RAJYA SABHA

dnesday, the 9th March, 2005/18 Phalguna, 1926 (Saka)

The House met at eleven of the clock.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Damages caused by Tsunami

SHRIMATI SARLA MAHESHWARI:†

PROF. M.M. AGARWAL.

the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

the extent of damages caused by Tsunami in India; (i) the loss of Jentified; (ii) the number of people remaining untraced; (iii) the numbouses destroyed; (iv) the estimated value of loss of properties with wise back-up;

the total amount of relief funds collected; and

the details of rehabilitation of the affected people done?

HE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V PATIL): (a) to Istatement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

-) The details are given in Statement-I (see below)
-) The financial assistance in the wake of natural calamities is exed from the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and the National Calamity ngency Fund (NCCF) to the States and from Plan funds to the Union pries. Funds for relief have been received into the Prime Ministers nal Relief Fund

al notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The relief material in kind was also donated by a number of States as also by the private/public sectors. The individuals and NGOs have also directly provided relief material to the Tsunami affected States/UTs.

(c) The Government of India, considering the fact that most of the people affected by the Tsunami disaster belong to weaker sections of the society and the fishermen community in particular were worst hit, approved a special package of Rs. 3644.05 crore named as "Rajiv Gandhi Rehabilitation Package for Tsunami affected areas" to provide assistance for immediate relief and response, revival of fishery and agriculture sectors, immediate construction of temporary (intermediate) shelters and repair/restoration of infrastructure. The package for Tamil Nadu is Rs. 2347.19 crore, Andhra Pradesh-Rs 70.00 crore, Kerala-249.36 crore. Details of the relief package are given in Statement-II (see below).

A Core Group under the Planning Commission has also been constituted to plan and make provisions for long term rehabilitation, reconstruction including that of infrastructure and providing multi hazard proof permanent houses.

Statement-I

Loss of lives and damage to properties due to Tsunamis of 26th.

December 2004

| Items | Andhra Pradesh | Keraia | Tamil Nad u | Pondicherry | Andaman & Nicobar | Total |
|--|-------------------|---------|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|----------|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Human lives lost | 105 | 171 | 8009 | 593 | 1395 | 10273 |
| Number of persons said to be missing | 11 | Nil | N | 48 | 576 4 | 5823 |
| Number of Dwelling units Damaged | 481 | 17382 | 190000 | 10061 | 21100 | 239024 |
| Estimated loss in monetary terms including damage to properties (Rs. in crore) | 342.67 | 2371.02 | 4528 66 | 4 66.00 | 3836.56 | 11544.91 |

RAJYA SABHA

Statement II Relief Package for the Tsunami affected States/Union Territories

A. Main land (Rs. in crore) States From Other Fishing Sector Fishing Housing Total CRF/ Ministries Harbour NCCF grant Subsidy Loan 1 2 3 6 7 8 Andhra Pradesh 19.53 13.00 27.66 7.51 2.30 70.00 Kerala 23.21 34.13 13.07 84.10 44.85 50.00 249.36 Tamil Nadu 617.20 62.50 441.08 566.47 9.94 650.00 2347.19 Sub Total 720.83 98.71 513.59 608.11 23.01 702.30 2666.55 **Pondicherry** 39.78 2.5 32.01 31.13 0.20 50.00 155.62 **Grand Total** 760.61 101.21 545.60 639.24 23.21 752.30 2822.17

Note: Includes additional, Rs. 91.13 crore has been approved under fishery sector. (Rs. 84.54 crore—Tamil Nadu, Rs. 3.42 crore—Kerala, Rs. 1.01 crore to Andhra Pradesh and Rs. 2.16 crore to Pondicherry

CRF = Calamity Relief Fund NCCF = National Calamity Contingency Fund

B. Andaman and Nicobar Islands:

(Rs. in crore)

| | Assistance covered | Amount | Remarks |
|-------|---|-------------|---|
| (A) | Assistance as per CRF/NCCF norms | 313.19 | This includes 15.37 crore from ARWSP out of the budget of Department of Drinking Water Supply |
| (B) | Assistance covered under- norms with relaxation of scale | 215.65 | This includes 7,500 MT foodgrains (rice) under SGRY, valued at Rs. 7,50 crore |
| 1 | Assistance covered under norms with a special package | | |
| (i) | Revival of economic activity | | |
| (a) | Fishermen | 15.01 | |
| (b) | Agriculture | 239.54 | |
| (ii) | Rehabilitation of orphans, widows disabled, unmarried girls | 8.60 | |
| (iii) | Immediate restoration of administra and infrastructure activity | ation 29.89 | |
| | Grand Total | 821.88 | |

