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Title: Discussion on the natural calamities in various parts of the country with special reference to rains and floods in Jammu and Kashmir, cyclone Hudhud in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha and drought in Maharashtra.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Item No. 14, Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Deo.

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Sir, with your permission, may I speak from here?

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, no problem.

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO : Thank you Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to raise this extremely vital issue on natural calamities, which have occurred in various parts of the country with special reference to unprecedented rains and floods in Jammu and Kashmir; severe cyclones that have hit coasts of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh; and drought in Maharashtra.

Sir, natural disasters are not new to India. In recent few months, we have seen severe cyclones, both Phailin and Hudhud, which have ravaged the coasts of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh causing displacement of almost 2 ½ lakh people in the State of Odisha, and some more in the State of Andhra Pradesh. The unprecedented destruction by both these cyclones has been readily met by the Governments of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh with support from the Central Government.

Natural disasters cannot be avoided, but what we can do is to ensure that the country, as a whole, is better prepared to meet the natural disasters and to ensure that there is long-term planning for risk mitigation and the institution set-up to react promptly and positively. In this one particular occasion, we cannot fault the Parliament of India. Even though, in the last 10 years, that is, from 2001 to 2011, 150 lakh houses have been destroyed due to natural disasters; 420 lakh hectares of agricultural land / crop area have been affected; and last year itself 22,759 deaths have been recorded in 2013 due to natural disasters.

The Parliament of India has enacted right laws to address the issue. In 2005, the Parliament enacted the Disaster Management Act, which established institutions of the National Disaster Management Authority to lay down policies, guidelines and formulate plans for disaster management; the National and State Executive Committees are the executing arms of NDMA and SDMA; the National Disaster Response Forces, which can assist in disaster management, rescue and rehabilitation operations; and of course, the National Institute of Disaster Management for capacity building both in the State as well as in the District / Panchayat levels.

However, we find that even though Parliament has enacted correct laws, the implementation of these laws -- which is the real crux of any law and which proves the efficiency of any law -- has been far from lacking. Let us take the example of NDMA. The NDMA is currently headless and toothless. It has been six months since most members of the NDMA have resigned. However, the Government has been unable to select a proper head to run the NDMA, while disaster after disaster have hit this country. The National Executive Committee, which is supposed to be the Committee to execute the policies framed by the NDMA and the police framed by the Agriculture and Home Ministries, is currently without any members. All the members of the National Executive Committee have resigned, and the Government has been unable to fill up those posts. Not only that, the NDMA and the NEC have come under severe criticism. Between 2006 and 2012, the National Executive Committee -- and again this is for this Government and that Government; this ping-pong between the two parties seems to leave the people of the nation out of any development or salvage -- did not meet even once; it could not find the time to meet even once. It has been eight years since this entire institutional framework has been set up. The National Disaster Management Action Plan was supposed to have been set up by the NDMA and the NEC, however, these illustrious institutions have not found the time to finalise the National Disaster Management Action Plan.

Again, year after year, month after month, we are hit by natural disasters, be it cyclones; be it floods in Jammu and Kashmir; be it droughts; be it heat waves and cold waves. As we go on, India is going to get hit more and more by natural disasters. The effects of climate change and global warming are going to have a much more severe impact giving us disasters in India. Over 40 million hectares of India's land is prone to floods and river erosion. Close to 5,700 kilometres out of 7,516 kilometres long coastline is prone to cyclones and Tsunamis. Sixty-eight per cent of its cultivable area is vulnerable to drought. However, the National Disaster Management Authority, which we know is headless and toothless, is failing to do its most basic duty of providing risk mitigation and long-term planning in addressing disaster management.

All these institutes are focussing on response. As a country, from the time when the super-cyclone hit Odisha and more than 10,000 people lost their lives, yes, we have become better at forecasting, forewarning and responding to disasters, especially that of cyclones where we get an early warning. After the Disaster Management Act of 2005 was framed, the NDMA was to ensure that every department incorporates some elements of disaster management mitigation, for example, if roads are being built in flood prone zone areas, then proper vents and causeways would be given so that water could go through. However, I find no mention of the fact that any of these departments have addressed the issue of disaster management.

It takes political will, both by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister, and when the Prime Minister's massive appeal was responded to positively by the voters, I was hoping that we will see action, we will see delivery, but it has been six months and basic decisions of putting the right people in the right posts have not been taken. NDMA has been continuously used as a resting ground for retired bureaucrats or for those politicians who have not been elected. This practice has to stop. Out of the members of the NDMA and the NEC, do we have even one technical expert or even one global expert?

The National Advisory Council is supposed to counsel the NDMA, but it does not exist. It has been disbanded. The amount of casualties that the Government has experienced since 2005-06 is its lack of seriousness for the disaster management. It has been a habit of the Home Ministry and the Agriculture Ministry to usurp the power of the NDMA to not allow it to function. The NDMA is supposed to carry a coordinate response in

the event of disaster. However, currently, the Ministry of Home Affairs performs that function.

Sir, the NAC is in-charge of utilizing the NDRF – the National Disaster Response Fund for emergency response expenses under the Act. However, this job is currently being done by the Inter-Ministerial Group of Ministry of Home Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture. This process existed even before the act was enacted. If so, what is the point of this Act? What is the point of setting up of NDMA and the NAC if you do not allow them to function, if you do not give them teeth to ensure that all states develop first State Disaster Management Authority and have a plan to mitigate the disaster management? Again I lay emphasis on the term 'Mitigation' and not on the 'Response and Rehabilitation'.

Sir, let us look at how this Government has reacted with response and rehabilitation. We know that in recent times, the floods of Jammu and Kashmir caught the Government both in Centre and State unawares. Tremendous loss was experienced in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and my full sympathy to all the Members and all the people of Jammu and Kashmir. However, the Government of India reacted very well. The Minority Affairs Minister promised a Rs. 120 crore over and above the Rs. 1100 crore be given to Jammu and Kashmir through SDRF further to which a Rs. 1000 crore plus another Rs. 750 crore was given for reconstruction and rehabilitation. My fullest support to the Government, my congratulations to the Government of India for taking such a pro-active step but what happens when we come to Odisha and Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, the State of Odisha has been hit by two consecutive cyclones. First, it was hit by Phailin and then, by Hudhud cyclone. The State of Andhra Pradesh, as I am sure my colleagues will speak about, has been hit by the same disaster.

Sir, the State of Odisha has asked for Rs. 5842 crore for rehabilitation and reconstruction after the Phailin was hit. The Government of India in its gracious wisdom, in its generosity granted us Rs. 399.83 crore, not even ten per cent of what was asked for. However, even for that money, the Government says that we will not give from National Disaster Relief Fund, rather take that money from State Disaster Relief Fund.

Sir, crops have been damaged. Droughts have been high in Odisha. The money from the State Disaster Relief Fund has been utilized mostly to give input subsidy for agriculture and now, this Government has failed to meet the expectations of the people of Odisha.

Sir, I thought Andhra would be better, if Jammu and Kashmir has elections and this Government has been gracious enough to show them generosity, I thought at least in Andhra Pradesh where they have a alliance partner, they would do a good job. Obviously, those considerations do not matter to any of us. Even in Andhra Pradesh Rs. 1000 crore was granted as announced by the Prime Minister after he visited Hudhud cyclone area, only Rs. 400 crore have been released. For Odisha where the same cyclone hit Odisha, the action plan for Odisha has been compiled and sent to the Government of India, they are sitting on it for months. They refuse to finalize the entire demand of roughly Rs. 750 crore which have been compiled for immediate rehabilitation and restoration of houses and those people who have been severely affected. This kind of callousness is not something that we expect from the Government of India. This kind of lack of response is not something that we expect from the Government. We were hoping that when 9700 villages of Odisha and 44,000 houses of Odisha were damaged and affected, the Government of India would rise and come in support of the Government of Odisha in meeting the needs of the poor people of Odisha. We thought that, when 60,000 families from Andhra Pradesh were impacted and affected, the Government would have come out with a more generous show of support. However, the Government of India, the NDA Government has unfortunately failed the people of Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

I would urge the Minister of State of Home, since the Cabinet Minister is not here today, that he and his Department need to have a more concise plan and a more long term approach looking at the disaster management. They cannot sustain themselves from disaster to disaster with knee-jerk reactions. They need to have a more sustained plan of implementation to mitigate disaster. I give you one example. The Government of India has streamlined all the airports and made a model airport design for constructing airports. However, when you do not take into account local necessities, incidents like the one that happened in Vizag where the roof of the airport flew off, may happen. Let us now look at incorporating disaster management policies in the implementation of the Budgets of all Departments.

