

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: So, then, for that I would adjourn the House for fifteen minutes. We will discuss it, decide and come out with a solution. I believe, after discussion a solution could be found. That would then be announced here and if the House is in agreement, we can proceed. So, I adjourn the House for fifteen minutes.

The House then adjourned at twenty-four minutes past two of the clock.

The House re-assembled at thirty-eight minutes past two of the clock,

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA) *in the Chair.*

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA) : The House is adjourned till three of the clock.

*The House then adjourned at thirty-eight minutes
past two of the clock.*

The House re-assembled at three of the clock,

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA) *in the Chair.*

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA): The House is adjourned till 3.15 p.m.

The House then adjourned at three of the clock.

The House re-assembled at fifteen minutes past three of the clock,

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA) *in the Chair.*

THE VICE CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA) : The House is adjourned till 3.30 p.m.

*The House then adjourned at fifteen minutes past
three of the clock.*

The House reassembled at thirty minutes past three of the clock,

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*

SHORT DURATION DISCUSSION

Damage caused due to North-West monsoon rain and floods in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Hon. Members, we will now take up the Short Duration Discussion on the notice given by Smt. Kanimozhi, Shri Rangarajan and Dr. E. M. Sudarsana Natchiappan, to raise a discussion on the ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री मोहम्मद अली खान (आंध्र प्रदेश): सर, अंदर जो निर्णय हुआ है, उसके बारे में यहां भी बताइए।

† شری محمد علی خان : سر، اندر جو فیصلہ ہوا ہے، اس کے بارے میں یہاں بھی بتائیے۔

श्री उपसभापति : ठीक है, आप कृपया बैठिए। Allright. Okay, I will say. I will explain. I agree that I am bound to explain. Yes, you are correct. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will explain. Sit down. I will tell you. Sit down. ...*(Interruptions)*... You take the seat. I will tell you certainly. ...*(Interruptions)*... I agree with you. I should have started... *(Interruptions)*... I agree with you; I should have started after explaining that because I myself said in the House that I am calling the leaders for a discussion to sort out that issue, which was raised in the morning. We discussed and then the leaders decided that at 3.30 we will start the discussion on floods, that being a very important and a very serious matter affecting Tamil Nadu, and for that matter, the entire country. And, therefore, ...*(Interruptions)*... Let me say. Therefore, keeping aside ...*(Interruptions)*... Yes, Andhra Pradesh also. I fully agree; Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh. And see ...*(Interruptions)*... Therefore, see ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. See, keeping aside all differences, the leaders have come to the decision that we will start the discussion, and on the rest of the matter, tomorrow morning, in the presence of Chairman, a final decision will be taken and whatever will be the decision, that will be informed to the House. That decision will be taken in the presence of Chairman. Therefore, that matter is kept pending. That is not decided. That is pending. But, in view of the serious matter of the flood situation, we are starting at 3.30. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY (West Bengal): Sir, I requested you that at 3.30, you please call the session, and we could start this discussion. You didn't agree with it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: But I am doing that.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: You have finally done that. So, next time onwards, please accept, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Yes, yes.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Sir, ... *(Interruptions)*... I am just coming to your point also.

Sir, in certain areas, there is a serious flood situation, and in certain areas, there is a serious drought situation. We have to decide whether we are discussing both together or separately. ...*(Interruptions)*... My suggestion, Sir, is, let us first take

† Transliteration in Urdu Script.

[Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu]

the flood situation which is becoming very precarious and very serious, mostly, in Tamil Nadu, partly in Andhra Pradesh, and, to some extent, in West Bengal, which has also been affected. ...*(Interruptions)*... And Pondicherry also. Sir, in fact, in the other House also, the same discussion is going on. Just now, I had a talk with our people. The situation is becoming very, very precarious; I am really worried. I pray to God that same thing does not happen today and tomorrow because the IMD, the Meteorological Department, says that coming 24 hours are very crucial. The entire city of Chennai is in floods from 5th November onwards. But, recently, what has happened is that in the last sixteen days, water has come into all the streets. Some of the people are living on first floors. The Airport runway is full of water and water has entered the Airport buildings too. The Egmore railway line has been washed away and all the major bus stands are also in water. ...*(Interruptions)*... Today morning, we met the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister told us that he has talked to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister and has assured her that whatever support is required, it would be extended. What I am trying to say is – I am not responding, as a Minister, the Home Minister and the concerned people will respond to that – now we should all speak in one voice. Secondly, we should extend moral support that is required because as my daughter, who lives at Chennai, was telling me, – some of the family members of our Members are also struck in the airport – that a lot of people are stranded in the airport itself. Some 400 passengers have been stranded since yesterday. The number may have gone up. And 180 people have died. Then, at Nellore, which is nearer to the State, the National Highway has breached, and for six days, there has been no traffic on both the sides. Thousands of vehicles have been stranded. Last week-end, I visited the area, and the Chief Minister also had camped there, and they are trying to do their best. Now the Army and the Navy have been pressed into service. The Prime Minister, this morning, had a preliminary discussion with the Finance Minister, Defence Minister, Home Minister and myself. Now, in this precarious situation, particularly, at Chennai, if any well-meaning suggestions are given by people, who are well-versed with the situation, both short-term as well as long-term, they can be conveyed to the Authorities who are dealing with the situation. Shortly, the Home Minister of India is going to have a high-level meeting as per the advice of the Prime Minister to see to it that whatever relief is to be sent is sent immediately. Sir, the Navy has been pressed into service. The NDRF teams have been pressed into service. The Bhubaneswar and Bangalore air bases have been alerted as they are the nearer places to reach the State. And, the Defence Minister has told me that whatever support is required will be extended. I am afraid of the people there. In the Chennai city, the Army and the Police have to go from one street to another. It is becoming difficult for the people residing there to even move from one house to another. Men are swimming in certain places but

ladies cannot swim, and there are not enough boats as well. It is humanly impossible to have that many number of boats. But boats are also being pressed into service. The Tamil Nadu Government is doing its best and they are working day and night. The Central Government is releasing the last year's arrears as well as this year's money also, and around ₹ 933 crores have been given. I am not talking about the money. I am more concerned about the other support that is needed to be given. In this connection, I urge upon the House to focus on the crisis rather than trying to criticise anybody because that will send a wrong message. Let us give some constructive suggestions. That is my request.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY : Sir, I fully endorse what the hon. Minister has said. I would like to state, on behalf of not only my party but also on behalf of the House, that we should extend all our sympathies, our concern and all the help. And, Sir, we are prepared, as a party and as MPs, if the Government so desires, we can allocate a part of our MPLADS Funds for relief operations. I am sure that that is the decision to which all of us will agree. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री नरेश अग्रवाल (उत्तर प्रदेश): सर, पहले डिस्कशन तो शुरू कराइए। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Secondly, Sir, he wanted a concrete suggestion. My information says that the National Disaster Relief Force is also hamstrung in reaching the affected areas. They are ready to take off from Vishakapatnam, Bhubaneswar and Bangalore, but they are not able to reach the affected areas. It is necessary, and I would request the Central Government, through you, Sir, to press into action certain helicopters which will, actually, airdrop certain food packets into the affected areas. So, that may be started. I am sure that the State Government will have no objection to that.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shrimati Kanimozhi.

THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): Sir, I do not know whether I will get the time to speak because I would like that as many Members, particularly, from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, from all the sides speak because they are the ones who are feeling the pinch. Besides the point, at this crucial juncture, the entire country, irrespective of which political party we may belong to, is with the people there. Millions and millions of our brothers and sisters are facing this problem in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. I also associate myself with the suggestion of the Leader of the CPI (M) about which I, during the lunch time, spoke to a few of my friends at Chennai. This had come to my mind also but my friend always takes the lead on such occasions. So, I would also, on behalf of my party, be forthcoming on this issue of support. We will be supporting the people of Tamil Nadu. In so far as the MPLADS funds is concerned, whatever amount is fixed by the hon. Chairman of the House, we will also be supporting them.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think there is consensus. All of us will contribute a sizeable amount to Tamil Nadu flood relief and the amount will be decided in consultation with the hon. Chairman.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI (Tamil Nadu): Sir, I thank you for allowing this discussion under extraordinary circumstances which we are witnessing in the city of Chennai as well as other coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry.

Sir, this is not for the first time that Tamil Nadu has been subjected to such a big disaster. Eleven years ago we had Tsunami hitting the shores of Tamil Nadu and the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu were very badly affected. Now, we have incessant rains during the entire last month and more than fifteen days there were unrelenting rains. The houses and streets of Chennai are flooded. It is not just Chennai but Tiruvallur, Kanchipuram, Thanjavur, Nagapattinam and Thiruvavur. And, Sir, Cuddalore is one of the worst affected areas. Whenever rain comes, Cuddalore is affected. This time it has been very badly affected. What worries us is, as per the prediction, rain is not going to stop for four more days. The airports are closed. There is no way to reach Chennai. Trains and busses have been stopped. There is no way for cars and other vehicles to ply on the streets of Chennai. The only thing which works, at this moment, is metro rail. Other than that, there is no way to reach from one place to another in Chennai. As the hon. Minister said, even to go to the next house, you need help — boat or Army or Navy or Air Force. There are so many NGOs. There are people who are willing to donate food, to reach out people, rescue people who are marooned. But, there is no way to even step out of your homes to go and help. The areas like Vandalur, Mudichur, Tambaram and everything is under water. It is not just a few feet of water. In some areas, water has reached as high as second floor of houses, housing estates and even flats are under water! It is true that you have to bring in boats as that is the only way to reach people. One can watch on television people moved up to terraces of their house. They are sitting in rain on terraces. In many areas, Sir, you can see people sitting on walls, because if you get down it is dangerous. On television we just saw a person walking in a street — it is not river — where water flow is taking the person away and he is trying to swim across the current. All the bridges are overflowing. IT parks, industries are all closed as they are all submerged under water. People cannot go to work. Newspapers are not able to publish their editions. Even television studios are under water. So, this is the situation. If this is the situation, one can think of slum areas where people are living in huts. It is really bad. They have no homes even to go back. They have moved from their homes to schools and other relief camps. Sir, their lifetime earnings have been washed away by floods. Students have not gone back to schools for more than 15-16 days. All their books and other things have been washed away by floods.

The Government estimates show the death toll around 180-200 people. But, it is believed that more people have died. Nearly around 250 people have died due to these rains and floods. Sir, this is unprecedented. So, lakhs of people have been displaced from their homes. The economic impact has been enormous with the manufacturing units and small and medium enterprises as well as traders being affected. In Chennai, Kancheepuram district, Cudalore, Nagai and Thanjavur district, Thiruvarur, agriculture has been affected and crops are being devastated to an unbelievable extent. We have not been able to really estimate what it is. Cattle have been washed away and have died in the rains. There is no way to save them.

I really understand that the Prime Minister and the Home Minister have reached out to the Tamil Nadu Chief Minister. They have spoken to her and promised all measures. I really like to commend the efforts of the Army, the Air Force, the Navy and the work that the NDRF are doing. It is remarkable. Without them, even the few citizens who have been rescued could not have been because it is not possible for a person who is not well-trained even to walk in these waters. It is so bad. There are videos of parents trying to save their children. They are walking in the water; the water is going above their heads; they make the children sit on drums and the drums are floating in the water; they are pushing those drums and trying to rescue children! Pregnant women are affected. The Government hospitals and private hospitals have been flooded. There is no power over there. It is difficult to shift patients because of the water in streets. It is impossible to shift patients. Pregnant women have delivered on terraces! It is such a bad situation.

Sir, it is really commendable that the Central Government is supporting the Tamil Nadu Government to this extent, but we need much more because the situation is so grave. The help which has come is definitely not enough. The people are marooned all over; it is just not Chennai; even the districts around Chennai have been badly affected, as I said in Mudichur, Tambaram, etc.; they are entirely under water. The people have to be rescued. The water levels are rising and the rains are not stopping. The reservoirs have to be opened. All tanks and everything else are overflowing. About the Adayar river, none of us have ever seen the river flowing. Now, it is overflowing above the bridge. Sir, it is such a grave situation and we need more forces. I understand the plight about the planes not being able to land. The Tirupati Airport also has to be closed because of the rains. We were hoping that the planes will come and drop food packets in Chennai and the surrounding districts. Again, that is becoming a problem. So, we need much more help from the Central Government immediately because the people are suffering by the day, by the hour. So, much more forces have to be sent. More resources have to be sent.

[Shrimati Kanimozhi]

As I said, Sir, the people are willing to help but there is no possibility. There are so many people who want to donate food and reach out to those affected people but there is no way to take the food from one place to another. That is the situation over there. The Central Government should declare this a national disaster, as sought by my colleagues like Mr. Yechury and the LoP. They also said that the MPLADS funds will be given by all the MPs. I think, this has to be declared a national disaster and all rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures should be taken at the earliest. The State Government's initial announcement of ₹ 500 crores towards relief and rehabilitation has not been sufficient looking at the damages that have been caused by the recent floods. The State Government has pegged the damages caused by the torrential rains at ₹ 8,481 crores. The Central Government has sanctioned only ₹ 839 crores initially. It is necessary that the Central Government has to release more funds immediately to help tide over the situation.

Sir, hopefully the rains will recede and the waters will recede soon. But, after that, there is the danger of health hazards, outbreak of water-borne diseases. I think, we have to start preparing for that and have health camps. The Central Government has to help the State Government to deal with such situations because it is really a worrying situation because the entire city and the districts surrounded are flooded now, and once the water recedes, there will be an outbreak of many epidemics and that situation has to be dealt with. In Cuddalore district alone more than 50 people have died because of these rains and subsequent floods. Sir, every story we hear, every situation we come across, is really saddening; it is really frightening and scary. In a newspaper, a reporter has written about his visit to a village in Cuddalore. He says that he has once gone to this village and he has heard about an entire family being washed away in the floods. He goes to the bank of the river and he talks to the people over there and he is asking as to what has happened. He says that there were a mother and four children and there were visitors who come to visit her with four children. He says that the mother was a very hardworking person and her dream was to educate these four people; lift them from this situation; educate them and give them a better life. She worked so hard for this. Nearly six or seven people were there in that family. Suddenly the river started flooding and water level rose and in just a few minutes, there was nothing left on the other shore. The reporter says that now, after this incident, when he looks at the other bank, there is nothing. There is not even a trace of a family being there; there is not even a trace of a house being there. The entire family, the mother, the four children and all the visitors who had come to see her, have been washed away. There was just one notebook of one of the children which was caught in a branch of the tree, which was there. This is not just the story of one person; it is a story of so many people. This is the sad

situation which Tamil Nadu and other areas are facing. Sir, the media try to probe and ask us questions about what the Tamil Nadu Government has done. Have they failed? Do you think they have failed? I really don't think that this is the time for us to raise questions like that. I think we all should stand together, reach out to the people and make sure that the people are rescued, and whatever measures, whatever help can reach out to them, have to reach them now. Our leader, Dr. Kalaignar, has said that the DMK Government will wholeheartedly support the ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: DMK Party. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: You are not yet in the Government.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Thank you for that. It is a very promising thing.

DR. V. MAITREYAN (Tamil Nadu): For ten more years.

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: For ten more years, we will be in the Government; thank you. Sir, Dr. Kalaignar, leader of our DMK Party has said that the DMK Party will give wholehearted support to the Tamil Nadu Government in this time of need. He has also said that we have pressed all our cadres to help in the respective areas. The DMK Party has given out helpline numbers and we have asked people to call if they need help. All our district headquarters and Secretaries have been asked to help people in need and our cadres are in the field, helping and working along with the Government agencies to rescue people and to make sure that they get food and whatever they need.

Sir, I also request the Central Government to send another high-level delegation to assess the extent of the damages caused by the recent spell of rains and revise its relief measures. It is important that all agencies of the Centre work in tandem with the State Government to carry out immediate rescue and relief efforts. Once the rains relent, the Central agencies, such as Ministry of Health must carry out special medical camps and aid in stopping the spread of epidemics. Similarly, thousands of kilometres of roads and highways have been destroyed, and the Centre should provide special aid to repair these roads which serve as the lifeline for the people of the State.