ARWSP — Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme SGRY — Sampooran Grameen Rozgar Yojana

C. TOTAL PACKAGE (A+B):

RS. 3644.05 crore

श्रीमती सरला माहेरवरी: माननीय उपसभापित महोदय, माननीय मंत्री जी ने, सुनामी के रूप में समुद्र ने जो प्रलयकारी रूप दिखाया और उसने जो तबाही और बर्बादी मचायी, उसका आख्यान अपने उत्तर में दिया है, लेकिन में समझती हूं और इस सदन के सभी लोग और स्वयं मंत्री जी भी इस बात को स्वीकारते होंगे कि उनके इस आख्यान में कई मौन और कई रिक्तियां हैं, Silences and gaps are there. इसलिए यह जो आख्यान दिया है, मैं समझती हूं कि इस आख्यान में अभी कई प्रश्न जुड़ने बाकी हैं। लेकिन मंत्री जी ने जिस बात को स्वीकार किया है, वह बात यह है कि इस भयंकर प्राकृतिक आपदा में जो समुदाय सबसे अधिक बुरी तरह प्रभावित हुआ, वह हमारे देश का मछुआरा समुदाय है और यह मछुआरा समुदाय हमारे समाज का बहुत ही गरीब और निरक्षर तबका है। हालांकि माननीय मंत्री जी ने अपने उत्तर में कहा है कि. ...(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: सवाल कीजिए।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: मैं सवाल ही कर रही हूं। वे पुनर्वास नीति बना रहे हैं, लेकिन किनके लिए बना रहे हैं? मेरा पहला सवाल यह है कि क्या माननीय मंत्री जी हमारे देश भर में जो तटीय इलाका है, इस तटीय इलाके के पास में रहने वाले मछुआरों के लिए कोई ऐसी समेकित नीति बनाने जा रहे हैं, जो उनको सुरक्षित वास स्थान दे सके और उनके सामग्रिक विकास में उनको मदद दे सके? मेरी पहली बात तो यह है। हालांकि आपने कोर ग्रुप का उल्लेख किया है, लेकिन उस कोर ग्रुप के क्या टर्म्स एंड कंडीशंस हैं, वह कब तक रिपोर्ट देगा, यह बताइए? मेरे प्रश्न संख्या 'ख' का आपने उत्तर नहीं दिया कि कितनी राहत सामग्री इकट्ठी की गई?

श्री शिवराज वी॰ पाटिल: श्रीमन्, जो प्रश्न पूछे गए थे, उनके उत्तर यहां पर दिए गए हैं और सफ्तीमेंटरी के रूप में जो दूसरे प्रश्न पूछे जाएंगे, उनका उत्तर भी हम देने का प्रयास करेंगे।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: लेकिन राहत सामग्री का ..(व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: ठीक है, रिप्लाई कर रहे हैं।

