

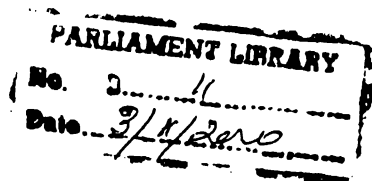
# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

First Session  
(Thirteenth Lok Sabha)



*(Vol. I contains Nos. 1 to 8)*



LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT  
NEW DELHI

Price : Rs. 50.00

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## LOK SABHA

Thursday, October 28, 1999/Kartika 6, 1921 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[MR. SPEAKER in the Chair ]

MEMBER SWORN—Contd

....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Secretary-General may now call Shri Maheshwar Singh to take oath.

Shri Maheshwar Singh (Mandi)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA (Jhabua) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, as a result of hike in diesel price, the farmers are facing lot of problems.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are on the verge of starvation ....(Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Now let us take up item number 2. Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the condition of the country has deteriorated. The farmers are facing lot of problems ....(Interruptions). The Government joined hands with Capitalists ....(Interruptions).

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Sugar mills have been closed ....(Interruptions). Crores of rupees of farmers are outstanding against these mills....(Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the bus fares have been increased by 100% (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : There is some observation from the Chair. Please take your seats.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers are on the verge of starvation. The sugar mills have been closed....(Interruptions). They are being threatened that they will be put behind bars ....(Interruptions). The Government should see to it that they get their dues ....(Interruptions). This matter is very serious ....(Interruptions).

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : You have increased the price of diesel .... (Interruptions)

11.03 hrs.

## BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, as decided in the meeting of the Business Advisory Committee today, the House would take up the discussion under Rule 193 regarding natural calamities immediately after the conclusion of Legislative Business. The Motion of Thanks on the President's Address will be taken up at 2 P.M. The reply to the Motion of Thanks will be tomorrow. The House may sit late today to accommodate the large number of Members who wish to participate in the discussion.

I hope the House agrees.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the bus operators have increased the bus fares by 100%. ....(Interruptions)

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the farmers of Uttar Pradesh are facing lot of problems ....(Interruptions). There should be some arrangement ... (Interruptions).

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take you seats.

....(Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please speak afterwards

....(Interruptions)

11.04 hrs.

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Notification No. S.O. 990 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1999 investing the Railway Board with all the powers and functions of the Central Government under sections 30 and 31 of the Railways Act, 1989, issued under section 2 of the Indian Railway Board Act, 1905.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-34/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Jethmalani I beg to lay on the table :

- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956 :
- (i) The Cost Accounting Records (Tyres and Tubes) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 555(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1999.
  - (ii) The Cost Accounting Records (Electric Fans) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 556(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th July, 1999.
  - (iii) The Cost Accounting Records (Batteries other than Dry Cell Batteries) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 667(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1999.
  - (iv) The Cost Accounting Records (Room Air-conditioners) Amendment Rules, 1999 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 668(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1999.
  - (v) The Cost Accounting Records (Refrigerators) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 669(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1999.
  - (vi) The Cost Accounting Records (Electric Lamps) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 670(E) in Gazette of India dated the 28th September, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-35/99]

MR. SPEAKER : Item Number 4, Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, I am on a Point of order. ....(Interruptions). The assurances were given in the year 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1994 and the statement showing action taken on them is being laid now. Under rules, if an assurance is given on the floor of the House, it has to be implemented within three months ....(Interruptions).

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please take your seat.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following statements (Hindi and English versions) showing action taken by the Government on assurances, promises and undertakings given by the Ministers during the various sessions of Ninth, Tenth, Eleventh and Twelfth Lok Sabha :

### NINTH LOK SABHA

- (1) Statement No. XXIII First, Session, 1989  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-36/99]
- (2) Statement No. XLVI Second Session, 1990  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-37/99]
- (3) Statement No. XXXVIII Third Session, 1990  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-38/99]
- (4) Statement No. XXXII Sixth Session, 1990  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-39/99]

### TENTH LOK SABHA

- (5) Statement No. XLI First Session, 1991  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-40/99]
- (6) Statement No. XXXV Second Session, 1991  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-41/99]
- (7) Statement No. XXXIX Third Session, 1992  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-42/99]
- (8) Statement No. XXXVII Fourth Session, 1992  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-43/99]
- (9) Statement No. XXXI Fifth Session, 1992  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-44/99]



- (10) Statement No. XXXIV Sixth Session, 1993  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-45/99]
- (11) Statement No. XXIX Seventh Session, 1993  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-46/99]
- (12) Statement No. XXIX Eighth Session, 1993  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-47/99]
- (13) Statement No. XXVII Ninth Session, 1994  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-48/99]
- (14) Statement No. XXII Eleventh Session, 1994  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-49/99]
- (15) Statement No. XXI Twelfth Session, 1994  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-50/99]
- (16) Statement No. XIX Thirteenth Session, 1995  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-51/99]
- (17) Statement No. XVI Fourteenth Session, 1995  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-52/99]
- (18) Statement No. XIII Fifteenth Session, 1995  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-53/99]
- (19) Statement No. XI Sixteenth Session, 1996  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-54/99]

**ELEVENTH LOK SABHA**

- (20) Statement No. XI Second Session, 1996  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-55/99]
- (21) Statement No. X Third Session, 1996  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-56/99]
- (22) Statement No. IX Fourth Session, 1997  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-57/99]
- (23) Statement No. VII Fifth Session, 1997  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-58/99]
- (24) Statement No. VII Sixth Session, 1997  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-59/99]

**TWELFTH LOK SABHA**

- (25) Statement No. V First Session, 1998  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-60/99]
- (26) Statement No. V Second Session, 1998  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-61/99]
- (27) Statement No. II Third Session, 1998  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-62/99]
- (28) Statement No. I Fourth Session, 1999  
[Placed in Library. See No. LT-63/99]

*[English]*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, this matter should not be ignored. ....(*Interruptions*). Mr. Speaker Sir, if the Government assurances are implemented after eight or nine years and if you do not take this matter seriously, then all this becomes a ritual. It is not to be treated in a routine manner ....(*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER : No, please take your seat.

....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, the Minister has now made a statement on the implementation of the assurances, after ten years.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, please take your seat.

*[Translation]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINERALS (PROF. RITA VERMA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, on behalf of Shri Muni Lall, I beg to lay on the Table :

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida for the year 1997-98, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute, Noida for the year 1997-98.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (i) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-64/99]

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O.

RAJAGOPAL) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) The Companies (Central Government's) General Rules and Forms (Third Amendment) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 130(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd February, 1999.
- (ii) The Companies (particulars of Employees) (Amendment) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 204(E) in Gazette of India dated the 12th March, 1999.
- (iii) The Companies (Fees on Applications) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 501(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1999.
- (iv) The Private Limited Company and Unlisted Public Limited Company (Buy-back of Securities) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 502(E) in Gazette of India dated the 6th July, 1999.
- (v) The Companies (Fees on Applications) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 578(E) in Gazette of India date the 5th August, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-65/99]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (5) of section 396 of the Companies Act, 1956 :

- (i) The Metropolitan Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd., and the Tamilnadu Urban Finance and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited Amalgamation Order, 1999, published in Notification No. S.O. 182(E) in Gazette of India dated the 23rd March, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-66/99]

- (ii) The Haryana Hotels Limited and the Haryana Tourism Corporation Limited (Amalgamation) Order, 1999, published in Notification No. S.O. 704(E) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-67/99]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 129(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd February, 1999 making certain

alterations in Schedule VI to the Companies Act, 1956, under sub-section (3) of section 641 of the said Act.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-68/99]

- (4) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 282(E) Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated the 23rd April, 1999 denotifying Messers Trikone Mutual Benefits Limited, Lucknow, as a Nidhi, under sub-section (3) of section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-69/99]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR) : Sir, I beg to lay on the Table :

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under section 37 of Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997 :

- (i) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Salaries, Allowances and Conditions of Service of Chairperson and other Members) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 209(E) in Gazette of India dated the 15th March, 1999, together with a corrigendum there to published in Notification No. G.S.R. 678(E) dated the 29th September, 1999.
- (ii) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Procedure for conducting inquiry against a Member) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 210(E) in Gazette of India dated the 16th March, 1999.
- (iii) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Form of Annual Statement of Accounts and Records) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 236(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1999.
- (iv) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Miscellaneous) Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 217(E) in Gazette of India dated the 20th March, 1999.
- (v) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Miscellaneous) Amendment Rules, 1999, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 233(E) in Gazette of India dated the 31st March, 1999.

- (vi) The TRAI (Levy of fees on service rendered, Petitions, Miscellaneous applications and copy of Judgements) Regulation, 1999, published in Notification No. 5-5/98-TRAI (A & R) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 1999.

- (vii) The TRAI 'Meetings for Transaction of Business' Regulation, 1999, published in Notification No. 5-5/98-TRAI (A&R) in Gazette of India dated the 24th March, 1999.
- (viii) The TRAI Staff (Salaries, allowances and other conditions) Regulation, 1999, published in Notification No. 5-3/98-TRAI (A&R) in Gazette of India dated the 5th April, 1999.
- (ix) The Register of Interconnect Agreements Regulations 1999, published in Notification No. 409-1/98-TRAI (Comm.) in Gazette of India dated the 1st September, 1999.
- (x) The Telecommunication Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing) Regulation 1999, published in Notification No. 311-1/99-TRAI (Econ.) in Gazette of India dated the 28th May, 1999.
- (xi) The Telecommunication Interconnection (Charges and Revenue Sharing-First Amendment) Regulation 1999, published in Notification No. 311-1/99-TRAI (Econ.) in Gazette of India dated the 21st September, 1999.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-70/99]

11.06 hrs.

**PAY COMMITTEE ON SCALES OF PAY  
OF THE OFFICERS AND STAFF OF  
RAJYA SABHA AND LOK SABHA  
SECRETARIATS**

**First Report**

[English]

SECRETARY-GENERAL : Sir, the Chairman, Parliamentary Pay Committee presented to the hon. Speaker on the Twelfth Lok Sabha, before its dissolution on 26th April, 1999. The First Report (Hindi and English versions) on Scales of Pay of the Committee appointed to report on the structure of pay, allowances, leave and pensionary benefits for the officers and staff of the Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha Secretariats. The hon. Speaker was pleased to order printing and circulation of the Report under Rule 280 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha.

In accordance with Direction 71A(6) of Directions by the hon. Speaker, I beg to lay a copy of the First Report of

the Committee (Hindi and English versions) on the Table of the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, we take up item number 10.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I have to present the petition. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, I am coming to that item later.

Now, the Minister will introduce some Ministers of the Council of Ministers.

11.07 hrs.

**INTRODUCTION OF MINISTERS**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, with your permission, I wish to introduce to you and through you to the august House, some of my colleagues in the Council of Ministers.

**Ministers of State**

Dr. Vallabhabhai Ramjibhai Kathiriyaa	Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises
Shri Subhash Maharia	Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Development
Shri Babu Lal Marandi	Minister of State in the Ministry of Environment and Forests
Shri Sayed Shahnawaz Hussain	Minister of State in the Ministry of Food Processing
Shri Tapan Sikdar	Minister of State in the Ministry of Communications
Shri Hukumdeo Narayan Yadav	Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the Minister may make the statement.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, before he makes the statement, I would like to submit that we had, with a very agitated mind on discussion on increase in the price of diesel, appealed to the Government to reconsider this and the whole House was speaking in one voice. Even our colleagues from the other side ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rajesh Pilot, we have not yet completed papers to be laid on the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Please understand.

11.10 hrs.

## STATEMENT BY MINISTER

### Recent visit of U.S. Secretary of Energy

(*English*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, on behalf of Minister of External Affairs, I make the statement. The United States Secretary of Energy, Mr. Bill Richardson visited Delhi on 26th October.

Secretary Richardson addressed a CII Conference on Energy, Efficiency and Environment, and interacted with a number of business and industry leaders.

His official programme included meetings with the Minister of Power, Minister of Environment and Forest and Minister of External Affairs.

Delegation level talks were held with representatives of all the concerned Ministries and chaired by the Minister of External Affairs. Secretary Richardson also called on the Prime Minister and handed over a letter from President Clinton addressed to the Prime Minister.

Cooperation in energy and related matters has been an important component of our bilateral relations with the United States. The purpose of Secretary Richardson's visit was to review as well as to provide a renewed thrust to our cooperation in energy and related environmental matters, in a more integrated and focussed manner. The visit provided an opportunity for substantive discussions on these aspects.

We welcome this visit by Mr. Richardson, which is part of the ongoing process of developing a broad-based relationship with the United States, and expanding and diversifying areas of bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit.

During the visit, a Joint Statement on Cooperation in Energy and Related Environmental Aspects was signed. A copy of this Joint Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

\*JOINT STATEMENT ON COOPERATION IN ENERGY AND RELATED ENVIRONMENTAL ASPECTS SIGNED DURING THE VISIT OF MR. BILL RICHARDSON, U.S. SECRETARY OF ENERGY, ON 26TH OCTOBER, 1999

India and the United States of America, the two largest democracies in the world and endowed with abundant natural, scientific and skilled human resources, have a long

history of mutually beneficial cooperation in the fields of science and technology, industry and trade, health and environment and culture and education. The two countries, recognising the immense promise for advancing their social and economic goals through cooperation in the energy sector, have decided to intensify their cooperation in this area.

The two countries recall past cooperation that established the framework for several joint initiatives between the two Governments and their agencies for research and development in the energy sector, as well as stimulated private cooperation in conventional energy projects in India.

The two governments, noting the progress made in these collaborative projects, and recognising the immense opportunities for fruitful cooperation in the energy sector, have decided to further enhance their cooperation in the energy sector such as conventional energy projects, renewable energy, clean coal technology, energy efficiency and related environmental aspects.

They also recognise that future development of energy sector must take into account the growing demand for energy for the importance of judicious utilisation of limited resources of the planet in the most efficient and equitable manner and the need to protect our environment.

India, which was the first country to establish a full-fledged Ministry for Non-conventional Energy Sources, is working to make renewable energy sources a viable and significant part of India's energy supply. India is one of the largest users of wind energy and solar energy in the world and has also made impressive advances in generating energy from wastes. In the field of conventional energy, India is increasingly making fossil fuel energy clean and more efficient.

The United States is taking several major initiatives to meet its energy requirements in an increasingly climate friendly manner. For example, the US Government has set a goal of tripling US use of bio-energy and bio-projects by 2010, which may reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 100 million metric tonnes of carbon. The US Government has ordered every federal agency to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from buildings by 30% by 2010 from 1990 levels. The US Government continues to invest billions of dollar in clean energy and energy efficient technologies and is working with American industry and communities to reduce pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and move to cleaner and healthier energy sources.

The two Governments, in the spirit that characterises their own initiatives to mitigate the impact of energy production on environment and climate, accord high importance to these aspects in their bilateral energy cooperation.

They also resolve to work closely together and with other countries, in keeping with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities, to advance the goal of protecting the people of the world from the threat of climate change, while promoting economic growth.

As the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, the United States recognises its responsibilities to help lead international efforts to address the challenge of climate change. The Kyoto Protocol sets forth a binding emissions target for the United States, which would result in a reduction of roughly 30% from the projected levels in 2008-2012.

The Government of India recognises the need for voluntary "no-regrets measures" at the national level, which will have the additional benefits of dealing with air and water pollution, urban transportation and other important sectors of the domestic economy.

The two Governments agree to cooperate and to work together in appropriate forums for advancing the goals of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, in accordance with the decisions of the Conference of the Parties to the UN in its various sessions.

The Governments of India and the United States agree to co-operate within the framework Conference of Parties and its Subsidiary bodies of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, to work towards early agreement on the elements of the Kyoto Mechanisms.

In particular, the Governments of India and the United States agree that the Kyoto Mechanisms could offer the opportunity to achieve mutually beneficial partnerships between industrialised and developing nations. The Governments of India and the United States resolve to work closely together with other countries to develop agreed international rules and procedures for the Kyoto Mechanisms, including the Clean Development Mechanism.

The Governments of India and the United States, guided by the objective of using the immense opportunities and their vast pool of resources and skills for fruitful cooperation in the Energy sector, in both bilateral and international context, resolve to take appropriate measures to foster private sector energy ventures, cooperation in research and development, and greater utilisation of environment enhancing and climate friendly energy sources and technology for balanced and sustainable economic development.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Please allow me to speak. You cannot run the House in this manner.

MR. SPEAKER : There are two more items, and I will allow you after that. Shri Yashwant Sinha.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, this is a separate item, please understand. I will come to you later.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : My point of order is that in today's Revised List of Business, at Item no. 9, my name is there for presentation of a petition, and according to the Rule Book ....

MR. SPEAKER : I will come to your item also. This is a separate item, please understand.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Okay.

11.12 hrs.

### SECURITIES LAWS (AMENDMENT) BILL \*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992."

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

11.13 hrs.

### SECURITIES LAWS (SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL \*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and the Depositories Act, 1996.

\* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 28.10.99.

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956, the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992 and the Depositories Act, 1996."

*The motion was adopted*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I introduce the Bill.

11.14 hrs.

## INSURANCE REGULATORY AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY BILL\*

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Item No. 13, Shri Yashwant Sinha.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : This is a very controversial measure. We have given notices on this, and we have also given a notice on a very important matter ... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972 ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Motion moved :

" That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972."

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why should a new procedure be followed today? We have given notices on a very important matter. We are not being allowed to speak. We are strongly objecting to it. This is not the procedure.

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing Shri Rupchand Pal to present his petition.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Why is a new procedure being evolved today? We have given notices for 'Zero Hour' matters. This is not the procedure.

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing Shri Rupchand Pal now because unless the Minister introduces the Bill, how can a Member speak?

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I want to raise an important matter today. The House is not there to only accommodate the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : I called Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is not the way. It looks as if this House is only for the Government.

MR. SPEAKER : I called Shri Rupchand Pal.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hoogly) : Sir, I am on a point of order.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have given a notice.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, why do you not call us one by one so that we will sit down?

MR. SPEAKER : I will give my ruling.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, my point of order is that today's revised list of Business, in item no. 9 it was listed that I am to present a petition signed by Shri R.P. Manchanda and others representing the All India Insurance Employees Association, All India LIC Employees Federation, the General Insurance Employees All India Association against the move to privatise the Indian Insurance Industry and opening up of the Insurance Sector to foreign companies through the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999.

It has been put like that in today's Revised List of Business. In the petition itself I have mentioned that there is a strong opposition to this move. I want to present the protest signed by more than 1.5 crore people of this country covering all sections of the society and covering all the States which would be brought in trucks and unloaded for the consideration of the Petition Committee in the Parliament House Annexe today.

Sir, I had met you and appealed to you that before the hon. Minister proceeds with the introduction of the Bill should be allowed to present the petition. It is because as per the petition rule it is said that any matter pending before the House - the matter is pending before the House - and also according to annexure - you could find that in the format, I had submitted that the Minister of the Government should not proceed with the introduction. But my plea, which I had made according to the rules of procedure, has been ignored. The hon. Minister cannot introduce the Bill before I submit the petition. Now I want to present the petition and only after that the Bill can be introduced, which again we shall oppose ... (Interruptions)

\* Published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary Part II, Section 2, dated 28.10.99.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the rule clearly says that a petition can only be presented after the Bill has been introduced ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : No. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, it seems that the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs has some hearing problem ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have allowed Shri Rupchand Pal only. You please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, should I read it from the rule book?.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : The petition has to be against a Bill which is not there. How somebody can present a petition when there is no Bill?.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have a list of names who also have given notices.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am reading from the rule book .... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : How does that asterisk mark come in stating that the petition is to be presented after the introduction of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill 1999 listed at Sl. No. 13 .... (Interruptions) Under what procedure has it been done? .... (Interruptions) under what rule has it been done? .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Somnath babu, I have a list with me.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, there is no question of any list. The Bill is to be introduced after the presentation of the petition .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have a list of 11 names who have also given notices. I am calling those names.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, it was listed at item no. 9 at today's List of Business .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am now calling those names who have given notices.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I should be allowed to read the rule .... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : How can this happen .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seats. Now, I am calling the names of those who have given notices.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, if somebody has to oppose the Bill at the introduction level .... (Interruptions)

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : No, that is different .... (Interruptions)

The Bill can be introduced only after the petition has been presented .... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am reading the rule .... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it was listed at item 9 at today's List of Business .... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I would like to read the rule .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the hon. Minister complete his submission first.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, as per Rule 160, petitions may be presented or submitted to the House with the consent of the Speaker on .... (Interruptions)

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : Hon. Speaker has already given the consent .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister complete.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, Rule 160(i) applies to the present situation. It says, 'a Bill which has been published under Rule 64 or which has been introduced in the House'. When you go to Rule 64, Rule 64 says, 'The Speaker may, on request being made to him, order the publication of any Bill in the Gazette.' .... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : That does not pertain to this. The Minister is misleading the House.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. Let the Minister complete his submission. You can speak when your name is called.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : It is not a question of consent. Our question is entirely different.

MR. SPEAKER : Let the Minister speak please.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, there are three conditions laid down here. One is the consent of the Speaker.

That you have given and I have no objection on that count. The second condition is that the Bill has to be published under Rule 64. This Bill is not published under Rule 64. And the third condition says, 'which has been introduced in the House'. This Bill is not introduced in the House. So, this Bill is neither published under Rule 64 nor introduced in the House. So, no petition against this Bill can be submitted to the House unless this condition is fulfilled .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, it is a matter of grave public importance.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, Shri Rupchand Pal has raised an objection. Let him quote the Rule under which he did so.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Under Rule 160, of which only a part is read out by the Minister, petitions may be presented or submitted to the House with the consent of the Speaker on (i) a Bill which has been published under Rule 64, etc., etc., (ii) any matter connected with the business pending before the House .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : Sir, the hon. Member has omitted that part of the sentence which says, ' which has been introduced in the House'. A petition can be submitted only after the Bill is introduced in the House.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : If they had wanted to make use of Rule 160 (ii) or 160 (iii), they should not have mentioned in their petition that they were submitting it against a Bill. If the petition talks about being submitted against a Bill, that Bill has to come before the House first. They are not submitting the petition under any item of business in the House. They are submitting it against a particular Bill. So, that Bill has to come to the House before the petition.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, in the First Schedule on Page 151, wherein the Form of Petition is given, it is mentioned, '... and accordingly your petitioners pray that the Bill be not proceeded with'. This is the point which I am trying to emphasise on. Accordingly, I have said that the Government should not proceed with this Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, you have permitted the petition to be presented and that is why it is on the List of Business today. The question is, 'At what point of time will it be presented?' So far as your consent is concerned, it has already been given. Otherwise, it would not have come on the List of Business.

Sir, kindly see Rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business. It says :

"Petitions may be presented or submitted to the House with the consent of the Speaker ...."

Now that consent has been given. Otherwise, it would not come on the List of Business.

As per Rule 160, the petitions may be presented or submitted to the House with the consent of the Speaker with three options.

So, Rule 160 says :

"Petitions may be presented or submitted to the House with the consent of the Speaker on :

- (i) A Bill which has been published under rule 64 or which has been introduced in the House ;
- (ii) Any matter connected with the business pending before the House.' That is not exhaustive. It is the first sub-clause.
- (iii) 'Any matter of general public interest provided that it is not one :-' "

Sir, there are three provisos.

Now, Sir, it is a matter of greatest general public interest, and you have already permitted it. Under what sub-rule or rule of the procedure, you have permitted it. We are raising the question of the time of the presentation of it in the House. Prior consent has been given by you.

Now, suddenly, we find that there is an asterisk in the List of Business of today .... (*Interruptions*) ..... That is why, we are raising it before the hon. Speaker .... (*Interruptions*) I am not raising it before you, Mr. Finance Minister .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I am as much a part of this House as you are. You are not the only Member of this House .... (*Interruptions*) ..... I am also a Member of this House .... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Yes, you are the part of the House but .... (*Interruptions*) ..... Now, I am addressing the Chair. I am not addressing you .... (*Interruptions*)..... It is the misfortune of the country that you are there .... (*Interruptions*)

Mr. Speaker, Sir, therefore, my submission before you is that if anybody says that this is a matter which is not agitating the public mind, it is not him or her to consider that. Hundreds and thousands of people are agitated over this matter because it is a matter of greatest public interest. About this petition, we have taken leave. You have granted leave to file this petition. About 1.5 crore of persons have signed it. And now, suddenly the introduction of the Bill becomes more important than the presentation of the petition!

Our very respectful submission before you, Sir, is that do not evolve a procedure which is generally not known or followed. Otherwise, the impression will be that this House is more concerned somehow to allow the introduction of this



Bill than the people's view in this matter for the expression, of which there is a procedure laid done in the Rules. Than that becomes a redundant procedure. That becomes totally otiose. Here, the primacy is being given to the Government business of the introduction of the Bill than the expression of the people's objections to this.

Therefore, Sir, I am earnestly submitting before you that Heavens will not fall if our objection is recorded, according to the rules, before the introduction of the Bill. Therefore, let the petition be filed the House, before you first. And then, let the Government try to introduce the Bill.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, the petition itself talks about a Bill which the petitioner is opposing. If there is no Bill, there is no petition. So, the Bill has to be introduced and then there is a petition .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Home Minister, please.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am on a point of order .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Advaniji.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I am on a point of order.

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order? Quote the Rule.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, it is under Rule 160 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business.

The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said that 'as there is no Bill before the House, therefore, there is no question of opposing it.' But if you go through the text of the Motion .... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : No petition against the Bill can come. That is the only point I am making .... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, after you have given your consent, all these questions need not be raised .... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, the text of the Petition says :

"..... to present a petition signed by Shri K.P. Manchanda and others representing the All India Insurance Employees Association, All India LIC Employees Federation and General Insurance Employees All India Association against the move to Privatisise .... (Interruptions) ..... the Indian Insurance Industry and opening up of the Insurance Sector to foreign companies through the .... (Interruptions) ..... Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999."

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, what is this?

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is against the move of the Government. So, where is the question of the Bill?

MR. SPEAKER : What is your point of order?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Rupchand Pal should be allowed to submit his petition first. Then the hon. Minister may introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri L.K. Advani to speak now.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please tell us some way so that our point may also be heard. Why we are not being heard? If you will not give us an opportunity to speak then you have to face problems.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri L. K. Advani, the Home Minister, to speak.

Under what rule are you raising the point of order?

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : My point of order is under Rule 160. Mr. Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of rules and conventions is concerned those are also important and I do not deny this but today the most important question in the entire country is the voices of concern over the Insurance Bill. Crores of People will come out on roads in protest against this issue. Therefore, within two minutes I would like to place before you the things which are necessary to understand before introducing this Bill. Mr. Speaker, Sir, in 1956 when the Insurance Bill .... (Interruptions). You first listen to my point. Where are you heading the country .... (Interruptions). First you listen to me only then you will be able to understand. At that time Government invested only Rs. 5 crore and after that .... (Interruptions). You first listen to me. It is a matter of Public interest. Today, the country is being handed over to the foreign companies through this Bill. We want to caution you of such persons .... (Interruptions). Perhaps our hon. Murli Manohar Joshi and Kumari Uma Bharati of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch are not present here. They should change the name of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. If foreign companies dominate our country then we will not remain mute spectators. Ever since Insurance Sector has entered the public sector, the Government has earned a profit of Rs. 2000 crores. Only last year Rs. 62 crores were spent and the profit is two and a half crore. Then, why foreign companies are being offered

26% share? If Insurance Sector is handed over to foreign companies then we will place our point of view in the House even by violating the order of the House. We want that the petition should be heard first and after that Bill should be introduced.

*(English)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am referring to Rule 64 of the Rules of Procedure. Here the question is whether the consent by the Hon. Speaker has been granted. The Hon. Speaker has already given his consent. When the consent is there, item No. 9 should be taken first before the Bill is introduced. That was done. This is improper. Even assuming that there is publication, Rule 64 provides for circulation of Bills. Then also the petition is to be taken first and the petition is admissible. There is publication. That means, as per provision 64, it is admissible.

Now, they say that there is no publication. There is publication and so it is applicable.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, 'publication' here means, 'publication in the Gazette.'

.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : There has been publication. Even after publication, it need not be introduced .... *(Interruptions)* Moreover, hon. Speaker, Sir, you may kindly note that it is a matter where you have already given your consent. When the consent is there, it cannot go against your consent .... *(Interruptions)* How can the Bill be introduced, when you have given your consent here?

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you have expressed your views. Please take your seat.

.... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L.K. ADVANI) : There has been a prolonged debate on a procedural issue. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this petition is an important petition and it has been signed by a large number of employees .... *(Interruptions)*. The only point is whether this petition falls under rule 161 or rule 163. That is the crux of the whole debate. I would like to point out that if Shri Rupchand Pal had drafted his petition and ended it with the words 'opening up of the Insurance Sector to foreign Companies (Full Stop)', then, there would have been no relevance of the Bill at all .... The petition could have been submitted. .... *(Interruptions)*

I think that the Secretariat has gone through the rules very precisely. Therefore, when they found that the petition said that this was being done 'through the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999,' they immediately felt that this petition fell under rule 161. Under rule 161, only after the Bill is introduced can the petition be

presented. Therefore, they put that in asterisk mark, to which objection was being raised by Shri Somnath Chatterjee. I think, the Secretariat has done its job very precisely and therefore it has said that this particular petition will be presented only after the Bill has been introduced .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VAIKO (Sivakasi) : He is one hundred per cent correct .... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please allow him to complete.

.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : Shri Rupchand Pal also made the point that the First Schedule which prescribes the Form of Petition uses the words, "that the Bill be or be not proceeded with" .... *(Interruptions)* Yes, I know that.

It does not say that 'the Bill be not introduced'. This means that the Bill shall be introduced and thereafter not proceeded with. 'Proceeded with' means, 'proceeded with after the introduction.' .... *(Interruptions)*.

Sir, I think the Secretariat's decision is very very apt and precise. Therefore, let the Bill be introduced and then the petition shall be presented .... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not know why the Government should take it as a matter of prestige. You may kindly check up the rule book for half-a-minute .... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Mr. Speaker, Sir, kindly refer to rule 160. It says, 'Petitions may be presented or submitted to the House with the consent of the Speaker on a Bill which has been published under rule 64.....' Now, it is said that it was not Gazetted. Therefore, you could not have treated it as a Bill which has complied with rule 64 or which has been introduced in the House.

Sir, you could not treat it as a Bill introduced in the House. On what basis did you give your consent? I would like to very respectfully point out that the hon. Home Minister is in agony. I do not know why it has been taken seriously. I am relying on the Speaker's ruling of giving his consent. That consent could be given on compliance of one of the other of the sub-clauses. Otherwise, consent could not have been given. Consent is not being given now. It has been listed for actual presentation, not for seeking permission to present. Therefore, Mr. Minister, do not kindly give any interpretation. I do not know why you should do that, trying to support your very able Finance Minister. You need not have come forward with it.

Sir, I submit that it will be an affront to the Chair, if today such points are taken up only to nullify the consent that you have given.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The House has been misled by the hon. Home Minister and also by the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister. I am sorry to state this. The Copy of my petition is not with the other hon. Members and so. I am reading the last line of it. It says, "..... be not proceeded with or not taken up in national interest.". This is the main thing. They are omitting the last sentence or the last part of it. They are misleading the House .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

I have received notices from eleven hon. Members. I am calling their names.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Sir, it is a petition to be submitted. But what you are mentioning is about the hon. Members who have given notices for raising objections regarding the introduction of the Bill. These two things are different. You should not mix up the two things. The presentation of petition is a separate one .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, you may finish your submission.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am submitting a petition even before the introduction of the Bill .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, I have allowed Shri Rupchand Pal.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am submitting the petition, as permitted by you, even before the introduction of the IRA Bill.

I beg to present a petition signed by Shri R.P. Manchanda and others representing the All India Insurance Employees Association, All India LIC Employees Federation and General Insurance Employees All India Association against the .....

MR. SPEAKER : No. No. Shri Rupchand Pal, please sit down.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : I am submitting the petition, Sir .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, you have called me; and I have already moved for leave to introduce the Bill. Now, the House has to take a view on the introduction of this Bill .... (Interruptions) How can he do it now? .... (Interruptions) I have already move for leave to introduce the Bill. How can he do it now?.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

SHIR YASHWANT SINHA : They are not the only custodians .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : He has already moved.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : According to the procedure, you have to call the Minister to introduce the Bill now .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VAIKO : They are at liberty to oppose and there is no objection to it. But the procedure now is to introduce the Bill .... (Interruptions)

They have got every right to oppose and there is no objection. But the Minister is to introduce the Bill now .... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Let me conclude now .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, you have already permitted the Finance Minister to move the motion for introduction of the Bill. Let the House decide about it now .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No. Please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

.... (Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not good to interrupt.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajanj, U.P.) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, they want to pawn the country with foreign powers .... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : What is this?

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Today we have an important business also.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, my petition should go on record .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Rupchand Pal, please understand, in the Revised List of Business it is clearly mentioned, 'To be presented after the introduction of Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999 listed at Sl. No. 13.' You See the Revised List of Business also.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I will now call the names of hon. Members who are opposing the Bill. Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee may please speak now.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please go through today's Revised List of Business. It is clearly mentioned in the List.

\*Not recorded.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I am now calling the names of those hon. Members who are opposing the Bill.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Sir, I oppose introduction of the IRA Bill which opens the insurance sector to the private hands at the introductory stage .... (Interruptions). It has to be seen that both the LIC and the GIC have always earned profit and contributed a lot to the coffers of the Government .... (Interruptions) Moreover, it has been reported that foreign insurance companies are in a very bad shape. They are subjected to investigation in U.S., U.K., and other European countries .... (Interruptions) They are involved in hundreds of litigation across the globe .... (Interruptions) Above all, the Petition Committee which was formed under the chairmanship of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj in 1994-95 unanimously recommended that this sector should not be opened to the private hands .... (Interruptions) Therefore, Sir, I oppose the Bill at the introductory stage .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Except Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee's speech nothing will go on record.

.... (Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the country is slipping into the hands of foreign powers. The Bharatiya Janata Party should start Videshi Jagaran Manch in place of Swadeshi Jagaran Manch. A beginning in this direction has already been made and therefore, in protest, we walk out from the House.

11.49 hrs.

At this stage Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other Hon'ble Members left the House

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia may please speak now.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, are you opposing the Bill?

