

of the cyclone. The cyclonic storm went through very rapid intensification from depression to severe cyclonic storm with a core of hurricane winds. After crossing the Andhra Pradesh coast, the storm moved in a West-North westerly direction, weakened into a deep depression and then into a low pressure area by the 7th evening, before fading out.

The cyclone has caused severe damage and destruction in East Godavari and West Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh. A total of 96 Mandals in four districts (East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and Khamman) have been affected. According to the latest information available from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the death toll is 971, including 872 deaths in East Godavari, 98 deaths in West Godavari and one in Khamman district. 925 persons are still reported to be missing. 1,77,150 persons were evacuated and taken to 742 relief camps. The assistance of the Defence services was made available to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for rescue and relief operations. Food supplies were dropped in the inaccessible areas with the help of the Air Force. The Defence services rose to the occasion to come to help of the State and the affected people.

It is reported that 6.47 lakh houses have been partially or fully damaged. 935 medical teams have been deployed and 245 veterinary teams have also been pressed into service. The State Government has paid Rs. 3.52 crore as *ex gratia* assistance to the relatives of the deceased. Assistance at the rate of Rs. 50,000 per human casualty has been made available from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Essential commodities like rice and kerosene have been distributed to the affected people and an amount of Rs. 29.79 crore made available for repair of houses. Total cropped area of 5.11 lakh hectares has been damaged. The State Government has mobilized the whole administrative machinery for providing timely assistance to the affected persons.

Sir, the Prime Minister himself visited and made an aerial survey of the worst affected areas on Sunday, the 10th November. He also met with the Chief Minister and other representatives of the people at Visakhapatnam and Rajahmundry. In order to enable the Government of Andhra Pradesh to carry on relief and rehabilitation measures, an amount of Rs. 50 crore has been made available to the State Government. The Central Government had earlier released the fourth instalment of Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund in advance. The Government of India has been closely monitoring the situation and meetings of the Crisis Management Group in the Ministry of Agriculture were held on the 11th and 15th November to review the situation and arrange for all necessary assistance to State Government. The committee of Secretaries under the Cabinet Secretary also reviewed the position and the Cabinet considered the issue of immediate relief and assistance to the people of Andhra Pradesh. All arrangements have been made for restoring power supply and telecommunications. Fortunately, there was very limited damage to the National Highways and rail

communication was not disrupted. Teams have been deputed to assess the damage to coconut and other horticulture crops. Orders have been issued for procurement of paddy with some relaxation in the quality norms. Fifty thousand tonnes of rice have been released as *ad-hoc* allotment for the public distribution system. An additional allocation of 10,000 kilo liters of kerosene was also made for the affected areas.

The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh met me on the 19th November and handed over a Memorandum seeking central assistance of Rs. 2,143 crore. I assured him of all possible help. I have myself visited the cyclone affected area of East and West Godavari districts on the 21st November. The plight of the people who have lost their homes and their crops is heart-rending. After the visit, I met the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and representatives of all political parties at Hyderabad and discussed the situation and the steps taken for providing assistance to the people. A central team will shortly be deputed to the State to make a detailed assessment of the damage following the receipt of this Memorandum.

The cyclone has also severely affected life and property in Yanam, a part of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Eighteen deaths have been reported and 76 people are missing. The cyclone and rains have inundated 780 hectares of paddy and coconut and damaged public property. The Pondicherry Administration has taken all necessary measures for providing relief to the affected people. A Memorandum seeking assistance of Rs. 68 crore has been received from the Union Territory Administration. A Central Team will be deputed to Yanam to make a detailed assessment of the damage.

I can assure the Members of the House that no efforts will be spared to assist the people of the affected areas in this time of suffering owing to severe natural calamity.

12.10 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### Situation Arising From Cyclone in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada): Sir, the statement made by the hon. Minister is incomplete and not at all encouraging. He has left out many details regarding the earlier cyclone in Andhra Pradesh which hit the Rayalaseema area, Nellore and Prakasam districts. Also, the statement does not contain any ray of hope about what the Central Government would do except empty words like "the centre is closely monitoring and all possible help will be given". We are sick of hearing these platitudes.

The latest cyclone, rather it is called the hurricane now because the gale was 200 km per hour, was the severest in recent memory. After the 1977 cyclone and the tidal wave in the Krishna District, this was the worst that Andhra has experienced. This was the sixth cyclone which hit Andhra coast since August 27-28, 1996. This year there were six cyclones in Andhra, two of them were very severe. Not only the two districts of East and West Godavari were severely affected, but also Krishna and Khamman districts were also partially affected. It would take at least twenty years for the farmers to recover from this shock.

The Minister has given just an outline of the damage. But if you go into the details, the damage appears to be much more. Even the deaths are not properly assessed. Though the official figures was 977 people died and 925 people missing, by all accounts the figure must be much more and nobody could assess the loss of human lives so far. The coconut trees fell down over an area of 30,000 hectares. This loss is irreparable because as you know once a coconut tree falls, it would take years for a new tree to start yielding fruits. Horticulture crops were also damaged. Coconut crop alone accounted for a loss of Rs. 300 crores. If you take the horticulture as a whole, the total loss was Rs. 4136 crore. The Minister has said that nearly 6.5 lakh houses were fully or partially damaged. Then there is a damage to paddy, sugarcane and other crops which accounted for nearly Rs. 400 crore. Then minor irrigation tanks, roads, water supply systems also were damaged over a large area. Then cattle, poultry, all these were also damaged. Thousands of fishing crafts and nets were either lost or damaged. The weavers suffered irreparable losses because their looms were inundated with the flood waters. A large number of village industries, artisans and tiny industries have suffered extensive loss. I do not know whether proper assessment has been made at all.

