

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, it was decided yesterday that this matter will be taken up after the Question Hour. The hon. Member may not be knowing about it. Today morning the Prime Minister has also assured us that he would reply to each and every point. In view of this, I would request our Member to come back to her seat. We have got the assurance of the Prime Minister...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, what Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev said was not audible to us. Probably he said that this matter should be taken up after the Question Hour is over and Kumari Mamata Banerjee should be allowed to speak first. We are all very much concerned about this issue. We do not leave our claim for Adjournment Motion only because some Member comes to the well of the House. That would not be correct...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me. Yesterday, in the meeting of the Leaders of the political Parties and Groups this issue came up for discussion. The Government readily agreed for a discussion on this issue in the House. The unanimous decision of the political parties in the meeting was that so, this has already been decided. Where is the necessity for all these things? The whole nation is worried about this. When we are going to discuss this matter, why do you not do things in a decent manner? Do it in a decent manner, Mamata Banerjee. Do it in a serious manner. This is not the way.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Have respect for Parliament. The Parliament has a different sanctity. Have respect for Parliament. Please respect Parliament. I cannot say beyond this. I appeal to the Members of Parliament to have respect for Parliament. That is all I can say.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, ruling party is running the Government with the support of the Congress Party. They should sit and discuss together...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI HARIN PATHAK (Ahmedabad) : Sir, not only Parliament but the whole country is concerned about this issue. This issue must be discussed seriously. It is not only all the political parties but also the people of the country are concerned about this issue. So, my request to you is, let us discuss this matter very seriously...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to say something. Whatever was decided yesterday,

should be followed and if Mr. Santosh Mohan of the Congress party says that Kumari Mamata Banerjee could not be informed then it could be well understood. There could be a communication gap. My submission is that the Question Hour should be taken up and after that the issue that is agitating us all should be taken up. I am happy that if the MPs of the Congress Party, even if they are supporting Government, are making their opinion on the basis of merits of the case, then a chance should be given to discuss the issue. We have given a notice for the Adjournment Motion and would like to press for that. We would also like that the member of the Congress Party should also support it.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Let us take up the questions first.

11.16 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Natural Calamities

[English]

*2. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH :
SHRI N. RAMAKRISHNA REDDY :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether several States have been hard hit by the recent rains, cyclones and floods and a lot of damage to crops, human lives, animals and houses has been caused due to these natural calamities;

(b) if so, the names of areas affected thereby;

(c) the details of losses suffered in regard to human lives, crops, houses and livestock, State-wise and Union-Territory wise;

(d) whether the Union Government propose to extend substantial financial assistance out of Natural Calamity Fund to the State Governments for rendering relief in their affected areas; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and amount released for the purpose, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) to (e). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (e). According to reports received from the State Governments, parts of 12 States have been affected in varying degrees by floods as a result of cyclones and heavy rains during the current South

West Monsoon. The States affected are Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Gujarat, Haryana, Jammu & Kashmir, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh.

2. A statement indicating the districts affected is at *Annexure I*. A statement indicating loss of human lives and animals and damage to crops and houses in the wake of the recent floods in various States and releases of Central share of CRF for 1996-97 is at *Annexure II*.

3. Under the existing scheme of financing relief expenditure, the State Governments undertake relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities using the corpus of the Calamity Relief Funds (CRF). Two instalments of Central Share of CRF for the year 1996-97 have been released to all State Governments. In addition to the CRF, a National Fund for Calamity Relief is also available for meeting the situation arising out of calamities of rare severity.

