central Government know that the amount required for their rehabilitation far exceeds than earmarked even for the Plans, and, therefore, either the State Government or the Central Government will not be in a position to meet the expenditure which will be involved in rehabilitating the people.

Sir, it is generally the Northern States which experience the external aggression, and we know it for certain that none of the Southern States are exposed to external aggression but are exposed to natural calamities.

But, when any external aggression takes place, the whole country from Kashmir to Kanyakumari is mobilised and every Indian feels that he has got a duty either to contribute in kind or to render some kind of service. Well, in that effort, no State, no community or no region lacks. When this kind of natural calamity occurs and that too in this magnitude, it is the duty of every Indian to feel that he has got a duty to render for the people who have suffered and to the State which is suffering, and, therefore, I think the Central Government should not allow the impression to grow, because some of the Hon. Members here have expressed that the way in which the Central Government acted, it has only created this feeling, that the Central Government is not taking this with the seriousness with which it has to take this problem. Just announcing Rs. 5 crores is not enough. Asking the State Chief Minister to come forward and say that he is going to give Rs. 150 to each family, does not speak much about rehabilitation or about the seriousness with which we will have to tackle this problem.

Sir, it has been voiced here by almost everybody that the State Government will not be in a position to take up the rehabilitation work since it has definitely failed in taking the warning, however short it might have been, whether it was six hours or 12 hours, the warning was given. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has got the reputation of deciding very big issues in five minutes, ten minutes and 15 minutes. I do not think that the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet has ever met to think about the seriousness of and also to attend to this big problem. I am not able to understand who is the genius who has advised the State Government not to ask for the Air Force or the military help. We do not know the capacity of the Defence Forces and what equipment they have got to evacuate the people. Without knowing or asking them anything, which is the agency—whether it is the Chief Minister or his Cabinet or his

Secretaries—which has advised him not to seek the assistance of the Defence Forces. This is really a very serious thing, and somebody will have to definitely look into it. The Central Government also cannot absolve its responsibility just by giving a paltry sum of money to the State Government for rehabilitating them when thousands lost their lives. Now every friend who has spoken here has definitely said that there should be some other agency, namely, the Defence Forces, which should be entrusted with this responsibility. The Defence Minister is visiting the area and immediately after he comes back, I think he will take a decision, in consultation with the Prime Minister, to entrust this responsibility to the Defence Forces because the Andhra Pradesh Government has miserably failed in co-ordinating the activities. Therefore, it is futile on the part of anybody to entrust this big responsibility to the Andhra Pradesh Government. All the measures which my friend, Mr. Ramamurti, has suggested are immediately required. First of all, there is the fear of disease spreading throughout the State and particularly in these areas. It has to be immediately tackled; it has to be stopped. Therefore, the services of all the medical practitioners, whether they are in cities or anywhere else, will have to be summoned. And many other States can come forward to help the State Government to tackle these things. Now my friend, Mr. Janardhana Reddy said that after the whole thing is done, it can be entrusted to the State Government again. I do not know what he meant by that. But it is definite that the State agencies have failed and it is no good once again giving this responsibility to the State Government.

Sir, most of the people who have suffered and lost their lives are from the poorer classes. The Government of India has got a direct responsibility, not only when they have been affected by this kind of calamity but even otherwise, to rehabilitate them. That programme has not been properly

[Shri M. R. Krishna]

tackled. They have been uprooted and they are miserable today. It is not only Andhra Pradesh which is going to suffer; but it is the entire nation which is going to suffer because it is definitely going to affect the food production in the country. Therefore, the Government of India has to take it up in all seriousness and see that both manpower and money are sent to Andhra Pradesh so that they can tackle this problem as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

SHRI K. S. MALLE GOWDA (Karnataka): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, the fury of nature that Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu faced recently is unprecedented in this century. All Indians should treat this as a great national disaster and an individual calamity and not be satisfied with mere lip sympathy but render help in a massive way to the stricken families in those areas.

The human misery in those affected areas cannot even be imagined. It is unfathomable. The loss of human lives is probably more than 18,000. Whole villages have been washed away. Many thousands of houses have been completely destroyed. Crops of a value of over Rs. 400 crores have been destroyed. Tens of thousands of cattle, including draught animals and milch cattle which are the life-blood of agriculturists, have been destroyed. For all these enormous losses suffered by tens of thousands of poor rural families and urban families who are the mainstay and strength of our economy, what is the relief that the State and the Central Governments give? It is not enough if doles of food are given for a few days. It is not enough if the sufferers are merely allowed to live on. It is not enough if the poor rural sector is allowed to bear an additional debt burden of Rs. 300 to Rs. 400 crores more to rehabilitate themselves and serve the nation. In the USA in such situations, the President gives a blank cheque to

give all the help needed by the poor helpless farmers and the poor artisans to stand on their own feet and produce the next year's crops or consumer goods.

Sir, the Government of India has announced a meagre grant of Rs. 5 crores to each of the two States for grant of immediate relief. I would say that when the total losses go up to Rs. 500 to Rs. 800 crores, and when most of the affected people are poor and helpless, the relief given, amounting to Rs. 10 crores, is a drop in the ocean. The Government of India should give blank cheques to the two State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu for the massive relief to be given. I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India to give relief to the sufferers as follows so that the production in fields and factories in the devastated areas could be started again and the national economic growth is not seriously impeded:

(1) The villages washed out should be rebuilt by Government mainly at Government cost.

(2) The houses and huts destroyed—where the value is less than Rs. 4000—have to be rebuilt at Government cost as those families are evidently too poor to build their own houses.

(3) Twenty-five per cent of the value of the crops lost should be given to the farmers where the holdings are less than 3 acres of wet land or 6 acres of dry land.

(4) All loans given as relief should carry no interest for five years at least.

(5) A grant of Rs. 2500 for each dead person's family should be given as a measure of relief.

Here, Sir, you are aware that the Railway Minister has announced

a grant of Rs. 1000 each to the families of those killed in the railway accidents. You are also aware that nearly a lakh of rupees is given to each of the air crew who lost their lives in the Gauhati aircrash. But the same consideration is not shown to our farmers and artisans who are very poor. It is indeed a pity. Hereafter the attitude of our people should change towards these poor people and these poor people also should be given relief on the above lines.

(6) A national committee of about a dozen members consisting of the Home Minister and the Agricultural Minister of the Central Government and the Chief Ministers of Andhra and Tamil Nadu and Prof. N. G. Ranga and a few other eminent leaders should be constituted to evolve a scale of relief to be given to the victims of natural calamities like cyclones, floods and drought which visit our land in one part or other almost every year.

The total cost of relief should not be less than 40 per cent of the total loss incurred. All international assistance should be taken to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of such natural calamities.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ (Himachal Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the havoc caused by the floods in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and some other States like Karnataka is really great. Now the stories of misery, hardship and distress are slowly coming to us. One is really shaken to hear of these stories. One is really unable to imagine what might have happened to those poor people. Many people are dead. Many more are lying on the seashore. Some others are crying for help. Some are suffering from hunger. This is the state of affairs. A death toll of more than 20,000 people on a small coastal area is really dreadful and presents a heart-rending picture. This is the occasion for the entire humanity to rise in sympathy for those suffering.