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I have given the notice. I am opposing introduction of the Bill tooth and nail .... (Interruptions).

\*Not recorded.

MR. SPEAKER : That is why I have called your name.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Mr. Speaker. Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill. The petition of Shri Rupchand Pal for which you have given your consent has not been allowed to be presented. You have not given your ruling on that Question .... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : You may clearly say whether you are opposing the Bill or not.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, I am opposing it. I will oppose the Bill tooth and nail.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR (Barrackpore) : But the petition should be allowed to be placed on record. It must be done.

MR. SPEAKER : You may go through the List of Business. It is clearly mentioned in the list that item No. 9. will be taken up after item No. 13.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have given notice .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Are you opposing the Bill? You may tell the reason as to why you are opposing it.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, Sir. In my opinion the petition for which the Chair has given consent, should come first. We have already made our point clear as to why Shri Rupchand Pal should be allowed to present his petition before the introduction of the Bill. What is the case study? .... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRAKASH PARANJPE (Thane) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have specifically asked the senior Member as to whether he wants to speak on the Bill. He is talking about the Petition. If senior Members like him behave like this what will the junior Members do? The Member has to obey the Chair. He has to honour your word .... (Interruptions). This is an august House, not a political dais. He has to obey the Chair. He should at least understand that. I do not know what is this going on! The Chair has asked him to speak on the Bill and he is speaking on the petition .... (Interruptions). This is not an election speech. The Chair may ask the Member to behave properly.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, you may go through the arrangement of List of Business. It is provided that the petition should come first .... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It has been provided that the presentation of petition should precede the introduction.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you may speak about the Bill and not the Petition.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : You may go through it and give your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : That is over, I have already given my ruling. You may speak as to why you are opposing the Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Shri Rupchand Pal should be allowed to present his petition first and then only the Minister may be allowed to introduce the Bill.

MR. SPEAKER : That is already over.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If you go through the text of the motion .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, today we have to transact very urgent and important items of business.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopal Ganj) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the way in which senior Members are behaving in the House, we have become mere spectators. If it is so, then please allot the entire time for them to speak .... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : If you go through the text of the motion, you will find that the petition is on the move of the Government to privatise the LIC and GIC .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, this is already over. You are a senior Member and you know the procedure also.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why are you not allowing him to move his petition?

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, you may refer the Direction for arrangement of List of Business.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not waste the time of the House.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : The petition gets the priority. It has to be disposed of first. It has been mentioned there .... (Interruptions). You have not given your ruling.

MR. SPEAKER : That is already over.

.... (Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Sir, you have already given a ruling that the petition should be taken up after the introduction of the Bill.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What about the Direction regarding arrangement of Business? This is a Direction given by the Speaker .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, that is already over.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : If you want to give a ruling contradictory to your own direction, you give it .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have already called Shri Basu Deb Acharia.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, this is unfortunate that Shri Rupchand Pal was not allowed to present his petition before the introduction of the Bill. On the last occasion also in the Twelfth Lok Sabha when this particular Bill was brought to this House, we opposed it tooth and nail. At that time your direction was that this Bill be referred to the Joint Committee. That has been recorded in the proceedings of this House. But that was not referred to the Joint Committee but was referred to the Standing Committee. We do not know why the Bill was not referred to the Joint Committee in spite of your direction. The Standing Committee also presented its report on the last day of the last Lok Sabha. This Report was not circulated among the Members also. We have not seen the Report of the Standing Committee. We could not get the opportunity to go through the Report. Since the new House has been constituted, it would be proper to refer this particular Bill to the Joint Committee before the Introduction.

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : You want it to be referred to the Joint Committee even before the introduction? .... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It is because one crore fifty lakh people of our country have signed and submitted a petition to the hon. Speaker in this regard. Sir, can you give us one example of any particular Bill involving so many people?

[Translation]

1.5 crore population of this country which includes labourers, farmers, employees and intellectuals are opposed to it.

[English]

People of all sections of our country are opposing it including the unions affiliated to the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) which is under Bharatiya Janata Party. Mr. Rajagopal, you are nodding your head but you do not know, your union is also opposing it. The INTUC is also opposing it. All the central trade unions are opposing this piece of legislation. Why are they opposing it? Sir, I can quote from the statement made by the Finance Minister not here but in United States of America .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, are we discussing the merits of the Bill? We should confine ourselves only to the procedural aspect .... (Interruptions). When they are opposing the introduction, the discussion should only be in regard to procedure. It cannot be a discussion on the merits .... (Interruptions).

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, he said there that he would introduce this Bill within three days on re-appointment.

12.00 hrs.

Where? Not here, but in the United States of America. What has he said?

MR. SPEAKER : You will have the time to discuss the Bill. You have to say why you are opposing the introduction of the Bill.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Because of the powerful trade unions in the banking sector. You have been able to tackle this in the insurance sector. But I am not sure about the banking sector. How he has tackled the unions in the insurance sector? Why are we opposing? What is our basic point? Why does the Government want to surrender? Why does the Government want to sell out our Country? The multinational companies of the United States of America and Mr. Frank Wisner who was the Ambassador to our country is now .....

MR. SPEAKER : This is not the discussion stage. Please express your opinion as to why you are opposing the Bill at the introduction stage.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They are pressurising the Government of India since 1993 to open up our insurance sector to the multinational companies of the United States of America. With forty crore equity in LIC and with 21.5 crore equity in GIC, what is the dividend and the tax the Government has collected? How much they have contributed to the development of the country? Within two years these two public sector undertakings .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You are a senior Member, please understand.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : They have contributed more than Rs. 40 crore for the development of the country.

Why then the Government is opening up the insurance sector to the multinational companies of our country?

MR. SPEAKER : Now Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : The United States of America is not allowing more than 3 percent of the insurance sector to do business there.

MR. SPEAKER : You are not allowing your Member to speak on this issue.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why do they want to come, why do they want to grab our country? They want to garner the profit here and repatriate it to their own country. Why should we allow our LIC and GIC to be sold out to the multinational companies of our country?

When BJP was in the opposition, when we supported the United Front Government .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record. You have to understand. You are a senior Member. Now Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : At the very outset of the introduction of this Bill I raise a serious objection .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go into the records. Shri Ajoy Chakraborty's speech only will go on records.

.... (Interruptions)\*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia please take your seat. What is this?

.... (Interruptions)\*

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999.

Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill because it is anti-national in nature and is nothing but an infringement on the sovereignty of our country. Hundreds of thousand of people of our country are totally against the introduction of this Bill, because the public sector companies in the insurance sector, LIC and GIC are profit making companies. I do not know why the Government is very much eager to invite foreign companies to enter into the insurance sector of our country.

Sir, in the year 1996, when the Bharatiya Janata Party was in the opposition they opposed the entry of foreign companies into the insurance sector. They can very well recollect that when this Bill was brought before this House by the then Finance Minister, Shri P. Chidambaram, they have moved an amendment to the effect that they are

opposed tooth and nail to the entry of foreign companies into the insurance sector of our country. .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Ajoy Chakraborty, you are a senior Member. You should know that as per Rule 72, the the time of introduction of a Bill, a Member can make only a brief statement.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : You have domed West Bengal and now you are talking about Bengal .... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopal Ganj) : The Government of West Bengal had been negotiating to invite foreign companies .... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, the Petitions Committee headed by Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, who is a leading member of the B.J.P., recommended against privatisation of the insurance sector and also against the entry of foreign companies into the insurance sector. But this Government has totally surrendered to the foreign companies. This Bill is anti-national and more than one crore people of this country has signed the petition opposing the privatisation of the Indian insurance sector and it is submitted before you.

.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : The discussion regarding Insurance is going on. So you please sit down.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : They have no right to oppose it.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : You have doomed West Bengal. You set up factory there .... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, this Bill, which seeks to privatise the Indian insurance sector and allows the entry of foreign companies into our insurance sector, infringes upon the sovereignty of the country and so, I totally oppose the introduction of this Bill. .... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down. He is not talking about West Bengal.

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : He is all in all and today he is opposing all this. This does not behave him .... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI SURESH KURUP (Kottayam) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I oppose the introduction of this Bill because it compromises with the sovereignty of the country.

The insurance sector is an area where the Government companies have proved their mettle. All these companies are running on profit and everybody knows that huge funds from these companies are utilised for providing basic necessities to the people of this country. This sector is now being opened up only due to the pressure from multi-national companies.

Sir, now the choice is not between public sector and private sector; the choice is between Indian public sector and foreign private sector. So, obviously the Indian private Sector may not be able to mobilize the funds for investing in this sector and also, this will lead to unhealthy practices which were prevalent in pre-nationalisation days.

It is most unfortunate that this Government is coming forward with this sort of a Bill to open up a prestigious sector to foreign companies. Unfortunately, the main opposition party is supporting it. I think, they are not concerned with any other foreign company except with what is connected with Bofors.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, at this stage, I will confine myself to the legislative competence of the Bill. I question the legislative competence of the Bill, firstly, on the ground that it goes against the very spirit and goal of the Constitution set before the nation. It is a spirit of self-reliance and goal of economic self-reliance of this country. This opening up will cause disaster to our economy and to our self-reliance.

Secondly, it is against the goal set before the nation by the great freedom fighters of this country that we should not capitulate or surrender to foreign pressures to serve their economic interests as has been seen and rightly referred to .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No running commentary please.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : Your party Government is inviting foreign companies there .... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I can educate him on the matter outside this House. Let him not spoil time of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY : Today, there is threat to Andaman and to the country as a whole but you are not saying anything about China. You ask this from Shri Hannan Mollah who was the Chairman of Defence Committee. But you are not saying anything about that.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, it is a betrayal of the very aims and laudable objects set by this House and by the great leaders of this country through the process of nationalisation of the general insurance and also the life insurance from the predators who had been looting the poor people of this country .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : There are also other hon. Members.

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : The social sector is supposed to be taken care of by a welfare Government.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR : You had given away the land of the country .....

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt, this is not good.

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL : Sir, I am not responding to him .... (Interruptions)

The social sector will be neglected. Both the GIC and LIC are the only financial institutions which can make available Rs. 1,00,000 crore or sometimes more for the planning process, that is, for drinking water, housing and such social areas. These will be jeopardised as a result of this opening up .... (Interruptions). I oppose it at the stage of introduction because it is against the goal set before the nation by the Indian Constitution and the goal set before the nation during the freedom struggle.

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN (Murshidabad) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to oppose this anti-national Bill. I would like to say with an extremely heavy heart that, in this way, the Government is trying to open up the sovereignty of our country before the White House.



Secondly, although the foreign equity in the Bill is sought to be limited to 26 per cent only, yet, as is well known, the foreign insurance companies will control the joint sector companies through backseat manipulation.

Thirdly I would like to raise before this august House. At the time of introduction of this Bill during the time of the Twelfth Lok Sabha, we have seen the statement released by the Ministry of Finance that every time talks about the increased inflow of FDI in this country.

But there is no clear cut mention how to increase the FDI inflow in this country. We want to know how to stimulate the inflow of FDI in our country. The hon. Finance Minister knows that for the last couple of years there is a regular decline in the FDI and it is continuing.

Lastly, I would like to oppose the introduction of this Bill because there is no clear cut mention to improve the infrastructure of our country. With these words, I would like to conclude. Thank you.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Sir, I would like to oppose the Bill at the stage of introduction because this politically motivated, only to send signals to the foreign monopolists, foreign companies and the imperialist forces that this Government is very humble and will be abiding by all the imperialist manoeuvres that they are going to take, including the signing of the CTBT. This is the ominous sign that the country is going to experience through introduction of such Bill that the country will be totally sold out and it will be kept open for the foreign people, foreign monopolists and the imperialist forces to plunder our country .... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Including West Bengal.

SHRI TARIT BARAN TOPDAR : Yes, including West Bengal because West Bengal forms a part of India. West Bengal cannot be independent of India's economic parameters. This is our Constitution. If there is a provision for more powers to the State for which we are fighting in that case West Bengal already has set an example to direct the entire country how the social sector should move. Given the conditions that more powers to the State, West Bengal will be able to lead the country. What Bengal thinks today, India thinks tomorrow. This has come about once again in our country.... (Interruptions)

Therefore, I understand the House would stand as one to oppose introduction of this Bill. If the Government wants to introduce it, discuss it and pass it here by the majority, they can do it. But only the ruling party and the Congress combine, will form the majority.

I want to place my views only just to give a signal to the foreign monopolists that we are all abiding forces. This should not be given, the country cannot be sold like that. Fifteen million people have opposed and signed a petition

and placed it before the Parliament and which has been denied a priority in the List of Business. That is a very sorry part of the affair that we are experiencing this time. Therefore, I want to oppose this Bill at this stage in the interest of the nation as a whole.

SHRI LAKSHMAN CHANDRA SETH (Tamluk) : Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of the Bill because it will demolish the basic foundation of self-reliance which is the main spirit of our Constitution. Not only that but this was the main slogan of our freedom fighters to make our country self-reliant. It will open up the capital markets to the multinationals and the private operators.

I am opposing this Bill because just after the election and before the installation of the Government, the representatives of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) met our Prime Minister and the Finance Minister recommending the opening up of insurance sector to private agencies.

So, this Bill is the thrust of the multi-nationals, who are the monopoly in our country. This is why, I am seriously and vehemently opposing the introduction of this Bill. It will seriously demolish our basic foundation of self-reliance and also segregate the employment of the employees of our country.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : Sir, I rise to oppose the introduction of this Bill because this Bill is against the interest of the people of our country and it is for the multi-national companies.

Sir, let me say one more thing. I do not whether you are aware about it. There was a country-level movement with the name 'Swadeshi Jagran Manch' under the leadership of the ruling party. Now they dissolved that movement. They are going to organise a new movement now with the name, 'Videshi Swagath Manch' with the support of the main opposition party. I am very sorry to say that.

Sir, I once again oppose this Bill at the introductory stage.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have listened very carefully to the objections which have been raised to the introduction of this Bill in this House.

Sir, I will reply very briefly to the points which have been made because I have no wish to enter into a discussion in regard to the merits. We shall get ample opportunity to discuss the merits and demerits of this Bill when it comes up for consideration before this august House. At this stage we are only discussing the introduction of this Bill.

Sir, this Bill has not appeared suddenly. It is not yesterday that we thought of this Bill. It has a certain history. The history of this Bill begins when the Congress Party was

in power and very rightly they appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India to go into the activities of the insurance sector and make recommendations for its proper working. That Committee made its recommendations. The recommendations were taken into account. They were processed in the Government when the Congress Party was in power. They were processed by the Government when the United Front Government was in power. We all know that after careful consideration, that Government brought this Bill before this House. The Prime Minister of the day decided to withdraw the Bill. That is what has happened to that Bill .... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : It was because you also opposed at that time. .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, that is what happened to that Bill.

Now, we know the reasons why the Prime Minister of the day was forced to withdraw that Bill. It was not, Mr. Speaker, Sir, because of the CPM which was supporting that Government from outside had threatened to withdraw its support to that Government that the Prime Minister was compelled to withdraw that Bill. They did nothing of that kind .... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Why?.... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : You know why. How do I know? .... (Interruptions)

The Members of the Left parties who are opposing now at the introduction stage tooth and nail should know that they did not make it and issue when the Government, which they were supporting, brought this Bill. Why did we oppose it? It is quite correct to say that the BJP had opposed the introduction of the Bill. We had opposed the passage of the Bill. Why?.... (Interruptions)

We opposed it because the Bill did not clarify many of the issues which had been swept under the carpet or were sought to be swept under the carpet. .... (Interruptions). That Bill was withdrawn.

Sir, in the 12th Lok Sabha to which hon. Shri Basu Deb Acharia referred, I brought a Bill before this House. We faced the same kind of opposition to the introduction of that Bill which we have seen today. We met those arguments. This House decided to permit me to introduce that Bill. The Bill was introduced and you, Sir, in your wisdom, decided to refer it to the Standing Committee.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, you go through the proceedings. You gave direction that the Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : That House is already dissolved. This is a new House. Please understand.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : It was referred to the Standing Committee. Why was it referred to the Standing Committee? .... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : We had also opposed it.

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I have listened to them absolutely patiently. I have not interrupted anyone. As Shri Somnath Chatterjee gets very annoyed if he is interrupted would he kindly restrain his Members and let me have my say.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You took my name just now.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I took Shri Somnath Chatterjee's name because he gets very upset when anyone disturbs him when he is speaking. He even loses his temper on some of the Members of this House. I am, therefore, appealing to him, Sir, through you, to permit me to have my say like his Members have had their say.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, may I have only one clarification? It is true that the BJP, according to the Finance Minister of the day, had opposed Shri Chidambaram's Bill because there were certain things which were sought to be swept under the carpet. Now, all those things were found out by you and that is why you opposed. But in 1998 Manifesto of your Party, why did you unreservedly promise to the nation to oppose the Insurance Privatisation Bill and why did Samata Party, which is now in the new *avatar* of JD(U) your one of the biggest supporters—not only promise to the people of this country to oppose the Insurance Bill but also said that the opening up of the economy is detrimental to the interests of the country and that they would oppose it tooth and nail? They strongly criticised Dr. Manmohan Singh's policy. You have now jettisoned your 'Swadeshi Jagaran Manch'. It is your internal affair, but kindly do not give sermons to us. We have not changed our attitude. .... (Interruptions). Right or wrong, this is our commitment, but you are changing like a chameleon. You are changing your colours because you happen to be in power today. .... (Interruptions). Why do you not clarify it?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, let me finish, I am prepared to answer any question.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You please listen it will help you.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharaj Ganj, Bihar) : Since our party has been referred to, I would like to make a humble submission in this regard. The Chief Minister of Bengal went abroad by spending crores of rupees in order to invite foreign Companies. What is your view about it?

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : You have mentioned about the Congress Party. You have proposed to offer 26% shares to foreign Companies. At that time how much shares Congress party wanted to offer?

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : What has it to do with this? .... (Interruptions).

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I will explain a few points. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav, who is the Leader of his party in this House, and Shri Somnath Chatterjee, if they have just a little patience I will try and explain some of the doubts that they are entertaining at this stage. Needless to say that the Bill which was brought by the United Front Government has the fullest approval of Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav because he was a Member of the Cabinet.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : No. My party had opposed it. In your Cabinet, Shri Murlī Manohar Joshi, Kumari Uma Bharati had opposed it. I myself had opposed it. Our entire party has opposed it.

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : At that time, you were a Minister.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Yes, I was a Minister .... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Cabinet had passed that Bill and you were in the Cabinet .... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I do not want to join issues with Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.... (Interruptions). This Bill was referred by you, Sir, in the last House, in the Twelfth Lok Sabha, to the Standing Committee on Finance .... (Interruptions)

It was referred to the Standing Committee on Finance. The Standing Committee on Finance was headed by an hon. Member of the Congress party who was a Member of this

House in the Twelfth Lok Sabha and included representatives of all the parties represented in this House. This Committee considered the whole thing gave its report. We considered the report, we accepted the recommendations of the Standing Committee and I brought this bill before this House in the Twelfth Lok Sabha again for consideration and passage, it was listed, you will recall, Sir, for two consecutive days, on the last two days of the House, just before we broke up for the interregnum. It could not come up for discussion in this House and could not be taken up for consideration and passing because other events forced the adjournment of this House. What we are doing today is, we are following up on what we had done in the Twelfth Lok Sabha and we are bringing forward this legislation, accepting and incorporating all the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Finance so that the Bill looks better and has the consensus of the whole House, to whatever extent it is possible to have this kind of a consensus.... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : No, Mr. Finance Minister, our Members sent dissenting note. There was no consensus.

MR. SPEAKER : Let him complete, Shri Acharia.

.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. He is not yielding.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : The Standing Committee's Report was only a majority report; it was not a unanimous report.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, the ground on which some of the hon. Members of this House are opposing the introduction of this House is, they are saying it is anti-national, it is unconstitutional, it is against public interest. I, with all the emphasis at my command, refute each one of those allegations. What is the problem here?.... (Interruptions). The problem is that some Members of this House have abrogated to themselves the entire authority to worry about and take into account public interest as if we have no public interest in our heart. Let me tell you that if they have been elected by the people of this country, we have also been elected by the people of this country. Mulayam Singh ji, all these issues were before the electorate of this country, and the electorate of this country, having taken into account the respective positions of each party, each formation, has voted the NDA to power.... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Hon'ble Finance Minister, Sir, please mention the name. You have mentioned the name of my party. Now tell us the percentage of shares demanded by the Congress party .... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, that is a popular stand we have taken and it does not lie in anybody's mouth to say that we are acting unconstitutionally and against the public interest. Mr. Speaker, Sir, we are a nation which is confident of itself, we are a national which can defend its national interests, we are a nation which will never compromise on its national interests, certainly not under this Government, and therefore, we are permitting only 26 per cent foreign equity in the insurance sector having accepted the recommendations of the Standing Committee to do away with that 14 per cent which belongs to NRIs and OCBs.

We have done away with them in view of the recommendation of the Standing Committee. If a minor shareholding of 26 percent is permitted in the insurance sector, are we selling it to the multi-nationals and to foreigners? .... (Interruptions) Sir, I am telling you ... (Interruptions) If the same thing is done in West Bengal that is pro-national and if we do it here then it becomes anti-national. If this is not politics, then what else is it? .... (Interruptions) I am charging the Members of the Left Front of indulging in sheer politics and nothing else. There is nothing to it except politics. They want to make debating points and we are prepared to meet each one of those debating points. This great nation cannot be sold. This great national cannot be cowed down by anyone, any power on earth. Let me make one thing very clear. They have tried to mislead the House by saying that we intend to privatise GIC and LIC where is it? .... (Interruptions) Where does the Bill say that it will privatise GIC and LIC ? .... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Why do you want to amend the LIC and GIC Acts? .... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Because it calls for monopoly .... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, please do not interrupt.

.... (Interruptions)

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : If you do not understand, I cannot help you understand. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, I can take your class outside and tell you what exactly it is. It is not the intention of the Government to privatise GIC and LIC. It is not our intention to sell even one per cent of their shares to anyone. They will continue as full public sector undertakings and will compete and compete very well with anyone who enters the insurance field. But we have reasons to go ahead with this introduction and I will appeal to this

House not to carry on with its opposition and permit me to introduce this Bill.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : The question is :

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an Authority to protect the interests of holders of insurance policies, to regulate, promote and ensure orderly growth of the insurance industry and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto and further to amend the Insurance Act, 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956 and the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act, 1972".

*The motion was adopted.*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : I introduce\* the Bill.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, in view of the attitude of the hon. Minister the Members of our Party are walking out.

12.37 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and some other hon. Members left the House.*

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : Many countries of the world have been ruined when they handed over the public sector in the hands of the foreigners. The Insurance Sector of India is being handed over to foreign companies through this Bill. We oppose this Bill and walk out from the House.

12.38 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and some other hon. Members left the House.*

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : This Bill is anti-people and against the interest of the country. We oppose it and walk-out from the House.

12.39 hrs.

*At this stage, Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh and some other hon. Members left the House.*

12.40 hrs.

## PRESENTATION OF PETITION

[English]

SHRI RUPCHAND PAL (Hooghly) : I beg to present a petition signed by Shri R.P. Manchanda and others representing the All India Insurance Employees Association, All India LIC Employees Federation and General Insurance

\* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

Employees All India Association against the move to privatise the Indian Insurance Industry and opening up of the Insurance sector to foreign companies through the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Bill, 1999.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT-71/99]

[English]

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Midnapore) : Sir, I have written to you before 10 o'clock. I do not know whether my notice was delayed.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Indrajit Gupta, I had called your name but you were not there.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Sir, I have not been able to hear the full speech of the hon. Minister of Finance. The only one point that I wanted to make is that in the name of regulation - this is called a Regulatory Act - the Government has not got the authority to give away the assets and properties of this nation to foreign parties. If they want to open this sector in such a way that only Indian insurance companies can enter private companies and compete with the corporations I could understand that. Though I do not agree with it, I could understand that logic. But to give away assets and properties of these two corporations to foreign companies, multi-national corporations is something which is certainly against the public interest, against the national interest and that is why we are opposing it. That is not regulation. It is something else.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I have already clarified that there is no intention on the part of the Government to give away any of the assets or liabilities of the existing Indian Insurance companies. Let me clarify, through you to Shri Indrajit Gupta, the hon. father of this House, that if we had left it vague, without defining what an Indian company means, then it could have meant any Indian company registered in India under the Indian Companies Act.

We want to be very clear about it and that is why we have defined what an Indian company means and how much foreign shareholding could be there. If we had not restricted it to 26 per cent, it could have perhaps, meant 74 per cent, 49 per cent or 51 per cent. But we are clarifying it by saying that it would be restricted to 26 per cent. I would like to repeat that there is no intention on the part of the Government to privatise GIC or LIC. So, the question of handing over any of these corporations or any property thereof, any share thereof to any multinational or any foreign company does not arise.

MR. SPEAKER : Matters under Rule 377 may be treated as laid on the Table of the House.

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\*

[Translation]

- (I) **Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Rajasthan for providing relief to the people affected by drought in the State.**

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : Sir, due to scanty rainfall in Rajasthan, a drought like situation has arisen in most of the districts. There is crisis of drinking water in many villages and hamlets. Cattle are also dying due to lack of fodder. The people are compelled to migrate out of the State in search of employment. Rajasthan Government is unable to do anything for want of resources. If timely action is not taken about this then condition will further deteriorate.

Therefore, the Central Government are requested to provide all financial resources to the State Government for starting drought related relief work in rural areas. Arrangements should be made for giving work to people and fodder for animals at cheap prices.

- (ii) **Need to expedite construction of fertilizer plant at Gorakhpur, UP by KRIBHCO.**

YOGI ADITYA NATH (Gorakhpur) : Sir, previous Government has already given permission for setting up a new fertilizer plant by KRIBHCO in place of Gorakhpur fertilizer plant which is laying closed for a long time. With the approval for setting up a fertilizer factory, which is directly related with agricultural production in the eastern region, there is a mood of jubilation among all farmers.

All necessary formalities are near completion. All people of Gorakhpur division want that Prime Minister should lay the foundation stone of new plant as early as possible so that development of the area gets started which is laying undeveloped for a long time.

In twelfth Lok Sabha I raised the issue of fertilizer plant from time to time and acting on those issues, the then Government has given it approval for setting up of the new plant by KRIBHCO. For this, I, once again congratulate hon. Prime Minister and Government and I request the Prime Minister to lay the foundation stone as early as possible so that construction of fertilizer plant get completed early.

- (iii) **Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Madhya Pradesh for providing relief to the people affected by flood in Raisen, Sehore and Hoshangabad districts**

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Sir, Hundreds of villages in Raisen, Sehore and Hoshangabad districts, thousands of houses have fallen, crop in thousands of hectares has been completely destroyed and many cattle have perished due to flood in Narmada River. Foodgrains etc. kept in houses has also got destroyed. Relief provided

\* Treated as laid on the Table of the House.

to flood affected people by State Government till now is insignificant. There is need for relief and rehabilitation work at large scale.

The Central Government is requested to provide immediate relief to flood affected people.

- (iv) **Need to send a central team to Bihar to assess the damage caused by floods in Godda and other districts of the State and provide funds for rehabilitation of affected people.**

SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV (Godda) : Sir, due to flood and heavy rain in Godda, Devghar and Dhumka in Godda District and Dhoriaya Rajoon in Benka district of Bihar an area of about five lakh hectares has been affected and about two lakh hectares have been submerged. As a result of this flood one lakh people, have been become homeless and five lakh people are partly affected. 50 Schools have been destroyed and about 60 thousand animals have washed away in flood. Roads, bridges and culverts, electricity poles, transformer etc., have been destroyed and there is no drinking water available resulting in death of 80 people. The area is reeling under epidemic and cerebral malaria. Eleven deaths have been reported as a results thereof. There is very strong possibility of spreading this condition to other areas also.

Subsequent flood has done more destruction. Dozens of villages have been completely washed away in floods. These people should be rehabilitated again on the lines of Indira Awas Yojana. Centre should provide grants for building houses, for farming and for bullocks etc. Compensation should be provided to the families of the deceased.

Immediate help is given in the event of cyclone. Same type of destruction has taken place here. After September 1989 flood, flood has come in September 1999 people of the area were not aware about the flood.

[English]

- (v) **Need to provide adequate funds to State Government of Karnataka for upgradation of airport at Mysore**

SHRI S.D.N.R. WADIYAR : The proposal for upgradation of Mysore Airport has been pending since long. Since the city of Mysore is a famous tourist place in South India and a large number of tourists particularly International tourists visit the place every day, it is therefore very necessary to upgrade the existing Airport. The Airport, if upgraded will facilitate the visit of domestic as well as foreign tourists. The increase in the number of tourists will create new employment opportunity for the local people and additional revenue will be added to the National as well as State Exchequers.

I request the Union Government to sanction adequate fund to the State Government of Karnataka to acquire land

and to undertake necessary construction work for the upgradation of Mysore Airport.

- (vi) **Need to provide financial assistance to State Government of Andhra Pradesh to Mitigate the hardship being faced by cotton grower due to drought conditions in the State**

SHRI Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY (Cuddapah) : Sir, the Cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh have been victims of drought conditions. The continuous loss to the farmers due to the drought has led to a number of suicides in the past. During the last year, a number of cotton growers had committed suicide due to the loss of crops and heavy burden of debt against them. This year also a number of Cotton farmers were unable to clear mounting farm debts, four people including a farmer committed suicide in two incidents in Nalgonda and Cuddapah districts of Andhra Pradesh recently.

The cotton growers have been since victims and neither State nor the Union Government had been able to solve their problems. Therefore, this is high time that Government of India should come forward and provide help and assistance to the cotton growers of Andhra Pradesh so that they are not forced to commit suicide in future.

- (vii) **Need to bring the teaching cadre under Central Health Scheme at par with AIIMS**

SHRI NEPAL CHANDRA DAS (Karimganj) : I wish to draw the attention of Government to the plight of teaching cadre under Central Health Scheme of Government of India. These very experienced and senior professors working in Maulana Azad Medical College, G.B. Pant Hospital, JIPMER, Ponicherry and others are being treated shabbily.

Despite having similar basic and specialized qualifications as well as experience to become eligible for the teaching posts, the teaching cadre of C.H.S. is not treated at par with the teaching faculty of AIIMS, PGI, Chandigarh etc. Neither they have the parity as far as pay and other emoluments are concerned, nor they get other facilities in the form of research grants, etc., in comparison to AIIMS, PGI, etc. Furthermore, these Professors working in C.H.S. do more teaching work, attend to many more number of outdoor, indoor and emergency patients and also provide general specialized and super-specialised care to patients without being paid any extra remuneration or perks or allowances in comparison to AIIMS, PGI, etc. Before Fourth Pay Commission the teaching cadre under CHS was better paid in comparison to Faculty at AIIMS. But over a decade or so, the situation has gradually worsened.

In view of these facts, the Health Ministry must take immediate remedial measures to remove the anomalies by providing equal salary for equal work, that is, equivalent to faculty to AIIMS and also take steps to improve the working conditions of these senior experienced Professors of Institutions under Central Health Scheme. This will help

remove the dejection, disappointment and discontentment prevailing amongst the Professors under CHS.

**(viii) Need to take up the work of railway line between Nalgonda-Macherla and Raichur in Andhra Pradesh**

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH (Nagar Kurnool) : Surveys were conducted for Railway line between Macherla and Raichur via Nagarkurnool Parliamentary constituency. This line cuts the distance between coastal districts and Mumbai considerably than via Guntakal, Raichur and also helps in establishing Industries in backward districts of Nalgonda and Mehaboobnagar in Telangana. Also some cement factories came out in Nalgonda. It also helps in avoiding the Migration of "Palmooru" labour who are specialised in construction work as this line helps them in getting jobs, labour works and growing of commercial crops in that area because of good transport system. After my repeated appeals during 11th Lok Sabha, this project was included in July 1997. Supplementary Budget for Railways Clubbing the line between Nalgonda and Macherla with Macherla and Raichur line and making this as a single project, i.e., construction of new railway line between Raichur-Macherla-Nalgonda. In first phase, railway line between Nalgonda and Macherla was estimated at Rs. 48 crore and a token amount was set aside for taking up the first-phase works. Now, I request the Ministry of Railways, Government of India to take up the railway line between Nalgonda-Macherla and Raichur immediately to fulfil the long-cherished desires of the people of Nalgonda, Mehboobnagar and Raichur districts.

*[Translation]*

**(ix) Need to make Ganesh Sugar Mills under NTC in Maharajganj districts of, UP viable**

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj) (UP) : Sir, Maharajganj district of Eastern region is most backward and poor district. Ganesh Sugar Mills a unit of Swadeshi Mining and Manufacturing Company Limited was established by Jaipuria brothers in 1932. This sugar mill is situated in Anand Nagar town on about 33.47 acre of land and it has two agricultural farms of about 730 acres. This mill was acquired by Government of India's National Textile Corporation. After acquisition this mill not only ran smoothly but made profit also. But from the beginning neither expansion of this mill was done by National Textile Corporation nor any attempt was made to increase the crushing capacity of sugarcane. Since 1990-91 due to mismanagement and financial crunch this mill is suffering losses. Not only this but due to non-submission of guarantee by Government of India, the State Bank of India, withdrew the cash credit facility also. As a result of this neither payment could be made to growers nor sufficient quantity of sugarcane could be purchased. The mill ran for 62 day and after that this got closed on Feb. 3, 1994. Due to continuous losses this mill was referred to Bureau of Financial and Industrial Reconstruction Institute

(BFIR). The mill was declared as sick unit and plan for reconstruction was sent but no action was taken in this regard. National Textile Corporation, Officers and representatives of the Ministry of Textiles have expressed their unwillingness to restart the Mill. Necessary funds were also not provided by Government for running the mill due to which orders were passed for closure. Against these orders employees filed a appeal before hon. Allahabad High Court which was rejected.

Now work for closure of this industrial unit is going to start by company registrar of Kanpur. As a result of closure of this industrial unit 700 employees will be deprived of their monthly salary and their family will reach on the verge of starvation. Sugarcane growers of this backward area will be destroyed. Sugarcane farmers would not be able to recover their balance amount of rupees 234 lakhs.

Therefore, I would request the Central Government to take action for reconstruction of this sick industrial Unit. The Government should provide necessary funds for the salaries of employees and for payment of balance amount of sugarcane and this area be saved from destroying.