With these words, I would like to thank you again for allowing me to speak on this subject which is so key to me. I hope that like after Hurricane Katrina the United States of America completely overhauled the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Kashmir flood, the Phailin cyclone, the Hudhud cyclone would have the same impact on this Government and the NDMA, the NEC would be completely overhauled to make a body which actually leaves an impact, which can have some direction towards long term disaster management action plan.

DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU (VISAKHAPATNAM): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the severe cyclonic storm which hit the Visakhapatnam City which I represent in the House.

**14.58 hrs**

(Shri Anandrao Adsul *in the Chair*)

Sir, Hudhud cyclonic storm is unprecedented with the wind speeds of above 200 kilometres per hour. Visakhapatnam Port Trust measured the wind speed in the peak hours in the outer harbour of Visakhapatnam and recorded up to 274 kilometres per hour. The Meteorological records are available since 1891. For the last 120 years, Visakhapatnam did not witness this type of severe cyclone. With this wind speed, Hudhud cyclone has shaken the confidence of the people in the region. The storm has caused heavy damage to the public and private properties in three districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly in North Coastal Andhra, Visakhapatnam, Vizainagaram and Srikakulam. In Andhra Pradesh, 61 people lost their lives, 37 were injured, 4777 cattle heads lost, 40379 houses were damaged, and about 3,30,000 hectares of cropped area was damaged. Crops like cashew, mango, banana and paddy were damaged and farmers had the big loss.

**15.00 hrs.**

When cyclone Hudhud hit the coast of Andhra Pradesh, fishing community suffered major losses. Fishermen lost their houses because their houses

are located on the seacoast. About 1000 fishing boats were damaged. Their fishing nets were damaged. Many boats sank at the Visakhapatnam Fishing Harbour because of the cyclone.

Just now my friend from Odisha spoke about damage caused to Visakhapatnam airport. The roof of the airport was gone. When I saw the airport I never thought that the flights would be able to land there even after a month. But fortunately, Union Civil Aviation Minister who hails from our area has taken steps to see that the flights landed there on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the cyclone. Visakhapatnam is a very beautiful city. This cyclone Hudhud caused a black mark on the face of the beauty of Visakhapatnam.

The Government of India has given a lot of assistance to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary, the Committee headed by Home Secretary were reviewing from time to time and advising the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding the steps to be taken to safeguard the lives of the people and also steps to be taken for minimising the loss.

Road traffic was disrupted. Rail traffic was disrupted. Communication facilities were totally affected. There was no power and there was no water. I think more than 40,000 electrical polls were uprooted. I never imagined that my house would get power supply even up to 15 days but supply was restored on the 5<sup>th</sup> day of the cyclone. When the power is restored, it is natural that the water is also being given to all the people.

In this hour of crisis, our hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modiji visited Visakhapatnam within 30 hours of cyclone. Cyclone happened on the 12<sup>th</sup>. It continued up to early hours of 13<sup>th</sup>. On the 14<sup>th</sup> Prime Minister visited Visakhapatnam, saw the devastation caused by the cyclone, and announced immediate assistance of Rs.1,000 crore for Andhra Pradesh. This instilled confidence among the people and gave a lot of courage to them to face the crisis.

Cyclone struck on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October. Hon. Chief Minister Mr.Chandrababu Naidu ventured to come to Visakhapatnam on the 12<sup>th</sup> itself but he could not reach there. He could reach Visakhapatnam on the afternoon of 13<sup>th</sup>. He stayed at Visakhapatnam for more than a week. He stayed in the premises of the Collectorate. He slept in a bus. He guided the official machinery to restore the normalcy in the area. He worked till midnight. He reviewed the situation in the early hours of the day. And the official machinery in our area also functioned very well. I should thank the official machinery of Andhra Pradesh who have worked very hard to restore normalcy in the North Coastal Andhra Pradesh in view of the Hudhud cyclone.

Mr. Venkaiah Naidu, hon. Union Minister for Urban Development, visited Visakhapatnam along with hon. Prime Minister. Later, after a week, he came to Vizag again, held a review meeting with all the concerned Central Government Departments to expedite the relief and reconstruction operations. In Visakhapatnam we have a lot of Central Government agencies, public sector undertakings. The initial damages and losses caused to Government of India PSU properties due to the cyclone in Vizag District are being tentatively given.

Hindustan Shipyard Limited sustained a loss of Rs. 500 crore; East Coast Railway incurred a loss of Rs. 210 crore; for NTPC's Simhadri thermal project, it was Rs. 25 crore; for BHEL Visakhapatnam, Rs. 30 crore; for Indian Oil Corporation, Rs. 14 crore; for Vizag Steel Plant of RINL, Rs. 300 crore; for Visakhapatnam Port Trust, Rs. 200 crore; and the airport damage was Rs. 65 crore.

Our hon. Prime Minister, in his review meeting, assured Andhra Pradesh Government that the Government of India will take care of the damages caused to Central Government agencies and the public sector undertakings by the respective Departments. I hope, the respective Central Government Departments will take care of the damages caused to the Government of India agencies and the public sector undertakings.

I thank the Home Minister for his continued support to the people of Andhra Pradesh. I also thank the hon. Finance Minister who has instructed the banks to restructure the loans and also instructed the insurance companies to settle the claims for those victims who lost their property and had insurance policies.

The Government of India has deputed the inter-Ministerial Central team to visit Andhra Pradesh to make the assessment. Recently, they have visited Andhra Pradesh from 25<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> November. I hope, they will submit a favourable report which can help the State of Andhra Pradesh. I am thankful for the same but I wish that the Central team had visited much earlier. Since they have visited after one month, I think, they could not see the actual damage and the loss. I know, if they visited earlier, their visit would have diverted the attention of the people who were involved in the relief work but I request the Government of India that in such situations of crises the Central teams should visit much earlier so that the damage could be assessed properly. This has to be taken into consideration.

I also thank the leaders of various political parties who have visited that area and expressed their solidarity with the affected people. I thank all the political parties for their support. I also thank the Chief Ministers of the neighbouring States, particularly, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, West Bengal and other States. They have extended their co-operation for the people of Andhra Pradesh in their hour of crisis.

Our Chief Minister has taken steps to see to it that all essential commodities are available to the people free of cost or at cheaper prices. He has made an effort to bring 2,500 tonnes of potato from Kolkata by discussing with the hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal Kumari Mamata Banerjee. We could procure 250 truck loads of potato and supply them in the Vizag area. He has taken steps to supply three kilograms of vegetables at Rs. 10 so that people are not affected by blackmarketees and essential commodities are made available for the people in the hour of need. He has also taken all steps to see that petroleum marketing companies made all the supplies like diesel, petrol, and LPG and people faced no problem.

On 12<sup>th</sup> October, I was at Visakhapatnam city. I saw the devastation caused in Visakhapatnam city. We did not have power. We did not know what was happening in other places. We could not have the television sets in operation. Many hon. Members have complained about BSNL but I must compliment BSNL. On that day, only the BSNL landline was functioning. From my house, I telephoned to my friends in Vijayawada and Guntur and came to know what was being shown in their television sets, the position of the eye of the cyclonic storm at that time, whether it had crossed, and when it had crossed. I could get all that only by BSNL landline telephone. Of course, later on, there were some problems in communication networks because there was no power and many companies which were supposed to operate their cell towers with diesel generators did not come forward. However, at the instance of the Chief Minister, all the companies followed the guidance and saw to it that the communication network was

established.