[The Vice-Chairman (Shri Shyam Lal Yadav) in the Chair].

It is the duty of all those human beings who are left behind to do something for those who have become victims of such a great havoc. It is for the State Government, it is for everybody, for the Central Government, for the world at large, to come to the rescue and assistance of the victims. So much misery has taken place. What should be done now? This is the question that should be tackled. In my humble opinion I think the Government of India should immediately constitute a high-power committee which should tour the cyclone-affected areas and assess the loss dispassionately. After such dispassionate assessment, the proper line of action should be chalked out. Military and other operations should be directed by this high-power committee. The State Governments should be represented on this body. The Central Government also should be represented on this body. This body should chalk out a programme and see what should be done immediately. The immediate thing is to rush medical aid and then food. These two are very important. For that purpose, programmes on a war-footing should be drawn up. As far as help is concerned, the State Government and everybody should come forward and international bodies and foreign Governments should be approached to help those poor people in this time of crisis. Having done these, how can we prevent such happenings in future? We should do something on a permanent basis so that floods or cyclones do not cause so much misery. You must have observed from the papers the extent of suffering the people have undergone there. The fishermen, the boatmen and the poor agriculturists have all suffered from this calamity. The Government should now think in terms of rehabilitating them in their own place. Many more things have to be done and everything has to be done on war-footing. With these words, I conclude.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Vice-Chairman, the anger of nature was very acute especially in Dravidam. During the past 15 days the Parliament has discussed this issue on more than one occasion. But nature can be fought also. People say it is all due to fate and therefore they die. We rationalists do not believe this. A very rosy picture was presented here by my hon. friend Shri E. R. Krishnan. From the 7th of this month, warning was continuously given over the radio. What action was taken by the Tamil Nadu Government on this warning? The warning was that the cyclone was travelling from Madras to Andhra Pradesh. What precautionary action was taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government? When you tune in the radio, you could hear the warning that it was going towards Masulipatam. At least in Andhra Pradesh people in the coastal areas could have been evacuated. But the Andhra Pradesh Government did not take any action on this warning. From the 7th the radio had been warning that a big cyclone was going to come. There is another point I want to mention. For the past two and half months there has been heavy rain in the whole of Tamil Nadu, especially in the Madras city. Now, this is not a political question because any party may come to power in any State or at the Centre. I would like to ask: What action was taken by the Tamil Nadu Government on this warning? What precautionary action did they take? What action was taken by the Andhra Pradesh Government? A rosy picture was presented by Shri Krishnan because he belongs to a party whose leader is having a rosy face because he is an actor . . . (Interruptions) This is not unparliamentary? He presented a rosy picture because he belongs to a party whose leader is having a rosy face since he is an actor. Of course, he is an ex-actor because he is not now acting . . . (Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: How is it relevant, Sir? . . . (Interruptions).

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, I must be given protection. I am not using any unparliamentary word...

(Interruptions)

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY (Tamil Nadu): Sir, his leader is also a former actor... (Interruptions)

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, I am not decrying him. I do not know why these people should mistake me... (Interruptions) . . . Sir, I am not decrying their leader, but I am only saying that he painted a rosy picture because his leader has a rosy face since he is an actor . . . (Interruptions) . . .

SHRI M. KADERSHAH (Tamil Nadu): Sir, is it relevant? . . . (Interruptions) . . .

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): Order, please-

SHRI K. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, I am not decrying him. I am only saying that he presented a rosy picture . . . (Interruptions) . . . I am not saying that Mr. Krishnaswamy should not be a member of a political party whose leader is an actor. I have great respect for actors. I am only telling that he presented a rosy picture because the leader of his party is having a rosy face since he is an actor.

SHRI M. S. ABDUL KHADER (Tamil Nadu): How is it relevant? Is it a mistake?

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, even on 12th of this month, there was the cyclone in Tamil Nadu and till today, Sir, the Government of Tamil Nadu is not able to place before the people of Tamil Nadu the information as to how many people have died. Today, Sir, it is the 24th and they say that Mr. M. G. Ramachandran very effectively tackled this issue and so on. Sir, from the 12th onwards till today, there is no information. Do you mean to say that there is a civilized administration, a civilized Government in Tamil Nadu? Will any civilized Government take 12 days? Even the

paper, "The Hindu" says that from 150 it has gone up to 490; but they are not sure. Sir, I would like to ask: Do these people have any machinery? The entire machinery should be brought to the villages and these affected areas...

(Interruptions)

SHRI A. P. JANARDHANAM (Tamil Nadu): Is it statistics that you want to give?...

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: What I am telling you, Sir...

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: What you are telling is irrelevant.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, my complaint is that it is not 500, that is, the total number of deaths; but it may be in thousands... (Interruptions) ...It may be in thousands.

SHRI JAGAN NATH BHARDWAJ: Do you think that this is going to help the victims? ... (Interruptions). Give some sound advice so that something could be done.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, what I am telling you is that even today, the efficient Government, according to Mr. E. R. Krishnan, the efficient Chief Minister, according to Mr. E. R. Krishnan, has not told the people of India and the people of Tamil Nadu as to how many people have died. At least, Sir, in the case of Andhra Pradesh, within twelve hours of the occurrence of the cyclone, immediately the figures were given and it was said that the deaths were about six thousand or eight thousand.

SHRI K. A. KRISHNASWAMY: It is only the press report and it is not the official report.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: My dear friend, I am not telling you these things because you are in the ruling party or because I want to criticise you. Sir, my honourable friend said that one political party in Tamil Nadu has always wanted more deaths in

Tamil Nadu and I want to ask whether this is the efficiency of the Government which has not been able to tell the actual situation, and, Sir, they want to put the blame on some other party, and they want to escape. That is also their policy and that is different. But, Sir, what I would like to ask is this: From the 12th up to the 24th of this month, no figures are there, no figures are as to how many deaths have taken place. If you are not sure that they have died, at least can you not give the figures of the missing people in Veda sandur...

(Interruptions)

SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Sir, Mr. Lakshmanan is saying something...

(Interruptions)

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Are you on a point of order?

SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Yes.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: What is the point of order?... (Interruptions). Sir, he is only wanting some clarification.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): What is the point of order?

SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Sir, Mr. Lakshmanan is minimising the magnitude of the problem by giving political colour to this national calamity. Sir, he has just now mentioned the Veda sandur incident and it is near my native place. I would like to point out...

(Interruptions)

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): What is the point of order?

SHRI M. KADERSHAH: The point of order is...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): There is no point of order. Let him continue. Kindly resume your seat.

SHRI M. KADERSHAH: Sir, I am coming to the point of order. Sir, the

[Shri M. Kadershah]

Kudavanar dam which burst was built during the period of Mr. Karunanidhi at a cost of three crores of rupees and he has to bear the responsibility for this.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Mr. M. G. Ramachandran was also in our party then.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA (Karnataka): Sir, is it a political issue?

