

Sixteenth Lok Sabha

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Title: Discussion regarding natural calamities in various parts of the country with special reference to Cyclone Ockhi in South India (Discussion concluded).

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, with immense pain and agony, I am trying to invite the attention of this august House to a deadly cyclone incident called Ockhi which has happened at the coast of Bay of Bengal.

Madam, as we know, the cyclone has seriously affected the southern coastal region of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep on 30th November morning onwards. Being a Member of Parliament from that coastal constituency, as a witness to this deadly cyclone, I would like to point out some important facts in front of this august House. In Kerala alone, more than 75 persons have died so far. In the case of Tamil Nadu, more than a dozen people have been killed. Hundreds of people are still missing. Hundreds of fishermen are still missing. The poor fishermen's families are waiting at the seashore for the return of their beloved ones. Day by day, the rescue teams are finding out floating dead bodies from the deep sea. There are contradictory reports about the number of missing persons even now also. This is a concern among the fishermen and also the people. Meanwhile, more dead bodies are being received from the deep sea. These dead bodies are beyond recognition.

Madam Speaker, hon. Congress President, Shri Rahul Gandhi visited the cyclone-hit areas on December 14. I am thankful to hon. Defence Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharamanji also. Lately, our Prime Minister also visited the Ockhi affected areas and States. When Shri Rahul Gandhi visited the affected seashores, I was with him. The pain and agony shown by the families of the poor fishermen was tremendous. How can we deliberate on it? We do not have enough words to put on record the depth of their pain and agony.

The stories of those who have returned were also terrifying. They were forced to float in the sea for days without any food or medicine. Many of them escaped by floating on the damaged parts of their boats. Even the fish ate their human bodies. Although the Navy and the Coast Guard made their efforts to rescue them, many people were able to escape because of their luck and self-efforts.

We cannot accuse anybody for the natural disasters. However, we can avoid such casualties if we could have taken effective precautions and used early warning systems. In this regard, I would like to point out that some mistakes have been made by the officers. Here, I have the statistics of the Government of India, that is, the Action Taken Report by INCOIS, Hyderabad about the very severe

cyclone called Okchi. The cyclone has hit Kerala coast on the morning of 30th November. On 30th November, there was a warning at 9.30 a.m. I am agreeing that enough warning was given. The severe cyclone hit on 30th November early morning, but as per the statistics of the Government, at 12.30 p.m. on 30th November, the bulletin Ocean State Forecast associated with cyclone Ockhi over Cape Comorin area warned of it through website. Why is it happening? The cyclone hit the coast on 30th morning itself. Our system alerted the people at 12.30 p.m. By this time, several valuable lives had already been taken away by the natural calamity. Therefore, we need a specific early warning system.

I remember that when UPA was in power in 2004, I was a Minister in Kerala Government. In my own district, Alappuzha, tsunami had hit very badly. At that time, we had no present day modern technological means to inform the people. It has been 13 years since Tsunami hit us. Now, we have enough modern equipment to alert people in advance, but, unfortunately, there was lapse on the part of the authorities in informing us at the opportune time about this cyclone.

As regards rehabilitation and rescue operations, I am not blaming anybody because this is not an issue on which political points can be made. I am agreeing with it, but being the representative of the people from that area, I have to point out that five people from my own Constituency also went missing. Fortunately, they came back with their own efforts.

Our Navy and Coast Guard personnel have done their level best, but there are some restrictions. Dr. Tharoor's Constituency was also severely hit by this cyclone. Myself, Dr. Tharoor and Shri Ramachandran met hon. Shri Rajnath Singh and we also met Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman 10 days back. Navy and Coast Guard have done their level best, but still hundreds of people are missing. How can we provide answer for it? Therefore, I feel that there is a definite need for strong coordination in the rescue operations and in bringing back those missing people, and this is what is being mentioned by the fishermen community and the people of that area. Actually, this tragedy is an eye-opener. I am saying this because along with loss of valuable human lives there is also significant damage to the economy.

It is time to think about the life of fishermen. I had an opportunity to go into the deep sea when our Union Government last year had taken a decision to prevent the traditional fishermen going into deep sea for fishing. In protest, I went with fishermen to the deep sea in my Constituency, and I found out about the amount of sacrifice that they are doing. These fishermen are going into the deep sea for 7-8 days at a stretch, and sometimes they do not even have food. They are also not assured of earning income as sometimes they would get fish and sometimes not. Actually, their life is worse than our tribal community people.

At the time of Tsunami we had given around Rs. 1,800 crore package to build some good houses for them, but now also there is lack of houses; lack of equipment; and lack of sufficient infrastructure.

Further, when the monsoon season arrives, all the houses in the coastal area get damaged as a result of sea erosion. In the earlier days, the Government of India would provide support by giving some amount for building groynes and seawalls from the Defence Budget considering the sea as a boundary, but now the Government of India is not funding any amount for building groynes and seawalls. So, their houses get damaged whenever the monsoon season arrives due to sea erosion. Therefore, we find that their life is very much pitiable and it is time that we have a re-look into the lives of the poor fishermen community and take immediate measures to address their concerns. I think that the Government of India will do something in this regard this time.

