

विदेश व्यापार मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (श्री ए० सी० जार्ज) : (क) किसी पार्टी को उधार पर माल की पूर्ति करने के सम्बन्ध में कोई विशेष नियम नहीं है।

(ख) 1969 में मै० कमानीज के दो एककों को उधार पर कुल 650 मी० टन जस्ते की सप्लाय की गई थी—मै० कमानी इंजीनियरिंग कारपोरेशन को 400 मी० टन और मै० कमानी मेटेलिक आक्साइड प्राइवेट लि०, बम्बई को 250 मी० टन। इन पार्टियों द्वारा कमाये गये लाभ के सम्बन्ध में सरकार को कोई जानकारी नहीं है।

†[THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) There are no specific rules for supplying goods on loan to any party.

(b) A total quantity of 650 tonnes of zinc was supplied on loan to two units of M/s Kamanis,—400 tonnes to M/s Kamani Engineering Corporation and 250 tonnes to M/s Kamani Metallic Oxide Private Limited, Bombay in 1969. Government has no information about the profits made by these parties.]

12 Noon

CALLING ATTENTION TO A MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY AND HEAVY DAMAGE TO STANDING CROPS IN KERALA DUE TO RECENT FLOODS

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD (Kerala) : Sir, I wish to call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the loss of life and property, and heavy damage to standing crops in the districts of Quilon, Alleppy, Kozhikode and Cannanore of Kerala due to recent floods and the assistance the Government of India propose to give in the matter.

[MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN in the Chair.]

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJNATH KUREEL) : Sir, the south west monsoon normally sets in Kerala by June 1. This year, the monsoon temporarily advanced into the State about a fortnight earlier causing wide spread heavy rainfall in the week ending May 17. The rainfall during this week was 35 cm which was 560 percent above the normal. In the earlier week ending May 10 also, there was heavy rainfall on May 5 and 6 and the weekly rainfall was 100 percent above normal.

Heavy rainfall accompanied by strong gale affected areas all over the State. The districts seriously affected were Quilon, Alleppy, Trichur, Kozhikode and Cannanore and the worst affected was Quilon. Landslides occurred dislocating road and rail traffic. Breaches occurred in the bunds in Kole lands in Trichur and Kuttanad areas. Bridges and roads were damaged and in some places washed away. About 10,000 houses 6000 in Quilon district alone—either collapsed or were damaged. There was extensive damage to paddy and other crops in Quilon district. 3100 hectares of crops were affected in Kottayam, Alleppy, Kozhikode and Mallapuram districts. 10 human lives in Quilon district and 8 in Kozhikode district were lost. 22 persons were injured. Large number of families—10,000 in Quilon district alone—were affected by floods. Fishing operations were severely affected. In Munro Island, husk kept for retting was washed away and consequently a large number of people were thrown out of employment.

The State Government have reported that detailed assessment of damage will be possible only after the flood waters recede and the situation returns to normal. After May 17, the monsoon has weakened in Kerala and the rainfall has been scanty since then.

Relief measures were undertaken by the State Government and affected people were evacuated and accommodated in school buildings. 15 Gruel centres were opened in Alleppy district and in other areas as necessary. Free rations for two weeks were granted to the affected people. Financial assistance of Rs. 250/- for fully damaged houses and at reduced rates for partially damaged houses has been provided by the State Government.

[Shri Baijnath Kureel]

Proposals for Central assistance for relief measures undertaken by the State Government are considered on specific request from the State Government supported by detailed report indicating the extent of damage, nature of relief measures undertaken or proposed and their cost. No request for such assistance has been received so far from the State Government of Kerala.