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, I do not want to politicalise the issue. I am only putting a straight question. From the 7th onwards, warnings were given over the radio on a number of occasions. What action was taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu? Or, if you are not able to do it, a Commission must be appointed for both Andhra and Tamil Nadu to find out whether all the precautions were taken by the Tamil Nadu Government, because there is feeling among the people of Tamil Nadu that precautionary measures were not taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. I also charge the Andhra Government with the same... (Interruptions) Then, they say the figure is between 150 to 200. They are not definite. If they had told that it was 180 or 190, one could understand it. The people there are not satisfied with this.

When Anna was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu...

AN. HON. MEMBER: Dr. Anna.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Dr. Anna. Thank you very much. When Dr. Anna was the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Congress Party men—not the people who are sitting here—were burning away the houses. Therefore, Anna immediately said: We will construct houses that cannot be burnt by these anti-social elements. As far as these poor people are concerned, do not give them Rs. 80 or Rs. 100 or Rs. 200. I would suggest that there should be mansion like

houses where the first 10 or 15 ft. from the ground should be left blank, so as to prevent any danger from water, and then on the upper 2 or 3 storeys there should be small dwelling units for these poor people. These houses should be built by the Housing Boards in Andhra and Tamil Nadu as also in Kerala. The Central Government should also give subsidy for that.

Then, Sir, if the earning members of the families have died and have become victims of the cyclone, the destitute children should be taken care of by the Government. The Government must take upon itself the responsibility to provide them hostels, food, shelter and education if these children have lost their mother or father.

Another thing, Sir. I do not like the Central Government to go and beg internationally. There are philanthropic organisations like the Red Cross, CARE and others. I will suggest that if for constructing these houses a loan from the World Bank has to be taken, it should be taken and all these people must be rehabilitated.

I may also tell you, Sir, that the number of people in Tamil Nadu as now given is only 500. But definitely, Sir, it shall be 5000 in another month or two.

SHRI K. K. MADHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, my purpose is not to apportion blame. This is not the occasion nor a subject for that. I want to pinpoint the havoc already done by the cyclone in Kerala. I do not want to lessen the gravity of the havoc done in Tamil Nadu, Andhra and other places. What I am disappointed at is that the mass media and news media at the highest level have ignored the claims of Kerala. They have not presented the real picture of Kerala and how it has been hit. That is the point over which we are worried. What I mean to say is that Kerala should not be overshadowed by the havoc caused in other sister States

of South India. The Chief Minister of Kerala has come out with a provisional assessment of estimated loss. He places it around 10 crores of rupees. The other picture regarding devastation, destruction and misery is not painted here. As my friend, Mr. Kumaran, who is also from my State, has given the figures, I do not want to waste the valuable time of this House in reading the figures which have been authoritatively given by the Chief Minister of Kerala. What is important in this natural calamity is that in Kerala it is the weakest in the society who have been affected. They are agricultural workers, coastal fishermen and small peasants who can ill-afford even the smallest loss. Kerala is a very small State and the State becomes even smaller when we remember that it is a State with a multitude of problems. The minimum requirements is that we have to rush in immediate relief and succour to the affected people and especially the poorest sections of the people. I was surprised to hear that a paltry amount of Rs. 150 has been offered by the Central Government. Sir, they do not have even an idea about the value of a single coconut free of Kerala.

Even the least bearing coconut tree in Kerala costs nothing less than Rs. 300. That is the ordinary valuation by land acquisition authorities when sites are acquired for public purposes. That being the case, one has only to wonder at the paltry amount offered by way of doles. There are two things required now and in future. One is the immediate steps and the second is the long-term measures. As immediate steps, I welcome the relief measures. I would agree with my friend, Mr. Lakshmanan who suggested that the devastated houses should be built as *pucca* houses. In Kerala, the huts of fishermen have been washed away in hundreds. They should put up *pucca* houses for them through institutional finances or through institutional grants or Government aid. Then the people who have lost employment and who cannot earn

their livelihood or some time to come have to be fed. They have to be clothed. They have to be put in houses. They have to be accommodated, at least for the time being.

5 P.M. Kerala Government has given accommodation for the time being to 30,000 families which have been evacuated. That is the Chief Minister's figure. I do not want to dwell at length on that. What is more important is that here is a case where the most resourceful Central Government, the Central Government with a fabulous amount of coffers, should come forward munificently and liberally to the aid of the southern States. The long-term plan that I would suggest is that the gains of modern science and technology should be properly utilised for setting up proper defence against such acts of nature in future. I say acts of nature because these are natural calamities. Some hon. friends said that these cannot be foreseen. They can be foreseen. But the question is whether we have got the equipment to foresee and forestall those forces of destruction. So, my case is that hereafter we have no time to waste. We have to gear up the Meteorological Department and equip it to the best of our ability utilising to the maximum extent the gains of modern science and technology which have conquered space and time. Only that way can India come to the level of other modern countries and withstand these forces of destruction. One may be tempted to note from the attitude and the tone of some people in authority and some sections of the House and I am disappointed to note that some hon. Members still feel that India beyond the Vindhyas is not India. That is a wrong notion. Beyond the south of the Vindhyas, that semi-peninsular part of the country has a rich heritage, a rich cultural heritage. So, I would suggest that discarding all these parochial notions, we have to rise above the politics. The word 'politics' has been very largely misunderstood. Food is politics; clothing is politics, housing is politics, relief is politics and defence against

[Shri K. K. Madhavan]

the forces of destruction is also politics. So, what I would suggest is that we should rise above the party politics, and we have to rise above the narrow parochialism. So, I would suggest that before we look up to the international agencies for assistance, the Centre itself has to come forward with greater munificence. I would remind you of the old saying that charity begins at home. So, let our charity begin at home. So far as the Southern States are concerned, they have been hard hit by this terrific cyclone. And so far as Kerala is concerned, in the words of Milton, 'the wild white horses'—which means the ocean waves—have played foul with it. Rather there was a wanton destruction on the lengthy coast of Kerala. That deserves special attention. What I want to say is that the States in South India remote from the headquarters of this country are looking to the Centre for a better deal for a fairer, finer deal. I am reminded of the saying that a friend in need is a friend indeed. I do not want to quote. I am not aggrieved by what has been done by God to South India. God will take care of those things. But, I am concerned with the people, the people who are suffering miseries, endless miseries, uncalculable miseries. So I say that it is high time that the country rose to the occasion as one nation, crossing all barriers, and looked at those things casting away all sorts of obscurantist notions.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD:

Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I join and associate myself with the sentiments expressed by the Members of this hon. House having different shades of opinion and coming from different regions of the country.

Sir, the calamity and disaster is really unparalleled in the history of mankind here. No doubt, the serious victim of this disaster was the Andhra State. The people of the State of Andhra have suffered the most and Tamil Nadu comes only next. Then, of course, come Kerala and Karnataka.

