

has also been listed for today, we will club it together and immediately after the Minister's statement, we can discuss.

AT Since this matter is very urgent, I would like to give time to as many Members as possible on this issue. If the House approves we may suspend the Zero Hour today and immediately after the Question Hour we will discuss it. Last week also we did not have any Question Hour. So, I think it is not fair to do away with the Question Hour today also. Immediately after the Question Hour, the Papers will be laid on the Table of the House and the Minister of Agriculture will make a statement and the House will start discussion on the Andhra Calamity.

SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY (Kurnool) : Sir, we have no objection about that. Our only objection is with regard to the statement made by the hon. Prime Minister about the evaluation...*(Interruptions)* Since the Prime Minister has said that the estimated loss due to cyclone is much less than what it is, our objection is on that...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have understood that but even that will come when the Minister makes a Statement. Everything can be pointed out at that time.

(Interruptions)

(vi) SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Sir, we fully agree with your suggestion, but I would like to get a clarification from the Minister of Agriculture. Our Members are also very much worried about the drought situation in Orissa. Are we going to discuss it together with the Andhra Pradesh situation or separately? We do not mind, if it is agreed to be discussed separately.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, we have agreed to have a separate discussion on the Orissa situation also.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : If it is agreed, then we can have it immediately after Question Hour tomorrow or day after.

MR. SPEAKER : I will see to it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Kindly give priority to Orissa also.

MR. SPEAKER : We have agreed. We are discussing it immediately after the Question Hour.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the matter is settled, we will have Question Hour.

11.07 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Loss due to Flood/Heavy Rains

*61. SHRI M. SELVARASU :

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Andhra Pradesh and some other States have been severely affected due to heavy rains/flood since August, 1996;

(b) if so, the names of districts in each State severely affected;

(c) whether any Central team has visited these areas;

(d) if so, the details of the loss of human lives, crops, animals, property etc. suffered by each State as per the report of the team; and

(e) the financial assistance provided by the Union Government for relief and rehabilitation works to each State?

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 Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) to (e). According to information received from the State Governments, parts of 17 States and one Union Territory were affected by cyclones, heavy rains and floods in varying degrees since August, 1996. In response to requests for additional assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief, Central Teams have visited the States of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal to assess the situation and requirements of relief and rehabilitation. A Statement indicating the details of loss of human lives and animals, damage to crops and houses and funds released by the Government of India from the Calamity Relief Fund/National Fund for Calamity Relief to the affected States is at Annexure-I. A list of affected districts in various States is given at Annexure-II.

ANNEXURE - I

State	No. of human lives lost	No. of Livestock lost	Damage to Huts/Houses (No.)	Damage to Crop Area (In lakh Ha.)	Central Share of CRF released (Rs. in crores)
1. Andhra Pradesh	1574	66694	718080	17.95	93.140
2. Arunachal Pradesh	15	1256	330	0.06	3.960
3. Assam	38	372	7848	2.00	28.133*
4. Bihar	207	66	66955	7.14	29.228
5. Gujarat	117	1962	54575	4.28	18.790
6. Himachal Pradesh	45	2250	5774	2.58	15.158
7. Jammu and Kashmir	58	9534	24521	0.46	14.780
8. Karnataka	239	4787	104199	0.50	23.543
9. Kerala	159	-	18729	0.39	41.550
10. Madhya Pradesh	48	344	7075	0.14	28.733
11. Maharashtra	198	38	2899	-	38.363
12. Punjab	13	1	26	-	30.458
13. Rajasthan	138	6438	119241	2.10	134.280
14. Tamil Nadu	75	88	40222	0.05	33.383
15. Uttar Pradesh	352	1279	70858	6.78	70.380
16. West Bengal	48	84	203987	0.83	38.490
17. Sikkim	6	-	20	-	3.530
18. Pondicherry	18	-	6000	0.008	-

* Note : An additional Rs. 21.00 crores has been released for Assam from the National Fund for Calamity Relief.

ANNEXURE - II

Names of the Flood/Cyclone affected districts

1. Andhra Pradesh	16. Prakasam
1. Visakhapatnam	17. Karimnagar
2. West Godavari	18. Hyderabad
3. Krishna	19. Adilabad
4. Guntur	20. Medak
5. East Godavari	21. Nalgonda
6. Nellore	22. Nizamabad
7. Chittoor	23. Rangareddy
8. Kurnool	2. Arunachal Pradesh
9. Cuddapah	1. Lohit
10. Ananthapur	2. East Siang
11. Mahabubnagar	3. West Siang
12. Warangal	4. Tawang
13. Khammam	5. West Kameng
14. Srikakulam	6. East Kameng
15. Vizianagaram	7. Lower Subansiri
	8. Upper Subansiri
	9. Upper Siang
	10. Dibang Valley

