

**Title:** Demand to release ad hoc relief fund for the people of Andhra Pradesh affected by the heavy rain on 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August, 2000.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): Consequent on the depression in the Bay of Bengal – hon. Minister of Agriculture is here – on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> August up to 11 a.m. due to heavy rains about 116 people died in Andhra Pradesh. Life came to a standstill in Hyderabad and other parts of the State. Three-fourths of the Hyderabad city has come under water. So far one lakh people have been evacuated and so far about thousands of houses have been damaged fully.

Six hundred minor irrigation tanks have breached. Four hundred villages were inundated as also all the National Highways. The National Highway from Chennai to Calcutta has been completely closed to traffic at Chilakaluripeta while Nandyal recorded 50 cm of rain in two days. In one place there was 50 cm of rain in two days. In the last 100 years there has been only 24 cm of rain but in one day the rainfall was 24 cm, the highest so far in Hyderabad. The Army and Air Force have been requisitioned to assist the civil administration. Also, so far 13 districts have been affected in Andhra Pradesh, 412 roads were cut off disturbing many districts.

So, this is my humble submission to the Union Government that an *ad hoc* relief -- we are demanding – Rs.200 crore should be given. Previously on the 20<sup>th</sup> April 1999, we requested the Union Government a sum of Rs.725 crore for drought but only Rs.75 crore was given to the State of Andhra Pradesh. We have been repeatedly requesting for grants for drought relief. Meanwhile, due to heavy rains also lot of damage has occurred.

Now the district administration is assessing the damage. So far, 13 senior officers of the Government of Andhra Pradesh have been deputed to all the districts. Seven Cabinet Ministers have also been deputed to the districts and now the damage is being assessed. The Chief Minister has visited Nandyal and Hyderabad. The State Assembly has been adjourned for two days to enable the MLAs to go to their constituencies and to pursue the rescue and relief operations. All the schools have also been closed. This is the situation the Andhra Pradesh.

That is why my request through you -- Minister is here and the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also is here – the Government of India should announce some *ad hoc* grants also to help the State Government. This is my request.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janardhana Reddy.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (BOLPUR): We also support his demand.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Janardhana Reddy.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is how we should unitedly work.

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : These are national issues. That is how we should cooperate with each other.

MR. SPEAKER: You are getting a lot of support from Shri Somnath Chatterjee. .

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We are also facing similar problems.

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY (KHAMMAM): I must be allowed to speak also.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (NARASARAOPET): It is with great pain that I rise to mention and bring this to the notice of the Government of India. It was only yesterday, as Shri Yerranniadu was telling, that we were demanding an assistance for drought. As against a request for Rs.700 crore they gave a paltry amount of Rs.70 crore! Now 14 districts got affected. Surprisingly the districts which never get rain, this time, those districts like Nellore, Chittoor and Prakasam, got inundated. It had never happened. Particularly, the Telangana region never gets affected by this sort of depression. I heard Dr. Venugopal saying on the TV that 50 years back it was affected. No, in 1979 when the depression crossed the coast at Ongole it affected Mahaboobnagar. The Collector does not know that under the Treasury Rule 27 he can draw the money without waiting for any sanction for giving relief.

Now, 120 deaths have been reported.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (ADILABAD): One hundred and sixty so far!

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : It is only a preliminary estimate. Two hundred forty millimetres of rain was there in the city within 24 hours. Earlier, they never used helicopter to lift the people from one place to another place, stranded in the buildings. The drinking water is not there; the food is not there. The State Government is doing its best. We do not want to criticise now. It is a time to cooperate and help.

Sir, I do not know whether your native place, I.Polavaram, in the East Godavari District, got affected or not. Sir, it is your endeavour which should help Andhra Pradesh now. ...(*Interruptions*)

Sir, as rightly mentioned by Shri Yerrannaidu, thousands of vehicles are stranded on the roads. Passengers are there in the vehicles and nobody is there to give them food and drinking water.

Sir, you kindly use your good offices to help these people.

The main thing I want to emphasise is that the Tenth Finance Commission had recommended Rs. 143 crore for Andhra Pradesh for cyclone relief. The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended Rs. 198 crore. But, according to the State Government, they have already burnt their fingers and spent Rs. 307 crore on drought itself. Now, it is in minus. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: This is a serious subject concerning the entire nation.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I would like to know whether the Government of India or the State Government knows about it or not. The Eleventh Finance Commission recommended the removal of the Central Relief Fund. Now, it is not there. Orissa was helped with that Fund.

Now, the Eleventh Finance Commission's stand is, which the House should know, that the Government of India is not able to decide which is national calamity and which is not. If that is the reason, then they cannot run the Government. Unfortunately, this is the situation under which the State Government is suffering now.