Sir, finally, this is the time to show the people of Tamil Nadu that the political parties are united in this hour. I suggest that in the spirit of cooperation and collaboration, as suggested by my leader, Dr. Kalaignar Karunanidhi, that an all-party Parliamentary Delegation visit the most affected areas and report back to the Parliament with recommendations to the Central Government. Thank you, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you Shrimati Kanimozhi. Now, Shri Basawaraj Patil. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I have just one clarification. ...*(Interruptions)*... Sir, I have two observations to make. One is that the Central Team has gone there. Part of the Central Team also is stranded there only because of this situation. So, they have been now asked to take care of the situation and then report back because it is progressing day by day. This is one.

Secondly, with regard to the other suggestion, we should not think on those lines as of now because our visit will divert the attention of the people. So, we can think about it later.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: I agree. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Not now, Sir, later.

SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Sir, exactly that is what I proposed in the starting. Surely, we will all visit there. But let us not disrupt the relief operations. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Sir, I am happy with what Kanimozhi has said that this is not the time to find fault with this Government or that Government. Let us all work together. I am very happy about the tone set by her.

श्री बसावाराज पाटिल (कर्णाटक) : माननीय उपसभापति जी, गत 15 दिनों से तमिलनाडु के अन्दर और आंध्र प्रदेश, पुडुचेरी आदि प्रदेशों में जो घटना घटी है और दो दिन से फ्लड के कारण एक भयानक सिचुएशन के बारे में जो चिंता व्यक्त की गई है, उसके बारे में आदरणीय वेंकैया नायडु जी, गुलाम नबी आज़ाद जी, येचुरी जी, कानीमोझी जी ने अपनी भावनाएँ अभी हाउस में रखी हैं। इन सबकी बातों को ध्यान में रखते हुए जो बातें मैं अत्यंत आवश्यक समझता हूँ, उनको यहां कहने की इच्छा करता हूँ।

महोदय, अभी दो दिन की सिचुएशन से अंदाजा लगाना मुश्किल है, फिर भी सरकार की सबसे पहली प्राइयॉरिटी जान बचाने की होनी चाहिए। चारों तरफ से अन्य राज्यों को केंद्र बना कर जितनी अधिक से अधिक जानें बचाई जा सकती हैं, उसके बारे में सबसे पहले ध्यान दिया जाना चाहिए। जान बचाने की स्थिति में जैसे ही एक-दो दिन बीत जाएँगे, वैसे ही कई लोगों को अन्न की आवश्यकता पड़ेगी। कई बार सहायता करने वाली एजेंसीज़ चेन्नई या बड़ी सिटीज़ चली जाती हैं, लेकिन सरकार स्वयं, जो इंटीरियर प्लेसेज़ हैं, विलेजेज़ हैं, उनके लिए एक प्लान बना कर, उसका दरवाजा अन्य राज्यों में खोल कर, वहां से उनकी सेवा करने की दृष्टि से — आंध्र प्रदेश से, हैदराबाद एयरपोर्ट से, बेंगलुरु से, त्रिवेंद्रम से भी — इस तरह से चारों तरफ से घेर कर उनकी सहायता करने की कोशिश करेगी, तो ज्यादा लाभ होगा, ऐसी मेरी राय है।

साथ ही साथ, दो दिन के बाद एक ऐसी स्थिति आएगी कि हमें उनके स्वास्थ्य के बारे में चिंता करनी पड़ेगी। वहां कई कंटेजियस डिज़ीज़िज़ आ सकती हैं। उसके लिए भी चारों तरफ से दवाइयाँ इत्यादि भेजने की दृष्टि से सरकार का काम तेजी से होना चाहिए। भारत सरकार अभी

4.00 p.m.

जो काम कर रही है, उसको रेगुलरली मॉनिटर करते हुए जिस-जिस समय जो भी संभव हो, सेना के द्वारा, रैपिड एक्शन फोर्स के द्वारा या और किसी भी प्रकार के डिज़ास्टर मैनेजमेंट के द्वारा, उन सब चीजों को लेकर वह काम करने की कोशिश करे, यह मेरी विनती है।

साथ ही साथ, इस घटना के तुरंत बाद समुद्र के किनारे बड़ी मात्रा में जो गरीब लोग रहते हैं, उनके हजारों-हजार घर उजड़ गए हैं। उनका रिहैबिलिटेशन करना एक बहुत बड़ा काम होता है। इसके पहले एक बार कर्णाटक में इसी प्रकार की फ्लड आने के बाद कर्णाटक सरकार ने पब्लिक रिक्वेस्ट करके थोड़े ही समय में समाज से हेल्प लेकर कम से कम 6 हजार से अधिक नए मकान बनाए थे। उसी प्रकार तमिलनाडु गवर्नमेंट को भी सार्वजनिक अपील करके उनकी जिन्दगी फिर से सुंदर ढंग से चालू करने के लिए जो भी काम आवश्यक हो, वह करना चाहिए।

इसमें आप सभी इंडस्ट्रियलिस्ट्स, उद्योगपतियों से विनती करेंगे, तो निश्चित रूप से वे सरकार के साथ आएंगे। इसलिए इस दिशा में भी सरकार सोचे।

इतना कहते हुए मैं एक बार फिर विनती करता हूँ। वैसे इस स्थिति का पूरा विवरण देते हुए कानीमोझी जी ने बताया है कि अभी दो दिन और यह चलने वाला है, इसलिए मैं इसके बारे में ज्यादा न बोलते हुए कहूंगा कि *situation should be managed in a more scientific way* ताकि ओवरलैपिंग न हो, काम करने वाले एक-दूसरे के ऊपर न गिर जाएं, जिससे फिर कोई नई समस्या खड़ी न हो जाए। रेस्क्यू के काम के दौरान, जैसे उत्तराखंड में एक हेलीकॉप्टर गिरने से आर्मी के लोग भी शहीद हो गए थे, वैसी स्थिति वहां न हो। इसलिए भारत सरकार पूरे वैज्ञानिक तरीके से स्थिति को मॉनिटर कर राज्य सरकार को सहयोग देकर व्यवस्थित ढंग से इस आपदा से लोगों को बचाने को काम करे और इसी दृष्टि से पुडुचेरी, आंध्र प्रदेश और तमिलनाडु, इन सभी जगहों के लिए काम करे। इतनी विनती करते हुए मैं अपनी बात को समाप्त करता हूँ।

DR. E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, this is a great calamity for the Chennai city and also the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. Especially from Andhra Pradesh coastal area down to the South, Tirunelveli-Kanyakumari, all the coastal districts have been affected. Just a fortnight ago, the rehabilitation work was also supervised by the Central Government team. But, unfortunately, we are not implementing the statutory provisions, which are already available with all the blueprints, which have to be followed by the Disaster Management Committee. We have passed the Disaster Management Act, 2005, which stipulates that when there is a natural disaster, or, there is a perception of natural disaster, then, we have to start with prevention, mitigation and also preparedness. These three areas have not been implemented properly. We are not blaming any Government. With the facilities which are available in their hands, the State Government could do it. But the Central Government has to rush through the rehabilitation process now. We have got the incident. Historically, we can describe it. Never, it can be expected like this. Nobody can expect it, except by scientific methods, which are having

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the records, which are part of disaster management, resource network, knowledge network, and which are having all the data as to how 100 years back this had happened. More specifically, Chennai city is having outlets, that is, Koovam river, Adyar river and Buckingham Canal. The Britishers had done everything excellently by allowing rainwater to be dried up immediately if such a thing happened. But, unfortunately, we are overlooking that aspect. As the Government now wants to give some positive propositions, I request the Central Government to immediately rush through the Naval Force, Air Force and Military to dredge the canals quickly, so that water goes into sea.

Another aspect is, all the poor people who are suffering have to be airlifted and put in naval ships, which have to be brought in nearby the ports. They have to be protected and hospitalised. Food should be provided to them immediately. They cannot live in their houses at least for a fortnight or twenty days. Till then, it has to be treated as a national project. It should not be left for the State Government alone, that let them do it and we will pay the money; our officials will visit there; they will assess it; and, they will give the report after 10 days. These are all old colonial methods. The disaster management system works through participation, not through contribution. You have to participate. National Forces have to come. A small Department in the Ministry of Agriculture, which was looking after the disaster management, was brought into the Ministry of Home Affairs just to have coordination amongst all the Departments of the Government of India, the State Governments, at district, *taluka* and village levels. That is why the National Disaster Management Act was made and committees were to be made at every level. They have to coordinate with the local people there. They have to be equipped with all the tools and machineries so that they can go for the rehabilitation work immediately.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA) *In the Chair.*]

It is not a blamegame; it is not a delay game. It has to be done immediately; and it cannot be taken for granted. It is not a case that 'we will be helping afterwards, and you spend now'. That is not the case. You have to go with all the materials, machines, human resources, scientific technology and all other things which are in the command of the Government of India which is having huge resources. It has to be pooled there and it has to be brought into Tamil Nadu to see that the people are rehabilitated. The infrastructure also has to be immediately brought back properly. You know very well that the military is very much equipped to put the temporary bridges. Saidapet bridge is now overflowing with water. There is no traffic in that. From Chennai towards all the Southern districts, trains are cancelled and all the

bus routes are cancelled. All the carriages are cancelled. Why it had to happen? Immediately, the military has to intervene and bridges have to be restored, traffic has to be restored and the movement of the people should be restored. People should be protected in all respects. Beyond 150 kilometres from the coastal area, people are starving without water. My district is not having any rain. There is a drought there. This is the situation in Tamil Nadu. We have to take into consideration all these issues and see that Acts which were made in Parliament are enforced properly. I don't want to blame anyone, but you have not filled up the vacancies which are lying vacant in the disaster management system. That is why the Vice-President is not there. The President is the Home Minister and the other people could not convene it. The Prime Minister could not take the time for that. All the machineries are lying idle. They could not coordinate with the State Government. That is the problem which we are now facing. Kindly see to it. I am not questioning anybody; I am not blaming anybody. All the organs of India have to come forward and protect the people of India who are called Tamil people who are living in cosmopolitan city of Chennai and in other coastal areas. Now there is no separate India. It is a part of India. You have to take it as a challenge. The Central Government should go there. There is no point in talking one thing and doing something. At the same time, I request all the Government departments, especially, the medical department, to rush all the machinery, all the medicines, all the experts there. All the groups have to go and protect them from this disaster. Similarly, the Agricultural Department and the Rural Development Department also have to rush to protect the agricultural process, which has stopped there. Everything has submerged there. It is not that the officers are going there and looking at the things and taking ten days in submitting their report. We can't wait like that. You have to rush all the materials there. You have to rush everything there. It is not assessment or grant for somebody who are sub-ruled by somebody. It is a part of India. We will have to take it as a challenge. We have to explore all the possibilities to help them, which can come through the paramilitary forces, through the military forces, through the naval forces and also through the Air Force. We have to take the command. The International Airport of Chennai is submerged in water. Tirupati Airport is also submerged now. Everything is submerging in water because we are not taking any effective steps to drain the water. Rain may fall, but draining is quite possible. It is not the midland; it is the part of the seashore. Therefore, we have to take it into consideration. People's cooperation is needed. People are crying every day. We are not at all attached with the disaster management system. We have to bring them inside. A huge infrastructure is already there. A huge fund allocation is given in the Budget. That has to be spent there. It is not that assistance will be provided after ten days or after one year. It is not the

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case. The relief measures are to be taken within minutes, within hour. That is why we have accepted to debate this issue here so that the Central Government could act immediately. There should not be any kind of differentiation on the part of any Department. All the Departments will have to coordinate and see that the things are happening. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद (उत्तर प्रदेश): माननीय उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदय, भीषण बाढ़ के कारण तमिलनाडु में, खास तौर पर चेन्नई, तिरुवल्लूर, कांचीपुरम और कई जिलों में जो भीषण तबाही हुई है, उससे करीब 188 लोगों की जान गयी है, धन-जन की हानि हुई है और वहां पर आज भी हवाई यातायात, रेल, सड़क यातायात, बसें आदि सब जाम हैं। तो मैं समाजवादी पार्टी की तरफ से इस बाढ़ में जिन लोगों की क्षति हुई है, उनके प्रति संवेदना व्यक्त करता हूँ।

महोदय, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि आज तमिलनाडु को मदद की आवश्यकता है। सदन के माननीय सदस्यों ने भरोसा दिलाया है और सरकार ने भी कहा है कि हम पर्याप्त सहायता करेंगे। महोदय, मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि पूरे विश्व में जो एक तरह से दैवी आपदाएँ आ रही हैं, अलनीनो प्रभाव के कारण भी ये तूफानी चक्रवात आ रहे हैं, जिनके कारण भीषण तबाही हुई है और हो रही है। आज तमिलनाडु के साथ-साथ कई राज्यों में भी अभी भारी बारिश हुई है। गत वर्ष इसी तरह का चक्रवात आया था, उसमें बहुत से लोगों की जान गई थी। तो हम सरकार से मांग करना चाहते हैं कि सरकार को पर्याप्त मदद करनी चाहिए।

महोदय, केंद्र सरकार कानून बनाती है। मैं बताना चाहता हूँ कि केंद्र सरकार का कानून बना है कि वर्षा से या बाढ़ से कोई भी मकान क्षतिग्रस्त होता है, तो उसके लिए केवल 70,000 रुपये दिये जाते हैं। कच्चा मकान होता है, तो 17,600 रुपये दिये जाते हैं, इसी तरह से जो गम्भीर रूप से क्षतिग्रस्त मकान होते हैं, उनको 12,600 रुपये, कच्चे मकान के लिए 3,800 रुपये और आंशिक के लिए 3,800 रुपये, कच्ची झोपड़ी को छोड़ कर, जहां क्षति 15 प्रतिशत हुई है, उसको 2,300 रुपये दिये जाते हैं। महोदय, इससे तो बाथरूम भी नहीं बन पायेगा। इन नियमों में बदलाव करना पड़ेगा। माननीय मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं। तो केंद्र सरकार के नियमों में तब्दीली करनी पड़ेगी।

महोदय, मैं फिशरमैन कम्युनिटी से आता हूँ। मैंने तमाम बाढ़ें देखी हैं। तमाम दैवी आपदाओं में हम लोगों ने भाग लिया है। जब बाढ़ से तबाही होती है, तो उस समय जो ट्रेडिशनल फिशरमेन हैं, नाव चलाने वाले हैं, उनको पुलिस खोजती है और लाठी-डंडा मार कर कहती है कि तुम अपनी नाव दो, तुम मदद करने चलो, जबकि खुद उस बेचारे का घर डूब रहा होता है, फिर भी वे उसको पकड़ कर ले जाते हैं। उसके बच्चे डूब रहे होते हैं, लेकिन उसकी नाव को पकड़ कर ले जाते हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में उसकी हालत बड़ी खराब होती है। मैं इसके लिए मांग करना चाहता हूँ कि ऐसी आपदाओं से निपटने के लिए जो ट्रेडिशनल फिशरमेन हैं, नाव चलाने वाले हैं, उनकी अलग से केंद्रीय पुलिस बल में एक स्पेशल टास्क फोर्स बने। हम जानते हैं कि समुद्र हो, नदियां हों या झीलें हों, फिशरमैन का, मल्लाह या केवट का एक 14 साल का बेटा 14-15 किलोमीटर समुद्र में तैर कर वापस लौट आ जाता है, उसको किसी प्रकार की सेफ्टी बैग की जरूरत नहीं पड़ती है। तो ऐसी आपदा के समय ऐसे लोगों की एक स्पेशल टास्क फोर्स सेना में,