I have four suggestions or requests to make with regard to facing the cyclones. One is, I would request the Government of India to come forward liberally to assist the State of Andhra Pradesh. As you all know, this State is a newly born or newly formed State, with the old name. The new State has no resources to help the people on their own. Therefore, in view of the difficult financial situation of Andhra Pradesh State, I would request the Government of India and the hon. Prime Minister to extend liberally the Central assistance to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Another request I would like to make is, Vishakapatnam is at equi-distance from Kolkata and Chennai. Vishakapatnam is one of the major cities on the east coast; it is a strategic city. Vishakapatnam is the headquarters for the Eastern Naval High Command. Therefore, I request the Government of India to consider establishing a unit of the National Disaster Response Team at Vishakapatnam so that it could cater to the needs of the people on the east coast of India, right from Kanyakumari to Kolkata. I request the Government to consider this request favourably.

The third suggestion that I would make to the Government of India is to send the Inter-Ministerial Central Teams to assess the damages in respective States. I make the request to send the teams at the earliest possible time, possibly within a week so that they can make proper assessment of the damage and recommend to the Government of India for assistance.

The fourth one is this. A lot of industries got damaged due to this. All the roofs of the industries have been blown away. They make insurance claims. I request the Government of India and the hon. Finance Minister to instruct the insurance companies to settle the claims at the earliest so that they could start their operations within the shortest possible time.

When the Prime Minister had visited Vishakapatnam, he suggested to the Government of Andhra Pradesh to prepare a blue-book, on how we have to proceed in times of crisis. I hope that all the State Governments who have faced this problem will assist in preparing the blue-book and I also hope that the Government of India will prepare this blue-book and fight natural calamities in an effective manner. Thank you.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to address this vital issue which is of great concern to all of us in our country.

My good friend, the hon. Member from Odisha, had already given us the details of how vulnerable the nation is to natural disasters. I will not repeat the details that he had provided. But I used to be the Convener of the Parliamentary Forum on Disaster Management during the 15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha. I must say that a lot of this has become sadly too familiar.

We had a National Disaster Management Authority, but it has been dismantled. Instead of Disaster Management Authority, what we now have is Disastrous Mismanagement without authority!

What has happened is that the NDMA simply failed to fulfill its purpose or its promise in all the disaster situations listed in today's Order Paper – Jammu & Kashmir, North-East, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh. As we have been reminded, the Parliament here passed the National Disaster Management Act in 2005, creating the NDMA, under the Prime Minister - no less – who is the Chairman, and the National Executive Committee developed a national policy on disaster management which was approved in 2009. The NDMA was supposed to work in coordination with various State Disaster Management Authorities. But so far, there is very little evidence of this. Indeed, several of the States have not yet even submitted their disaster management plans.

While the nation awaits the promised '*Achche din*', '*bure dirt*' came to the NDMA because the Government made it headless by asking for the resignation of the Vice-Chairman and other senior members, all in June. We are now in the beginning of December. So, six months later, we still have no replacements. The Government made absolutely no appointments to fill them, leaving the body completely headless, and the result is that the necessary warnings – for example, indicating the unexpected rise of the levels of the Jhelum River, in the case of Kashmir, signaling the onset of a disaster in the Kashmir Valley – were simply not issued. There was no one to issue them.

We had the same problem with the National Disaster Relief Force, which was also set up by the 2005-Act. A permanent DG of the NDRF was appointed only yesterday.

Now, where is the decisive Government that we were promised when it comes to filling up much needed vacancies! The irony is that the Indian Meteorological Department, the Indian Space Research Organisation, so many other agencies have all developed early warning systems. The NDMA is supposed to, without delay, disseminate this information from these various agencies to the public and treat every warning with the urgency that it requires. But the NDMA, for all practical purposes under this Government does not exist. There is a dire need to fill the vacant positions at the earliest.

We have seen, Mr. Chairman, there is a chronic problem in this Government of dismantling functioning institutions without having alternatives ready; whether it is the Planning Commission, the National Innovation Council or the NDMA. What do we see? These have been decapitated and left rudderless like chickens with their heads cut off without any sense of purpose or direction. No wonder, we do not even have a National Disaster Management Action Plan.

Days before the Kashmir floods, a few local institutes studying weather conditions in the valley recorded an unexpected rise in the level of the Jhelum. The Officers of the State Flood Control Department had warned the authorities that the river was flowing 14 feet above the danger mark at Sangam in South Kashmir but they were unable to get a response from the Central or the State Government. Where was the Central Government to give the response? Warnings were issued by two other Central Water Commission Stations. They were also ignored. The Central Water Commission provides flood forecasting services but they have to be heeded. There must be a mechanism to take them and convey them urgently to the States. The State, of course, in the case of Kashmir had ample time to evacuate people from low lying areas. They could have called for



assistance of Special Response Team from the Centre. The Central Government could have also alerted the State. But did any of this happen? No, Sir, it did not. And, there was no effective response mechanism deployed at the beginning of the crisis. What followed was uncontrollable destruction, the loss of life and property which cannot be compensated, which, of course, will take a whole substantial amount of time to recover from and rebuild.

The figures are painful, Mr. Chairman; a loss of 282 human lives in Kashmir, over 61,000 cattle, six-and-a-half lakh hectares of cropped area, two-and-a-half lakh houses. Thousands have been left homeless. Property worth one lakh crore, a trillion rupees, has been destroyed. Twelve lakh people and 2000 villages were also affected by the floods in Assam. Floods in Odisha, thanks to Cyclone Hudhud, affected over 10 lakh people. So, we have a huge scale of problem on our hands. Our response at the Central Government level must also be worthy of this kind of a challenge.

The National Disaster Response Force, which is supposed to be actually managed and controlled by the NDMA, has now been reporting directly to the Ministry of Home Affairs, because there is no NDMA I suppose. Different departments and Ministries of the Central Government were undertaking their own relief operations in Kashmir. And, frankly, there was no Central Authority to coordinate them. The Central Government and the State Government were themselves not coordinating with each other and in the absence of any nodal agency the response was also slower than it needs to have been.

As usual, what we do is we turn to our Armed Forces. Whenever the civilian Government fails, we always send in the Army. So, they efficiently did their job. They conducted search and rescue operations. They distributed food, water, medicines amongst marooned survivors. But this is not supposed to be the Army's job. They are there to defend our borders. What about the Government's own capacity for disaster management? What about the Act of this Parliament, Mr. Chairman, which we have actually passed for this purpose?

There is no urgency in arranging the appointment of any of the vacancies unnecessarily created by the Government. The Government's motto seems to be 'dismiss in haste but fill the posts at leisure'.

The situation would have been very different if we had a well led and fully staffed NDMA which could have issued a warning and specific instructions to the Jammu and Kashmir State Disaster Management Authority for preparing and evacuating the residents living in and around the disaster prone area. The fact is that the Central Government may well blame the State Government and the State Government may well blame the Central Government, but there is no question that in our system the Central Government has a responsibility to step in where the state Government has failed. This did not happen. And the fact is it had not happened already at the preparedness stage, where it is supposed to happen under the provisions of the Act of Parliament.

We have already been hearing about the Central Government's assistance. The Figures have already been given by the hon. Member from Odisha. But let me say that the relief and immediate rehabilitation measures alone are essentially provided for. There is no real serious measure for compensation. You need a special package, as our Government gave to Uttarakhand when that tragedy happened. The reason for that is very simple that the norms for disaster relief are simply not adequate. We know the Prime Minister has announced an *ex gratia* assistance of Rs.2 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased and Rs.50,000 each to the injured under the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. But first of all, the amounts are very modest given the scale of the loss. Secondly, there is not even an agreed list of the beneficiaries who should be compensated. There has been severe negligence on the part of the Government. We have just seen an interview in the newspapers yesterday by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir saying that each house needs, at least, Rs.10 lakh but the Government has given him only Rs.70000 per house. Now obviously you cannot build a house anywhere for Rs.70000, let alone in Kashmir.