It is unfortunate that the figures given by the State Government which we feel inadequate are themselves being doubted by the Prime Minister as well as the Agriculture Minister. I do not know what mechanism the State Government had when they said 50 lakhs of coconut trees were damaged but the Prime Minister and the Agriculture Minister say that this damage cannot be so much. If it was not 50 lakhs of trees, how many trees could they count then? I do not know on what basis the Prime Minister could doubt the figures given by the State Government in the absence of a proper assessment.

As regards the precautionary measures taken, the Minister's statement says advance warning was given by the Meteorological Department. Though the records sometimes are doubted, how many days earlier the warning was given? The facts indicate that many fishermen, in fact hundreds or may be thousands, ventured into the sea even before the warning was given.

Though, for several days, a cyclone was expected, a warning was not given in proper time. This was not communicated to the affected people. You can not expect illiterate fishermen to the radio all the day and find out what was going to happen. There ought to be some mechanism to alert them. Either the village the village *sarpanch* could be asked to tom-tom that or an announcement could be made through mikes. Some message would have to be given to the innocent fishermen. Just saying that the message was continuously broadcast on the radio and television is not enough. Also, the response of the District Administration, as admitted by the Chief Minister, was not adequate because many of them did not reach the place for several days. The Chief Minister himself said that until he reached the place of occurrence, the district officials had not reached there. Some action was also taken against some officials and this may be justified too. Now they say that they have evacuated several lakhs of people but the records do not indicate that. A Number of people have been evacuated. Otherwise, loss of lives would not have been so much.

As far as relief is concerned, though the state Government tried to do its best, the resources were limited and relief could not reach the people on time. Though small mercies were shown in the form of distribution of rice, etc., much more could have been done. There were complaints about the enumeration of the people who suffered. There were complaints of political discrimination in giving relief. Though some rice and kerosene were given and some money was also given for damaged houses, it is not enough. The small and marginal farmers were given only Rs. 1250 per hectare as input subsidy. That also is not enough.

Now, crop loans have been rescheduled and fresh loans have been sanctioned but there are still complaints that the rescheduling has not been communicated to the farmers. The shopkeepers have also suffered a lot and no compensation has been given to them. They say that an amount of Rs. 125 crore is needed for only providing relief. But the centre's assistance has been very limited and the state Government's response has not been adequate in the sense that they could not find the money and the Chief Minister himself has been saying that the centre has not been very kind to the State. He has also said that there was some reluctance on the part of the centre to come to the aid of the state Government. Though the Chief Minister had withdrawn the statement subsequently, he had gone to the extent of saying that Centre's attitude was very rigid and unhelpful and that also is reflected in the figures of assistance so far given.

The State Government has also failed to follow the Guidelines prescribed by the Cyclone Contingency Plan of Action prepared after the Diviseema cyclone of 1978. The Government should have evacuated the people; deployment of relief personnel in vulnerable areas, supply of relief material and forceful evacuation of people from the low-lying areas, should have been resorted to but

that has not been done by the State Government in spite of the guidelines prescribed in 1977-78.

In respect of money spent so far, the annual total outlay for the Calamity Relief Fund for 1996-97 was Rs.124.19 crore, out of which the Centre has to give Rs.93.14 crore. The State has received some advance earlier and now only an amount of Rs.100 crore is available and the Government of India has released Rs.21 crore. The total is only Rs.121 crore. The State has already spent Rs.143 crore and nothing more is left with the State Government to spend on relief operations.

The Prime Minister has said at one place that this was a national calamity. I do not know what the definition of 'national calamity' is and by defining it as a 'national calamity' what advantages would accrue to the State. The term is being used very loosely that it should be declared as a national calamity. The Prime Minister himself said that, after his return to Delhi, the Prime Minister's office issued a clarification that there was nothing called 'national calamity' and that this term was wrongly used. Now, he is using the term, 'national grief'. I do not know what the meaning of these terms are. But the State Government has approached the Centre through a memorandum for an assistance of Rs. 2142 crore outside the CRF.

But I do not know how much the Centre is going to give. So far they have given Rs.50 crore as the hon. Minister's statement has indicated and nothing more. This is also by way of advance. They say that they are going to give something more for the removal of damaged coconut trees and other things. I think they are going to give Rs. 50 crore or so. I do not know whether it would be a grant or an advance. Whatever it be, the Centre must give the money as grant and not as loans and advances. Otherwise, the States would not be able to repay the loans. The hon. Minister of Agriculture himself has stated recently in a statement that the state Government should not go for loans because that would affect their annual plans. Therefore, they should not go for loans and advances, they should fend for themselves and they should find resources through other means. I do not know what he means by other means.

So far they have given 100 per cent tax exemption to the donations. That is a good gesture on the part of the central Government. But that is not enough because the donations are not coming to the extent we desire. For the construction of new houses which were damaged, that is about 6.48 lakh houses, the State Government needs about Rs. 1042 crore under the Indira Awas Yojana. The Coconut Development Board is there. I do not know for what purpose this Board is functioning. It has not come to the aid of the coconut farmers. Nothing has been done by the Board so far either to rehabilitate the area or to help the farmers.