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11. Changlang
 12. Papumpare
 13. Tirap

3. Assam

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1. Dhemaji
 2. Dibrugarh
 3. Tinsukhia
 4. Darrang
 5. Lakhimpur
 6. Sivasagar
 7. Jorhat
 8. Dhubri
 9. Bongai Gaon
 10. Goalpara
 11. Barpeta
 12. Nalbari
 13. Kamrup
 14. Sonitpur
 15. Nagaon
 16. Kokrajhar
 17. Golaghat
 18. Morigaon

4. Bihar

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1. Sheohar
 2. Sitamarhi
 3. East Chaparan
 4. Samastipur
 5. Supaul
 6. Saharsa
 7. Khagaria
 8. Kishanganj
 9. Pakur
 10. Madhubani
 11. Katihar
 12. West Chaparan
 13. Purnea
 14. Muzaffarpur
 15. Gopalganj
 16. Darbhanga
 17. Araria
 18. Madhepura
 19. Bhagalpur
 20. Nalanda
 21. Hazaribagh
 22. Vaishali

23. Begusarai
24. Bhojpur
25. Saran
26. Munger
27. Buxer
28. Patna
29. Lakhisarai
30. Sahebganj
31. Shekhpura

5. Gujarat

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

6. Himachal Pradesh

1. Kangra
2. Shimla
3. Mandi
4. Solan
5. Sirmaur
6. Bilaspur
7. Kullu
8. Hamirpur
9. Una
10. Chamba
11. Kinnaur
12. Lahaul & Spiti

7. Jammu and Kashmir

1. Srinagar
2. Budgam

3. Baramulla
4. Kupwara
5. Anantnagh
6. Pulwama
7. Doda
8. Udhampur
9. Kathua
10. Rajouri
11. Jammu

8. 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. Gulbarga
15. Uttar Kannada
16. Chickmagalur
17. Chitradurga
18. Shimoga
19. Mandya

9. Kerala

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

10. Madhya Pradesh

1. Bhind
2. Morena
3. Rajgarh
4. Chhatarpur

11. 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
17. Thane
18. Ratnagiri
19. Mumbai City
20. Mumbai Upnagar
21. Raigad
22. Sindhudurg
23. Pune
24. Chandrapur
25. Parbhani
26. Wardha

12. Punjab

1. Amritsar
2. Hoshiarpur
3. Gurdaspur
4. Patiala
5. Mukatsar
6. Firozpur
7. Moga

13. Rajasthan

1. Jodhpur
2. Jaisalmer
3. Nagaur
4. Hanumangarh
5. Alwar

6. Tonk
 7. Jhunjhunu
 8. Bharatpur
 9. Bikaner
 10. Dholpur
 11. Ganganagar
 12. Jaipur
 13. Sikar
 14. Ajmer
 15. Paran
 16. Bundi
 17. Jhalawar
 18. Kota
 19. Swai Madhopur
 20. Banswara
- 14. Sikkim**
 1. Gangtok
 2. North Sikkim
- 15. Tamil Nadu**
 1. Nagapatinam
 2. Trichi
 3. Villupuram
 4. Thanjavur
 5. South Arcot
 6. Chengalattu
 7. Madras
 8. Coimbatore
 9. Nilgiris
 10. Pasumpon Muthuramalinga
 11. Thevar
 12. Dindigul Anna
 13. Thiruvannamalai
 14. Tirunelveli
- 16. Uttar Pradesh**
 1. Allahabad
 2. Hardoi
 3. Barabanki
 4. Varanasi
 5. Agra
 6. Mathura
 7. Firozabad
 8. Rai Bareilly
 9. Fatehpur
 10. Mirzapur
 11. Ghazipur

12. Bhadohi
 13. Ballia
 14. Partapgarh
 15. Bahraich
 16. Maharajganj
 17. Gorakhpur
 18. Gonda
 19. Pithoragarh
 20. Basti
 21. Kheri
 22. Sidarthnagar
 23. Azamgarh
 24. Bijnor
 25. Farrukhabad
 26. Padarauna
 27. Faizabad
 28. Unnao
 29. Muzaffar Nagar
 30. Hamirpur
 31. Banda
 32. Jalaun
 33. Aligarh
 34. Etawah
 35. Badaun
 36. Etah
 37. Haridwar
 38. Haridwar
 39. Kanpur Dehat
 40. Sonbhadra
 41. Ambedkar Nagar
 42. Saharanpur
 43. Pauri Garhwal
 44. Uttar Kashi
 45. Chamoli
- 17. West Bengal**
 1. Jalpaiguri
 2. Cooch Behar
 3. Darjeeling
 4. South Dinajpur
 5. Malda
 6. Hoogly
 7. Nadia
 8. Murshidabad
 9. Burdwan
 10. Midnapur
- 18. Pondicherry**
 1. Yanam