श्री शिवराज वी॰ पाटिल: ये जो समुद्री तट पर रहने वाले लोग हैं, उनके लिए सरकार क्या सोच रही है, क्या नीति बना रही है, इस प्रश्न के उत्तर में मैं यह बताना चाहूंगा कि समुद्र के तट पर, कोस्ट लाईन पर जो लोगों ने घर बनाया था और समुद्र की लहरों में जो घर बह गए हैं, उसके लिए जो कानून बनाया गया है, उस कानून को ध्यान में रख कर वे घर समुद्र के तट से कितने दूर होने चाहिए, उसका हम पूरा प्रयास करेंगे और जिन मछुआरों के घर बह गए हैं, उन मछुआरों को हम घर भी बना कर दे रहे हैं। उनके जो कैटेमेरान थे या लकड़ी के बने हुए बोट थे या दूसरे बोट थे, वे भी समुद्र में बह गए हैं और टूट गए हैं। इन लोगों को भी जिनके कैटेमेरान थे, लकड़ी के बोट थे, उन सारे लोगों को सरकार की ओर से हम लकड़ी के बोट, कैटेमेरान दे रहे हैं और दूसरे जो बोट्स हैं, जिनमें इंजन लगाया जाएगा, उसके लिए सरकार की तरफ से 50 प्रतिशत और बैंक की तरफ से 50 प्रतिशत दिया जा रहा है। इसके साथ-साथ उनके जो नेट्स हैं, उनको भी हम दे रहे हैं और आगे चल कर यह भी हम ध्यान में रख रहे हैं कि जब मछलियां पकड़ी जाएंगी तो उन्हें कोल्ड स्टोरेज में किस प्रकार से रखने का इंतजाम किया जाएगा और मछलियां बेचने के लिए उनको किस प्रकार से मदद करना है, वह किया जाएगा। मगर ये सारी चीजें उन इलाकों में होंगी जहां पर सुनामी का प्रभाव हुआ है। सारे तट के बारे में भी आगे चल कर ध्यान में लिया जा सकता है।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: उपसभापित महोदय, मैं माननीय मंत्री जी के उत्तर से संतुष्ट नहीं हूं, क्योंकि जब-जब आपदा आती है, तब-तब हम तात्कालिक रूप में कोई नीति अपनाते हैं। मैंने इसलिए कहा कि हम दीर्घकालिक नीति क्यों नहीं अपना रहे हैं? माननीय मंत्री जी ने जो उत्तर दिया उसमें बहुत-सी विसंगतियां भरी हुई हैं, जिनकी ओर मैं आपका और मंत्री जी का ध्यान आकर्षित करना चाहूंगी। पहली विसंगति तो यह है कि आप कह रहे हैं कि जिन-जिन मछुआरों के घर वह गए हैं, उनको हम दूसरा मकान बनाकर देंगे। सवाल यह है कि वस्तुस्थिति क्या है? वस्तुस्थिति यह है कि मछुआरे वहां पर झुग्गी-झोपड़ियों में रहते हैं। वे झुग्गी-झोपड़ियां सरकार द्वारा अधिकृत नहीं हैं और अधिकृत न होने के कारण मछुआरे यह प्रमाणित नहीं कर सकते कि उनके घर वहे। तो आप किस आधार पर, कैसे उनको घर देंगे। पहला सवाल तो यह है? इसीलिए मेरा सवाल यह है कि आप इनारे तटीय क्षेत्रों के लिए, मछुआरों के लिए एक दीर्घकालीन योजना बनाइए ताकि इस तरह की आपदा आए तो वे इस तरह की आपदा से इस तरह प्रभावित नहीं हों। इस सवाल का यह उत्तर होना चाहिए। अगर बीमारी कुछ है और इलाज कुछ करेंगे, तो बीमारी वैसी ही बनी रहेगी। (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: यह तो सुनामी के बारे में है। बाद में दूसरी (व्यवधान)

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: यह सुनामी से ही तो उठता हुआ सवाल है और मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह कि एक तो आपने अब तक राशि नहीं बताई। आपने जो राशि दी है, उसमें से आंध्र प्रदेश, केरल और तिमलनाडु के बारे में बताइए। पांडिचेरी को क्या राशि मिलेगी, अंडमान-निकोबार को क्या राशि मिलेगी उसके बारे में भी नहीं बताया। मेरा दूसरा सवाल यह है कि कोस्टल रेग्यूलेशन जोन प्लान (व्यवधान)

श्री उपसभापति: सप्लीमेंटरी के लिए बहुत ज्यादा रिक्वेस्ट हैं। आप डायरेक्ट क्वेश्चन पूछिए।

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी: उपसभापित महोदय, यह बहुत बड़ी त्रासदी है। हालांकि हम चेतावनी सिस्टम नहीं रखते थे, लेकिन सुनामी ने हमें चेताया है कि किस तरह हम प्राकृतिक आपदाओं का सामना करें। इसिलए मेरा जो दूसरा सवाल है कि कोस्टल रेग्यूलेशन जोन प्लान जिस पर कि बहुत ही गम्भीरता के साथ अमल करना चाहिए था, प्रभावी ढंग से अमल किया जाना चाहिए था, लेकिन उस पर कोई प्रभावी ढंग से अमल नहीं किया गया। तो कोस्टल रेग्यूलेशन जोन प्लान पर प्रभावी ढंग से अमल हो, उसके लिए आप क्या कदम उठाने जा रहे हैं?