ANNEXURE-I

Name of the Cyclone/Flood affected districts

1. Andhra Pradesh

1. Visakhapatnam 2. West Godavari 3. Krishna 4. Guntur 5. East Godavari 6. Nellore 7. Chittoor 8. Kurnool 9. Kuddapah 10. Ananthapur 11. Mahabubnagar 12. Warangal 13. Khammam

2. Assam

1. Dhemaji 2. Dibrugarh 3. Tinsukia 4. Darrang 5. Lakhimpur 6. Sivsagar 7. Jorhat 8. Dhubri

3. Gujarat

1. Mehsana 2. Jamnagar 3. Kheda 4. Surat 5. Bhavnagar 6. Junagarh 7. Surendranagar 8. Valsad 9. Ahmedabad 10. Rajkot 11. Sabrakantha 12. Bharuch 13. Panchmahal 14. Banskhata 15. Kachchh 16. Amreli 17. Dangs 18. Vadodara

4. Haryana

1. Gurgaon 2. Faridabad 3. Mohindergarh 4. Rewari

5. Jammu & Kashmir

1. Srinagar 2. Budgam 3. Baramula 4. Kupwara 5. Anantnagh 6. Pulwama

6. Karnataka

1. Raichur 2. Bijapur 3. Bangalore (Urban) 4. Mysore 5. Dharwad 6. Bellary 7. Dakshin Kannada 8. Bidar 9. Tumkur 10. Kodagu 11. Kolar 12. Bangalore (Rural) 13. Hassan 14. Gulbaraga 15. Uttar Kannada 16. Chickmagalur

7. Kerala

1. Kasargod 2. Idukki 3. Cannanore 4. Kozhikode 5. Thrissore 6. Wyanad, Thiruvananthapuram 8. Kottayam 9. Kollam 10. Paighat 11. Malapuram 12. Earnakulam 13. Pathanamthitta 14. Alappuzha

8. Maharashtra

1. Nashik 2. Ahmednagar 3. Solapur 4. Sangli 5. Jalna 6. Beed 7. Latur 8. Osmanabad 9. Nanded 10. Nagpur 11. Amravati 12. Buldana 13. Dhule 14. Satara 15. Aurangabad 16. Akola

9. Punjab

1. Amritsar 2. Hoshiarpur

10. Rajasthan

1. Jodhpur 2. Jaisalmer 3. Nagaur 4. Hanumangarh 5. Alwar 6. Churu 7. Jhunjhunu 8. Bharatpur

11. Tamil Nadu

1. Nagapatinam 2. Trichi 3. Villupuram 4. Thanjavur 5. South Arcot 6. Chengalpattu 7. Madras 8. Coimbatore 9. Nilgiris 10. Pasumpon Muthuramalinga Thevar 11. Dindigul Anna 12. Tiruvannamalai 13. Tirunelveli

12. Uttar Pradesh

1. Allahabad 2. Hardoi 3. Barabanki 4. Varanasi 5. Agra 6. Mathura 7. Firozabad, 8. Rai Barell

ANNEXURE-II

Damage caused in various States due to recent Cyclones/Floods and Release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for 1996-97

S No	State	Human lives lost	Animals lost	No. of houses damaged	Cropped area affected (in lakh hectares)	Central share of Calamity Relief Fund released (Rs. in crores)
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	Andhra Pradesh	95	117	13880	0.12	23.285
2	Assam	3	-	-	0.06	18.755
3	Gujarat	53	1002	39523	-	52.350

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
4.	Haryana	13	49	6381	-	9.395
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	28	4018	17053	0.58	7.390
6.	Karnataka	100	495	3248	-	15.695
7.	Kerala	27	-	6319	0.18	20.755*
8.	Maharashtra	100	90	1611	-	25.575
9.	Punjab	4	-	-	-	20.305
10.	Rajasthan	86	4723	76000	-	67.140
11.	Tamil Nadu	54	10	38296	0.05	22.255
12.	Uttar Pradesh	51	455	3048	0.01	46.920

* Released during 1995-96, in advance.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Sir, through you, I would like to know whether any Central team has visited the affected areas in the country for an on-the-spot study and to assess the loss caused to lives, properties and standing crops in particular. If so, has this team recommended for more financial assistance to these States in general and to Kerala in particular?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the question of sending a Central team arises only when a memorandum is received from the State Governments. So far, we have not received any memorandum.