SHRI M. SELVARASU : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the cyclone has affected not only Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu but also the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The Yanam district in Pondicherry has been fully affected by this cyclone, but the Central Government has not sent any team to visit this district. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Pondicherry Government has been given any financial assistance from the Government relief measures, if so, the details of the funds sanctioned, if any.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I have already given in my reply a State-wise list of the districts which are affected. It is a fact that some parts of the Union Territory of Pondicherry have also been affected.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is, has any central team visited Pondicherry?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : The whole report has not come yet, so the team has not gone so far, but we are ready for it.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : Has any assistance been given to them?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : As far as assistance is concerned, there are two funds. One is the State Calamity Fund and the other is the Calamity Relief Fund. As far as the Calamity Relief Fund is concerned, it is upto them to spend it and whenever they ask for it we will release it.

SHRI M. SELVARASU : What is the estimate of damage caused by the recent cyclone in Andhra Pradesh made by the Central Team that visited Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, the Central team is yet to go there but in order to have an inquiry about the damage caused to coconut and horticulture land, we sent a team. One of the members of that team was a Director in the Agriculture Department. They have all inquired into it. A full report has come and we have assessed the damage and the relief to be given; that I will tell you later on.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, whether the Government contemplate to install a new radar system which could forecast the cyclone. We have an old system here. The State Government is responsible for this devastation. Had the equipments of new radar been installed, the devastation on such a large scale would not have taken place.

Secondly, I would like to state that the relief and assistance provided by the centre is very less. Roads have been damaged there. You should increase the amount of relief. You have provided this relief in the form of an expenditure. Whether the Government contemplates to increase the relief amount? You are requested to increase the relief amount and install new equipments so that the natural calamities could be

forecast. The old equipments are out of order. The Government is responsible for it and they should admit it.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, efforts will be made to modernise the technology to the best possible extent. We have requested the world Bank to conduct a study in this regard and let us know about its outcome. We are ready to install the latest equipment available anywhere in the world which could forecast the cyclones or other calamities. As per the technology available with us, we had so far been providing information through satellite. On the insistence of the State Government we had also been giving advance information through T.V. and radio. Still, the tragedy took place. No system has been developed in science so far which could prevent cyclone. The Army can be stopped but the cyclone cannot be stopped. Yesterday only, I had requested the scientists from Asia and Pacific countries to find a way out to cope up with such eventualities. They would try their best to send latest information in this regard as soon as possible. We are also trying to broadcast information in this regard for common people. Something has been done in this regard but we assure you that we would make efforts to do it on a large scale.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : I did not ask about the measure to stop the cyclone. I asked whether you were going to install the latest equipments which have already been developed? We have old equipments here. The Government is aware of the mid-air collision. It occurred because we don't have modern equipments. Is the Government not responsible for it? The Government provides relief in the form of an expenditure. The Prime Minister says it is a national tragedy.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : That is enough. No more.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : It is a matter of concern that the Government is providing relief in the form of an expenditure.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Minister, would you like to reply?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Sir, I have already replied to it.

[Translation]

We are ready to upgrade the modern technology available with us. We have also taken help of the existing satellite for dissemination of information. You should not say that we are not doing anything.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI : I am requesting you to install new equipments.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : How can we install the equipment which has not been developed in science so far. We are utilising the technology available with us. We are also taking help of the World Bank and seek your cooperation in this regard.

MR. SPEAKER : It is certainly a tragic incident. Therefore, a full discussion on this issue will be held after question hour is over.

[English]

Since we are discussing it...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, attention should also be paid towards the destruction caused in other States.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, this question relates to other states also... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Mr. Speaker, Sir, my question is that whether the Union Government will provide assistance for natural calamity only after the survey? This calamity has claimed 1600 lives in Andhra Pradesh, 200 in Maharashtra and 200 in Bihar. My suggestion is that the Union Government should provide assistance to the kith and kins of the persons who died in the natural calamity.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the existing provision, immediate relief is provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Rupees fifty thousand are provided immediately after receiving information. This amount is very less and it should be increased. We will consider it. Secondly, the State Government also provides assistance but for compensation... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : After the death of a person ... (Interruptions)