The Prime Minister spoke about an Action Plan when he came to Andhra Pradesh on 10th November. He said that the Centre is evolving an Action Plan. He has not specified what that Action Plan is and what he

is going to do through that Action Plan. As I mentioned the Chief Minister and the State Government also expressed their dissatisfaction. The cabinet passed a resolution stating that they are rejecting the package which the Prime Minister has proposed and that will not help the State. There are some norms prescribed by the Tenth Finance Commission as regards the National Calamity Relief Fund. These norms require to be changed now because no State Government can meet a calamity of this sort without a massive aid from the Central Government.

As regards international aid, the World Bank, I believe, is coming in a big way to help the State. They have committed to give nearly Rs.380 crore so far a nominal rate of interest as soft loan to be repaid in forty years. They are sending a team to India to assess the reconstruction and rehabilitation needs of the area. Mr. Heinz Vergin, Head of the India Country Department of the World Bank had mentioned that in 1990 when they gave \$ 200 million as aid to meet the cyclone damages, it was used very effectively and gave them encouragement to offer assistance again.

At that time, in 1977-78, the State Government utilised the aid very effectively. Recently also in 1990, this amount was used by the successive Chief Ministers very effectively. Therefore, the World Bank has no hesitation to come to the aid of the State. I believe that they are coming in a big way. The Centre should guarantee this loan to whatever extent they can. If the Centre persuades them, they can give up to Rs. 1,000 crore. That is the duty of the Central Government and it should not be left to the State Government to negotiate. The Centre has to come in a big way in this regard.

Voluntary organisations also have in a massive manner to help the victims. Unfortunately, same beneficiaries are getting these relief materials. Same people are going to different areas and are grabbing these things. This is not being monitored properly. We have requested the Chief Minister also to monitor the aid being given by the NGOs. The Central Government employees have shown a good gesture by donating a day's salary which would come to about Rs. 200 crore. Various people have helped, including the Members of Parliament who have donated a month's salary. It is a good gesture on their part. I also suggest that the profit making public sector undertakings should come in a big way to help the State.

The States of Maharashtra, Gujarat and Jammu & Kashmir have donated liberally; but other States have not responded properly. The State of West Bengal has also given Rs. 2 crore. Other State Governments also could come to the rescue of the people there.

Now, I have got some suggestions about what should be done there. The first is about the cyclone shelters which were built during the time of the earlier cyclones. They are all in disuse now, they are in a dilapidated condition, they are not used at all and they

are in a very bad condition. With a little amount of money, they can be reconstructed and brought to use. So, all these cyclone shelters must be strengthened immediately.

Similarly the communication networking the coastal areas must be improved so that warnings can be given in time. The cropping pattern in some of the affected areas could be changed. For example, in the case of coconut trees, the suggestion was to go in for a dwarf variety of coconut trees so that in times of cyclones and hurricanes, the trees would not fall.

Then, as we have been talking about, there should be a comprehensive crop insurance scheme. So far, the farmers are not getting any benefit whenever relief is given. Relief is given for reconstruction of houses, etc. But the farmer is not being compensated for the damage or loss he has incurred. For that, a comprehensive crop insurance scheme is necessary. We have been pleading in this House and in the other House, for a long time, that village should be treated as a unit for the purpose of crop insurance, but that has not been agreed to so far. In fact, even individual farmers should be able to insure or to go in for the insurance for his crops. Just like the Life Insurance Corporation is insuring for individual persons, the individual farmers should be able to insure the crops individually. Similarly, for fishermen and for the weavers, there should be a comprehensive insurance scheme for their benefit.

Then without reference to the norms, adequate assistance should be given to the damaged coconut trees, for the supply of fresh saplings and also for inputs. I believe, an amount of Rs. 250 crore is needed for this purpose alone. So far, they have offered only Rs. 50 crore for the removal of damaged trees, that too, lately.

In regard to houses, there should be pukka houses for fishermen, etc., in the coastal areas. Now we have seen that wherever pukka houses were there, the loss of life was minimum. Therefore, we should go in for a massive house building programme in the coastal areas.

Now, the FCI has agreed to buy the discoloured paddy in those areas. I appeal to the State Government that Cuddapah and Chittoor districts which were affected earlier must also be covered by this FCI scheme so that the paddy which is available in these districts could be purchased by them. Then, the relaxation for the purchase of boiled rice by the FCI should be extended to the whole State. As I said earlier, regarding giving warnings, the Village Sarpanch should be made responsible for communicating them to the people in the coastal areas. The weavers and other people should be given liberal package by the Centre in terms of house, improved loom and yarn.

The Coconut Development Board should be motivated to supervise the rehabilitation measures in these areas. There should be a panel to monitor the distribution of aid. The Chief Minister has agreed to it,

The Prime Minister also, when we met him, was suggesting the constitution of a panel at the State level to monitor the distribution of aid so that charges of discrimination etc., will not be there. That has to be done quickly.

Earlier there was a suggestion that there should be Central stores at Guntur and at Vishakhapatnam so that whenever there is a cyclone or natural disaster like this, materials can be rushed immediately to the affected areas. That was the suggestion which was given earlier. There should be two Central Stores at Vishakhapatnam. That has not been done so far.

There was also a suggestion for the constitution of a National Institute for Disaster Management. That was thought of in 1990. But that has not been activated so far. Now, it is high time that we should have a National Institute for Disaster Management which will conduct research into all these natural calamities and come up with a comprehensive scheme for alleviating the sufferings of the people.