All the Southern States have been affected by these cyclones. We are not making any post-mortem of the incident. Of course, a post-mortem would be beneficial to us because we could devise measures for taking such incidents in future. No doubt the cyclone could not have been prevented. Of course, the Meteorological Department had given the warning but that warning has not been fully made use of by the concerned Governments. I do not say that the Central Government has not done its part or the State Governments have not done their part. After the cyclone struck Tamil Nadu, it was known that it was going to strike the coast again. The gravity of the disaster could have been lessened, if the people of these areas which were likely to be affected had been shifted to some hilly areas, as has been pointed out by my hon. friend, Mr. Kumaran, and for that reason there is some negligence. When an accident takes place, it may be purely an accident beyond the control of any man but sometimes an accident can be caused by rashness and negligence too. Is there any negligence of duty on the part of the Governments at the helm of affairs? I feel, Sir, that there is a bit of negligence. They did not take care of things. If they had taken care of the things, the disaster would not have been as severe and instead of twenty thousand people a lesser number would have died. After all, human lives are involved. We are not reading stories. Twenty thousand people died. What is this, Sir? If you or a member of your family had been there you would not have been here today. If we got a telegram that something has happened to our people, we would not have been here. Whether 80 people have died in Kerala or 20,000 have died in Andhra is not the question. That is immaterial. The question is that human beings have died. It is not a question whether the Janata Party or the Congress Party or the D.M.K. Party or the A.I.A.D.M.K. Party is at the helm of affairs. What is needed is that we must have sympathy

and we must rise above party politics and deal with these matters as human beings. I do not know how the Government is feeling in this matter. It would have been graceful on the part of the Prime Minister and also on the part of other important Cabinet Ministers if they had taken a tour to the south, to Tamil Nadu, to Andhra, to Karnataka and to Kerala. They could have just had a tour because the planes are at their disposal. They could have chartered a plane. They need not take a bullockcart and go. Within two or three days they could just have a survey and at least it would have been a matter of some satisfaction and consolation to the people that here are the Ministers coming to wipe off our tears. That omission is there on the part of the Government and we must admit that. At least now it is not too late. I appeal to the Finance Minister and also to the Prime Minister to have a tour to Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra and see what they can do. I do not mean to say that by going there, everything is going to be settled. But, at the same time, that would show their great sympathy towards human beings. And that omission there on the part of the Government. We should not have any such consideration whether a State is being ruled by this party or that party. It has been rightly pointed out by Mr. Madhavan that there is a feeling that south is different from north and north is different from south. After all, we are all Indians. The South Indians are also great Indians. Many of the people from the south have sacrificed in the cause of freedom of this great country of ours and there is no doubt about it and there is no fun in saying that this is south or this is north. The question is about the depth of the suffering. As far as the suffering is concerned, there is no question of caste, colour, breed or birth because suffering is suffering, whether it is to an Indian or to a European. It is a question of human beings. So, from that angle this problem should be solved. It is not the time for the

Ministers to keep quiet. They will have to be alert; they will have to discuss and have a dialogue with the State Governments as to now they can go and solve these matters and how they are going to rehabilitate the people. My friend, Mr. Lakshmanan, has rightly pointed out that now there will be many children without parents, hundreds of thousands of children without parents; there would be hundreds of thousands of wives without husbands; there would be hundreds and thousands of parents without children. Such people would have been scattered throughout the south. So, there should be some planning, how we are going to settle this matter. There should be something like orphanages where these children should be brought up at Government's expense and different States should manage them. That is why I appeal to the Government of India to have a dialogue with the State Governments. Do not be under the impression that everything would be done by the State Government. After all, it is not a State matter. It is a matter of humanity, of human touch and whatever help we could get from the World Bank and also from other countries should go to the State Governments. As has been pointed out, the help that we give to the State Governments should be in the form of grant. It cannot be by way of loan. If it is given by way of loan, the States would not be in a position to return it. Their developmental activities would be affected. My State being the smallest State, nature also was a little kind to it because that much cruelty was not there; cruelty was less in Kerala which is one of the smallest States in India. Even there, nearly eighty persons have died; eighty persons are missing; many fishing boats are missing and according to the reports, 35,000 acres of land is washed away to the sea in Kerala. Already we are having sea erosion trouble in Kerala. Hundreds of miles in the coastal areas of Kerala have been eaten away by the sea. Again,

[Shri Hamid Ali Schamnad]

this cyclone has aggravated the problem and hundreds and thousands of acres of land has been eaten away by the sea and hundreds and thousands of acres of land has become unfit for cultivation. The Government should consider this matter.

Another important matter is, we were pleading in this House, even when Mrs. Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister for an insurance scheme for the cultivators. There was my friend who has been a big cultivator. Both of us were pleading. But they did not do that. It is for the Janata, the people, the farmers. Let the crop which a farmer raises be insured. He raises the crop with his sweat and blood. The crop is taken away because of the cruelty of nature. Should it not be insured? A crop insurance scheme should be formulated and I would appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to see that a crop insurance scheme is introduced and the farmers are benefited by this crop insurance scheme. This should be taken up, as I said, not on a regional basis. There should be no considerations of caste, breed or birth. This should be considered from the humanitarian point of view alone.

SHRI V. B. RAJU (Andhra Pradesh): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir, this is not the time for going in search of scapegoats or indulging in recrimination. This is one of the most sorrowful times and one of the most unfortunate times through which this country has been passing. We have had devastating floods because of the fury of the rivers in August and September in the Indo-Gangetic Plain. Thousands of families suffered. A lot of damage was caused. Now, we have the fury of the seas. I am only wondering how much serious attention we give to these things. To what extent, the conscience of the nation has been aroused? Are we

taking it formally, expressing helplessness because nature has been unkind to us? Is the country and the nation so undeveloped as to take these things as part of destiny? What is it that we have been doing all these decades after we became independent? These have been common occurrences, the cyclone hitting the coasts of Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and, particularly, the areas bordering the Bay of Bengal. It has been there almost once in every year in every part, sometimes twice a year. We have debated in this House, quite a number of times, very lengthy debates, and very effective speeches have been made. But what has been the result? Let us now search for new roads to understanding. This is not the time for taking it casually and even entering into controversies as to how many crores of rupees should have been given and how many people would have died. This is not the time for finding out whether the State Government is responsible technically for looking after those who are alive and those who are the bereaved families of the victims. Now, these things are irrelevant to the situation. I do not think science and technology has not helped us to develop a sense of anticipation and imagination and to take precautions. Let us take one example. There is a threat from nature. There is a threat from human beings also. We prepare ourselves and we are ready every moment to meet any contingency of an external aggression by building up the defence forces. There is no war every time. But we are still maintaining very effective defence forces and keeping them alert. In fact, we spend nearly Rs. 2500 crores annually. What for we do it? It is for the security of the country. Sometimes, wars may come with notice and sometimes they may come even without notice. We cannot get prepared at that moment. Natural calamities are such that they may come ordinarily without notice. An accident comes accidentally. It does not give any notice. But human beings

have got that intelligence, that sense of imagination and anticipation. If we are deprived of it, we do not deserve, we cannot claim to be called as servants of society. Whether it is this Government or that Government, whether it is this party or that party, there is no difference. What is the use of satellites, their warnings, meteorological department, an army of personnel? What for all this show? What for is this great mass of civil servants? When people die, thousands of them die—who die? It is the poor people who die, not the rich, not the urbanites, not we sitting here—our conscience is not moved. If a worker is injured in a factory he is compensated. If a person dies in an aircraft his family is compensated. If somebody dies in a train crash, he is compensated. But when these poor people die like ants we do not even shed a tear for them. Where is the question of North and South? All this is an irresponsible talk. The globe is only one as far as humanity is concerned. It is the official report that 7878 people have died in Andhra Pradesh only. How many have died in Tamil Nadu? Mr. Lakshmanan should not claim a competition. He should not say that so many thousands have died.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: On a point of information.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: I am not finding fault with you. Let us not make this House the Assembly of Tamil Nadu. Let us rise to the occasion. It is a serious matter (*Interruptions*) It is a serious matter, Mr. Lakshmanan. It is not the question of Mr. Karunanidhi or Mr. MGR or Mr. Vengal Rao, what these few individuals could do.

