

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, December 16, 1998/Agrahayana 25, 1920
(Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM PORTUGAL

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, at the outset, I have to make an announcement.

On my own behalf and on behalf of the hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming His Excellency Dr. Antonio De Almeida Santos, President of the National Assembly (Parliament) of Portugal and Mrs. Margarida De Almeida Santos and other Members of the Portuguese Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the Delegation are :

1. Dr. Artur Rodrigues Pereira Dos Penedos, M.P.
2. Dr. Aergio Paulo Mendes De Sousa Pinto, M.P.
3. Dr. Pedro Jose Da Vinha Rodrigues Costa, M.P.
4. Dr. Lino Antonio Marques De Carvalho, M.P.
5. Dr. Luis Afonso Cortez Rodrigues Queiro, M.P.

They arrived Delhi on Tuesday, 15 December, 1998. They are now seated in the special box. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them, we convey our greetings and best wishes to the President, the Parliament and the friendly people of the Portuguese Republic.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

11.01 hrs

[Translation]

Flood Control

241. SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(Jhanjharpur) :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several farmers in the country were affected by the recent floods and heavy rains;

(b) if so, the States which were affected by recent floods;

(c) the steps taken by the Government to contract the floods which has become a regular feature every year;

(d) whether the constant breach in embankments causes regular floods;

(e) if so, the financial assistance sought by the affected States for construction and repair of embankments; and

(f) the assistance made available to each affected State during the last three years?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (f) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Nineteen states were affected by heavy rains and floods during monsoon of 1998. List of states affected is enclosed as Annex-I.

(c) Planning and implementation of flood management works is primarily the responsibility of the States. Various flood management measures have been formulated and implemented by the State Governments in the successive five year plans. So far 16200 km. of embankments, 32003 km. of drainage channels, 906 town protection works have

been implemented providing protection to 14.374 million hectares out of the flood prone area of 40 million hectares.

For the severe flood prone basins of Ganga and Brahmaputra, Central Organisations of Ganga Flood Control Commission and Brahmaputra Board have prepared Comprehensive Master Plan for flood management which have been sent to State Governments for formulating detailed schemes and their implementation. Government of India had also constituted various committees from time to time to study the flood problems and make recommendations which have been sent to the concerned States for follow up action. Also, Central Government is operating 157 flood forecasting stations on various interstate rivers for providing timely flood forecasting services to the State Government for mitigating flood damages. Central Government is also providing financial assistance to carry out important flood management works in Assam and border States of North and North Eastern India. Central assistance is also provided to State of Bihar for carrying out flood proofing programme and to the States of both Uttar Pradesh and Bihar for flood protection works on Gandak and Kosi near their border in Nepal.

(d) High and unprecedented flow conditions during floods in the rivers occasionally cause breaching of embankments in vulnerable reaches and consequent flooding.

(e) Request for financial assistance specifically for construction and repair of breached embankments have not been received.

(f) Assistance provided by the Central Government to various States for flood management works in the last three years is as under:

State	Amount in Rs. Crores		
	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
Assam	25.00	10.09	18.00
Bihar	11.00	2.36	3.26
Punjab	1.90	20.00	4.56
West Bengal	0.50	—	0.95

ANNEXURE

States affected by heavy rains and floods during 1998 monsoon.

1. Andhra Pradesh
2. Arunachal Pradesh
3. Assam
4. Bihar
5. Gujarat
6. Haryana
7. Himachal Pradesh
8. Karnataka
9. Kerala
10. Madhya Pradesh
11. Maharashtra
12. Meghalaya
13. Orissa
14. Punjab
15. Rajasthan
16. Sikkim
17. Tripura
18. Uttar Pradesh
19. West Bengal

MR. SPEAKER : This is a very important question. So, I want to give chance to many hon. Members. But please allow me to give chance to as many members as possible. I am looking at every body.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from hon. Minister through you that whether he is aware of the terrible flood in Bihar this time in which 158,000 hours washed away. Riped crops in 14 Lack Hectare land destroyed completely. According to details 11 crores rupees was allowed for flood control in 1995-96 when their Government was not ruling. In

1996-97 the amount was 2.36 crore. This year the flood problem is 20-25 times more severe but the amount allotted is 3 crore and 26 lakhs. It seems that injustice and stepmotherly treatment is done with Bihar.