Of all said and done, the responsibility lies on the Centre. The Minister has rightly pointed that loans will not help the State and that it will take the State to a debt trap. You yourself said that it will affect the future plans also. So, The Centre must come to the aid of the State and if necessary rules must be changed. It is the Constitution and it could not be amended. These are rules framed by the Government and the Government can amend the rules and you must amend the rules also to come to the aid of the State. Andhra Pradesh is trying for more help and succour. I hope all section of the House will support this demand of the suffering people of Andhra Pradesh and come forward with liberal aid to State. Thank you.

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for having given me the opportunity to express my views. I shall begin my speech from the point made by the Hon'ble Minister in the statement given by him in the House just now. He has stated that warnings were issued to the state Government about the impending storm time and again. In this context, I am reminded of a story. Although we are discussing a very serious matter, a very tragic incident has occurred and we will feel free after having discussed it in the House. But those who have lost their family members and have themselves survived will be haunted by the memories of this tragic incident throughout their lives.

A Husband and a wife were asleep when a thief broke into their home. The wife told her husband that a thief had broken into their home. At this, the husband replied that he was aware of it. Then the wife said that the thief had broken down the door and husband said that he was aware of that too. Then the wife said that the thief was stealing valuables and the husband replied that he knew that too. Thereafter the wife said



that the thief had left after stealing valuable and the husband's reply to that was that he was well aware of that too.

I would like to ask Hon'ble Minister that if the warning was given by the Union Government to the State Government, when was it given and whether the State Government had confirmed that it had received the warning. How much earlier, prior to this tragic occurrence, the warning was given and what sort of information was provided?

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as you are aware that such incident have occurred in 1978 was much worse than this. At that time it was decided to develop a warning system in order to warn people in advance so that such a tragedy does not occur in future. Just now Shri Upendra made a very important point that warnings are received but our country is not as developed as U.S.A where every fisherman carries a small radio to get the latest information on weather forecast. Here people are unable to afford two square meals. Then how can we expect every fisherman to have radio? Hence how can such an information be passed on in time especially to the people living in coastal areas, cyclone-prone areas, coastal belt. In 1978 when such a tragedy had occurred, at that time also it was discussed. But whether any system was developed ever since? Such reports have been received that Union Government spent a lot of money to ensure that the information regarding the impending calamity is immediately relayed to people living in coastal belt and they are taken to safe places in time but what happened to the system is not known.

I do not want to say that the storm struck at the instance of Union Government. The Union Government is not responsible for the occurrence of storm. Even the State Government did not invite the storm to wipe out approximately fifteen hundred lives. Whenever accidents occur, any rail accident or natural calamity occurs we do not come to know about the actual number of victims because the number goes on increasing. The state Government gives a different figure, those who tour the accident site give some other figure and the press correspondents give an entirely different figure. Such a situation prevails after every accident and every time a different figure is given. About the Andhra Pradesh cyclonic storm, it was stated that more than one thousand people have been killed. But it was not known how many more than one thousand have been killed. Whether the figure was 1300 or 1500 is not known and may never be known in future also. When you had information regarding such a calamity with you, what arrangements did you make? As I said earlier every fisherman can not possibly possess a radio however warning can be given to them by beating of drums. You may argue that the system of giving warning by beating drums is very old but it has been practised earlier also as we do not have any other system. We should utilise the system of

beating of drums but we will have to make arrangements to develop a system for this purpose.

Mr. submission is that the members of all the political parties are seated here. I feel that we have become insensitive to such tragic occurrences and this is why we do not make any preparations to deal with such situations.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the incident of Latur earthquake occurred. Amarnath incident took place. Recently several people were killed in head-on collision of two aeroplanes in India. The voluntary organisations reached at the spot first which clearly means that there is no proper warning system in our country and we have no proper system to deal with the situation afterwards. The present state of affairs is very much akin to the story I related earlier that the thief came, committed burglary, went away, the wife kept on telling on her husband and he kept on lying in inert position. In this case the information regarding the storm was relayed however no attention was paid to it. If the information was given, when was it given? I would like to know the exact time and date in this regard.

Secondly, it is very unfortunate that no immediate arrangements are made. Even the disaster management is improper. After the recent air-crash, the voluntary organisations and amongst such organisations also, R.S.S. arrived at the spot first. Whereas the kind of arrangements that should have been made by the Government were not there.

It is very unfortunate. Just now we have got this information and as Shri Upendra said that World Bank is ready to give us 200 million dollars to deal with the aftermath of this tragic occurrence and for relief work. My submission is that if the Union Government is prepared to grant its approval to the proposal, then where is the need for the Union Government and Ministry of Finance? If such is the case, the States should be left free to have direct contact with the World Bank. Then where is the need to have a Central Government and a Ministry of Finance. In such a case there is no need to have any sort of financial management at the central level or the Ministry of Finance.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to read out an excerpt from the poem written by Khalil Gibran and I would like the Union Minister Shri Chaturanan Mishra to listen to it carefully. Although poem itself is very long "vah rashtra Shram, dhikkar daya aur glani ka patra hota hai jis rashtra ko tukron mein bata paata hoor our har tukda apne ko ek alag rashtra samajhta hai"