SHRI G. LAKSHMANAN: Sir, I am sorry for the interruption, but from 12th to 24th they have not been able to give figures, that is what I wanted to say.

SHRI V. B. RAJU: You have

said that. I too could have said that. That is not the question. It is not the question of finding a scape-goat, or to take advantage of making a point here or to take advantage of politics here. It is not politics, it is nothing, it is not regionalism, it is a human question. The poor people who have lost their lives in this calamity, let that loss of life at least provoke us to think from a long-range point of view. I am not finding fault with the senior Ministers, they may be having their busy time. But in fact, I am surprised, the Government itself should have initiated a discussion on this. It is not the question of our asking for it. Where is the question of some people asking for a discussion, for a short-duration discussion? Is it a question for discussion? Don't we have a platform to make speeches? Is it only this place? Now with what seriousness we are looking at this question is the point. Sir, so many people have died in this country. I think the rate of death is much more now. And we should not feel helpless. I would like to make a positive point. This point I have already made on the floor of this House when there was devastation due to drought. The question is of immediate relief, not the speeches and not the platitudes. And the relief cannot immediately reach the sufferers by merely debating here how many crores have to be given. After all, the Finance Minister does not give money from his pocket. It is not the question of giving money by the Centre to the States or by the States to the Centre. There is no question of bargaining here. Whatever amount of money is required for actually saving human beings from misery has to be given, there is no question about it. How many hundreds of crores of rupees worth of crops have been damaged? That belt is actually the granary of India. Now food prices may go up. The dead are dead, but the living are to undergo misery. That is the whole trouble now. The cyclone for full one week created a havoc. Thousands of people died, but the thousands that

[Shri V. B. Raju]

have been left behind will have to undergo the misery of ill-health.

Not only human lives were lost but cattle, reptiles, insects. Now they pollute the whole atmosphere. Then where are the villages? They have been washed off. I was reading the other day—in fact I should not bring in personal factors here—the place to which I belong is under devastation. I can easily imagine, in Guntur town in a tank, out of poverty, the poor people put up their huts. It is a slum. It is a low lying area. The water collected there. They were simply buried under water. It is the poor people who suffer. Should we not open our eyes to this? Now it actually brings us to the point that we have to have basically a review of our policies. So without taking the time of the House at this late hour, I would only submit what I said earlier. There must be a permanent organisation, what I call a National Calamities Relief Agency. Whether it might be fire, whether it might be floods, whether it might be drought, whether it might be cyclone, whatever it might be, there must be a permanent organisation just akin to the defence organisation of the country. It is a defence activity against nature's aggression. And this should be done by an Act of Parliament. It should have the power and authority to requisition any service at any moment. And, by taking the permission of the President, it must be capable of declaring a certain area as an emergent area, an emergency area, and requisitioning the services there—whether they are medical services or communication services or civil supplies services. Because you have already amended the Constitution also, you can declare any part as emergency area. Emergency area should not be only for political purposes or for defence purposes. What more emergent situation than this can develop anywhere? In your living memory, have you ever noticed such

a thing having happened? So, Sir, there must be a permanent contribution to the fund of that agency. You can levy any cess, may be relief cess, for the purpose. A hundred crores of rupees must be available to that fund, contributed annually. Sir, it is not a post-event action that I am trying to suggest. It is the pre-event action. We must be ready to immediately switch on to it. When Rome was burning, Nero was fiddling. We were all fiddling here. When the Meteorological Department and the satellite warnings were there, did we raise our voice? Did the Parliament take note of it? Did the Parliament ask whether the people have been evacuated from the Andhra coast? Did the Members of Parliament, including myself, say this? There was nobody to alert us about the seriousness of it. There was no spur. In fact, it appears to me from my experience of life that unless there is a spur, we do not actually go to action. Who will do it? Therefore, this is very urgent. I would be very happy if the present Government would bring in such a legislation before this House even before we adjourn. At least in memory of the souls that have passed away and taking precautions for the future, we should do such a thing—set up this agency.

Sir, this is a national calamity. It is not a calamity of Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu. It is a national calamity. And the nation has to take the responsibility for mitigating the misery. And we are ready. The Parliament is ready to cooperate with the Government. Opposition is ready to cooperate with the Government for any such measures that it would like to take. In fact, I would like, lastly taking a second, the setting up of this organisation immediately. It is not money. Now we have surplus foodgrains lying in the godowns. Fortunately, we are not short of foodgrains. Foodgrains can be rushed. Material, clothing, particularly winter clothing, have to be rushed. And then the most important is that drugs and medical personnel should be

rushed. But what will happen? I am also going there day after tomorrow. Our party is also sending a team. What do we do? We merely make statements. We can only alert you. Nothing more than that. But what is it you are doing? You are giving money to the State Government. The State Government will give money to the Collector. The Collector will give it to the Tehsildar. That is all what happens. No, I am not satisfied with this. I am not criticizing. I am not on a critical approach now. Let the Cabinet think positively. It will go to the credit of the Central Government if they step in there with an organisation. Organisation is more important. It is not merely material and money. Material and money can be made available from within the country. It can be made available from outside. It is not impossible. But where is the organisation? It is there where we are actually faced with the problem and I sincerely hope that the Government will give its attention. Thank you sir.

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह) : श्रीमन्, दक्षिण भारत के चार राज्यों में जो समुद्री तूफान के रूप में विपत्ति आई है, उसको कम आंकने या उसकी तरफ ध्यान न देने का कोई विचार नहीं है। हम लोग पूरी तरह से जागरूक हैं। हम इसको राष्ट्रीय विपत्ति समझते हैं और राष्ट्रीय विपत्ति के रूप में इसका सामना करना चाहते हैं। जहां हम से कहा जाता है कि इसको राष्ट्रीय संकट के रूप में लिया जाये और हम ले भी रहे हैं, वहां यह सुनकर बड़ा दुख होता है कि कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने इसको उत्तर और दक्षिण की बात या इस पार्टी और उस पार्टी की बात बनाने की कोशिश की। श्रीमन्, ऐसे राष्ट्रीय संकट के समय पार्टियों की बात करना, उत्तर दक्षिण की बात करना मैं गुनाह समझता हूं। आज हमको एक हो करके ऐसी भाषा का प्रयोग करना चाहिए, ऐसा व्यवहार करना चाहिए जिससे सारी दुनिया के लोगों को लगे कि

भारतवासी एक ही है। मैं आपको विश्वास दिलाता हूं कि हमारी सरकार पूर्णतया इस संकट को इसी दृष्टि से देख रही है। कोई भेद-भाव का प्रश्न नहीं है। मैं तो इन आक्षेपों का उत्तर भी नहीं देना चाहता था, जो इस सरकार पर लगाये गये हैं। केवल कुछ स्पष्टीकरण उपस्थित करना आवश्यक समझता हूं।

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Excuse me. The Defence Minister is asking his Janata Party M.P.s not to go to the area of calamity. Then how can he say that every one is doing it as a party affair?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): Let him answer. He has just started. Please have some patience.

