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LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

Tuesday, 11th February, 1958.

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Floods in Ceylon

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*1. { Shri Radha Raman:
Dr. Ram Subhag Singh:
Shri Mohan Swarup:
Shri Bhakt Darshan:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri Raghunath Singh:
Shri Supakar:
Shri Vajpayee:
Shri N. R. Munisamy:
Shri D. C. Sharma:
Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri Kodiyan:
Shri Jagdish Awasthi:
Shri Harish Chandra Mathur:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhuri:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Government of Ceylon had approached Indian Government for help to relieve flood distress in Ceylon in the later part of December; and

(b) if so, the details and extent of aid sought and given?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Ceylon appealed to the Government of India for

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the loan of helicopters for rescue and relief work and for assistance in the shape of food supplies, clothing, medical supplies; etc.

The Government of India sent six Dakotas, three Fairchild Packets and two Bell Helicopters along with a unit of Army engineers equipped with collapsible assault boats for rescue work and para medical units equipped with medical supplies for relief operations. The I. A. F. aircraft flew over 150 sorties on a round-the-clock schedule and airdropped a total of over 6 lakhs lbs. of food and medical supplies. They rescued 300 stranded persons from various places and conveyed medical teams to the affected areas. They also carried out a number of reconnaissance flights with Ministers and officials of the Ceylon Government on board the aircraft.

The army rescue teams were dropped near Pooneryn in Jaffna and at Amparai in the Gal Oya Valley. They ferried supplies to inaccessible regions and transported people back to safety. They also repaired roads and bridges.

The Government of India has given a gift of textiles worth Rs. 50,000/-. The Indian Red Cross Society, the Textile and Pharmaceutical Industry and Trade have altogether sent donations of cloth, blankets and medicines etc. to the value of Rs. 1,90,000/-.

A further gift in kind of Rs. 10 lakhs will be given by the Government of India in the shape of goods and supplies which the Government of Ceylon may require from time to time.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know the total personnel employed in these operations and whether they were able to save any lives also?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have already pointed out that 300 stranded people have been saved by them.

Shri Supakar: May I know the total amount of expenditure incurred by the Government of India in this operation?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: It is yet to be calculated.

Shri S. C. Samanta: May I know whether this is the first time that aid was sought from us or whether it was sought and given previously also?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): Is the hon Member talking about Ceylon only?

Shri S C Samanta: Yes.

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: I have no recollection of any major aid given in the past, but probably on various occasions aid in minor forms might have been given.

श्री भवन दर्शन क्या में जान सकता हू कि पिछले दिनों जो बाढ़ लका में आई थी, उस में प्रवासी भारतीयों का कोई खास नुकसान हुआ था और क्या उन को कोई खास तरह की सहायता दी गई—उम सहायता के अलावा, जो कि गवर्नमेंट को पहुंचाई गई ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी हा, बाढ़ ने कुछ पहचान नहीं की कि कौन भारतीय है और कौन नहीं है ।

Shri D. C. Sharma: It was stated by the Deputy Minister that a sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been earmarked for further relief to the people of Ceylon. May I know how these ten lakhs are going to be spent?

Shri Jawaharlal Nehru: The sum of Rs. 10 lakhs has been offered to the Government of Ceylon—in response to the general appeal they issued for help to various countries, we made this offer to them. But we said that we could give this relief in the shape of certain specified goods. We pointed out the list of goods to them, and

we asked them to intimate to us which of those goods and in what quantity, subject to their availability here, we could supply to them. It is for them to say.

Shri Radha Raman: May I know whether any Army personnel is still operating there, and if the L.A.F. personnel have all returned, whether they have submitted any detailed report about the work that they have done there?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: They have all returned by the 9th of January.

The Minister of Defence (Shri Krishna Menon): There has been no Army personnel there. There was only Air Force personnel, they have returned after completion of their mission. Several tributes have been paid to them by the Prime Minister of Ceylon, and the officer concerned has submitted a report.

श्री जगदीश बबलूजी क्या में जान सकता हू कि जब हमारे देश में इस तरह की बाढ़ आई, तो क्या सिलोन सरकार ने हमारी सहायता की ?

श्री जवाहरलाल नेहरू जी नहीं, हम ने उन को तवलीफ देने की जरूरत नहीं समझी ।

Narsing Girji Manufacturing Company Ltd., Sholapur

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Shri Barman:
*2. **Shri S. C. Samanta:**
Shri Subodh Hasda:
Shri T. B. Vittal Rao:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether the 'Soman Committee' appointed to inquire into the working of Narsing Girji Manufacturing Company Limited, Sholapur has submitted its report; and

(b) the present condition of the said Cotton Textile Mill?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo): (a) No, Sir