SHRI HAMID ALI SCHAMNAD : Sir, the south-west Monsoon generally begins in Kerala by the beginning of June and the heavy rain which has now brought about the calamity can be taken as a forerunner of the floods and the consequent damage. The districts of Quilon, Alleppey, Trichur, Kozhikode, Cannanore and Malappuram were the seriously affected districts in Kerala. Many were injured. About twenty persons died, according to the information received by me. It is reported, Sir, that about a lakh of houses have been either partly destroyed or were damaged completely. Roads have been washed away. Husk has been completely damaged. Standing crops have been completely damaged. In spite of the gravity of the situation, the reply given by the hon. Minister is that they have not yet given any relief so far. They have not even assessed the damage and what type of relief should be given—that also the Government of India have not decided. Will the Government of India give immediate relief and financial assistance to the Government of Kerala, considering the gravity of the situation?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : We are expecting to hear from the Government of Kerala about the assessment of the damage and the extent of relief they want. There is a rule governing such Central assistance. The Government of Kerala has to spend first Rs. 10 lakhs from their own funds, and in excess of this amount of Rs. 10 lakhs the Government of India can give assistance up to 75 per cent. There is a specific rule in an Award given by the Finance Commission in this connection. We are expecting to hear from the Government of Kerala. I had a talk with the Chief Minister this morning and I was told that they are sending their assessment. When it is received, it will naturally be considered in accordance with the rules on the subject.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Mr. Balachandra Menon.

SHRI BALACHANDRA MENON (Kerala) : Sir, about 8000 acres of paddy land have been affected by heavy floods and also about twenty people have died. Landslides have taken place, specially in areas like Trichur where the biggest damage has taken place. Quilon, Alleppey, Kazhikode, Cannanore and Pathanapuram are the main areas which have been affected. Trichur has also been affected and I learn that because of this it may not be possible even to grow the next crop unless the sands are removed. I would therefore, request that the Government of India, instead of waiting for an entire assessment of the Statement, should at least give an advance amount, because it may take time for the floods to recede and then for the assessment to be made. Much would already have been spent by the State Government. Now this is a necessity to grow the next crop by the peasants. I would, therefore, request that the Government of India, instead of waiting for an assessment from the State Government, and proceeding in a routine manner, should advance at least some amount so that the peasants can start cultivating their land immediately.

DR. K. L. RAO : I have just received a letter from the Government of Kerala about the assessment of the damage, which is Rs. 2 crores. They have given *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 1000 to the families of the deceased. Clearance of the land from sand has now started. The Government of Kerala has to spend a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs, the first portion. The matter will be fully considered in accordance with the rules.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Dr. Mathew Kurian.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN (Kerala) : The answer given by the hon. Minister is like a routine answer given to similar questions or calling attention motions in the past. Sir, we have been listening to the hon. Minister on flood control and on damages of this type on several occasions. I am surprised that he still continue the callous attitude to problems like this. The hon. Minister has said that over and above Rs. 10 lakhs which the State Government has to spend, the Central assistance will be to the extent of 75 per cent. in a certain manner decided by the Finance Commission. Sir, the Finance Commissions in the past have been an embodiments of conservative ideas of financing. In this context, to

rely on the old rules, I think, is not only conservatism at its worst but also not helping the people of Kerala who are affected by these floods.

I do not request the hon. Minister to consider the serious problem arising from houses completely damaged and a large number of houses partly damaged. The loss is also in terms of life, crops and other properties. So instead of looking only at the flood control expenditure allowed under the rules, the Government should be able to think in a bolder manner by ensuring that the houses, school buildings, which have been damaged should be reconstructed immediately with money available from other sources.

Some fishing boats were also lost. According to the information available with me I find that in Alleppey district alone the number of fishing boats washed away is 9 and the loss is Rs. 20,000. The money available under the Fourth Plan and various other resources available with the Central Government should be spent to make good the damage done to the fishing boats, schools, roads, standing crops and so on. All these damages should be corrected by giving money from the appropriate sources of the various departments rather than relying only on the money specifically earmarked for flood control. The Government pursues an old, traditional method of looking at the problem. I would request the hon. Minister to consider this as an urgent matter. Almost every year large damages occur to the people and standing crops in Kerala and everytime the same old answer is given. After the damage has been done the Government comes out at a later stage with paltry sums. This is not the way to approach the problem. I would request the hon. Minister to consider new ways of helping the people of Kerala. Otherwise there will be a serious problem created every year with no solution.

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, the hon. Member has put it very well but a request must come from the State Government about the amount to be given. At least there must be a request that this is the damage and this is the amount required and so on. Without that what can we do ? I would inform the hon. Member that we do not have this information at all.

