

Title: Regarding the devastating flood and natural calamity of severe nature in West Bengal and issue of providing relief to flood affected people.

12.47 hrs.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have given a notice of an Adjournment Motion. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (CALCUTTA NORTH WEST): Sir, you have called my name. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is on a notice of an Adjournment Motion. I will allow you later.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, a number of other hon. Members have given their support. It is a matter of serious concern that although that matter was raised and the entire Opposition supported our demand and the demand of the people of West Bengal for Central assistance to meet the serious damage that has been caused in West Bengal because of the unprecedented floods, not a single paisa is being provided. ...*(Interruptions)* It is amazing that not a single paisa is being provided. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, a senior Member is speaking. Please sit down.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, the problems of coconut growers and the copra industry of Kerala are being ignored. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Somnath Chatterjee.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : He has not made a reference to Kerala. How can it be?

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Banatwalla, please sit down. If you want to raise any matter, you can raise that after Shri Somnath Chatterjee concludes but not now.

...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You are a senior Member. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, we have been compelled to give notices of Adjournment Motions with regard to the serious situation that is still prevailing in West Bengal because of the calculated denial of the Government of India in providing any relief to the afflicted people of West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)* The Prime Minister himself has said that the flood was of a national proportion, a national disaster. The Minister of Agriculture has also said that. ...*(Interruptions)*

I have already given the figures. The entire Opposition supported my demand but it seems that the Government of India is turning a deaf ear to the legitimate demands of the people of West Bengal and the Government of West Bengal for minimal assistance to meet the costs of reconstruction and rehabilitation of the affected people in a calculated manner. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, you have gone to the next matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is about an Adjournment Motion notice.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : We will support them in the next matter but here the hon. Minister has not given any reply and ignored the question regarding the coconut growers of Kerala. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Please understand. This is about an Adjournment Motion.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Sir, this is some other matter, which we shall support. There is no doubt about that. But what happened to our demands from Kerala? ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: We are continuing with the 'Zero Hour'. You can speak later and not now. Please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI G.M. BANATWALLA : Justice must be done to us. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, I support the demands of Shri Banatwalla and other friends. They are legitimate.

This is a serious matter; you have been kind enough to call me. It seems that there is a studied and calculated denial of the Government of India towards the demands of the people of West Bengal. I do not know why Shri Yerrannaidu is also keeping quiet.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): I am also supporting his cause.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : It seems the pressure of one of the allies of the Government is hampering this because one of the Ministers says that it was a man-made flood. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Sir, what is he talking? ...*(Interruptions)* He is bringing politics into this. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Politics had been brought in.

Sir, it is a deliberate denial of demands of the people of West Bengal. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing should go on record except what Shri Somnath Chatterjee says.

(Interruptions) *

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, more than two crore people had been affected and more than 1300 people have perished or died. Standing crops worth crores of rupees have been damaged. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY : Unscientifically they released water from the barrages. It was a man-made flood. ...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay, please take your seat.

...*(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : An amount of only Rs.2.45 crore has been released for the families of people who died. ...*(Interruptions)*

This is a very serious matter. Whatever money was given, it was against the dues of the Government and not an extra pie has been given. Whatever has been given, it is against the dues of the State Government under different heads. Ways and Means Advance of Rs.200 crore was given, even that has been adjusted against the next payment. How do we carry on? Total liability or total damage is to the extent of Rs.5660 crore.

An amount of Rs.101 crore out of NCF has been given. But then, new Fund has not been constituted, in spite of the Eleventh Finance Commission's recommendations. We were told that no Ordinance can be passed. On every other issue we are passing Ordinances. But when the question of survival of the people of this country who are affected by natural calamity comes up, this Government does not think of bringing an Ordinance. This is a deliberate attempt to deny payment of reasonable dues to the people of West Bengal. They have declared a war on the people of West Bengal. We will not allow this to continue. ...*(Interruptions)* We want a definite answer from the Government of India. ...*(Interruptions)* This Government cannot run for the purpose of its own supporters alone. Therefore, I am strongly demanding the Government to immediately announce proper relief to the people of West Bengal who are very seriously affected by floods. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, I would like to associate myself

and the sentiments expressed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I have also moved a notice for discussion under Rule 193 on drought situation affecting five States and floods affecting three States. I would like you to consider that also. I associate with the views of Shri Somnath Chatterjee. ...(*Interruptions*)