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : श्रीमन्, किसी को रूकावट तो जाने की है नहीं। मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि जहां तक मेरी जानकारी है, चार मंत्री वहां हो आये हैं : कृषि मंत्री हमारे जो सहयोगी हैं, वे वहां अभी मौजूद हैं। इस तरह यह कहना कि केन्द्रीय सरकार ने कोई ध्यान नहीं दिया, केन्द्रीय सरकार की पीड़ितों से कोई महानुभूति नहीं है, यह मैं कहता हूं कि दुख की बात है। जहां कोई दोष नहीं है, जहां हर प्रकार से तत्परता दिखाई गई है, वहां दोष निकालने की कोशिश की जा रही है, वहां वातावरण को दूषित करने की कोशिश की जा रही है, वहां इससे राजनैतिक लाभ उठाने की कोशिश की जा रही है। इस पर मैं आपत्ति प्रकट करता हूं। श्रीमन् यहां कहा गया कि केन्द्रीय सरकार क्यों नहीं वहां पहुंचकर अधिकारों को अपने हाथ में ले लेती। कुछ माननीय सदस्यों ने यहां तक कहा कि वहां का सारा प्रबन्ध फौज के सुपुर्दे क्यों नहीं कर दिया जाता ? हो सकता है कि हम इस पर भी विचार करें। लेकिन इस देश का एक संविधान है, उस संविधान में कर्त्तव्य और अधिकार भी लिखे हुए हैं। यह बात दूसरी है कि आज की इस विपत्ति को देखकर हम लोग इस पर विचार करें कि

[श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह]

क्या ऐसे राष्ट्रीय संकट के समय कोई नई व्यवस्था सोची जा सकती है। लेकिन आज जो संवैधानिक स्थिति है उसके अनुसार राज्य सरकार ही वहां हर प्रकार से स्थानीय और तत्काल सहायता देने के लिये जिम्मेदार है। केन्द्रीय सरकार का कर्तव्य इतना है कि उनको हर प्रकार की सहायता दे।

श्रीमन् सबमे पहले तो मैं यह स्पष्टीकरण करना चाहता हूँ कि मॅटरलाजीकल डिपार्टमेंट की तरफ से कोई त्रुटि नहीं हुई है। मॅटरलाजीकल डिपार्टमेंट अपने देश का काफी सक्षम है। हमारे पास न केवल एक बड़ा सैटेलाइट है, जो हर 9 घंटे पर तस्वीरें भेजता है, बल्कि हमारे पास राडार भी है। इस बार उसका उपयोग भी हुआ है। 48 घंटे पहले सूचना दी गई और 17 नवम्बर, और 19 नवम्बर के बीच में आल इंडिया रेडियो से समाचार ब्राडकास्ट हुए हैं कि भयंकर तूफान आ रहा है। मैं यह नहीं कहता कि यह फोरकास्टिंग इम्पूव नहीं हो सकती। आज के आधुनिक युग में उन्नति तो सम्भव है और होगी। उस दिशा में भी हम लोग सोच रहे हैं लेकिन मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि उस 24 घंटे का जिसकी सूचना दे दी गई उसका ही प्रयोग नहीं किया गया तो आठ-दस घंटे पहले अगर सूचना मिल गई होती तो क्या हो जाता। हमारे पास एक प्लान होता तो सम्भव है और आठ दस घंटे पहले सूचना दे सकते थे लेकिन प्रश्न उठता है कि जब हमने 48 घंटे पहले का प्रयोग नहीं किया तो उस 56 घंटे का क्या प्रयोग करते। आज अगर फेलयर है तो वह मॅटरलाजीकल डिपार्टमेंट का नहीं है, अगर फेलयर है तो हमारी एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का है और उसकी जजमेंट की फेलयर है। मैं तो इस मूड में नहीं था कि आरोप लगाऊं लेकिन मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ और सदन के सामने कुछ तथ्य रखना चाहता हूँ। हमारी तरफ से जब आन्ध्र प्रदेश के चीफ सेक्रेटरी

को कहा गया कि इस तरह का भयंकर तूफान आने वाला है तो उनकी तरफ से उत्तर मिला कि हमें कोई खतरा नहीं है यह ऐसे ही टल जाएगा, कोई घटना घटने वाली नहीं है। श्रीमन् बार-बार मॅटरलाजीकल डिपार्टमेंट बार्निंग दे रहा है, हमारी तरफ से उनको टेलिफोन किया जा रहा है लेकिन वहां जो सरकार है उनके चीफ सेक्रेटरी कहते हैं कि कोई घटना घटने वाली नहीं है। तो यह फेलयर जो कुछ भी है, स्थानीय एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का है। मैं यह तो नहीं कहता कि जितने लोग मरे हैं, दस हजार या पन्द्रह हजार, मैं संख्या में नहीं जाना चाहता, लेकिन इसमें कोई सदेह नहीं है कि अगर 10,000 भी मरे हैं तो बहुत बड़ी संख्या है और बड़े दुःख की बात है लेकिन प्रश्न उठता है कि क्या यह जानें बचाई जा सकती थी। मैं इस बात से इन्कार नहीं करता कि यदि इसके लिए पहले ही सक्षम और ठोस प्रबन्ध किया जाता, पहले से ही पूरी तैयारी की जाती तो जानें बचाई जा सकती थी। मैं आरोप नहीं लगाता हूँ। सम्भव है ऐसी विपत्ति जैसा कि कहा गया है 130 वर्ष पहले आई थी लोग इसके आदी नहीं हैं लेकिन यह मानता हूँ कि अगर व्यवस्था ठीक हो तो काफी जानें बचाई जा सकती थी। उदाहरण के लिए इसमें जितनी जानें गई हैं उसमें मुख्य रूप से कारण यह रहा कि समुद्र की लहरें बहुत ऊंची उठी और वह तट से अन्दर घुस गई उनकी ऊंचाई 15 से 18 फुट तक थी उसके सामने जो कुछ भी आया वह सब धराशायी होता चला गया। इसमें अगर 18 फुट तक ऊंची लहरें जा सकती हैं तो क्या यह सम्भव नहीं था कि 20-25 फुट ऊंचाई पर शैल्टर बनाया जा सकता था। आपको मालूम ही है कि उत्तर प्रदेश में इसी प्रकार के ऊंचे शैल्टर बनाए गए हैं जहां पर लोग बाढ़ जब आती है तो शरण ले सकते हैं। इस प्रकार की व्यवस्था हो सकती थी। इसमें सन्देह नहीं कि केन्द्र सरकार, राज्य सरकार, सभी को मिल कर विचार करना चाहिए कि ऐसी विपत्ति हर साल क्यों आती है चाहे ज्यादा