Now, about the question of Central Fund, may I tell you that the Tenth Finance Commission has simplified the clauses in a very good way and it has given benefits to the States. Otherwise, the States used to approach the Centre every day for assistance which resulted in loss of time. Now, it has been simplified. Apart from that, five per cent amount has been given for combating the inflation.

Now, a corpus of funds has been created. One is Calamity Relief Fund and another is National Fund for Calamity Relief. Under the National Fund for Calamity Relief, there are two funds. Out of these, one fund takes money directly - almost automatically - from the Centre and the fund allotted to them is quite substantial. This has been done by the Tenth Finance Commission. It amounts to Rs. 6,304 crore and odd. So far as the Central Fund is concerned, it has only Rs. 700 crore. What I am saying is that so far no State has complained of any shortage of fund or has reported that they have already spent those moneys, and that they have no money. Therefore, we have not done anything and we are awaiting for the report. If the State is sending any report, then we will act upon it.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : I would like to know whether it has come to the notice of the Government that several States are diverting the funds meant for helping the people affected by floods and cyclone to other activities and, if so, what action has been taken by the Government in this regard and whether any instructions have been issued to

the States not to divert the funds meant for flood and cyclone victims to other activities. I would also like to know whether the Government of India proposes to provide substantial assistance to the poor farmers who have been affected badly by the floods and cyclone.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : So far as this question of asking the State Governments as to whether they are diverting the funds or not is concerned, I may say that the general instructions issued by the Finance Ministry are already there, and I cannot interfere in the functioning of the concerned State Governments. It is their business and I cannot interfere with it.

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR : But you are monitoring it.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : You are giving the funds, but many States are diverting those funds.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The general instructions issued by the Finance Ministry are already there, and I cannot interfere in their day-to-day functioning. The State Governments, just like us, are constituted under the same Constitution. So, we cannot interfere in their functioning. As regards the poor farmers, though the floods affect everybody alike, special treatment is being given to them in the form of relief etc.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Rajasthan suffered terrible floods during the recent past which cost about 86 lives. 4723 cattle were killed and 76,000 houses were damaged due to floods. The Government have given these figures. But a very routine reply was given that Government have released the share of the state from the National Calamity Fund. Centre's share of payment is Rs. 67 crores and 140 lakhs. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhairon Singh Shekhawat has made a survey of the flood affected areas with the Prime Minister and discussed the matter with him. He made

a demand of Rs. 300 crores. A backward and desert state like Rajasthan has been very badly affected by flood and the districts in which flood caused havoc need funds immediately for survival. I would like to ask the Central Government, through you, that when the Prime Minister himself has made a survey of that area with the Chief Minister and has admitted that a heavy loss of life and property has taken place, will then immediate special assistance be provided from the Central Calamity Fund accepting the request of the State Government without any delay?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the State of Rajasthan is really very bad and that is why our Prime Minister went there, saw the condition himself and sanctioned some money for that State.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Not given...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : That is like 'a drop in the ocean'...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Not even a drop in the ocean...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : If all the Members will speak together then how shall I reply? The amount may be a drop in the ocean or not but I have used the word 'some' not 'a drop'. If you call "some" as 'a drop', then we have no objection.

SHRI RATILAL KALIDAS VERMA : This is a proverb.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Please listen, when the Prime Minister went to Rajasthan then a demand for Rs. 100 crores was made.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : They need Rs. 300 crores.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : A demand for Rs. 100 crores has been made in the letter that was addressed to the Prime Minister. If we get any Memorandum to the effect that so many areas of Bharatpur district are affected by the flood, so many villages have suffered loss, then after getting the full details, we send the central team and provide funds. We have not received any information from Rajasthan Government about the amount spent and the balance left. Kindly ask that Government if the whole amount has been spent, then send us a report accordingly. We will take any action only after receiving report from them.

