

Title: Need to provide grants to the flood affected areas of coastal Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER (TENALI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise with distress, a little bit of frustration and unhappiness to bring to the notice of this House the neglect that is taking place in respect of the relief that should be given to those who have been affected by the floods in coastal Andhra.

My constituency has been very badly affected. It is evident that even the last cyclone affected your constituency, Amalapuram, which had been very badly affected. What has happened is that the life of the cultivators, the wage-earners and the poor people, particularly those who live in the Lankas, has become highly miserable. So far as the Government is concerned, with reference to the compensation for crops, they are giving Rs.1250 per hectare which means that only Rs.500 per acre is given which is highly insufficient. They are suffering from loan burden. They did not have proper seeds. They do not even have the fertilizers. The roads are out of order. The authorities have not been able to put up the roads properly. The situation is that in the case of the poor people, the Scheduled Caste people, the Scheduled Tribe people, the Backward Class people and even the poor in the upper castes, who have lost their houses, what has been given is only rupees one thousand for such houses which have been completely lost. In respect of the damaged houses, only Rs.500 is given. If they have lost their utensils, Rs.500 is given. If they have lost their clothes, Rs.500 is given. This is the help that has been given and the resultant effect is that the people are still suffering. The relief measures are not properly worked out and people are not in a position to return to normal life.

Sir, I would like to bring to your kind notice that I have written a letter and personally delivered it to the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh and also to the hon. Prime Minister. I made a request to the hon. Prime Minister that under the Indira Awas Yojana the entire amount is given by the Centre for the purpose of constructing the houses for the poor people and I request that 150 houses in each Lanka may be constructed so that the poor people may have at least the residential facility. Sir, nothing is being done. So far as the poor people are concerned, relief measures are not reaching them.

I would also like to bring to your kind notice that the wage-earners had been going without any work for a long time. For two to three months, they are without any work. They earn, they spend, and they live. They are not earning and the resultant effect is that there had been debts and people are suffering. In the present circumstances, when there is no relief for weeks and people are suffering like that, my only concern is to bring this fact to the notice of this hon. House so that the House realises this issue.

The Government of India has given a grant of Rs.200 crore. So far as the people of Andhra Pradesh are concerned, we are still feeling that this is a grant and it is not an advance. I requested the hon. Prime Minister to clarify whether this is a grant. Nothing has been said so far. So far as Andhra Pradesh is concerned, there is already a great burden on us. This Rs.200 crore is not much for the Government of India. They could have just declared that it is a grant, which they are not doing it till date. So far as the Government of India is concerned, they have sent the officers for the purposes of finding out and to assess as to what is the extent of damage that has taken place and they have submitted a report. What had happened to that report? So far, nothing is known. My submission is that there should be a proper monitoring of the relief work to the poor people. Relief is not reaching them.

I am constrained to submit, Sir, that even in respect of the relief that is being granted, it is regretful to say that - I have gone myself there - on more than one occasion I have found that those who are supposed to be the voters of the Congress, they are not being helped. This is unfortunate. We cannot thrive on calamities. ... (Interruptions)

>SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (SRIKAKULAM): You take the information of the whole country, you will find that the Government of Andhra Pradesh is doing the best. They are paying Rs.1250 per hectare. Nowhere in the whole country, this much amount is being paid. You collect the particulars. (Interruptions) This is not correct. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. SHIV SHANKER : Shri Naidu, I have not made an allegation against you or your Government. What I am saying is that the officers who are expected to help out the people, who are expected to extend their hands for the purpose of giving relief to the people, they are not providing relief to the people who are supporters of Congress party. Or where there are likely to be Congress voters, they are not providing relief. I am saying this with all the responsibility. I take the responsibility because my constituency is a vastly affected constituency.... (Interruptions) I have gone and met the people. (Interruptions) Sir, nobody can thrive on calamities.

Therefore, my submission is that the Government of India may take interest and provide necessary succour to the Lankas especially because they are affected every time. Therefore, my request would be from Rs.200 crore which I consider it to be a grant - a major portion must go to these areas because every time they are suffering. Coastal Andhra is a very sensitive area where we are getting cyclones every time and the area is getting affected. Unless the Government of India comes to the rescue of the State Government, nothing can be done. I thought that I should bring it to the notice of the House.

>SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET): Sir, as you are aware, in the month of October ... (Interruptions)

* Not recorded

SHRI CHETAN CHAUHAN : Sir, I just want to correct the record. ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have already instructed that this will not go on record.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH (NARASARAOPET): Sir, thank you very much for permitting me to mention about the heavy rains which culminated into floods in Andhra Pradesh. Sir, you are also from Andhra Pradesh and you know it pretty well.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rosaiah, this matter was already raised by Shri Shiv Shankar. It is a State subject. You have also given a notice on the same subject.

SHRI KONIJETI ROSAIAH :> Not one, ten of us have given a notice. This is a very serious matter. The so-called relief is not properly reaching to the actual sufferers. The Government of India's share is up to 75 per cent in the National Calamity Fund. So, the

Government of India also has got a responsibility to look into what is happening in Andhra Pradesh. It is the State Government's job to give assistance. I admit it. But, at the same time, the Government of India cannot shirk from its responsibility and say that the State is looking after all these things and we have no business. It is not like that.

Sir, as you are aware, in East Godavari at the time of blow-up, so many coconut trees were affected. An amount of Rs. 6,000 was paid as compensation. You are also aware what is the compensation paid to the growers of coconut this time. It is only Rs. 155. (Interruptions).

15.00 hrs

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Vaiko.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called Shri Vaiko.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO (SIVAKASI): Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity given to me. ... (Interruptions) Dr. Subbarami Reddy, kindly allow me to make my statement, Mr. Speaker has allowed me. ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA): You have accepted the Motion. ... (Interruptions)