

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

### LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 9, 1992/ Asadha 18, 1914  
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the  
Clock

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

### ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

#### Cyclonic Storm in Orissa

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\*21. SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPA-  
THI:  
SHRI RABI RAY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be  
pleased to state:

(a) the total death toll and estimated  
loss to crops and cattle wealth by cyclonic  
storm and rain which lashed Orissa coast in  
June, 1992;

(b) the approximate damage suffered  
by the fishermen due to the cyclonic storm;  
and

(c) the details of the relief and rehabili-  
tation measures taken or proposed to be  
taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI  
MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) to  
(c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the  
Sabha.

### STATEMENT

(a) and (b). The Government of Orissa  
has reported the following damage due to  
the cyclonic storm and rain of 17th and 18th  
June, 1992:-

(i) No. of persons died	-	12
(ii) No. of persons missing	-	48
(iii) Estimated loss of crops	- Rs. 95.11	lakhs
(iv) No. of cattle died	-	130
(v) No. of houses damaged:		
Fully	-	1068
Partially	-	34909

(c) The relief measures undertaken by  
the State Government include:-

- (i) Provision of emergency relief for  
three days to the affected popula-  
tion.
- (ii) Payment of Ex-gratia at the rate of  
Rs. 5,000/- to the families of de-  
ceased.
- (iii) Payment of assistance for the  
damaged houses and bettievines.

The State Government will be providing assistance to the fishermen for their damaged equipments, as per the norms, after the assessment of the damage.

**SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:** Mr. Speaker, Sir, Last month Orissa State had torrential rains followed by floods and as a result, there have been lot of breaches and damages to a number of M.I.Ps or Minor Irrigation Projects particularly in Aska and Berhampur areas of Ganjam District. Incidentally, Ganjam is predominantly an agricultural-based District. Lakhs of people depend on agriculture as their livelihood. May I, therefore, know from the Union Minister of Agriculture through you Sir, whether the Government of India will come to the rescue of thousands of hapless farmers of Ganjam District, with immediate relief measures and financial assistance to conduct repairs to the MIPs, as there is delay in this regard from the State Government side; and whether any financial assistance is being provided by the State Government for the rehabilitation of fishermen who have lost their fishing boats and even their lives in certain cases?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR):** Orissa has a long stretch of coast; and this coastal belt is 550 Kms long; and the Districts of Balasore, Cuttack, Puri and Ganjam have a geographical area of 14166 sq. kms which falls along the coastal belt.

This cyclonic storm is a sort of repetition which comes along at given time; twice it could happen in one year. The total population of three districts is about 150 lakh. This is thickly populated. Fifty per cent of the population of the State is on the coastal line; and there are about 20,000 villages along the coastal belt.

This year, this happened on the 17th. There was a depression in the Bay of Bengal; it came along; and there was a lot of heavy rain which caused this much damage. There were floods in the river. And naturally, when this thing happens, there will be a lot of

damage. In that way, I have given in my answer the number of persons died 12, the number of persons missing - 48; everything has been given here. And what steps have been taken by the State Government are also there.

About the fishermen, the State Government will be providing assistance to the fishermen for their damaged equipments, as per the norms, after the assessment of the damage; that is being done.

As far as the Central Government is concerned, we always provide them with advance relief from the calamity relief funds; and that was done, according to the norms set down by the Ninth Finance Commission. We are not lacking in that. We are trying to keep in touch with the State Government; and the State Government has given all these emergency measures which are being taken by the State Government to give relief and to help the affected people.

**SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:** I do not fully agree with the figures provided in this answer sheet. The officially reported figures are: 12 persons dead and 48 missing. The actual numbers are much higher, dam sure.

Secondly, Orissa State and particularly Ganjam district, have been ravaged by floods successively during the last two years, first in May 1990 and again in November 1990. Even the two former Prime Ministers of India, the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi and hon. Shri Chandra Shekhar had kindly undertaken tours of these flood affected areas.

Even though the Centre had disbursed two instalments, one of Rs.47 crores and another of Rs. 35 crores respectively, for assistance, thousands of affected poor families living in the remote villages of Ganjam district have not received any form of assistance yet. Further, no restoration work has been carried out to the completely damaged and collapsed bridges of Malabhanja Aska etc., causing lot of hardships to the local people. Hence, I wish to know from the hon.