There is one State which says that they have incurred damages of Rs. 40 crores. How can we give it away ? Therefore, I submit

that the State Government must send a letter at least and say this is the damage. As I have read out just now, there was a teleprinter message. The damage has been of Rs. 2 crores and they are giving a certain amount of money. And as soon as we get the letter necessary action will be taken. I do not follow the hon. Member exactly. Unfortunately I cannot but give the same answer because the same unfortunate things happen all over the country. We are just entering into the monsoon season. It was only heavy rainfall. But hereafter the rivers also will be in flood—in four or five months—and it will bring about a terrific condition. About these damages occurring what to submit to the hon. Members is, the Chief Minister is here and you can go and ask him to send a letter immediately,

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN (Kerala) : Sir, a sense of complacency is writ large in the hon. Minister's statement. I am not sure whether the Central Government by itself is responsible for that state of complacency. Particularly after hearing the hon. Minister's replies to supplementary clarifications asked, I find that the Kerala Government has not moved in the matter with the acceleration that is required of a State Government in that regard. It is true that a very large extent of damage has occurred in most of the districts in the State and I understand from material that has been given to me from out of reports of District Collectors received at the office of the Kerala Government here that at least an amount of Rs. 5 crores would be required for the purpose of meeting adequately the damages that have occurred on account of these recent floods. Sir, I am surprised that the Kerala Government has not moved in the matter so far in spite of the fact that a contingent of Ministers of the Kerala Government including the Chief Minister is camping now in Delhi for the NAC and the NDC meetings. A contingent of officers including the Chief Secretary is also here. May I, therefore, beg of the hon. Minister on behalf of the people of Kerala at least to take up the matter with the Ministers of the Kerala Government and discuss it here so that some financial assistance is given immediately ? May I also tell the Minister that the usual method of granting assistance by getting a report and then getting it verified by a team of Central Government Officers going to the State and touring the State and then coming back and submit a report—that

[Shri K. Chandrasekharan]

process, to a large extent, causes further procedural delay. In the matter of assessment of damage I do not think we need adopt it particularly in view of the Minister's statement now that it is just beginning and there is a large possibility of damage in other States as well on account of the monsoon. I would like to know from the Minister particularly in Kerala where this flood damage is great, particularly the State be in a coastal one, occurring on account of sea erosion, what steps are being taken in States like Kerala which has large sea coasts to prevent sea erosion? I would like to know what preventive and protective measures are being taken in States like Kerala for preventing the floods particularly on account of river waters?

DR. K. L. RAO : I am sure he has raised a lot of issues. The information we got from Kerala is that the total damage is of about Rs. 2 crores. We have to go by some standard. Either I must take the Member's figure of Rs. 5 crores or the Government's figure of Rs. 2 crores.

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA MENON (Kerala) : You can take the lower amount.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : I understand this is only a preliminary statement of the Government of Kerala. Mine is the latest information by telex message.

DR. K. L. RAO : I do not want to get into any contradiction because it is impossible for anybody to assess it. The rain is still falling. Anybody with practical knowledge of these areas knows that it is impossible to assess the damage. There are some crops which are ready and there are others which are being transplanted, there are bunds which are breached. Unless we take some time it will be difficult to say. The Kerala Government is one of the best Governments and I do not accept the Member's statement that it is not alert. Apart from this I submit that nothing is being held back. They are giving money to the distressed people. No relief is held back on account of money. I do not see why we should be panicky. After all this is only the beginning. We should not complain too much about the monsoon, otherwise it will go away. What is happening is only according to routine. The maximum rainfall has only been 10" and it has to be much more. We should not complain too much about every-

thing. On the other hand I would say that the damage has occurred because of the houses. We must see that the houses are proof against rainfall. Our house construction is very flimsy and we have to see that people get better houses which are able to stand up to 10" rainfall. If not now, 10" will occur by 17th June. So the practical way of looking at this is better housing should be there to stand against rainfall.

DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : When and how?

DR. K. L. RAO : That is the problem of the Members. If they say it should be done. There is not much in this particular problem. What happened in this particular case is it has come in a very concentrated manner in Quilon in a small area. That is how the problem is more acute. I am glad the Kerala Government is already taking steps and they are not handicapped for want of money. I got a further statement and I am sure the necessary steps will be taken. Assistance will be given according to particular rules on the subject.

SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHARAN : I asked about protective and preventive measures ; not a word about it has been said.

DR. K. L. RAO : Sea erosion ? Sea erosion has not yet started. Anyway I am glad to state that so far as erosion is concerned, after a lot of discussion the Government has now decided to offer assistance outside the State Plan to the Kerala Government in the next two years. We are sending a team for that purpose.

श्री जगदीश प्रसाद माथुर (राजस्थान) : बजट सेशन के अंतिम दिनों में हम केरल के फ्लड्स के बारे में चर्चा कर रहे हैं और जब अगला मानसून सेशन आयेगा तो उस समय हम इस सदन में उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार और बंगाल की बाढ़ के बारे में चर्चा करेंगे। दिस हैज बिकम ए रूटीन आफ दिस हाउस। तो मैं माननीय मन्त्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस रूटीन को कभी वह अन्त करना चाहेंगे या नहीं चाहेंगे। उन्होंने स्वयं सदन में अपनी इस बात की इच्छा प्रकट की थी कि फ्लड कंट्रोल और फ्लड रिलीफ का काम सेंट्रल

गवर्नमेंट के पास में आ जाय, सेंट्रल सबजेक्ट हो जाय, तो शायद सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट अच्छी प्रकार से इसको चेक-अप कर सकती है। मैं मन्त्री महोदय से पूछना चाहता हूँ कि स्टेट्स को ग्रांट्स देने मात्र से ही क्या इसका परमानेंट इलाज हो जायगा ऐसा समझते हैं या मन्त्री महोदय ने जैसा कि कई बार अपना विचार व्यक्त किया है कि इसको सेंट्रल सबजेक्ट बना दिया जाय क्योंकि फ्लड्स एक प्रान्त की समस्या नहीं है, एक प्रान्त में ज्यादा पानी बढ़ने से दूसरे प्रान्त में भी बाढ़ आती है। तो अगले सेशन में बंगाल और बिहार और उत्तर प्रदेश के फ्लड्स के बारे में चर्चा न करें इसके लिये क्या वह इस प्रकार के एश्योरेंस देने की स्थिति में हैं कि इसको परमानेंटली रोकने की दृष्टि से वह कार्य करेंगे और जैसे कि अकाल के सम्बन्ध में फेमिन कोड बना है उसी प्रकार से सारे स्टेट्स में रिलीफ की दृष्टि से और तात्कालिक, इमीडियेट, रिलीफ की दृष्टि से कोई इस प्रकार के नियम सारे देश में लागू हो सके इस प्रकार की कोई व्यवस्था करने के लिये क्या वह तैयार हैं।

DR. K. L. RAO : Sir, the hon. Member is very correct when he said that the flood problems have got to be solved by the Centre taking responsibility in the matter and that exactly is the end towards which we are working. For example in regard to Brahmaputra it is being seriously considered that in Assam the flood control should be taken over by the Centre for effective implementation of the projects there. Similarly as a first step in the Ganga Valley we have established a Ganga Flood Control Board consisting of representatives of Chief Ministers of the various States concerned and the Central Minister. That Board is going to meet on the 3rd June ; that is the first meeting of the Board. The first step is to get a coordinated investigation and coordinated planning of the whole basin. I am sure this should lead later on to effective implementation. The idea is that planning, investigation and sanctioning of the projects in the basin will be done by the Ganga Control Board and the implementation by the respective States. The question of finance and other things is there but that is a separate thing. As a first step

a certain amount of Central coordination has been accepted and has been started.

SHRI N. G. GORAY (Maharashtra) : Partically he has answered my question but I would like to know something more from him. Last year there were unprecedented floods in U. P. and I remember that the Minister had come out with a statement saying that in spite of the fact that schemes for Gomati were given to the State Government they had not proceeded with the work of bunding. The same more or less happened in Bihar. And we know that in Orissa there was unprecedented cyclone and at that time we were promised that soon steps will be taken to see that the devastation caused by the cyclone will not be repeated. The monsoon is already on us and I would like to know how far these all-India schemes have progressed and whether it is not too late for the Minister to say that on the third of next month they are going to have the first meeting in order to consider what steps should be taken to prevent damages caused by floods etc.

