

notice. Sir, propriety of parliamentary institutions of the country requires that the relief given by the Central Government, even if it happens to be from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, should be channelised through the State Governments. But here, instead of that, we have learnt that one hon. Minister has been deputed to distribute the fund through District Magistrates in the districts. As you are aware Sir, if anything has happened in West Bengal, it is that the Panchayat Institutions are firmly in saddle and the elected people from the lowest village level upto State level are firmly guiding the administration. Under these circumstances, I want to draw the attention of Prime Minister through you and request him, that whatever he condescends to donate for the afflicted people in North Bengal, that should be channelised through the State Government and nobody else. I do not accuse him of any partisan political considerations. I consider him a gentleman and it might be a slip. He should be requested that he should resist such 'slippages'. That is all I submit. (*Interruptions*).

DR. DEBI PROSAD PAL (Calcutta North-West): There was nothing wrong or unconventional if the contribution from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund was sent for distribution through a Central Minister by the district magistrates. The hon. Member who raised this issue should not be so sensitive and he should not try to find anything wrong in the action of the hon. Prime Minister. Here I may mention that it has been our experience that if relief funds are distributed through the agencies of the State Government, sometimes political and other partisan considerations take an upper hand and the relief fund is distributed not always to those who require the assistance most, but to the persons who might belong to a particular group or a political party. Hence, the Prime Minister has done the right thing in distributing the fund through a Central Minister.

SHRI AMAR ROYPRADHAN (Cooch Bihar): Sir, nearly one crore people of West Bengal are affected by floods. They require immediate relief to save their lives. Through you,

I request the hon. Minister to send a Central Team immediately to Bengal. At least Rs. 25 crores should be provided to the Government of West Bengal for relief work, as an ad hoc grant.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RABI RAY (Kendrapara): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I am still in a dilemma whether I should raise this question or not. As such, I want your guidance. I along with my friend and a C.P.I. member, Shri Lokanath Choudhury reached the airport on our way to Bhubaneswar.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, you had also to go to Bhubaneswar but you could not reach there. B.P.S.T. had arranged an orientation programme there. Before reaching that place, I requested Shri Farooq to be in the House. The aircraft 477 left for Bhubaneswar on time. The said aircraft goes to Bhubaneswar via Raipur and it proceeded towards Bhubaneswar after touching Raipur. When I and Shri Lokanath Choudhury were getting down, we found ourselves once again in Raipur. Perhaps we were sleeping (*Interruptions*) Shri Chatterjee is smiling but he will realise the discomfiture. Our aeroplane met with two mishaps. We called the captain and asked him as to how we were back in Raipur. He told us that because of the inclement weather in Bhubaneswar, the plane landed in Raipur. I asked him where we would go next. He replied that we would be sent to Bhubaneswar by a relief plane.

Now takes place the second mishap. Just before landing at the Delhi airport, there was an announcement for impending crash landing or emergency landing. All arrangements were made for emergency landing. Lokanathji and I were class mates. In a light vein, I told Lokanathji that both of us had crossed the age of 64. Now we would have to prepare ourselves mentally for belly landing. We had no experience of belly landing. Choudhuryji had experienced it once fourteen years ago. During the course of that