नेवी में बनाने की आवश्यकता है, जिससे दैवी आपदा के समय इनका प्रयोग किया जा सके। अब तमिलनाडु में, चेन्नई में दैवी आपदा आ गयी। अभी खुद बेचारे फिशरमेन, जिनको उधर 'गंगापुत्र' भी बोलते हैं तथा अन्य नामों से भी जिनको जानते हैं, वे परेशान हैं, तो ऐसे में पुलिस उनको ले जाती है। वे बेचारे अपने बच्चे को बचायें या पहले दूसरों की मदद करें? तो ऐसी स्थिति से निपटने के लिए मेरा यह सुझाव है कि ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।

महोदय, पूरे देश में यह प्रभाव पड़ रहा है। हम लोग प्रकृति के साथ छेड़छाड़ कर रहे हैं। आज पूरे देश की नदियां समतल हो रही हैं। उसके ऊपर अतिक्रमण हो रहे हैं। झील, जलाशय और तालाब सब अतिक्रमण किए जा रहे हैं। हम वृक्षों को लगाने के बजाए उनका कटान कर रहे हैं, जिसके कारण कहीं सूखा पड़ रहा है तो कहीं बारिश हो रही है। आज हमारे उत्तर प्रदेश से लगकर कई प्रदेशों में सूखा है। एक तरफ तमिलनाडु में तथा अन्य राज्यों में बाढ़ की स्थिति है, वहां लोगों की जमीन फट रही है, किसान फसल नहीं बो पा रहे हैं, दलहन-तिलहन नहीं बो पा रहे हैं। तो हम निवेदन करना चाहते हैं कि इससे निबटने के लिए, जबकि आजादी के 67 साल बीत गए, हमारी केंद्र सरकार ने इस ओर कोई ऐसा नियम नहीं बनाया, जबकि हमारा कृषि प्रधान देश है। हमें इसके लिए कोई ठोस उपाय करना चाहिए, ठोस कृषि नीति लानी चाहिए। जितने कृषि विश्वविद्यालय हैं, उनमें वहां लोग केवल क्यारियर्स में अपना शोध करते हैं, बीज उगाते हैं। उन्हें फील्ड का ज्ञान नहीं होता है कि कैसी जमीन है, कैसी खाद उर्वरक के लिए प्रयोग की जानी चाहिए, कैसे बीज प्रयोग किए जाने चाहिए। तो मान्यवर, ऐसी दैवी आपदा के समय हम आपके माध्यम से मांग करते हैं कि बाढ़ के बाद जो-जो स्थिति होती है, जैसा हमारे माननीय सदस्य ने बताया, हमने देखा है कि जब बाढ़ खत्म हो जाती है तो उसके बाद मरे हुए पशु होते हैं और फसलों की सड़ांध होती है। उनसे उत्पन्न बीमारियों से निबटने के लिए फिर प्रदेश सरकार के अलावा और जिले के अलावा वहां कोई मौके पर काम नहीं आता है। हम निवेदन करना चाहते हैं कि इसके लिए तमिलनाडु के लिए अलग से इंतजाम किया जाना चाहिए। चूंकि जब बाढ़ खत्म होगी तो तमाम बीमारियां पैदा होंगी। वहां पीने के पानी की समस्या पैदा हो जाएगी, वहां का प्रदूषित पानी लोग नहीं पी सकते। पीने के पानी की व्यवस्था, उनके अस्थाई आवास की व्यवस्था, उनके भोजन की व्यवस्था की जानी चाहिए। कई-कई महीनों तक जब उनके मकान नहीं होते हैं तो उनके लिए अस्थाई मकान, अस्थाई आश्रय बनाने की आवश्यकता होती है। इसके लिए हम केंद्र सरकार से मांग करना चाहते हैं कि ऐसे कानून बनाए जाने चाहिए कि जहां पर ऐसी कोई व्यवस्था हो, कोई स्पेशल कानून बने कि उनके लिए अस्थाई आश्रय बनाए जाएं तथा बीमारियों से निबटने के लिए व्यवस्था की जाए। चूंकि माननीय सदस्य तमिलनाडु के हैं, हम चाहेंगे कि वे ज्यादा बोलें, क्योंकि वे वहां अपने क्षेत्र गए होंगे तथा वहां से उनके पास काफी फोन भी आ रहे होंगे।

सर, चूंकि हम नदियों के किनारे रहने वाले हैं, हम लोगों ने नदियों की बाढ़ वगैरह देखी है। मुझे याद है मैं जब नवीं क्लास में पढ़ता था, तब मैं तीन किलोमीटर नदी में बह गया था, लेकिन मैं फिशरमेन का बेटा हूँ, इसलिए मैंने अपना बैग छोड़ दिया था और तैरते हुए पानी की धारा से निकलकर मैं खुद किनारे लग गया था। मैं यह निवेदन करना चाहता हूँ कि जिस तरह से बाढ़ के समय परेशानियां होती हैं, दिक्कतें होती हैं तो उसमें वहां के लोकल लोग, रूरल एरिया के ही लोग होते हैं। लेकिन शहरों में तो लोग मदद करने के लिए पहुंच जाते हैं। रूरल एरियाज में जहां हेलीकॉप्टर नहीं पहुंच सकता है, कोई साधन नहीं पहुंच सकते हैं, तो ऐसे एरियाज को

[श्री विशम्भर प्रसाद निषाद]

चिन्हित करके वहां के लोगों को तत्काल राहत दी जानी चाहिए। शहरों में तो सड़क के किनारे लोग चले जाते हैं, जिससे उनको मदद दे देते हैं, लेकिन जो रूरल एरियाज़ में फंसे लोग हैं, उनको कैसे बचाया जाए, उनकी कैसे मदद की जाए, इनके बारे में विशेष ध्यान देना चाहिए। वैसे तो वहां की सरकार इंतजाम कर रही है, उसके लिए हम बधाई देते हैं, साथ ही केंद्र सरकार से मांग करते हैं कि वह उनकी ज्यादा से ज्यादा मदद करे। इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

श्री के.सी. त्यागी (बिहार) : डिप्टी चेयरमैन साहब, इस प्राकृतिक आपदा पर न तो कोई भाषण करने का समय है, केवल इस पर अफसोस जाहिर किया जा सकता है और ऐसी आपदा में कैसे राहत का रास्ता निकले, उस पर चर्चा की जा सकती है। यह समस्या आज तमिलनाडु के साथ है, पुडुचेरी के साथ है, आंध्र प्रदेश के साथ है। किसी न किसी समय पर समूचा देश इस तरह की प्राकृतिक आपदाओं को झेल चुका है। बिहार में 2007 में, ... बिहार का नाम आते ही रवि शंकर जी उठकर चले गए। बिहार में हम और ये, साथ-साथ थे। ...*(व्यवधान)*...

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
(SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD) : Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir...

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: नहीं, मैं यह यील्ड नहीं कर रहा हूँ, No, कल आपने नहीं किया था।

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Sir, I am deeply touched by Tyagiji's concern for the State of Tamil Nadu because of the floods there. I am very happy that he is travelling beyond Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. I greet him. ...*(Interruptions)*...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA): Okay. Tyagiji, please continue.

श्री के. सी. त्यागी: महोदय, 2007 और 2011 में बिहार प्रांत भी इसी तरह की कोसी की आपदा झेल चुका है। मुझे प्रसन्नता है कि उस समय देश और विदेश की कई संस्थाओं ने इसकी मदद की थी और मुझे लगता है कि इस प्राकृतिक आपदा में हमारी पार्टी, हमारी बिहार की सरकार, बिहार की जनता तथा और सब लोग इस आपदा में उनके साथ हैं और तन-मन-धन से हम उनकी मदद करेंगे।

सर, मैं एक-दो चीजों की तरफ ध्यान आकर्षित कराना चाहता हूँ। 1990 में यूएन की तरफ से भी इस पर एक बड़ा सम्मेलन आयोजित किया गया था, जिसने कुछ चेतावनी भारत के बारे में दी थी। भारत दुनिया का दूसरे नंबर का मुल्क है, जहां पर प्राकृतिक आपदा आने की सबसे अधिक संभावनाएं हैं।

Sir, 76 per cent of the coastline is prone to the cyclone and tsunamis; 68 per cent of the cultivable area is vulnerable to drought which is happening in many parts of the country. India's current forest cover is estimated to be 78.29 million hectare and 33 per cent to 90 per cent of forest area is prone to forest fire. अभी भी हम देखते हैं कि इस तरह की घटनाएं घटती हैं। Twelve per cent of the land is prone

to flood and soil erosion which is happening daily and 59 per cent land is prone to earthquake. पहले एग्रीकल्चर मिनिस्ट्री के अंदर सिर्फ डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट की एक सेल हुआ करती थी। उसके बाद लातूर, भुज, अंजार, सूरत, तमिलनाडु, केरल, आंध्र प्रदेश, पुडुचेरी, कश्मीर, हिमालयन रीजन, महाराष्ट्र और नॉर्थ बिहार में घटनाएं घटीं। सर, इतनी घटनाएं देश भर में घटीं। उसके बाद उत्तराखंड की घटना घटी। उसके बाद यह डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट बनाया गया और सेल के स्थान पर यह डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट अथॉरिटी बना। अभी शायद गुजरात के एक मित्र बोल रहे थे, उन्होंने ठीक कहा कि अभी भी जो इसका सिस्टम है, वह जस का तस ही है, जैसा 2005 में बना था। उसके बाद न इसमें रिवीजन हुआ, न इसमें कोई एडिशन हुआ और इसके द्वारा जिस तरह की मदद मिलनी चाहिए, जिस तरह के arrangements होने चाहिए, उसका अभाव अभी भी देश में डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट अथॉरिटी में दिखता है। अभी यह गृह मंत्रालय के अधीन है। यह एक अथॉरिटी है, लेकिन यह अभी सुविधाओं से पूरी लैस नहीं है, जैसा कि कानीमोझी जी ने अभी अपने वक्तव्य में, वहां का जो डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट है और वहां की जो situation है, उसके बारे में विस्तार से जिक्र किया था।

सर, मैं दो-तीन सुझावों के साथ अपनी बात समाप्त करना चाहता हूँ। चूंकि इस पर ज्यादा वक्तव्य की आवश्यकता नहीं है। स्टेट लेवल और डिस्ट्रिक्ट लेवल पर इस तरह का coordination डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट का होना चाहिए कि देश का कोई भी जिला उन संसाधनों से वंचित नहीं होना चाहिए, जो मदद के काम के लिए आवश्यक होते हैं। जो परिस्थिति आज वहां पर हुई है... अभी पेरिस में जलवायु परिवर्तन को लेकर सम्मेलन चल रहा है और वहां से जिस तरह की रिपोर्ट आई है, कार्बन उत्सर्जन को लेकर जो चिंताएं भारत ने व्यक्त की हैं, आने वाले समय में सबसे बड़ा खतरा जो विश्व के लिए होने वाला है, वह टेम्परेचर का है। सर, अगर ग्लोबल टेम्परेचर चार डिग्री बढ़ता है, जिसकी संभावना व्यक्त की जा रही है, तो इतना डिजास्टर होगा कि हिन्दुस्तान की नहीं, बल्कि दुनिया की बड़ी आबादी के लिए खतरा बनेगा। इसलिए पेरिस की चिंताएं हमारे देश की भी चिंताएं हैं और आज जिस तरह के मैनेजमेंट की आवश्यकता है, उसका नितांत अभाव है। यह कोई सरकार का मामला नहीं है कि एनडीए गलत कर रहा है या यूपीए ने अच्छा किया है, हमारा सिस्टम इसके लिए ठीक तरह से suitable नहीं है। सर, अगर मैं आपसे कहूँ, तो कोस्टल एरिया का बड़ा हिस्सा, लगभग 60 परसेंट... सर, अब आप यह देखिए कि पिछले दिनों यह ओडिशा में आया था, उससे कई साल पहले तमिलनाडु में आया था, उससे पहले आंध्र प्रदेश में आया था, गुजरात के भुज में भी आया था और बिहार में कोसी में आया था। इससे कोई जगह बची नहीं है। अगर यहां जम्मू-कश्मीर के हमारे साथी अभी बैठे हों, तो सबसे डिजास्टरस श्रीनगर का अर्थक्वेक था, उत्तराखंड का अर्थक्वेक था। यह अकेली एक ऐसी बीमारी है, जो न जात देखती है, न धर्म देखती है और न भाषा देखती है। यह युनिवर्सल है। यह पूरी दुनिया में है। इसलिए सर, मैं चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार तत्परता के साथ काम करे, जैसी चिन्ता शासक दल के नेताओं ने, पार्टिकुलरली पार्लियामेंटरी अफेयर्स मिनिस्टर ने जताई है।

सर, जो ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव श्रीमती कानीमोझी ने रखा है, उसको हमारा और हमारी पार्टी का समर्थन है, क्योंकि हम खुद कोसी की त्रासदी के भुक्तभोगी हैं। कष्ट यह है कि कोसी में हर साल बाढ़ आएगी, हर साल बरबादी होगी, इसलिए कोसी का जो उद्गम है, उसको लेकर भारत सरकार और नेपाल की सरकार के बीच कोई ऐसा मैनेजमेंट बने ताकि इस प्राकृतिक आपदा की

[श्री के. सी. त्यागी]

उम्र कम हो जाए या इसका नुकसान कम हो जाए, लेकिन ऐसा नहीं हो पाता। सरकारें आती हैं, जाती हैं और हम पिछले 15-20 सालों से देख रहे हैं। मैं खुद और हमारे अध्यक्ष, शरद यादव जी प्रचंड साहब के शपथ ग्रहण समारोह में नेपाल गए थे। उपेंद्र यादव जी डिप्टी प्राइम मिनिस्टर थे और वे उसी इलाके के रहने वाले थे। उनसे हमारी लम्बी बात हुई। वर्ष 2011 में हम उनसे बात कर ही रहे थे कि उसी समय यह आपदा आ गई और कोसी का बहुत नुकसान हो गया। इसलिए डिजास्टर मैनेजमेंट अथॉरिटी को और इफेक्टिव बनाया जाए। यह अकेले श्रीमती कानीमोझी, उनकी पार्टी या ऑल इंडिया अन्ना डीएमके अथवा आंध्र प्रदेश का कन्सर्न नहीं है, बल्कि यह सारे देश का कन्सर्न है और हम पूरी सहानुभूति और हमदर्दी के साथ उनके साथ खड़े हैं, धन्यवाद।

SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN (West Bengal): Good afternoon, Chennai; good afternoon, Tamil Nadu; may you have the strength, may you have the determination to deal with whatever nature has thrown at you and will continue to throw at you over the next few days. And there is no reason we have any doubt that Chennai and Tamil Nadu will stand together bravely. I think the leader and the speaker from the DMK set the tone for this discussion by rising above anything to do with political parties and expressed herself.

Sir, the first thing is that there is a piece of information which is available. I want to share it because if we share it in the House, more people will get to know about it. For those people, who are affected, either for shelter, for food, or for rescue operations, chennairains.org is a crowd-source list which anyone can go to and use. So, that is chennairains.org. If you go there, there are thousands of people who have offered their homes, their food and their schools for shelter. So, there are thousands more which will add to the Government.

Sir, when these kinds of disasters happen, one way is to make a few points which may not prevent the natural disasters, but preparedness will help. So, I have three or four points to make. Actually, 100 days ago, there was a similar very big disaster. Someone was saying Andhra Pradesh. Yes, Andhra Pradesh was before that. But Bengal was hit by a huge disaster 100 days ago. Now, it is out of the media. I will come back to that in a while.

Sir, I have some suggestions. First is regarding the chain of commands since the Minister of State for Home Affairs is here. The National Disaster Response Force is under the administration of the National Disaster Management Authority, but also reports directly to the Home Ministry. This is a complicated process. We suggest to make it more efficient. You have to change the style of reporting.