VAIDYA DAU DAYAL JOSHI : Rajasthan Government have given you the report. Rajasthan is a backward state, poor state. 70 thousand people are living on the roads there...*(Interruptions)*. They are getting no help from the Central Government...*(Interruptions)* the Prime Minister himself has seen it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : We are in concurrence with you...*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister himself went there because the condition of your state was bad...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : First of all listen to the complete reply of the Minister.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : What will be the outcome of this visit. If you don't provide funds from here then Prime Minister's going there is of no use. Whether the Prime Minister went there for his 'darshan'? People are dying due to floods, lying on roads and getting no relief...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please direct the Government.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : Only Prime Minister's 'darshan' cannot feed people, merely hanging his portrait will do nothing, people are in trouble, they are dying, lying on the roads, they have no shelter and getting no relief...*(Interruptions)* At least 6 districts are affected by floods, people are suffering...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Please listen to my complete reply...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Listen to the reply of the Minister.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : If the money received by Rajasthan from Calamity Relief Fund has been spent fully then why a report has not been submitted to us...*(Interruptions)* Everything is given in the chart, full details have been given.

[English]

If they do not need it is not my responsibility.

[Translation]

I am saying that a report should be sent to us stating that the whole amount has been spent. Memorandum should be sent to us. Uniform procedure is applicable to the whole nation. If the memorandum comes to us then we will send the Central Team which will go there to assess the position. This is our reply.

SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA : I would like to request the Hon'ble Prime Minister that he himself has seen the condition in Rajasthan, people are lying on roads there...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down, the Prime Minister is on his legs.

[English]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA) : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I had visited Rajasthan. During my visit, the hon. Chief Minister of Rajasthan was present and the Governor was also with me. I discussed with all the senior officers in presence of the Chief Minister. First of all, I would

I like to make myself clear that the quantum of money or the relief for the natural calamities has been fixed to each State by the Finance Commission, out of which we have already released two instalments to Rajasthan. One advance instalment is also released. Of course, I am not going to minimise the seriousness or the severity of the natural calamity. The money that has been indicated by the Finance Commission is about Rs. 135 crore to Rajasthan. We have already released about Rs. 65 crore and I also instructed the Ministry of Finance again to release one more instalment as advance instalment, and if the money is fully spent, we are prepared to release the forth instalment also in advance. Apart from this if further assistance is necessary, we are prepared to help Rajasthan through Plan advance. There is no question of any delay so far as the Central Government is concerned. We are taking steps. I would like to assure the august House that I have visited some of the States. I am unable to visit all the States I myself have gone to several States. But I requested the concerned Chief Ministers of various States to say whether my visit was required. They said "The floods are already receding. Now it is not necessary for you to visit." I am telling very frankly that there is no question of any slackness on the part of the Central Government. In this connection, I also want to make this point very clear that in every State where human life is lost, we have granted Rs. 50,000/- per deceased. We have released that money to all the States. So far as the Natural Calamity Fund is concerned, as and when the request comes from the States, we are prepared to release it according to the guidelines and the norms fixed by the Finance Commission ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Sir, at the very outset, I congratulate the hon. Minister that after Independence, this is the first time that a Minister from the CPI is answering on the floor of the House. For so long, he was in the Opposition and he knows the mind of the Opposition. But I am glad to see that he has been baptised by the bureaucrats very quickly ...*(Interruptions)*

Now, my point is that Assam is a State which always suffers from floods and it is flood-affected. As far as I know, I saw it in the newspapers that the hon. Chief Minister of Assam met the hon. Prime Minister and gave a memorandum and requested him for a certain help. Out of the 21 districts, 16 districts have been affected; as many as 22 people have died. Some of the Members of Parliament may not be here. Their areas like Nowgong, Dhamaji Ajore and other areas have been affected. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister one thing. His Party, the CPI, is also supporting the Government of Assam and it is there in the Ministry of Assam. I would like to know whether he will wait for the memorandum. Or, as the Prime Minister has acted upon by giving

advance, he should continue to give it and also try to see that the Finance Ministry is a bit liberal about the financial thing because I have been told that since there is some backlog in the payment, the payments are not released. That should not be done. As the Prime Minister has rightly said, natural calamity should be looked at promptly. I would request the intervention of the Prime Minister, if necessary.