*[English]*

**(x) Need to revise the royalty on coal and other mineral products**

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : Even after 52 years of Independence, despite the presence of abundant natural resources, the State like Orissa is continuing with persistent backwardness. The State is under debt traps and facing serious financial crisis due to lack of any effective measures for reduction of heavy debt burden and virtually now on a verge of bankruptcy. The long prevailing natural calamities have deteriorating the economic condition of the people of the State and the alarming situation has further worsened due to the recent cyclone which has devastated the coastal areas of the State. The State cannot overcome the problem, if the Centre does not come to its rescue. It is now high time to take remedial measures for its sustenance. Apart from other steps the upward revision of royalty on coal which has been over due since long, has to be revised. The mineral bearing but economically backward States will be benefitted immensely, if the revision will be considered at par with the revision of royalty on petroleum products. It needs immediate attention of Government of India and urgent steps is highly necessary for the revision of royalty on coal and other mineral products.

*[Translation]*

**(xi) Need to send a Central team to Haryana to assess the damage caused due to drought and release adequate funds to the State Government for providing relief to the affected people**

SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA (Bhiwani) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw the attention of the

Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Agriculture towards Haryana. My parliamentary constituency is Bhiwani. It covers area of Hissar, Mahendragarh, Gurgaon etc. districts of Haryana. Due to absence of timely rains, the entire area is facing severe drought. As the agriculture of this area is rained therefore in the absence of timely rains, the farmers are facing severe shortage of foodgrains and fodder for cattle. Besides, their problems have been aggravated due to inadequate supply of power from the central pool and diesel price hike because tubewells cannot operate in the absence of these two.

Therefore, through you I would like to request the Central Government that a Central team should be sent to Haryana as early as possible to assess the damage caused due to drought. Before the central team submits its report, adequate funds should be released to the State Government so that relief could be provided to the farmers without any delay. After the presentation of report, the farmers could be compensated for the loss caused to them by drought. Therefore, I request the Government to pay attention in this regard as soon as possible.

*[English]*

**(xii) Need to reduce the price of diesel**

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : The recent hike in prices of diesel oil has resulted in price rise of essential commodities in the State of Kerala. Kerala is a consumer State. The fare of train journey and bus travel will be hiked immediately. The cost of living standards will be doubled. I request the Government of India to reduce the price of diesel. The bus and lorry operators are on strike. It has created a serious situation.

**(xiii) Need for a comprehensive master plan to prevent recurring floods in Itahar, Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal**

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, every year or the alternate year, floods in Murshidabad, Malda and Uttar Dinajpur districts of West Bengal have become a regular recurrence to destroy the economy, life and property of the people including agricultural crop etc. No serious efforts have been made by the Union or the State Government through a comprehensive plan document or Master Plan to prevent floods in Raiganj, Itahar, Kharba, Ratua, Harishchandrapur, Manikchak, Jagipur, Murshidabad Assembly constituencies of West Bengal, Chandrapara, Bhagwanpur, Matiarpur Anchals of Kharba are facing disaster. Mahananda and Sui Rivers are destroying Itahar every year.

The recent floods have destroyed more than one lakh houses of the poor people in Itahar, Ratua, Harishchandrapur, Kharba and Raiganj, Nagor river and its erosions have started threatening the village of Raiganj and Karandighi Assembly constituencies.

I demand that the Central Government team comprising Water Resources Ministry and Planning Commission make a detailed survey of the above referred areas of Uttar Dinajpur, Malda, and Murshidabad and shall conclusively incorporate in the Plan document of the current year or next financial year a comprehensive Master plan to tackle floods in Itahar, North Malda and Murshidabad. People of Itahar, Ratua, Kharba, Raiganj, Harishchandrapur require massive support for house, road, school reconstruction for the recent flood during election.

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Zero Hour.

Shri Rajesh Pilot.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Pilot. I will come to you also. Please take your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, please take your seat. You have also given notice to raise a matter during the Zero Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : I will call hon. Members one by one.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, before the public interest go far away from the heart of hon'ble Minister of Finance ... *(Interruptions)* Just now, the Minister of Finance has said that public interest is near to his heart, he has said so just now. Shri Ram Naikji and Shri Yashwant Sinhaji are present here, when they were speaking, I was seeing the public interest near the heart of both of them. I would like to request that two days ago, a discussion on diesel was held in the House and all hon'ble Members had expressed their concern over diesel price hike. All parties had expressed their concern over it. An hon'ble colleague belonging to that side, I forget his name, he said, there is no need, otherwise all the Members of the BJP had requested the Government to reduce this burden. I am happy that Shri Ram Naik has said in his speech that he too is concerned about it and he will immediately discuss it with the Government and will make some efforts in this regard. It was said Shri Ram Naik has said so. Sir, tomorrow is the last day of the Session. I would like to request Shri Naik that atleast by tomorrow he should inform the House about the steps they are going to take to reduce the burden of farmers and common man. The Government have talked about the sentiments. Shri Yashwant Sinha has also said that NDA



has won the elections due to the sentiments of people, please inform the House, what steps are you going to take, keeping those sentiments in mind ... (Interruptions)

DR. GIRIJA VYAS (Udaipur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say, a very prominent woman is present in the House ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA (Delhi Sadar) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, till now the Members have spoken about diesel ... (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : Delhi Government have doubled the DTC fares. Are they going to reduce the fares or not ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister is replying.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats. The Minister is on his legs.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, Hon'ble Shri Rajesh Pilot has raised a question, I had given the reply to it earlier also. Right now, I am happy to inform the House that the truck operators, who were on strike due to certain reasons, have withdrawn their strike. I thought that I should share this information with the House. Earlier I had given statement ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : This is not correct ... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to say something about DTC. DTC has increased the bus fares by 100%. There are 2300 private buses operating under DTC. The approval of STA is necessary for any hike in the fares ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, this is not correct.... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Madan Lal Khurana.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Khurana. Only the speech of Shri Khurana will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Sir, the fares of 2300 private buses have been hiked and no notification has been issued in this regard. The Minister of Home Affairs is present here. I would like to tell him that private bus operators in Delhi have not asked anybody before raising the fares of their buses by 100 per cent and no notification has been issued in this regard. STA has also not approved it. Through you, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that CBI should investigate this matter ... (Interruptions) Mr. Speaker, Sir, it should be investigated by CBI ... (Interruptions) 2300 private buses have increased their fares ... (Interruptions) Nobody has approved the proposal ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : I have called Shri Khurana. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I will call you after him. I have allowed Shri Khurana, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please take your seat. Please understand that I have allowed Shri Khurana. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a different issue that in Delhi fare of DTC buses were hiked due to diesel price hike, but in Delhi hundreds of private buses are plying. They have increased their fares by 100% though there is no such decision or proposal by the Delhi Government, then how the fares of 2300 buses have been hiked? Delhi Government have not taken any such decision or have passed any such proposal. Then how the private bus operators have increased the fares? Under the Motor Vehicle Act, STA has to present proposal to hike the fares of private buses and then Government takes a decision only after that fares are hiked, but in Delhi, neither the order has been issued by STA to hike the fares of private buses, nor the Delhi Government have presented any proposal, then how the fares have been hiked? This should be investigated by the CBI.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, DTC has hiked the fares, we will oppose it separately, but how the private bus operators have hiked the fares? In this regard, I allege, that there is a connivance between Delhi Government and private bus operators. The Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs is present here and I demand from him a CBI probe in this matter. It appears to me that the common man of Delhi is being robbed of hundreds of crores of rupees. Therefore, it should be investigated ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand that if you speak like this, how can the Chair call your names? Please take your seats first. I have a list, and I will call your names as per the list. Please sit down.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, we seek your protection. The hon. Home Minister that he would go to the Cabinet and then come back to the House. So, he should tell us about it. We need your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : You have discussed this issue for four hours, and this is on the same subject.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : You may please read his statement.

MR. SPEAKER : He has already replied to it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : He has said, I have nothing to say, ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat. If you do-like this, then it becomes difficult for me to call you. Please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please take your seats.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would request you to go through the records and if what Shri Rajesh Pilot said is correct and if the Hon. Minister has stated that he will consult and come back to the House, then it becomes an assurance and we seek your protection to ensure that he fulfills his commitment and comes back to the House with a fresh statement on this ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA (Padrauna) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, please give us a chance to speak ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You too will get an opportunity to speak, but first please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAL BIHARI TIWARI (East Delhi) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have given notice on why DTC has increased its fare ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Mr. Speaker, Sir, hon. Minister had said that he can reply only after discussing it in the Cabinet. Tomorrow is the last day of the Session ... *(Interruptions)*. Only you reply by tomorrow? ... *(Interruptions)*. We have right to ask this ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

THE MINISTER FOR PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK) : I say and repeat that whatever I have said on that day, I will try to follow it.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : No, that is not correct ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Then, what have you said ? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK : Whatever I said is on records ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, you can go through the records.

MR. SPEAKER : We will definitely go through the records.

SHRI RAJESH PILOT : Sir, tomorrow is the last date of this Session and if it is not done by tomorrow, then we would not have any chance to have our say.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay, we will go through the records.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA : Sir, please do it by tomorrow ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI (Mirzapur) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise a few points related to my parliamentary constituency. My Parliamentary constituency is very backward. It is an Adivasi area. This country has completed 50 years of independence but no Government have made clean potable water available to the people of that area. When first time I was elected as M. P., then under potable water scheme, I had given 1800 handpumps where have these been installed? A list should be made available to me, but unfortunately in between I lost the election. After that those handpumps were misused. Action should be taken in this regard. The Government of Bharatiya Janata Party and the Party workers of Bharatiya Janata Party had sold

them for Rs. 5000/- each. It should be checked ... (Interruptions). The poor are not getting drinking water over there. It should be made available to them... (Interruptions)

SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN (Khurja) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is entirely wrong ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : Why are you concealing it ... (Interruptions). You should not cover it up. The Central Government should allocate additional funds for the development of my constituency.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, they take 20% Commission from the loan sanctioned to the poor. The BJP people take 30%. Similarly, the money which is sanctioned under Indira Awas Yojana is also not given to them in full. They are asked to give Rs. 5000 first and then take Rs. 25000 ... (Interruptions). When the poor cannot get food in Rs. 100 from where will they bring Rs. 5000? ... (Interruptions) My brother Shri Khurana is shouting that bus fare have been hiked in Delhi ... (Interruptions). I feel sorry for it. You are a very senior leader. You should not behave like this ... (Interruptions). You should see the entire country... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, billions of rupees of farmers of the Eastern districts is outstanding against Sugar Mills ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : The people of my area are suffering ... (Interruptions) the people of entire country are in distress and you are shedding tears on bus fare hike in Delhi ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you may please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : The poor of our country who take water by pumpsets for irrigation and run tractors in the fields are asking me, Madam, why the price of diesel has gone up by Rs. 4 after your victory ... (Interruptions). You are asking the accounts of Delhi Government because tomorrow you have to become the Chief Minister but what should the people of entire country do? ... (Interruptions). Today, corruption is rampant in Uttar Pradesh ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Madam, you please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention particularly towards the sugarcane growers of eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : Therefore, I have give opportunity to you.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Billions of rupees are due to the farmers in my constituency. There are nine sugar mills in my constituency ... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PHOOLAN DEVI : Potable water and loan should be made available to the poor ... (Interruptions). There is carpet industry in my area. The loans taken by weavers should be waived off. The police is harassing the people over there. The people should be saved from the exploitation by the police ... (Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : You may please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : This will not go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to draw your attention particularly towards the eastern districts of Uttar Pradesh. There are nine sugar mills in my constituency out of which sugar mills of Padrauna and Kathkuiya are already closed ... (Interruptions). The Uttar Pradesh Government have decided to close down six other sugarmills in Chittoni, Ghugli, Munderva, Meerut, Rampur and Hardol also. Gauri Bazar in Deoria is already closed ... (Interruptions). The billions of rupees are due to sugarcane farmers. What will be the fate of sugarcane growers of Uttar Pradesh. They are dying. If all sugar mills are closed, what will be the fate of sugarcane growers ... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM (Badagara) : Sir, I was the first person to give notice today and yet I have not been given an opportunity so far.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAGINA MISHRA : I demand from the Government of India to instruct the Uttar Pradesh Government not to close the sugar mills in the interest of farmers. The mills should be asked to pay billion of rupees due to the farmers ... (Interruptions). In Lucknow, our MLAs are staging a dharna and have gone on fast. Therefore, I would ask the Government of India to intervene in this matter and should give some assurance here.

... (Interruptions)

Our Party's Government is in Centre as well as in Uttar Pradesh. During the election campaign, when Shri Vajpayee

\* Not recorded.

had visited Gorakhpur, he had assured that sugarmills will not be closed down and sugarcane farmers will be paid amount due to them. I would like that the Government of India should direct Uttar Pradesh Government in this regard ... *(Interruptions)*. Lakhs of farmers are dying ... *(Interruptions)*. The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs should respond ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : All right, please.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAJESH PILOT (Dausa) : Sir, we support this point. It is a burning problem for the farmers of that area. The Government should respond to this.

MR. SPEAKER : Would the Government like to respond to this?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : Shri Mishra and Shri Pilot have drawn the Government's attention towards the problem. I will discuss this matter with the Ministry of Agriculture and then will inform the House.

[English]

PROF. A. K. PREMAJAM : Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House, the Government and the entire nation that the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has derecognised Marxism from school syllabus in the country. This syllabus covers nearly 5,300 schools located all over India and abroad. There is no rationale behind this decision as the other political theories like Fascism, Liberalism and Gandism continue to be there in the syllabus. This decision has been taken in a very dubious and clandestine manner. This is not informed at any level and is done without any discussion. I cannot understand the rationale behind this. I would like to ask the Government whether this is the way—a highly intolerant and fanatic way—in which they are going to take the country into the new millennium. I would like to know from the Government as to what is wrong with Marxism. I would like to get an explanation from the Government on this. Are they going to wipe out Marxism from the rest of the world? Marxism is one of the philosophies of life where every person tries to be taken on the same level and the same equation.

13.00 hrs.

It is a philosophy a way of life and not merely a political theory. Sir, Marxism is being removed from the syllabus of the Central Board of Secondary Education.

We want a full discussion on this matter. We are deprived of the authority to know on what grounds this decision has been taken. The schools have not been allowed

to know the reasons. It was done in a very dubious manner. It shows the Ruling front's relationship with Fascism, Fanaticism and Fundamentalism, ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please understand. On this matter several hon. Members including Shrimati Geeta Mukherjee, Shri Basu Deb Acharia, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, Shrimati Phoolan Devi, Shri Somnath Chatterjee and Shri Rupchand Pal have given notice.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Prof. Vijay Kumar Malhotra has also given notice. I think, they can all associate themselves with Members who have already spoken on this subject.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : Sir, it is the question of education system of our country... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : They can all associate themselves with the matter.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : May I request Shri L. K. Advani? ... *(Interruptions)*

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Sir, I want to say something on this subject. I am not associating. I am dissociating.

MR. SPEAKER : There is no time today. Please associate yourself with the matter.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : On this subject, I want to say something. I am dissociating with them. I am not associating with them ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, this is a matter of Education. I hope, the matters relating to Education are not being treated in a partisan or political manner. A news report has appeared in 'The Hindustan Times' of today that the Central Board of Secondary Education has omitted Marxism as one of the political theories from the curriculum of the course. Although Liberalism, Socialism, Fascism and Gandhism will continue in the curriculum. Sir, it appears that the Chairman of the Central Board of Secondary Education is not aware of this change. But Principals of some schools have said that they have got a copy of the new syllabus and there, Marxism has been omitted.

I would like to know whether the Government is a party to it, whether the Government knows about it. What is the Government's response? Does the Government, in its present set up, think that by obliterating Marxism from the study of political theory they can obliterate Marxism altogether from the world? Sir, there are countries in the world... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : I will speak for one or two minutes. But you have reserved the time ... (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You have spoken four times since morning. I have not get a single chance ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : You too have spoken with Shri Madan Lal.

MR. SPEAKER : You too will get the chance.

... (Interruptions)

13.03 hrs.

[Mr. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : Sir, I am saying that if the Government thinks that they can obliterate Marxism altogether from the world as a political theory, I believe that they are sadly mistaken.

Is it the policy of the Government of India that they will try to force even Marxism out of the curriculum of the students? I know how it is being done in educational sphere dealing with the research work like the Council of Historical Studies and so on and so forth. I know how the RSS people are being put in there very selectively. Even non-attached intellectuals are being weeded out. We would like to know whether it is the continuation of the same policy by which even Marxism as a political theory is being brought out of the curriculum of the CBSE.

Sir, if it is so, we would like to very strongly object to that. They are trying to create a situation in this country where free flow of ideas are being attempted to be stopped.

If you think it will saffronise the education in every sphere of national life in this country, we shall oppose it here. We shall oppose it outside and, I am sure very very large numbers of people in this country will never accept it. I hope the Home Minister here will respond. I do not know. We have given notices much earlier. HRD Minister is not here. Let us know what is the Government's stand on this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra will speak now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have already announced that Shri Vijaya Kumar Malhotra will speak on this very subject. I will call you, if your name is there. Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, you are the former Speaker of Kerala Assembly. I have given the floor to Shri Vijay Kumar

Malhotra. Can both of you together talk? I have called Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : We want to know the reaction of the Government.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I cannot compel the Government to react. You know it.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat, Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan? I am on my legs. You have this elementary knowledge about the floor of the House. I have given the floor of the House to Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra. I will call you one by one. If your name is there, I will call you. Both of you cannot talk at one time.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : If you do not allow Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra to speak, then I will have to adjourn the House. Do not pass running commentary like this.

[Translation]

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is being discussed since morning that Members of the Communist Party are not letting the Members of any other party to speak. When they speak, we do not interrupt them. Shri Somnathji has spoken for ten minutes and we have not uttered a single word, but when any other Member wants to speak, they interrupt in the middle.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Vijay Kumarji you please come to the point.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Do not interrupt your colleague.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today a news item has appeared in the 'The Hindustan Times' Five ideologies in the syllabus prescribed for paper No. 10 are being discussed. It includes socialism and Gandhism and it has been said that it will continue in syllabus. I do not know what the CBSE has said. Marxism also comes under socialism and it's theory can be taught. I do not have any objection. But the way it is being presented and is being said that efforts are being made to saffronise it. It is also being said that Marxism cannot be finished in the world. I would like to ask whether there is any country in the world, where Marxism is being followed. Is Marxism being followed in West Bengal ... (Interruptions). First of all Russia had separated itself from the Marxism. China which was once synonym for Marxism is now the America's most favoured nation. Similarly, in West Bengal first of all the Communist Party has privatised the electricity. There, the Communist Party has given advertisement of Coca Cola in

the front page of its news papers. There are no signs of Marxism in the West Bengal. They are asking us to teach theory but in West Bengal, the Communist Party has violated the principles of Marxism.

At present, there is no country in the world where Marxism is being followed. Marxism is a dead theory. If you want to teach the dead theory, I do not have any objection. In West Bengal, the root of privatisation are laid by the Communist party. The privatisation is not any where in India but in West Bengal. The theory of Dictatorship of the Proletariat is being followed no where in the world. The schools are Ramakrishna Parmahansa are also shut down. No other theory was allowed to prevail. Communist party in the name of communism do not want any other theory to be taught over there. It is not being saffronised. The Education policy is not being changed. Therefore, I would like to say first it should be seen what happened over there, then it should be discussed. Discussion could be held. Marxism has been finished in the world. It cannot go by mere teaching of its principles.

[English]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, he is totally misleading the House ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please resume your seat now.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I have called Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silchar) : Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with a heavy heart, I would like to draw your attention. In my Parliamentary constituency, ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Sir, this issue should be over.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev, you will get your chance later.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I have also given a notice.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Speaker has associated your name also. He read out your name. But it is not necessary that everyone has to say something. Shri Somnath Chatterjee has already spoken.

... (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE (Panskura) : Mine was the second notice and I want only two minutes. I gave my notice at nine O'clock ... (Interruptions)

He said that Marxism is to be seen nowhere in the world today. Let me tell him that China adheres to Marxism and Cuba, the most heroic republic also follows Marxism. Is keeping Fascism on the agenda the way to guide the education of the students? why should Marxism be taken away or derecognized?

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS (Palghat) : We want a clarification from the Government ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat. I now call Shri Radhakrishnan.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI NANDKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN (Khandwa) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Harijans are being treated cruelly in Madhya Pradesh. In order to raise this issue an MLA was going to submit a memorandum. The police tried to kill that MLA ... (Interruptions). This is the treatment being given to a legislator, representative of the people ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I will have to adjourn the House, if you go on like this.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN (Chirayinkil) : Sir, I am now on my legs..... (Interruptions). You have called me and I am on my legs.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members, please resume your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Hon. Members please resume your seats.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seats?

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, hon. Home Minister please.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (Guna) : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Vijay Kumar Malhotra just presented his view point in this House. I have an apprehension in my mind. Is the Government going to decide whether marxism exists

\* Not recorded.

or not? Is the whole syllabus going to be finalised according to their wishes? Marxism is a political philosophy and it would be totally improper to exclude marxism from the syllabus. In this matter we fully support Shri Somnath Chatterjee. In this context. I would like to quote Hindustan Times dated 24th October, because there is a big danger involved. The paper says :

[English]

"That the Committee appointed to frame the syllabus for open schools was recently disbanded after it had put in two years of hard work."

[Translation]

A number of apprehension arise in our minds and I strongly support Shri Somnath on the point that exclusion of Marxism from the syllabus is totally improper. We definitely want a clarification on this matter from the Government ... (Interruptions)

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA (South Delhi) : You also condemn the way in which the Government of West Bengal is dropping some portions from the syllabus ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Member, please resume your seat. I have given the floor to Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav. Please do not interrupt.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (Sambhal) : Shri Malhotra has given the argument, that marxism no more exists in the world. How can any ideology cease to exist? Shri Scindia has rightly said that the Government cannot decide all by itself. We also knew that those who have followed the ideology of Gandhiji are themselves to be blamed for destroying the ideology of Gandhiji. But what have we done, we are still following Gandhian way. Mr. Home Minister, this doubt has arisen because you were in the Cabinet in the previous Government also. By changing the present education system, what type of education system you are bringing. When the Minister of Education opposed the move, you were compelled to withdraw it. Your move smacks of Fascism. Though Gandhi was assassinated, yet no one was able to remove Gandhi's name from this world. These conspiracies to change history gradually are nothing but fascist attempts. The Government is diverting its attention from the problems facing the country and unnecessarily indulging in such acts which are beyond the sphere of the Government. This Government has no policy, no programme, no principles and it has no concern for the masses of the country. This Government will bring some

legislation or will raise some question. Through which country's attention could be diverted from the basic problems. This is a well thought out conspiracy. To remove marxism from the syllabus is wrong. If you start changing syllabus like this, BJP will not remain in power. If that happens, we will say that the BJP has been removed from the scene. If today you are in power or marxism is out of power, it does not mean that their ideology no more exists.

I knew among journalists, intellectuals, and lawyers, there are some eminent people who still follow marxism even though they are not active in the politics of the country. In this way you are advancing wrong arguments. Leader of your stature should think about it.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : You are teaching socialism to us.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV : There is difference between your socialism and our socialism. Let me tell you that ideology of marxism is not bad but their method of its implementation was wrong and they received setback on that account. Therefore I want to tell my brothers of Bharatiya Janata Party to learn something from them, learn from marxism. If weakness came in their system then they have tried to change in their own way and their Government and party have worked in that direction. Therefore I am cautioning you that the method which you have adopted will have pave way for your party being wiped out from this country. Therefore try to learn from them. Do not think of changing history at all levels. What will you gain by writing wrong things about us and about them? Some colleagues may not agree with our point of view but Mr. Malhotra. In certain matters even Home Minister will agree with us as that will help to take the country forward. Whosoever is doing this type of work is doing a wrong thing. Therefore they should say sorry on behalf of the Government and withdraw it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I called Shri Lal Bihari Tiwari to speak. His name is also there. He has also given a notice like you did. Why should you object if I allow him to speak?

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : This is very important issue. I want to put forward my views on behalf of Janata Dal (United) ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down. Do you want to speak on this issue only?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : No.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : The matter regarding exclusion of marxism from the syllabus has appeared in newspapers and I agree with whatever Shri Somnath Chatterjee, Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav and Shri Madhavrao Scindia has said on this issue. Hon. Shri Malhotra said that since marxism is vanishing from the world and therefore, we are excluding this from the syllabus.

DR. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA : I did not say that.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : That is good.

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir there are other subjects also the same points are raised by every member on this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : It is not only the question of its exclusion from the syllabus, the question is whether student of the country would be able to know about all political thoughts. Marxism and Hinduism are philosophies. We can accept Gandhism also as a philosophy. Gandhism is not simply a political thought but something more than that.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : What you have to say about it, you say that. What do you want the Government of India to do, say that. Do not talk irrelevant.

SHRI BRAHMA NAND MANDAL : I want to say that if Government has taken any such decision, marxism should not be excluded from the syllabus since it is being taught at 10+2 level. If this is done it would be presumed that you are not ready to tolerate any other thought. This would not be good for the country. I would request the Government to make a statement in this regard.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : I would like to submit that the question of marxism that has arisen ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chapra) : Why is he speaking twice on the same subject?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is the Chief Whip of a Party. We have to accommodate him.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : While I support the argument placed by Shri Somnath Chatterjee, not to exclude marxism as a theory to study because I also feel that we should have access to study all theories. But I humbly submit to Shri Somnath to consult his State Government as to why the West Bengal teachers had to go to court to restore the syllabus of History which was distorted by the West Bengal Government. I will urge the Home Minister to inquire

in the interest of the country as to why in Bengal the Partition of Bengal Chapter, which is a great glorious movement of the country, has been reduced from 6 pages to one paragraph. The first children book of Gurudev Tagore, 'Sahaj Path' has been taken out of the syllabus ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : 'Sahaj Path' is still there ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, you must have the patience to listen him.

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : He is misleading the House. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Sir, the six-page chapter has come down to half a paragraph. Such matters should also be considered seriously. I support the argument of Shri Somnath Chatterjee... (Interruptions). The Government should inquire about the syllabus of History of West Bengal. Why Quit India Movement has been brought down from ten pages to one paragraph. This is the cry of the teachers. It is not something which I am saying on my own. While I support Shri Somnath Chatterjee, I also plead that the Partition of Bengal Movement Chapter which has been distorted should be restored.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI L. K. ADVANI) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this discussion is based on a news item. I am not going to participate in the discussion as such but I would certainly like to ascertain from the HRD Ministry the facts in this regard. That is all.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What is your response?

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : My response is that this Government would like the study of every political theory to be understood. There should be a study. There is no question. This news item itself says that Farsism is being studied. Marxism also would be studied. What was there and what has been excluded, I will find out.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : We would like to have a statement from the HRD Ministry tomorrow.

SHRI L. K. ADVANI : If there is a need for a statement, the Minister will make a statement. Maybe, this is not substantial. I do not know. Your failure to respond to what Shri Dasmunsi says, seems to indicate that there is some substance in what he has said.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is the trouble. Even Shri L. K. Advani cannot resist the temptation of being misled by him.

SHRI K. P SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, when are you going to discuss the sufferings of the people of Orissa? We have been waiting since yesterday.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will fix some time.



SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV (Silcher) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, through you, with a heavy heart, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Home Minister. In my constituency, in a place called Joynagar in Dholai constituency on the night of 25th October, a church and 10 houses have been burnt. It was reported to the local police station to take action. The police did not take any action. Next day again, there was an attack and 6 houses were burnt. I spoke to the Deputy Commissioner in the morning. He told that in spite of his definite instructions the police had not taken any action.

It has a spill over in the Mizoram which has 80 per cent Christian community.

I will urge upon the hon. Home Minister to kindly tell the Assam Government to take immediate action and whoever is guilty must be punished and tension must be reduced. This is my humble request to you.

13.30 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fifteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

14.19 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Nineteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock*

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL  
OF INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE  
AND  
INCOME-TAX (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves of the Income-tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 7 of 1999) promulgated by the President on 1 July, 1999."

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : This Bill is to be passed without discussion.

[English]

As agreed in the morning, we will have to pass it speedily.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to replace the Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 7 of 1999) which was promulgated on 1st July, 1999.

On account of armed intrusion by a neighbouring country in Kargil and the surrounding areas of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the security of our country was facing severe threat. The Defence Forces of our country were engaged in meeting this threat against heavy odds. In the course of discharge of their duties, some members of the Defence Forces suffered serious injuries, while others laid down their lives for the country. The families of the personnel, who made the supreme sacrifice and who had suffered serious injuries in the discharge of their noble duties deserve full support of the Government, as also the citizens at large.

In order to mobilise more funds for extending the maximum support to the members of the Defence Forces and their families, donations made to the National Defence Fund were made fully deductible under the Income-Tax Act by promulgating an ordinance on the 1st July, 1999 as the Parliament was not in Session.

Now, I move the Income-Tax (Amendment) Bill, 1999 to replace the ordinance with the request that the same may be considered and passed and also with a request that it be passed without taking more time of the House because there is no opposition. I would request my friends, Shri Acharia not to object to the passage of this very non-controversial Bill.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Motions moved :

"That this House disapproves of the Income-Tax (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 7 of 1999) promulgated by the President on 1 July 1999."

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-Tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, I have a few words to speak.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Shri Acharia, it was agreed in the BAC today to pass it without discussion. We have only one-and-a-half days left.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Mahajan, he has moved his Statutory Resolution. So, let him say a few words.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I support this Bill whole-heartedly but I have a few words to say.

[Translation]

Whatever we have been doing for our brave soldiers who have sacrificed their lives for the country is very less. I want to ask as to why did this war take place?

[Shri Basu Deb Acharia]

[English]

Why has this happened? Why did the intrusion take place? Why was the Government not aware of it for several months.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Acharia, if you go into the issue of Kargil, there would not be any end to it.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : This is totally unfair. We do not expect this from you, Shri Acharia. You can raise this issue during the discussion on the Motion of Thanks. The first point we decided in the morning was not to discuss it. Now you are going into an issue which has nothing to do with the Bill. This is not fair for a senior Member to use this opportunity

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Shri Pramod Mahajan, you are from Rajya Sabha. Never in his life has Shri Acharia agreed to anything without speaking. So, please allow him to speak. This is his habit.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Sir, let me ask for clarification as I had fought in the 1971 war.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Let Shri Acharia conclude, Shri Deo.

[Translation]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : We have to see as to what more can we do for these brave soldiers. The things which this government and the people of this country have done for those brave soldiers is not enough. We have to do a lot more for the soldiers who have attained martyrdom or have been wounded.

All of us, the whole House had to think about it.

SHRIMATI BHAVNA DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA : We have given it a thought and are also working on it ...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : This is not enough. We want that something more should be done. We would appeal to the Government to tell the House as to what has been done and what is being done by the Government for helping and properly rehabilitating them. We are supporting the proposal for amendment in section 80 G of the Income Tax Act.

[English]

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Sir, I would like to seek a clarification from the hon. Minister. You must give me the indulgence.

Kargil is a manifestation of the low-intensity proxy war which has been going on for the last fifty years. I would like

to know whether this is meant only for the Kargil war or for the entire Jammu and Kashmir area where our people have been fighting to save the national honour, sovereignty and the integrity of the country for the last fifty years. I say this because those people, who are fighting in Jammu and Kashmir, are not getting any concession.

Secondly, with it, due to natural calamities also, people are dying.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : That will come next.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : Sir, with your permission, I would also like to say a few words ...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : I have to make only two points. I will take only one minute. Normally, when we are moving the Statutory Resolution, we will have a chance to speak for one or two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : In the BAC meeting it was decided that the three Bills would be passed without any discussion.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer) : I am very sorry to say that for the welfare of the soldiers, even in the Income-tax Act ...  
(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : His name is there in the Statutory Resolutions, why are you interrupting? ...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Rasa Singh ji, when you were in the opposition, you used to participate in all the discussions regarding Bills. Now when you have become a Member of the ruling party, you have become mute ...  
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : I will take only one minute. Formally, you have to give me one or two minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will confine to this Bill. It is for a very limited purpose.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : I will make only two points.

Sir, this is a welcome step. There is no doubt about it. Nobody has got any reservations about this Bill. The only thing is this. The Hon. Finance Minister should tell this House how much amount we collected for this purpose. This is the first point.

The second point is that there are a lot of advertisements coming in the newspapers saying that such and such newspaper wanted to collect money from the public. The patriotic people of this nation will definitely contribute to the Kargil Fund. So many institutions and organisations also came out with advertisements and other things. They collected huge money. So, my appeal to the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, is that there should be some kind of a restriction on this so that unnecessarily the public money will not be collected and misutilised by a lot of organisations and newspapers. I would like to appeal to the hon. Finance Minister to see that there should be some kind of a mechanism to stop this kind of misuse of the Kargil Fund.

SHRI G. M BANATWALLA : Sir, I would like to put just one question, I support the Bill. I would only like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to an important aspect. We all salute our soldiers who have fought at Kargil. We salute them for their sacrifice. It is necessary that the compensation should be adequate and full in nature. So, that particular factor must be remembered.

There are several Funds. For example, there is the Army Central Welfare Fund. There is the Air Force Central Welfare Fund. There is the National Defence Fund and there are some other Funds also. I have only to emphasise one thing. Let us have coordination among all these funds so that a proper and adequate relief goes to all of them.

Then, I must say that the disbursements should be fair and speedy in nature. These are matters that must receive the attention of the Government. Let us also know the total amount envisaged by the Government that will be necessary for all these welfare measures for our Kargil soldiers.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I do not know whether he has got all these details with him.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani) : The hon. Minister has said that our soldiers have fought at great odds. Yes. It is because of the Government's delay in taking action that our soldiers had to sacrifice a lot of their lives and limb for which the Government is also responsible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you withdrawing the Statutory Resolution moved by you?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Yes, I am withdrawing it.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Resolution moved by Shri Basu Deb Acharia be withdrawn?

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I suppose it is admitted on all hands that the kind of national upsurge that we witnessed after the Kargil operations was unprecedented

and it was as a result of that national upsurge that we received substantial contributions to the National Defence Fund. I have the figures with me here.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : What will happen to the amount that was donated to the Chief Ministers' Relief Fund?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The Chief Ministers will use that amount.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : Will that donation also get the same tax relief?

