

श्री सभापति : मैं जीरो ऑवर में अभी आपको बुलाता हूँ। One second, please. ...*(Interruptions)*... Bear with me. ...*(Interruptions)*... So, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla, please complete. Then, Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav.

MATTERS RAISED WITH PERMISSION

Demand for immediate financial relief assistance for the people affected by Cyclone Fengal in Tamil Nadu

SHRI M. MOHAMED ABDULLA (Tamil Nadu): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I wish to raise a matter of urgent public importance regarding the devastating impact of Cyclone Fengal on the districts of Chennai, Villupuram, Cuddalore, Chengalpattu, Tiruvannamalai, Tirupathur, Krishnagiri and Dharmapuri. The cyclone has caused widespread destruction, severely affected infrastructure, agriculture and led to the tragic loss of many lives. These districts, which have faced the brunt of the cyclone, have seen extensive damage to homes, roads, railway lines, bridges, power lines, and agricultural land, leaving countless families in a state of distress. In the light of immense destruction caused by the cyclone, I urge the Government of India to provide immediate financial assistance of Rs. 2,000 crore for provision of essential aid to the affected communities, restore infrastructure and rebuilding agricultural sectors. This financial support is critical for rehabilitation of the affected areas and for ensuring that the families affected by the disaster can recover quickly.

Additionally, I request that a Central Team be sent to the affected areas to assess the damage in these districts and prepare a detailed report on the extent of destruction. The findings of the team are vital for planning and rehabilitation measures. Furthermore, I request the Government of India announce ex-gratia payments to the families of those who have tragically lost their lives due to the cyclone's impact, as a mark of compassion and solidarity. Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla: Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), Shri Saket Gokhale, (West Bengal), Shri Sandosh Kumar P, (Kerala), Shrimati Mahua Maji, (Jharkhand), Shri Niranjan Bishi, (Odisha), Shrimati Phulo Devi Netam, (Chhattisgarh), Dr. M. Thambidurai, (Tamil Nadu), Shri P. Wilson, (Tamil Nadu), Shrimati Jebi Mather Hisham (Kerala), Dr. Fauzia Khan, (Maharashtra), Shri Haris Beeran, (Kerala), Shri Anil Kumar Yadav Mandadi, (Telangana),

Shri A. A. Rahim, (Kerala), Shri Sanjay Yadav, (Bihar), Shri K.R.N. Rajeshkumar, (Tamil Nadu), Shri R. Girirajan, (Tamil Nadu), Shri N.R. Elango, (Tamil Nadu), Dr. Kanimozhi N V N Somu, (Tamil Nadu), Shri Tiruchi Siva, (Tamil Nadu), Dr. John Brittas (Kerala), Shrimati Sagarika Ghose, (West Bengal), Ms. Dola Sen, (West Bengal), Shrimati Mausam B Noor, (West Bengal) and Dr. Sasmit Patra, (Odisha) and Shri Jose K. Mani(Kerala).

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, Shri Vaiko. ...*(Interruptions)*... Please. ...*(Interruptions)*... I will accommodate all. Shri Vaiko came here in 1974.

SHRI VAIKO (Tamil Nadu): Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, the situation in Tamil Nadu is very serious. Flights suspended, trains disrupted and normal life in seven districts in Tamil Nadu was disrupted as Fengal Cyclone hit Tamil Nadu and Puducherry. There was heavy and very heavy rain in some districts due to which some areas were flooded and thousands of acres of standing crops were damaged. The common people have to undergo untold misery in some districts, especially in Cuddalore, Villapuram, Thiruvannamalai, and Krishnagiri where there was heavy rainfall. Many persons have lost their lives and ten persons, including children, died in other districts due to electrocution and wall collapse. The fishermen in Nagapattinam and Mayiladuthurai did not go to sea, but their boats and fishing nets were damaged due to cyclone. Fishermen are losing their source of livelihood as they are advised not to venture into sea.

There are extensive damages to standing crops as thousands of acres have been inundated and submerged in the flood water. The standing crops have been completely damaged. Vegetables and fruits grown by farmers could not be marketed due to floods and their produces have perished. Rainwater inundated several residential localities and many residents were stranded.

The Army was requested to assist the National Disaster Response Force and the civil administration in rescue operations. I would request the hon. Home Minister to rush the rescue and relief materials, send a survey team to assess the damages, to sanction adequate funds and grants to the Government of Tamil Nadu for the rehabilitation of the affected persons and to give compensation to the farmers so that normalcy can be restored at the earliest.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Vaiko : Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha),

Shri M. Mohamed Abdulla (Tamil Nadu), Dr. V. Sivadasan (Kerala), and Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu).

Now Shri Subhasish Khuntia. Next is Prof. Ram Gopal Yadav. Shri Subhasish Khuntia; demand to build an international airport in Puri, Odisha. ...(*Interruptions*)... I will accommodate everyone. If anyone rises, the accommodation will not take place.

Demand to build an International Airport in Puri, Odisha

SHRI SUBHASISH KHUNTIA (Odisha): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to draw the Government's attention to the urgent need for an early operation of the proposed international airport in Puri. Under the visionary leadership of the former Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, the Odisha Government submitted a detailed project report for the Puri international airport featuring world class facilities to the Ministry of Civil Aviation in July, 2023. The airport's location was strategically selected due to Puri's historical and spiritual significance, particularly, as the home of the sacred Jagannath Temple and its numerous tourist attractions. This proposed international airport aims to cater to the rapidly increasing number of tourists and pilgrims visiting Puri, which is globally renowned for its cultural and religious heritage. Additionally, its proximity to the beach, further enhances its potential to attract international and domestic visitors. The necessity of the airport was highlighted in 2021, when the hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik requested the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to establish an international airport in Puri. While the Odisha Government has completed formalities including land acquisition and construction of boundary wall, no further progress has been made to advance the project towards operationalization. On operationalization, the Jagannath Puri international airport will not only address the growing travel demands of pilgrims and tourists, but will also provide direct air connectivity to Puri, facilitating the exploration of its renowned attraction such as Jagannath Temple, Puri beach and nearby historic sites, like the Sun Temple at Konark.

In the light of this consideration, I respectfully urge the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to take necessary steps to expedite the completion and operationalization of the Puri International Airport for the greater benefit of tourists, pilgrims and the region's overall development. *Jay Jagannath Bande Utkal Janani.*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The following hon. Members associated themselves with the matter raised by the hon. Member, Shri Subhasish Khuntia: Dr. Sasmit Patra (Odisha), Dr. Kanimozhi NVN Somu (Tamil Nadu), Shri Saket Gokhale, (West Bengal),