श्री शिवराज वी॰ पाटिल: श्रीमन्, मैं इनकी बातों से पूरी तरह से सहमत हूं कि रेग्यूलेशन प्लान जो बनाया गया है वह इन सारी चीजों को ध्यान में रखकर ही बनाया गया था कि 500

मीटर की दूरी पर अगर घर बनाया जाये, तो ऐसी आपदा के समय, उसका असर वहां के कोस्ट पर भी नहीं होता है, उनके घर पर भी नहीं होता है। हम पूरी तरह से उस पर अमल करेंगे। आप भी कह रही हैं कि अमल करना चाहिए, हम भी कह रहे हैं कि अमल करना चाहिए। जहां तक कोस्ट का सवाल है, स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को इसके बारे में पूरी तरह से ताकीद दी गयी थी, फिर भी हम ताकीद देंगे। कितने पैसे जमा हुए, इसका जो सवाल है तो ये पैसे प्राइम मिनिस्टर फंड के अंदर आ रहे हैं और अभी वह काम चालू है। जो भी पैसा आ रहा है, उस पैसे का भी इंतजाम किया जाएगा कि किस प्रकार से उनका उपयोग करना चाहिए। पैसे आ रहे हैं तो इसका आंकड़ा एकदम देना मुश्किल है और लोग पैसे दे रहे हैं। दूसरी चीज यह है कि दूसरे कुछ लोगों ने पैसे अपने पास जमा किए, अपने ट्रस्ट में जमा किए और वह घर लोगों को देने के लिए करते हैं। उसके बारे में सरकार के पास प्लान है और उस प्लान के मुताबिक हम करेंगे। इसके सिवा भी अगर कुछ करना है और सम्माननीय सदस्य कुछ सुझाना चाहते हैं, तो उन्होंने जो बताया है उसको हम जरूर ध्यान में रखेंगे। हमको जितना ध्यान में आता है, उतना हम कर रहे हैं। उससे ज्यादा अगर हमको करना है, तो वह भी हम करेंगे।

श्री उपसभापति: प्रो॰ एम॰ एम॰ अग्रवाल।

प्रो॰ एम॰ एम॰ अग्रवाल: मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहूंगा कि जिस प्रकार अमेरिका, जापान, चीन, ब्रिटेन और विश्व के 26 राष्ट्र एक सतर्कता कमेटी, जो एक इंटरनेशनल आर्गेनाइजेशन है, उसके मैम्बर हैं, जो दो घण्टे पहले बता देती है कि इस प्रकार की सुनामी जैसी आपदा आने क्वाली है, तो क्या हमारा भारत भी उसका मैम्बर बनने की कोशिश कर रहा है या उस तरफ क्या कोई कदम उठाया है?

श्री शिवराज वी॰ पाटिल: सुनामी की आपदा ज्यादातर पैसिफिक ओशियन में आती रही है और यह जो क्लब बना है, वह उस पैसिफिक ओशियन के लिए बना हुआ क्लब है। मगर सरकार ने, अपनी सरकार ने यह निश्चय किया है कि हम इंडियन ओशियन में और इधर के जो समुद्र हैं, अरेबियन ओशियन, इंडियन ओशियन में जो कुछ भी हो रहा है, उसके संबंध में कुछ इन्फॉर्मेशन देने की जो जरूरत है, उसके लिए हम अपनी तरफ से बना रहे हैं और उसके लिए दूसरों से जितनी भी मदद लेना चाहते हैं, हम ले लेंगे। जिस प्रकार से ले सकते हैं, अपनी नीति के मुताबिक हम ले लेंगे और वह बनाएंगे। मगर यह चीज ध्यान में रखना जरूरी है कि यह जो सुनामी होती है, वह समुद्र में जो भूकम्प होता है, उसकी वजह से होती है और उसकी वजह से वहां पर भूकम्प होने के बाद, जो एनर्जी रिलीज होती है, वह एनर्जी समुद्र से बहती हुई कोस्ट तक आ जाती है और कोस्ट में आने के बाद बड़ी-बड़ी लहरें आती हैं और उनसे नुकसान होता है और उससे नुकसान होता है। इन सारी चीजों को देखते हुए भी हमें इस बात को ध्यान में रखना चाहिए कि इण्डोनेशिया, शायद उस क्लब का मैम्बर होने के बाद भी, वहां पर कुछ नहीं कर सका।

[9 March, 2005]