Sir, I have the second point on fund utilization. The NDRF budget for 2014-15 was ₹ 200 crores. I was looking at those numbers yesterday and I was disappointed

to note that out of ₹ 200 crores, only ₹ 7.11 crores have been allotted, and the budget for this year has gone up from ₹ 200 to ₹ 255 crores. So, when we close in March, ensure that this amount of ₹ 7 crores goes as close to ₹ 255 crores as possible. There are some issues on infrastructure. The Minister is sitting here. I do not wish to go into the details of the infrastructure issues but eight out of ten battalions of NDRF actually do not have permanent buildings and the NDMA has a bigger space because they report to the Prime Minister. The NDMA has 75,000 sq.ft. office space, which is very good, while the NDRF is operating from 4,000 sq.ft. office space, which is, I dare say, just about enough for a quarter of an MP.

My last suggestion is relating to the CAG Report. The CAG Report, which we went through, and, which was submitted to the Parliament, says, and I quote, "The NDMA is ill-prepared to handle a potential natural or man-made disaster". This is what the CAG Report says. Let us take cognizance of that, Sir.

Sir, I want to draw the attention of the House, through you, Sir, to the Komen cyclone which hit Bengal. The State of Tamil Nadu has asked for ₹ 8,800 crore and they have been granted ₹ 7,000 crores. Please give that to Tamil Nadu. I have no issue but let me tell you as to what happened hundred days ago in Bengal where the number of lives lost was 100. Now, the point, I want to make is, please do not penalize those State Governments who have taken pre-emptive measures to ensure that less number of lives are lost. I think, the other good example was Odisha. When you take pre-emptive measures, you move lakhs of people to get them to safe zone. So, please keep that in mind, Sir. The Bengal numbers look very, very sad. It is not about Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Odisha or Andhra but let us look at the figures. The State Exchequer has spent ₹ 1,572 crores. Since you are writing these numbers, with all humility, I will ask you to write one more number please. On this, the total amount which Bengal has asked for is ₹ 6,400 crores. It is not that I am coming here today with a begging bowl just because the disaster has happened in Chennai; my Chief Minister, who is also the Party Chief of Trinamool Congress, on 7th August, 2015, sent a detailed letter to no less a person than the hon. Prime Minister of India. The point we made in that letter was relating to Damodar Valley Corporation. We said that in all these power projects, be careful that you do not hurt the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) because that is where a lot more floods can happen.

Sir, another detailed follow-up letter was written later in August. Sir, I will take the liberty to leave both the letters with you after this discussion; not with a begging bowl. We have got ₹ 270 crores, and, this also I was told informally that the cheque is in the mail. Now, from ₹ 6,500 crores, and, it is not comparing

[Shri Derek O'Brien]

with Tamil Nadu or Andhra, the State Exchequer has spent recorded ₹ 1,572 crores. I am talking not only about Komen but there was also a big disaster in Darjeeling, the Darjeeling landslide in North Bengal, where 13 lakh hectares of agricultural land is inundated. That is a lot of land, Sir. We are requesting you to consider a programme of loan-waiver or restructuring farm loans, and, perhaps, you could do the same even for Andhra or others. That is fine but at the end of all my speech of six, seven minutes, the only message I want to leave here, is, Sir, please write out some cheques, not because of any charity that you need to do but we have taken some serious steps in Bengal to pre-empt the disaster. Let us look at the SDRF figures of amounts allocated from 2015 to 2020, that is, over the next five years. Maharashtra has allocated ₹ 8,200 crores; it is very good; Madhya Pradesh ₹ 5,000 crores; Rajasthan ₹ 6,000 crores; West Bengal ₹ 2,000-odd crores. Sir, there are very few States in this country, which are prone to both drought and cyclone. Bengal is one of those States, Maharashtra is one of those States, Tamil Nadu also. Mr. Dilip was telling me, Odisha is also one. You can add to the list. But the bigger point here is, certain promises have been made and I am certain that the Government will look seriously into this as they are doing in Chennai and 4-5 months later, when we, God forbid, have another such disaster, I do not need to stand up here and again plead so humbly for funds. Thank you, Sir.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA): Thank you, Mr. Derek. Now, Shri Navaneethakrishnan.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Sir. Our State Tamil Nadu is suffering. I thank all the hon. Members, who expressed their solidarity in support of Tamil Nadu. One or two data may be permitted to be submitted before this august body to understand the gravity of this problem, which the Tamil Nadu is facing now.

In the current year, most of the districts in Tamil Nadu recorded more than 1000 mm rainfall in a few hours. On an average, the State received actual rainfall of 382.7 mm upto 15.11.2015 as against the normal rainfall of 290.1 mm in the corresponding period in the normal year. To be more specific, 217 mm of rainfall has been received in the State in 12 days starting from 04.11.2015. As per IMD observations, the State has recorded excess rainfall of 32 per cent as on 15.11.2015, during North-East monsoon period from 01.10.2015.

I may be permitted to submit one more statistics. At Neyveli, it rained 437 mm on 09.11.2015 and, similarly, Chennai received the second heaviest monthly rainfall

recorded in the past more than hundred years, I repeat it, past more than hundred years in just first 20 days of the November.

So, to understand the gravity, I am submitting these data. I do not want to waste the time of this august House. One or two steps the State Government has taken, may be relevant to understand how the Government headed by our hon. Chief Minister *Aamma* very promptly acted. It must be understood by this House.

I may be permitted to submit that the hon. Chief Minister instructed that relief should be disbursed to the affected people as per enhanced norms without any delay. The Chief Secretary to the Government convened a Monsoon Preparedness Meeting with all the line department officials on 01.10.2015 and issued instructions with regard to the preparedness for the North-East Monsoon 2015. The Principal Secretary/the Commissioner of Revenue Administration convened a meeting with the District Collectors through video conferencing on 26.10.2015 and 05.11.2015 to review the state of preparedness for the North-East Monsoon and issued instructions to the District Collectors to gear up the district machinery to face any eventuality.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

The Principal Secretary/Commissioner of Revenue Administration also issued circular instructions to the District Collectors to convene a meeting of line department officials to tackle the situation arising out of any emergency. Accordingly, Collectors also convened meetings with line department officials to review their state of preparedness.

Instructions were also issued to evacuate people from low-lying areas and put them in safer places. The Collectors were also requested to advise people not to venture near water bodies so as to avoid loss of human lives. The same instructions were strictly followed by the Collectors. The District Collectors had already prepared the District Disaster Management Plan. I repeat it, the District Collectors had already prepared the District Disaster Management Plan in which vulnerable areas have been identified and resources available in the districts in the event of disasters have been enumerated.

The District Collectors had put into action the District Disaster Management Plan as soon as the advisory was received from Meteorological Department that the rainfall would be heavy, very heavy and extremely heavy. The Taluk level Disaster Management Plan was also put into force and all precautions were taken by the line departments to prevent damage to infrastructure. First preference was given to preventing loss to human lives and buildings, providing shelter and medical assistance to the affected people. They were identified. Locations for centralised and mass kitchens were also identified in safe places near water bodies and other low lying areas.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Navaneethakrishnan, you are speaking like a Minister.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: It is as per the instructions of hon. *Amma*.
...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I said you are speaking like a Minister.
...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I am a humble worker of my party.

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tamil Nadu): Sir, in this House, nobody's instructions should be carried out. ...(Interruptions)...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: There is nothing wrong in it. ...(Interruptions)..
No permission...(Interruptions)...

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Please proceed. ...(Interruptions).... Please don't disturb him. ...(Interruptions).... You please sit down. ...(Interruptions).... Please don't disturb him. ...(Interruptions).... You please sit down. ...(Interruptions).... Mr. Navaneethakrishnan, you proceed. ...(Interruptions).... Don't waste your time. ...(Interruptions).... You proceed. ...(Interruptions).... You say what you want to say. ...(Interruptions).... Mr. Navaneethakrishnan, you speak. ...(Interruptions)....

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: It is an old concept. ...(Interruptions)....
What are you talking? ...(Interruptions)....

SHRI K.N. BALAGOPAL (Kerala): Sir, I have a point of order. ...(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Balagopal, please sit down. ...(Interruptions)....
Mr. Navaneethakrishnan, you speak. ...(Interruptions).... You continue with your speech. ...(Interruptions)....

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: It is my leader's view. ...(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No problem. ...(Interruptions)....

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: No. ...(Interruptions).... I have to reflect my leader's view. ...(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is correct. ...(Interruptions)....

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: You need not teach us. ...(Interruptions)....
We know how to conduct ourselves. ...(Interruptions).... We go by our leader's advice. ...(Interruptions)....

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No problem. ...*(Interruptions)*... You proceed. ...*(Interruptions)*... Every party member obeys the leader. ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Though all precautionary measures were taken, there was heavy, very heavy and extremely heavy rainfall for days together which caused extensive damage to infrastructure. The reservoirs, minor irrigation tanks and other ponds got quickly filled up and their overflow aggravated the problem. The rivers like the Adyar in Chennai City, the Gadilam in Cuddalore and the Kosasthalaiyar in Tiruvallur carried water more than their capacity thereby inundating adjoining areas. During this period, adjoining areas of Andhra Pradesh had also received very heavy rainfall and the outflows from Krishnampallam Dam to the Kosasthalaiyar river and Pichattoor Dam to the Arani river also aggravated the problem. Even though resources available with the State were pressed into action for avoiding death, destruction and distress, the fury of nature led to extensive damage. Districts like Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Cuddalore had unprecedented rainfall in certain stations. In many areas, the downpour was very heavy in a short duration of time.

I would like to submit that the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu conducted a series of meeting with Ministers and senior officers and closely monitored the rescue and relief operations in the State. The Government has taken a large number of steps to minimise the loss of lives. The State Government Departments and District Administration was put on high alert. People from low lying areas were evacuated and moved to shelters. That apart, nearly 14,35,695 houses were inundated and four lakh people from the inundated areas were shifted to relief camps and provided food, shelter, clothing and medical assistance. Five hundred thirty nine relief camps were set up during this period.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are four speakers from your party.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: As per the orders of the hon. Chief Minister *Amma*, High Level Teams of Ministers and senior IAS officers were deputed to various affected districts to monitor the preventive, rescue and relief operations. The hon. Chief Minister *Amma* visited the rain affected areas in Chennai on 16.11.15 and initially sanctioned a sum of ₹ 500 crore for relief and restoration. Hon. Chief Minister *Amma* announced for provisions of one additional set of uniform, books and notebooks to the school children in the affected areas and issuance of duplicate ration cards to those who have lost them in the rains.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Navaneethakrishnan, I want to know one thing from you.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I may be permitted to repeat it.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Listen to me. You are the leader of your party. Your party's total time is seven minutes and you have four speakers. It being a Tamil Nadu issue mainly, I want to allow all the four speakers. But already your party's time, which is seven minutes, is over. Try to conclude, so that I can give chance to others also.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Sir, I will take two more minutes.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Okay. Take two more minutes.

SHRI A. NAVANEETHAKRISHNAN: Immediate relief is being provided to families of 169 who lost their lives in the floods. In addition, relief is provided in 2,038 cases of loss of cattle and 80,672 cases of loss of poultry. Then, a memorandum was submitted to the Government of India for seeking assistance of ₹ 2,630.58 crore for temporary restoration and ₹ 5,850.34 crore for permanent restoration, totalling ₹ 8,480.93 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund for flood damages suffered by the State of Tamil Nadu. The hon. Chief Minister *Amma* also made a request for immediate release of ₹ 2,000 crore in a letter written to the hon. Prime Minister dated 23.11.2015. The Central Government has released a sum of ₹ 939.63 crore which includes second instalment of 2014-15 of ₹ 133.79 crore and second instalment of 2015-16 of ₹ 254.62 crore already due to the State of Tamil Nadu under the State Disaster Response Fund. But for the leadership provided by the hon. Chief Minister *Amma* and the timely action taken by the State Administration, the State would have witnessed untold miseries and unprecedented destructions. I humbly submit that disaster management was being carried out by hon. Chief Minister *Amma* on right and proper lines. We need assistance from the Central Government. That's all. Thank you.

SHRI K. N. BALAGOPAL: Sir, I also join with the pain and the solidarity of the Members who spoke here. This is not a time to speak much. Tamil Nadu is affected very badly. It is because of the modern technology that the casualties are less now. If it would have happened some 10-15 years back, thousands may have been affected by this very, very serious flood. Sir, now, the tally of deaths is more than 200. It is reported. It may be more. We can say that only later. This painful situation is very much affecting Kerala also. We are sisterly States and every walk of our life is connected with Tamil Nadu. It will affect in future also. *...(Interruptions)...* Malayalam is also developed from Tamil. *...(Interruptions)...* Some historic kind of connection is there. *...(Interruptions)...* What I am saying is that it will not be concluded by this. In future also, the supply of food material in Tamil Nadu,

Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka would be affected. That will be there. The infrastructure is also affected. Now, the immediate thing to do is, as hon. Member, Mr. Natchiappan, said here, we have to save the people and infrastructure. That is the issue. Here comes the question of our disaster management system. Like Mr. Derek pointed out, we have a Budget of around ₹ 380 crore and we spent only ₹ 7-10 crore and we are not spending it. Proper mechanism is not there. The problem is, in Chennai, even with the disaster management system, we cannot do something because this is unexpected. In Chennai, nobody will think about such a big and huge flood. In Kerala, it is happening. We have flood and within 24 hours, water goes to the sea. That is the experience. Every year, we are facing floods and sometimes drought also. But, Tamil Nadu has the infrastructure, the waterways like the Cooum River and others, and other manmade canals are there. That is not functional. Now, because of the new kind of development, filling all the water canals and everything, this is affecting us throughout the country. So, we have to think of the future. Now, immediately, some Naval Forces or some other forces are to be engaged because it is not like Kerala. In Kerala we have a slope land. Now, this is a plain land. For draining out water, it takes much time. So, something has to be done.

Then, about epidemics, after continuous rains and floods, this will happen. The entire area is flooded. We should not wait for the after-effects of this disaster. Therefore, a Central medical team should be sent to Tamil Nadu, and quality medicines should be distributed. Our party leader, Shri Sitaram Yechury has spoken here about the steps that we are going to take in the State. We are also ready to do. As per the decision of the House, our Members of Parliament will also contribute from our MPLAD fund for carrying out relief and rescue operations. All our CPM workers are already there from other States. It is not necessary to go from other States because actually going there is a problem. Even landing is a problem. That is the issue. Later on we can do that.

So, a separate discussion is required on this. At this time, we have to go together. There is no question of party politics and differences. We can do that maximum later on. But a separate discussion is required on the disaster management. After the Bhuj disaster we know something. After flash floods in Uttarakhand, we know something. For the first time this has happened in Tamil Nadu. I think the climate change is responsible for this kind of things. This incident is coinciding with the Climate Change summit in Paris. The global warming is the issue. I am requesting the hon. Chair to have a separate discussion on the climate change.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is a good suggestion. The interesting thing is in Tamil Nadu there was no rain. Now there are so much rains and floods. In

[Mr. Deputy Chairman]

Kerala there was rain. Now, the rains have drastically decreased. That is the impact of climate change. I have no doubt about it. As the hon. Member has suggested, there is a need for a separate discussion on the disaster management. A discussion on climate change is also very essential. I support that.

SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH (Odisha): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I, on behalf of my party, Biju Janata Dal, our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, want to say that when the people of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh are facing this grim situation at this juncture, we are solidly behind them. No State in the entire country is without natural calamities. All people in the country are affected by natural calamities like floods, drought, cyclone, earthquake and tornado. This is our pity. My hon. friend has suggested for a discussion on this subject, and you have readily agreed to his suggestion. It is high time that the Parliament and the Government should take note of it, and discuss on disaster management and on natural calamities, at least, for two days in general how to make ourselves prepared for this, how to make our school children and NCC boys to face the situation and meet such challenges.