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : The Chief Ministers' Relief Fund and the Prime Minister's Relief Fund are separately dealt with under the Income Tax Act. To the best of my knowledge, they already have 100 per cent exemption.

But this fund, unfortunately, has only 50 per cent exemption. The simple thing that we did was the we brought the National Defence Fund at par with many other funds like the Army Welfare Fund, the Air Force Welfare Fund etc., where there is 100 per cent exemption to this fund also.

Sir, as far as the collection of money to this fund is concerned, the total collection since inception of the National Defence Fund on 1st November, 1962 has been of the order of Rs. 638.86 crore out of which Rs. 400 crore have been collected during and after the Kargil operation. This is the scale of collection to this fund that Rs. 238 crore was collected so far, throughout the history of this fund and Rs. 400 crore has been collected as result of the Kargil operations.

Sir, we have taken a number of steps to use this money for the welfare of the families of those who have been killed and also to those who have been injured in operation. I have all the figures with me here, but I do not want to take the time of the House. I will make only one point and that is that this Government has done more for the welfare of the families of those who have been killed and to those who have been injured on a scale which has been unprecedented and has never been attempted ever in the past. We have taken, in consultation with the Chief Ministers of many of the State Governments, in a Committee which was constituted by the Prime Minister, certain decisions of far-reaching importance to help these people.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, we have already had a very good debate. Let him not bring in new dimension to it.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No, I am not trying to bring any new dimension to it.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV : It is a good thing you have done. We approve it. Do not bring in a new dimension to it.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : No, I am not trying to do that. I am just responding to the points which have been raised by the hon. Members in terms of the facts and that those are the facts that I wanted to put before the House. This money will be utilised for the welfare of the defence forces for which it is meant.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask clarification from the hon. Minister of Finance. The Kargil operation was named as 'Operation Vijay'. This was a code name given to this particular timeframe only. But our men and officers have been dying for the last 52 years and are not getting the same benefits as those who have died during the Kargil operation. Will these benefits be extended to those people who are fighting a low-intensity proxy war which is the same type of war which was fought in Kargil? We cannot have double standards for the people who are dying for the same cause.

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I would like to respond by saying that the benefits from this fund have not been restricted merely to the armed forces engaged in 'Operation Vijay'. It has been extended to Central para-military forces, State para-military forces which were operating in Jammu and Kashmir and even to civilians like porter etc., who have been killed in operation. The issue that has been raised by the hon. Member, Shri K. P. Singh Deo is also under the consideration of the Committee which has been constituted under the chairmanship of the Defence Minister.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Income-tax Act, 1961, be taken into consideration."

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and long title stand part of the Bill.

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the long title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

" That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.36 hrs.

## CONTINGENCY FUND OF INDIA (AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, items 17 and 18 will be taken up together. Shri Basu Deb Acharia, are you moving?

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA (Bankura) : I am not moving.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Regarding item No. 17, Shri Ramesh Chennithala, are you moving?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : No, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Varkala Radhakrishnan, are you moving regarding item no. 17?

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Sir, I am not moving.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE : This is the cooperation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, that is a very healthy cooperation. That should also be reciprocated.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) : Sir, I beg to move\* :

"That the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Bill, 1999, be taken into consideration."

Under Articles 267(1) and 283(1) of the Constitution, the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950, was enacted providing for the establishment of the Contingency Fund of India and for the custody of such fund and for the payment of moneys into and withdrawal of moneys from it. The corpus of the Contingency Fund of India established under the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950, was Rs. 50 crore at the time of dissolution of the 12th Lok Sabha. As the available budgetary grants and the Contingency Fund could not accommodate fully the requirement of the funds for conduct of 'General Elections, 1999' and the Lok Sabha stood dissolved an immediate augmentation of the corpus of the Contingency Fund became necessary. Therefore, an

\* Moved with the recommendation of the President.

Ordinance, namely, the Contingency Fund of India (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999, was promulgated by the President of India on 28th July 1999, to temporarily raise the corpus of the Fund by Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 550 crore.

The Bill seeks to replace the above Ordinance.

Sir, I move that the Bill be adopted and passed without discussion in this House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Contingency Fund of India Act, 1950, be taken into consideration.

*The motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clause 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That clause 1, the Enacting Formula and Title stand part of the Bill.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI YASHWANT SINHA : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

14.40 hrs.

STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE : DISAPPROVAL  
OF THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE  
(AMENDMENT) ORDINANCE  
AND  
REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE  
(AMENDMENT) BILL

[English]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will now take up item Nos. 19 & 20 together.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Mavelikara) : Sir, I beg to move :

"That this House disapproves of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No.8 of 1999) promulgated by the President on 21 July, 1999."

Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am in support of this piece of legislation because due to the terrorist activities in the State of Jammu & Kashmir, a lot of people had come to Delhi and other parts of our country. They were staying in different camps and the Government has extended all kinds of reliefs. Even though it was inadequate, the Government has taken care of them.

When this general election came, as a citizen of the country, it was their right to vote and exercise their franchise. Unfortunately, they are in Delhi and other parts of the country, so they could not exercise their franchise in their home State, that is, Jammu & Kashmir. So the Government has promulgated this Ordinance to enable them to vote by using the postal ballot. Generally, the postal ballot device will be given to the Jawans and other such people but this has been extended to these people also.

Definitely, we are welcoming this step. The only point that I want to make is that there is a long standing demand from the people of Kerala and other places that the voting rights should be extended to those also who are working in the Gulf as well as other countries. Sir, you know that in the Gulf countries, there are a large number of Keralites and other Indians working there.

In the Eleventh Lok Sabha, the then Finance Minister promised that the Government will ponder over this issue seriously and they will have some kind of a legislation so that the people in a large number who are working in the Gulf countries will get a chance to exercise their franchise. When we are seriously considering about the migrants of the Jammu & Kashmir, I think, it would be appropriate for the Government to think and give voting right to the people who are working in the Gulf countries also.

I do not know whether the Government has seriously thought about this. Earlier there was a suggestion, I do not want to take much time, so I do not want to go into that suggestion, the only thing is that when we are considering this, my request to the hon. Minister is to think about this also and the long standing demand should be met some way. There are a lot of other suggestions. I do not want to go into them.

A comprehensive Representation of the People Act is necessary. There are a lot of lacunae in this Act. For the last fifty years we are experiencing this democratic system in our country. From our experience we are able to say that there are a lot of lacunae and shortcomings in our electoral system, which should be rectified. So, a comprehensive Bill is necessary.

[Shri Ramesh Chennithala]

The House had constituted the Goswami Committee and that Committee had given certain recommendations. In the light of those recommendations, I think, the Government should come forward with a comprehensive Bill for our electoral reforms.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL):  
Sir, on behalf of Shri Ram Jethmalani, I beg to move :

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 be taken into consideration."

The State of Jammu & Kashmir has been the target of terrorist activities for the last several years. A large number of people have been the victims of violence perpetrated by the terrorists.

A sizeable part of the population of Kashmir valley has migrated elsewhere. Section 60 of the Representation of the People Act, 1951 contains provisions regarding the facility of postal ballot to certain categories of persons. These categories primarily include the Armed Forces personnel and the persons detained under Preventive Detention. To enable the migrant voters from Kashmir Valley to exercise their franchise, Ordinances were promulgated at the time of Lok Sabha elections in 1996 and 1998 as also the recent Lok Sabha elections in 1999 to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 to insert a new clause (c) in section 60 thereof authorising the Election Commission, in consultation with the Government, to notify any class of persons to give their vote by postal ballot. The Election Commission of India has been of the view that the provisions included in the Ordinance should be placed permanently in the Statute book so that similar situations can be met in future also. The Government is agreeable to the suggestion of the Election Commission and it has, therefore, decided to make the necessary amendment in the Act itself, on a permanent basis, through this Bill by replacing the Ordinance promulgated by the President on 21 July, 1999.

I am confident that the hon. Member will agree with the Government with regard to the issue and the Bill would receive support from all quarters of the House.

Sir, I commend the Bill for consideration of the House. I request the hon. Member to withdraw his Statutory Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Motions moved :

" That this House disapproves of the Representation of the People (Amendment) Ordinance, 1999 (No. 8 of 1999) promulgated by the President on 21 July, 1999."

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951, be taken into consideration."

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while supporting this Bill, I have to say that there are thousands of Keralites working in gulf countries, namely Abu Dhabi, Dubai, Baharain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and so on. They do not acquire double citizenship. They are really citizens of India. By staying there for two or three years, they do not get the citizenship of a foreign country. So, the double citizenship or the citizenship of a foreign country does not arise in the instant case. In every way they are Indian citizens. As they could not get employment in our country, they left their native land and proceeded to a foreign country for employment. They got their employment. They earn foreign exchange, which is being transmitted to our country. We are also in one way benefited. Their families are also benefited. They are doing a very good service to the country as well as to the progress of their families. It has to be commended upon.

For the simple reason that they are away from this land at the time of election for earning their livelihood, they are denied the fundamental right of a citizen namely to exercise their franchise ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The hon. Minister is well aware of that ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Yes, the hon. Minister is also aware of that. That fundamental right is denied to them. It is a glaring injustice. ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, I am also aware of that. Now, you kindly conclude.

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : I am very happy that the hon. Deputy-Speaker is also quite aware of it. So, that is the position. Why should we deny to them the right to exercise their franchise? This could be done either through the Embassy or by a person who is authorised by the Embassy to countersign the declaration. In postal vote, there must be a declaration. That declaration could be countersigned by the Indian Embassy itself or its representative who is abroad and in his presence the declaration can be countersigned and forwarded to the respective State from where they have to exercise their franchise.

So, my humble submission is that some arrangement will have to be made to see that these people also exercise their franchise at the time of election in India. It need not be taken as a question of double citizenship.

Suppose, some people are in America. They acquire that country's citizenship. That is another matter... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : But this is not like that. There is nothing in similar with these two instances.

... (Interruptions)

So, I request the Government to see that these people get their right to exercise their franchise during the coming elections. And if it could be done by this amendment, then that will be a very welcome step and in that perspective I support the Bill.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, I seek your protection. I have every right ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He has given in writing to participate.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN (Alleppey) : Sir, let me congratulate the hon. Minister, Shri O. Rajagopal on this occasion first. Since he is dealing a very serious subject I have great expectations with him that during his period he may try his best to formulate the most desired electoral reforms which we have been expecting for a long time.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : They are free to contradict if they feel ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sudheeran, please address the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

Sir, in the Presidential Address, the Government has made its policy very clear that the Government would come with a comprehensive electoral reforms. It is a welcome move. There is no doubt about it. In that the Government will have to take utmost care and do elaborate exercise to make it more meaningful. The viewpoints of all sections of the society have to be obtained even before preparing the draft and make it a point of national debate. All sections have to be taken into confidence and all views have to be obtained. Then, after formulating a draft, this should be made a subject for national debate. That is my contention number one.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : I have every right. I seek your protection. I am saying from my own experiences, not from anywhere ... (Interruptions). I have every right. There is no doubt about it. In my Constituency, 31 booths were captured.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : No, Sir. There was not a single complaint. How can he mislead the House? ... (Interruptions)

Sir, unless we remove the money power, muscle power and punish the biased or partisan or guilty officials, there is no point in beating around the bush.

Sir, there were the Observers of the Election Commission. Did he make a complaint to them? (Interruptions). How can he mislead the House? (Interruptions)

My esteemed friends, Shri V. Radhakrishnan and Shri Ramesh Chennithala would be having an idea of providing right to vote to the Indians staying abroad. I fully support that. But, I have to make another important point that while we are discussing the voting right to the people staying abroad, in India after 50 years of Independence, our own people are denied their most cherished right of right to vote. We have to closely watch the trend of conduct of elections. We have been reading newspapers that in many parts, booth capturing has taken place. I wonder and I pained that a politically conscious State like Kerala, this time, we witnessed booth capturing in many areas including my Constituency. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seat. This is not unparliamentary.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Will you please resume your seat?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, let me mention in this very House which one of the booths were captured.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : He is misleading the House. There is not a single complaint. ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Sudheeran, this Bill seeks a very limited purpose. You kindly confine yourself to that particular amendment of the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not interrupt him. We do not have time. Please resume your seat. I have given him the floor. Please resume your seat.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt him. He is an hon. Member. When he says something, he is stating it with authenticity.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, I have never disturbed the proceedings of the House so far. I had served as the Speaker of the Kerala Assembly and I have been a Member of Parliament for four times. They do not have the feelings but I have the feelings. I have contested eight elections, four times for the Assembly and four times for the Parliament. I never experienced such a bitter things as this time... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Why do you disturb him? Do not interrupt like that.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Do not interrupt. Please resume your seat.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, you can see the intolerance of my friends even here, in Parliament, where we are free to speak ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : He is misleading the House, Sir, ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : What is the misleading he is doing? He is making a statement. He is stating his own experience in his own constituency.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : No, Sir, let him mention here which ones are the booths that were captured.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, they do not know the details. Anticipating the trouble, even before the election, I filed a petition to the Election Commission ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Sudheeran, please conclude now. We do not have the time.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : I will not take much time of the House, Sir ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Radhakrishnan, you have had your say. Please resume your seat. You were also the Speaker of the Kerala Assembly.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, I am not a person who will waste the time of the House. I thought that after coming to this House, I should inform the House of the undemocratic act that took place in my constituency.

Sir, in my area, that is Kainakary Panchayat, all the sixteen booths were captured; in Nedumudy Panchayat, four booths were captured; in Thakazhy Panchayat, two booths were captured; in Karuvatta Panchayat, two booths were captured; in Champakulam Panchayat, three booths were captured; in Edathua Panchayat, three booths were

captured; and in Ramankari Panchayat, one booth was captured.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, kindly allow me to interrupt for a minute.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I can allow you only if Shri Sudheeran yields.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : I am not yielding, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : He is not yielding. You are not a new Member.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please resume your seat. If there is anything objectionable, I shall expunge it.

... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Please do not interrupt. Both of you are senior Members.

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, not a single complaint was filed before the Election Commission... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now I am asking the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI V.M. SUDHEERAN : I am concluding, Sir, ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now I have to warn you. Please do not interrupt like this. I am telling you that if there is anything unparliamentary or if any untruth is stated, that will be expunged.

**15.00 hrs.**

Why are you objecting? When I am standing, you will have to resume your seat. Shri Sudheeran, you please conclude now.

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, I will conclude. I have the personal experience of the most distorted and gruesome and frightening face of the system. It is the clear case of misuse of State machinery by the ruling C.P.I. (M) flouting the very spirit of the rule of law ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : Sir, this should be deleted from the record ... *(Interruptions)*. There were observers posted by the Election Commission of India. There was not a single complaint... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : There were complaints made. You go into the same ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. N. KRISHNADAS : There were observers posted by the Election Commission ... *(Interruptions)*



MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now I call the hon. Minister to reply.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI V. M. SUDHEERAN : Sir, just a minute. The Election Commission observers were not available. I filed complaints from time to time ... (Interruptions) Even before the elections, sensing the danger, I have filed complaints with the Election Commission ... (Interruptions) On the date of election I faxed three complaints the one on the next day to the Election Commission ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Nothing except what the hon. Minister says will go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL : Sir, even though my friends disagree on certain aspects regarding the electoral practices etc.....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Hon. Minister, just a minute please.

The Statutory Resolution is to be withdrawn. Shri Ramesh Chennithala, are you withdrawing the Statutory Resolution?

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : Yes Sir, I am withdrawing the Statutory Resolution.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Is it the pleasure of the House that the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri Ramesh Chennithala be withdrawn?

*The Resolution was, by leave, withdrawn.*

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK (Anantnag) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, before the hon. Minister replies, I may be given two minutes time to express my views.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes.

[Translation]

SHRI ALI MOHD. NAIK : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as far as the question of the exodus of Kashmir Pandits is concerned, they have been outside the state for the past ten years and some are staying in the state.

[English]

According to Sheikh Mohd. Abdulla, Kashmiri Pandits are the flesh and blood of the Kashmiris and there can be no Kashmiri civilisation without them.

[Translation]

For their return to their houses the State Government has submitted a very large package to the Government of

India for their rehabilitation and I would like that the Government of India should take immediate action on that package. Secondly as far as voting right is concerned this has been given by the Government of India. I support this Bill but the problem in it is that –

[English]

It is because they are my constituents.

[Translation]

And it is a very complicated system. Voters are to be cried to the gazetted officer for the identification.

[English]

It has become very cumbersome and very difficult for these people to vote even if they want to vote.

[Translation]

I would submit to the concerned hon'ble Minister to call a meeting of the Local M. P's of Jammu & Kashmir and find out as to what are their problems. After that whatever consensus emerges on the basis of that suitable amendments should be carried out for the next elections but the better option is to accept the plan package submitted by the state-government and quick action should be taken in that regard so that those people who have been displaced could return to their homes.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): Sir, I am thankful to the hon. Members who have expressed their agreement on the principles underlying this Bill. Certain suggestions were made regarding the improvements in the electoral system and also about certain irregularities in the provisions and facilities already given. In the Address of the hon. Rastrapati there is specific mention about electoral reforms. The Government is committed to electoral reforms and before any legislation is brought about, there will be wide-ranging discussion with all political parties on the question of electoral reforms.

At that time, some of the issues that have been raised by the hon. Members could be taken care of, including the suggestion made by the hon. Member from Jammu & Kashmir. The difficulties pointed out could also be considered at that time and necessary incorporations made in the legislation for electoral reforms.

I would now request the House to pass this Bill.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the Representation of the People Act, 1951 be taken into consideration."

*The Motion was adopted.*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is :

"That clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

*The Motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting formula and the Title were added to the Bill.*

SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL : Sir, I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

"That the Bill be passed."

*The motion was adopted.*

15.08 hrs.

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

### **Natural Calamities in West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar and Orissa**

*[English]*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, we take up item number 22. Discussion under Rule 193. Two hours are allotted for this discussion.

Shri Ajoy Chakraborty.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I initiate the discussion under rule 193 on the subject of natural calamities which took place in the middle of this month or Orissa, West Bengal, parts of Andhra Pradesh and Bihar.

Sir, when our countrymen are engaged and busy, in a festive mood, with Durga Puja and Dussehra festivals, at the very moment, severe and tragic disasters took place and destroyed the entire coastal area of Orissa and East Bengal as well as parts of Andhra Pradesh. In Orissa, more than 200 people were killed and thousands and thousands of people were rendered homeless and shelterless as a result of the severe cyclonic storm which ripped through the coastal areas of Orissa leaving behind a trail of devastation. Besides Orissa, all the districts of West Bengal and a major part of Bihar and the coastal parts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly, Srikakulam district, were badly affected.

According to the preliminary survey report, more than seven lakh or eight lakh people in eleven districts of Orissa

have been badly affected, and thousands and thousands of acres of paddy and other crops were totally damaged because the heavy rainfall inundated or submerged these areas. Due to this, Orissa, West Bengal, some parts of Bihar and Andhra Pradesh were badly affected. In West Bengal, all the blocks in 14 districts were badly affected, due to the effect of cyclonic storm. This heavy and unprecedented rainfall had cut-off not only South Bengal and North Bengal, but also the districts of Midnapore, Murshidabad, North 24 Paraganas and South 24 Paraganas. All the districts in South Bengal and North Bengal were badly affected, and they were disconnected from each other. It was not only the districts in West Bengal, but even the Calcutta City was badly affected. For a few days, the city of Calcutta was inundated or submerged under the heavy and unprecedented rainfall.

In Orissa and West Bengal, paddy and other crops in lakhs of acres were submerged or inundated under the water. The seedlings of paddy and other crops were totally damaged. Besides, roads, highways and train lines were out of gear. At this moment, all the roads, particularly highways, were totally damaged or destroyed; at some places, roads have been withered away due to heavy rainfall, and it has become very difficult to move relief materials the flood-prone areas.

When the natural calamity took place in Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and in some parts of Andhra Pradesh, the prices of .....

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Just a minute. There is no Panel of Chairmen now. If the House agrees, I will request Shri Yerrannaaidu to take the Chair.

15.14 hrs.

*[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair]*

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the people of Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and in some parts of your state were badly affected by the devastation caused by the heavy rainfall.

Due to damaged roads, the total transport system has been thrown out of gear. At that point of time it was very difficult to carry the relief materials to the affected people in different parts of the country. Some unscrupulous businessmen took advantage of this situation and indulged in blackmarketing and hoarding as a result of which the prices of the essential commodities got hiked. Not only that, it is a matter of regret that at that point of time only the prices of diesel were hiked which added to further increase of prices of the essential commodities. The people were suffering and they were also subjected to irreparable loss and injury. The entire telecommunication and power system had totally collapsed during the time of this severe disaster. Paddy seedlings and seedlings of other crops were damaged and destroyed. Cattles, like bullocks, cows and buffaloes were

killed. In the absence not only of seedlings but also for lack of cattle it has become very difficult on the part of the cultivators to start their cultivation.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, this unprecedented devastation took place in our country particularly in the states of Orissa, West Bengal, Bihar and parts of Andhra Pradesh which resulted in the sufferings of the people. The concerned State Governments urged upon the Central Government, they are virtually pleading, for financial assistance under the Natural Calamities Relief Fund. I would like to urge upon the Government of India not to politicise this issue and take a step-motherly attitude while providing financial assistance to the state Governments. I would like to urge upon the Government to provide the funds irrespective of whichever State Government is in power, be it the Left Front Government, or the Congress Government or the RJD Government or the TDP Government.

Sir, I would like to urge upon the Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Central Government to come forward and save our countrymen from their plight and render all possible financial assistance and provide whatever amount has been asked for by state Governments from the Natural Calamities Fund. In the State of West Bengal, the Government had held an all-Party meeting in the Writers' Building and a unanimous resolution was passed in which an amount of Rs. 721 crore has been sought from the Central Government for providing relief to the affected people. So far as I know, till date not a single paise, not a single farthing has been allotted to the state of West Bengal.

I urge upon the Government of India not to treat this issue as a political issue. The Government of India should not take up this issue with a stepmotherly attitude. West Bengal is a part and parcel of the Indian Union. The Government of West Bengal has sought an assistance of Rs. 721 crore from the Central Government. However, not a single paise has been sanctioned for the state. People there are suffering very much. They are not getting relief materials. They have lost their shelters. They are all poor people and they are now homeless. All their cultivable land were damaged by the cyclonic storm. Their fields were inundated by heavy rains.

Durga Puja is the biggest festival of West Bengal. We are aware of the fact that during Puja days Calcutta city looked like a ghost city. In several villages and towns in West Bengal, people could not come out of their shelters to assemble in the Puja Pandals. Puja pandals wore a deserted look during those days. Severe damage was caused to the people in West Bengal and Orissa because of this storm. However, it is a matter of regret that up till now not a single paise has been allotted by the Central Government to the Government of West Bengal. The same thing happened in West Bengal in 1998. The State Government sought Rs. 709 crore for undertaking relief work in flood-hit areas,

particularly Midnapore and other Districts and they got only Rs. 66 crore. This year, West Bengal Government sought an assistance of Rs. 721 crore.

Government of Orissa sought, as far as I know, Rs. 200 crore against which only Rs. 50 crore have been sanctioned. Of the States affected by the cyclone, no doubt Orissa is the worst affected State. According to a preliminary survey report, 11 Districts in Orissa have been affected badly. Thousands of acres of paddy land in Orissa has been inundated due to the unprecedented rainfall. At least 100 people were killed in Ganjam District alone. Total devastation took place in Ganjam District. It is very difficult for the State Government to cope with such situations whether it is of Orissa or West Bengal or Bihar. Government of Orissa sought Rs. 200 crore as assistance from the Central Government. However, in spite of the aerial survey made by the Prime Minister only Rs. 50 crore have been sanctioned for the people of Orissa. Many Districts in Bihar are also badly affected by the floods. Several villages and towns are submerged in water. Government of Bihar sought Rs. 1100 crore from the Central Government. However, so far as I know, not a single paise has been sanctioned for Bihar Government so that they can cope with the situation.

Sir, I am very sorry to submit that the Government of India is taking a step-motherly attitude towards these States. They are providing not even a single paise to the States of West Bengal or Bihar ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Sir, the hon. Member has mentioned about Orissa.

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : I am not yielding.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Hon. Member, I will give a chance to you also. Please sit down now.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO : Sir, he is saying that the Central Government has shown step-motherly attitude. It is completely wrong because the hon. Prime Minister had gone to Orissa ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Government will reply on this. Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, you also please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : The Government of Orissa had got only Rs. 50 crore.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Ajay Chakraborty, please address the Chair.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : He has given Rs. 250 crore as plan assistance. There is not a single pie as grant given to the Government of Orissa ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please. The Government will answer everything.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, I am sorry to say that the Governments of Orissa, Bihar and West Bengal are all standing on the same footing, they are all sailing in the same boat.

Sir, so far as I know, the Srikakulam District of Andhra Pradesh was also badly affected due to cyclonic storm whereby all the seeds and trees of coconut and cashew nut has been totally damaged. I know, the hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh had made an aerial survey along with you, Mr. Chairman.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Yes Srikakulam is my parliamentary constituency.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Yes, Sir, your hon. Chief Minister visited the spot along with you and had sought Rs. 40 crore as assistance from the Centre. I do not know how many crores of rupees you have got. But I hope you may get it from the Central Government for some other reason. I need not go into that.

But it is a matter of regret that the State Governments of Bihar, Orissa and West Bengal have received not a single paisa from the Central Government. It is all because of the step-motherly treatment by the Centre.

So, I urge before the Central Government that they should give equal treatment to all the State Governments. All the States equally belong to the Government of India; the Union. It is the duty of the Central Government to come forward and render financial assistance to all the affected State Governments. They should help all the State Governments. All possible assistance should be rendered to the State Governments to combat with the situation to save the people from their plight.

Sir, I also urge upon the Government of India to come forward and take suitable steps to save the people from the clutches of natural calamities.

Sir, in this regard I would like to make some suggestions for the consideration of the concerned Ministry. Firstly, they should take steps to exempt the cultivators from the agricultural land. Secondly, they should render financial assistance to the people affected in all the States so that they can reconstruct the demolished houses. Thirdly, house building grant should be given to the homeless and shelterless people of all the states to construct their houses.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY : Yes, Sir, I am concluding.

Fourthly, they should give financial assistance to the cultivators for the purchase of their cattle.

Lastly, I earnestly urge upon the Government of India to kindly engage their experts, scientists and technocrats to prevent these natural calamities because each and every year, we are witnessing these natural calamities.

I can cite 10 or 15 instances from different States, from Tamil Nadu to other states, which have taken place from the year, 1990. Every year we are witnessing natural calamities due to cyclonic storm and floods and other reasons.

So, I urge upon the Government of India to please engage your technocrats, experts and Scientists so that they can prepare a plan to prevent natural calamities and save people from them.

It is very much more important task than nuclear weapon programme. To prevent natural calamities which are taking place in our country is more important than the preparation of nuclear weapons programme.

So, I urge upon the Government of India to come forward to give all possible financial assistance and save people from floods.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : Thank you for the opportunity given to me. I am referring to the holocaust that has ravaged the Eastern part of India on the 17th and 18th instant. I give a chronological detail so that the gravity of the situation can be properly appreciated by the hon. Members.

On the 17th of this month, the Assistant Meteorological officer of Bhubaneswar gave a warning over the radio and the TV that there would be torrential rain accompanied by wind to the velocity of about 100 k.m. The warning was very innocuous in nature.

On the 17th morning round about 7 p.m. the Director, Meteorological Department, Government of India, gave a stern warning saying that the gale could be to the tune of about 200 k.m. an hour.

I must say with a heavy heart that the response of the state Government of Orissa was woefully inadequate.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : Are we going to discuss the conduct of the state Government in this House?

SHRI ANADI SAHU: It is my observation.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO : I require a ruling from the Chair.

MR. CHAIRMAN : No. The hon. Member is not discussing the conduct of the state Government of Orissa.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : It is a matter relating to the woeful inadequacy of the Government of Orissa. When I say woeful inadequacy of the Orissa Government about the natural calamities, I would like to give a graphic and first-hand description as to what had happened on the 18th morning as I reached the first point in Puri district. My friend is there in Puri district. My observation will be confined to part of Khurda district, part of Puri district, the whole of Ganjam district, the whole of Cuttack and part of Srikakulam area, your area, Mr. Chairman because they are all contiguous areas. Khalikote is the first point. The entire area was so full of trees which have faced the wrath of the cyclone. I immediately spotted the forest Ranger of the area and requested him to help me in clearing the road at least for the ambulances and light vehicles to take the wounded and the injured to Berhampur Medical College. He told me bluntly "It is not my duty." Why I say woefully inadequate is, there is a contingency plan in the state where natural calamities have been defined and the manner in which these calamities are to be met. I was the Superintendent of Police, that is why I say as to what is to be done. The Superintendent of Police, the District Magistrate and the Collector of the district know as to what they have to do in case of disasters. The State Administration also knows as to what are the Charter of Duties they are supposed to take up in case of any calamity.

That was why I said that it was woefully inadequate, to start with.

Fortunately, for me the DIG, who had gone away on leave was directed by his Director General of Police to come back. He met me on the way. I being a policeman, naturally, we came together, we pooled people and we brought in volunteers and start clearing the road. Engineer of the PWD also came to my rescue. He brought in only three persons. I asked him to bring in 300 persons and he said that it was beyond his powers. I asked him where his SDO, PWD was and he said that he had gone on leave. I said, 'you have had this warning for two days and your SDO has not come.' Anyway, we started the clearing work and the people helped us. For twenty kilometres along the National Highways we started clearing the road with the sole purpose of transporting the injured.

Some of you might have seen the salt Bay of Humma on the National Highway No. 5. It is of a length of about ten kilometres and a breadth of about eight kilometres. There is a sea water channel which brings saline water to that Salt Bay for making salt and there are about 20 villages inside. The entire area was inundated by saline water. Human excreta, cow dung and bird droppings and carcass were floating there. For ten hours, the people there had not taken a drop of water and they had to drink the polluted water. If this is the adequacy of the State Government in providing the basic necessity of drinking water to the people who had been affected in that area, I have nothing to say and the hon. Member may object in whichever way he likes.

Sir, I reached Chhatrapur, the district headquarters of Ganjam around 6 p.m. I was travelling for about twelve hours from 6 a.m. in the morning. At Chhatrapur, no arrangement had been made for supply of food and relief materials to the affected people and the collector was not there. The ADM was at his wit's end. I had to bring water and then support him because the angry mob had started abusing him and asking him to start relief work. Nothing could be done for about two hours. No polythene sheets were available; kerosene was not available; and electricity had totally failed and it could be seen that the 33 KV line poles had been twisted like thin green bamboo twisted by a child. Bodies were floating here and there. It was the *swayamsevaks* of Berhampur and the BJP activists of Berhampur city who retrieved the bodies of about 30 to 40 young children who had been killed, in holocaust.

Here, I must say that those who are concerned with the Builders of Houses give a thought as to how the strom water should flow from reservoirs. There are two satellite town areas in Berhampur which had been submerged for about three days and the people had no water to drink and no food to eat. It was the volunteers who volunteered to go with ropes and give them water after three days. The medical team also had not been formed and none had gone to that area. I had to travel about 25 kilometres from Chhatrapur to Berhampur by Scooter through the uprooted and tangled trees and the slush paddy field and everywhere there were wailing crowds and nothing could be done. Anyway, that is what has happened.

When you go along the coast, Mr. Chairman, Sir, you will find the betelvines. A betelvine takes three to four years to grow; a betel nut grove takes ten years to grow. A coconut grove takes ten to fifteen years depending on the productive abilities. The whole area had been ravaged as if nature had been very very unkind to those people and cash crops. The betelvines, the betelnut groves, the coconut groves, the banana plantations and Kewda bushes everything had been swept off the ground.

Sir, this is the flowering season for the paddy fields. The paddies flower at this time. If there is a strong wind, it creates problems for the paddy plant and the flowering will not take place. Thousands of acres of paddy field have been submerged in water.

Then, another difficulty is that we give warning about the wind velocity but we do not give warning about the surge of water in the Chilka or in the Sea.

Surge of water takes place when there is wind velocity of say 100 km. or 150 km. or 200 km. per hour. So, the water level rises. It may rise from five feet to ten feet and it inundates paddy fields. Saline content in paddy fields is very dangerous and injurious for paddy fields for three to four years. Thousands of acres of paddy lands - right from Tangi block of Khurda district to Chilka block the entire

[Shri Anadi Sahu]

area of Ganjam and Gajapathi district and Sompeta segment of Srikakulam district—have been completely inundated with saline water. It takes time. Immediate step should have been taken by the State Government itself for pumping out saline water from that area so that the damage could have been minimised. Till yesterday, electricity had not been restored in all those areas. The tangled wires, tangled poles have not been removed.

With much difficulty, on the third day, hon. Ministers Shri Jual Oram and Shri Debendra Pradhan could make an aerial survey of the area because the air strip at Gopalpur was so slushy that they could not land there. Immediately the matter was brought to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Prime Minister made an aerial survey. So, whatever Shri Chakraborty said is not correct factually.

The hon. Prime Minister has decided two things. He has given Rs. 250 crore of which Rs. 200 crore for running the administration itself in Orissa. The Orissa administration is in the red. There is no financial regularity; there is only irregularity. The Orissa Government has been borrowing money to the tune of about Rs. 15,000 crore. They have to pay interest; they have to pay salary for the Govt. Servants and they have to pay so many other things also. So, an amount of Rs. 400 crore is the monthly requirement of Orissa Government. But they are able to get only Rs. 380 crore. So, whenever they get some amount as aid or interim relief or by any other manner possible from the Central Government, they divert it to run the administration. An amount of Rs. 25 crore had been given last year from the Calamity Relief Fund for meeting damages due to natural calamities. I am sorry to say that money has been diverted for routine day-to-day work of the State Government.

There are a number of Ministers in that State and they are taking fat salaries. They have increased salaries of IAS officers by promoting them, giving them super-time scale or superior administrative cadre posts and so many other things. Lakhs of rupees are being spent in this way.

Sir, please give me some more time. I will come to all other things. This is a matter which should be known to all.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The time allotted for this subject is only two hours.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : That is true. But I am the most affected victim of the holocaust. So, I may be given some more time.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take the time factor into consideration.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : The Prime Minister, by a condescending attitude and a benevolent attitude gave

Rs. 200 crore to run the Government. When I objected to it, he asked, "Unless the Government runs, how can you have aid or relief?" Thus, he gave Rs. 50 crore for relief.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY (Narasaraopet) : Why have you objected?