So, this predictable narrative, Mr. Chairman, is what we have been seeing. Calamity occurs, there is lack of warning; there is lack of prevention; there is lack of preparation; and there is mostly avoidable death, if not destruction, and then the establishment's first response is that they have announced a relief amount to the families of the victims and that too, too small an amount. The message to the Government very simply is that prevention is better than compensation. Effective action to save lives is better than trying to re-build after disasters.

Now let me stress that there are very many things that the Central Government should be doing. I am glad that one of the earlier speakers has also pointed out specific measures that could be taken. Even the C&AG has done a report in 2013 about various disaster-specific measures. The Government seems to have shown no indication of having digested this. We realise, for example, that the Indian Meteorological Department, which is regulated by the Ministry of Earth Sciences in the Central Government, has not prepared a disaster management and mitigation plan for earthquakes. Even in Kashmir we had an earthquake in 2013. There are about 4720 reservoirs and barrages in our country and the Central Water Commission provides forecasts for only 28. There are 4700 for which there are no forecasts.

Coming to modernisation of weather forecasting equipment, we have all the software and all these computers. We are talking about making super computers, yet what is our capacity for weather forecasting? Maybe it is at the national level but where do we have it at the State levels? Even the hazard maps that are supposed to be drawn for earthquakes, landslides, cyclones, Tsunami, floods, etc. they are incomplete or unavailable. Without these maps, no State Government can be in a position to even identify the high risk areas let alone actually do anything about it.

Let me repeat to the Central Government, the NDMA needs strengthening and not weakening. Since its inception, it has spent Rs.1300 crore. You are spending Rs.40 crore a year just on maintaining the NDMA but you are giving them no authority or giving them no heads or giving them no work. The fact is that only 10 per cent of the NDMA's on-going projects have been completed. It has very limited powers over the State Governments. So, its guidelines never get implemented. On top of that, what do we see? We have disagreement with all these others. The NDMA has one set of views. The NDRF has another set of views. Now the National Informatics Centre comes in. They have not been able to agree on procuring satellite phones for establishing the disaster communication network which is why there were no communications in Kashmir immediately after floods started.

Now on top of that, there are the State Disaster Response Funds which again have been mentioned earlier in the debate. Many States have not appropriately utilised the Rs.33580 crore which have been given for State Disaster Response Funds by the UPA Government for the period 2010-

2015. The Ministry of Home Affairs apparently has not been able to keep check on utilisation of these funds. There are no official figures on how they have been utilised. There has been a fairly negligent attitude at all levels towards disaster management. The funds have been earmarked but the policy has not been implemented. The Act has not been implemented. Now I even see Nirmala Sitharamanji there and she could encourage private sector to get involved in helping with disaster management through the CSR where they are supposed to give two per cent for various developmental activities. There has been no particular campaign to encourage the private sector to contribute to disaster management and indeed their contributions are practically non-existent.

There is no comprehensive plan from the Ministry of Home Affairs. I look at the MoS who is a very competent and well regarded figure. We need to see a comprehensive plan coming from his Ministry for disaster management. The MHA should keep a record on the utilisation of funds and unspent balances of the States. Mr. Rijiju, you do not have one yet. That has to be done.

We have to accept that temporary plans are not a solution. Giving relief is not an answer. It is reactive. Reactions are not enough. A comprehensive plan is also needed for understanding and checking our country's preparedness for all kinds of disasters. We have talked today about floods and cyclones. We need to be prepared for nuclear and radiological disasters; forest fires and coastal erosion. In my constituency, practically every year we have extremely heavy tidal waves; we have extremely heavy rains and India loses territory because our beaches are washed away with coastal erosion. We can prepare for this. This has been happening for decades, but we have not got the preparations. Man made disasters also we are not prepared for. Now, may I suggest also to the Ministry of Home Affairs that apart from the strengthening the National Disaster Management Authority we should also establish district authorities to ensure that the district, the State and the Centre are all equally coordinated.

Let me finally say that the NDMA must also ensure that the guidelines that it has issued should be followed by State Governments and Ministries and therefore, it must take the lead, it must be the central body to coordinate the Ministries to avoid duplication of efforts, provide regular training and capacity building and involve the NGOs, the civil society create a Statesociety partnership for disaster management as well as to spread awareness. We have all the money that the Government spends on advertising various things, we need to have awareness in the public about what they should do in the event of disaster and to prevent disaster.

The fact is that we can, with better systems, handle natural disasters and calamities better. It has been done before. We all remember how the late Rajiv Gandhi handled the drought of 1987 without a single person losing his life. If there is a plan, if there is a system in place, there is leadership, these things can be done.

The message is clear. This is a Central Government responsibility. Give us the decisive action you have promised. Appoint an NDMA, empower it, pursue the States, finalise an action plan and set up systems. Remember, far too many people in our country find it impossible to beg, borrow or raise money to treat a person in the family who is sick and dying, but the moment he dies, everybody comes for the funeral. Now, that is not what the Government should be doing. The Government's job is to prevent the sickness, to prevent the affliction, not to attend the funeral. We have had too many funerals and disasters in our country. I say it to the Government – please do your job so as to reduce the number of funerals and to ensure that calamity in our country does not always have to mean tragedy.

Thank you.

SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the discussion under Rule 193 on behalf of the AIADMK party.

Natural disasters strike India routinely. Some forms of disasters are earthquake, tropical storms, cyclone, tsunami and heat waves. These disasters cause major casualties for any nation and economic loss to the developing countries is unimaginable.

In the series of disasters, the latest ones being the Uttarakhand flash floods in 2013 which was followed immediately by cyclone in Odisha. This year we had calamity in Jammu and Kashmir followed by the severe rain in the north-eastern States of Assam and Meghalaya. Last month we had a cyclone, namely, Hudhud, hitting the State of Andhra Pradesh causing serious casualties and damages.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the data from the International Disaster Data base shows that floods has been the most damaging of all the natural disasters that happened in the last ten years. Flood in India have caused the most widespread damages impacting people greater than other natural disasters. The number of people killed in flood in the last decade is far more than those killed because of other calamities like earthquakes and others.

In India such damages due to flood are partly due to faulty town planning, poor training and bad waste disposal system. Moreover, there is the impact of climate change and particularly in the mountainous region, the threat of floods is more. If we talk in general, in India it is a perennial problem that we have floods in one part of the country and at the same time drought in another part of the country. People suffer due to both. We are not able to channelise the excess water due to floods in one part and take it to other parts where there is severe drought.

Sir, there are solutions to this problem. Before I come to interlinking of rivers, I would like to say a word about rainwater harvesting. The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the able leadership of honourable Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has adopted the system of rainwater harvesting which

is a huge success throughout the State. Due to rainwater harvesting, it is seen that the level of the groundwater table has increased and saline water entering the ground in the coastal areas has stopped.

Here, I would like to remind the House that the hon. Prime Minister of India has appreciated the efforts taken by the honorable Puratchi Thalaivi Amma when he was replying to the President's Address this year.

Similarly, after Tsunami struck Tamil Nadu's coastal villages, honourable Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took effective steps in relief measures with the result that people were rehabilitated within a very short time. This was again appreciated very much by the people of Tamil Nadu.

Similarly, when the North-East monsoon caused damages in Tamil Nadu in the month of October, 2014, under the able guidance of honourable Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Government of Tamil Nadu immediately ordered relief and rehabilitation measures.