I do not know whether the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Ms. Jayalalithaa has requested the Government of India that it should be declared as a national calamity. For the first time in 100 years, Tamil Nadu has faced such a situation. Chennai has not seen such type of rains in the past. When such a situation arises, it is our duty and the duty of the Government to say that it is not the issue of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh but it is the issue of the entire country.

Unfortunately, in 1999, the State of Odisha had faced this kind of situation. It was a terrible disaster. I was in the Government. From that time onwards, I always pray to the God that our country should not face any such natural calamity any more. In those days this type of technology to predict cyclones and heavy rains was not there. Whatever request has come from the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the Government of India should accede to her request immediately without Central Team's report. Two or three Central Ministers should station themselves in Chennai to supervise relief and rescue operations. Some senior officers, especially those who have already worked in such situations elsewhere in the country, should be deployed there. We had witnessed in Srinagar last time when we were there that a hospital had totally submerged. The ground and the first floor of the hospital were totally submerged in water. So, what is important is to rescue the people immediately. Life of every individual should be saved. The life of every individual is the property of the State. And when I talk about State, as a student of political science, State

means the whole country. Tamil Nadu is a State of the Union, but India is also a State. So, immediately rescue operations should be launched. Articles like candles, matchboxes, dry food and water should be supplied. Drinking water is very important. Then, boats should also be immediately supplied. Coimbatore, Madurai and Tuticorin airports should be the operation centres. The heart of Tamil Nadu, the city of Chennai, is submerged in water. People are not able to move. The entire operation should begin there without any delay. Sir, Members of Parliament of all parties stand strongly behind the people in Tamil Nadu. I salute all of them. We are all behind them. *...(Time-bell rings)...* I come to my last point. Sir, the hon. Finance Minister had promised ₹ 399.83 crores on account of the Cyclone Phailin in Odisha, but this has not yet been released.

Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had asked for ₹ 8,000 crores as relief while just ₹ 700 crores have been given. I know this is not the time to talk about money. This is the time to save every individual life. That is the provision in the Constitution. Saving the lives and property is the duty of the Government. Sir, you must also support us. We have been facing severe drought, not only in Odisha but in all the eastern States as well as the State of Maharashtra. As the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs mentioned here, we have given notice. Agrarian crisis must not be taken as a part of it. A separate discussion on drought situation should be held in the House.

Thank you very much.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Shri C. M. Ramesh.

SHRI C. M. RAMESH (Telangana): Sir, thank you for this opportunity. Today, everybody is supporting the situation in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry. The situation is very bad there and the leaders and Members from all the Parties have supported us. I am thankful to everybody for that.

Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, rains started on 9th November. Since then, there have been incessant rains in three districts – my own district, Kadapa, Chittoor and Nellore. There has been a huge damage to property. Two lakh hectares of agricultural land has been affected. The crop which was ready to be taken home by the farmers has been damaged. Our Chief Minister, Shri Chandra Babu Naidu, has visited all the affected places. He had arranged for immediate rehabilitation and distribution of ration, dal, etc. The Tirupathi Airport has also been closed because of the heavy rains.

Sir, no Member would want his State to be affected by any kind of natural calamity, be it drought, flood, incessant rain or an earthquake. But, since nobody can

[Shri C. M. Ramesh]

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win over nature, we must bear the brunt. We can only take remedial and precautionary measures to minimize the damage.

The unprecedented rains recently in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry have played a havoc not only resulting in the death of hundreds of people, but also in the damage of lakhs of acres of standing crops, as also killing of huge numbers of livestock.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is in a peculiar situation as three districts have been severely affected by heavy rains and other districts are suffering from drought. Sir, 359 *mandals* in nine districts have been declared as drought-affected during the Kharif season, after carefully examining the reports submitted by the Collectors.

Nellore, Chittoor and my own district Kadapa are affected with very heavy rains lashed out at Andhra Pradesh causing extensive damage to life and property. Sir, more than 40 people died and 150 villages are totally damaged. The flash floods coupled with unprecedented rains caused due to the low pressure in Bay of Bengal resulted in extensive damage. Sir, 86 cms. rain recorded in Nellore itself indicates the magnitude of the problem. Initial estimates indicate that the total losses have been calculated at more than ₹ 3,800 crores due to heavy rains. Now, again, heavy rains have started since yesterday. What the damage is we have to do a survey now. Floods caused extensive damage to crops in more than 2 lakh hectares and infrastructure, including 550 irrigation tanks and canals, roads, electricity and thousands of houses. Sir, there is a national highway six-lane from Kolkata to Chennai. That road has been damaged about five to six days. There is no traffic. The Chief Minister has sat there and immediately they have made that road temporarily and now the traffic is going on. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also announced compensation to the affected families. But, compensation is not a permanent solution. It is only to help the flood victims to meet the temporary damage. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had written a letter to the Prime Minister to immediately allot ₹ 1,000 crores to give some help to the Andhra Pradesh. Sir, now Andhra Pradesh is already bifurcated. Now, we have the date sheet of the Budget and now this damage. You have seen the Hudhud toofan that during Hudhud, there was total damage in the Vizag. The Prime Minister also came to Vizag and he announced some amount. Still, some balance amount is there and now because of these damages, we are in a huge trouble. We are in a big problem. Because of the deficit budget, bifurcation has happened. Now, I request the Government to immediately send the team. So, all our MPs went to meet the Home Minister and we have given the representation

and all the damage reports. He told that he would immediately send the team. Till now, the teams have not gone and again the rains have been started. We request the Government. The Prime Minister has to visit and the Minister has to visit and some teams have to go and immediately some rehabilitation has to happen. Thank you.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much Shri Ramesh. Now, Shri D.P. Tripathi.

SHRI D. P. TRIPATHI (Maharashtra): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman. Hon. Members have made most of the points and I would not like to repeat them. Shrimati Kanimozhi in detail explained how this calamity in Chennai and coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, in Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry, is unprecedented and people are facing unimaginable hardships. Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister said that a Central team is there to monitor the rescue operations and assess the kind of damage and devastation which has been caused. I do not think Chennai ever faced this kind of a situation, a metropolitan city with a huge population under water, people being washed away. More than two hundred people have died. I do not wish to go into all those points, they have been made. I wanted to mention the UN Report which has been already mentioned. I wanted to talk about the CAG Report which Shri Derek O'Brien has already mentioned. What we need today is to stand by the people of Tamil Nadu. The whole country should stand together in this crisis and this feeling must go there. How will it go there? I have a concrete solution. As political parties, we are committed to the cause of our people and if they are facing hardships and distress, we must stand by them. So, my appeal to all political parties is that, at least, make people aware of the kind of calamity that has happened in Tamil Nadu. This kind of calamity never happened. The whole nation should be made aware. The media is playing its role; they are informing the people about the hardships. It is the duty of all the political parties, irrespective of whether they are in the Government or in the Opposition, to at least, observe one day as 'Tamil Nadu Day' and explain to the people the kind of difficulties they are facing and what they need today. If this feeling goes there, this will give a lot of moral strength to the people who are facing unimaginable difficulties.

My second suggestion is for professionalization of the Disaster Management Authority. There are very good officers in the Disaster Management forces, but further professionalization is needed. Why do I say this? I am taking the name of the President of my party second time in this House because it is relevant for the discussion. Shri Sharad Pawar was appointed as Vice-Chairman of the Disaster Management Authority with Cabinet Rank by the then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. He made certain suggestions about professionalization of the Disaster

[Shri D. P. Tripathi]

Management Forces. Those suggestions are there on record. If we really assess the situation and if we really strengthen our assessment and monitoring authorities and organizations, which can give us warnings about these disasters in advance, that would really save a large number of people from these difficulties and a lot of lives too.

The last point that I wish to make without taking much of your time, Sir, is that the disaster management discussion should be extensive. It has been agreed upon by the hon. Deputy Chairman. Therefore, that discussion should be in detail. Finally, I would like to say that we all stand by the people of Tamil Nadu. This, as I said, should be taken as a national disaster, as pointed out by three-four hon. Members. Thank you.

SHRI K. PARASARAN (Nominated): Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir, thank you for the indulgence given to me. The deluge and disaster is something which cannot be adequately described in words. Hon. Member, Shrimati Kanimozhi, has very tersely painted the picture of the calamity. There were some talks about this State, that State, etc. We had a disaster in Uttarakhand, Kashmir and other States. But we give them a label only for identification. They are not Tamil Nadu disaster or this disaster or that disaster; they are all national disasters. Therefore, the first thing which is needed is an official declaration that it is a national disaster.

Sir, there is no power and the main supply has been switched off to prevent electrocution. There is no water inside for drinking purposes. If they come outside, the water comes up to the lips, but it can't be drunk. It is really an occasion where one can recall Tantalus. When he opened his mouth, the hanging grapes rose above his reach; when he opened his mouth, the water came up to the lips, but did not enter his mouth; it receded. We are in a position where the suffering is not only because of the rain but also because of the flood. Intermittently, even when the rain stops, they are finding it difficult to flood out the water. All reservoirs have been opened for the purpose of protection. Hon. Shri Yechury very rightly pointed out the difficulty to access the people who are in need. The whole city of Chennai is in waters. Therefore, there is an immediate need of an action. This is not an occasion for the purpose of reading out statistics. All those things can be taken up on other occasions. But this is an occasion to take stock of the reliefs which are required. Actually, the Army, the Navy and the NDRF have intervened. We know what work they did when the disaster was there in Jammu and Kashmir. The hon. Prime Minister has declared that he would extend full aid in this disaster. The Tamil Nadu State Government as well as leaders of all the political parties and the Opposition in Tamil Nadu have all joined in helping in this endeavour. This

is an occasion not for crossing swords. This is an occasion of anguish and, when we are in anguish, the most required thing is the united strength. All the united strength of all the men and women of any State of the country cannot withstand a wrath, a fury of the nature of this type. They can only aid in going to the help of those who are in distress and if it has been demonstrated on any occasion, it has been very well demonstrated on this occasion by the people of Chennai. It is remarkable that individuals and institutions have rushed to their help. Whoever was in a location, where he could stretch his hand of help, has helped on this occasion. I know of instances in this floods where the first floor and second floor of houses were thrown open for whoever was wading through the waters, irrespective of caste, creed and religion. That is the unity shown. That is the unity which is required on such occasions. I am sure, a lot of help will be flowing from every quarter. It is gratifying that — I was here when you were announcing that — the Members will also be contributing their might from the MPLADS Funds. And the occasion do require such support.

Sir, I am happy for the time that you have afforded to me. This is an occasion more for anguish than for exchanges and, I am sure, the help required, the relief required will be coming in such abundance. Though we cannot remove all the sufferings being undergone by them, we can, at least, assuage them and mitigate the sufferings of the people. Thank you very much for this opportunity.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri D. Raja.

SHRI D. RAJA (Tamil Nadu): Sir, Tamil Nadu, Pudducherry and a part of Andhra Pradesh have been worst affected by this unprecedented rainfall, unprecedented flood. It is a part of the North-East monsoon. This is unprecedented. The Chennai city stands cut-off. Airport remains closed; no train service from Chennai; no bus service from Chennai; schools, colleges remain closed; exams have been postponed and office-goers do not go to office. So, it is such a devastation for Chennai. Around Chennai, there are some Districts; that is, Kadalur, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur have been worst affected. Along with it, Puducherry and the whole coastal areas have been affected badly. The standing crops stand destroyed. Paddy, banana, cotton, all standing crops, stand destroyed. Thousands of acres of standing crops stand destroyed and people have lost their houses and their day to day useful utensils. They have lost everything. Sir, it is a very sad situation. When the Parliament is discussing this, I get an SMS which says, — the Minister may kindly take note of it — "Anna, I am watching the Rajya Sabha proceedings. Tambaram Manimangalam area people are waiting for rescue and food." Sir, Tambaram is next to the Airport. This outcry, this appeal, this pleading is coming from all parts of Tamil Nadu, particularly, the

[Shri D. Raja]

coastal areas. And now what is the requirement, the short-term requirement? People need food. People need safe drinking water. People need relief and people need medical care. I do not know when water recedes, what the health hazards will be. I am not able to foresee it. There can be many health hazards which people will be facing. Health care becomes a very imperative and an important issue. So, all these things are there. Whatever the State Government and the Central Government is doing, at present, is all right. But we need more. People need more. And the Central Government will have to extend all possible help to the State Government. Now, the hon. Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, said that the Central team went there, and a part of the team is stranded there. What do we want? You send another Central team to make a fresh assessment of the damages and losses and a fresh assessment of the need of the people in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and in Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra Pradesh, they are saying that no Central team has reached so far. So, send a Central team. What is preventing you? You can despatch a Central team at any time, and it is good that you have deployed the Army, the Navy and security forces to help the people, to rescue their lives. It is good. We appreciate that. But it is not enough. And the damages, which are of such a vast nature, need to be assessed. A Central team should go, and on the basis of their report, the Central Government must extend all financial support, economic support, to the State Governments of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh. It is the responsibility of the State Governments. Sir, we have been witnessing all these disasters. Earlier, we saw that the the Kosi river changed its course causing damages in Bihar. And we saw what happened in Uttarakhand. We saw what happened in cloud bursts and resultant damages in Jammu and Kashmir. It keeps on happening. Some years back, we saw what happened in Odisha. So, our country has been facing such natural calamities and disasters. The Central Government, being the Government of the entire country, must share the responsibility with respective State Governments. That is where we request that the Central Government must be liberal and realistic to extend its financial support to the State Governments. This is one thing.

Secondly, Sir, I wish to make a concrete proposal. I met the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, on 27th November. We made a request to him stating, "We request you that the recent rain havoc in Tamil Nadu may be declared as a calamity of severe nature. This will enable MPs belonging to Tamil Nadu and also MPs from other States to contribute to the Government of Tamil Nadu from their MPLADS funds. Then, the Government may also please examine to relax the maximum limit of ₹ 50 lakhs, that the MPs can allot from their funds, to ₹ 1 crore, as a special case, for Tamil Nadu. These are all immediate measures which the Central Government

can do. As long-term measures, because South India happens to be in the tropical zone of the globe, we have to confront the impact of climate change, we will have to concentrate our efforts on protecting water bodies, rivers and forests, and we will have to see how our National Disaster Management can be streamlined, strengthened and professionalised. Whatever is there, that is not adequate to face the challenges, and we will have to strengthen our National Disaster Management Force. These are some of my suggestions. Thank you very much.