आए या कम । हमने पूछा तो मेटेरोलोजिकल डिपार्टमेंट ने बताया कि यह तो प्रतिवर्ष की घटना है । इस साल बहाने विकराल रूप में हुई लेकिन यह घटना हर साल पूर्वी तट पर घटती है । तो हमें तैयारी करनी चाहिए । यदि सम्भव हो तो वहां पर शेल्टर बनाने चाहिए । अगर वहां पर नहीं बन सकते तो इवैक्युएशन के लिए लोगों को ट्रेनिंग दी जानी चाहिए कि किस गांव से कैसे जाना है और विपत्ति की स्थिति में कहां जाना चाहिए । मैं समझता हूं कि लोगों को यह बताना चाहिए कि 24 घंटे के अन्दर या 48 घंटे के अन्दर ऐसी विपत्ति आने वाली है उसका किस प्रकार सामना करना चाहिए लेकिन मेटेरोलोजिकल डिपार्टमेंट का कोई दोष नहीं है । अगर दोष है तो एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन का है और ओरगेनाइजेशन साइड से है । मैं इसी प्रकार से कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारी जो आर्ड्स फारसेज हैं, उनका दोष नहीं है । उनको यहां से आदेश है कि ऐसे अवसरों पर वह राज्य सरकारों के आदेशों का पालन करें । उनको जो भी जिम्मेदारी दी गयी उसको उन्होंने बड़ी निपुणता से, तत्परता से निभाया इसमें कहने में संदेह नहीं है ।

SHRI JANARDHANA REDDY: Sir, I would like to have some clarification because he was talking of the Meteorological Department and was throwing the blame on the State Government that they had not taken adequate measures.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): Let him finish. Later on you can ask some question if something remains unreplied. That would be better.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Sir, I did not deal with.... (Interruption).

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): You had your say. You can ask questions later on..... (Interruptions). What for some time.

श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह : श्रीमन्, मैं दूसरी बात कहना चाहता हूं कि आंध्र प्रदेश के राज्य सरकार ने फौज से जैसा काम लेना चाहिए वैसा काम ही नहीं लिया । उन्हें पता नहीं किसने मश्विरा दिया कि ऐसे अवसरों पर फौज करामात नहीं हो सकती है परन्तु यह तो उनको आदेश देकर देखना चाहिए था । उन्होंने अपने मन में ही यह नतीजा निकाल लिया कि हमारी फौज काम नहीं दे सकेगी और उसको उन्होंने कुछ आदेश नहीं दिया ।

श्रीमन्, एक बात मैं और स्पष्ट कर देना चाहता हूं और वह यह है कि इस राष्ट्रीय संकट के समय भारत सरकार उन सारी प्रक्रिया और प्रोसीजरस जो ऐसे अवसर के लिए निश्चित हैं, उनको ध्यान में न रखकर सीधे जो भी सहायता है वह पहुंचाने की कोशिश कर रही है । मैं इसको इसलिए बताता हूं कि यह एक प्रक्रिया है । प्रक्रिया ऐसी है कि कोई संकट आने पर यहां से एक सेंट्रल टीम जाती है और राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों के साथ वहां देखती है और फिर बैठकर एक योजना बनाती है फिर दोनों की राय से जो रिक्मेंडेशन होती है वे यहां आती हैं, उसकी स्वीकृति होती है, उसमें धन की भी स्वीकृति होती है, कभी कभी ग्रेज्युटी, रिलीफ, अनाज की भी स्वीकृति होती है । इस अवसर पर सरकार ने प्रोसीजर को अलग रख दिया और जब जैसी आवश्यकता पड़े वैसी ही हमने सहायता करने की कोशिश की है । रुपये की जरूरत हुई तो रुपया दिया, अनाज की जरूरत हुई तो अनाज दिया और जब उस अनाज को खरीद सकने के लिये रुपये की कमी बतायी गयी तो फिर उसके लिये भी कहा गया कि अभी हम नहीं कहते आप तत्काल रुपया दीजिए, इसको हम बाद में देख लेंगे, इस वक़्त तो काम चलाना है । तो इस प्रकार से कोई भी हम लोगों ने ऐसा रवैया नहीं अपनाया है कि जिससे कानून के

[श्री भानु प्रताप सिंह]

पीछे मानवीय मूल्यों को भुला दिया जाय । अब रही यह बात कि क्या राज्य सरकारें या भारत सरकार भी ऐसी विपत्ति के लिए पूरी तौर से सक्षम है, क्या उसके पास साधन हैं? तो मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि इसको केवल सरकारों का ही विषय न बनाकर इस देश के 62 करोड़ लोगों का विषय बनाना है । यह राष्ट्रीय समस्या है, हमको बाहर के भी जितने संगठन हैं और साधारण जनता की भी सहायता लेनी है, केवल इसलिए नहीं कि कुछ धन मिलेगा बल्कि इसलिए भी कि सारा देश यह महसूस करे कि हम एक हैं, हमारे एक अंग पर यदि कोई आघात हुआ है तो दूसरे अंग के लोग भी उसकी सहायता करने के लिए तैयार हैं । श्रीमन् इस संबंध में मैं यह बताना चाहता हूं कि न केवल इस देश के बल्कि सारे संसार के लोगों की सहानुभूति हमारे साथ है । प्रेजिडेंट कार्टर, प्राईम मिनिस्टर कैलाहन और फ्रांस के सभी लोगों ने सहानुभूति व्यक्त की है और सहायता करने के लिए आगे आये हैं । इस प्रकार का एक संगठन यहां प्रस्तावित किया गया और मैं मानता हूं कि वह विचार करने योग्य है । वह प्रस्ताव यह है कि नेशनल डिस्टास्टर रिलीफ आर्गनाइजेशन बनाना चाहिए और ऐसी मुसीबत आने पर वह सारी मशीनरी अपने आप मोशन में हो जाय, ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए । इस पर विचार किया जाना चाहिए और विचार किया जायगा मुझ आशा है । इसी प्रकार की एक संस्था या संगठन पहले से बना हुआ है, जो इंटरनेशनल संगठन है यूनाइटेड नेशन्स का—यूनाइटेड नेशन्स डिजस्टर रिलीफ आर्गनाइजेशन । उन लोगों ने तार द्वारा सूचित किया है कि हमारी सारी सहानुभूति आप के साथ है और आप बताएं कि किस प्रकार की सहायता आप को चाहिए । इस प्रकार की सहायता के लिए तैयार हैं । इस तार के मिलने के बाद एक तो यह जानने के लिए कि आज हमको किस