श्री उपसभापति: श्री एम॰ वेंकैया नायडु।

प्रो॰ एम॰ एम॰ अग्रवाल: सर, यह बात नहीं है।

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, वस हो गया आपका प्रश्न।

प्रो॰ एम॰ एम॰ अग्रवाल: सर, दूसरा प्रश्न।

श्री उपसभापति: नहीं, दूसरा नहीं, एक ही होता है आपका।

प्रो॰ एम॰ एम॰ अग्रवाल: सर, एक और बात पूछनी थी।

श्री उपसभापति: बाद में पूछिएगा। यह क्वैश्चन आवर है। श्री एम॰ वेंकैया नायडु।

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAID!J: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, whether it is a fact that the Central Government has announced a package for the fishermen in Tamil Nadu wherein it is said that the local Government will not be in the picture and the banks and others institutions, guided by the Central Government, will directly distribute the rehabilitation package to the affected people?

Whether it is also a fact that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister bringing this to his notice. If 'yes', what is the response of the Government of India and what is the present position?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the State Governments have been doing their best and they have been helping the people who are affected. The policy of the Government of India is to extend help to the people through the State Governments. It is not even possible for the State Government to go to the villages and help them. They do it through the Collector and the machinery in the district. So, we would like to take assistance from the State Government in extending help to the people and through them we will do it. But, then, there are some problems which have to be solved. As far as catamaran is concerned, we are giving them full subsidy so that the State Government would be in a position to distribute catamaran to the people who are affected. But, supposing, we are going to give them boats which carry engine and if 50 percent of the amount is given by the Union Government and the remaining 50 percent has to come from the banks, in such cases, we have said, the grant of the Union Government would go through banks. The State Government stand is that they have collected some money and they would like to extend 50 per cent grant or help to the affected people. We have said that in such a case it is the State Government through which we route our grant. And, when the State Government is not giving money and if banks are giving the money, then, the grant is routed through banks. If the State Government is also giving money, then the grant would be routed through the State Government.

SHRIV. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, Tsunami affected all the Southern States and also Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is a national disaster. The Central Government immediately took all measures and relief operations in the affected areas. I will be very brief. It is not only the Central Government but also the State Governments have done their best to help the affected people. But, the ground reality is, the people who have been affected...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Narayanasamy, please put your question.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Sir, this area is a Tsunami-prone area. The experts have also reported it. The people in this region are under fear and are psychologically affected. We have to give them counselling because they are not going for fishing. I would like to know what the Government of India is planning to do to dispel their fear, apart from the efforts from the State Government.

The second point is about housing. Now, we have to start this work in a massive way. The Government of India has worked out a scheme. According to which, a single room tenement would be given to them. Sir, the fishermen have to keep their fishing nets and other equipment in home and have also to live with their families. So, far, they have been living in spacious houses. The amount that has been sanctioned for each tenement is not going to help those people. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister that an amount of Rs. 2 lakhs has to be given for each house so that the people live very peacefully in those houses and the houses should be constructed in a safe area and it should be beyond the Coastal Regulation Zone.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: The policy which the Government of India, as well as the State Governments, following is to help them, to sustain themselves in the first instance. Then, we would like to construct temporary sets; temporary houses for them in which they will live until the time permanent houses are constructed. Permanent houses will be constructed by the State Governments, and they will be given to the people who are affected. The funds, which are required, will be given to the State Governments for this purpose.

As far as Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned, it is not with the State Governments, it is with the Union Government. Relief in the form of temporary sets, and permanent houses are being provided through the Union Government. All other things are being done through the State

ANALY SE

Governments. But, we would like to see that the help which was given in other parts of the country when other kinds of calamities affected those areas, will be the kind of help that will be given to these people also in providing them the temporary sets as well as the permanent sets. If one room tenement is not sufficient, we can give them two-room tenements. At other places even three-room tenements were given. We are looking into all those things. We will take the assistance from the experts in this area. We will consult the people. We will ask the State Government to consult the people and provide them the houses, which are comfortable. In fact, this is a calamity, and yet, we would like to use this as an opportunity and build villages in a planned manner. We want to build houses, which can last for years and can provide all the comforts. And I can assure the hon. Member that we have taken into consideration his concern, and we will do all that is necessary. We will consult him, and others also while providing permanent structures to the people.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, the Minister knows that Tamil Nadu is the worst affected State in India by Tsunami. Ten thousand people perished and property worth several hundreds of crores was damaged. However, the Central Government has turned down the relief offered by the international donors. But we are shocked to find the callous attitude of the Centre in providing relief to Tamil Nadu. The State Government has asked for assistance to the tune of Rs. 4,800 crores. But the total package fixed by the Centre to Tamil Nadu is only about Rs. 2,347 crores. Even that money is yet to be released to the State Government. Now, Tamil Nadu Government......