श्री अजय संचेती (महाराष्ट्र) : माननीय डिप्टी चेरमैन सर, फ्लडिंग द्वारा देश के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में उत्पन्न हुई स्थिति से हम सभी वाकिफ हैं और उसी पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। सभी लोग अच्छी तरह से जानते हैं कि अत्यधिक सूखा, जरूरत से ज्यादा बारिश, कोई भी चीज जब excess में होती है, तो परिस्थितियां बहुत ज्यादा गंभीर हो जाती हैं, विकट हो जाती हैं। फ्लडिंग ने देश को सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान पहुँचाया है। बेमौसम तूफानी बारिश और बाढ़ की स्थिति सारा जनजीवन अस्त-व्यस्त कर देती है।

सर, अगर हम ताजा स्थिति की ओर ध्यान दें, तो तमिलनाडु, स्पेशली चेन्नई और उसके आस-पास के इलाके की स्थिति अत्यंत गंभीर बनी हुई है। इस तूफानी बारिश ने शायद पिछले सौ सालों का रिकॉर्ड तोड़ दिया है। कुछ समय पहले ही भारत सरकार ने तमिलनाडु को बाढ़ के नुकसान से निपटने के लिए तकरीबन 900 करोड़ रुपये भेजे हैं। सम्माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी ने वहां की सम्माननीय मुख्य मंत्री जी से बात की है और उनको जितनी सहायता की आवश्यकता होगी, वे सारी मुहैया कराने का उनको आश्वासन दिया है।

सर, सिर्फ तमिलनाडु ही नहीं, बल्कि पिछले कुछ समय से तमिलनाडु के अलावा आंध्र प्रदेश, असम, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, बिहार, गुजरात, मणिपुर, जम्मू-कश्मीर, पश्चिमी बंगाल और यहां तक कि महाराष्ट्र के भी कुछ हिस्से इससे अत्यधिक प्रभावित हुए हैं। सर, बाढ़ आई, तबाही हुई, जनहानि भी हुई। केंद्र और राज्य सरकारों ने सुरक्षा बल भेजे, आर्थिक सहायता की। यह सब तो होता रहता है, लेकिन बाढ़ की स्थितियों को रोकने के लिए वैश्विक स्तर पर और देश में क्या किया जा रहा है, जिससे भविष्य में ऐसी calamities को रोका जा सके, यह एक बड़ा सवाल है।

अभी-अभी सम्माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी पेरिस गए थे और climate change पर उन्होंने highest forum में बात की। उन्होंने वहां पुरजोर तरीके से कहा है कि क्लाइमेट चेंज से जो तबाही हो रही है, इसके लिए भारत किसी भी तरीके से जिम्मेदार नहीं है। जो प्रगतिशील देश हैं, उनकी प्रगति का जो डैमेज है, उसका हिस्सा पूरे देश-दुनिया को सहन करना पड़ रहा है, जिसमें भारत भी एक है। सर, Indian Government ने, चाहे वह आज की सरकार हो या पिछली सरकारें हों, environment protection के लिए जो भी जरूरी कदम हैं, उठाए हैं। इस पर तेजी से लगातार और भी काम किया जा रहा है, ताकि man-made problems के कारण होने वाली समस्या को समय से रोका जा सके। सर, मैं यह तमिलनाडु के रेफरेंस में नहीं कह रहा हूँ, बल्कि देश के बारे में in general कह रहा हूँ। Sir, unplanned industrialisation, encroachments of land in coastal area, too much urbanisation, delay in linking of rivers, too much concrete clusters, cutting of jungles and trees आदि अनेक ऐसे कारणों से बाढ़ की स्थिति उत्पन्न हो जाती है, जिसको रोका जा सकता है।

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE) *in the Chair.*]

सर, इन चीजों से निपटने के लिए सरकार ने बहुत से कदम उठाए हैं। बाढ़ न आए, इसलिए पेड़ों को लगाना, जंगल बचाना, समुद्री तटों से आबादी को दूर रखना, ऐसे अनेक उपाय सरकार द्वारा किए जा रहे हैं। गृह मंत्रालय ने, विशेषकर बाढ़ जैसी स्थिति उत्पन्न होने से बचाव के लिए सैन्य दलों की तैनाती, नेवी का deployment, सारे साधन-सामग्री उपलब्ध कराना, health issues से निपटने के लिए कार्यबल, दवाइयां और डॉक्टरों की व्यवस्था करना, financial assistance आदि सभी चीजों की तैयारी की है। गृह मंत्री और रक्षा मंत्री, दोनों स्वयं इस स्थिति पर पूरी निगरानी रखे हुए हैं और जैसा कि शुरुआत में सम्माननीय संसदीय कार्य मंत्री ने बताया कि प्रधान मंत्री जी ने शायद आज ही होम मिनिस्टर जी की अध्यक्षता में क्राइसिस ग्रुप की बैठक बुलाकर उसमें और क्या किया जा सकता है या immediately क्या करना है, they are monitoring day-in-and-day-out. सर, वहां पर तकरीबन 180 लोगों की जानें जा चुकी हैं। वहां एयरपोर्ट्स बन्द हैं और वहां व्यवस्था पहुँचाना भी अपने आप में एक बड़ा tedious काम है। सर, सबसे ज्यादा दुख इस बात का है कि माल के नुकसान की भरपाई तो हो जाती है, लेकिन जान के नुकसान की कीमत कहां से अदा की जाएगी? इसलिए मैं इस सदन में बैठे हुए सभी वरिष्ठ सदस्यों और मित्रों से आग्रह करता हूँ कि इस विषय की गम्भीरता को ध्यान में रखकर पर्यावरण की रक्षा के लिए हम सब एक स्वर में उन सभी उपायों का समर्थन करें, जो इस दिशा में उठाए जा रहे हैं। बाढ़ से पीड़ित सभी देशवासियों को हुए जान-माल के नुकसान के प्रति मैं अपनी तथा अपनी पार्टी और सदन की ओर से संवेदनाएं प्रकट करता हूँ और अपनी बातों को समाप्त करता हूँ, धन्यवाद।

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, I would like to say a few words because my friends spoke about Tamil Nadu. Of course, Tamil Nadu is the worst affected. Puducherry, its adjoining areas and Andhra Pradesh, especially Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa, Anantapur and Prakasam districts, have severely been affected. More than 2 lakh hectares of crop is damaged and there is a huge loss of livestock and Animal Husbandry department. The people are in great distress. I don't want to repeat what has been said by my colleague, Shri Ramesh. But, he mentioned damage in three districts. But, in fact, five districts are affected. Two people died in Anantapur and one person died in Prakasam district. So, it is five districts. The rehabilitation work is going on. Thanks to the officers. They are working to shift people from the low-lying areas. In fact, 86 mm rain in one day is a record.

Sir, Andhra Pradesh is not new to facing cyclones. There is a system to meet the natural calamities like this. Not only Andhra Pradesh but right from West Bengal, Odisha and other States have been affecting. The hon. Leader of the Opposition explained how he spent 21 days in Odisha looking at the hundreds of dead bodies. We are used to facing such situations. I wanted to, at this juncture, wish to say a point. The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, before the start of the discussion, asked us to give suggestions. He himself was quoting, for instance in Andhra Pradesh, during the current trouble, the rain started from 9th November, but the seriousness

came from 15th November. Between 15th and 22nd November, it was very, very unfortunate since there was so much damage to crops and also causing inconvenience to people. He was saying that there should be concrete suggestions. But, he himself spoke about Andhra Pradesh.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has assessed a preliminary damage of ₹ 3,000 crores and requested the Government of India to release, at least, ₹ 1,000 crores immediately to meet the eventualities. Hon. Minister has also said, 'We have created the State Disaster Relief Fund which comprises 75 Central share and 25 per cent State's share'. He also said that every year they are releasing some money from the Centre to States under the SDRF. What his suggestion is this. This applies to all the 3-4 States which are affected. For instance, money is released to Andhra Pradesh in two installments — once in every six months. So, in the last two years, 2014-15 and 2015-16, Andhra Pradesh was given four installments of the Central share. What his suggestion was this. The suggestion was that let that money be spent first and the State should add 25 per cent and then come to the Centre. 'Don't ask money from us'— this is what he said. Then they will give from the National Disaster Relief Fund.

Sir, secondly, this is not happening on the ground. There should be clarity. Relief and rehabilitation should be there. Meeting the natural calamities is not new. There is a set pattern. But, after the new dispensation has come, there is some discrepancy because the State Disaster Relief Fund will not be able to meet the colossal loss. That is why there should be a strong presence of the Centre. The Centre should come to the rescue of the State Governments because the State Governments' Budget is very, very limited. Even if they spend their own share of 25 per cent and 75 per cent share of the Centre, it is not enough. These are natural calamities with a huge magnitude. Reading the guidelines will not be sufficient. Sir, there is a set pattern of the policy. How does it fail? For instance, we had a very, very unfortunate Hudhud cyclone. Mr. Ramesh was mentioning that originally the loss claimed was huge. The hon. Prime Minister visited the area, and looking at the serious impact of the disaster, promised ₹ 1,000 crores on the spot. But, what happened was, the State Government gave an estimation of ₹ 9,000 crores. The Prime Minister came and released ₹ 400 crores immediately. The Central Team visited. They assessed the loss at Rs.770 crores. Sir, look at the difference between the estimation of ₹ 9,000 crores made by the State Government and the Central Government's estimation of ₹ 770 crores. What happened then? ₹ 400 crores was released. As per the Prime Minister's announcement, they should have got the balance of ₹ 600 crores. But they only got ₹ 230 crores. It is said that that was the Central share of 75 per

[Shri Jesudasu Seelam]

cent in the State Disaster Relief Fund. So, ultimately, out of ₹ 9,000 crores that the State Government has requested, they got only ₹ 630 crores and not ₹ 1,000 crores as promised by the Prime Minister. No, that was not given but only ₹ 630 crores was given.

Sir, what I am trying to say is that when such calamities occur, irrespective of which party rules, it must be realised that it is the people who are suffering. So, the Government of the prevailing dispensation should have a re-look of their policies. It should be equitable with a matching proportion to the damage. The survey needs to be done immediately and relief be provided immediately because even when the relief is given, some discrepancies do creep in. For instance, our team, under the Chairmanship of the President of the Andhra Pradesh Congress Committee, which also comprised other senior leaders, including the Leader of the Opposition in the Legislative Council, went round all the affected five districts for seven days. They suggested some measures saying that before the new dispensation came, it was working well; the old scheme of immediate Central assistance was working very well. Today, it happened here. God forbid, such calamities should not happen elsewhere. For the entire coastal States, I would suggest that there should be a proper policy in place which does not ask the States to spend first, because the States are under severe financial constraints. Especially, my State of Andhra Pradesh, as you are aware is newly created. It is not like the one created by my Telangana friends. We are asked to go out and start a new capital, new offices and the new administrative set up. The normal practice is, the State sends a report to the hon. Members; the hon. Members then go to the Prime Minister and explain what is happening. Now, there is no communication on what is happening. We have to collect from our party. Our party has gone and prepared a report. I hope, we are one in this calamity. We would like to support the Government's stand to get more support from the Central Government and to see to it that there is an equitable distribution. I would like to tell my friend, tell your people that it is rehabilitation work. In relief work, cyclone or drought situations, the revenue machinery is given free hand to take care. But it is different in the sense, I do not want to get politics into this, but what is happening is, they look at the colour, where you are, and which party you belong to, then you will be given preference. This is unfortunate. The State should understand that people at this hour of crisis should be treated equally without playing any politics. So, this is my submission because the suffering is true; it is common to everybody. So, firstly, I would like to suggest that the Andhra Pradesh situation should not end like the Hudhud situation in Visakhapatnam. The promise made for ₹ 1,000 crores by the hon. Prime Minister should be fulfilled. Sir, this Government is not fulfilling what they are saying. It is not true of just natural calamity, it is true of building

our State, it is true of giving special category status, giving money to compensate for the loss of revenue in Hyderabad, giving money to build the Capital. Every time we ask for money, they will come up with some explanation, 'spend from here, spend from there; spend what is being given.' Sir, there are different heads of account, and you cannot really say, 'we have given, use that money'. Anyway, I would like to not only suggest to the Central Government, through you and through this august House, but also I would urge the Government of Andhra Pradesh to be dispassionate, to be more quick, not to entrust it to the local *jammabhoomi* party committees, and entrust the work of rehabilitation to the officers, and see to it that everybody is relieved of this stress; relieved of this problem.

Sir, I would also, at the same time, request the Government of India to honour the commitment made to the people of Andhra Pradesh and, specially, in these five districts, people are suffering, farmers are suffering, the labourers are suffering. There is no work, no food. I suggest that immediately food packets should be distributed through helicopters, and the National Highway should be taken up for repairs immediately. Thousands and thousands of vehicles are stranding; people are not able to locate their kith and kin. Even now, it started raining, Sir. I pray to the Rain God to stop and request the Administration, both Central and State Government, to take immediate steps for quick relief without any favour or fear. This is my request. Thank you for giving me this time.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE): Shri S. Muthukaruppan.

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on Tamil Nadu floods and demanding more funds from the Government of India. Hon. Amma's Government of Tamil Nadu is seeking assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund and from other Central funds towards the immediate relief and other restoration works and the extensive damage suffered in the aftermath of extremely heavy rainfall in different districts in Tamil Nadu in the month of November, 2015. On 23.11.2015, my leader, hon. Amma, had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister of India regarding the requirement of funds for immediate rescue and relief, and temporary and permanent restoration of infrastructure which has been worked out to ₹ 8,481 crores in all.

Further, Sir, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, my leader, hon. Amma, requested to depute a Central team immediately. The Government of India has sanctioned ₹ 939 crores for temporary relief. Now already the Central team is assessing damages. I am thankful to the Government of India for sanction of this amount temporarily and setting up a Central team. Again, Sir, still the rain is continuously falling. Huge damages have been occurred. The demand for an amount of ₹ 8,481 crores *...(Interruptions)...*

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): I request the House to remain quiet.

SHRI S. MUTHUKARUPPAN: The demand for an amount of ₹ 8,481 crores was the position on 23.11.2015. Sir, still the flood is going on. The rest of the amount of ₹ 7,542 crores may please be released immediately. Before releasing the temporary relief of the sanctioned amount of ₹ 939 crores by the Government of India, hon. Amma has already visited Chennai City and released ₹ 500 crores for taking immediate steps. Again, the Tamil Nadu Coast near Marakkanam is causing extremely heavy rains, particularly in the four Northern Districts of Cuddalore, Kanchipuram, Chennai and Thiruvallur. Nowadays, the south part of Tamil Nadu, *i.e.*, Thoothukudi District is also affected by these heavy rains.

Sir, my leader Amma has taken adequate precautionary measures which have minimized loss to life and property. The State level agencies and the District Administration in the affected Districts were put on high alert. High-level Team of Ministers and senior officers were deputed to various districts to monitor preventive rescue and relief operations.

Secondly, Sir, the State Government and the local body personnel belonging to different Departments, including Revenue, Police, Fire Service and Public Works were fully mobilized. As on 23.11.2015, four lakh people were shifted to the relief camps and provided food, shelter and rescue and relief operations were undertaken on a war-footing. As on 23.11.2015, Sir, 169 persons lost their lives. My leader, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, hon. Amma immediately released ₹ 4 lakh to every individual family. All these efforts were taken by my leader, hon. Amma as the rainfall was extremely heavy and sustained for several days. It has left a trail of damage and destruction. For example, at Neyveli, already my friend, Shri Navaneethakrishnan, has already quoted, it rained 437 millimeter on 9.11.2015. Similarly, Chennai has received the second heaviest monthly rainfall recorded in the past over 100 years in just the first 20 days of November, 2015. Many parts of the State have been severely affected due to flooding. There was widespread damage to property, including dwelling units, crops, infrastructure, roads and bridges. Storm water drainage systems, water supply and sewerage systems and electricity supply systems have been damaged in many areas.

Sir, as on 23.11.2015, the approximate damage caused is ₹ 8,481 crores, but the Government sanctioned only temporary ₹ 939 crores. I urge the Government of India, especially the hon. Prime Minister of India, hon. Home Minister and hon. Finance Minister to please release the rest of the amount of ₹ 7,304 crores immediately. Thank you to the Chair as well as hon. Amma.

SHRI AMBETH RAJAN (Uttar Pradesh): Hon. Vice-Chairman, Sir, I rise to share, on behalf of the Bahujan Samaj Party and its National President, Km. Mayawati, the grief and sorrow of the people of Tamil Nadu, the Union Territory of Puducherry and the State of Andhra Pradesh suffering due to heavy North-East Monsoon rains. The famous city of Chennai has now become an island. Sir, not only Chennai, but many other places near Chennai have also become islands. We are now seeing many islands there. It has happened there for the first time. Sir, the situation is more than Tsunami. I think you might have heard of Tsunami, but it is more than Tsunami.

Sir, the village people migrate to cities in search of livelihood. But after coming to cities, their condition further worsens. Without any other means, they settle in places and locations which are waterways and water bodies during monsoon. Thus, they, who are living in the metropolitan cities, are considered as refugees within the States. It happens not only in Chennai, but at many places. We have come to understand from the newspapers that one more reason for the situation is encroachment of water bodies and water canals. This happens because of non-application of mind by city planners and administration. Schools, housing projects of State Governments, multinational companies, etc., are also constructed in those places which were once water bodies. These types of things should not happen again. Hereafter, everybody – people and the Government – should be vigilant.