In order to find a solution to this problem, I feel that the Government of India has to take a very bold decision and nationalize all the rivers of the country. Presently, the subject of water is in the State List whereas national waterways is in the Union List. It is high time that we bring it under the Central List or at least the Concurrent list so that some effective action could be taken at the Centre for the benefit of the nation as a whole.

Many States are facing this problem. Rather, the entire world is facing this problem. There are articles mentioning the quotes of experts who have estimated that by 2030, in some developing countries, water demand will exceed water supply by 50 per cent. It means that by 2030, there will be no water for drinking purpose. These are alarming situations and therefore, we need to conserve and preserve water for future generations.

So, interlinking of rivers is absolutely necessary to tackle constant drought and flood problem. We have long distance intrabasin transfer of water for over five centuries. We have the examples of Periyar Project, Parambikulam-Aliyar Project, Kurnool-Cuddappah Canal and Telugu-Ganga Project in the southern part of India. Similarly, in the northern part, we have the Indus Basin and Rajasthan Canals. These examples go to show that they have not caused any environmental damage but have contributed substantially to environment and livelihood.

I understand that all the concerned States have to accept the proposal for interlinking of rivers to thrash out issues and take a final decision so that we may put an end to the water crisis permanently.

It requires huge funding, no doubt but once done, it could permanently solve the water problem of the country. This only needs courage and bold steps. I hope the present Government would take these steps for the benefit of the nation.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, honourable Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has urged the Centre to implement the linking of Mahanadi-Godavari-Krishna-Pennar-Palar-Cauvery on to Gundar as also the diversion of water of the west flowing rivers of Pamba and Achankoil to Vaippar in Tamil Nadu under the Integrated Peninsular Rivers Development Programme. This linkage would solve the perennial problem of farm irrigation and drinking water needs of the people in the southern parts of the country.

So, I request the Government to kindly allot sufficient funds to prepare a Detailed Project Report for this purpose.

I understand that the hon. Minister is fully aware of the advantages of interlinking of rivers. So, I hope that the hon. Minister would take care of this problem. I think I need not elaborate further on this subject.

With these words, I thank you, Sir.

DR. KAKOLI GHOSH DASTIDAR (BARASAT): Mr. Chairman Sir, I thank you for allowing me to take part in this very serious discussion under Rule 193 regarding the disasters affecting our country over the past few years.

Due to uncontrolled carbon emission and damage to the ozone layer, destabilization of the climatic characteristics is taking place all over the world but mostly, it is going to affect our country whose carbon footprint is much less than other countries which are having much bigger carbon footprints. This is a very important issue because disaster might strike any time. Its extent might be much larger than epidemic diseases because the air that we breathe is going to be toxic, and the water that we might use flowing down the rivers will be toxic. As the hon. Member was just mentioning, there might be a shortage of water up to fifty per cent. So, this is a very important issue that is being discussed today.

Over the past few decades we have seen tsunami, we have seen the Phailin, the Aila, and the Hudhud. Our neighbouring country was affected by the Mahasen. Before that we had the cloud burst in Uttarakhand and Leh.

We had the Parliamentary Forum on Disaster Management, about which hon. Member, Dr. Shashi Tharoor made a mention. After him I was the Convenor of that Forum. We used to regularly meet to discuss these issues. After tsunami, the Disaster Management Act was passed in 2005 by this august House. In that provisions were kept to take care of situations when natural calamities would hit. But disaster is not only natural calamity, not only incessant rain or flood or cloud burst or drought. Disaster might be medical in nature as certain parts of the world are seeing it in the form of ebola virus; disaster might be nuclear; disaster might be biological though we are not discussing those issues today. But keeping in mind the different types of disasters that might hit the country and will affect the citizens adversely, I have this pertinent question coming up whether the disaster being looked after by the Home Ministry is sufficient or do we need a separate Ministry to look at these issues so that we can address them properly.

The provisions of the Act passed in 2005 look orphaned because, as many hon. Members have been mentioning, we are headless now as far as this Authority goes. Our hon. Prime Minister has primarily become non-resident these days and has important foreign issues to address, has no time for these small matters affecting the people of our country. We have lost thousands of lives; we have lost lakhs of hectares of agricultural land; and we have lost millions by way of cattle head.

I would like to point out here that the Act had provisions for rescue and relief, but there was no provision for rehabilitation. It is true that the

efforts of the scientists who had come out with the early warning systems are laudable and the INSAT-3D performed very well. The whole path of the Hudhud cyclone had been set in advance in forecast, the speed of the cyclone, and the air speed had been forecast. With the result people could be shifted from their homes.

A report of the United Nations says that only in the year 2013, that is last year – only in one year – more than two million Indians had to be shifted. They had to leave their homes and go elsewhere due to natural calamities which is a very big number considering worldwide it was 22 million over ten years. So, India is being affected adversely. Nearly 40 million hectares of land is flood prone in India. Out of the landmass in India which falls under the seismic zone, 11 per cent is very very high damage risk zone; 18 per cent is high damage risk zone; 30 per cent has moderate damage risk zone; and 41 per cent is low damage risk zone. Even a serious earthquake will cause such difficulties to people in which they will lose their lives, and properties. Even if they are shifted from one place to another, they are not rehabilitated. The clause for rehabilitation is not included in the Disaster Management Act. The National Disaster Management Authority is lying headless at the moment.

I would like to know from the Government whether the Government is going to think in terms of having a separate Ministry, whether the Government is going to think in terms of addressing these issues, and whether it is going to fill up the posts which are lying vacant. Then only the people of the country will know whether the Government is serious or not regarding these disasters.

When the Disaster Management Act was formulated, when the points were included, the themes included were medical preparedness for mass casualty, psychological support, incident response system and the National Disaster Management Information System. Every point of the above mentioned is lacking.

As we have seen, as I mentioned earlier, I had been in the Parliamentary Forum on Disaster Management as the Convenor. After the cloudburst in Uttarakhand, people were suffering due to lack of Orthopaedic Surgeons. It is a very practical issue. When the cloudburst occurred, when they were swept away, when bones were broken, the Orthopaedic Surgeons were not available. They had to be flown from Delhi. The Government had flown the Orthopaedic Surgeons from Delhi to perform operations. As it is, the whole country knows that the country lacks the required number of medical practitioners and medical help counsellors. To top it all, if there is a situation like this, then, doctors are in great demand who are not available at the State or the district level. So, if we have a separate Ministry, if we have a separate group of doctors and specialists who can take care of this, it will help a great deal. Children were being born in the rain, in the open during such situations of calamity. So, this is such an important issue that the Government should pay more heed to do this. We should really take up this serious issue.

Sir, we were talking about the issue of Kashmir which faced with severe flood in which 282 people were killed. The Hudhud cyclone, which hit Andhra Pradesh and Odisha at 195 km. per hour of speed, killed 67 people in Andhra Pradesh and 50 people in Odisha. Though the amount of loss ran into millions of rupees, yet the hon. Prime Minister declared only Rs.1000 crore as relief out of which only a part payment has been made. The demand of the State Government is Rs.21,640 crore. The Odisha Government has requested Rs.777 crore. So, these amounts have not been made available. Whether the Government is serious about rehabilitation of the disturbed people's life remains a big question if we look at these figures. The cattle loss is so huge. We know that India's economy, particularly in the rural areas, is cattle-dependent, livestock-dependent. So, if this is lost, then, people do not find means of livelihood. So, if they are serious about assisting the people of the country, they have to take care of rehabilitation along with rescue and relief measures. This is to remain with the Government and not to be dependent on the Army in serious situations so that immediate action can be taken.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