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I objected because he need not give money for running the Government.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : It is only a plan advance which he has given.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : That is true. But that could have been given later. I do not want argue with you.

What I would like to say is that the Prime Minister has said that different Departments of Government of India would be sending their officers; for an on the spot assessment and whatever money is required, that would be given. But my honest opinion is that money should not be given direct to the State Government. Now, I request the Central Government to invoke Article 360 of the Constitution of India and take away the Constitution of India and take away the financial powers for two months.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : The Presidential Address has mentioned about the policy of the Cabinet, that they would give more powers to the states and more decentralisation. But you are taking just the opposite view.

SHRI ANADI SAHU : I say that for two months let the financial powers of that State be taken over and all the work relating to aid, relief and all those things may be handled by the Central Government. There is a provision under article 360 of the Constitution. It may or may not be taken up.

Since you are not giving me much time, Sir, now I would come to another most important matter. Onion plants have been destroyed; cabbage has been destroyed, coconuts have been destroyed. Coconuts are available for 50 paise in Sompeta and Gopalpur areas. Chairman, Sir, you must be knowing about it. There was so much damage. Tractors are being used for selling coconuts at 50 paise per piece. That is the difficulty with the people.

What I would suggest is that the Central Government may set up a mechanism to indicate the storm surge on the coastal areas both on east and on west. Storm surges in the sea would be more required than knowing the wind velocity. What do the fishermen who have been living on the shore strip of land do? Even this time I saw that they tie stones and bricks to their waist and lie down till the storm passes.

But the palm fronds, thatches, corrugated sheet and asbestos sheets cannot withstand all these high velocity winds. I would suggest that storm surge mechanism should be thought of immediately by the Government of India and

cyclone shelters should be constructed at least at a distance every five kilometres along the east coast where hurricane is a natural and continuous phenomena for centuries. In my area we are producing fifty thousand tonnes of salt every year. Now, because of this holocaust we would not be able to produce even a single tonne of salt. Since salt is being controlled by the Central Government, I would suggest to the Central Government to think of some measures like salt bag protection mechanism.

Next, I would like to take up water channels. The saline water channel which is coming from the sea has to be devised in such a manner that whenever there is storm, hurricane etc., extra water does not come into the paddy fields and in that way people can be relieved of the burden of drinking saline water. Most important point is that the Relief code should be changed. The Relief code was first started nearly one hundred years ago sometimes in 1860 or 1870. This is hopelessly inadequate. Now in the democratic set-up we must give some sort of a discretion or power to the elected representatives to say as to what should be done and what should not be done because they know what is required in particular area. I am not saying that one should take away the administrative powers of the State Government or the administrators who are there. If the Relief code is changed, everybody can pool together his mind and decide in what manner they can do their work. In this particular case, for five day, not even a litre of kerosene was supplied to anyone and the cities were plunged into darkness. I requested the Chief Minister to kindly bring some standby generators from the public sector undertakings and put them in the Notified Area Councils where there is no alternate system of supplying drinking water. For five days drinking water was not supplied to the people in those areas. That is why I say it was woefully inadequate. For these things some sort of a mechanism should be thought of by the State Government. If we amend the Relief Code, I think, we would be able to store up as many articles to meet the ravages of nature which are periodically visiting us and creating problems for us.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : Sir, with a heavy heart I once again rise to speak on the ravages of natural calamities in West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar .....(Interruptions) Even since I entered this House for the first time in 1967, in the past 32 years, we have discussed and debated the question of drought, flood and cyclone for nearly 20 times. It was discussed in 1967, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1977, 1978, 1979, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1985, 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1993, 1998. Again we are discussing it this year, that is in 1999. The worst ever cyclone took place in the coast of Orissa in the year 1967 affecting millions of people. In 1977 worst kind of cyclone took place in Andhra Pradesh, when my good friend, Shri Janardhan Reddy, was the Rehabilitation Minister. In 1997-98, Andhra Pradesh Government took some permanent measures. In 1967 we found everything woefully inadequate, as my friend Shri Anadi Charan Sahu graphically and eloquently mentioned.

In fact, I agree with many of his points. No State Government, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal or Orissa can tackle a situation like this where the severity is of a rare variety, the intensity and magnitude is beyond comprehension and explanation. It paralyses the entire economy. These are not my words. These are the words of the Ministry of Agriculture.

The Ministry of Agriculture has just sent a message to the Government of Orissa. Information at 2:00 hours on 27.10.99, that is yesterday, indicates that the severe cyclone storm in Bay of Bengal has developed into a very severe cyclone storm. The likelihood of the storm is three to five metres high and above astronomical tide level. There is a Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture, NDM Section, Krishi Bhawan, which has given information dated 27th October, that the VSCS - that is the Very Severe Cyclone Storm - is centred about about 550 km. Southeast of Paradeep and is moving in the North-Northwesterly direction. Immediately after the severe cyclones of 17th and 18th, which we are discussing, another cyclone is heading towards the coast of Orissa and Bengal and, therefore, it is with all seriousness that we must discuss this problem. The devastation, the destruction which has already taken place in Orissa has damaged, devastated, destroyed everything; life, limb, liberty, housing shelters as has been said, the standing crops ready for harvesting, roads including National Highways, electrical transmission stations, factories, schools, colleges, workshops and have polluted even the rivers including the wells, that is the drinking water supply. Therefore, we require repair, restoration and reconstruction and a change to live again.

A State Government like Orissa has been facing these vagaries from 1964-65 when the then Prime Minister Shrimati Indira Gandhi has to visit the famine areas of Kalahandi where starvation awaited the people of Kalahandi. From that day onwards, we have been having visits of Prime Ministers from Shrimati Indira Gandhi up to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Every single Prime Minister has had to visit Orissa either due to flood, drought or cyclone. So, the constant companion of Orissa over the last three-and-a-half decades has been only natural calamities. We have a population of which 22 per cent are tribals, 19 per cent are the Scheduled Castes and the people living below the Poverty Line is 58 per cent. This is not quoted by me but by Prof. Lakadawala of the Planning Commission. That means the non-Scheduled Castes and non-tribals are 17 per cent. The tax mobilisation, the devolution of funds to Orissa for the last 35 years is at the rock bottom. So, we cannot help the state unless Orissa is given some special assistance.

The Government has not yet been able to declare Orissa a Special Status State as is the case of the Schedule VI States of the Northeastern sector, Himachal or even the Uttaranchal and Vidharbha. So, the Government must give a special assistance - added and accelerated assistance - to Orissa. This is a State Government which is on the red,

[Shri K.P. Singh Deo]

as quoted by Shri Sahu. Not a single penny out of Rs. 250 crore which the Prime Minister has announced, has arrived. It is an advanced Plan Assistance which we should have got in January, 2000 but we are getting in October or November, 1999. So, there is no favour. A number of other Prime Ministers before Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, have announced anything between Rs. 50 crore and Rs. 500 crore but not a single penny has arrived. What the Government has announced is the Advanced Plan Assistance.

Sir, I will just quote from the Ministry of Agriculture again ... (*Interruptions*). It is an advance payment. You are a former Chief Minister, you know that. Sir, because of the spate of disasters which befell the country, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao set up a National Disaster Management Programme in 1993-94 where all the State Governments were consulted, a number of seminars and discussions were held. Sir, many discussions took place in your own State of Hyderabad. This is from the 1998 Annual Report of the Ministry of Agriculture of this very Government. I quote :

"Central Government response:

Under the existing scheme of financial relief expenditure, the State Governments are required to take necessary rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures from the allocation under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF). A total allocation of Rs 1328.15 crore has been made to the State during 1998-99 under CRF which includes Central share of Rs. 996.11 crore and States' share of Rs. 332.4 crore. The entire Central share has been released to all the States. Advance release of quarterly instalments of Centre's share of CRF were made to a number of states to speed up the relief work. In addition to CRF, assistance is provided to the States from the National Fund for Calamity Relief for calamities of rare severity. Twenty-two memoranda have so far been received."

So, it is not a favour. Not a single paisa is granted from the Centre as a grant. It is an advance Plan Assistance to which my friends are referring to as Rs 50 crore, Rs. 150 crore and Rs. 250 crore ... (*Interruptions*). I did not interrupt you Shri Sahu. You had been in the State administration. You know it much better than me. I had not been in the State Administration. You know it much better than me. I had not been in the State Administration. You were an Inspector-General of Police there and a very good one at that. We are all proud of you. Sir, he is also the President of our Sahitya Samaj. So, he is very eloquent and a literary person ... (*Interruptions*).

Sir, last year apart from these four States of Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh natural calamities caused damage worth 89 billion dollars in 1998 as per *The Economic Times*, New Delhi. Therefore, the national disaster management has been thought of by the Central Government at that time by Shri Narasimha Rao. Parliament has been debating it for 22 times in as many years.

Therefore, this calamity must be termed as a national calamity. I would also like to quote my old friend who is now an MLA from Kerala. He was also a very honoured Member of the Lok Sabha. He is Shri C. K. Chandrappa from the Communist Party of India. He had raised the issue in 1977 immediately after the cyclone. He cited the example of China and Tashkent. Tashkent was devastated by earthquake and millions of people died, but within one year they could reconstruct the place because the Soviet Government then forced all the 17 Republics of Soviet Union to contribute. China even took outside help to tide over the difficulties caused by earthquake. So, I would like to appeal to the government in this regard. I am happy that there are two-three Ministers present. But usually the Minister of Agriculture used to be present. But today the Finance Minister was also present. This is not only a natural calamity but this is a national calamity.

16.00 hrs.

It requires a national effort. Only this afternoon we were paying tributes to our brave Jawans who have laid down their lives for the security of the country. We have been making a national appeal for their rehabilitation and for their kith and kin. Therefore, national calamity and natural calamity should also call for a national effort and should not be left to the States alone which are deeply impoverished. So, for 32 years Orissa which has been beset with drought, cyclone and floods has really its backbone of the economic structure broken. It is not today or it was not yesterday. It is a continuous collateral damage which has been done to Orissa. Therefore, unless Orissa gets special assistance, it cannot recover.

Today Gopalpur Port is in a shambles. The Gopalpur Port could be rebuilt by assistance from the Centre. I refer to Gopalpur-Talcher railway line. I remember in 1967, as a result of the discussion here, the Paradeep-Cuttack railway line was linked up by funds given by the Centre. Such type of things can be done to tide over the difficulty because relief and rehabilitation is not sufficient. They have to carry on living. There are school children who have lost their books. They have to carry on living. There are school children who have lost their books. They have lost their schools and colleges. As has been rightly said, farmers have lost their entire livelihood. Sand-casting, salinity has to be restored. The sand-casting has to be removed. You are an agriculturist yourself Sir, so you will recall this. The Chief Minister of Orissa and the Government of Orissa are manfully trying to tackle the situation. But it is not adequate.

As has been said earlier, the entire national highways, roads, bridges, culverts, all have been washed away. Fishing vessels have been found on top of trees. Government jeeps and other vehicles have been swept away from the coastal to the interior areas. Cyclone has even affected Central districts like mine in Dhenkanal and Angul where although no people have died, roads, culverts and bridges have been



washed away because of incessant rainfall and floods. So, this is our woe betide. Excessive rainfall, cyclone and drought, all three of them come together every year. The meagre resources of Orissa has been depleted and therefore accelerated and focussed attention on Orissa should be given like you are giving to the Tribal Development Blocks. A special sub-plan has to be made here. If you cannot give us the special status because of constitutional impediments, at least the Parliament, the Government can have a special assistance programme for Orissa which is a chronically drought affected, chronically flood affected and chronically cyclone affected state along with West Bengal, Bihar and Andhra Pradesh. So, you are also in the same boat as us, Sir. Therefore, a special programme is necessary by the Planning Commission and the Government.

This sort of a disaster today is the concern of all the countries, not only India. Today only, a new item has come out: "Project to study storm surge in Indian Ocean" and they are going to spend 54 million dollars for this programme where countries like India, Bangladesh, Iran, Maldives, Mauritius, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sir Lanka are all concerned because they are also victims like Bangladesh along with us a victim. Therefore, this is a national cause. It cannot be left to a State. We must help out the State Government. More State Governments are in the red. They are borrowing money from the Reserve Bank of India whether for paying salaries or for paying their ways and means position. Every Pay Commission has been hiking the pay of Government servants. Therefore, no State Government can match the resources of the Central Government. Unless the Central Government come in a big way, people are going to suffer. Apart from the shock they have received, another cyclone is coming. I do not know which other districts are going to be hit. At the moment nine districts are affected and the State Government does not have resources to tide over the difficulties.

Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

DR. MANDA JAGANNATH : Respected Chairman Sir, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on natural calamities that have affected the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa, West Bengal and parts of Bihar.

Though the Meteorological Department of India has predicted a normal south west monsoon in the country, it has miserably failed and drought has hit the State of Andhra Pradesh. In Rayalaseema and Telangana particularly, the crops go damaged and there is no fodder for the Cattle also. At this juncture, as soon as the State Government sensed the failure of the monsoon, our Chief Minister started taking drought combating measures by reviewing the situation and also by sending a memorandum to the Government of India. He himself visited the districts which have been affected by drought.

He deputed the parliamentary party under your leadership to meet the Prime Minister and urge him to send a Central team to assess the situation on the spot. Ever since we sensed this calamity, our Chief Minister has started taking measures and sent a request to the Central Government. But without waiting for the response, the State Government has started taking measures. A sum of Rs. 30 crores has been released for augmentation of drinking water supply in rural and urban areas. Under Agriculture Contingency Fund, a sum of Rs. 5 crores has already been released for supply of seeds to small and marginal farmers at 50 per cent subsidy. A sum of Rs. 2.41 crore had been released for supply of fodder seed under Contingency Plan for Fodder Development in the scanty areas. Action has also been initiated for Employment Generation Programme under JJSY, EAS, Watershed Development Programme, etc. with the available funds to prevent migration of labour. Apart from this, on the 17th of this month, as a perennial visitor coming every year, a cyclone storm hit Srikakulam district of Andhra Pradesh alongwith Orissa, West Bengal and Bihar. That cost us to the tune of Rs.200 crore wherein coconut and other plantations were damaged. Electronic fittings and telephone communication system were damaged. Apart from sending a report, we have initiated steps to combat both cyclone and drought. Our Chief Minister had alerted district collectors of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagram and Srikakulam and also asked the officials of the districts and elected representatives to be available to the people.

Under these circumstances, I urge the Central Government to come in a big way as we have already taken many measures without waiting for the Central assistance. Under the circumstances which I explained, the State Government needs sector-wise. For agriculture, it needs Rs. 212 crore, for drinking water, it needs Rs. 302 crore, for employment generation, it needs Rs. 110.69 crore, for health sector, it needs Rs. 1.22, for special nutrition programme, it needs Rs. 28 crore and for animal husbandry sector, it need Rs. 65.50 crore. In addition to this state, the devastation is much more in West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar. As our hon. friend has said, it is difficult for the State Governments to come forward and give relief for the victims as the States' finances are very limited. Hence, I request the Central Government to come in a big formulating a National Calamity Funding Programme to help the States.

*[Translation]*

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN (Araria) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, today we have been discussing the natural calamity.

The cyclone which hit Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh a few days ago has badly affected these states. In these four states and especially in Northern Bihar, the cyclone hit with such intensity that the heavy downpour which occurred as a result of it submerged the rice-crop and water was flowing 2-3 feet above the crop, in the process devastating lakhs of hectares of rice-crop Banana is also

[Shri Sukdeo Paswan]

grown in the state. It is a capital and labour intensive crop. Banana crop on lakhs of hectares has also been destroyed. Most of the farmers had already prepared the potato seed for sowing. Some has already started the sowing and others were about to start, the crop of all those has been ravaged. We belong to a poor and exploited region. There are land labourers who earn on day to day basis for their sustenance and most of them live in thatched houses. This terrible rain and cyclone has devastated the houses of majority of them. The mango trees, coconut trees and other trees which were standing there have also perished alongwith the crop. It is a matter of regret that no Central team has yet been sent to Bihar to assess this damage. The metalled roads, dams, bridges-big and small have been destroyed due to the cyclone. What to talk about electricity, even the telephone connections have been lying disconnected for the past few weeks.

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj – Bihar) : What the Bihar Government is doing?

SHRI SUKDEO PASWAN : The Prime Minister can go to Orissa but he did not go to Bihar. Bihar has always been given stepmotherly treatment by the Central Government but we do not expect such treatment from them.

Now, in recent Lok-Sabha elections we saw that the water was flowing two or three feet above the standing rice crop. Bihar is the only state in India where the elections has to be postponed in the four parliamentary constituencies due to heavy rains and cyclone. Today, the voting is taking place in those constituencies but the Central Government has not taken any step to assess the situation there. There is no arrangement of fodder for the animals due to which hundreds of cattle have died. Since independence we have been continuously debating outside and in the Parliament about the insurance of the crop for the farmers of Bihar but no action has been taken in this regard. The Central Government only Sympathises with the farmers instead of taking any concrete step. It has been 52 years since independence but the relief which should have been provided to the farmers by the Central Government as not been made available. I am of the view that crop insurance scheme should surely be implemented and the government should arrange for necessary funds in this regard, so that the farmers could be provided prompts compensation for their damaged crops.

Many people in Nothern Bihar, are engaged in fishery in rivers, rivulets, tanks and ponds. Due to heavy rains, the fish of these tanks and ponds have been washed away. Therefore the financial position of the persons engaged in the business of fishery has become worse due to the burden of paying their debt to the Bank and the private creditors. The farmers are not in a position to repay the loans taken from the banks and the land revenue for the realisation of which the officers have been taking the police assistance

for meeting their ends. My submission is that recovery of loans in the four districts of Bihar which have been hit by natural calamity should be stopped immediately.

There should not be any kind of recovery of loans in these four states. The financial position of the Bihar state is not good. Therefore, I want to urge the Government of India that at least rupees one thousand crores should be provided from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund so that the development work in the flood and cyclone affected areas could be started.

With these words, I thank you for giving me time to speak.

[English]

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, with a heavy heart I rise to speak on the heavy ravages of floods inflicted upon the people of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa. When such a Natural Calamity occurs, we have got very little to do. We cannot prevent its occurrence. But the extent of the damage can only be minimised with experience, professionalism, enterprise and voluntary effort of the kind that the hon. Member, who spoke earlier, – I do not know his name – has mentioned. In a situation like this, we should keep our politics away and help the poor victims. Whenever a Natural Calamity occurs, it is the poor man who suffers and it is the man who lives in the hut who suffers much. So, we have to remember that aspect and keep our politics away from it.

Sir, whenever such a natural calamity occurs, I have always observed that things happen in a ritualistic manner. The Prime Minister or some other Ministers go in a helicopter and in an aeroplane, do the aerial survey, land at some airport, announce some Central assistance to the State concerned depending upon the nature of the calamity, come back and discuss about in Parliament under rule 193 and forget about it. It has become the order of the day. The point is not whether the Chief Minister of Orissa has undertaken proper relief measures or the Chief Minister of Bihar has undertaken proper relief measures or not, but the point is that there is a role to be played by the Government of India and one has to own the responsibility.

Sir, on the 16th October, the first warning has been received by the Government of Orissa and on the 17th October, the second warning has been received. Under such circumstances, there is a laid down plan in every State as the former Police officer has rightly mentioned since he knows about the administration - as to which officer has to go to which place and stand by the directions of the District Collector etc. Accordingly, the State Government has evacuated 25,000 people – It is not a small number – to safer places and a lot of area was vacated. As a matter of factor, the Leader of the Opposition, Shrimati Sonia Gandhi visited the affected places, met the suffering people and moved by their condition, she has requested the Government of India to treat this as a national calamity of rare severity.

One can understand if we go to the affected people and see their problems. It appears that he has done his best. He has supplied kerosene oil, candles, polythene and rice. He has supplied 'Kuda'. He has done so many things. That is what a State Government can do. Voluntary efforts have to come. They have to do something. Usually, they will be doing it. This is only the rescue part and the relief part. What about the restoration part? The restoration is mainly sharing between the Central and the State Governments. The learned Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture, Shri Satyanarayana Rao, who is now perhaps looking after cyclones and other things, has been a Chairman of the Zila Parishad of one of the important districts. He knows the sufferings of the people in the East Godavari district whenever a Cyclone comes. He has himself been a victim, Shri Satyanarayan Rao will not look into all these things from a political angle. He will rise above such a situation and help the people of Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Why not Bihar?

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Yes, Bihar also. Sorry, I have forgotten it. I have not seen you.

Now, the main thing was that Shri Singhdeo had mentioned that there was an Institute, called the National Centre for Disaster Management started by the Government of India when Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Chief Minister. It is not at all in existence. They have seminars in Hyderabad and other places. I do not think that they have ever visited any cyclone-affected area and done any research study about the ravages of Bay of Bengal.

If you look into the history for the last about hundred years, that is, from 1891 to 1990, there were 383 cyclones in Bay of Bengal. Out of 383 cyclones, 220 have crossed the land and caused the damage. Out of 220, the share of Nellore district is 30. The district-wise shares of Krishna and Guntur districts are 22 and 15, respectively. I am telling it because it has got a very bad history. The ravages of the cyclone in Bay of Bengal are tremendous. The oldest and the worst cyclone recorded was in 1737 which has hit Calcutta. The death toll was 3,00,000. The next worst hit was Andhra Pradesh on 14th November, 1977. Ten thousand people died. The total loss was worth Rs. 22,000 crore. Since then, the Central and the State Government have worked in a direction to help the situation. We have laid down a certain action plan to minimise the deaths right from 1977. The then Minister of External Affairs in the Government of the then Prime Minister, Shri Morarji Desai, and at present the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, visited the affected areas in 1977 when the present Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri C. Vidya Sagar Rao, was a volunteer in constructing a colony. From then onwards, we have been requesting to have a National Institute for Disaster Management. Nothing had happened except that an

academic institution was developed by Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao. That is why this time our Congress Party has introduced an item in its Manifesto. It reads like this :

" The Congress will initiate steps to prepare a National Disaster Management Plan of action at the national, State and local levels and will continuously be upgraded. The Congress will also enact National Disaster Management legislation laying down the powers, and functions of different agencies entrusted with disaster management responsibilities. The legislation would specify the mandatory operating procedures to be enforced during normal and disaster situations. An independent Multi-disciplinary National Disaster Management Agency armed with adequate powers and resources will be established. A National Mitigation Fund with Rs. 500 crore as corpus will be set up to support all activities of national and state levels to implement long term measures which will mitigate disasters. The fund will be administered through a legal corporate body."

I only request not to go on thinking that this is a Congress Manifesto. We have introduced this and I request the hon. Minister to go through this and think about it as a national need not as a suggestion in the Congress Manifesto. After all, Satyanarayan Rao Garu is also a Gandhian. So he can think about it and send it to the hon. Minister to consider this aspect. That is the only solution.

I do agree, in Andhra Pradesh, Srikakulam is affected by cyclone very badly. Sir, it is your district and similarly 246 mandals were affected by bad drought situation. Just because TDP Government is there, I cannot say that we should not help. We should help. The Government of India should come forward to help the needy. As is rightly earlier said, it is the poor man who suffers whenever the natural calamity occurs. There, we should not look into parties. We should not politicalise. I saw in newspapers, BJD leader and Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik criticising at Bhubaneswar, on the inaction of the State Government.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (Cuttack) : Inaction is a fact.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Maybe certain inactions. In all disasters you cannot expect everyone to run like this. There will be some defects.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : We have not criticised you, but we wanted to draw the attention of the Government towards the inadequacies ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not argue with each other.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : What I am saying is that there may be inadequacies. I do agree, but this is not a situation to exploit political mileage out of it. It is time for all

[Shri N. Janardhana Reddy]

of us to join hands to help the poor ... *(Interruptions)*. Shri Venkateswarlu was telling me that we have criticised the State Government. Why? Because a Minister there stored rice... *(Interruptions)*.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : The Congress is known for its abuses of all political situations in Andhra Pradesh. There is no doubt about it. Now, the hon. elder Member is trying to accuse the hon. State Government of Andhra Pradesh ... *(Interruptions)*.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I am not accusing.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : It is really unfair. That situation should not be politicised ... *(Interruptions)*. It is unfair.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I never criticised the Andhra Pradesh Government. I even supported it. I only said, when he mentioned that I have criticised, yes, we have criticised those days when some rice was kept in a Minister's house ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : This is not the subject here.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : It has been disproved beyond doubt. There was no such incident that had happened. It was only politically motivated statement by the Congress people, which was disproved ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Hon. Member, Shri Venkateswarlu was in the Government of India then. Does he know the statement of the Chief Minister over that? ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, please confine to the subject.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : I had followed that statement. Rice which was collected was stored somewhere. It was sold and the amount was remitted ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : How can you sell rice given for charity and make money? That is what I was telling. He has confirmed what I have said ... *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please confine yourself to the present situation of drought and cyclone.

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : Sir, he himself has said that we had criticised you. We had criticised you when a fault was committed by the Government. But when there was a lapse, we have ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Probably it was not audible to the hon. Member. I said with reference to Orissa ... *(Interruptions)*. I pointed out about the Leader's version that the Chief Minister has not adequately reacted on the situation. He said that he wants to be above politics

but he is trying to politicise the issue... *(Interruptions)*. I only reminded him that in the Kargil issue, the Congress Party is trying to get a political mileage. I wanted to remind them... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : I want to remind my hon. friend, who was telling about betelvine. During the cyclone, it is always the betelvine, which is very vulnerable and it gets affected. It cost us very heavily. It is in our State. We give compensation for betelvine. In spite of it, there is a heavy loss.

You are mentioning about salt water for the paddy crop. Even if the paddy crop is inundated for one day in salt water, it gets affected.

Anyway, our sympathies are with Orissa and other three States, where these devastations have taken place. Let the Government of India open its eyes, have an institution, a National Institute for Disaster Management located in one of the coastal areas or in any other part of the country with all the necessary equipment.

Whenever there is a flood, for taking the ration to a village where road or any other portable mode is not there, we have to summon the boats from Visakhapatnam Naval Command. They do come but the time they come, there will be no waterlogging. Even if there is a low level water and you want to use the boats, you will have to take the permission from the Naval Command. So, in order to meet all these things, the then State Government in 1977 itself, thought of providing all the equipment. My friend was telling that it was not possible for him to go by road from morning six o'clock to evening five o'clock. It does happen. In 1979, in Andhra Pradesh for three days, an eight-kilometre patch of road was blocked and we brought electric saws and cut it with the help of the military personnel. There are the equipment to be preserved... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANADI SAHU : If you have the Contingency Plan, you can continue with that ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI N. JANARDHANA REDDY : The Contingency Plan is already there. It is not a new thing. Since 1977, it is there in the country, particularly in some coastal belts.

What I want to tell the Government is that most of the people does not experience these problems. That is why whenever there is a talk of Central team, we draw an officer each from the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Railways, and the Ministry of Surface Transport and send them. Most of them do not know what is the effect of the cyclone. So, they do come and give a report. That is the end of the whole issue.

There should be a permanent machinery, permanent cell to look after these kind of damages. Unless we do something on a permanent nature, we cannot meet these disasters, particularly in the coastal areas which are wedded with Bay of Bengal.

Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House. I only want to point out that unless the National Democratic Alliance looks after these disasters, they will become a National Disaster Alliance.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (Chhapra) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have got a chance of being elected to this House for the second time. Prior to that I have also been an M. L.A. in Bihar. When I reached here, I felt that I will get an opportunity to add significance to a matter by raising it at the forum of Lok Sabha. When Shri K. P. Singh Deo was presenting his point of view, he said that he has drawn the attention of the Government twenty times towards this issue. He has raised this matter twenty times during his parliamentary tenure in total. I have been getting a chance to raise this issue for the fifth time because it is linked with Bihar. I consider this issue very important and want to present it before you and the House.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon'ble Member has been presenting this subject by connecting it with Centre-state relations issue and I don't want to accuse anyone by merely repeating it frequently. Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to ask the details of natural calamities that have struck the country during the last twenty years and whether political colours has been given to such calamities. Natural calamities cannot be prevented measures for those who are likely to be affected by natural calamities. These natural calamities include earthquakes and cyclones etc. Even if we want to prevent these natural calamities we can not do so. Only preventive measure can be taken against them. Therefore when the Orissa issue was raised during the discussion and before that when the cyclone which has struck the Andhra Pradesh was being discussed, the question of Crisis Management comes to the fore. When this kind of calamity takes place then can it be managed and what kind of part can be played by the state and centre governments to minimise the sufferings of people and take an active part to come over the crisis.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, last time in 1996, I rose to debate the issue of flood and famine situation afflicting Bolangir and Kalahandi and today, it is the cyclone on one side and flood situation in a state like Bihar on the other hand which is being discussed. If you take these issues jointly then you will find that both these issues should be analysed separately. The fact is that today we have been talking with reference to the cyclone. The agony with which Shri Sahu and Shri K. P. Singh Deo was mentioning about their region, is surely a matter of concern. Shri Janardhana Reddy has been the Chief Minister in the past and he is also an experienced politician but the basic question which arises is that as to what will be the role of State Governments and Centre Government under these circumstances? I would not like to say more about cyclone for this subject has already been discussed enough in this House but would surely like to

discuss about flood affected areas. The maximum annual damage in this country takes place through floods. In 1950, when about one and half crores of the population was affected due to flood, whereas between 1990 and 1999, more than five crores people have been affected due to floods. During the last 50 years, the country has faced the losses to the tune of Rs. 41000 crores.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, on an average every year approximately 1500 people die due to floods while during 1977 alone nearly 11 thousand people perished in the flood. I do not want to add to the responsibility to the Central Government by accusing and counter accusing someone. But some significant decisions should have been taken by the Government of India in dealing with flood. The phenomenon of flood is not confined to our own country alone, it also concerns some countries outside the boundaries of the country. Most of the floods in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar is caused by the rivers coming from Nepal, some rivers enter in Bangladesh or flow adjacent to the boundaries of Bangladesh and Bhutan. When we discuss these issues sitting across here, then the Central Government should ensure to invite a representative from the Ministry of External Affairs and one from the Ministry of Water Resources.

A representative of the Ministry of Water Resources and the people connected with the Ministry of Environment should surely be here ... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE (Pandharpur) : Your Government is in power, why are you conveying us... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Ramdas, please resume your seat.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, this is a proposal. This is an idea. I am not commending anyone. You must try to understand what I want to say.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am presenting this issue before the House with different point of view because the presence of these Ministries is necessary here. When you talk in terms of natural calamities, in other words you talk about the environment.

Especially when you talk about the boundaries adjacent to the Bihar and boundaries of Uttar Pradesh bordering Nepal, then the Structure of Nepal come to the fore. During these last fifty years, the economy of Nepal has been facing devastation which has given impetus to the deforestation in the hilly areas of Nepal, leading to the soil erosion and its deposition in the rivers flowing in India from Nepal. This in turn, has lead to the rise in water level of rivers due to which the regions like Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have been facing devastation.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : I have just started speaking.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Only twenty minutes are left and so many speakers are still there to speak.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Sir, I am representing the BJP. Only one Member has spoken from this side and there are about ten Members ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : No, already one Member has spoken from your side. You are the second speaker.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Yes, only one Member has spoken from this side. Sir, I was watching that an hon. Member from that side was asked ten times to sit down. So, at least you allow me to conclude. Otherwise it will be a perfunctory debate. Every time some Members speak and no one cares to bother about it. So, if that is the situation, I can get back to my seat. But someone has to start thinking how these things could be done. In the last fifty years, we have been talking about this. Every time we have been spending the time here. If we do not think about it now, this country is going to face a similar situation in all the years to come.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have been making such a suggestion because if the nature is continuously interfered with, these kinds of calamities will increase. The rivers which we were discussing, be it a river flowing through West Bengal, Bihar or Uttar Pradesh, the situation of all these rivers is that the sand from the hilly areas is being deposited in the bed of these rivers, and is making the task of natural management very difficult. My first suggestion is that the issue must be tried to be resolved by means of treaties and discussion at the international level among the countries situated along the international border of the country. My second suggestion, without going into details of as to how these calamities are handled by the state governments, is that the resources of the whole country must be mobilised towards the affected state, as is being done in the other parts of the world. If any state faces such emergency, the whole country should extend its help without losing anytime. We can not defend any region of the country by merely being inspired by the fact of taking political advantage.

Sir, I know that your hand has once again reached to press the bell but I would like to remind the House in brief that this subject is bound to come up before the House

every year. Now, we will finish this session, after that session will take place in March or April. After a while after March we will once again discuss the famine, the debate under 193 will take place, when the month of Monsoons comes after three months, then we will discuss about flood and in between cyclone will be coming with its full fury. Therefore we have to decide as to what should be the justification of discussion in the House and have the central theme of the debate could be defined so that such issues could be properly dealt with the future.

I have confidence in my government that it will look into this matter. I would like to request Shri Pramod Mahajan who is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Water Resources that he should try to take action by initiating the debate on the issue related to water resources and international boundaries.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion which is going on is especially about Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Orissa and Bihar which have been affected by natural calamities. Happening of such calamities is not new thing. This happens every year. The manner and the scale on which hon'ble members have started the discussion is good thing. Some fruitful result should come out of this discussion, rising above party politics. Every year, for 6 months we face floods and for other 6 months, we face drought or famine like conditions. Recently Andhra Pradesh witnessed a cyclone. Government should take these suggestions seriously which are coming in the House. Shri K. P. Singh Deo is our old friend. I know him since the 9th Lok Sabha. Earlier also, he has been associated with Bihar.

