

**श्री धर्मेद प्रधान:** सर, माननीय सदस्य ने डेढ़ लाख कहा, लेकिन हमारी सरकार की कल्पना है कि आने वाले तीन साल में बीपीएल परिवारों की 5 करोड़ गरीब महिलाओं के नाम पर हम इस योजना को ले जाएंगे। भारत के हर गरीब के घर में सरकार के अनुदान से, सरकार की जिम्मेवारी से एलपीजी कनेक्शंस लगेंगे। दूसरी चीज इन्होंने यह पूछी कि क्या हम उसमें प्राइवेट सेक्टर को पार्टिसिपेट करवाएंगे? आज के दिन मेरा उत्तर है—नहीं। यह सब्सिडी हम आज भी देते हैं और हम गरीबों को सब्सिडी देंगे। आज की तिथि में सब्सिडी डिस्ट्रिब्यूशन मेकैनिज्म में सरकार की यह नीति है कि हम उसका वितरण सरकारी उद्योगों के माध्यम से, ऑयल मार्केटिंग कंपनीज के माध्यम से करेंगे।

#### **Relief package sought by Puducherry for heavy floods**

\*125. SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the relief package sought by the Government of Puducherry towards the recent heavy floods during November-December, 2015 and the amount sanctioned and released as relief package by the Central Government;

(b) whether an amount of ₹ 50 crores was adjusted by re-appropriation from Plan to Non-Plan Budget Estimates of 2015-16; and

(c) if so, whether there is actually no financial relief over and above the budget of the Union Territory of Puducherry and if so, whether the Central Government would consider providing financial relief during the Supplementary Demands of 2015-16?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJU): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### **Statement**

(a) to (c) The Union Territory of Puducherry has submitted memoranda projecting overall losses and seeking an assistance of ₹ 491.90 crore for flood of November-December, 2015.

A sum of ₹ 50 crore was released to the Government of Puducherry on 16.12.2015 for providing relief to the affected people, as an interim assistance, by re-appropriating the amount from the Plan head to the Non Plan Head.

SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Sir, last year's heavy rains devastated not only Chennai, but also Puducherry. The Government of Puducherry asked for ₹ 491.90 crores to take up relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction works. But the Home Minister announced just ₹ 50 crores as interim relief and nothing has been announced after that. Surprisingly, the Finance Ministry sanctioned even this amount not as an additional fund but as re-appropriation from Central Plan Assistance to Non-Plan Grants. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister (i) why only ₹ 50 crores was given when Puducherry asked for ₹ 491.90 crores. (ii) why was it reappropriated...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Only one question at a time.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, the hon. Member has raised the issues relating to damage in Puducherry. Let me say that we have shared this concern and we have tried to deal with the issues. He is right because Puducherry is a Union Territory. So, it does not have, as per the other provisions, SDRF. It is only for the States; it is not for a Union Territory. A Union Territory gets a grant, not a matching assistance from the Central Government. They do not have this provision. But the reality is that it has faced a severe nature of floods as Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu has faced. So, we have taken certain steps. I would like to inform the hon. Member, through you, Sir, that as there is a provision for the States, a new Union Territory Disaster Fund has been created. Now onwards, the UTs will get the funds as the States are getting and ₹ 491.90 crores, the amount projected by Puducherry Government, which we have received and which the Inter-Ministerial Central Team has assessed; this will be placed before the sub-committee of the National Committee and it will also be placed before the High Level Committee which is headed by the Home Minister. So, this time also, additionally ₹ 10 crores have been made available to Puducherry. This is the highest amount for any Union Territory; this is more than what has been given to Delhi. So, from this year onwards, I hope that the problem which we have been facing with regards to the Union Territories would be settled.

SHRI N. GOKULAKRISHNAN: Sir, Puducherry is prone to floods or heavy rains every year. We have been requesting the Government to include Puducherry under the National Disaster Relief Fund, as has been done in the case of other States. But, the Government of India is not accepting this, stating that Puducherry is a Union Territory. We are affected by floods year-after-year. So, how does it matter whether we are a Union Territory or a State? Since we are suffering every year, we are asking for inclusion of Puducherry under NDRF, so that we too get some relief under NDRF.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, I am just adding to what I stated earlier. This year too, the pending proposal is under process and even for the next year, that is, 2016-17, provisions have already been made for Puducherry. So, these recurring problems that the hon. Member has talked about would be settled in the year to come.

DR. E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Sir, Puducherry was much affected by the recent floods and rains. Does the relief which was given by way of grants show a break-up of funds for fishermen, farmers, daily wagers, etc., so that it compensates them for the assets they lost and restores normalcy in their lives? What is the break-up that has been given towards this end?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, the Finance Commission prescribes how the relief material and money component has to be distributed. The entitlement has already been laid down in the rules. But the State Government has to project figures of the affected people. The Central Government does not decide on anything and follows the laid-down norms. So, according to the laid-down norms, whether it is the fishermen, the farmers or the people immediately affected by floods and other causes, these would be decided on the basis of the actual happenings on the ground and as per data projected by the State Government, which is duly assessed by the inter-Ministerial Central Team. It would decide that and accordingly, it would be processed for further action.

DR. K. P. RAMALINGAM: Sir, while allotting funds for flood relief, the State Government and the Central Government take into account just the crop damage; they do not consider damage to cultivable land. Will the Minister take into account damage to land as well? The Home Ministry would be appreciated if a separate fund is created to cover disaster in Union Territories as well. But this fund should be made applicable to the floods that have occurred already. Otherwise, it would cover the next floods only while the present damage is already being covered by this fund.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Sir, as I stated earlier, whatever damage that has been caused has been assessed and that would be processed. For the future course of action too, a new body has been created to deal with issues related to the Union Territories. As regards land, land is again a different subject. It is for the Ministry of Agriculture to consider, because crops are related to the Ministry of Agriculture, even though the High-level Committee is headed by the Home Minister. Damage to land is not included in the items listed by the Finance Commission. So, that is another subject to be considered.

**श्री रामदास अठावले:** चेरमेन सर, पुडुचेरी में फ्लड से काफी नुकसान हुआ था, जान-माल का नुकसान हुआ था और काफी लोगों की प्रॉपर्टी का भी नुकसान हुआ था। मैं आपके माध्यम से मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि भारत सरकार से उनको कितनी मदद मिली है, कितने लोगों का पुनर्वास हो गया है?

**श्री किरन रिज्जु:** सर, पुडुचेरी में दो लोगों की मृत्यु हुई थी और 1,035 कैटल्स का नुकसान हुआ था तथा कल 4,327 घरों को नुकसान हुआ था। हम उस हिसाब से वहाँ मदद कर रहे हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. The Question Hour is over. The House is adjourned till 2.00 p.m.

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