Where as Bihar Government has demanded 700 crore rupees whether central Government want to give relief to Bihar by providing enough money.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, The amount made available to Bihar for flood management in Bihar is not utilised fully. Still they have a balance of one crore, which is not utilised. It is true that this year the flood was such terrifying as it was never in past except 1988. The relief fund is allocated after the discussion between planning commission and State Government for allocation of resources tailing the view of the need of State Government and availability of resources with Central Government. The fund provided in this regard is not utilised properly. It is true that this time a big damage is done in Bihar and for this Prime Minister has permitted by announcing to utilise 75 crore rupees from the plan out lay. The team, we had sent there and the recommendations it had made, after the meeting of N.C.R.C. Committee the fund provided to them in last two years, in that 1.7 crore rupees was given last year and 0.87 crore in 1997-98. From that 10.57 crore rupees is utilised so that they still have one crore rupees balance.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon. Minister has said in his booklet that he is preparing the master plan of Ganga and Brahmaputra rivers. Perhaps he does not know that rivers who originate from Nepal flows with high speed through Bihar. Since they flow from top and Bihar's land are plane, they cause devastation in Bihar. I want to ask from hon. Minister whether the master plans of rivers like Kosi, Gandak, Bagmati, Burhi Gandak and Murai are sadoy or not and whether this Government has any plan to make master plan or not? All these rivers originate from Nepal valley. Whether the Government propose to stop them by making embankments at the boundry of India and Nepal or have made any effective plan to stop them.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker Sir, Hon Member said it truly that rivers flowing in Bihar especially in North Bihar mainly come from Bihar and originates from Himalaya. Till effective river management is not implemented in Nepal, proper arrangement to control their disaster can not be made. Talks have been made to Nepal Government far it. We are not only having discussion with Nepal Government to check these projects but also for the storage of water of Kamla and Bagmati rivers under Saptkosi multipurpose scheme. But we have not received any proper answer from Nepal Government.

Central Government is continuously trying for the acceptance of Nepal Government through foreign affairs and water resources ministry so that these plans could be prepared.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question relates to my constituency ...(*Interruptions*). Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are nine rivers in my Parliamentary constituency, khagaria, which wreck havoc in the entire area. These rivers have destroyed all the embankments and the roads. One feels ashamed that although our party is a part of the Government, nothing has been done by the Government so far. Has our Government no plans to get rid of our constituency of the flood menace? What has the Government to say in this regard?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of flood management is concerned, it is basically the responsibility of the States. And the Central Government provides assistance only to those schemes which are sent by the State Governments. Flood management is basically the responsibility of the States. If related financial assistance, technical information or technical assistance is required, it is provided by the Centre otherwise it is the responsibility of the State Government. Therefore, I would request the hon. Member to contact the State Government in this regard and if any special scheme is sent, the centre certainly looks into it.

SHRI SHAKUNI CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, if Bihar has to be saved, the Centre would have to provide full assistance for the entire scheme. This is the only way to save Bihar ...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : There is a second name also.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that Bihar, specially north Bihar, has suffered gravely due to the flood havoc. Crops and houses were destroyed, traffic was disrupted and the roads were damaged, but no assistance was provided by the Union Government. The reply given by the hon. Minister is not correct. I would like to know through you the suggestions made by the Ganga Flood Control Commission to stop the floods in Bihar and the draft of master plan? I also want to know, the time by which the Government plans to construct high dams at the Barrage area, Noonthur and at Sisompali, which are the source of Kosi, Kamala, Bagmati, Gandak and group of Adhwora inter-state rivers, so that permanent solution can be found for the damage caused by these rivers by floods every year? As long as,

the Government does not construct high dams at these places, the problems caused by flood in Kamala river in Bihar would continue. I want to know the time by which the Centre propose to provide financial assistance to strengthen the eastern and western embankments of Kosi river, the eastern and western embankments of Udiplaan river and the embankments of Bagmati river, so that the life and property of the people can be secured?