**श्री चन्द्रकांत खैरे (औरंगाबाद) :** महोदय, देश के विभिन्न भागों में तथा जम्मू-कश्मीर में वर्षा और बाढ़ आई है। आंध्र प्रदेश और ओडिशा में हुद-हुद चक्रवात और महाराष्ट्र में सूखे के संदर्भ में प्राकृतिक आपदा के बारे में सूचना आई है, उसके बारे में संसद में शिव सेना की ओर से बोलने के लिए मैं खड़ा हुआ हूँ। आज कैसी परिस्थिति आ गई है कि पर्यावरण में आकस्मिक परिवर्तन हो रहा है और यह घोर आपदा का कारण बन चुका है। किसी जगह बहुत ज्यादा बाढ़ आ रही है और उसी समय कई जगहों पर सूखा पड़ रहा है। पहले ऐसा होता था कि चार महीने जून से सितम्बर तक वर्षा आती थी और ऐसे ही चार-चार महीने दूसरे सीजन आते थे।

महोदय, मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि देश में ऐसा हो रहा है कि मौसम लगातार बदलता जा रहा है। महाराष्ट्र में मराठवाड़ा, विदर्भ की हालत बहुत खराब होती जा रही है, यहां मैं आपको यह कहना चाहता हूँ। आज कई जगह सुनामी आ रही है, कई जगह बाढ़ आ रही है और हमारे यहां सूखा पड़ रहा है। इस परिस्थिति में केन्द्र सरकार को किसानों की ज्यादा मदद करनी चाहिए। जो आपदाग्रस्त लोग हैं, उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए, यह आपके माध्यम से मेरी सरकार से मांग है। आज गरीब लोग मर रहे हैं। कोई आत्महत्या कर रहा है तो किसी के पास खाने के लिए नहीं है। उनकी हालत बहुत खराब होती जा रही है। इसके लिए उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए और उनके जीवन को सुधारना चाहिए। यह मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से विनती करूंगा कि सरकार को ऐसा करना चाहिए।

सर, हमारे मराठवाड़ा, विदर्भ में सूखे की बहुत भयानक परिस्थिति है। 24-25 नवंबर को शिव सेना के प्रेसिडेंट माननीय उद्धव ठाकरे जी के साथ हम सारे सांसद और महाराष्ट्र के हमारे 63 विधायक मराठवाड़ा विभाग के गांव-गांव में होकर आए हैं। उस समय की स्थिति ऐसी थी कि कई लोग तो आत्महत्या कर चुके। आज की परिस्थिति में किसी की फसल नहीं हुई, वहां बरसात नहीं हुई, इस कारण मराठवाड़ा में 402 लोगों ने आत्महत्या की है। उनके पास कुछ नहीं था, वे अपना कर्ज कैसे अदा करेंगे, इस कारण उन सारे किसानों ने आत्महत्या की। उनके पीछे उनके बाल-बच्चे आज भूखे मर रहे हैं। माननीय उद्धव जी के नेतृत्व में वहां जाने के बाद हम लोगों ने अपनी पार्टी की तरफ से उनकी मदद की। जिन 402 लोगों ने आत्महत्या की, उसमें से 220 लोगों को महाराष्ट्र सरकार की ओर से एक लाख रुपये प्रति परिवार दिया गया। मैं आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से यह विनती करूंगा कि यह जो मराठवाड़ा में 402 लोगों ने आत्महत्या की, और विदर्भ में अलग से प्रति पीड़ित व्यक्ति या परिवार को कम से कम पांच लाख रुपये देना चाहिए। उनकी पूरी फसल खत्म हो गयी। उनके खेत में कुछ नहीं बचा है। इसलिए उनके ऋण को अदा करने के लिए केन्द्र सरकार को उन्हें कुछ पैकेज देना चाहिए। केन्द्र सरकार को महाराष्ट्र सरकार को इसके लिए कम से कम 2000 करोड़ रुपये का पैकेज देना चाहिए।

महाराष्ट्र सरकार ने केन्द्र सरकार से विनती की है। उनका प्रस्ताव केन्द्र सरकार के पास आएगा। हम सारे सांसद हमारे मंत्री अनंत गीते जी के नेतृत्व में हमारे कृषि मंत्री जी से मिले। हमने कृषि मंत्री जी को वहां की सारी भूमिका बतायी कि महाराष्ट्र के मराठवाड़ा, विदर्भ के किसान मर रहे हैं, वे आत्महत्या कर रहे हैं। उन्हें रोकने के लिए केन्द्र



सरकार को भरपूर मदद करनी चाहिए, उन्हें अनुदान देना चाहिए। जो भी अनुदान देंगे, उसे प्रधान मंत्री की जो प्रधान मंत्री जन धन योजना है, उसमें डायरेक्टली उन्हें पेमेंट मिलना चाहिए। कलक्टर ऑफिस, तहसील ऑफिस, विभागीय ऑफिस में लोग चक्कर काटते हैं, लेकिन उन्हें पैसा नहीं मिलता है। इसलिए प्रधान मंत्री जन धन योजना में जहां-जहां किसानों ने बैंकों में अपना जो खाता खोला है, उनके खाते में यह पैसा डायरेक्टली आना चाहिए। ऐसा मेरी आपके माध्यम से केन्द्र सरकार से मांग है। इसमें मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि अगर सूखाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में हम कुछ न कर पाएँ तो फिर आगे उसमें फसल कैसे तैयार हो पाएगी?

छत्रपति शिवाजी महाराज यह कहते थे कि अगर किसान ज़िंदा रहे तो प्रजा ज़िंदा रह सकती है, अगर प्रजा ज़िंदा रहे तो फिर राजा उनका राज्य चला सकता है। इसलिए इस स्थिति में अगर हमने किसानों की मदद नहीं की तो आगे हम लोग क्या खाएंगे, यह आगे के लिए बहुत बड़ी समस्या आने वाली है।

सर, हमारे मराठवाड़े में जो बारिश हुई है, वह 414 मिली मीटर से कम बारिश हुई है। वर्ष 2013 में जो बरसात हुई, वह 854 मिली मीटर हुई थी। इसका मतलब इस बार बारिश पिछले साल के मुकाबले 50औं कम हुई। इसलिए आपको उनकी मदद करनी चाहिए। हम यह कहेंगे कि पूरे के पूरे 76 जो मराठवाड़ा के ताल्लुक हैं, उनमें यह परिस्थिति है। इसके लिए आपको पूरी मदद करनी चाहिए। कलेक्टर ऑफिस और तहसील ऑफिस से आने वाले लोगों को पचास पर्सेन्ट से ज्यादा बता देते हैं, जिससे उनको कोई मदद नहीं मिलती है। आज की परिस्थिति है कि मराठवाड़ा के सारे गांव और लोग परेशानी में हैं। मराठवाड़ा के 8850 गांवों में पचास पर्सेन्ट से भी कम वर्षा हुयी है। वहां बहुत बड़ा अकाल पड़ा है। मैं आपके माध्यम से सरकार से कहूंगा कि जो यह कठिन समस्या का निर्माण हुआ है, इसका अगर सामना करना है तो केन्द्र सरकार के माध्यम से ही मदद हो सकती है। स्टेट गवर्नमेंट की तरफ से मदद मिलने का कोई चान्स नहीं है। तीन लाख करोड़ का कर्ज पिछली गवर्नमेंट्स के कारण जनता के ऊपर और राज्य के ऊपर पड़ा है, तो वे सहायता कहां से देंगे? इसलिए स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के ऊपर निर्भर न रहकर, केन्द्र सरकार के माध्यम से यहां मदद मिलनी चाहिए, मैं इसके लिए अनुरोध करूंगा। मराठवाड़ा क्षेत्र में पचास लाख जानवर हैं। आज उनके लिए चारा नहीं है। चारा की व्यवस्था भी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के माध्यम से होनी चाहिए। ऐसा मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहूंगा। आज की परिस्थिति बहुत कठिन व भयानक है।