He forgot to mention Bihar in his speech ... (Interruptions). I want to say that we should discuss the damages in detail. In north Bihar, flood like situation prevails for six months continuously in two dozen districts like Madhubani, Sitamarhi, Sheohar, Gopalganj, Saharsa, Supaul, Samastipur, Begusari, Khagaria, Bhagalpur, Katihar, Purnea etc. One can see the manner in which excessive rainfall has affected these areas. Until Indian and Nepal Governments work out a permanent solution with regard to catchment areas of Nepal, this problem cannot be solved. This problem needs to be considered seriously. Last time about two crore people in earlier floods in North-Bihar were affected. There is place called Sheeshapaani in Nepal which is a place of origin of river Kamla, there is Bhutibalan and after that Noonthar in Nepal. Same way, there is Barah area of river Kosi, where water from Nepal gets collected. The same water affects north Bihar. This water affects West Bengal also.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, a proposal for construction of multipurpose high level dam was submitted and government of Japan also sent a study team to assess this. And it was estimated that there will be an expenditure of about rupees 1250 crores on the project. But till date this proposal is in

doldrums. No positive initiative about the proposal has taken place. This high level dam will not only save north Bihar from the fury of floods but will also generate about 3300 megawatt hydro electricity. This hydro-electricity could be made available to farmers and to people at cheaper rates. But even today the proposal is hanging fire. No action is being taken in this regard. I would like to request Central Government to take up this case on priority basis and should send a Central team there and the Governments of India and Nepal should resolve this through dialogue. I think this will not only benefit north Bihar but also Uttar Pradesh by giving hydro-electricity to them. We are told about the possibility of hydro-electricity and there is also problem of flood and in Bihar also, there is flood problem. Therefore, I think this problem could be solved. Therefore, this should be considered seriously. High level dam should be constructed at Sheshapaani or Barah area of Nepal and after that, we can channelise the irrigation facility also. The proposed three areas are Nunther, Sheshapaani and Barah. This should be given serious thinking by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minister of Water Resources and should find a way to arrive at a definite decision.

Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to tell another thing, about water management. A country which is not having water management can never make progress. Under water management, whether it is underground water, rainwater, surface water, or river water, till a plan of making one unit of all these three waters is not made, working plan is not made, this problem cannot be solved. Therefore, water management is necessary for the progress of the country. I believe, the country which is not able to manage water resources definitely that country cannot make progress. Therefore, we want to draw attention specially towards this.

I want to draw your attention towards poor states of the country. I do not know what is the base of Andhra. According to Gadgil formula, which is there in the whole country, Budget of a State or plan should be

[English]

on the basis of internal resources of the State.

[Translation]

Till we continue to formulate our plans on the basis of internal sources, natural calamities would continue to affect the states. Their backwardness will not be removed. Therefore, there is need for a special package. Unless poverty of the concerned state is made the criterion nothing will happen. If size of the plan is finalised on the basis of Gadgil formula, then how can national resources be mobilized? Those states which are affected by floods, cyclone etc. be Andhra, Orissa or Bihar, if size of the plan remain same there then how internal resource mobilisation can take place. Therefore, Government of India has to change its basic thinking. This needs serious thinking

that size of the plan should be on the basis of that state's need, poverty and backwardness. Only then we can find permanent solution of this problem.

Through National Applied Economics Research Institution, a survey was conducted of the poor of this country. According to the findings, daily income of 16 per cent people is three rupees only. What will be the fate of that person who get three rupees per day if he is affected by flood or cyclone?

16.53 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

What will be the fate of his food security? Therefore, we want to mention about National Applied Economic Research Institution which conducted a survey that the income of 16 per cent people is rupees three and of 18 per cent people it is only rupees five. The food problem of people living below poverty line in the states which are affected by natural calamities is severe.

The starvation condition in Kalahandi area of Orissa is stigma on the face of this country.

We got our Independence more than 51 years ago. And if precious life of the people it lost due to lack of nutritious food even after so many years of independence then this is a serious question for the country. This is burning issue on which we want to discuss in detail in this House. Here in the House we talk of many problems such as infrastructure, progress of the country etc. but the basic problem is of food security.

35 crores people in the country are living below poverty line. We have not been able to solve their problem of two square meals. We have to pay more attention towards the areas where people are affected by natural calamities.

Therefore, through this House I would like to draw the attention of the Government that there should not be discussion for the sake of discussion, discussions should be result-oriented. A master plan should be formulated for this purpose keeping in view the possibilities of cyclone or flood. The Government of India should take positive steps in this direction. This is what I want to submit.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI (Katwa) : Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, I congratulate you on your re-election as Deputy Speaker of this House. I am very thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this very important discussion. We are facing devastation by flood and cyclone at the end of this century. About five hundred people have lost their lives in four states due to flood and cyclone. Lakhs of hectares of land has been rendered uncultivable and the situation is still bad even after four months. You have seen my constituency. Polling booths were set up in about 18 to

[Shri Mahboob Zahedi]

20 boats. This area received about 247 mm rain from 22 to 28. Such heavy rainfall was not experienced for the last many years.

It was fortunate to be on the Standing Committee on Agriculture. In the Committee also I had pointed out that there should be a policy regarding discharge of dams and discharge of Barrages. This year West Bengal experienced excessive rain and about eighteen and half cuses of water was released at one go. As a result, out of 16 districts of West Bengal 14 district have been submerged, 243 blocks have been submerged and 90 lakhs people have been rendered homeless. Four lakh houses have been destroyed and three lakh houses have been partially damaged. In all a loss of rupees twenty thousand crores has been suffered. Flood accrued twice, in the first instance a loss of rupees twenty thousands crores was suffered and in the second instance the loss suffered was rupees twenty five thousand crores. Yesterday the news was that this cyclone would hit Bhutan after crossing Orissa and Bengal. Nobody knows, what will happen thereafter. The Government of West Bengal has spent rupees 63 crores on payment of relief and compensation for the loss of lives and property suffered. It has also made efforts to provide some more relief. Panchayats have also taken initiative to provide relief. But it is most unfortunate that the Union Government has not given even a single paisa to the Government of West Bengal. The Union Government have just conducted an enquiry and has sent a Central team to the state recently. I do not know that when this team will return and submit its report to the government. Did any one imagine that boats would have to be pressed into service for providing relief in Calcutta?

17.00 hrs.

This time such a situation did arise due to flood. Relief was carried out through boats in Howrah and in 45 other municipalities. But the Union Government so far have not released a single penny to provide relief in the state. Only rupees 70 crores have been spent on relief by the state government. Road and ghats have been washed away by flood. Efforts are being made to start repair work on them by mobilising fund through Panchayats and other sources. But the question is that 18 lakh causes of water was released at the time when the region was already under flood.

I had stated in the standing committee, Shri Naidu was also present and he knows very well, that the work on these dams should be completed first. Second thing which we had told was that huge quantity of sand has been deposited in the river beds due to which the level of rivers has gone up as compared to that of villages. I had told to do a long lasting arrangements in this regard. I had also told that we would be getting additional foodgrains worth 100 crores of rupees if we spend rupees 35 crores on Durgapur barrage. But there is nobody who could listen to us and, as such no action has been taken. Reports of two Standing Committees on

Agriculture were presented here but none of the recommendations of the committee has been accepted. We had told this in the past and today also we are saying that the cement factories operating in Bhutan are depositing Dolomite in the river which mixes with sand and solidifies on the river bed.

Floods are occurring every year in West Bengal and causing heavy loss of lives and property. The Government must think over it. Just now my friend told that we should take up the matter with Nepal and Bhutan in order to find out ways and means to check deposit of silt in the rivers and to take up measure to increase the depth of rivers for smooth flow of water. The gangetic belt in our country is the longest and every year some villages are submerged in the Ganga. Look at this horrible picture, you will also get a report to this effect. If you go from Murshidabad-Farrakka up to Bay of Bengal you will come to know about the villages which are on the verge of being submerged in the river. We had said that we would allocate more funds in the Ganga Action Plan for this purpose but nothing has been done so far in Ganga Action Plan.

I do not want to take much time of the House. I have got figures with me which I want to furnish in the House. I had told the budgetary provision for irrigation should be increased for ten years. A provision was made to spend Rs. 3528 crores for making some arrangements in this regard. You may be aware that Rs. 1000 crores have been spend for this purpose so far during these ten years. They are unable to check cyclones and floods. West Bengal Government is making every possible effort in this regard but this should be done by the Union Government. National Highways are not under the State Government of West Bengal and all the rivers are not flowing in West Bengal. The Union Government should come forward in this regard.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please conclude now.

SHRI MAHBOOB ZAHEDI : Sir, I am concluding.

Approximately six lakh hectares of agriculture land have been ruined. Standing vegetable crops on about two lakh hectares of land in West Bengal has been damaged. Loss worth Rs. 115 crores has been suffered this year. Some work has been done in animal husbandry of which I was Minister incharge for sometime in the state Rs. 13 crores were allocated for animal husbandry. Today drinking water is the most needed commodity there as there has been maximum damage to water supply system. Approximately loss of Rs. 15 crores has been suffered. You talk about planning and programming and you say that Central programmes should be formulated. According to me the work on ongoing projects like D.V.C. etc. should be completed as early as possible has been spent on these and achievements there under have been negligible. You should give maximum attention to agriculture, animals husbandry development and drinking water. Besides fund should be provided for construction of houses.



The Government of West Bengal has carried out relief work there with all its might, but nothing much can be done there without the assistance from the Union Government. We have demanded Rs. 721 crores which should be provided to us. If this amount is not provided to us we will be not able to provide compensation for the loss suffered there due to natural calamity. Therefore it will be of no use merely to set up commissions or to send study team there and preparing reports. Instead of doing that, money should be made available to mitigate the suffering of the people and to save their lives.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise on this occasion to place before the House the very tragic disaster that hit Orissa, certain coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, a few districts of West Bengal specially Midnapore District, and parts of Bihar and a few pockets of eastern Uttar Pradesh which have been affected by floods.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, while I sincerely respect concept of Centre-State relations as prescribed in the Constitution of India, I must admit that sometimes we cannot avoid the temptation of doing politics against each other when natural calamities occur.

We all know that in Orissa, the BJP, BJD combine got a massive mandate. We respect the Members of Parliament who have been elected by the people of Orissa to represent them in this august House. We sincerely admit that the sufferings of people should not be viewed in terms of our political terminology.

Sir, we met hon. Prime Minister on behalf of the Indian National Congress the other day. The Prime Minister did admit to us that we were not sufficiently equipped like the United States of America and other countries to give advance cyclone warnings to the people living in cyclone-prone areas. It is true that we are not sufficiently equipped. Imagine the situation in the affected area on the 16th of this months. The warning came after the sunset, at six o'clock, when all the administrative offices were closed. The cyclone hit the area the next day exactly at five o'clock. In the intervening period, 25,000 people have been evacuated, whatever be the mechanism used. I am not going to support or criticise anybody. I would like to talk about what happened afterwards.

The Prime Minister visited the state following the disaster. At the end of his visit he addressed a press conference there. I would like to quote a few lines from what he said in that Press Conference. It was published in *The Hindustan Times*. The Prime Minister gave a very correct message to the people of Orissa there. He said :

"I wish to assure all, that in such an hour of crisis we will forget our political differences. I request all to join me in consoling the bereaved families and assuming that all section of the society and different shades of

political opinion are united in providing prompt and effective rehabilitation to those who have suffered serious losses."

The Prime Minister said this in a Press Conference at the end of his visit.

But interestingly, the same news media reported that while the Prime Minister said such laudable things to the people of Orissa, it is customary that whenever a Prime Minister visits a State in such a disaster, he is accompanied either by the Chief Minister in the aerial survey or the Finance Minister. I remember, during floods, when Rajiv Gandhi visited Bengal he was accompanied by the Finance Minister Shri Asim Dasgupta to do an on-the-spot survey.

Here in this case, the Chief Minister of Orissa is a tribal. He was left in the lurch. The Prime Minister was accompanied by Shri Naveen Patnaik in the aerial survey, and in his presence the Press Conference was held.

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : It was right.

[English]

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : It is not right. You can say it is right. It may suit you. But it is not the culture of the Constitution. If we speak in one language that will not do politics.

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : Sir, the Chief Minister of Orissa... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am not yielding to you ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN : The Chief Minister of Orissa was present at the time of Press Conference (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Kharabela Swain, you are a senior Member. He is not yielding.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : And, the Prime Minister instantly agreed on our delegation's visit that an additional amount of Rs. 50 crore should be granted. But let us understand that this amount of Rs. 250 crore is an advance. I say that a calamity of this nature just cannot be handled by a District Collector or a state Government alone unless the entire Government of India and the State Government join together.

Now, this is the situation in Orissa. We have to understand that it is not merely an issue. From 17th October onwards, there was a truckers strike. The movement of the transport was totally stopped in most of the roads in Orissa. It was shown on televisions throughout the world that the entire communication network was not only closed due to

[Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi]

cyclone but thousands and thousands of trucks were on the road. And, it was such a delicate situation that even the Prime Minister admitted to us that it was very difficult to deal with the situation unless all join hands. So, with the tune of the hon. Prime Minister, I join in this House to say that this is a situation where simple visit or inquiry is not so important. It is imperative that the magnitude of the problem should not be handled casually but for a long-term solution, as some of the hon. Members have suggested, an Institute of Disaster Management with the latest developed science and technological equipment, which are now available all over the world, should be created. India should prepare and gear itself for future because in the States like West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Arunachal Pradesh such things will occur tomorrow also.

Sir, today after the lunch-break, when I was coming to the House, I saw in the Doordarshan that today at 3 o'clock from Paradeep to a coast of the Bay of Bengal, again with the speed of 360 miles per hour, another severest cyclone will be coming with the waves, seven metres high. Therefore, this magnitude of Calamity is so serious that it is beyond the Management of authorities either at the Centre or in the states. So, let us not do politics here. But certainly, I would submit, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that on one point I agree with some of my colleagues from the ruling party that in such matters if the Government of India feel that the money they allot is not spend in time or in a proper manner, let them have a permanent monitoring agency in the State itself to see that the money allotted is spent for the purpose for which it was meant. I do not mind that. It helps every states. But we cannot disturb the Centre-State relations in the management of the affairs and in its own economic distribution of resources in such cases.

Now, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, now I will come to West Bengal. Shri Mahboob Zahedi has dealt at length the whole issue. He spoke about Midnapore, especially Contai Sub-division which has been severely affected. Likewise, Mohanpur, Digha and other surrounding villages had faced similar problems what Orissa had faced. It is because they are very much nearer to Orissa.

Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, rightly so, Orissa should get the top most priority because of the magnitude of the problem there. Please do not ignore the sufferings of the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal also which have equally suffered.

Sir, I could not attend the House on the first day and I had to remain out of the House. It is because the constituency which I belong to, was totally cut off for the last one month from the national highway linking Calcutta due to floods and cyclones. Even today, I cannot reach Calcutta from my constituency unless I come to Siliguri and catch a flight.

A segment called Etawah is totally worsted for the last one month. During election, the polling booth was set up on the boat and people came by boat to cast their votes. People have shown their determination to respect democracy with a view that Parliament and the Government will respond to the crisis. At that time, every body was serious, the political parties, the candidates and the Government that they should come and cast their votes. But the moment vote was over, for mere transportation of the people marooned areas, no arrangements were made. It is such a pity that the candidates are crying during election time that the people should come and give votes, but the moment the election is over, they do not look at the people. This is really a tragic situation.

I appeal therefore that this matter also should be handled very seriously. The Collectors say "We are under the dictate of the Election Commission to make voters vote during election time. But now we are not under any obligation." This is the kind of thing that collectors are saying.

I therefore draw the attention, through you, of the hon. Minister who is dealing with this subject today to the four suggestions that I am making apart from the suggestion I have made about the disaster management institute.

One joke we make always with human lives. If somebody dies in the aircraft, you give high rate of compensation. If somebody dies in a railway accident, you give different kind of compensation. If somebody dies in cyclone or floods, you give Rs. 10,000/-. This is disastrous Government should take a decision, in consultation with the State Government, and if necessary, with the National Council Meeting that a quantum uniformly applicable should be always given for the loss of life in the National calamities or accidents. It is a pity that a wage earner gets Rs. 10,000 when he loses his life in cyclone and if the rich man dies in aeroplane crash, his family gets Rs. 5 lakh. So, the quantum of compensation should also be planned in a uniform way.

My third suggestion is that the Planning Commission, the Water Resources Ministry and the concerned Irrigation Department of the State Government should decisively prepare a document or a white paper to bring to the Parliament which, according to them for the last 20 years are the flood prone areas, cyclone prone areas and drought prone areas and what mechanism in terms of Plan allocation, technological development, equipment-wise, Government is thinking for the affected areas and accordingly you prepare your study within a year and present the documentation and then ask Parliament to give you support. The kind of allocation you make for Defence resources, the entire House will allocate for Human Resources management.

These are my few suggestions. If Government consider them in the Cabinet, it will be helpful for future.

**SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) :** A severe cyclone which has swept through the coastal districts of Orissa, some parts of Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal on 17th and 18th October, 1999 has left behind a trail of devastation. The toll in Orissa has mounted to 147 people till 27th October. In Ganjam District alone, it accounted for 139 deaths. Several deaths have also occurred in Puri, Khurda, Gajapati, Keonjhar and Dhenkanal districts. It has also severely devastated Jagatsinghpur, Kendrapara, Jajpur, Bhadrak and Balasore districts of Orissa. Hundreds of people have been seriously injured due to house collapses and uprooting of trees. The cyclone has disrupted telecommunication, electricity, road and railways of the entire network of the coastal districts of the States.

Thousands of fishermen have lost their boats. Some of them are still missing in the Bay of Bengal and in Chilka Lake. They have not yet been traced out by the State Government.

A lot of things have already been discussed. I do not want to repeat them. Thousands of acres of standing paddy crop have been completely lost, thousands of coconut trees have been uprooted and the total economy of the coastal districts has been collapsed. As a result of this sorrowful event, more than five lakh people are completely in a difficult position. Thousands of people are already on the streets and there is no rescue or relief measure provided by the state Government. The relief that has been provided by the State Government is completely miserable and it is not up to the expectation of the people. The relief provided by the State Government has reached the people only after four or five days.

On the 21st, I personally enquired from my constituency, which is also affected to some extent and the relief had not reached till the 21st. Yesterday, I again enquired from my constituency. Only three kilograms of rice have been provided to the families, that is the relief provided to the people who have lost their houses and properties and are now in the streets. Electricity is totally disconnected and there is no power supply. Kerosene is also not supplied to the affected persons. This is the relief being provided by the state Government. The state Government has miserably failed to rise upto the occasion and reached up to the expectations of the people. The relief measures undertaken by the State Government are very poor.

Sir, we had requested the hon. Prime Minister and he visited our State. He has expressed grave concern for the affected persons. We are very much grateful to the Prime Minister. He has also assured us to provide Rs. 200 crore as Plan advance and Rs. 50 Crore for Calamity Relief Fund as advance. The Plan advance is the due and it could have been given later but the States undergoing a serious financial crisis and even the State Government employees are not in a position to get their salaries it will definitely help to improve the situation. Now the State Government is

completely under a debt trap. So, the Central Government stepped into assist the state Government but what is more important now is how the affected persons are to be provided relief.

The Central Government should declare this as a national calamity. That is our demand so that the Central Government can provide some special assistance separately from the National Calamity Relief Fund. So, we urge upon the Central Government to provide some assistance to the affected persons who are in a very bad condition. We request the Government of India to provide special assistance and there should not be any politics in this. There should not be any monopoly in declaration of the National Calamity. There is no clear norm on how to declare a national calamity. Some States, with the mercy of the Central Government. Some time with less gravity get some calamities declared as national calamities. But when calamities happen in other parts of the country, with serious dimension they are not declared as national calamities. So there should be some guidelines to decide in which situation it is to be declared as a national calamity.

So, this is the situation in Orissa and other parts which have recently been affected. So, it should be declared as a national calamity and I urge upon the Central Government to provide adequate Central assistance that is required in the state for this purpose.

[Translation]

\***SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU (Anantapur) :** Hon'ble Deputy-Speaker Sir, bestowing my salutations, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House through you Sir, the fall out of the recent cyclonic havoc and natural disaster in the State of Andhra Pradesh. I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity. In Andhra Pradesh we witness two extreme strange situations due to natural calamities both in the form of cyclonic flood havoc in the Coastal region and severe drought conditions in certain other parts of the State. It has become a need of the hour to take up relief measures in a big way which is estimated to be one thousand crores of rupees. The state government has initiated relief measures in the affected areas at the cost of 725 crores received from the National Calamity Relief Fund. Twelve Mandals have been identified to be drought prone severely hit areas. The state government has declared them to be worst hit areas. Hon'ble Chief Minister of our state Shri Chandra Babu Naidu has taken up this with the Centre and has impressed upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister too.

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS : Sir, there is no interpretation.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Shri Srinivasulu, please wait for a minute. I will find out. Has he given in writing?

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : I will speak in English.

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is better.

[Translation]

SHRI KALAVA SRINIVASULU : It is my bounden duty to bring to the notice of the House, the recurring problem of droughts in my State of Andhra Pradesh. Two regions Rayalseema and Telangana - are chronically affected by droughts. Going by even the Government statistics, three years are drought hit out of every five years. Particularly Anantapur district, which I represent, is known for not only droughts but it is classified as being desertified.

As a consequence of the recurring and perennial drought, all sections of people are put to untold sufferings. Particularly the worst hit sections are the landless, the women, the children and the older people from weaker sections. Large scale migration to the cities and greener areas is very common. Generally, the able-bodied persons from the families migrate leaving behind their women, children and the older people.

This temporary migration of men results in deterioration and disintegration in family relations causes more hunger and health problems among women and children who get little attention to their needs and problems.

The dry land farmers have to make huge investments every year to grow the crops and not even the investment come back as a return because of the failure of rains. When the crops fail, to feed the family and their cattle is one problem and finding the investment for next crop is another problem. While people themselves go hungry in the drought years, maintenance of cattle becomes impossible, if they have to buy the fodder and feed the cattle. So, the cattle are sold to slaughter houses mercilessly.

Another important problem as a result of drought is drinking water for both people and cattle as well.

In Rayalaseema and Telangana regions of Andhra Pradesh, poverty, ill health and illiteracy are common because of its economic backwardness. On top of this economic backwardness, the recurring droughts multiply and intensify the poverty and sufferings of people. The twin problems of drought and poverty cause a vicious cycle of backwardness and under-development of the regions of Rayalaseema and Telangana.

So, the problems of drought and backwardness of the regions cause two kinds of problems. One kind of problem is the immediate problem and another kind of problem is the long-term problem. The immediate problem are starvation, ill health, slaughter of cattle, shortage of drinking water, migration of labour, etc.

The long-term problems are indebtedness, distress sale of assets, farmers' permanent migration to the towns, losing faith in agriculture and resorting to other anti-social activities like factions, illicit business, etc. Both kinds of problems have

to be tackled with a sense of urgency and with a strong sense of determination.

Firstly, I submit that the droughts have to be recognised as a natural calamity. The norms applicable to floods have to be applied and immediate relief has to be provided. Under the short-term relief, large scale employment generation, providing drinking water, fodder supply compensation for the loss of crops have to be provided on a war-footing.

Secondly, long-term measures have to be initiated to address the problem on a permanent basis. In order to address the problem on a permanent basis, it is inevitable to bring surplus water of Krishna and Godawari to drought hit areas of Rayalaseema and Telangana.

Sir, renovation and restoration of existing irrigation and percolation tanks should be taken up immediately. Construction of a series of sub-surface dykes in the sandbeds of rivers is necessary. The next point is about the artificial rain research station at Anantapur, Rayalaseema and Telangana regions are located in what is known as 'Rain Shadow Area' in deccan plateau. There is a need for artificial rain research station at Anantapur. This must be done immediately.

\*SHRI RANEN BARMAN (Balurghat) : Hon'ble Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to participate in the important discussion under 193 related to the natural calamities affecting the States of Bihar, Orissa, West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh. Sir, 13 districts of my state of West Bengal have been severely affected due to devastating flood. Besides some more districts have more or less also been inundated. The overall estimate of loss in the whole state has been to the tune of Rs. 2.5 thousand crores. In Malda alone, the flood related loss is estimated to be Rs. 900 crore. There is total devastating loss and damage as far as agricultural crop is concerned. Due to erosion of the banks of the river Ganga, Murshidabad and Malda have been acutely confronted with devastating flood. As a result so many villages have been completely washed away. South Dinajpur has always been inundated severely every year because CPWD has constructed roads along the border of Bangladesh. But the number of bridge and culvert is far from adequate. The number of bridge is not at all sufficient resulting in acute flood in South Dinajpur every year. This fact is true for Malda also. So the same condition is prevailing in Malda also which is very near to Bangladesh border.

So, I earnestly appeal to construct sufficient number of bridges along the border so as to check the gruesome effect of flood. West Bengal Government has asked to release Rs. 721 crores for relief. I urge upon the Government to release the money at the earliest. I also appeal to sanction fund to be utilized to check erosion of the banks of Ganga. Roads in our district and in my constituency Balurghat are totally submerged due to heavy flood. There is total breakdown of Communication in all the districts. In fact communication in every sphere collapses resulting in total

\* Translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

disruption of normal life. People have to face immense hardship and this has become an annual feature. I appeal to raise the level of the roads from Malda to Balurghat. If the level of the road is raised, flood water won't be able to submerge the roads.

With these words, I conclude my speech and thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in this important discussion.

[English]

SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU (Srikakulam) : Sir, I will take only three or four minutes. From my party some hon. Members have already spoken.

Due to failure of south-west monsoon, the State of Andhra Pradesh in general and Rayalaseema and Telangana in particular, is facing drought. There are as many as 500 taluk mandals in this area. Out of the total 1099 district rural mandals of Andhra Pradesh which come under the scanty and deficit category, 47 per cent of the mandals come in these areas.

The State Government has already assessed the loss at Rs. 2318 crore. The amount sought as Central assistance is Rs. 720.36 crore. The hon. Chief Minister has already submitted a memorandum to the Central Government. After the receipt of the memorandum, the Central team visited Andhra Pradesh and also submitted the report to the Central Government. The cyclone has hit my constituency, Srikakulam and also Orissa coast. The loss due to cyclone is assessed at Rs. 237 crore. Nearly 10 lakh coconut trees were uprooted and this has resulted in the loss of Rs. 200 crore and loss due to damages to roads and electrical installations is Rs. 37 crore. Two reports are pending with the Central Government. So far, not even a single rupee has been released to the state of Andhra Pradesh. The hon. Prime Minister visited Orissa and immediately announced Rs 200 crore as Central assistance and Rs. 50 crore as grant. We are facing drought situation in Andhra Pradesh. The State Government has spent more money than allocated under Calamity Relief Fund. The budgetary resources of the Departments have already been strained due to the recent drought. We have taken up watershed programmes and water harvesting schemes in a big way.

That is why I request the Union Government through you to immediately release the Central assistance to the affected States so that they can immediately take up the relief works in their respective States. At the Central level, the National Calamity Relief Fund is very meagre. Every year, the states like Bihar, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are facing either drought, flood or cyclone. the Union Government must enhance the National Calamity Relief fund, as Rs. 100 or Rs. 200 crore are not sufficient to meet the relief works. I request that it may be increased to Rs. 1000 crore so that sufficient amount could be released to the affected states. Unless this is done, the

Central Government cannot extend any help to any State. There would only be aerial surveys or a Central team visiting the affected State and then submitting its Report. Without sufficient fund, it is not possible to help the affected State. I humbly request the Union Government to enhance the assistance given from the National Calamity Relief Fund. The state of Andhra Pradesh is facing drought. Both the Home Minister and the Minister of Agriculture hail from Andhra Pradesh. Entire Telangana is facing drought and people are migrating to other States. To stop migration, the state Government has taken up a number of Schemes but the funds are very meagre. So, my humble request to the Union Minister is to take necessary steps to release money to Andhra Pradesh to save it from this situation.

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : Sir, we are discussing a calamity of rare severity. The low pressure which developed, coincided with peculiarly high tides. The situation further aggravated particularly in my constituency due to release of water from the DVC dams. The low pressure which developed on 22nd of September caused heavy downpour and that coincided with the highest tides. The dams were constructed to control the flood in the upper reaches of Damodar river Panchet, Tillahia, Mythen – but all the reservoir started releasing water. More than two lakh and fifteen thousand cusecs of water was released which submerged most of the areas of my constituency. On the other hand release of water from Kansabati Reservoir submerged the ghatal areas of my constituency. My constituency is worst affected due to this. This peculiar situation, the low pressure high tides, and the simultaneous release from the reservoir has caused immense hardship to the people and the whole of West Bengal. The flood in the Ganga river along the whole coast of the river from Murshidabad to Calcutta has affected the whole area. All districts of Murshidabad, Malda and West Dinajpur were badly affected. Last year, we sought an assistance to the tune of Rs. 700 crore but unfortunately, the Central Government released funds to the tune of only Rs. 60 crore to the State Government and that too at the fag end of March. Last year, the assistance for the Central Calamity Relief Fund was released to West Bengal Government on 30th March. Such Types of calamities has occurred again this year and there is another warning, that is, another low pressure has developed which will create havoc in coastal West Bengal and Orissa. What is required is the urgent response from the Central Government. The States which are affected by floods, by severe natural calamity, this year – Orissa, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar – are the states which are ruled by the Opposition Parties except Andhra Pradesh, which is ruled by the TDP, a party supporting the Government from outside.

Sir, I think there is some politics in providing Central assistance to the States. When such type of natural calamities are occurring, the Centre has all the information at its disposal. They have the information about rainfall, about the low pressure, about the high tide and about the release of water. Then why are they waiting? The system is that a

[Shri Anil Basu]

Central team from the Ministry of Agriculture would visit the affected areas, they would assess the situation and would submit a report. Then the funds from the Natural Calamity Relief Fund are released to the States. When a Calamity has occurred in such a big magnitude, immediate release of fund is necessary. It is because the funds which are available in the CRF and State Budget would have been exhausted. Apart from that, the State Government has provided assistance to the affected people. The necessity is to provide immediate assistance from the Centre. What is the response of the Central Government? I find nothing.

Sir, another important thing is that these dams were constructed in 1957, 1958 and 1959. Since then 40 years have passed. Eight dams are required to be constructed. But only four dams were constructed. Only 50 per cent of the excess water was tried to be controlled through the reservoir. Eight dams were to be constructed in the whole plan but four dams were constructed. What happened during the last 40 years is that even those four dams were silted due to heavy deforestation in the catchment area of the river. Now, they cannot reserve all these waters because the capacity of the dams have continuously been reducing due to siltation. So, I urge upon the Central Government that if you have to control flood, there are different areas, different regions and different characteristics throughout the country which you have to keep in mind. So, there should be an in-depth study of the whole situation.

In the year 1988, a National Flood Commission was constituted and it made some recommendations. But no Government either at the Centre or at the state took cognizance of the report. Now, 19 years have passed and we are facing another severe calamity ... (Interruptions), Sir, I urge upon the Central Government to constitute another Flood Commission so that it could study the whole situation and recommend the necessary remedial measures that are to be taken. Those measures have to be incorporated in the Plan. They should be discussed in the Planning Commission as well as in the National Development Council and a comprehensive plan has to be drawn to control the natural calamities in this country. Otherwise, this type of calamity cannot be controlled and people's sufferings cannot be minimized.

In West Bengal, the damage is to the tune of Rs. 2,000 crore and the West Bengal Government has sought assistance to the tune of Rs. 721 crore. A Central team from the Ministry of Agriculture is visiting different parts of West Bengal. I suppose they will be back here in Delhi today, pending that, you just release the money from the Natural Calamity Relief Fund.

Sir, I fully support the view of Shri K. Yerrannaidu that the amount of the fund has to be raised. With only Rs. 200 crore, how do you think that you will face such situations throughout the country? A substantial amount has to be provided to the States.

In the case of West Bengal, I demand from the Government that Rs. 721 crore which was sought from the Central Government should be provided to the West Bengal Government for the rehabilitation and restoration work. The National Flood Commission has to be constituted again to study the whole situation and to make suitable recommendations so that flood and natural calamities can be controlled in this country.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (Calcutta North-West) : Shri Mahboob Zahedi has told the House that Rs. 20,000 crore is the total loss. But Shri Anil Basu is telling that it is Rs. 2,000 crore. I do not know whether the CPM MPs know the real loss. Is there no difference between Rs. 20,000 crore and Rs. 2,000 crore? ... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU : Let him add all the figures.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, today we are discussing natural calamities and to be specific, we are discussing about the cyclone hit the State of Orissa creating an unprecedented damage.

The cyclone was unprecedented. The State machinery which was supposed to meet this type of eventuality was not prepared to meet. Basically it has been seen that when there is a Government under the Congress party in the State, it is always left in the lurch when a natural calamity hits Orissa may be in the form of a cyclone or drought in Kalahandi.

Today you will see that the magnitude of the damage that has occurred in the State of Orissa, as compared to the one which happened in Gujarat in 1998, is about Rs. 400 crore more. In Gujarat it was about Rs. 600 crore, but today in Orissa it is about Rs. 1,000 crore. If a poor state like Orissa is not given all the help, the people of Ganjam and the coastal districts cannot come out from the misery of this natural calamity. You will see that the people of Ganjam primarily depend on agriculture, horticulture and vegetable cultivation. In Orissa, Ganjam is the supplier of vegetables for the entire state. This was the time when lakhs and lakhs of acres were planted with saplings of vegetables which would have gone to the State and the country. But today that has been completely wiped out. Therefore, immediate agricultural help should be given to the districts of Ganjam and other coastal districts.

Besides, you will see that all the developmental projects which were going on there have also been damaged. The complete environment of the area has been shattered and that has to be restored immediately. Now another cyclone is coming. Why is it that cyclones keep coming? There has been environmental imbalance in the Bay of Bengal or in the environment of Orissa and the hills of the Eastern Ghats which control the complete eco-system of that area. Today the Eastern Ghat have been completely denuded of forests. We usually get south-east monsoon. But this time we got the north-east monsoon which eventually came and touched the coast of Orissa and the cyclone was created because of

low pressure. There has been a global warming effective in the State of Orissa to the maximum extent. This has to be checked.

As you see the sense of the House, there has been a demand for the creation of a Natural Calamity Fund and our Senior Member Shri Priya Ranjan Desmunshi said that an institute should be formed to go into the problem of natural disasters and calamities. That will be a good move. We got a constructive suggestion and not critical suggestions like the Central Government did not do anything.

Today the Prime Minister went to Orissa. He declared a grant of Rs. 250 crore. That is on its way. It will be definitely spent in Orissa. But I have my grave doubts whether the state Government has got the machinery.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : It is an additional advance, not a grant.

SHRI BIKRAM KESHARI DEO (Kalahandi) : Whatever it is, it is the money going to the State to be spent in the State. That eventually will be spent in the State of Orissa and in the affected zones. But I have my grave doubts. Can the Government of Orissa meet this eventuality? Today the Government of Shri Giridhar Gamang is in a dire financial situation. They cannot pay primary school teachers. They cannot give grant-in-aid which they has promised to the colleges.