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Ganga Flood Control Board and under it, the Ganga Flood Control Commission was constituted in 1972. This Commission had prepared detailed schemes to control flood for all the 23 river systems of river Ganga, by 1990. Now all those schemes are being amended and updated. These detailed schemes have been sent to all the Ganga Basin states, including Bihar, and they are preparing detailed schemes under this. After these schemes are received, the Centre would consider these ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, people have been rendered homeless, roads have been blocked. But this problem is not being taken seriously and my question, has not been replied to ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand that we are going to discuss national calamities also during this Session.

SHRI P. SHIV SHAKER : The recent rains have devastated at least about half a dozen districts of Andhra Pradesh. The floods that occurred in the River Krishna have totally devastated lakhs and lakhs of people, in the lanks which are adjacent to the river. Particularly in my constituency, Tenali, 22 lankas in the Guntur district have been totally devastated; equally, nine lankas in Avanigadda and Nidumolu Assembly segments, which fall in Krishna district, have been devastated. This is the situation.

The Government of India have come forth with an aid of Rs. 200 crore. I request the hon. Prime Minister—I gave him a memorandum—that these Rs. 200 crore should be released as a grant and not as an advance. That is my first request. I requested him personally by writing a letter and giving it to him because my constituency has been badly affected. Secondly, I requested the hon. Prime Minister that under the IAY scheme, at least 150 houses in each lanka should be got constructed. The Prime Minister was pleased to send a team. The questions that I now ask are, after the team submitted its report, what action has been taken on the

report of the team that had gone there; whether adequate compensation has been paid; and would it be in the form of a grant? I request the hon. Prime Minister to announce her that the Rs. 200 crore that he has given after having seen those devastated areas is by way of a grant what monitoring is taking place about the amount spent? What advice is being given by the Centre with regard to the adequate compensation that is to be paid to agriculturists who are very badly affected and the labour who have lost their jobs? What is being done about the housing under the IAY? I have already taken this up by way of a representation to the hon. Prime Minister. These are the questions which I like should be answered. May I also request the hon. Prime Minister to say something on the memorandum that I personally submitted to him?

[Translation]

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is true that this time there was severe flood in the Krishna river. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : I want the reply in English because my people understand only English and not Hindi. So, please reply in English.

SHRI SOMPAL : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the flood this time in the River Krishna was really quite devastating. Having been informed about it by the hon. Chief Minister and also the hon. Member, Shri Shiv Shanker, our hon. Prime Minister visited this area. I also accompanied him. We had a vast, extensive aerial survey of those areas, probably, on the 23rd October. We saw that on both the sides of the River Krishna in Guntur and other districts which were submerged, houses got demolished and crops were damaged. Then and there, the hon. Prime Minister announced an assistance of Rs. 200 crore.

So far as converting the assistance into a grant is concerned, it is being considered. So far as the assistance on other counts like damage to house, labour and crop is concerned, we had sent a team and that team has reported back to the Ministry. This was referred to an Inter-Ministerial Group. This is a procedure to be followed as per the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission, which have been accepted by the National Development Council. According to the norms laid down by the NFCR and the Tenth Finance Commission, these are being processed. As soon as the National Committee on Relief meets—it is proposed to be called very soon—a decision will be taken to look into the grants which are likely to be released for the State. They are to be done

according to the norms laid down by the Tenth Finance Commission. We do not have much discretion there. These norms should be followed. The Inter-Ministerial Group has already firmed it up. It will be placed before the NCRC and then only we will be able to let you know how much is being released.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : What about the houses under the IAY scheme to the poor people about which I had requested the hon. Prime Minister? You may kindly sanction it. I had requested 150 houses for each lanka to the poor people.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAÏEE) : A suggestion has been made that houses which are being constructed under Indira Awas Yojana should be utilised for those who have lost their shelters and who are totally in a devastated condition. This proposal is being considered.