DR. K. L. RAO : Probably I must have made myself more clear. What I submitted was that the Central Government is now trying to come into the flood control problems more effectively and they are now starting with the Central Board meeting which coordinates the various activities of the various States. But meanwhile they have sanctioned some projects, they have approved in principle undertaking some priority works. In all these three basins we have got some priority projects, that is to say, we said that these projects must be done in U.P., that these projects must be done in Bihar, these in West Bengal and these in Orissa. And so these projects.

SHRI N. G. GORAY : Have you for instance set up the radar stations on the eastern coast ?

DR. K. L. RAO : Yes, yes, that is right. Of the three radar stations, one is ready and is going into action in Madras. One has already been set up in Vizag, and the third is now being set up in Calcutta. So what I want to submit is that priority projects have been approved in principle and the money is going to be outside the State Plans for these priority projects. But the implementation will be by the States. What we are trying to do in the first place is that we are just

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

starting the Control Board. We did not have it consisting of all the various States. We are going to have it for the first time now. Its headquarters will be in Patna. Although the meeting is being held here, the headquarters of this Board will be in Patna. Now the Board will be formed. A number of permanent staff have to be taken. All this we are starting. As regards Orissa, about the cyclone, of course we cannot take all the steps immediately on a permanent basis. We have to take some immediate steps to protect Orissa against a repetition of that. I am glad to inform the House that we brought an expert, Mr. Ferguson, from Holland, where they had the same problem in their country also. Mr. Ferguson is a very famous engineer in the world. He came here at our invitation. He inspected these areas and has just now sent a report, a very good and a very valuable report, and his report practically confirms some of the lines on which we have been thinking on the subject. They are the construction of a dam to hold back the waters and the construction of mounds all along so that the people in time of distress may go to the mounds situated at a level much higher than the level up to which the water rises, and so on. All this we are going to discuss shortly and see what steps should be taken further in respect of that.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

THE EXPORT OF NON-BALED COIR YARN
(INSPECTION) RULES, 1972

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table copy (in English and Hindi) of the Ministry of Foreign Trade Notification S. 6. No. 1131, dated the 13th May, 1972 Publishing the Export of Non-baled Coir Yarn (Inspection) Rules, 1972, under sub-section (3) of section 17 of the Export (Quality Control and Inspection) Act, 1963. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3099/72].

NOTIFICATIONS OF MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) each of the following Notifications of the Ministry of Foreign Trade :—

(i) Notification G.S.R. No. 491, dated

the 4th April 1972, issued under section 11 of the Coffee Act, 1942.

(ii) Notification G.S.R. No. 492, dated the 4th April 1972, issued under section 12 of the Coffee Act, 1942. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3100/72 for (i) and (ii)]

ANNUAL REPORT AND ACCOUNTS OF THE EXPORT CREDIT AND GUARANTEE CORPORATION LTD. BOMBAY FOR THE YEAR ENDING ON 31ST DECEMBER, 1970

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir I also beg to lay on the Table a copy (in English and Hindi) each of the following Papers, under sub-section (1) of section 619-A of the Companies Act, 1956 :—

(i) Annual report and Accounts of Export Credit and Guarantee Corporation Limited, Bombay, for the year ended the 31st December, 1970, together with the Auditors' Report on the Accounts and the comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India thereon.

(ii) Review by Government on the working of the Corporation. [Placed in Library, See No. LT-3101/72 for (i) and (ii)].

PAPERS UNDER THE COIR INDUSTRY ACT, 1953

SHRI A. C. GEORGE : Sir, I also beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers, under section 19 of the Coir Industry Act, 1953 :—

(i) Annual Report (in Hindi) on the activities of the Coir Board and the working of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, for the year 1969-70. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3024/72]

(ii) Half-yearly Report (in Hindi) on the activities of the Coir Board and the working of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, for the period from 1st April, 1970, to 30th September, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3025/72]

(iii) Annual Report (in English and Hindi) on the activities of the Coir Board and the working of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, for the year 1970-71. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-3026/72].

(iv) Half-yearly Report on the activities on the Coir Board and the working of the Coir Industry Act, 1953, for the