If natural calamity has struck Andhra Pradesh and the Government gives it the permission to accept aid from the World Bank to deal with the tragedy, tomorrow some other state may seek such assistance. Then where would be the need to have a Central Government and Ministry of Finance at the Central Level. In such a case there is no need to have a Central Government or Ministry of Finance at the Central level.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I request the Union Government and Hon'ble Minister to stop going around with a begging bowl in hands. If such a big calamity has befallen, it is a matter of national grief. But if the Government goes around with a begging bowl in hands, it would be a matter of natural shame to admit that we are unable to deal with the tragedy ourselves and that you should give us 200 million dollars as alms to enable us to deal the situation. The Union Government ought to discuss it with the state Government and find a way to deal with this serious situation. Right now just as has been agreed to, the Union Government would release an additional amount of Rs.50 crore for the State Government. This money would be given out of wage and means. Whether this money would be given as loan or as a grant? At such a time the Union Government should give the money to the State Government not as a grant because this loss is not just the loss of State. It is a national loss and if it is deemed a national loss, action should be taken at national level to deal with it.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in this regard I would like to submit and just as Shri Upendra was also mentioning that it has not been estimated as yet as to how many coconut trees have been uprooted. According to a report, 50 lakh coconut trees have been uprooted. Approximately five lakh acre cultivable land has been badly affected and it will take a lot of time to make it cultivable once again. Hence there should be some such arrangement that the cultivable land in the cyclone prone coastal should be insured. Similarly the lives of fishermen and their boats should be insured as well so that in case of any mishap, their losses are adequately compensated.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the most important thing is that we admit that ours is the land of Lord Mahavir and Mahatma Buddha. We believe that ours is the land from where the message of non-violence, love, truth and kindness was given and it is true that Lord Mahavir and Mahatma Buddha were born here. They gave the message of non-violence, truth, love and kindness to the whole world. But I myself have noticed that in a country like United States of America, about which it is often times alleged that it does not propagate truth, non-violence, love and kindness, if an injured pigeon is found lying on the road, traffic is stopped and that injured pigeon is taken to the hospital. But I feel that our motherland, the land of Lord Mahavir and Lord Buddha does not possess the same level of human sensitivity as before.

All kinds of incidents keep on taking place in our country and we are very well aware as to where the incidents occur and which are the areas concerned. For example, earthquake occurred in Latur and at that time such sounds were emanating from the land and we had formation in advance. The people from the neighbouring villages were reporting it. Very close to that area is the area of Kandwa in Madhya Pradesh where such sounds have been heard. The farmers of

that area are reporting that they have been hearing such sounds which means that we do have knowledge of such eventualities. Our country is very large and that is why each season has different effects in various parts of the country. Our country comprises of several states and we have several seasons which is a matter of great pride for us but sometimes seasons do not augur well. At times different seasons bring in their wake various problems. We are aware as to what kind of calamity is likely to strike which area of which state in which seasons and when that calamity strikes, thousands are killed and losses amounting to crores of rupees are suffered but despite having the relevant information, the warning about the impending calamity is not given beforehand. In some of our neighbouring countries, 24 hours weather forecast channels are operating. They keep on going the latest information as to what kind of weather condition would prevail in which area and what kind of calamity is likely to strike which area.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this discussion could be relevant but would not be relevant in this context. We want India to progress and for this end, we organise such competitions as Miss World but do not we want our country to progress in the matter of such occurrences and in the face of such a large scale human tragedy? Do not we want our country to progress in the field of gaining advance information about such calamities before their occurrence. There are some incidents such as the Latur earthquake. Let us believe for a minute that it struck suddenly and it could not have been stopped but the meteorologists do get information about the cyclones. The intensity of cyclone may or may not be gauged but the meteorologists do come to know that a cyclonic storm is likely to strike. Immediate arrangements are not made primarily because the district administrative authorities such as Collector and S.D.M. of the cyclone prone districts and the coastal belt cyclone prone areas are not trained to handle the situation in case a calamity strikes. Whether their capability to deal with such calamities is kept in mind at the time of making their postings especially in such states. I have come to know that in East and West Godavari district which has been badly affected by the storm, the Collector and S.D.M. of the district were not present which means that they had no information about the Weather forecast. Whereas Hon'ble Minister has stated that they had the information with them. The Central Government was aware of it then why was the District Collector not aware of it? When district administrative authorities are appointed in such cyclone prone area why is it not ensured as to whether they have the relevant training or not? also I would like to ask the Union Government and would like to submit as well that it would be a matter of national shame if we seek alms of 200 million dollars with a begging bowl in our hands to deal with this calamity. Shri Chaturanan Mishraji, our country has the capability to deal with such calamities. Please put communication into order. If there is proper communication between the Central

Government and State Government: if the financial management is proper, if the Prime Minister and the Government sincerely devote time towards saving the country and the poor in place of protecting their position, it would be far more beneficial. 1500 people have been killed now whereas in 1978, 15000 people were killed, hence apparently the present figure of 1500 casualties in 1996 appears to be far less than previous figure of 15000 killed in 1978. But just go and speak to the mourning widow or the orphan who has lost his parents or the mother who has lost his son as to what do they feel. So I would like to ask the Hon'ble Minister about the measures proposed to be taken by the Union Government to deal with this situation I have come to know that information about the storm was available 72 hours prior to its occurrence.

Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask Shri Chaturanan Mishra as to when did the Union Government get information and when was the information passed on to State Government. When did the Meteorologists come to know about it and when was the message relayed to the State Government. Please give me the exact time. Secondly, whether the 50 crores proposed to be given by the Union Government to the State Government would be given as loan or as grant? Thirdly, there are many farmers engaged in plantation of coconut in cyclone prone coastal belt. It is a matter of great misfortune for the country. I would like to deviate from the main issue once more. Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I remember the time when terrorism was at peak in Punjab. At that time also I had noticed that mostly poor people had been killed. The poor are always at the receiving end. On one hand they suffer because of the curse of poverty bestowed by God and on the other hand whenever such incidents occur, mostly the labourers, farmers, people belonging to dalit community and poorer sections are killed. In this storm also mostly those belonging to poor community have been killed. Fifty lakh coconut trees have been damaged. There would be so many families whose livelihood depended on those trees and because of this loss they would face starvation for a long time now. Hence I would like to know whether immediate insurance cover would be provided for cultivable land, coconut trees and the fisherman? When did you get the information about the storm and when did you pass the same to the State Government? Would you give fifty crore rupees to State Government as a grant or as a loan? What is the viewpoint of the Government about the talks held between the World Bank and the State Government and about the World Bank's offer of 200 million dollars as alms. Whether the Union Government is prepared to accord its approval to this proposal of begging for alms? please answer my questions. Thank you.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri K.S.R. Murthy.

(Interruptions)

SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA (Anantapur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing a very serious issue. Please ask the Prime Minister to be here. Otherwise what is the use of this discussion?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Several Ministers are here.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI (Khajuraho) : The hon'ble Prime Minister should be present here.

[English]

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY (Cuddapah) : Will the Prime Minister be available only when Karnataka is discussed in the House?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Gentleman, not only the Minister of Agriculture but there are other Ministers also in the House.

(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : What exactly is he, Sir? Is he the Prime Minister of the whole country, or is he the Prime Minister exclusively for Karnataka? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Your feelings will be conveyed. Please sit down.

SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA : Rayalaseema has not been mentioned in the statement of the Minister...(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : Does the Prime Minister not have any responsibility to this House and the entire country? should he bother only about Karnataka?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO (Guntur): The Minister has not mentioned Prakasam and Nellore Districts.

SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA : In the statement, the Minister has not mentioned Rayalaseema. He has not mentioned Anantapur District.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : The statement of the Minister does not speak anything of Prakasam, Nellore and Cuddapah Districts.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please listen to Shri Paswan. He wants to say something in this regard.

(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : This Government is not interested in the country as a whole.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do not you listen to him?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : Mr. Deputy Speaker. Sir, this matter was at sl.no. 11 in the list of business. So it was excepted that it would be taken up after three o'clock. The President of Finland is here. The hon'ble Prime Minister is with him and will take lunch with him. If the head of a state comes then the hon'ble Prime Minister has some responsibility...(Interruptions) Please listen first...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA : It is very unfortunate.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : If it is very unfortunate, what can I do? Please listen. The Prime Minister is busy with the President of Finland. He will come after three o'clock...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI YELLAIAH NANDI (Siddipet): Andhra Pradesh in fully destroyed...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Yellaiah Nandi ji, you are a senior member...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : The cyclone occurred in two phases but the Government is talking about only one phase. The first phase occurred on October 19, and the second phase occurred on November 7. The Minister is not even bothered about the first phase. What exactly is this?

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Your question is not that. Your question is this that the hon'ble Prime Minister should be present in the House. We also feel that being leader of the House the Prime Minister should be present in the House...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : They are not seized of anything that happened. The Central Government is not seized of the matter at all...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : The head of the state...(Interruptions)

[English]

Both the items will be taken up together. What can I do?...(Interruptions) I do not understand? The Minister concerned is here. The Home Minister is here. The Leader of the House is here...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI (Hyderabad): If the Hon'ble Prime Minister does not have time today,

you should have told at the commencement of the discussion and we could have fixed it for tomorrow...(Interruptions)

[English]

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY (Cuddapah): This Government is not responsive. This Government does not even know the damage which the cyclone has done to Andhra Pradesh.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please, let Shri K.S.R. Murthy speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Had you replied, the matter would have been ended...(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Gentlemen. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I respect your feelings.

[English]

Please sit down.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This is not correct, your feelings would be conveyed.

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : We donot want to have discussion until the Prime Minister comes...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please let someone speak.

[English]

Let Shri Murlhy speak...(Interruptions)

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : I want one clarification. Is the Government aware that the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh took place in two phases?...(Interruptions) Through you, we are asking the hon. Minister?...(Interruptions) The cyclone took place in two phases. They are just bothered about the second phase. They totally left the first phase high and dry?...(Interruptions) Is something wrong?...(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Chandra Shekhar wants to speak.

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, everybody considers it as a national calamity. I think, on this question, we should not get ourselves divided. I do not know what was the understanding. But



if the Members feel so strongly that the Prime Minister should be present here, there is nothing wrong in it.

The other objection is that the first part of cyclone has been ignored in the Statement of the hon. Minister of Agriculture. That can also be included. There is no harm if the Prime Minister is busy up to 3 o'clock. We can take up this matter at 3 o'clock and let-us discuss it at 3 o'clock. Why should we quarrel on everything? I do not understand...*(Interruptions)* Every member standing up with the House is not proper.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker. I shall request you that if the leader of the House has no objection, we can take up this matter at 3 o'clock when the Prime Minister is present. The Minister of Agriculture, before we start the discussion, can say a few words about the previous cyclone also. The matter will end there...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : It was not a cyclone, it was a depression followed by heavy rains in Prakasam and other districts. I had visited the places.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SANAT MEHTA (Surendra Nagar) : Chaturanan ji, it seems that depression is prevailing here...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Please listen...*(Interruptions)* It may not happen so ...*(Interruptions)* Let me speak...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

It was not cyclone, it was depression and due to that, there were heavy rains, which resulted in breaches.