Yes, Shir Shiv Shanker met me; he had written to me; and if he says something we do take it seriously.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Surendra Singh.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, from M: dha Pradesh you took ... (Interruptions) But no action has been taken so far ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, heavy loss was caused by flood in Bihar. A list has been received ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Please allow us to ask ... (Interruptions)

Hear us also. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : They are asking about Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat. You do not know even that.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is difficult to hold a separate discussion on each state individually. I have come to know that you have already accepted a discussion in this regard. All the issues can be raised in that detailed discussion and the Government can also give satisfactory reply.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Q. 242. Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDER SINGH (Bhiwani) : Sir, you had called me.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

... (Interruptions)

11.23 hrs.

(At this stage, Shri Rajo Singh and some other hon. Members came and stood near the Table)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURENDER SINGH : Sir, you had called me.

MR. SPEAKER : We are going to have a discussion on this. Please go back to your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Q. 242. Shri Shankar Prasad Jaiswal.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please go back to your seats. Every time you are disturbing the House. Please go back to your seats. The hon. Prime Minister has replied. We are also going to discuss the matter.

... (Interruptions)

11.24 hrs.

(At this stage Shri Rajo Singh and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats)

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the hon. Members to please take their seats. The hon. Prime Minister has replied to the question and we are going to have a discussion on this issue also. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister went there twice. ...(Interruptions) But no financial assistance was provided. ...(Interruptions) It is the Government's misfortune. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar suffered heavy floods but the Government did not help the flood-affected people. ...(Interruptions) The reply too is not satisfactory. ...(Interruptions) We walk out in protest.

11.25 hrs

(Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and other Hon. Members then lift the House)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to the hon. Members to please take their seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : We have decided in the BAC to have a discussion on national calamities. Please understand.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please understand that. Please take your seats. I am appealing to you to please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Standing crops have been perished in Tamil Nadu. Bridges have been affected. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : There had been devastating floods in the State of West Bengal also. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called the number of the next Question. Please sit down. Madam Suryakanta Patil, you are always disturbing the House. Please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, this is not proper. You have to allow the hon. Members from the affected States to put supplementary questions. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister is on his legs. Please take your seat. You are always disturbing the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Every time you are disturbing the House, this is not good.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Prime Minister is replying. Please take your seats.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now please take your seats. What is this?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI N.N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, you should allow us to put supplementaries. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Lakhs and lakhs of huts had been washed away. ...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this?

[Translation]

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE : I can understand the feelings of the Members, who come from the flood-affected areas. We are also not satisfied with the steps initiated by the Government with limited resources. If the Members and the House want to have a separate discussion on each state, we have no objection to it. They can raise questions, we will answer their questions. ...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJO SINGH : It is strange ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : When I am on my legs, is it not your duty to take your seat?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : First of all, you may please take your seat. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You must take your seat now. This is not good.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I am appealing to you to please take your seat. First of all, you may please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, with great respect I would like to say that we are here to ventilate the grievances of the people.

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, I am once again appealing to you to please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Sir, Kerala is the State which was affected by the floods the most.

MR. SPEAKER : This is not good. Please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : You have not allowed us to put supplementaries. I am not going to sit down.

MR. SPEAKER : You must take your seat. What is this?

SHRI SURESH KURUP : We should be allowed to put questions.

MR. SPEAKER : No, please take your seat.

SHRI SURESH KURUP : Andhra Pradesh is not the only State which was affected by the floods.

MR. SPEAKER : Unnecessarily you are creating disturbance. Please take your seat. Hon. Prime Minister has said about all the States including West Bengal and

Tamil Nadu. Hon. Prime Minister has mentioned about every State.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. What is this?

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All the States had been affected by the recent floods.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I told that all the States which have been affected by the recent floods would be discussed in this House.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I am appealing to Dr. Asim Bala that all the States which have been affected by the recent floods would be discussed.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI R.L. JALAPPA : Sir, the loss suffered by the State of Karnataka is Rs. 1000 crore. So, Half an Hour discussion may kindly be allowed on this subject.
...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Jalappa, please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri, Jalappa, all the States, including Karnataka, which have been affected by the recent floods would be discussed.

...*(Interruptions)*