Union Minister, the Central Government's future action in these two specific matters.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: It is for the State Government to act in the matter. We have provided them the Calamity Relief Fund advances and they have got, as reported, a balance of Rs. 34.43 crores still unspent with them. We are keeping in touch with them and we tried to coordinate the things with them and whatever assistance, anything they like we make available to them and from our side are trying to do something on the coastal belt as a whole, which might be a sort of a helping hand, because it is a recurring phenomenon there. That is what we are doing.

[Translation]

SHRI RABI RAY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether any help was sought from the Government of India to rescue 60 fishermen who were caught in the cyclone on 17th June. If it is true, what steps were taken by the Government in this matter?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: At present, I do not have any information about it. I would inform you after collecting information.

SHRI RABI RAY: We have at least this much information that a rescue help was sought from the Government. I therefore, asked a specific question from the hon. Minister whether the missing 60 fishermen have returned or not? Whether the hon. Minister will give any information about them.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I do not have information that any help was sought by them. I would inform after collecting the information....(Interruptions).... I would inform you after collecting information whether any application for help was forwarded to us by the State Government.

[English]

DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA: By this cyclonic storm in the coastal belt of Orissa

mostly fishermen and betel leaf growers have been affected and it is a common feature that every year they have been affected by this cyclonic storm.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister of Agriculture if there is any proposal with the Department of Agriculture of the Central Government for extending any assistance of rehabilitation. Rehabilitation schemes may be there with the Government of India, especially, the Department of Agriculture. But the question is whether the Department of Agriculture is proposing to give any assistance for the rehabilitation of these affected fishermen, because the State Government is not giving any assistance to them, as stated here. What is the number of betel vines affected due to this cyclonic storm? What is the assistance given or sanctioned to the persons whose betel vines had been affected?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Sir, we provide calamity relief fund to the State Government and the State Government has a Committee headed by its Chief Secretary. They determine what to give, how to give and in what way to give and what are the steps to be taken for rehabilitation or for giving some relief to the affected people.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, the hon. Minister has already said about the chronic cyclonic part. Forty-eight fishermen which is the largest figure, were missing. I would like to know when actually the warning that there would be cyclone was issued; whether the warning was issued too late and so it had happened. If this is a fact, what corrections the Government proposes to do?

The whole coastal area covering about 500 kms. is being occupied by the fishermen and these fishermen lose their houses in every four months. The assistance they get is very less. The Government of India has a scheme to build the houses of the fishermen and the Government has given contribution to other States. Why not the Government has given any contribution to Orissa State if it feels that Orissa State has been affected

by cyclone? So far, not a single house has been built. The fishermen in other States are comparatively given this facility.

Apart from these things, the great part of this area has been affected by saline inundation and there will be no crop. Here the figure that has been in regard to the standing crop is 95 lakhs. But in many areas, there were no crop... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: It is becoming a speech. Please put your question.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: I would like to bring the seriousness of the problem and to enable the people who are affected by saline inundation to grow their crop this year. Since this is in the beginning of the sowing season... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: He has already said that the State Government gets the money. There are others who would like to put questions. Please conclude.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Since the Government agrees that this area has been chronically cyclone affected, I would like to know what special measures the Government has in mind to minimise this. Also I, want to know whether the Government of India is considering to contribute some special help to all categories of people who have been affected.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: In regard to his first question, the Meteorological Department gives four warnings in a day.

MR. SPEAKER: That is disaster warning system.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: In fact they always do it. That is what they reported. They did it on the 17th also. But it happened and it was just a freak. And people who had left earlier on the 16th and on the 15th were caught in that.

Regarding the coastal belt, I am also concerned with that. We are evolving some-

thing on a permanent basis to help these people, who are living in the coastal belt. But it will take some time. When it is matured, then I will come to you, not now.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: When the fishermen of other States are given assistance to build their houses, why not a single pie has been given to the State of Orissa?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIBALRAM JAKHAR: We would not discriminate between this and that. It will be a coastal belt as a whole.

Shri Rabi Rayji, I have got the information. The assistance of Naval and Coast guard was sought for searching the missing fishermen on 18th July. The assistance was immediately provided to the State. The fishermen could not be traced. Search is still going on.

#### Drought Affected States

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\*22. SHRI MANORANJAN  
BHAKTA:  
DR. AMRIT LAL KALIDAS  
PATEL:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the States/Union Territories affected by drought during the current year;

(b) the estimated loss caused thereby to crops and livestock in each affected State/ Union Territory;

(c) the Central assistance sought by each State/Union Territory and the amount actually released;

(d) the State/Union Territory visited by the Central Team(s) in this regard;

(e) the follow-up action taken by the Union Government on the report (s) of the Central Team (s); and