महोदय, मैं महाराष्ट्र के सूखा प्रभावित जिलों के बारे में बताना चाहूंगा। जैसे हमारे सम्भाजीनगर, औरंगाबाद, जालना, नांदेड, बीड, लातूर, उस्मानाबाद, परभणी, हिंगोली सबसे ज्यादा सूखे से प्रभावित हैं। उसी प्रकार से विदर्भ के अकोला, अमरावती, बुलडाणा, वाशीम, यवतमाल, नागपुर, वर्धा, भंडारा, चंद्रपुर तथा पश्चिम महाराष्ट्र के सतारा, अहमदनगर और उत्तर महाराष्ट्र में नासिक, धुले और जलगांव सहित 22 जिले प्रभावित हैं। इसलिए अस्सी प्रतिशत महाराष्ट्र में अकाल घोषित होना चाहिए।

हमारे यहां इतना बड़ा सूखा पड़ा, लेकिन राज्य सरकार की ओर से पूरा सूखा डिक्लेयर नहीं किया गया, क्योंकि पूरा सूखा डिक्लेयर करने के बाद जो मदद देनी चाहिए, उतनी राशि उनके पास नहीं है, वह राशि सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ही दे सकती है। सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के माध्यम से हम लोग यह मांग करते हैं कि माननीय कृषि मंत्री जी के नेतृत्व में एक टीम भेजी जाए, हम लोग भी उनके साथ जाएंगे। हम उन्हें बतायेंगे कि यहां कैसा अकाल पड़ा है, कैसा सूखा है और इसमें मदद करनी चाहिए। इसकी जानकारी हम उनको देंगे। मैंने मराठवाड़ा और विदर्भ के जिन 22 जिलों के बारे में बताया, उनकी मदद की जानी चाहिए।

सभापति जी, मैं आपके माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि महाराष्ट्र में बिजली का बहुत संकट है। हाल ही में केन्द्र सरकार के मंत्री महोदय, एनर्जी मिनिस्टर ने एक मीटिंग 4 तारीख को बुलायी। उसमें उन्होंने कहा कि आप अपने-अपने विभाग की समस्या बताइए। यह एक अच्छा कदम गोयल जी ने उठाया है। किसानों को बिजली कितनी मिलती है? उनको चार या पांच घंटे ही बिजली मिलती है। किसान खेती कैसे करेगा? उसको जब पानी नहीं मिलेगा तो वह कैसे खेती करेगा? इस कारण उसके ऊपर ऋण बढ़ता जा रहा है। वह ऋण अदा करने की स्थिति में नहीं होता है तो फिर वह आत्महत्या करने के लिए प्रवृत्त होता है। वह कर्ज के कारण आत्महत्या कर रहा है। अगर वह आत्महत्या करेगा तो उसके बाल-बच्चों का क्या होगा? महाराष्ट्र में जिन 22 जिलों में सूखा पड़ा है, वहां के किसानों के लिए बिजली के बिल माफ किए जाएं, उनको बिजली मुफ्त दी जाए और उनको कम से कम 10 से 15 घंटे बिजली मिलनी चाहिए। इस प्रकार की सुविधा वहां होनी चाहिए।

दूसरी बात, जो पैकेज हम लोग केन्द्र सरकार की ओर से मांग रहे हैं, उनको दो हजार करोड़ का पैकेज यहां देना चाहिए जिससे मराठवाड़ा, विदर्भ और बाकी के अन्य जिलों में एक बहुत बड़ी मदद हो सकती है। आत्महत्या करने वाले किसानों को भी मदद मिलनी चाहिए। पांच लाख रूपए प्रति फेमिली और सूखाग्रस्त किसानों को प्रति एकड़ सहायता दी जाए। जब हम उद्धव जी के साथ वहां जा रहे थे, तो वहां खेती में कुछ भी पैदा नहीं हो रहा था। उनका एक एकड़ पर सोयाबीन का साठ हजार रूपए खर्च आया और पांच हजार रूपए भी उनको मिलने वाले नहीं हैं। अभी उन लोगों ने डिमांड की है कि गन्ने का मूल्य भी 3500 रूपए प्रति टन होना चाहिए। शूगरकेन फैक्ट्री वालों ने भी 1700 रूपए, 1800 रूपए या 2000 रूपए के भाव से गन्ना खरीदा है। राजीव शेट्टी जी सदन में बैठे हैं, उन्होंने एक बड़ा आंदोलन किया था। सभी लोग आंदोलन करते हैं। शिवसेना और बी.जे.पी. आंदोलन करती है। आजकल कांग्रेस भी आंदोलन कर रही है। एन.सी.पी. भी आंदोलन कर रही है। एन.सी.पी. के पास कई कारखाने हैं, लेकिन उनको भी आंदोलन करना पड़ रहा है। उन्होंने अपने जमाने में आंदोलन नहीं किया था। मैं यह कहूंगा कि किसानों को सीधा फायदा होना चाहिए। अगर गन्ने का मूल्य 3500 रूपए प्रति टन होगा तो उनको फायदा मिलेगा। ... (व्यवधान)

सर, कपास का भाव एक-दो साल पहले 6000 रूपए प्रति क्विंटल था, लेकिन आज कपास की उपज भी कम हुई है, वहां पानी की कमी के कारण कपास की फसल कम हुई है और उनलोगों को जो भाव मिलना चाहिए, वह नहीं मिलता है। सी.सी.आई. ने हमारे कुछ केन्द्रों पर कपास का रेट 4000 रूपए प्रति क्विंटल रखा है, जबकि पिछली बार उन्होंने कपास का रेट 5000 रूपए प्रति क्विंटल रखा था। इस बार उन्होंने कपास की कीमत 1000 रूपए कम कर दी है। हम आपके माध्यम से सी.सी.आई. जो सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट के अंडर है, से कहना चाहते हैं, कि कपास की कीमत प्रति क्विंटल 6000 रूपए होनी चाहिए तो किसानों को राहत मिलेगी। गांवों में गाय, बैल, भेड़, बकरी, सभी जानवरों के लिए चारे की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए। अगर उनके लिए चारे की व्यवस्था नहीं होगी तो सारे जानवर मर जाएंगे और खेती के लिए जानवर नहीं बचेंगे। ... (व्यवधान)

सर, 22 जिलों के स्कूलों और कॉलेज में जितने बच्चे हैं, उन विद्यार्थियों की फीस भी माफ होनी चाहिए। उनकी सिर्फ फीस ही नहीं माफ होनी चाहिए बल्कि उनकी ट्यूशन फीस भी माफ होनी चाहिए। ... (व्यवधान) एक बार मुख्यमंत्री जी हमारे यहां आए थे। ... (व्यवधान) 10वीं और 12वीं कक्षा के विद्यार्थियों की ही फीस माफ होनी चाहिए बल्कि उनके आगे की कक्षाओं के विद्यार्थियों की भी फीस माफ होनी चाहिए। शिवसेना और बी.जे.पी. के शासन के समय में, जब हम लोग मंत्री थे तो महाराष्ट्र कृषि के क्षेत्र में नम्बर एक पर था। इसके बाद कांग्रेस के शासन में यह बहुत पीछे चला गया। अगर एक पैकेज केन्द्र सरकार ने नहीं दिया, महाराष्ट्र को यह सुविधा नहीं मिली तो वह और पीछे चला जाएगा। कृषि के क्षेत्र में गुजरात नम्बर एक पर आ गया है और महाराष्ट्र 16 नम्बर पर है। अगर ये सब मदद आपदा के नाम पर मिलेगी तब ही वहां के किसान बच सकते हैं। मैं आपसे यह विनती करता हूँ।

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. It is nearing 4 p.m. I want your full assurance that you will let me complete my speech.

Thank you for bringing up this issue. I would also like to thank the Government for bringing up this issue for discussion in this august House. Many of my senior Members have already spoken on this issue. To continue on that, I would like to say that I am from Srikakulam constituency which is also one of the affected regions of the Hudhud cyclone. Based on my experience, I would like to add some points to this ongoing discussion.