SHRI VENKATARAMI REDDY ANANTHA : Depression?...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: Otherwise, you can consult the dictionary. But that is not the point ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, due to heavy rainfall the dam eroded and there occurred terrible flood as a result of which a number of fishermen and people living in coastal areas were killed...*(Interruptions)*... We have presented all the facts before you. We are ready for discussion at any time.

*[English]*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : More than 400 people died in the first phase. Do you want to totally ignore them? Do you not have any concern for the 400 lives?

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada) : Sir, the Minister can make a supplementary statement.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA : I can make that. But, you must know the difference between a depression and a cyclone.

SHRI P. UPENDRA : Cyclone comes only after the depression.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I had been to Prakasam district. I had brought the report and all those things.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : What about Nellore, Cuddapah, Kurnool, Guntur and Anantapur? Your statement has totally ignored them. I want that a supplementary note be added to it...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Thousands of people were drowned, houses were destroyed. Now you are discussing technical matters.

*[English]*

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): The situation arising out of heavy rains and flood should be included.

SHRI P. UPENDRA (Vijayawada): In your supplementary statement, you kindly, include that.

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA: I am ready to do that.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY (Cuddapah): This is not correct. More than 400 people lost their lives due to cyclone and crores of worth property had been lost ...*(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This matter will be discussed of 3.00 p.m. By that time Prime Minister may also come some other business will be taken up at 2.00 p.m.

*[English]*

*Now the House stands adjourned for lunch to reassemble at 2.00 p.m.*

12.58 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha than adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock*

14.07 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after lunch at Seven Minutes Past Fourteen of the Clock*

*(Mr. Deputy Speaker in the Chair)*

*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

SHRI RAM NAIK (Mumbai North) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am on a point of information.

[Translation]

When you told that till the hon'ble Prime Minister comes other agenda shall be taken up—then I was not present in the House. You gave such a ruling. I shall take only two minutes to discuss its repercussion. If we do this and after that take up matters under rule 377 then there will be no problem. This Constitution Bill is related to delimitation. This is a very important Constitution amendment Bill and all of a sudden discussion can not be started on this Bill. It would create some problem. I am the chief whip of my party and it is my duty to give the names of the members and see who shall speak first and who later.

[English]

It would not have that serious consideration or discussion.

[Translation]

Therefore, I think that a solution should be found out and it is your duty to see what is that. Hon'ble Prime Minister is not present here, therefore there could not be any discussion and if discussion is started on an important subject like De-limitation Bill at this juncture then that discussion will not lie upto the mark. Therefore, I think that you must consider it again.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The House should take a decision about it after taking up Matters Under Rule 377. Earlier it was also decided that there will be no zero hour. It was also decided that this matter may be taken up when the hon'ble Prime Minister comes at 3 o'clock. If you allow than we can have zero-hour first.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, after Matter Under Rule 377, we can have zero hour upto 3 p.m. (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Matters Under Rule 377 will not take much time. Then we can have zero hour.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : Sir, it will not be proper. The debate can continue and the Prime Minister is coming at 3 o'clock. The Finland President is here in Delhi.

He is busy there.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It all depends if he agrees.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : So it will not be proper to again have the Zero Hour at this stage.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please see, they have been given time at 3 o'clock those are not present here who had raised objection that until the Prime Minister comes they will not let the discussion start.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, those people who objected are not present here.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, they are not here

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : This will be a wrong precedent. I do not mind for that but it is a wrong precedent.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Both may be wrong but we have to find out a solution.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : But he has announced that the debate will be taken up at three o'clock

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : He has raised a problem. It is all right. But the discussion can start on the Bill and the voting and other things can be taken up tomorrow. What is the difficulty in that?

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The names of the persons have not come who will speak.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK : The difficulty is that we have to field the speakers properly in comparison with the importance of the subject. When in the morning it was decided that the whole day the discussion would go on, naturally the speakers have to be fielded accordingly. This will be your problem and also our problem.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : I sympathise with this position.

SHRI RAM NAIK : There is no question of sympathy. It is a question of how the proceedings should be conducted.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : Why should your Party be so unprepared when you already acquainted with the listing of the Bill?... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : We can just speak like that... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : As a whole, this is a very important Bill.

SHRI RAM NAIK : We are prepared for the Bill. The Members whom we have told to prepare themselves are not here... (Interruptions)

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE : This was listed in the List of Business. Certain things happened in the

morning. That was in the List of Business. So you should have prepared yesterday itself.

SHRI RAM NAIK : No. I would not like to opine in the same line in which you are arguing because I feel that this is not maintaining the dignity of the House. We should be prepared when we should prepare. But the Member whom we have told to speak first, naturally is not here because it was decided in the morning.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is not in the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK : He has to be.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Let the Minister speak.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Minister can speak and then you take other things.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR (Mumbai North-West) : The Minister can introduce the Bill.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The Minister can introduce the Bill.

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : The debate should not continue.

SHRI RAM NAIK : The debate should not start.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : My point is, let there be no fractured debate in this serious matter like cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. There should not be any fractured discussion. We will go to another serious matter of Constitution Amendment Bill and immediately we will switch over to the discussion after 20 minutes or 30 minutes. It will not be proper also.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Considering matter as serious he had said that unless the Prime Minister this is present, they will not start the discussion. Considering the seriousness of the matter he has told so.