Sir, you use your good offices and influence the State and the Central Governments. One thing is that when this kind of thing happens, as you know, schools and colleges are closed. The collections from banks and farmers are deferred. So, Sir, I request you to use your good offices to defer the power hike, which is there in Andhra Pradesh for these sufferers. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Shrimati Renuka Chowdhury, I got your notice at 10.31 am. Even then I am allowing you.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY : Sir, I thank you very much for your generosity in allowing me to speak.

I want to rise and associate myself on this very solemn occasion where seven lakh people in the twin cities are stranded. The entire people of seven crore of the State in general and the farmers in particular, have had a crucial twist of faith where during the drought season, the crop dry out and during the flood season, the crop rot.

I think, it is time that we transcend the limitations of political boundaries, and this House should come together and, in one voice, come to the rescue of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, you, in your wisdom, have on an earlier occasion asked the Members of Parliament to give their contributions to the State of Orissa. Several people came forward and donated most generously. I think, under your guidance and leadership of this House, all Members of Parliament will come forward. ...(*Interruptions*)

I am coming to that, Sir.

Sir, I think the Members of Parliament will come forward and the Government will take the onus of responsibility, without going into the nitty gritty and the red-tapism. This is a human need. The need of the hour is for a spontaneous reaction. It is not just the flood, it is the aftermath of the flood where we shall need Government's intervention. Things, such as, providing medical facilities, more importantly, money, rehabilitation packages for the farmers as well as for all those students who have lost hours in schools this time, some of whom will have to appear for examinations, etc., must be taken into consideration and special concessions must be made for those who have been affected.

I also want, through you, Sir, to ask the Telugu Desam Members that they direct their Chief minister to please requisition the Navy – people, who are equipped to deal with this kind of a situation – to come and do food-dropping as well as picking up the people, and also ask the Army to come forward for lifting the vehicles as well as giving medical facilities and controlling disease outbreak. Thank you very much, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: Anything from the Government side?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU : Sir, the Army and the Air Force have already been requisitioned by the State

Government and they are assisting the civil administration. They are doing immense service. Everybody is appreciating the Air Force. They are doing excellent service....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Mr. Speaker, Sir...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Are you also associating yourself with him?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : I have also an issue to raise, Sir....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I am asking for the Government's reaction on this.

**कृषि मंत्री (श्री नीतीश कुमार) :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, अतिवृष्टि से आंध्र प्रदेश के कुछ इलाकों में जो तबाही मची है, उसके संबंध में हमारे मंत्रालय के सम्बद्ध अधिकारीगण राज्य सरकार के अधिकारियों के साथ सम्पर्क बनाए हुए हैं और कल एक केन्द्रीय टीम भी उन प्रभावित इलाकों की स्थिति का अध्ययन करने के लिए और क्षति का जायजा लेने के लिए जाएगी। मैं स्वयं भी कल आंध्र प्रदेश के उन इलाकों का दौरा करूंगा और राज्य सरकार के साथ चर्चा करके स्थिति को देख कर केन्द्र की तरफ से जो भी आवश्यक कदम उठाना होगा, उसे उठाएंगे।

MR. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, the Minister has already said that he is going to visit the affected areas.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Madhavrao Scindia, please.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Please try to understand that today is the last day of the Session and there are a number of important matters to be raised by hon. Members. You are forcing the Chair to adjourn the House. Do not do like this.

...(Interruptions)

**श्री माधवराव सिधिया :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, मुझे बोलने का अवसर प्रदान किया जाए। (व्यवधान)

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU Sir, we are demanding Rs.200 crore as *ad hoc* relief....(Interruptions)

**MR. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Madhavrao Scindia says.**

(Interruptions) \*

**MR. SPEAKER: Please try to understand. The Minister has already said that he is going to visit the affected areas.**

...(Interruptions)

**श्री माधवराव सिधिया :** अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपकी स्वीकृति से मैं एक गंभीर विषय उठाना चाहता हूँ। (व्यवधान)

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

(Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Yerrannaidu, please take your seat. You have raised a matter and the Government has also replied. ....(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: After the Minister's reply, nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: What is this, Shri Yerrannaidu? I have given you an opportunity. You have raised the matter and the Government has also replied. Again you are obstructing the proceedings of the House.

...(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You should know the procedure in the 'Zero hour' also as to what is the business in the 'Zero hour'.

DR. S. VENUGOPAL (ADILABAD): Sir, we want the intervention by the Central Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Nothing should go on record except what Shri Madhavrao Scindia is saying.

*(Interruptions)\**

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*\*Not Recorded.*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : You made your point. Please allow me. ...(*Interruptions*) You are not allowing others to make their points. ...(*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I have already said that I am visiting the affected areas tomorrow morning along with a Central team. ...(*Interruptions*)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : इन सब को भी अपने साथ ले जाओ।