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of October, 2014, the Indian Sub-continent was struck by one of the most fierce and deadliest cyclones ever in history. The Hudhud cyclone, with speeds crossing up to 200 kilometres per hour and also torrential rain, posed a serious threat to anything that has come in its way. It is very unfortunate that it has struck at the very heart of one of the most beautiful cities in India, which is Visakhapatnam.

**16.00 hrs.**

This cyclone has also affected other districts of Northern Andhra Pradesh which are Srikakulam, Vizianagaram, East Godavari and other parts of Odisha. The cyclone has caused extensive damage to the public and private properties, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries, animal husbandry, handloom and textile in this region. Along with this, public infrastructures like road, building, irrigation, drinking water and power were also heavily damaged.

Before I continue further, I would like to break down this cyclone into two phases. One phase is 'before the cyclone' and another is 'after the cyclone'. These two phases pose very different kind of challenges both to the public and the Government. The Government has to take utmost care and attention in dealing with these two phases to achieve successful results.

If we talk about the first phase of the Hudhud Cyclone, on behalf of the State Government and the people of my Constituency, I would like to thank some people. The first would be the Indian Meteorological Department for doing a tremendous job in accurately predicting as to when the cyclone is going to hit; what it is going to hit at; and with what intensity it is going to hit at. So with this before hand information, the State Government and the Central Government had adequate time for advance preparation and to take on relief activities.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Central Government for providing full assistance in the form of NDRF, Army and the Navy teams and other equipments which will help in relief and rescue efforts. Other than that, I would also like to thank the media for doing a good job in educating the people along the coastline of Andhra Pradesh and also telling them about the severity of this cyclone. With all these help from all these sectors, the State Government under the leadership of Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu has deployed all its teams to most affected places. They have taken appropriate measures. They have held 223 relief camps across four districts of Northern Andhra Pradesh. About 1.35 lakh people were evacuated from low lying areas of Andhra Pradesh. That is the reason why today we see the human loss is reduced to the minimum. Even though the cyclone has occurred with such severity, there has been a minimum loss of human lives. In spite of the best efforts from all these sectors, 61 deaths have been recorded due to the severity of this cyclone. Through you, I would like to pay my tributes to the deceased and offer my condolences to the families of the deceased.

When we move to the second phase that is 'after the cyclone', it is a very heartbreaking picture to look at Visakhapatnam. The damage that this cyclone has done was unprecedented and unimaginable. The city of Vizag was completely devastated. Thousands of trees were uprooted; electricity poles were broken; electricity was completely disrupted to the Northern Andhra Pradesh; eventually communication also was collapsed; drinking water was unavailable; roads were blocked; and people were stranded in their homes. If you look at the statistics, around 137 *mandals* across four districts were affected; around 3.3 lakh hectares of crop area was damaged; about 40,379 houses were damaged; 4,777 small and big animals were lost; and 6,929 kilometres of road was damaged.

Seeing all this, our hon. Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu, who is very much committed to the upliftment of the people of Andhra Pradesh, has come immediately, within 24 hours, to the city of Visakhapatnam. He has held numerous meetings with local officials and with the local representatives. He was constantly doing review meetings and teleconferences. He was visiting the fields to know the activities and requirements of the people. For eight days he has stayed in the city of Visakhapatnam. What had seemed impossible, he has made it possible. The relief efforts were also done with due care. Around 6,000 fallen trees were immediately cleared and transportation was restored. Drinking water was supplied through water tankers. There was a problem of black marketing of essential commodities including diesel which was also taken care of with strict monitoring. Essential commodities were distributed to all the affected families without any discrimination. Likewise, weavers and fishermen were given 50 kilograms of rice. Severely affected families were given 25 kgs of rice and partially affected families were given 10 kgs of rice along with other essential commodities.

I would also like to thank the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, who has come within 36 hours of the cyclone to the city of Visakhapatnam and it has uplifted the spirits of the people of Visakhapatnam. He has also immediately announced a package of Rs.1,000 crore for the damages that has happened. Out of that, a sum of Rs.400 crore has already been given. I would request the Central Government to give the rest of amount of Rs.600 crore at the earliest.

Sir, when you try to capture the extent of damage in terms of the natural disaster, it is a very difficult and gigantic task but the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is very determined to provide relief to all the affected families in a fair and just manner. So, enumeration reports have been prepared with a lot of transparency by using the technology. The damaged houses, agricultural land and other properties were all geo-tagged and photographs were taken so as to avoid any kind of discrepancies. Aadhaar cards and bank accounts of the affected people were also taken so that when compensation is given, there would not be any influence or any middlemen in the distribution of compensation, and the amount would directly go to their bank accounts. That is the idea of our Chief Minister, Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu garu. Also the State Government has prepared a very detailed report on the Hudhud cyclone. It has been sent to the Government of India also. In that report, as per the preliminary estimates, the total loss of Rs. 21,640 crore was estimated. I would request the Central Government also to provide adequate assistance from their side because if you look at the State of Andhra Pradesh, which is a newly born State with old name and the State is in a financial back step right

now. Our State actually needs all the financial assistance right now.

Other than that, Sir, I have a very few suggestions. I come from Srikakulam constituency. I am a very young Member and I have a very little political experience but I have a lot of experience in respect of cyclone. In the last two years, I have experienced three cyclones – Nilam cyclone in 2012; Phailin cyclone in 2013 and Hudhud cyclone in 2014. So, I shall try to give some suggestions.

The first suggestion is that insurance should be mainstreamed and it has to be encouraged. We already have the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme but a lot of the farmers are not using it which is again posing a risk to the Government. Whenever a disaster is happening, the Government is taking care of compensation and other things. But if we try to divert that by taking insurance, the risk can be managed better.

My next suggestion is that retail loans have to be given to individuals in order to continue their livelihood right after the disaster takes place. This can be provided to street vendors and normal BPL families.

Sir, the farmers in my constituency have been on the losing side for the past three years because of these three cyclones. Especially, coconut farmers are very different from paddy farmers. If the paddy farmers lose their crop this year, they can plant a new crop next year but the coconut farmers have to wait ten years for the plant to grow and for it to reach production. If they lose one tree of that kind, they will be losing their whole livelihood. They have these plants like their children. There was a lot of loss for coconut farmers during the Phailin cyclone. The then Government kept the compensation. They have a lot of hopes on the State Government right now and also on the Central Government. I would like to urge the Central Government to pick up the Phailin cyclone compensation also and to give it as early as possible. These people are waiting for getting the compensation.

Srikakulam has 170 kms of coastline along the Andhra Pradesh. There are a lot of fishermen. Whenever a cyclone comes, the first people to get affected are fishermen and their villages. There are a lot of *kacha* houses in these villages. The Government has to take up an initiative for converting these *kacha* houses into *pacca* houses. They have to use considerable technologies and should be made cyclone-proof because we are advancing.

Also the Government has to construct good cyclone shelters. These cyclone shelters have been present for 15, 20 years. When we try to move the local people to these cyclone shelters, they told us that their *kacha* houses are better than these cyclone shelters. That is the stage of these cyclone shelters. There has to be a special scheme to improve all the cyclone shelters. They are in very dilapidated condition. So, they have to be reconstructed. It is necessary for future also.

Many of the hon. Members have given suggestions about the NDMA. The NDMA has to be taken very, very seriously. Today, the cyclones and other kinds of disasters have been happening all over the country. There have been cyclones, floods, droughts, cloudbursts, earthquakes, landslides, which have been happening at a very severe stage.

We are seeing that with the global climatic changes also, these cyclones and disasters are getting more severe and more common. So, the NDMA has to be taken very, very seriously. The people working in it should be very apt for the organisation; and it has to be very considerate. If possible, it has to be given a status of a Ministry. That is a very small concern from my side.

In the end, I would just take this opportunity to salute the people of Visakhapatnam. They have withstood one of the deadliest cyclones ever. Once again, with strong hope, I would like to salute the people of Visakhapatnam.

Thank you very much.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : The discussion under Rule 193 will continue next time.