[English]

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The point is that the seriousness has been given by the Prime Minister himself. The point was, suddenly it was decided... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : These arguments were given. This was also told that other Ministers are also sitting here. It is not necessary that the Prime Minister himself should be here, yet they had insisted that in his absence they shall not take up this matter.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You also gave a ruling that the debate on Andhra Pradesh cyclone will be taken up at three o'clock. So the Minister can move the Bill.

SHRI RAM NAIK : I will not say that. But the Minister is also not present.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : We will take up matters under Rule 377. It can be taken up. He says matters under Rule 377 can be taken up. Let us take up matters under Rule 377.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If the time is left even after discussion Matters Under Rule 377 what matter shall be taken up discussing that time?

SHRI RAM NAIK : Please see, this Bill has to be discussed and the hon'ble Minister is not present here.

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The Minister is also not here.

SHRI SRIKANTA JENA : The whole thing is, this was announced. This will be taken up. Therefore the Minister... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Then we will also insist that the Cabinet Minister should be there. Let us not try to conduct the House like this. The Minister of Agriculture is not here. The debate will not continue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : After Rule 377, you allow us to raise certain important issues.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : That is what I wanted.

[Translation]

I have received notices for zero hour but it was decided in the morning that there will be no zero hour today.

[English]

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : In the present situation, we have to revise the stand.

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Well we shall take up zero hour after discussing Matters Under Rule 377.

(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : We are facing this situation because the hon. Speaker told in the morning that there would be no Zero Hour and you are revising the hon. Speaker's decision... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : It is because of this situation.

(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHUKAR SARPOTDAR : Please take up first Matters Under Rule 377 and subsequently Zero Hour. That will be better... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What do you propose?

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK : Please take up Matters Under Rule 377. It should be followed by Zero Hour up to three o'clock.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are taking up Matters Under Rule 377.

14.16 hrs.

#### MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

- (i) **Need for Early clearance of the proposal for creation of a separate Chhatisgarh State**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there is a long standing demand for the creation of a separate Chhatisgarh State in Madhya Pradesh. Keeping in view the demand a unanimous resolution was passed in the Vidhan Sabha for the creation of a separate Chhatisgarh state by separating Bilaspur, Raipur, Rajnandgaon, Sarguja, Bastar, Shahdol and Durg districts from Madhya Pradesh and the same was submitted to the Central Government for approval. But no action has been taken by the State Government until now.

Therefore, the Central Government is requested to accord early approval for the creation of separate Chhatisgarh state.

- (ii) **Need to Set up an Export Processing Zone in Rajasthan**

[English]

SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE (Jhalawar) : Sir, Rajasthan has a vast potential for exports covering engineering and electronic goods, readymade garments, textiles, carpets and darc, gems and jewellery, plastic and handloom, marble and granite and handicrafts. Despite this tremendous export potential, the contribution of the State to exports is only 1.6 per cent.

The State Government of Rajasthan has demanded several times to set up an Export Processing Zone in that State but due to some reason or the other, the request of the State Government has not been considered so far. Once the Export Processing Zone is set up in the State, it will go a long way in promoting exports from that State. The small scale and cottage industries as well as the major and medium industries producing these items would be given a boost in promoting their trade and industry.

As such, I demand that an Export Processing Zone be created for Rajasthan without any further delay.

- (iii) **Need to expedite the clearance of the proposals submitted by the Government of Gujarat Under Forest Conservation Act, 1980**

[Translation]

SHRI N.J. RATHWA (Chhota Udaipur) : Road and building Department, Mine Mineral Department and Electricity Department of Gujarat State have submitted a number of proposals regarding construction of roads in panchayats situated in backward and rural areas of Gujarat and for according permission for mining of minerals and for laying high tension - low tension line by the Gujarat State Electricity Board from Godhra in Panchmahals district to Chotta Udaipur in Barodara District to Forest and Environment Ministry of the Central Government under the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. But no decision has yet been taken on these proposals, as a result of which the developmental works in rural areas of the State have come to a standstill.

The Central Government is requested to accord early approval to the proposals under Forest Conservation Act, 1980 received from the above mentioned Departments of the Government of Gujarat to the Union Ministry of Environment and Forest so that developmental works in the aforementioned areas of the State could be speeded up.

- (iv) **Need to fix minimum support price of Jute at Rs.2000 per quintal**

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Arariya) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, some years back the price of jute was Rs.15 to 22 per quintal. It has been selling at Rs. 600 to Rs. 750 per quintal for the last about two months. The hon'ble Prime Minister had announced in a public meeting in Kistranganj that the price of jute would be increased in the interest of farmers. I know that the cultivation of jute requires much labour, cost and time.

I, therefore, request the Central Government to raise the minimum support price of jute from Rs.1500 to 2000 per quintal to enable the farmers to recover the cost of cultivation also.

- (v) **Need to Improve the Conditions of National Highways in Assam Damaged Due to recent floods and Rains**

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : The National Highways in the State of Assam are in a very bad shape. Large Stretches of the Highways have been severely damaged, with big holes here and there. The long neglect in the maintenance work and the heavy rains and floods in recent times have damaged the National Highways. The National Highways in Assam are the lifelines of the road communications, not only for the State of Assam but also for the States of the entire North-East region. The precarious conditions of the National Highways