I also urge upon the Government to take necessary and immediate steps to release necessary funds to the State Government to carry out necessary relief and rehabilitation works.

Considering the extent of coastal line of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, I urge upon the Government to set up a branch of NDMA in Chennai. Now, I think, the Government is planning to set up an NDMA centre there. If they set up a centre there – at present, they are bringing the rescue team from Visakhapatnam – it will be useful for the Southern India. If proper steps are not taken immediately, we will have to lose many cities and many metropolitan cities.

Thank you very much.

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Tamil Nadu): Thank you, Mr. Vice-Chairman.

On my part, I can, at the most, describe devastation of the unprecedented rains in different dimensions, which I do not want to. After 105 years, Chennai is facing such heavy rains. If I have to explain the intensity of rains – I was told by a statistical survey – of the total rainfall of UK, which does not have monsoons, but rain throughout the year, two-thirds have poured in Chennai during the last ten

[Shri Tiruchi Siva]

hours. I watched the news last night. It kept on raining the whole night. Even in the morning, when we had expected that rains would have stopped and the floods would have receded, rains were pouring. Last night, it was knee-deep water. Now, it is hip-deep. When I just went out for a cup of tea, I was told that it is still raining in Chennai. The Northern districts of Tamil Nadu are badly suffering. The central part of Tamil Nadu is cloudy. So, in this situation, what has to be done? This only has to be discussed. I think, everybody has expressed his or her concern and solidarity.

All pre-emptive measures have been washed away by the heavy rains. With the kind of rains and floods that we have seen in the Adayar river, Saidapettai and Kotturpuram and all, it seems the bridges would be washed away in a day or two. I was very much disturbed when Mr. Derek told Tamil Nadu must prepare for more rains in the next four days. I wish the Meteorological Department's forecast would be false. But, I am afraid, it may be true. Every message that we receive and whatever we see on the television make us shiver. I should say, at this moment, that the Central Government has taken cognizance of this issue. The State Government and the Central Government are in touch. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and the Prime Minister have talked. And, they have *suo motu* taken some action. Before your financial assistance, we wish your moral support, your logistic support, and technical support. This is first and foremost. Instead of relief and rescue, it should rather be rescue and relief. I am afraid, maybe, by today night, we may lose all communications with the people of Chennai because the power will be totally off, there will be no mobile network, no internet, no televisions. So, I think, it will be like an 'island', even that is also not a right word. I am not able to portray every situation in words. I think, you can understand. I am trembling. I am worried about those people who are all there. They all, children, aged people and sick people, are without any food for the past three days. Nothing is available there. So, your helicopters should fly. Wherever you have got any source, you should fly there and give food packets to all the people and you have to rescue them. Army should be deployed to the fullest extent and this should be done on a war-footing. Moreover, the Tamil Nadu Government had asked for ₹ 8,000-odd crores earlier. That was the earlier estimate. In the coming days, the situation may become worse and the estimate might shoot up. The financial assistance has to be looked up later, whether it is our MPLAD funds, or, Central Government funds, or, anything else, but before that, we are worried about the lives of the people. We are worried about the scare that has come into the minds of the children there and anybody who is there. Whenever they speak to us or give a message, we are also shaken. We, here in Delhi, are

also worried. But we think that we are doing something for our people who are there. As our Leader said, rising above all the politics, even in the year 1962, we had given up a policy for the sake of the, and now, for the sake of the people in Tamil Nadu, we are prepared to help the Tamil Nadu Government in all possible ways. Our Leader has said that and Shrimati Kanimozhi has spoken here the same. So, I think we are in solidarity and what we expect is the Union Government's fullest support on a war-footing. We should hear news from your side today night that all the Army, all the Naval and all the Air Force is there to help the people there. Kindly arrange food packets for them. Thank you.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (Andhra Pradesh): Sir, at the very outset, on behalf of all my respected colleagues here in the House and everyone, our heartfelt condolences for those who have lost their loved ones, the terrible tragedies that have taken place in individual homes and collectively as a State. As the low pressure moved upwards from Tamil Nadu, South Coastal Andhra Pradesh in Rayalseema received heavy rains. Normal life has been disrupted and streets have filled up with water.

श्री रामदास अटावले (महाराष्ट्र): सर....(व्यवधान).....

श्रीमती रेणुका चौधरी: अभी आपको रुकना पड़ेगा, बैठिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (श्री वी. पी. सिंह बदनौर): बीच में तो आपको नहीं बुला सकूंगा। Please don't disturb.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Streams and rivulets like the Swaranmukhi, the Kalangi and the Kaivalyan, were in spate and the flood levels rose increasingly overnight. And, especially, the rains in Venkatgiri, Balayapalli, Guduru and Sullurpeta, Tada and nearby regions have impacted the National Highways, the old National Highway No. 5 and the current one, as it is known as National Highway No. 16. Incredible disaster and the downfall has happened. We are the neighbours of Tamil Nadu. So, part of the devastation has come from there and impacted us in Andhra Pradesh as well. Sir, many respected colleagues have addressed different issues and suggested different ways of dealing with this. But I do believe that we need to think out of the box. Besides, the State Governments and the Central Government jointly have to do this. This is not just a favour that you are doing to the States but it is a sense of collective responsibility, because every citizen in this country is important to us and, nationally, that should be focussed on. Sir, the devastation that is going to impact subsequently is what you need to think about. My heart goes out to the farmers. Sir, the issue of standing crops has been mentioned by Rajaji. The land has been devastated. But do you know what is going to happen? There is going to be no Rabi, and the Khariff in the next season is also not going to

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

be possible in these areas, because the land will have so much silt carried over by the waters that this land is not going to be cultivable any more, at least for the next five, ten years. A comprehensive intervention and vision has to be applied in these areas to mitigate the sufferings of the farmers. It is not enough that we all talk about farmers' suicides. These things pave the way to farmers' suicides. As a preventive measure, we must call the insurance companies in crop insurance of the farmers to provide immediate credit availability for the farmers to be able to have a sustainable livelihood. This must be looked into. As far as the farm labour goes, these people are going to be unemployed in the given circumstances, and, I think, Centrally, NREGS must be extended by a minimum of another 100 days, at least, in all these areas so that they will have sustainable livelihoods for the poor landless farmer and other people.

Sir, the other thing that we need to do is that the Army, — the Military, of course, — the Navy and the Air Force have to be requisitioned and their hospitals should be used. All these places have hospitals. Areas should be zonalized in Tamil Nadu, and people should be shifted into these hospitals because they have the additional capacity to deal with and look after the citizens in this way. Ships can be moved into strategic positions where medical aid and food, etc., can be reached by water to the nearest areas and then redistributed to the areas where that are required.

You must have immunization for the children, elderly. You have flu shots which should be given. America doesn't give you insurance renewal unless you have done your pneumonia shots and your flu shots. These should be flown in immediately. Children should be given their immunization so that post-floods areas where deaths don't come into focus must be held relevant now, and people should be able to give them the immediate immunization. Mosquito nets should be flown out there in large numbers so that the mosquito population that will come up immediately after the draining of water will be contained and malaria and disease outbreak will not happen.

Sir, I think, this is the time we need to call upon industry. Corporate Social Responsibility should be pinned on all industries now, and all drinking water bottle people can give us packets of safe drinking water and bottles of plastic water which will be easy to deploy and which will be useful for citizens in those areas. The other corporates should also chip in to see that they restore the school buildings so that the children can go back to school at the earliest, and toy shops and all these people should contribute toys and all that because it helps in rehabilitation of children psychologically when they get impacted by such natural disaster.

Now, we need to have a swift response system. Many respected colleagues have talked about the intervention of the Central Government as well as the State Governments. I am afraid talking is just not going to be enough. Giving MPLAD funds is also not going to be adequate. What we need to do is to put our money where our mouth is and you should have a swift response system so that we categorize the priorities that are required for the citizens and help should be reached immediately. It is another matter that we can't now rush this under the carpet and say ...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Just a minute. Is it the consensus of the House that we sit beyond 6.00 p.m till 7.00 p.m. or till the discussion is over?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, mine will conclude in another minute.

अल्पसंख्यक कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मुख्तार अब्बास नकवी): जब तक डिबेट कंप्लीट नहीं हो जाती, तब तक हाउस चलने दें।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Okay, till the discussion is over.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Sir, how many more speakers are there?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): There are about five-six of them. Please carry on.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Sir, I do believe that the House here should collectively propose a Resolution where we convey to the people of Tamil Nadu, Andhra and Puducherry that we sympathize with them, not just sympathy but that we are willing to reach out and help them in whatever way that we can, and each State must come forward collectively.

(MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN *in the Chair.*)

It is ironic that for years Tamil Nadu looked forward to water and then you have the floods. The deluge that has come has drowned so many aspirations of so many citizens there as well as the carry-over that has spilled into Andhra Pradesh. In Andhra also, my farmers have suffered greatly. All our tanks are breached, all our small rivulets are breached and there is a serious situation because there is extreme contamination where the sewage and drinking water now swirl together. So, giving them sustainable safe drinking water should become a national mission for us and we have to ensure that for the next forty days till this water recedes and the pipelines

[Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury]

6.00 P.M.

are cleaned and there is clean water going, safe drinking water is made available, which should be a fundamental right of any citizen in this country.

And also, there is a surprising lesson which I got to learn from the flood-affected areas. Quite often, the Collectors rush to the spot and distribute rice, onions, etc., which are needed, but people don't realise that in a wet area, where the ground is wet and the clothes are damp, there is no place to keep them. So, when I asked the citizens, 'what do you want?', they said, 'we want tins and trunks, in which we can keep dry clothes, etc.' This is just a suggestion I am putting out. Those of you who can do it, please see to it that they get these basic requirements.

I think, all of us are together in conveying our condolences again and that our efforts would be there collectively to rescue our people, our brothers and sisters in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Now, Shri Tarun Vijay.

SHRI TARUN VIJAY (Uttarakhand): Respected Deputy Chairman, Sir, I salute the spirit of this august House, which has weaved an anthem of togetherness, showing solidarity with our people in distress in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and other parts. This move is very inspiring. Equally inspiring is the way the brave, courageous people in distress in Chennai and other parts, despite themselves being in distress and grave difficulty, are trying to help each other. Why not? *Intha neratthil desam muzhuvathum Tamizhaga sahodara sahodarigal pakkam nirkiradu.*

Sir, in this hour of crisis, we stand, the entire nation stands, together with the Tamil sisters and brothers wherever the rains have played havoc. This is a very difficult situation. We are speaking here; we are communicating with each other. After that we will go back home and have hot meals. And look at the TV screens, how the disaster has played havoc in Tamil Nadu! But when we think of our people in Tamil Nadu, leave aside communicating with each other, which is impossible, it is quite difficult to know what is going to happen tomorrow. Who is going to help them? And, what kind of help would be given to them? I thank our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji, who has immediately sanctioned more than ₹ 900 crores for disaster relief and today, ₹ 500 crores plus have already been released. We all stand today with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. We lend all support to them.

Sir, I was deeply moved by the speech made by the hon. Member, Shrimati Kanimozhi, especially the example of the four member-family that got washed away.

It reminded me of the Kedarnath tragedy where the people had seen their sisters, brothers, sons, daughters and husbands being washed away in floods in front of their eyes. They kept coming back to Chamoli, Joshi Math and other areas even after two-three years in the faint hope of finding their near and dear ones alive. That kind of a situation is very difficult for us to feel and imagine. This august House has sent out a very strong message about the spirit of India to the people in distress, and that goes very well with the message of Thiruvalluvar: *Udukkai izhandavan kai polay ange idukkan kalaivathaam natpu*, which means, a friend in need is a friend indeed. That is what the *Thirukkural* says.

Sir, we may feel for the disaster that has struck the people there, but I must say that today itself we must make up our minds about providing help from our MPLADS funds. I humbly announce that out of my MPLADS funds, I would pay ₹ 50 lakhs for disaster relief in Tamil Nadu. I am sure that my hon. colleagues and leaders would be more forthright and inspire more by announcing such help. This is just symbolic. This is nothing much, but it is a gesture to show that in their hour of difficulty, in their hour of distress, we stand with them. The other thing is the role of social media in this distress. Enormous! Wherever they are able to open internet and go on social media, Twitter, we are finding 'ChennaiRainsHelp' for affected people. I was just looking at the site, there are messages like 'hot meal and shelter available on this road', 'call us on this number', etc. We salute the people of Chennai who are providing common people and anonymous people help. We will never be able to know about them, but they are coming out of their houses and providing the best help that they can give. Whatever they have in their houses, they are sharing it with others. They inspire us; they give inspiration to everyone of us. Doctors are giving their numbers with messages such as 'If you need any help', even if you cannot come to me, please call me if you can; I will advise you on telephone', etc. Common people are coming out for help. As the hon. Member also said in her speech, we salute the soldiers of our Army and Navy. They have given great help. Always they have given help. Even in Uttarakhand, they were like hands of angels and Gods and they have given help to people in distress. We salute them. They put their own lives at risk but they help others. Sir, I would like to point out one thing. Let this be taken as a lesson also. No blame game. But can we form people's movement for better water management? Let this be people's agenda. Desilting of rivers and deepening of channels can control aggravating havoc and situation in such disastrous conditions. Secondly, as one Architect, Xavier Benedict, has said, "Revisiting the principles of traditional architecture is another solution." Benedict says, "Traditional homes in Tamil Nadu villages have raised plinths, and all the streets used to be aligned with temple tanks and ponds. It is unfortunate that with modern education systems being inspired

[Shri Tarun Vijay]

solely by the West, we have forgotten localized design principles in architecture and engineering." Can we revisit these ideas? Can we review such things? The South Buckingham Canal from Adyar creek to Kovalam creek has been reduced in many places to make way for several projects. Can we review this kind of a thing so that the rivers are desilted and channels are deepened? The Cooum river, for instance, has been a topic of discussion for years, and bringing back its pristine charm is an uphill but achievable task. Let the togetherness that Parliament has shown today be also reflected in our togetherness in Tamil Nadu and Chennai. Let all of us work together and have a people's movement for better water management.

SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN (Puducherry): I am thankful to the hon. Deputy Chairman for giving me the opportunity to speak about the flood situation in Puducherry and Karaikal regions. Sir, Puducherry and Karaikal regions, like most part of Tamil Nadu, have been battered by the heavy rains and consequent flooding during the last fortnight. It has also been continuing severely for the last two days and has completely paralysed the life in this region. Incessant rains, often downpouring, made drainage of storm water difficult. The water stagnated, often invading low-lying residential areas and agricultural fields.

Trees have fallen; roads have been battered; bridges have been damaged; bed-dams breached and several buildings have been collapsed. For days together, fishermen could not venture into the sea; daily labourers could not earn their living; people have been confined to their houses. In short, life has become very miserable. Agriculture is the most affected sector. Sir, 17,317 acres of crops have been inundated, affecting 12,000 farmers. All the crops have perished. All roads have become unfit for transportation and will have to be re-laid completely. Already, demands for flood relief and compensation have been raised by various sections of people. The Government of Puducherry has estimated the initial damage at ₹ 182.45 crores. On behalf of Puducherry and my Party, All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, I thank the Government of India for immediate response and for sending a Central team of officers to assess the damages. Sir, the Government of India has to depute one more team to assess the further damages. There seems to be no announcement on the interim relief to Puducherry in the visits already made. Already, the Government of Puducherry is under financial strain and it would be extremely difficult for the Government to divert funds for an unexpected natural calamity of this order.

Weathermen forecast more rainy days as the North-East monsoon may last for another month. Forthcoming cyclonic storm and depression would only escalate the existing estimated damages. Therefore, I appeal to the Government of India to release,

at least, ₹ 100 crores as an interim relief for the natural disaster immediately without waiting for the assessment report. Thank you, Sir.

