

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, November 26, 1996/Agrahayana 5.
1918 (Saka)

(The Lok Sabha met at One Minute Past
Eleven of the Clock)

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

(Interruptions)

DR. M. JAGANNATH (Nagarkurnool) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, some statements were made by the hon. Prime Minister and some responsible persons regarding the actual figures and the figures sent to the Government of India by the Government of Andhra Pradesh ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we support the demand of Members of Parliament from Andhra Pradesh and would like this matter to be taken up first. It is a very serious matter. Since it is a worst human tragedy, we want it to be taken up first ... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH : Sir, some statements which were purportedly made by the hon. Prime Minister and some responsible persons regarding the figures sent by the Government of Andhra Pradesh to the Government of India for assistance had cast aspersions on the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. It is very unfortunate. So, I would request that this matter should be discussed immediately or else the Prime Minister should come forward and clarify the matter.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : In this matter, we support all the Members of Telugu Desam and of Andhra Pradesh. You must agree with the fact that it is the worst human tragedy ever happened ... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH : It was a human tragedy. The Report had already been sent by the State Government. It is very unfortunate that some derogatory statements were made by responsible persons. This is not fair. Let the Prime Minister come forward and clarify the matter. When a responsible Chief Minister had sent the figures, it is unfortunate that the Prime Minister and some responsible persons chose to make certain statements casting aspersions on him, as per the news item in some of the national dailies.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the demand raised by the hon'ble Members of Andhra Pradesh, is genuine. Though the issue regarding Uttar Pradesh is very important, it can be kept in obedience and a discussion on the natural calamity may be taken up first.

[English]

DR. M. JAGANNATH : The Prime Minister himself had said that it is a natural calamity and now how can the hon. P.M. dispute the figures as per some hon'ble Members versions appeared in Newspapers. Let the Hon'ble Prime Minister clarify it.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Sir, how this situation can be tackled when the Union Government has failed to deal with it. We, while giving priority to the natural calamity of Andhra Pradesh, make a demand to take up this issue first for discussion. While highlighting the failure of the Union Government in handling this problem we would like that the people of Andhra Pradesh should be provided relief immediately.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : Sir, the entire House is concerned about the people of Andhra Pradesh. The Government has been very callous. We do not want to send an impression that the House is also not concerned. For the time being we are agreeable to leave Uttar Pradesh issue for tomorrow and since Andhra Pradesh case is a natural calamity, we would like to discuss it immediately. You may suspend the Question Hour, if necessary. We are agreeable to it.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAIISI (Hyderabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a very important issue, it should be taken up first. The entire Andhra Pradesh has met with devastation. All the roads have been destroyed and there is no way to go there.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : The Government has failed in handling the situation and providing relief ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. In the List of Business for today, in Item No. 6, immediately after laying the Papers on the Table of the House, the Minister for Agriculture will make a statement.

Since the Business Advisory Committee had agreed to have a discussion on the calamities in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa under Rule 193 and one of them

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. (V 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 OWAISI :

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.