Today, you will see that in most of the blocks of the district of Ganjam, a part of which comes under the KVK districts, there are no block officers, there are no engineers and VLWs are not there. I hope my hon. friend, Shri Anadi Sahu who come from that area will agree with me.

Before concluding, I would like to request through you that additional loans should be pumped into the zone which has been severely affected by cyclone. But as the debate on the natural calamities is going on under Rule 193, I would like to mention about Kalahandi. Special assistance should be given to Kalahandi to mitigate the drought situation there and the projects should be completed. Besides this, the drought has been very severe. This year, the rain Gods have been very kind to the district of Kalahandi. But the effect of drought has been so severe for the last seven years that it will take another seven years for it to mitigate the problems and come back to normal conditions.

SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN (Sivaganga): Respected Deputy-Speaker Sir, I am proud of delivering my maiden speech in this august Parliament. Actually, I should have chosen some other topic rather than this subject of natural calamities when I am giving my maiden speech.

Sivaganga is a drought prone area and also a cyclone prone area. Only the word 'ganga' is there in it but actually, there is no Ganga there ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : You are not to interrupt a maiden speech.

SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : I have been coming to this august Parliament for the past four days. There was cyclone. Therefore, in that calmness, I may speak about some positive aspects which have to be considered. I just recollect how Jawaharlal Nehru dreamt about new Bharat when he sat in the Treasury Benches. He constructed many dams throughout India, set up Industries, developed many structures as also agriculture. The first three Five Year Plans were very very successful which caused the people in the drought prone areas and those who are under poverty line to come up in life. Even then due to some handicaps in the State Governments, results could not be achieved fully. When Shrimati Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister, she made a dynamic approach to bring up the poor, family-wise and group-wise, so as to lift them from below the poverty line.

About 14 years before, Shri Rajiv Gandhi dreamt as to how India should be developed, how it should come up scientifically and how things should be dealt with scientific knowledge. That is why, he created an agency in Krishi Bhawan which would directly contact the district headquarters to warn them about cyclone or drought or flood so that they may be prepared and processed properly. Everything was directly controlled by Krishi Bhawan. That was a successful work done before 14 years. But what happened to that system? Why Orissa has this type of suffering? It is because the system is not properly followed. That is the main point. I want to submit that for the past 50 years, infrastructure, wealth and assets were created. But how are we protecting them?

How are we reconstructing it? That is the question which is before this Government now. Therefore, I request the Government that it should approach the issue from that angle.

Now, let this Government take a challenge. Let the Government think that in the last fifty years they have constructed India like this, they have developed India like this, they have constructed the dams, developed agriculture and industry like this and poor people have come up in their lives. It has to think how it is going to do it, how more constructively it is going to do it, how systematically it is going to do it, and how scientifically it is going to do it. That should be their approach rather than maligning the late leader Shri Rajiv Gandhi by trying to bring him to book in some other way, thereby, they are making a political party also face certain unnecessary things before this august Parliament.

Sir, I came with all the dreams after twenty two years. I ought to have come during the Seventh Lok Sabha. But I come during the 13th Lok Sabha. I feel that this Parliament should give more to the poor people. After observing all the

[Shri E. M. Sudarsana Natchiappan]

learned speakers, I found one thing. We have got the third tier of Government. But that has been fully forgotten by the Central Government as well as the State Government. When we are dealing with the people, look at the people as a sect, as belonging to a territorial area where they are casteless. When they are facing a disaster, they are casteless. There is no religion. There is nothing. They are suffering a lot. The human beings are suffering along with other animals, fishes etc. The fishermen are suffering. In fact, everybody is suffering. Mr. Minister, how are you approaching them? You are having a very big commission spending money. People are travelling by air. You are spending so much of money on that count. Kindly stop going by air. Please give that money, say Rs. 30 lakh, to the poor people. They will have food at least for two or three days. Why should the Government not approach the small sect of people from that angle? The Panchayats should be taken into consideration. Whatever fund the Central Government wants to give, let it give to the Panchayats. That is the Kamaraj Plan. Shri Kamaraj had done it in Tamil Nadu. If the Central Government want to give Rs. 10 crore, the State will in turn add Rs. 10 crore and this Rs. 20 crore will be divided among the villages. The Panchayats will get the money. Village *Maramath* will be there. Villages will participate in it. Villages will do the flood control work. They will do the drought relief work. They will construct the dams. They will have the canals and they will have everything in their own village. In the past, they protected it as their own asset. They treated it as the community asset. Why is the community approach now missing? Why are the assets abandoned? It is because people are thinking that it is not their work, they have to suffer, they have to beg and they have to get something during that relief period. They think that the officers will go away, politicians will go away, and the Ministers will go away. This is the attitude. Kindly change the attitude. Kindly give the money to the ordinary poor people. They know how to tackle the problem. Please do not think that they are not having any scientific knowledge. They have the scientific knowledge. They know how to tackle the problem and how to face the problem when there is a cyclone or any flood or drought.

There is another aspect. Now, we are having the Insurance Company Bill before us. The point is that the private insurance companies are not going to give any fund to the poor people. If we are demanding for the cyclone-affected people there should be insurance cover. For the flood-affected people, there should be insurance. For the drought-hit people, there should be insurance. There should be crop insurance. There should be animal insurance. There should be assets insurance, house insurance, job insurance and everything should be there. So you think that the private insurance companies will come forward to help such people? No. They ask for some assets as a guarantee. Therefore, the government has to make up its kind about it.

In the morning, the Finance Minister assured us that the LIC and the GIC would be there to take care to such

things. Please take that challenge and come forward with this type of an insurance to the common man and the poor people. Let them participate in such events. Let the Panchayat pay some amount. Let the Union Government pay much more than that. In that way, kindly protect the ordinary people who are suffering in the villages. They need houses. They need shelters. Permanent Shelters should be there. In Tamil Nadu, it is a thing which is happening. In Tamil Nadu, we are having a permanent structure for the cyclone-hit areas. We are having all types of things but the management is something different.

The other point is that the State Governments are diverting the funds. It is happening in every State because the State Governments could not pay the salaries of their employees. Therefore, they are diverting the money. Why should the Central Government give the money. Why should the Central Government give the money to the State Government? It should give the money directly to the Panchayats. Shri Rajiv Gandhi had done it when he was the Prime Minister. He had sent a Demand Draft in the name of the President of the Panchayat Union. That was the revolution. That was a thing which happened during Shri Rajiv Gandhi's regime. Why I am saying this is because I was the panchayat Union Chairman of my village. I know how people were happy. All the villagers were surrounding me thousands of people were sitting. I was showing the draft sent to me. When Shri Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister, he sent Rs. 20,000/- to the president of the Panchayat. People decided to make the road themselves. They also participated in the work, getting only half of the wages.

18.00 hrs.

They participated with half wages and they have constructed houses for the Scheduled Castes.

SHRI V. P. SINGH BADNORE (Bhilwara) : If you send one rupee from here, only 10 paise reaches the village panchayat. Do you know that?

SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : That was the position earlier, and that is why, the money was sent directly to the panchayats. If you see the history, you will come to know that adventurous work was done during the five year rule of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. He has done very great things for the 21st Century. But you have forgotten it and you want to crucify him. That is the wrong thing you are doing. You do not even want to mention the name of Shri Rajiv Gandhi for the very good work that he has done. But he has laid the foundation for the 21st Century on which you are now standing. You do not have anything great to say except the period of Shri Rajiv Gandhi's rule from 1984 to 1989. That is the foundation on which India stands now.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : I am sorry, I have to interrupt you and ask you to conclude now.

SHRI E. M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN : Yes, I will conclude now. But, with your permission, I would make only one submission.



I would request the hon. Finance Minister that when the Budget is presented in this House, the third tier system of Panchayati Raj should be honoured by giving money directly to the Panchayats.

Finally, in constituencies like Sivaganga, from where I am elected, some kind of insurance scheme should be there for the fishermen who suffer very much during such natural calamities. We have to treat it just like a drought prone area. I would request that constituencies like Sivaganga in every State should be taken as mode constituencies where we should take it as a challenge and develop those constituencies in a proper way in a period of five years.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, tomorrow is the last day of this session. So, we have to have the reply to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and thank the President. So, as it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee, I propose that the Sitting of the House should be extended by two hours and we should sit upto 8 o'clock to accommodate as many speakers as possible.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Yes, it was decided in the Business Advisory Committee and the Leader of all the Parties have also agreed to it. Otherwise, we will not be in a position to conclude that debate and the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address will be pending.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I agree that we should sit upto 8 o'clock, but not beyond. But I have a feeling that many Members would like to speak from the NDA, Samjawadi Party, Left Parties and, of course, the Congress Party, because a lot of wider issues have been dealt with in the President's Address. Nobody can predict what will happen about tomorrow's business, because many issues may come up. We will certainly sit upto 8 o'clock tonight. But if the trend of the House tomorrow is such that if many more Members want to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, what is wrong in keeping the reply of the Government pending till the next Session? This can be done to accommodate more Members tomorrow.

Sir, we are told that the hon. Prime Minister is ill. We all desire that he should recover quickly and we wish him good health and long life. So, it will be in the fitness of things, even if the Members consume the whole day tomorrow, that the Prime Minister replies to the debate in good health in the next Session. This can be done, if required. This is my only prayer. Suppose we find enough time tomorrow itself to complete the debate, there is no problem. But I feel that many Members would like to participate in the debate tomorrow.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Sir, to the best of my knowledge, subject to your ruling, this is a Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, to thank the President for giving

an Address to both the Houses of Parliament. If we do not thank him by tomorrow evening, this Motion will lapse.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : No, it is not correct according to Rules. The Motion never lapses so long as it is in debate. The proceedings are alive till the reply is given.

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (Mayiladuturai) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to remind the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that in the year 1994, they blocked the proceedings on the discussion on the Motion of Thanks for several weeks before we could even begin it, let alone conclude it.

Therefore, there is no reason in terms of precedent.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN : Let us sit tomorrow. Why should we discuss it now and take time?

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR : I think, it is premature to discuss that now.

Now, let us extend the time of the House. Is it the pleasure of the House to extend the time up to eight o'clock?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS : Yes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Now, the time has been extended. The hon. Minister will give a reply. Then, we will take up the Motion of Thanks.

[Translation]

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN (Vidisha) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, terrible floods have hit Madhya Pradesh too. Election in Vidisha and Hoshangabad had to be postponed twice due to floods. Thousands of houses were submerged in flood caused by Narmada river. Therefore, I may also be given an opportunity to speak.

SHRI RAM DAS ATHAWALE : I may also be given a chance to speak.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : All right, now Shri Amar Roy Pradhan will speak for about three minutes ... (Interruptions)

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : For ten minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Not for ten minutes.

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : Sir, in a natural calamity, a large part of the country has been affected, particularly in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh. About 200 people have been killed. The list showing the total damage is not with me. But according to a report of the West Bengal Government, the loss in West Bengal is to the extent of Rs. 2,086 crore. 5,59,000 houses were affected. The roads were out of gear. About Rs. 321 crore will be required for repair of the roads. The Government of West Bengal has asked for Rs. 721 crore of Central aid.

[Shri Amar Roy Pradhan]

[Translation]

I would like to ask a question through you particularly from the Minister of Home Affairs. He is here. Would he please tell us when did the Government of West Bengal ask for Rs. 721 crore? He did not pay a single farthing to them. What are the reasons? Can he tell us that he intends to have some political mileage from this opportunity in the name of relief? Is it a fact that he is having step-motherly feelings towards the States of West Bengal, Bihar and Orissa? I would like to know about it very clearly.

In this connection, I would like to approach the concerned Minister that agricultural loans and cooperative loans should be waived in the affected areas particularly in West Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and Andhra Pradesh.

Regarding natural calamity, we have got so many plans. Where is Shri Priya Ranjan Desmuni? He said about the States. We had got so many plans the past also but those were prepared only in a casual manner. Is there any friend from Assam? They know it very well. The whole of Assam was not the seventh sister. To save Assam, in the Second Five-year Plan, there was a plan called Brahmaputra-Ganga Canal. A survey was conducted. At that time, it was estimated to cost Rs. 2,000 crore. But nothing had happened. In that plan, it was also mentioned that if necessary, it would be from Brahmaputra to Ganga and then to Cauvery. The entire country would be linked up and the country would not suffer.

My friend from Bihar said that if you like to save northern Bihar, you must have negotiations with Nepal. And if you like to save North Bengal, you have to have negotiations with Bhutan. For that purpose, in the 60's, there was also the Mansingh Committee's Report.

I would like to know what happened to that Mansingh Committee Report. It has been put in the wastepaper basket. Whatever Government was there at that time – naturally the Congress Government – it did not take care of all those things. I must say that it is time now that we do something in this regard. We do not know what is going to happen. It should not be done casually. According to today's weather report another cyclone is coming again tomorrow. It may be so. In the next session, we shall have another debate on the same topic again. We shall have some plans and programmes to save the people of our country from the natural calamities. For that purpose it is too late. In the last 52 years, we did nothing. At least, let there be a beginning of it.

Sir, once again I shall appeal to the concerned hon. Minister not to take it as a political issue. The people who are living in West Bengal or in Bihar or in Orissa are suffering a lot due to floods and cyclones. I would request him to send relief immediately. With these words, I thank you Sir.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Sir, I may please be given five minutes to speak. Elections have been postponed twice in our area due to flood... (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Sir, then what is the justification for extending the time of the House upto 8.00? ... (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will take up another subject for discussion.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : After winding up discussion on Presidents Address, now the discussion is being held on the last item on the agenda and all of a sudden discussion is being taken up on President's Address. The hon'ble members might have thought that discussion was going on the last item on the agenda and not on the President's address, that is why they left the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : We will take up the discussion on motion of thanks on the President's Address—immediately after this discussion is over.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : This is what I am saying. The hon'ble members might have thought that discussion is going on the last items and not on the President's Address, that is why they left the House. At 6 o'clock suddenly the decision is being taken to extend the time of the House and as such those hon'ble members who had left the House will be deprived from participating in it. Were they informed that the time of the House was being extended upto 8 o'clock and discussion would continue?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It was decided in the Business Advisory Committee. The proposal to extend the time of the House has been moved just now and the time of House has been extended.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : The House should have been informed before 6 o'clock about it. In that case the hon'ble members would have waited for discussion on the President's Address, but they left the House. The last item of the agenda is Natural Calamity and discussion is going on, on that. Members had left the House because they thought that today there won't be any discussion on the President's Address. At 6 o'clock the hon'ble members left the House and as such they will be deprived from participating in the discussion on the motion of thanks on the President Address.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The hon'ble Speaker had informed about this at eleven this morning. He made an announcement to this effect in the morning.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : We leave this matter on you.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, please allow me five minutes. The discussion is going on flood situation and the Members have expressed their views on drought situation.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Now, the Hon'ble Minister to Speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have called the hon. Minister to reply. Please cooperate with the Chair. A number of speakers have spoken from all sections and all parties. Senior Members like Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh also wanted to participate.

... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : We are short of time. I have already called the hon. Minister. It is not necessary for every Member to participate on every subject.

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUNDAR LAL PATWA) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, the hon'ble member is requesting you about the area which is adjacent to my constituency. Devastating floods hit that area due to which election had to be postponed there twice. Please give him five minutes time to speak so that he could express his views.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I have no problem in it, we have extended the time of the House upto 8 o'clock. Like him Dr. Raghuvansh Prasadji and other hon'ble members also want to speak we have to finish other items also and that is why I have called the hon'ble minister to speak ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH (Maharajanj – Bihar) : You give two minutes to each member to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : All right, two Minutes are allotted to each Member.

SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH CHOUHAN : Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, some day ago water was released from three dams i.e. "Bargi, Bama and Tawa" constructed on Narmada and its subsidiaries in Madhya Pradesh due to which hundreds of villages were submerged for seven days resulting in devastation in the entire region. Therefore, I would like to urge upon you that there has been criminal negligence on the part of the state government in starting relief works there. Relief and rehabilitation works were not started there. Crops on lakhs of hectares of land got destroyed. The areas where soyabean crop was not destroyed completely due to excessive rain beans started germinating. Maize started germination on the plant itself. There was devastation all over the area.

Sir, through you, I would like to request that the Union Government should intervene in this matter and send a Central team to conduct a survey of entire region and thereafter arrangement should be made to provide relief and compensation in that area. I would also like to make another request that a well thought policy should be evolved to release water from dams to avoid such calamities and all the three districts i.e. Hoshangabad, Raisen and Sihore should be covered under the new Crop Insurance Scheme so that atleast those areas could get benefit of this scheme. The roads in the entire area have been damaged, bridges and culverts have collapsed. Relief and rehabilitation works should be started there by preparing a special package for this purpose.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH (Vaishali) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the issue being discussed in the House is how to combat the situation in the aftermath of natural calamities that struck in the four states of the country and with regard to providing relief and facilities to the affected people. In its routine work, the Tenth Finance Commission has made recommendation to make separate arrangements for relief fund for each on every state. I would like to give an example of Bihar. A decision was made to provide Rs. 52 crore in the relief fund of Bihar. 3/4 of this total amount was to be given by the Central Government and 1/4 was to be given by the state government. But due to financial crisis, the State Government was not in a position to give its share in the relief fund. After giving the 3/4 share in the relief fund, as per the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission the Central Government feels that it has performed its duty. But State Governments are unable in tackling the natural calamities of cyclonic storms, floods, hailstorms and earthquakes. Shri Yerrannaidu has proposed to raise the allocation of National calamity relief fund which is just Rs. 100 crore at present. Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture is its Chairman and Chief Minister of states are member of this fund by rotation. He has proposed to raise the allocation of this fund. It should be raised to Rs. 1000 crore from the present allocation of Rs. 100 crore. The distressed people should not be troubled further as at the time of natural calamity hon'ble Prime Minister makes an announcement that Rs. 250 crore has been provided for assistance and the same amount is adjusted as advance Central assistance for the state and additional relief could not be provided in the lack of budgetary provisions thereof. Therefore, I seek reply from the hon'ble Minister in this regard. Whether false assurances are made here? Such announcements are cruel joke with the people. I strongly oppose it. India is a vast country and people of this country face natural calamities. Bihar suffers heavy loss due to flood and drought every year. International rivers of Nepal cause this destruction crops worth crores of rupees are destroyed. Loss of lives and property is suffered, roads are damaged. Public money is wasted. Central Government should take responsibility of tackling such problems and state Governments should be given adequate assistance to deal with such situation.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, debate is going on about the situation in the aftermath of natural calamities like storms, floods, hailstorm and drought that struck in various parts of the country.

18.21 hrs.

[SHRI K. YERRANNAIDU in the Chair]

It is well known fact that Orissa has been severely devastated by the cyclonic storm. This storm has also affected Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar. I come from Bihar. Every year, North Bihar suffers huge loss due to flood. On such occasion I would like to remember my beloved and popular leader late Karpuri Thakur who, time and again stated in the Legislative Assembly that problem of Bihar cannot be solved unless the Government of India holds talks with Nepal and reach an agreement in this regard. The rivers flowing from Nepal cause havoc in country. These destroy our soil and infrastructure created during the year. The Government of India does not provide adequate assistance in this regard.

Raghuvansh Babu, I am very sorry to say that in Bihar the funds allocated for providing relief to affected people is embezzled. Raghuvanshji has been my friend. We have been together since long... (Interruptions)\*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please resume your seat.

Shri Jha, please address to the Chair. Do not argue with each other.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)\*\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please stop this, otherwise I will ask the Minister to reply.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ANIL BASU (Arambagh) : It is a very sensitive issue because millions of people are affected. So, no political mileage should be secured out of this discussion. Every Member should be concerned about it.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanjharpur) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am on point of order day before yesterday when election of hon'ble Speaker and hon'ble Deputy Speaker, was being held, the Members of all the political parties had given assurance to maintain dignity of the House. Hon'ble Member of our party Shri Raghunath Jha was allowed by you to speak on this issue. He was intervened by Raghuvansh Babu. Who is a senior member, leader of his party and there are seven Members of his party in Lok Sabha. Their number will come down to zero, if he behaves in such a manner. All the Members should try to maintain dignity of the House. Sentiments of all the members should be respected in the House.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to know as to whether discussion can be held on working of state Governments in this House. Hon'ble Member was debating the issue of natural calamities that struck in for states and during discussion hon'ble Member criticized the state Government and levelled allegation of involvement in scam. In its reply, immediately after that I stated that he had been kingpin in the matters of Scam. He had been Minister for a long time and it is not long since he had left the party.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : What about you.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, therefore, I want your ruling as to whether discussion can be held in matters relating to state Government. Convention should be seen in this regard. What type of words were used by him when I said that he had been Minister for a long time in the Government led by Lalu Prasad. I know that dignity of the House is supreme. Hon'ble Member should maintain dignity and decorum of the House. If decorum of the House is violated in this manner, we will also respond accordingly and nobody can stop us from doing so.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please take your seat. I shall give you a chance.

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANAND MANDAL (Monghyr) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, if funds are released by the Central Government to state Government, then it could be discussed. It is there in the guidelines.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please resume your seat.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV) : Mr. Chairman, many unparliamentary words

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

\*\* Not Recorded.

have been used by the Senior Members. I would request that these words should be expunged from the record as many such words are spoken by Shri Raghuvansh. This is my request.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay , I shall expunge those words from the record. Shri Raghunath Jha, please conclude now.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am concluding my speech. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here. Though I have been elected for the first time for this House but I have been in public life for the last 27 years and I had been MLA for the last 27 years continuously. I had been Minister for nine years and I have unblemished record. At present, CBI investigation is going on against dozens of Ministers of Lalu's Cabinet. I want that how the funds released by the Central Government to Bihar Government are being utilized should be probed. I Challenge that if Bihar Government had utilized those funds in a proper manner, I will resign from the post of Member of Parliament.

DR. RAGHUVASH PRASAD SINGH : We too are ready. It should be probed. Any official from Government of India can investigate the utilization of funds.

*[English]*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Shri Raghunath Jha, you confine your speech to the subject and make your suggestions.

*[Translation]*

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Mr. Chairman, Sir, Bihar Government have been misutilising all the funds. We people are devastated. Funds assigned for relief have also not reached the people. The roads in Gopalganj and Sitamarhi of my area are in very poor condition. No Embankments have been constructed. People's money is being plundered to put an end to this misutilisation of funds, the Government of India had tried to dismiss the Bihar Government. But because of you people it was saved. The public have again rejected such a Government. I request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs to make investigations in this regard.

*[English]*

SHRI KHARABELA SWAIN (Balasore) : Mr, Chairman, Sir, I do not want to go into any political delectation on the natural calamity issue. Only for the kind information of the hon. Chief Whip of the Congress Party, Shri Priya Ranjan Dasmunsi, who is a very senior Member, let me say that the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa, Shri Giridhar Gamang was present during the time of the visit of the hon. Prime Minister of the country, Shri Atal Bihari Vijapayee. He was along with him during the Press interview. May I say this much for his

kind information because he mentioned that because he is a tribal he was not given the opportunity to go along with the hon. Prime Minister. This is not ture. He was very much present. Everybody has seen him on television.

I just mean to say that I will not deal with the problems of cyclone in Orissa because those have already been exhaustively dealt with by hon. Member, Shri Anadi Sahu. I will only deal with, within the two minutes. the flood. There are five devastating rivers in Orissa - Mahanadi, Brahmani, Baitharini, Suvamarekha and Budhabalang. Unfortunately, two of the rivers namely Suvamarekha and Budhabalang, pass through my constituency. The catchment area of the Suvamarekha river is around 18,900 square kilometers. There is a flood moderation reservoir at Chandle the construction of which has not ended since the last 20 years. God only knows when the Bihar Government will complete it. But even if it is completed, still it will not reduce the flood havoc of Suvamarekha river. So, I also appeal to the Government of Orissa and to the Government of India that they also come forward to set it right because a spur here, a stone patching work there has been going on for the last fifty years. Now, every year the relief work is taken up as the flood havoc has become an annual feature. You consider the total amount of the relief that has been given to the people within the past fifty years. If we could have constructed them with less amount of money than that we have given for flood relief, so, I appeal to the Hon. Prime Minister and to the Government of India that they should come forward with a model study and with a master plan for all the rivers in India because as per that model plan every State Government should do just to take preventive measure for the flood.

With these suggestions and with this information, I thank you very much.

*[Translation]*

SHRIMATI JAYASHREE BANERJEE (Jabalpur) : Sir, I would like to say something about Jabalpur. The Bridge over Narmada river is not being properly maintained as it should be. Due to which residents of that area become shelterless every year. Therefore, I would request that that funds allocated by the Central Government for natural calamities should be sanctioned for them also.

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am thankful and grateful to all the hon. Members who have taken keen interest in the debate in the Short Duration Discussion and expressed their concerns about the calamities in various states. I would also like to share their concern for the people who have been affected by these calamities in various parts of our country. Since various Members have raised very many relevant points and in my view many points have also been repeated,

[Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao]

I would like to give a reply not individually for all the Members but I would definitely like to answer the points raised by Members in their speeches.

Before dealing with the points raised by the hon. Member I would like to inform hon. Members and this House, about the situation regarding occurrence of natural calamities in the country and the steps being taken for mitigating their adverse effect.

Our country is prone to various natural calamities like drought, floods, cyclones, earthquakes, landslides and avalanches. An area of 40 million hectares is prone to floods and the area affected annually by floods is 8 million hectares, on an average. A long coastline of 5,700 kilometre exposes the country to tropical cyclones originating in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. The country has about 50 to 60 per cent of its total area vulnerable to seismic activities of varying intensity. The earthquakes in Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh have demonstrated that the areas considered to be comparatively safe till now are really not so.

During the monsoon season of 1999, that is, June to September, 28 out of 35 meteorological sub-divisions covering 81 per cent area and 67 per cent districts of the country received normal to excess rainfall, thus making 1999 the eleventh successive normal monsoon year. A severe earthquake occurred in six hilly districts of Uttar Pradesh, Chamoli and Rudraprayag being the worst affected. Most of the States have been affected by heavy rains or floods which resulted in the loss of human lives and animals and caused damage to crops, houses and public properties. Some states had reported prevalence of drought conditions with varying magnitude. The recent cyclone over the Bay of Bengal affected the States of Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal and caused extensive damage to life and property in Orissa.

The basic responsibility for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in the event of natural calamities is that of the state Government concerned. The role of the Central Government is supportive in terms of physical and financial resources and complementary in sectors such as transport warning and inter-State movement of foodgrains. Relief Manuals and codes are available for undertaking emergency operations.

The National Contingency Action Plan facilitates launching of relief operations without delay. This plan identifies and initiatives required to be taken by various Central Ministries or Departments in the wake of natural calamities, sets down the procedure and determines the focal point in the administrative machinery. Similar plans are also drawn by the state Government. At the state level, the State Relief Commissioner directs and controls the relief operations.

The policy and arrangements for financing of relief expenditure in the states affected by natural calamities are

governed by the recommendations of the Finance Commissions appointed from time to time. The present scheme in force for the period 1995-2000 is based on the recommendations of the Tenth Finance Commission. Under the Scheme in force from 1st April, 1995, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted by contributions from the Central and State Government in the ratio of 3:1 to undertake relief and rehabilitation measure in the wake of natural calamities. For the period 1995-96 to 1999-2000, total allocation of Rs. 6,304.27 crore, including the Central share of Rs. 4,728.19 crore and state share of Rs. 1,576.00 crore, has been made. In addition to Calamity Relief Fund, the National Fund for Calamity Relief has been created to deal with calamities of rare severity. Assistance from the National Fund for Calamity Relief is considered in accordance with a set procedure. Funds amounting to Rs. 1,264.24 crore have been released to the states from the National Fund for Calamity Relief during the last four years.

As already indicated, the recent cyclonic storm affected Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and West Bengal, Orissa being severely affected. These State Governments were informed about the impending storm and requested to take suitable preparatory measures like timely evacuation people living in low lying and vulnerable areas to safer places and instructing the fishermen not to venture into the sea. The Government of India remained in constant touch with these state Governments at the highest level and monitored the situation.

The concerned Central Ministries and Departments have undertaken all necessary steps to provide assistance to the State Government of Orissa in relief and restoration measures and for immediate repair and restoration of damage infrastructure. An ex-gratia of Rs. 50,000 has been provided from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund to the next of kin of deceased.

The hon. Prime Minister made an aerial survey of the affected areas on 24th October, 1999, and reviewed the situation with the State Chief Minister. He expressed solidarity with the affected population and assured the State Government that the Central Government would do whatever is necessary and practicable to assist them in mitigating the impact of this disaster. My colleagues, Shri J. U. J. Oram and Shri Debendra Pradhan and also made an aerial survey of the affected areas on 19th October, 1999 for an assessment of the situation.

During 1999-2000, an amount of Rs. 60 crore to Bihar, Rs. 143 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 56 crore to Orissa and Rs. 59 an odd crore to West Bengal have been allocated from the Calamity Relief Fund. Three quarterly instalments of Central share amounting to Rs. 33.80 crore to Bihar, Rs. 80.77 crore to Andhra Pradesh, Rs. 31.88 crore to Orissa and Rs. 33.38 crore to West Bengal have already been released. Advance release of fourth quarterly instalment of

Central share to Andhra Pradesh and Orissa is being released.

The requests from the Government of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa for Central assistance in the wake of recent cyclone is under consideration and action will be taken immediately.

I wish to ensure the hon. Members that no efforts will be spared in assisting the State Governments in tackling the situation effectively.

Sir, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh was kind enough to mention about me. As a person, I know about floods and cyclones, when I was the President of the Panchayat Board, the Godavari River breached at 12 places in my District, and inundated one-third of the agricultural land in my District. In 1996, there was heavy unprecedented cyclone. I have seen so many cyclones but not of this kind. For one hour, the wind came from one direction, and for another half-an-hour, the wind came from the opposite direction. So, all the trees fell down. But the finest thing is that then Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh sent the relief more quickly than the speed of the wind, and we have rehabilitated everyone. The State Governments must act like that, and then only the relief could be given.

Sir, for the period 1995-2000, the Finance Commission has allocated Rs. 700 crore towards the Corpus Fund for calamity relief. In view of the demand, we have already enhanced it and released Rs. 1,264 crore. This year also, in view of the demand from various States and in view of the natural calamity, my Department is taking all steps for further enhancing the Corpus Fund.

Sir, so far the Government of Bihar has not sent any report about the damage and so we could not release the funds.

SHRI ANIL BASU : Sir, there is a report that there is not a single penny available in your Ministry ... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Let the hon. Minister complete his submission and then you can put questions.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : Sir, as soon as we receive the report from the State of Bihar, the Ministry would release the funds ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has not yet completed his reply. After he completes his reply, I will give you chance, will give you chance.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI BRAHAMANANDA MANDAL : Mr. Chairman, no report has been received from Bihar Government, Since 1996 ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not argue with other Members.

SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : Sir, as far as the State of Andhra Pradesh is concerned, Mr. Chairman, Sir, your constituency was the most affected. All the fruit-bearing trees there had fallen. We have sent a Director level officer to take stock of the situation there and as soon as he sends his report, we will take immediate action and money would be released ... (Interruptions).

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please wait for some time, I will give you chance.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : Many hon. Members have given very valued suggestions which are useful and necessary for checking the damages. We would go into the matter. We would consult with other Ministries and we would see as to how such a situation could be dealt with in future.

I would like to assure the hon. Members that all actions would be taken in this regard. I would also like to assure the hon. Members that this Government is for the poor people and we would see that every effort is made for their rehabilitation.

Regarding the crops I would like to submit that all crops come under insurance cover from the 1st of October this year in all the States. If there are any damages, then the farmers would get money from the Insurance companies. All crops of all the States are included under this scheme.

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH (Maharajganj, U.P) : Hon'ble Mr. Chairman Sir, now the Members of the ruling party ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : I will give you chance. I have not given chance to anybody now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : One hon. Member suggested about the formation of a Flood Commission. It is a good suggestion. We will take up this matter.

[Shri S.B.P.B.K. Satyanarayana Rao]

About rendering agricultural help, I have already mentioned that from October 1st the Crop Insurance Scheme has come into effect. We also feel as to how we can help them by giving loans. We would take up this matter with the banks and see that more loans are given for their rehabilitation. I think, now I have covered all the points ... (Interruptions) Finally, I would like to submit that we are here to help the people ... (Interruptions).

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV : What will happen to Bihar?

SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : No report has come from there ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, allow me to speak for a minute ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister is on his legs. Let him complete.

SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : Let me complete my submissions. I did not talk when you were speaking ... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : Hon. Mr. Chairman, Sir, now the Members of the ruling party who have expressed their views before the House, have admitted that it is not a question of flood problem within the territories of the country but Nepal and Bhutan are also related to it. Nepal is our friendly neighbour. Through you, we would like to submit the House to carry out a detailed survey and through assessment of the volume of water flowing in rivers originating from Himalayas. A clearcut policy in this regard should be framed under which a joint committee should be constituted in which the representatives from the Ministry of Water Resources, the Ministry of Relief and Rehabilitation work and the Ministry of External Affairs should be included. This Joint Committee should carry out survey of all the flood affected regions of Nepal, Bhutan, India and Bangladesh and start the work by preparing a solid work plan, otherwise this discussion will not be completed.

Here we have only been completing a formality by discussing about the devastating after effects of the flood in terms of loss of life and property and also as to have much money would be provided as relief measures. But this will not entail any permanent solution of the problem. Before it, we have listened to Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy and he said that there are some calamities about which only the preventive measures can be taken and some others can be dealt with by preparing a solid working plan. The problem of flood can be solved. Nepal is a Hindu State and is our friend. Nepal does not have enough resources to combat this problem of

recurring floods on its own. I have been elected from that border area. My electoral constituency Maharajanj is situated on the Indo-Nepal border. In this context I would like to say that a Joint Committee comprising the members from all the three Ministries and a Parliamentary Committee should be constituted so that a delegation of Members could go to Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh and a Permanent solution of the problem could be evolved ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : You are giving a speech now. After the Minister's reply, you can only seek clarifications.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Mr. Chairman, Sir, through you, I would like to submit to the hon. Minister that every year the life is disrupted in Bihar due to floods. Owing to floods, elections have been postponed four times and elections are still taking place there. Bihar Government is not giving any report to the Centre about the underlying problem there. This House and Government are aware that there is *jungle raj* in Bihar. In this situation we would like to request the Central Government to send a team in Bihar to assess the loss there and to retrieve the persons from their sufferings ... (Interruptions)

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Nobody has any right to use such phrases as 'Jungle Raj' ... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Dr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please take your seat.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : If such irrelevant thing are allowed to be uttered then it will affect the proceedings of the House. As far as the question of submitting a report by the state is concerned, whether the report of 1995-96 is in the Ministry or not ... (Interruptions) I challenge that the report mentioning the losses of Rs. 1100 crores is lying pending before the Government... (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Raghuvansh Prasad Singh, please cooperate with the Chair, please resume your seat.