श्री रामदास अठावले: डिप्टी चेयरमैन सर,

"सैकड़ों हजारों लोगों का बरबाद हो जाता है ब्लड,
जब अचानक आ जाता है फ्लड।"

सर, जब अचानक बाढ़ आती है, तो बहुत ही गंभीर स्थिति का निर्माण होता है। तमिलनाडु, आंध्र प्रदेश और पुडुचेरी, इन तीन राज्यों में अचानक बारिश के कारण बाढ़ आ गई है और हमारे महाराष्ट्र में भी बारिश हुई, जिसके कारण वहां भी फसलों का नुकसान हुआ है। जो नैसर्गिक आपदा है, इस तरह की नैसर्गिक आपदा से बहुत नुकसान होता है। तमिलनाडु में इस आपदा से कम से कम 80 लोगों की मौत हुई है। इस संबंध में मेरी मांग यह है कि मरने वाले लोगों के परिवार को दस लाख रुपए की मदद मिलनी चाहिए और मैं, राज्य सभा सदस्य होने के नाते, एक महीने का वेतन, जो एक लाख रुपए है, तमिलनाडु के लिए दे रहा हूँ। इसके साथ ही बाकी सभी सदस्यों से मेरा निवेदन है कि अगर आप भी अपना एक महीने का वेतन दे देते हैं, तो इससे उनको बहुत मदद मिल सकती है।

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Athawale, we have already decided in the House that Members will contribute from their MPLAD funds also. Mr. Tarun Vijay has already announced a sum of ₹ 50 lakhs. So, you are announcing this in addition to that. We have already decided. That is the sense. Every hon. Member should contribute sizeable amount, like ₹ 50 lakh, ₹ 1 crore or even more.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Yes, Sir, I am giving ₹ 1 lakh.

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: That is the sense. That is the decision that we have taken. So, this amount that you have announced is in addition to that.

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Yes, Sir.

श्री उपसभापति: क्या आप यह MPLADS के अलावा देना चाहते हैं?

श्री रामदास अठावले: जी हां, सर।

श्री उपसभापति: यह बहुत अच्छा है।

श्री रामदास अठावले: सर, मेरा एक सुझाव यह भी है कि जो 'राज्य आपदा कार्रवाई निधि' और 'राष्ट्रीय आपदा कार्रवाई निधि' है यानी जो 'एस डी आर एफ' और 'एन डी आर एफ' है, इनका फंड बढ़ाने के लिए कोशिश करनी चाहिए। जो बड़े-बड़े कॉर्पोरेट घराने हैं, जैसे अंबानी है, अडाणी है, टाटा है, बिरला है, ऐसे लोगों के माध्यम से भी इस फंड को बढ़ाने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए यानी उनको कंपनियों से जो फायदा होता है, उसमें कुछ परसेंट इस फंड में लाने की कोशिश करनी चाहिए।

[श्री रामदास अठावले]

सर, महाराष्ट्र में काफी सूखा पड़ा है, महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने केंद्र सरकार से इसके लिए चार हजार करोड़ रुपए की मांग की है, इसलिए केंद्र सरकार से मेरी यह अपील है कि महाराष्ट्र सरकार को भी चार हजार करोड़ रुपए मिलने चाहिए। 940 करोड़ रुपए तमिलनाडु को दे दिए हैं, तो आंध्र प्रदेश और पुडुचेरी को भी मदद मिलनी चाहिए। तमिलनाडु में काफी नुकसान हुआ है, इसलिए उसको और भी ज्यादा मदद मिलनी चाहिए।

सर, जब अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी जी प्राइम मिनिस्टर थे, तब उन्होंने नदियों को जोड़ने के कार्यक्रम को हाथ में लिया था। मेरा यह कहना है कि बाढ़ को रोकने के लिए नदियों को जोड़ने का भी काम होना चाहिए। जहां ज्यादा बारिश होती है, वहां की नदियों में बाढ़ आने लगती है, इसलिए मुझे लगता है कि वहां की नदियों की ज्यादा खुदाई करने की आवश्यकता है। अगर हम नदियों की खुदाई करेंगे, तो ज्यादा बाढ़ नहीं आएगी। हमें इस तरफ भी कोशिश करनी चाहिए। अभी जो बाढ़ आई है, उसमें जो लोग मरे हैं, उनके प्रति मैं श्रद्धांजलि अर्पित करता हूँ और उनकी फैमिली के पीछे सब लोगों को खड़े रहना चाहिए। जो किसान लोग हैं, खेत मजदूर हैं, उनको ज्यादा से ज्यादा compensation मिलना चाहिए। 'रिपब्लिकन पार्टी ऑफ इंडिया' की तरफ से यही मांग करते हुए मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ। जय भीम, जय भारत!

MR. DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you, very much. Now, Shri B. K. Hariprasad.

SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD (Karnataka): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Chairman, Sir. My heart goes out for the people in Tamil Nadu, especially, in Chennai, who have been stranded. The entire Chennai is inundated by water for almost 24 hours now. Sir, whenever there is a cyclone in Chennai, the other city which will also be affected is Bengaluru city. Normally, we have been seeing, almost through out my life I have seen, whenever there is a cyclone for three days, Bengaluru is also affected. But, now, it has broken the record of hundred years. Almost for fifteen days, continuous rain has damaged most of the infrastructure in Bengaluru.

[THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE), *in the Chair.*]

Sir, whenever there is a disaster or a natural calamity, we discuss very seriously about the rehabilitation, rescue and relief operations in the affected areas and any Government of the day takes appropriate steps for relief, rescue and rehabilitation. It is not new to me. I have witnessed myself the super cyclone of Orissa in 1999, which was called as '05B Paradip Cyclone', the earthquake of Gujarat in 2000 and J&K earthquake. We have been witnessing Phailin and Hudhud recently in East Coast. There are no words to express the disaster and the misery caused by these natural calamities.

Sir, I would like to say that we all discussed about the damage, the loss of life ...(Interruptions)...

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Silence please! Do not talk across the Benches, please.

SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: ..because of this calamity and we demand for the relief from both the State and the Central Governments. Sir, we have seen in this country, irrespective of political parties, the entire country stands by the people of any part which is affected by the natural calamities. It is not a new thing for us.

Sir, we have discussed enough about the rescue, rehabilitation and the relief operations but, I think, as Mr. Deputy Chairman was saying, we have to discuss about the global warming also. This cyclone is known as the 'El Nino' effect. It is because of the global warming which has caused this effect. It is because of this El Nino. That is what I have read in the newspapers. It is a wakeup call for all the Governments, whether it is State Governments, Central Government or NGOs or civil society. If you do not take proper steps to maintain the ecological balance, we will be witnessing more disasters like this. Sir, as I know, the people of Tamil Nadu are very resilient people who can face any disaster. But this is something unimaginable. During 1999 or 2000, when there was a cyclone and the earthquake, Congress President Sonia Gandhi had directed all the Congress-ruled States to adopt the districts which were affected by the earthquake in Gujarat and the districts which were affected by the super cyclone in Orissa. My State Government of Karnataka, adopted Kendrapara in Orissa and Jawahar Nagar in Gujarat where there was a huge disaster. So, I appeal to all the political parties, if they have their Government in different States, they should adopt these districts. Our Prime Minister is known for declaring packages for many States. I appeal to him that considering the magnitude of disaster that has taken place in Tamil Nadu, he should announce a big package for Tamil Nadu, so that they can come out of this calamity's effects.

Sir, while talking about global warming, in 2006, I participated in a Global Warming Seminar at London where we were told that the damage that has been caused to the Ozone layer is as big as the Himalayan Mountains. If this layer is further damaged, we will witness acid rains. Some of the South American countries have already witnessed it. It will not be far off for us to witness this kind of disaster. While taking all the steps for rescue, rehabilitation and relief, we should also take steps to avoid urbanisation.

[Shri B. K. Hariprasad]

In Tamil Nadu, about 960 lakes have been encroached for dumping debris. Tamil Nadu and Bangalore have a wonderful drainage system. The real estate mafias have almost raped the cities. This kind of disaster is taking place because there is no way out for the rain water. Earlier, almost thirty years ago, heavy rain or cyclone effects would not have affected the cities. But now even small quantity of rain affects the entire infrastructure of both Chennai and Bangalore.

Venkaiah Naiduji is here who is looking after the Ministry of Urban Development. He should take initiative to take care of some of the lakes and water bodies which need to be protected. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री संजय राउत (महाराष्ट्र): महोदय, देश के कई हिस्सों में बाढ़ का संकट बहुत ही गम्भीर हो रहा है। तमिलनाडु, आंध्र प्रदेश के कोस्टल एरिया एवं पुडुचेरी आदि राज्यों के सम्माननीय सदस्यों ने अपने-अपने राज्य की स्थिति बताई। तमिलनाडु की स्थिति, डी.एम.के. नेता श्रीमती कानीमोझी, श्री ए. नवनीतकृष्णन और श्री सी.एम. रमेश जी ने बताई। आज लाखों-करोड़ों लोग इस संकट का सामना कर रहे हैं। ये सब हमारे भाई-बहन हैं। मुंबई के बहुत बड़े हिस्से धारावी और मातुंगा में तमिलनाडु और साउथ इंडिया के लोग बहुत बड़ा संख्या में रहते हैं। वह एक प्रकार से मिनी तमिलनाडु है। वहां के लोग भी हमें सुबह से पूछ रहे हैं कि वहां क्या हो रहा है? वहां उनके रिश्तेदार रहते हैं। आज एक अच्छी बात यह है कि इस सदन में सभी राजनीतिक दल, यानी पूरा देश, इस संकट की घड़ी में तमिलनाडु के साथ खड़ा है। केंद्र सरकार को जो भी राहत कार्य करना है, वह पूरी ताकत और पूरी मजबूती से करना है और ऐसे सभी राज्यों के साथ खड़े रहने की जरूरत है।

महोदय, यह कोई राजनीति का विषय नहीं है। इस संकट से मुंबई शहर भी गुजरा है। बिहार और पश्चिम बंगाल में भी इस प्रकार का संकट पैदा होता है। ओडिशा तो हमेशा से इस प्रकार की आपदा का शिकार होता रहा है। हमारे देश में किसी भी राज्य में इस प्रकार का संकट आ सकता है। अतः मैं मानता हूँ कि यदि किसी भी राज्य में इस प्रकार का संकट आता है, तो वह पूरे देश का संकट होना चाहिए, फिर चाहे बाढ़ हो या सूखा। मैं यह भी मानता हूँ कि यह मौसम की असहिष्णुता है कि वहां पानी है और महाराष्ट्र में सूखा। अगर थोड़ा पानी हमारे महाराष्ट्र में आता, तो हमारे किसान भी सूखे के संकट से बाहर निकल जाते, लेकिन तमिलनाडु में इतनी बाढ़ आई कि दो-दो फीट तक पानी चढ़ गया है। और महाराष्ट्र में 15 हजार गांवों में पानी की बूंद तक नहीं गिरी है, मराठवाड़ा में किसान आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। यह एक नैचुरल कैलेमिटी है कि कहीं पानी है और कहीं सूखा है, लेकिन आज जो सबसे बड़ा संकट है, तमिलनाडु का संकट है, आंध्र प्रदेश का संकट है। मुझे लगता है कि वहां पर हम क्या राहत कार्य कर सकते हैं, उसके संबंध में चर्चा होनी चाहिए। जैसा मैंने कहा कि मुझे यह जानकारी मिली है कि आने वाले 72 घंटे में वहां फिर से रेन की पोजिशन क्रिटिकल है। यह हमारे मौसम विभाग ने कहा है कि आने वाले 72 घंटे में वहां पर फिर से क्रिटिकल पोजिशन हो सकती है। मेरा सवाल है कि जब 15 दिन से वहां बारिश हो रही थी तो उससे पहले यह अनुमान क्यों नहीं लगाया कि

चार दिन के बाद इतनी अधिक बरसात, इतनी अधिक बाढ़ वहां आने वाली है, यह संकट आने वाला है? जब बारिश शुरू हो जाती है तो आप बताते हैं कि चार दिन और बारिश होने वाली है, लेकिन उससे पहले जो हमारी यंत्रणा, हमारा सिस्टम, हमारा डिज़ास्टर मैनेजमेंट हम बना रहे हैं, वह कहां जाता है? क्या वह भी बह जाता है? पूरे देश में अगर इस प्रकार से बात होती रहेगी तो डिज़ास्टर मैनेजमेंट का कोई अर्थ नहीं रहेगा। बात चेन्नई की नहीं है, चेन्नई एक बड़ा शहर है, मुंबई जैसा शहर है। जब एक घर बह जाता है तो उसे खड़ा करने में कितनी तकलीफ होती है, यह हम सबको मालूम है। आज एक बड़ा शहर पानी में डूब गया है। वहां के अस्पताल, वहां के स्कूल, वहां के कॉलेज, वहां की इंडस्ट्री, वहां के ऑफिस — इन सबको बनाना इतना आसान नहीं है। मुझे लगता है कि यह एक नैचुरल कैलेमिटी है और हमारे देश के सभी लोगों को इस भयंकर संकट के समय सरकार के साथ और तमिलनाडु की जनता के साथ खड़े रहने की जरूरत है। जब इस प्रकार का संकट आता है तो सरकार की तरफ से कहा जाता है कि पैसों की कोई कमी नहीं है। जितना पैसा चाहिए, हम दे देंगे, लेकिन संकट गुज़र जाने के बाद, बार-बार यहां पैसों की मांग होती है, पैसा नहीं मिलता है, धनराशि नहीं मिलती है। इस बारे में भी अभी सरकार को निर्णय लेना होगा कि चेन्नई या मुंबई जैसे शहर जब संकटग्रस्त होते हैं तो पूरे देश की अर्थव्यवस्था को, डेवलपमेंट को नुकसान होता है, यह देश का नुकसान है। ऐसे शहरों को ताकत देने की और मजबूती से उनके साथ खड़े रहने की जरूरत है। मुझे विश्वास है कि आज जो चर्चा सदन में हो रही है, उसका यही निर्णय होगा और ऐसे शहरों को ताकत दी जाएगी। तमिलनाडु की जनता, जो संकट में है, पुडुचेरी की जनता, जो संकट में है, आंध्र प्रदेश की कोस्टल एरिया की जनता, जो इस संकट का सामना कर रही है, हम सब उनके साथ हैं, मेरी पार्टी शिवसेना भी उनके साथ है, धन्यवाद।

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Thank you very much.

श्री अविनाश राय खन्ना (पंजाब): सर, एक बहुत अच्छा डिस्कशन हुआ है, इस संबंध में सबको चिंता भी है। ऐसा बार-बार होता है, कभी किसी राज्य में बाढ़ आ गयी, कभी सूखा पड़ गया। मेरा सरकार से एक निवेदन है, अगर वह ठीक समझे तो केंद्र सरकार और राज्य सरकारें मिलकर ऐसे एरियाज़, जहां पर भूकंप आते हैं, साइक्लोन आते हैं और सूनामी वगैरह आता है, आइडेंटिफाई करके उनकी परसन और प्रॉपर्टी का इंश्योरेंस कराए, जिसका प्रीमियम सरकार दे। अगर ऐसा हो जाए तो अच्छा होगा क्योंकि इसमें तुरंत पैसे की जरूरत पड़ती है। ऐसे में इंश्योरेंस कम्पनी पैसा दे सकती है। अगर ऐसा पॉसिबल हो तो इस बात पर विचार किया जा सकता है। दूसरा, जो हम एमपीलैड का पैसा देने वाले हैं, तमिलनाडु सरकार कोई एक प्रोजेक्ट आइडेंटिफाई कर दे और वहां पर सारा पैसा चला जाए, ताकि वह पैसा वहां लगा दिखे, ऐसा मेरा अनुरोध है।

SPECIAL MENTIONS

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI V.P. SINGH BADNORE): Thank you very much. The reply is slated tomorrow. We will now take up Special Mentions. Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya. You can lay it on the Table of the House. ...*(Interruptions)*...