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: This is not a question. Please put your question. ...(Interruption)... I have a number of requests for putting supplementary questions.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Will the Government come forward to release the entire amount of Rs. 4,800 crores immediately so that relief efforts of the State Government will not be hampered?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, whatever is necessary will be done. But may I tell the hon. Member that even the State Governments are confident enough, they are strong enough, and they are saying that they will do all that is necessary and all the kind of help you can give, you should give. And we assure the House and the hon. Member that if it is necessary, that can be done. I don't think there is any paucity of funds with them, and they are not suffering because of paucity

of funds. If it is necessary, we can certainly do it. May I tell the august House here, as far as the assistance from the foreign countries is concerned, the multilateral assistance given by the financial institutions and others will be examined and, if it is necessary, it will be taken up. Whether bilateral assistance is required or not, I want to say that we are very confident that we will be able to manage this matter in a proper manner and we are doing it. But we are not doing that in arrogance. We are very, very thankful to the countries, which have offered their assistance, and we are saying that we are in a position to help ourselves, if we were not, we would accept it.

DR. K. KASTURIRANGAN: May I, through you, Sir, request the hon. Minister to tell us whether there have been any restrictions on the digital imageries that were acquired over the Tsunami affected areas? If so, is the Government thinking of looking at a relaxed regime for these kinds of special circumstances, day, of course, keeping the security aspects in view?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: I know the hon. Member is very well informed in this matter and whatever is necessary and possible, we will be doing. Generally, the imageries, which are obtained through the satellites, and all those things, are made available to be examined. They are magnified and they are examined also. And, while doing that, what he has suggested in the fag end of his question is also taken into consideration. But we would like to make use of the technology and the modern science to use it in the best possible manner, and we would be very happy to receive your advice and guidance on this matter.

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that the first communication with regard to Tsunami was sent to the resident of the former Science and Technology Minister at 8.54 a.m., instead of sending it to the present Home Minister and the present Science and Technology Minister. If so, what action has the Ministry taken with regard to the errant officials?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, one has to be very understanding and realistic in these matters. If the infrmation is not given, people say why the information was not given, and if the information is given and if it causes scare then also they complain. Now, we are not in the process of raising fingers against anybody as such. If something has happened, it has happened, but I don't think that it happened with any ill-will or bad intention. If any wrong is committed, we would like to penalise the officers or anyone else for that matter.

PROF. P.J. KURIAN: Sir, Tsunami tragedy was unprecedented. The Central Government and many State Governments rose to the occasion and acted promptly. But there are number of NGOs, other institutions and agencies which want to get involved in the rehabilitation activities. I would like to know what the policy of the Union Government is with regard to the NGOs, which are coming forward from within the country. I am not talking about those NGOs which are from outside the country. What is the policy of the Union Government in this regard? Is there any attempt on the part of the Government or any Union Territory to prevent some NGOs from getting involved into the rehabilitation activities? If so, will the hon. Minister inquire about it and take proper action?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, the policy of the Government of India and other Governments also is very clear. Whenever a calamity occurs, as all of you know, individuals, non-governmental organisations, public sector units, private sector units, State Governments and the Union Government do come forward and help the people who are affected. And, that is going to be our policy. As far as the assistance by the NGOs is concerned, I don't think there is any difficulty for any NGO to go to any part of our country and extend assistance to the people who need assistance or who should be given the assistance. This is happening on the mainland. On the Islands also this is happening, but as far as the Islands are concerned, there are many other things we have to keep in mind, but we would like to obtain assistance and help given by NGOs to the affected people all over the country.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, we should have a discussion on this ...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is expected because there are about 22 Members who have given their requests. If you give a notice, then, let us have a separate discussion on this ... (Interrutions)... Because already 25 minutes have been spent on the one question.

SHRI DATTA MEGHE: But, Sir, it is an important question.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I know that it is an important question. We can have a separate discussion on this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: My only request would be, you allow the Government to make a statement, and on that statement...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Anyhow, you have to make a statement on this. Now, next Question. Question No. 102.