SHRI CHATURNANA MISHRA : Sir, the advance can be taken any time if they so desire. It is applicable to Assam and also to any other part of the country. The country is one. You can take the advance any time you desire. That is not the point. The point is that Minister concerned from Assam was due to visit but he could not come here. I am waiting for him. If the reports come, naturally we will sympathetically consider them. That is an issue which has been time and again raised...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Can you take care for Shri Chidambaram and his system? That is a more important thing.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : That is their internal thing...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You were with him for a considerable period of time. You can take care of him. I want to thank our colleague Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev for adopting the Opposition role so soon ...*(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Hon'ble. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the details given to you do not include the name of Madhya Pradesh.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I will give you a chance after him. I will come to you. I am going State-wise. I am calling the hon. Members keeping in view the States.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : Sir, as far as Gujarat is concerned, the Hon. Prime Minister has released only Rs. 13.50 lakhs as relief from the Prime Minister's Natural Calamity Fund. If you see the number of huts destroyed, the total number of huts destroyed in Gujarat is 26,151. I wish the hon. Agriculture Minister should also take a liberal view in providing more help to the people whose huts have been demolished. I expect from a progressive Minister like Shri Chaturanan Mishra that norms should be revised and not the old, outdated norms should be there. May I request him to extend more help from the Prime Minister's Natural Calamity Fund? Will he have a programme of constructing houses in place of huts?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : So far as the Prime Minister's Relief Fund is concerned, it is a

separate thing. However, when the Hon. Member is demanding the details, I may tell him that Gujarat has got Rs.26.50 lakhs from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. But that is a separate thing.

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : It has got only Rs.13.50 lakhs.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I am coming to that issue...*(Interruptions)* We are ready to help. But before that, the report must come from the State whether the money given to the States have been spent and whether they need more money. At least, that should come to us. If it does not come, then what to do?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : A proposal for Rs.100 crore has been sent to the Central Government. I would like to know from the hon. Prime Minister about it...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I again repeat that no memorandum has come from your State of Gujarat. The moment it comes to me, I am ready to assist you to the best possible extent.

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : The Chief Minister of Gujarat met the Prime Minister and sent a proposal asking for Rs.100 crore as the first instalment.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : This is not a memorandum...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARIN PATHAK : There must be communication gap.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Not at all. Let the Government of Gujarat send a memorandum...*(Interruptions)*

MR SPEAKER : You do not have to reply to him. I have not allowed him.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : My question has not been replied. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, just now the name of the districts of Maharashtra mentioned by the Minister do not show the name of Thane Sindhu, Durg and Ratnagiri etc. there is no mention of any district of Konkan also, whereas Konkan is also an affected area. 100 people have died in Maharashtra and the storm has destroyed several trees of Mango, Banana and Coconut in Konkan. In his reply, the Minister has mentioned about crops. I must say the trees which are destroyed in Maharashtra are also crops of the farmers. Then why there is no mention of these trees and whether the Hon'ble Minister would like to say why he has not mentioned the name of Konkan in his reply?

[English]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I have given the list of rain affected districts which are affected and

it is based on the report received from the States. As regards the details, there is a mention a large parts of districts of Raigad, Ratnagiri, Pune and Kolhapur which are affected by rains. Sixteen districts in the State were affected in various degrees due to violent and heavy rains. Earlier 40 people died in the State due to lightning. The figures about death are given. All these figures are given. I again repeat, if you think that more funds should go, then ask your Government to send the memorandum. They know the procedure. You also, as a very senior Member of the House, know it.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to ask the hon'ble Minister that when Mango, Banana and Coconut trees are destroyed due to storms and are uprooted, then why these are not included, being agricultural crops? These should also be included. But it seems that the hon'ble Minister has not included these in his reply. Whether the Hon'ble Minister will consider to include them in the list of agricultural crops?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble M.P. has asked in a query whether assistance was given or not and has just now asked whether damaged trees are included in the crops or not. I would like to say that these are also included in the damaged crops but particularly about Mango tree, we can tell you only after examining.