बात की आवश्यकता है और दूसरे, कोऑर्डिनेशन के लिए जो विभिन्न विभाग हैं अपने-महान, केन्द्रीय सरकार के, उनमें एक कोऑर्डिनेशन, एक सामंजस्य आए, इसलिए बुलायी गई थी कृषि मंत्रालय की ओर से और उसमें विभिन्न विभागों के सचिवों ने भाग लिया और उसमें हमने एक-एक आइटम लेकर देखा कि हमें किस-किस चीज की जरूरत है, किस चीज के लिए हमको विदेशों से कहने की आवश्यकता है । श्रीमन्, मुझे इस बात की खुशी है कि उस मीटिंग के बाद हम इस नतीजे पर पहुंचे हैं कि अभी, तत्काल—मैं यह नहीं कहता आगे भी नहीं आवश्यकता पड़ेगी, जैसी भी आवश्यकता पड़ेगी उसको देखेंगे—लेकिन आज तत्काल हम को विदेशी सहायता लेने की आवश्यकता प्रतीत नहीं होती है । हम उनको हृदय से धन्यवाद दे रहे हैं कि उन्होंने इस प्रकार की सहायता करने के लिए पहल-कदमी किया । लेकिन आज न देश में अन्न की कमी है, न दवाओं की कमी है, न डाक्टरों की कमी है । अनाज जितना चाहिए उपलब्ध है, आंध्र प्रदेश हमारा सर्पलस स्टेट है । लेकिन अगर उसकी कमी महसूस हो तो वह भी पूरी की जा सकती है । दवाओं के बारे में मैंने बार-बार पूछा । उन्होंने कहा करोड़ों लोगों को सुई लगाने के लिए हमारे पास डाक्टर हैं, दवाएं हैं, फिर भी सभी दवाएं हवाई जहाज से भेजी गई हैं, ट्रक से भेजी गई हैं । जो कुछ मांग हुई है वह यहां से तत्काल रवाना हो गए हैं । अभी एक टीम भेजी गई है कालरा की रोकथाम के वास्ते इंतजाम करने के लिए । वैसे तो और भी टीम भेजी गई हैं, लेकिन एक नया तरीका निकला है जिसे जेट इन्जेक्शन कहते हैं, जो एक घंटे के अन्दर एक हजार लोगों को टीका लगा देती है, वह टीम भी यहां से भेजी गई है । बहुत सी संस्थाएं पहले से ही वहां पहुंच चुकी हैं, यूनीसेफ है, "कैयर" है और वे बच्चों की और तरह तरह की सामग्री लेकर वहां पहुंचे हुए हैं । हमने यहां मंत्रालय में एक सेल कायम कर

दिया है, वह हमेशा वहां से सम्पर्क स्थापित किए हुए है। पिछले कुछ हफ्तों से, आप समझिए, कि निरंतर चार-पांच घंटों उनसे बात होती है और जो कुछ भी उनकी आवश्यकता होती है पूरी की जाती है। मैं आज बिना किसी संकोच से कह सकता हूं कि राज्य सरकारों ने अब तक जो भी मांग की है उसको केन्द्रीय सरकार ने पूरा किया है।

श्रीमन्, बहुत से प्रश्न उठाए गए कि वह अनुदान होगा या लोन होगा; रिजर्व बैंक आफ इंडिया क्या करेगा? इन सारी समस्याओं पर थोड़े समय बाद विचार हो सकता है। आज कोई काम रुकने नहीं पाएगा, इसका आश्वासन मैं दे सकता हूं। लेकिन उनका एडजस्टमेंट कैसे होगा इस तरह से इसको देखना भी नहीं चाहिए, जैसे कि केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई बाहर से आई हुए सरकार है और उससे कितना लिया जा सकता है? आखिर इसके भी साधन सीमित हैं और हम को पूरे एक राष्ट्रीय दृष्टिकोण से देखना है कि इस अवसर पर क्या कुछ किया जा सकता है? सेन्ट्रल टीम के बारे में तमिलनाडु सरकार ने स्वयं कहा था कि पहली दिसम्बर से पहले टीम न आए। लेकिन जब हमसे वहां के मुख्य मंत्री मिलने आए तो हम लोगों ने कहा नहीं, हम जरा वहां देख-सुन भी सकें। तो हम, अपने अनुरोध पर समझिये, वहां पहले जा रहे हैं; 27 तारीख को वहां जा रही है सेन्ट्रल टीम और आंध्र प्रदेश में भी दो टीमें जा रही हैं; वह 26 नवम्बर को जाएगी। जैसा मैं कह चुका हूं, हमारे मंत्री हो आए हैं, हमारे कृषि मंत्री गए हैं। इस प्रकार जो कुछ भी वहां की आवश्यकताएं हैं उनको सीमित साधनों के अन्दर पूरा करने के लिए प्रयास किया जाएगा। मैं अन्त में एक बार फिर माननीय सदस्यों से निवेदन करूंगा कि वे देश में ऐसा वातावरण बनायें कि इस को राष्ट्रीय विपत्ति के रूप में लिया जाए। इस प्रकार की बातें कही जाती हैं, इस प्रकार के

भाषण कुछ लोगों ने किये, सभी ने तो नहीं, कुछ ने तो बहुत ऊंचे उठकर भाषण किये हैं, लेकिन कुछ माननीय सदस्यों के भाषण जिस प्रकार के थे, वे उस प्रकार के नहीं होने चाहिए थे आखिर राजनीति सबसे मूल्यवान चीज नहीं है। राजनीति से भी ऊपर कुछ चीजें हैं। हम ऐसे दैवी संकट के समय भी, ऐसे अवसरों से भी अपना राजनीतिक लाभ निचोड़ने की कोशिश करें, ऐसा नहीं होना चाहिये। श्रीमन्, इस देश के लोगों ने हमेशा विपत्ति के समय एक अच्छे चरित्र का प्रदर्शन किया है। सदैव जब कभी मुसीबत आयी, साधारण समय के लिये तो मैं यह सर्टिफिकेट इस देश के लोगों को नहीं दे सकता, लेकिन जब जब कोई राजनीतिक संकट आया है तो इस देश के लोगों ने एक बहुत ऊंचे चरित्र का परिचय दिया है। मुझे पूरी आशा है कि हमारे माननीय सदस्य-गण अगर एक अच्छा उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करेंगे तो उस से इस देश में एक अच्छा वातावरण बनेगा और मुझे पूरा भरोसा है, जैसा कि मैंने कहा, हम इस देश के साधनों से ही इस देश की समस्याओं को निपटा सकते हैं। इतनी हममें क्षमता है। लेकिन मैं यह भी कहना चाहता हूं कि यह कोई सम्मान या प्रेस्टीज का इश्यू नहीं है। जिस समय हम समझेंगे कि हम को विदेशी सहायता लेने की आवश्यकता है, हम उसे लेने में संकोच नहीं करेंगे। लेकिन आज तो ऐसी कोई आवश्यकता दिखाई नहीं देती है। धन्यवाद।

MESSAGE FROM THE LOK SABHA

The Salaries and Allowances of Ministers (Amendment) Bill, 1977

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Sir, I have to report to the House the following message received from the Lok Sabha signed by the Secretary of the Lok Sabha:

"In accordance with the provisions of Rule 96 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business