[Translation]

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : What assistance he has provided? ... (Interruptions) Hon. Minister might not be knowing as to how does a report is received and a committee is sent. No Committee of officers from the centre has visited Bihar... (Interruptions)



[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : Nothing will go no record except Shri Venkateswarlu.

... (Interruptions)\*

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Minister will reply to your questions later.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali) : Sir, I seek clarifications on two issues. I am thankful to the hon. Minister for the sentiment expressed by him with regard to the style of functioning of the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh when he said that the Chief Minister acted faster than the speed of wind in addressing the problems of suffering people at the time of natural calamities. I am thankful to him for the comments that have been made. There are two issues on which I seek clarification. Firstly, when an unprecedented drought occurred in Andhra Pradesh, a survey was done and the total particulars were submitted to the Government of India.

The total loss during drought itself has been estimated to be more than Rs. 2,300. An assistance from the Centre Government has been sought to the extent of Rs. 720 crore, and an immediate relief was sought to the extent of Rs. 200 crore.

Sir, the Government of India is magnanimous enough in sending a Central team to assess the total loss. But even after the report has been submitted, so far, not even a single pie has been released. I would like to know the reasons exactly for not providing this relief. Right on the heels of this unprecedented dry spell of 60 days in Andhra Pradesh, there was also a flood. Though, it was not of that much severity as it was in Orissa yet, Mr. Chairman, in your own district, Srikakulam there was a damage. Besides damage to coconut trees and the communication system, the road have been damaged. So, a total loss to the extent of more than Rs. 200 crore was estimated and a relief was sought to the extent of Rs. 40 crore by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh.

Sir, when the other states have been provided for a general relief – I am not talking about the relief to be provided for the loss of coconut trees, I am also aware that the Coconut Board has to examine it – at least, some amount of a general relief could have been provided to us. So, neither for drought nor for the cyclone, relief has been provided. I seek clarification for the reasons of not providing it to our State.

Secondly, Sir, I am also happy to know that from the 1st October all the crops in all the States have been covered by the Crop Insurance Scheme. Sir, I want to know while computing the losses whether the village is being taken as a unit or whether it is the mandal which is being taken as a unit. That is the point of dispute all these year. The consensus opinion is that the village should be taken as a unit while

computing the loss. The scheme which the hon. Minister is referring to, under that scheme I want to know whether the village is being taken as a unit or whether the mandal which is being taken as a unit. Thank You.

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : (Raiganj) Sir, I seek clarification on two points. While replying to the debate, the hon. Minister has said that since he has not received the Report from Bihar, he could not respond at the moment. I appreciate him because no Governments were functioning on the reports of the State Governments.

First of all, the Chief Minister of Orissa, during the visit of the hon. Prime Minister, gave an initial Memorandum on the 25th October. The Memorandum was also followed by a report in which it has been amply established that the Government of India is keen to provide loan assistance as a matter of advance which exactly in terms of aid and relief. Considering the Interim Report received by the State Government, would the hon. Minister consider providing further relief in terms of aid?

Secondly, I had also made a suggestion to the hon. Minister. I am glad that he is handling his department with which he is very well known. He is a veteran in political and public lives. I have tremendous respect for this experience. Now, we are approaching the new millennium. By this time, his department might have been equipped with information as to which are the cyclone-prone districts and which are the drought-prone districts in the coastal belt of India.

Would you please take a collective policy line in the early next millennium to prepare a White Paper as to what kind of equipment and general supporting assistance would be readily made available to respond to these challenges? Considering the magnitude of the recent calamities in Orissa, would your Government declare it a national calamity? What is preventing you to declare it a national calamity? Don't you realise that it is a national calamity? I am asking this to you because you are a Gandhian, and I feel that your heart is feeling for that.

SHRI AJOY CHAKRABORTY (Basirhat) : Sir, I think, it is not wise or it is unwise rather to make aspersion against a particular State Government. May I ask the hon. Minister as to whether he has visited West Bengal or as to whether he has decided to visit West Bengal to assess the gravity of the disaster?

19.00 hrs.

May I ask the hon. Minister whether he has visited West Bengal or whether he has decided to visit West Bengal for assessment of the gravity of the disaster?

Thirdly, not a single paisa has been received by the West Bengal Government till date. We have only got your reply. Nothing more. So, I agree with the hon. Member, Shri P. R. Dasmunsi that you should bring out a White Paper on what sort of help you have given or going to give to Orissa, West Bengal and other States.

\* Not recorded.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal) : I have three points. One is this cyclone is of a rare severity and it has been acknowledged by even the Department of Agriculture. Why is it that the Government of India has not made the announcement till now?

Secondly, for the last 35 years, Orissa has been suffering from the vagaries of drought, floods and cyclone. Thirty years is a generation and, therefore, I had brought the point that like the Tribal Development Blocks and Corporation, should not the chronically drought affected, flood prone and cyclone affected area, be given a special status, because Orissa cannot under the Constitution be brought into a special status State like Ultraranchal or Kumaon Hills or Himachal Pradesh or the Garhwal Hills? Can special assistance be given, as is given to TD Blocks, to the chronically affected areas for the last 35 years including Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and Bihar?

SHRI ANIL BASU : The hon. Minister himself is a very respectable veteran politician. While replying to this discussion, he was talking of providing assistance to different State Governments. Whatever information is available, I would like to know whether he will take this House into confidence and tell us whether it is a fact that when you are replying to this debate, to this discussion, not a single paisa is available in the Natural Calamities Fund in your Ministry and you would not be able to provide a single paisa as assistance to the State Government unless and until you go to the Central Cabinet for further allocation. You just tell us whether it is a fact or not.

During the course of my speech, I have appealed to the Government to constitute a National Flood Commission to go into details of the occurrences which have taken place during the last several decades and to make indepth study and suitable recommendations for remedial measures. I would like to know whether you will be considering this suggestion or not.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (Berhampur) : The hon. Minister in his reply has stated that crop insurance will be extended to all States and for all crops. But there is cost component for the States concerned. Unless the State Governments agree, I do not think it can be extended. This is the case in Orissa. National calamity and natural calamity have not been defined. So far as national calamity is concerned, there is a very cumbersome process. I would implore that hon. Minister that there should be a gratuitous relief through rescue and relief operations.

SHRI BRAJA KISHORE TRIPATHY (Puri) : I would like to know what is the criterion for declaring something as a national calamity. No guideline is yet declared. So, it is up to the Central Government to declare some calamity as national calamity. Considering the magnitude of devastation

in Orissa and other places by cyclone, I would like to know whether Government will consider it appropriate to declare it a national calamity and whether any special assistance the Government is thinking to extend to Orissa for cyclone relief.

As I told you earlier, the hon. Members have given valuable suggestions about flood control. We will look into them. I am in agreement with almost all the suggestions that they have made. I know about floods and about cyclones as I have suffered both.

Regarding Orissa, the hon. Prime Minister immediately went there. He made an aerial survey and immediately announced Rs. 200 crore as advance relief. I can assure hon. Members that the situation will be considered sympathetically, beyond their expectations. The Prime Minister was moved when he went to Orissa. He has to tell us what to do. So, the hon. Members should wait. When a patient goes to the doctor, he will first be able to give him only the first aid. He can give other medicines only after he gets proper report. Various reports have to come from various departments on how many houses are affected, how much the crop affected and so on. All these reports have to come ... (Interruptions). Things are moving fast. The reports will come soon. We are giving immediate help now ... (Interruptions).

I fully agree that the national fund is not sufficient. We are augmenting more funds. We will increase it ... (Interruptions)

The State Government has to send us its first memorandum. It is only then that we can take action. It is being sent by all States ... (Interruptions). In respect of Bihar, we have not received it so far.

[Translation]

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : If they will not give the report then send the Central team... (Interruptions).

SHRI BRAHMANANDA MANDAL (Monghyr) : Should the people there be left to die.

[English]

SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : The team is ready to go there. A team is already there in West Bengal and is likely to come back in one or two days... (Interruptions). A team has already assessed the situation in Andhra Pradesh and the report is being studied. We will take immediate action.

Sir, I conclude now ... (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The discussion is over. Please cooperate with the Chair.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, my two questions have not been answered... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : The hon. Minister has said that the Government will take into consideration all the suggestions.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUSI : Mr. Minister, Sir, with all respect, I say, you have not responded to my point ... (*Interruptions*). The interim report sent by the West Bengal Government is already on your desk ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S. B. P. B. K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : We are taking immediate action. The report is being considered ... (*Interruptions*)

MR. CHAIRMAN : That Subject is over. Please resume your seat. We have to take up the next item.

... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU : Sir, what about the release of funds for Andhra Pradesh?

SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN (Cooch Behar) : Sir, he has not said anything about West Bengal, which is the worst affected State and we are walking out in protest. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI AJAY CHAKRABORTY : Sir, West Bengal is being given a stepmotherly treatment and so we are walking out. ... (*Interruptions*)

19.08 hrs.

*At this stage, Shri Amar Roy Pradhan, Shri Ajay Chakraborty and some other hon. Members left the House.*

[*Translation*]

SHRI BRAHMANAND MANDAL : Does the Central Government realise its responsibility towards Bihar or not? If it does not have any responsibility, does it go on to add to your responsibility.

[*English*]

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : Sir, the request has not come from the State Government ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : We are requesting you to send the team.

SHRI S.B.P.B.K. SATYANARAYANA RAO : Yes, we are sending the team even without the request from the State Government.

19.09 hrs.

### MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS - *Contd.*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, let us take up the next item - Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL (Latur) : Sir, I think, we have switched over to the discussion on the President's Address.

Yesterday, I was given an opportunity to speak on the points which were mentioned in the President's Address.

Today also I will seek your permission to mention some of the points which are mentioned in the President's Address and later on, to mention the points which are not mentioned in the President's Address. I do not know how much time is available to me. If enough time is available, I can cover these points in greater detail and if not, then,...

MR. CHAIRMAN : You have already taken 34 minutes.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : That is right. I am conscious of the fact and I will abide by your directions.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Okay.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : I was on science and technology development in our country. I think more funds are required for this purpose. It would be necessary for us to provide more funds for development of Science and technology. The Government of India has been providing funds. It is not sufficient; it is not enough we shall have to have funds from the State Governments also. It should be possible for us to discuss this matter with the State Governments, and the Planning Commission and persuade the State Government to set aside certain amount of money for the development of science and technology which is relevant to the States. The public sector undertaking also can find more funds. If they are manufacturing certain things and if certain kind of science and technology can be developed by them, they should also be persuaded to find some funds for this purpose. Certainly, the private sector also can be asked to find more funds.

19.12 hrs.

[*MR. SPEAKER in the Chair*]

I know that we have given certain concessions to the private sector. If the private sector invests money on science and technology certain relief is given in Income Tax Act and other Acts. This matter can be gone into in great detail and we can find more funds.

Second suggestion with respect to this is that the development of science and technology in India can be made in a mission-mode approach. We can select certain missions; they can be provided with funds and we can ask

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

them to produce the results in the given time. This will be really helpful.

My fourth suggestion with respect to development of science and technology is that it is not possible for India or for that matter, any other country to carry on research and development in all areas. So, we shall have to be very selective and we can select areas in which we can really produce results. What are the areas in which India can produce results?

Genetics is one of the areas. India is very rich genetically. Genetic wealth is here. If we develop genetic science and genetic technology, it will be very useful. Eelectronics is another area, especially, software, a part of electronics in which we can do a lot. The third area is materials. Materials are going to be very very important. Silicon, many other materials and alloys are going to be very important. Solar energy is the area in which we can do a lot. And the resource of the ocean can also be developed by us. Ocean water can be turned into potable water. Technology is available; we can develop it and we can use. So, we can do these things in a selective manner.

One more suggestion with respect to development of science and technology is that we are getting certain sophisticated equipments from foreign countries. When we contract for the sophisticated equipment from foreign countries, generally we try to have a clause in the contract saying that the technology will also be transferred along with equipments which we get. But I would like the Government of India or our country to go a step forward and to have a clause in the contract saying that it is not enough to transfer technology, but the Indian scientists and the Indian technologists should be allowed to work in the laboratories along with their scientists and technologies at the drawing board level so that the technology which is developed by them becomes automatically available.

Now, this is the area which is very important. The future depends on our scientific, technological and spiritual strengths. Scientific and technological strengths have to be developed and we shall have to pay enough attention to this aspect.

President's Address mentions about judicial reforms. The Congress Manifesto talks about appointment of National Judicial Reforms Commission. When we appoint a National Judicial Reforms Commission, it would be possible for us to discuss this matter with members of the judiciary. Without discussing this matter with the members of the judiciary, we may not be able to bring about judicial reforms in a proper manner. We should discuss this matter with others also. This is mentioned in the Congress Manifesto and in the President's Address also. We are very happy about it.

There is a suggestion that delays should be reduced expenses should be reduced; and correct justice should be

done. To reduce the delays, it would be necessary for us to have more courts and more judges. The vacancies should not be kept vacant. All the vacancies should be filled up. The courts should be modernised. Now, they are taking down the evidence manually. It is possible for us to take down the evidence mechanically, using cameras and machines. It would certainly reduce the delays. This is not the time or the place where we can go into the details. But the Commission can go into all details.

I am very happy to find that the President's Address mentions that the laws should be reformed. The laws should be such that they can be easily understood. This fact has been mentioned in the Congress Manifesto also. The time has come when we require different kinds of laws - laws are relevant to our activities in the oceans, in the space and in the intellectual area. There are many other areas where new legislation would be required. So, it would be beneficial for us to have a look at the laws which we are implementing and enforcing now. The laws should be simple, unambiguous and futuristic. The laws should be such that they do a sort of social engineering. The new definition of law is : " It is a machinery for social engineering".

In the society people have interests and their interests clash. It is the duty of the judiciary and the legislators to see that these contradictory interests are managed in such manner that the maximum results are produced which is called social engineering. This aspect should also be seen by us.

There is a mention about the reservation for women. This has been mentioned in the Congress Manifesto also. One observation I would like to make with respect to this point is that we shall have to be really very sincere. If we mention it just because it help us in the election, that is not going to help us ultimately. Now, there are interests clashing here, the interests of the men and those of the women. Sometimes, women come forward and say that in the men's world, this will not be easily done. We are compelled to see sometimes that this is exactly what is happening in the legislatures and here also. But human ingenuity is not weak: it is powerful enough and it should be possible for us to provide thirty percent reservation in the Lok Sabha, in the Rajya Sabha, in the Legislative Assemblies and in the Legislative Councils by inventing and devising some methods.

There are ways and means which can certainly be considered by us to see that the interests of all the parties are met and this is done, if we are for social justice. There are people who talk about social justice. The charity should start from the home itself. We shall have to do social justice to the members of our families, to our mother, sisters, daughters and wives also. It is not good if we just keep on talking about it and do not do it. Those who are opposed to it should be a little magnanimous. They should allow all of us here to invent methods which can be used to see that

30 per cent reservation is given to ladies. Though they are going to be satisfied with it, I would say that it is not a just reservation. They should be given 50 per cent reservation. But we are not even ready to give them 30 per cent reservation. We are putting forth certain pleas which are going to be of divisive nature. This is not good for us. I think the Government has come with this proposal and the enlightened Members of this House should join hands to see that justice is done to women by doing the needful.

In the President's Address, there is a mention about the WTO also. Well I am told that I cannot speak for long.

MR. SPEAKER : The time allotted to the Congress Party is 58 minutes.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : If the time of the House is extended, a portion of the extended time will be available to us also.

WTO has come to stay. It is not going to disappear. India was a Member of GATT. India is a Member of WTO. China wants to be a Member of WTO. China wanted to be a Member of GATT and wants to be a Member of WTO. A suggestion was made that the Government should withdraw from WTO. I do not think that suggestion is seriously given and that is not going to be easily accepted. But the fact is, WTO is an organisation which has been created to being down the barriers for the smooth flow of Commodities, goods, services, intellectual properties and all such things from one country to another. This organisation is being used by certain countries in a very intelligent manner, that is to protect their interests. Sometimes, it is being used to see that they get extra advantage also. The skill lies in understanding this organisation as also its charter which is given to create to this organisation. We should see that this organisation is used in such a manner that our interest are protected. While trying to protect our interests, our enlightened interest is also there in seeing that there is cooperation between different countries and in joining mainstream internationally. On the one hand every care has to be taken to see that our interest are protected and on the other hand we shall have to see that we join the international stream in an enlightened, cautious, balanced and scientific manner.

I will now go into the foreign policy which has been mentioned in the President's Address and then I will touch three or four more points briefly. We are very happy to read in the President's Address that the Government thinks that we should have good relations with our immediate neighbours, other countries of the world and the international organisations. There can be no doubt that we all want that there should be good relations with our neighbours. Please allow me to say that while seeing this we shall have to be very careful in making the statements. We cannot have good relations with other countries by saying that a particular country is our enemy number one and a particular other country is enemy number two. Such statements are coming

from those who are holding responsible posts. This creates problem for us.

It is not only in the interest of the Government but it is in the interest of the country to see that these kinds of Statements are not made. If they are made and if they are contradicted, well it can create a little bit different situation. But it is better if these kinds of statements are avoided.

The second caution which we would like to express on the floor of the House is that international relations have to be forged in a very careful manner. If we take one good step, let us not be euphoric about it and let us not say that has removed all the barriers for good relations between the countries. If we are euphoric and if we are attaching too much of importance to it, we will be mistaken and we will be in a situation in which we will suffer and others also will suffer. If we go to our neighbouring country in a bus, it is good and we should be happy about it. But if you say that is going to solve all the problems, that would not help us. Within one or two months, we ourselves are compelled to say that when we were meeting, the intruders were entering our territory. This kind of a thing is not good for us. That is why, let us not say that one country or the other country is an enemy. At the same time, let us not be too much euphoric about our relations and about the steps which are taken. That is what is really required and that is the matured way of dealing with international relations. I am sure it should not be difficult for us if a mistake is committed here and a mistake is committed there. But it should not be repeated. That is why, we are mentioning this.

Sir, the administrative reforms are necessary. This is a point which has not been mentioned in the President's Address. But the time has come when we shall have to look at the administration of the country. The law, the rules, the procedures, the equipment used and our public relations, every thing has to be looked into. We have said in our Manifesto that the Administrative Reforms Commission should be appointed. For good governance, administrative reforms are necessary and I hope that the Government would take note of these requirements.

I am very happy that while discussing the disaster which we are encountering in four States, many Members have suggested that there should be a permanent machinery for disaster management. Firstly, there should be a policy evolved; secondly, there should be a machinery available to deal with the disaster in the country; thirdly, there should be fund available for this purpose; and fourthly, the information should be easily available. I am sure that the Government will pay attention to this.

The third suggestion which I like to make and which is not in the address is that fortunately, we have Human Right Commission at the national level. Should it not be possible for us to have Human Rights Commission at the State level also? It is not for the Government of India to have Human

[Shri Shivraj V. Patil]

Right Commission at the State level but certainly this matter can be discussed with the State Government and we can persuade them to have Human Rights Commission at the State level.

One more point which is very important from the point of view of Congress Members is that the Jain Commission Report was given and we had discussed it. The hon. Home Minister gave a reply which satisfied many of us at that time. Fortunately for us, he is there now. We would urge that the suggestions given in the Jain Commission Report to reach at the root of the conspiracy behind the assassination of our beloved leader, late Rajiv Gandhi should be taken to the logical conclusion. The delay will not be good and people will not appreciate it. So, expeditious action should be taken in this respect.

The last point I would like to make is that we have read this address very carefully. This is an address prepared by the Government, presented to the Parliament and the people through our respected President. This is a policy document. This document is going to be relevant not only, in my opinion, for this year but for the rest of the years of this Parliament also.

So, this document has a special significance. We have found that many of the points mentioned here are mentioned in the Congress Party's manifesto also. Not that they have taken them from us, but it seem independently they have come to the conclusions to which we have also come and mentioned them in our manifesto. That is why we think we are in a time when people thinking independently also can come to certain conclusion which are of identical nature. There is convergence of ideas. If there is a convergence of ideas, we should be happy rather than be unhappy. We should cooperate to see that those ideas are implemented.

When we talk about cooperation, people criticise those who say that they would cooperate. When we talk of opposition, there are people to say that we are opposing all the time. The task of the Government is to propose and the task of the opposition party is to examine it. If it is acceptable to the opposition party, they would accept it. If they have different views, they would express their different views and if necessary they would oppose also. They say that the opposition is meant for opposing and deposing also. I would not go to that extent of saying it, but there would be time when cooperation can help us and there would be time when the opposition would be necessary. There are people who do not appreciate cooperation. There are people who do not appreciate opposition also.

The Congress Party is here as a responsible opposition party. The Congress Party will cooperate with all the parties in the Lok Sabha and the Rajya Sabha in the interest of the people and in the interest of the country where there is identity of views. Where there is no identity of views, they would express their views openly. I think that in a democracy

we shall have to cooperate and we shall to criticise also. Criticism and Cooperation are part of democracy and we, as a responsible opposition party, will certainly try to play all the game by rules of democracy and the rules of parliamentary system.

But, at the same time, please allow me today that if we expect cooperation from other parties, we shall have to behave in such a fashion that it is easier for other parties to cooperate also. If those who are holding the reins of power use the machinery for political purpose which hurts the feelings and emotions of others, which gives an impression that certain steps are taken for political reasons, politically motivated steps are taken and not legally, correctly and justly taken, then it becomes very difficult to create an atmosphere in which extending cooperation would be very easy. So, it is a road of two-way traffic. It is a two-way road. The opposition has to cooperate and the ruling parties also have to conduct themselves in a fashion which will help other parties to cooperate with them. If a doubt is created in the minds of the people who are sitting not the ruling benches, but on other benches that actions taken could have been avoided, but were not avoided and were taken only to see that political mileage is achieved, it becomes difficult to extend the hand of cooperation.

That is why, it is necessary for the ruling parties also to see that they behave, they take action in a manner which would help others also to cooperate. If it is not, then it is their fault and they would suffer. The opposition has to oppose, but the Government has to act and the Government has to produce results. It is in the interest of the Government to be just. If we are in power, we shall have to be just. If we are in power, we shall have to act in a manner that nothing can be done. Government machinery can be used, legal thing can be used, laws can be and Government powers can be used in any fashion.

And when it is used in any fashion, it becomes a double-edged weapon and it can cut both ways. While I say that as a responsible party, we would cooperate, I would also say that we would expect the ruling party also to cooperate.

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Shivraj Patil, you have to cooperate with the Chair now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI (Raiganj) : Sir, you may recall that in the Leaders' meeting, we agreed that the time allotted for the debate on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address would be 12 hours and not eight hours but the Secretariat had provided the timings to the parties on the basis of eight hours. So, I want you to advise the Secretariat to provide the timings to the parties accordingly.

MR. SPEAKER : Even if it is 13 hours, you would exceed the time.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DASMUNSI : I am talking about the calculation of the time.

[Translations]

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA (Gopalganj) : Hon. Mr. Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Joint Address to both the Houses of Parliament. Besides, thanking the hon. President, I would also like to express my gratitude towards the great people of this country who have given a mandate for running a stable, transparent and honest Government for five years by giving a clear majority to the Government headed by hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Sir, I was just listening the speech delivered by Shri Patilji. He is not only a senior Member but has also been the Speaker of this House. I was really pleased to hear from him that they will act a responsible opposition. Sonia the President of Congress party is not present here. She is the leader of Congress party. I would also like to extend my heartiest congratulations to her for had she not toppled the previous Government by one vote then the people like us could not have found a chance to enter in this House. The manner in which the Congress party has toppled the Government and if continues to extend such kind of cooperation, we do not think that it will usher in a new era of cooperation.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, if you look at the history of Congress party since independence, you will find that Congress has always played a major part in destabilising the country and in toppling the State and Centre Governments. Congress can not remain without power. As a fish can not remain without water, Congress can not remain bereft of power. This is the reason which lead to the fall of Government by just one vote. The people who were responsible for fall of Government, why did not they formed the government? The people of the country have taught a lesson to such people. Shri Mulayam Singh ji is not sitting here. He too helped in the fall of the Government but not in its formations. The question he raised and did not support that formation of that Government. For that I would like to congratulate him because he took right decision and due to which the Government could not be formed. If the Congress had desired, it could have formed the Government even if Mr. Jyoti Basu, Shri Sharad Pawar, Shri Pranav Mukherjee would have been made the Prime Minister. In nutshell it can be said that the Congress followed the principle of " we only and none other" and did not allow others to form the government. Due to this reason, election took place. We had to spend a lot of money on election. Thousands of crores of rupees were spent in the elections.

KUNWAR AKHILESH SINGH : How you could have been here?

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : That is why I have congratulated you I have congratulated Sonijai because the elections took place and we have found in berth in the House.

The hoopla which is being created in the House over the price rise is not proper. All of us should know and understand the prevailing situation. We would like to appeal to the senior member of the Congress not to play any gimmickry, otherwise your presence in the House will become thinner & thinner. The people of this country do not like these plays. Many of our Members are in the Cabinet today. You are not going to get a chance in the near future. You will have to wait for five years ... (Interruptions) I have been in the Cabinet from Shri Jagannath Mishra to Shri Lalu Prasad Yadav for nine years.

The hon. Mr. President has quoted that clause of Mahatma Gandhi's speech in which it has been said that I will struggle to attain that constitution of India which will free India of all bondages and shelters and will strive to build a casteless and classless India in which even the poorest of the poor could feel the sense of belongingness to the country and the people from all walks of life would work in tender with each other this is the India of my dreams and I would not be satisfied with anything less than this.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, Congress has ruled the country for forty five years since independence. It does not require any mention as to where the Congress party has led the nation. I would like to say that –

Yeh kya vidambna hai desh mein

Jeth ki dupheri ki tarah bhukhnath thi,

Avmanana ki baat hai Gandhi ke desh mein

Susang daman ke madhya mein manavta kampti.

Who has lead to this situation. You have brought the country to this situation by repeatedly destabilising the country and not pulling it on the right path. Today, this country will be ruled by a single family and individual.

Koti koti desh ke bacche uddas kyon

bap, beti, bete ke mathe par taj kyon

jantantra mein virasaton ka daur kahan se

atank ki siyasaton ka daur kahan se,

ye ek nahin, do nahin, ye chaar peedhiyan

sansad mein rajvansh ki tarah hein seedhiyan

chullu mein rakh-kar pani mein doob jaye jawani

gaddi par videshi ragar rahin hain aidhiyan.

Today, we and you have to raise this question and look forward. Therefore, hon. Mr. President has mentioned in his

[Shri Raghunath Jha]

address that today Bihar is in the grip of total chaos and misrule and it seems that a thing like Government does not exist there. High Court has twice said in its rulings that there exists a law even in a 'jungle' but not in Bihar.

DR. RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH : Jungle Raj is called 'vananchal'. These people want to create Jungle Raj. Now there is no Jungle Raj but Bihar Raj there BJP and JD(U) want to create Jungle Raj and demand Vananchal. Vananchal has found a mention in the President Address which means Jungle Raj.

SHRI RAGHUNATH JHA : Hon'ble Mr. President has mentioned about Kargil in his address. He has also paid his tributes to the brave soldiers of the country. House too has paid the Tribute. But this House and the people of this country would like to know from the leaders of the Congress as to under what circumstances the Government was defeated by a single vote on the floor of the House even as our brave soldiers were engaged in fighting against the enemy, thousands of feet above the ground and demand to call a special session of Rajay Sabha for debating this issue.

The leaders of Congress Party demoralised our brave soldiers. Today, such questions are being raised as to how so many of our soldiers have been killed during the Kargil war. This must be debated. But the question arises as to who is responsible for the partition of the country? Why has not our land been taken back which was annexed by the enemy during Indo-China war. Our soldiers had annexed the land of Pakistan during the Indo-Pak war. One lakh armed forces surrendered during the Bangladesh war. Who were they who had handed back that surrendered force? During Atalji's tenure, Pakistan intruded into Indian territory by deceiving India. On one hand, it was engaged in friendly talks at Lahore and on the other hand it stabbed India in her back. Under such circumstances, our brave soldiers of airforce pushed these intruders outside the Indian territories while the Government headed by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Achieved the biggest diplomatic victory ever ... (*Interruptions*)

I have to say a lot but you are asking me to conclude. I would like to submit before this House and hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs that since 1990, 28 group massacres have taken place in Bihar claiming the lives of over 300 persons and no law and order is in existence there. On an average 18 persons per day are being killed in Bihar. There is no law and order there. We would like to thank the Government that once it tried to take step for rectifying the situation in Bihar by bringing forward the legislation for imposing President's rule in Bihar but Congress did not support it. The public of Bihar has punished them and in the future it will do so more severely. We are not in favour of toppling the Government, but the Government itself is about to embrace its tottering fall. The reign of terror and hypocrisy

is going to end in Bihar. We the people of Bihar are ready for it and will give a befitting answer to such people.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

[*English*]

SHRI P. RAJENDRAN (Quilon) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this debate. I am a newly elected Member. This is my maiden speech. So, I request all the Members to give me a patient hearing.

On behalf of CPI (M), first of all, I express my reservations on the President's Address. I also record my protest against the betrayal of the Government in the case of steep increase in the price of diesel. Actually, it is a betrayal of the popular verdict. The only excuse of the Government is that the international price of diesel has gone up. If it is so, we are throwing the people to the international market. Then, why is here a Government?

At the outset, I am sorry to say that there is no practical programme envisaged in the President's Address to tackle the problems of the people.

Can anybody be proud of the present situation in India? What is the moral sanctity of this Government to share the feelings and visions of Gandhiji? A force which tried to annihilate physically, politically and on all spheres of thoughts of Gandhiji, here hypocritically lauds Gandhiji's ideology.

What is the Government's agenda for a proud and prosperous India? How can they solve poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and so many socio-economic inequalities in this country? Million and Millions of Indians are deprived of better living conditions. The problems of the Indian people are exhaustively narrated only for propaganda. Has this Government got the will power and integrity to solve these problems?

Even after more than five decades of Independence, the people are living in agony. What is the real life of our rural folk? The homeless, illiterate, unemployed million of Indians have heard so many proclamations on gracious occasions and annual national functions. But they have felt no change.

In the Address, the Government has narrated the march of Indian democracy in the light of the now concluded election. A party which propagated one party rule has swallowed it for narrow political ends. Everybody knows that up to the elections held in 1996, the slogan of the BJP was one-party rule. The BJP then appealed to the people : " You have tried others. It is the turn of BJP." Now, their slogan is: "the turn of opportunistic coalition Government". This double-speaking has now been exposed.



In 1996, when 13 parties joined together and formed the United Front Government, BJP went on teasing. But with 23 parties and enormous groups of conflicting interests, the BJP envisages a glorious future for the Indian democracy.

Let history prove how stable the Government is. The ruling front does not have any political or ideological basis apart from sharing the power. It is only a cover to the BJP's hidden agenda. What is there to be proud of it? The BJP has not improved or strengthened its seats in the Lok Sabha during this election.

We are proud of our Jawans who fought for our country in Kargil. But what was the Government doing all the time when the intruders came into our territory and settled there for months? Our beloved Prime Minister was waving his hands while leading the Lahore bus journey. The Kargil conflict also proved hollow the argument put forward by BJP on nuclear tests. The argument was that since India became a nuclear power, it was an effective shield from further conflicts and aggressions. But Kargil proved that any sort of conflict may flare up at any time. Their whole defence perception was totally wrong. I do suspect whether there is any glimpse and sincerity in the second part of the proclamation – the socio-economic announcements. Can anybody believe that this Government will fight against poverty, illiteracy, unemployment and so on? Has this Government any perspective or will power for that? What is the proposal for distribution of drinking water?

What is the financial arrangement for the housing scheme? What about creation of one crore of employment opportunities per year; when and where in the agricultural sector or in the industrial sector or through rural development? What would be the input for the same? What are the programmes for that?

Sir, even the judicial system is under threat from globalisation. The media, most of which, appreciated the idea of globalisation is now preparing to thwart the infiltration of foreign media. Can this Government think of the plight of the Indian farmers due to the results of this globalisation and due to the policy of import of agricultural products?

What is the purpose of a democratic system where landless, homeless, illiterate and jobless people are living

in agony? What do you mean by democracy? I do challenge the Government with all politeness, can it enact land ceiling and distribute thousand and thousands of acres of land which is in possession of landlords in India? Is the Government ready to propagate literacy campaign as we have done in Kerala?

The policy of globalisation has affected all spheres of life, not to say, in industry only. The beautifully envisaged golden shake-hand is the by-product of this phenomenon. The catastrophe is that most of the workers, in anxiety of their future are welcoming his shake-hand, are being out of employment. This Document does not address these issues. Most of the industries are under threat from multinationals. Even the Telecom and Insurance sector are thrown to the evils. I would like to know whether the Government is ready for a detailed discussion and verification of the results that we have achieved through this policy of globalisation.

We are ready to welcome, if this Government strives for the prosperity of Indian people; take steps to protect Indian industries and agriculture; stop import of agricultural products; protect the traditional industries like handloom, coir, cashew and so on. But we do not find even stray references to the farmers miseries and agricultural workers' plight. I would like to know how rural development can be guaranteed without land reforms.

I would like to know how this Government can chart a new course for the future, as mentioned in the Speech, after narrating the miseries of the people in Para 12 of the Address. Between lines anybody can read that the thrust is for future of the rich. The multinationals may be proud of this announcement on telecom and insurance sector policies. The people's plight may be worsened due to these policies, including rise in the price of diesel.

With protest, I conclude Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow the 29th October, 1999 at 11 a.m.

19.59 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, October 29, 1999/Kartika 7, 1921 (Saka)*

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