SHRI ANIL BASU : I would like to concentrate on the prevention aspect of the floods. It is good that the Tenth Finance Commission has simplified the procedure of helping the States whenever natural calamity occurs. But I am concentrating, with your permission, on the aspect of prevention of floods. It has been proved that the central projects which are set up for the prevention of floods have failed miserably. My constituency is a high flood-prone area and the main reason for the flood is the Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC) which was set up for the prevention of floods in the lower Damodar region. My question is: Whether the Government is contemplating to review all the projects which are set up in our country for prevention of floods as also about the failure of the projects to prevent the floods and the subsequent remedial measures which are required to be taken up because the United Front Government has announced its concern for the flood and drought and have decided to mobilise resources for the prevention of floods and drought. That is why, I am asking this specific question...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Allow me to reply. After all, the hon. Member has asked something. Let us hear him. I will reply to your question later on.

It is a very serious matter and I am also concerned with that question. Nearly, on an average, colossal loss is Rs. 1,000 crore every year. Some year it is even Rs. 4,500 crore.

So, that is a serious matter. I am concerned about that. But my Ministry is concerned only with the assistance part. The flood part is with the Water Resources Ministry. The relation is like the Mahabharat's Bhim and Shakuni. Bhim is creating the trouble and Shakuni is giving relief. So, this is the situation. The hon. member can address that question to the other Ministry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please listen to me.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please allow me to speak.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, would you please ask him to reply to this very important question? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : One minute, please. This is a very important question. I know, every hon. Member from every State would like to raise questions. Yesterday, in the meeting of the Leaders, it was decided that the House should have a full discussion on this question. So, we are going to have a full-fledged debate and discussion on this issue and, therefore, we go to the next question.

[Translation]

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this does not include the name of Madhya Pradesh. Unless the name of Madhya Pradesh is included in it what can we ask...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : The House will have full discussion on it.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MAHENDRA KARMA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please listen to the back benchers like us also ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : It has already been decided that a full discussion will be held on this issue in the House. Everyone will be given a chance to speak.

[English]

Now Question No. 3. Shri Ramendra Kumarji.

[Translation]

Rural Electrification

*3. SHRI RAMENDRA KUMAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Govt. of Bihar and other States of Eastern region have sought financial assistance from the Union Government for rural electrification;

(b) if so, the amount of financial assistance provided by the Union Government for this purpose during the year 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 particularly to Bihar;

(c) the time by which all the villages in Bihar are likely to be electrified; and

(d) whether any target has been fixed in this regard?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (DR S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) to (d). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). The financial allocation approved by Planning Commission for Rural Electrification in the Eastern States for the last 3 years is as follows

	(Rs. in Crores)		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
Orissa	24.0	15.0	15.0
Bihar	10.0	6.0	16.0
West Bengal	14.0	20.5	33.5
Sikkim	2.0	2.5	1.5

The Government of Bihar proposes to achieve cent per cent village electrification by 2000 AD and has sought for additional financial allocation for Rural Electrification. As against 67513 villages in Bihar, 47805 villages have been electrified.

As rural electrification is a continuing process, the electrification of all villages will depend upon availability of resources, power supply position in the state, a proper network of transmission and distribution systems and the targets fixed by the Planning Commission in consultation with the State Government on an annual basis.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the eastern region consists of Orissa, Bihar, West Bengal and Sikkim for financial assistance for rural electrification. However, the Bihar Government wrote to the Minister of Power in May 1995 stating that they propose to cover all the villages for electrification in Bihar by 2000 A.D. It was mentioned in the letter that Rs. 530 crore would be required upto 1999-2000 for completing village electrification.

Sir, the second part of the question pertains to the financial assistance provided by the Union Government.

The financial allocation for all the States is decided by the Planning Commission in consultation