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : You were talking to him. I have already replied to the point. I said that there is a provision to provide Rs. 50 thousand immediately from Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Some State Governments provide Rs. 50 thousand and some Rs. 25 thousand from their Calamity Relief Funds. This is the position as per the existing provisions. For this purpose, a committee is already there. This committee had considered the above amount about 4-5 years ago. We have asked the committee that we want to update it. The committee will work in that direction and action will be taken as per the recommendations of the committee.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Bihar had been badly affected by the devastating flood a few days ago and I had accompanied the hon'ble Minister when he surveyed the flood situation. Thirty one districts of Bihar have been affected by the flood. A study team from the Centre had gone there to take stock of the situation and it has submitted its report. I would like to know from the hon'ble Minister as to how much amount, except the relief amount allocated under plan head, will be provided to Bihar and the time by which this relief is likely to be provided? The Government has given an assurance to the farmers of Bihar to provide a compensation of Rs. 500 per hectare and the hon'ble Minister even publically announced that it would be provided very soon. That amount has not been paid so far. I would like to know the time by which it will be provided to them. Whether the Government is making any arrangement to provide some amount to the poor from the Calamity Relief Fund for repairing their huts damaged by the flood?

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, so far as the question of providing compensation of Rs. 500 per hectare to farmers is concerned, I have not announced it for Bihar only. About 8-10 days ago, I had written a letter to hon'ble Members in this regard and Rs. 20 crore in total have been provided so far. It has been mentioned in that letter to provide Rs. 200 to Rs. 500 as input assistance to farmers and this amount was provided by Centre to the State Governments. We have released funds to the State Governments. You should contact the State Governments for payment.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Sir, I would like to know one thing from the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister in his statement has mentioned several districts of West Bengal as recently flood-affected areas. These districts mostly include the districts right from Cooch Behar to Malda of North Bengal. Is it not a fact and whether the Minister is aware or not that due to the slow progress of the completion of Tista Canal Project in North Bengal and due to the backwater flow from Bangladesh to this border, the floods have become a chronic problem in this region? Will the Minister take a special care to have joint meeting with the Water Resources Minister to see that Bangladesh backwater coming into the border of North Bengal is sealed by proper culverts and the Tista Canal Project is expedited? Otherwise, this has become a chronic Flood issue of North Bengal. Will the Minister have a meeting with the Water Resources Minister?

[Translation]

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the report which has been presented is about land erosion. The matters relating to village cut-off or rehabilitation come under the jurisdiction of my Ministry and the remaining under the Ministry of Water

Resources. If you wish, I can convey your point to the Department of Irrigation. A joint meeting of the Central and State Governments can be held. We are concerned with providing relief. We are ready to sit together and discuss the things.

[English]

SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Did you have a meeting? Unless you know the problem of Water Resources Ministry, how will you solve the problem? This flood has become a chronic problem. It is not a flood by natural water. Everyday Bangladesh water comes. Tista Canal is not complete. That is why this flood is there in North Bengal.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : Hon. Member, flood is not under me. If you are affected by flood, I would come to your assistance.

MR. SPEAKER : Flood is not under the Minister; only cyclone is under the Minister!

11.19½ hrs.

WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM IRAN

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, 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 Mr. Ali Akbar Nateq Noori, Speaker of the Majlis of the Islamic Republic of Iran and other Members of the Iranian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

The other hon. Members of the Delegation are :-

1. H.E. Mr. Mohammad Reza Nematzadeh
2. H.E. Mr. Yahya Ale-Ishag
3. H.E. Mr. Seyed Reza Taqvi
4. H.E. Mr. Javad Ardeshir Larjani
5. H.E. Mr. Mohamand Baqer Nevisi
6. H.E. Mr. Ahad Qazaei
7. H.E. Mrs. Marzieh Sediqi
8. H.E. Mr. Ale' Eddin Broujerdi
9. H.E. Mr. Alinaqi Khamoushi
10. Mr. Karbasian
11. Mr. Abrishami

The Delegation arrived Delhi on 25 November, 1996. 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 Islamic Republic of Iran.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Many persons have died in Madhya Pradesh due to starvation ... (Interruptions) In Chhatisgarh, thousands of families are facing this problem.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You can bring it later. We are having a full debate after this.

(Interruptions)

11.21 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS - Contd.

[Translation]

Relief to New Sugar Mills

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*62. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) whether the new sugar mill owners were given seven years relief on the levy sugar by the Government under their incentive scheme;

(b) whether the Government have withdrawn the said relief;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government propose to review their decision;

(e) if so, the time by which the mill owners are likely to be given the said relief again; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) :
(a) to (f). A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) To facilitate augmentation of the Licensed capacity the new sugar mills licensed during 7th Plan Period (1.10.1985 to 30.9.1990) were given relief on the levy sugar for a period of 5 years and 7 years respectively depending upon whether the sugar mill was situated in High Recovery Area or Other Recovery Area. Thereafter, new sugar mills licensed upto 31st