As regards the safeguarding aspect, when we travel in a flight the air hostess will and make a pre-flight announcement. If there is an accident, or flight plunges into the sea, how to escape, and other life saving measures were provided to the air passengers. Why should not we have life saving equipments in boats? These fishermen are giving so much of money in the form of foreign exchange but still there is no clear cut mechanism for saving their lives. Therefore, I am urging the Government that modern facilities, including GPS should be provided to fishermen which would give information about weather updates. They should be provided with life saving equipments like life jackets. For facing this type of disastrous incidents, a well functional monitoring system has to be ensured.

Through you, Madam, I would like to bring to the kind notice of the Government that earlier the people of Kerala did not expect this type of cyclones. We thought that we are free from these cyclones. But now scientists are telling that Kerala is also in the most affected area as far as cyclone disaster is concerned. Therefore, I think that there should be a clear cut mechanism. When cyclone hit Hyderabad, the Government took sufficient measures; not a single casualty has been reported. We are not in a position to face the people of that area. Fishermen community is trying like anything to come to terms. Therefore, I think the Government of India should announce a comprehensive package. The Government of Kerala has already announced some proposals for a comprehensive package.

We the MPs of Kerala met the Prime Minister, Narendra Modi *ji* in this regard. A timely comprehensive package should be announced. Yesterday, Shri Salim *ji* has raised an issue. When flood happens, relief would reach at the time of drought. This is the system in the Government of India. I am not blaming the Government. When flood happens; we send a team; then, assistance would reach at the time of drought. Today is 22nd December. What has the Government of India done all these days? Hon. Home Minister has assured us that he would send a Central team. Why is this delay? Are you not going to take this as serious? If you take it as serious, the next day, a Central team would go there, and assess the situation; and give money to them. I doubt the Government is insensitive to this issue.

I would request Shri Rajnath Singh *ji* that he should declare some financial package and assistance. Dr. Shashi Tharoor also wanted to speak on this issue. Therefore, I would not take much time.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: I need your assistance.

HON. SPEAKER: I am giving.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : In the last 23 years I am representing a coastal constituency. The life there is very much difficult. These types of accidents, these types of fatal incidents are happening. They are a community. There are not enough people who get more than Rs.10,000 income. They are living under severe conditions. Therefore, my request is that the Government of India should think about this. Fishermen provide a vital economic resource to our economy. When it comes to living standards and life, they are comparatively backward; and they are a marginalised community. I would request the Government to take holistic measures to ensure proper housing, quality education and health services to the fishermen.

Fisheries sector and fishermen come under the Ministry of Agriculture. Agriculture itself is a very big subject. We went to Shri Radha Mohan *ji*. He told us that one MoS is looking after 'fisheries'. In the manifesto of BJP, in 2014, it had promised that it would set up a separate Fishermen Ministry. This is the time to take action because their issue should be taken in a separate way. Agriculture Ministry cannot have such type of a mechanism. Therefore, I would request that there should be a separate Ministry for Fisheries to ensure that their problems are taken care of in a good manner. I would request you again to sanction the weather information system and safety equipment to ensure effective advance warning system. I have already mentioned about the life saving instrument.

With these words, I pray to God to save the souls of those who have demised already. I would say that hundreds of vessels are missing. We do not know whether they come back or not; whether we would get back the dead bodies or not. We do not know anything about this. That tragedy is a big tragedy in the minds of the entire people of the country. Therefore, the Government should act upon this. That is my simple request. Thank you.

*SHRI P.R.SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Hon. Madam Speaker. Thank you for this opportunity to take part in the discussion under Rule 193 on "Natural Calamities in various parts of the country with special reference to cyclone Okchi in South India. During December 2015 Tamil Nadu faced the fury of the nature with unprecedented rains and floods which caused widespread devastation. The then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma swung into action immediately bringing back normalcy in the State. As a result of the unwavering efforts of Hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma, normalcy returned in

Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu government had demanded Rs. 25,912 Crore from the Union government and only Rs.1,960 Crore was provided to the State till date. Again in December 2016 Vardah cyclone caused widespread devastation. That time the then Chief Minister Shri O. Panneerselvam, serving in the footsteps of Hon. *Puratchithalavi* Amma, took swift action on war-footing basis. As a result, huge loss to lives and property was averted. The State Government of Tamil Nadu demanded a release of Rs.1,000 Crore from the National Disaster Relief Fund. But the Union Government had not allocated any fund that time too. Recently cyclone Ockhi has caused widespread devastation in Tamil Nadu, particularly in the Districts of Kanniyakumari and Tirunelveli.

The Opposition parties in the State alleged that the State Government of Tamil Nadu has not acted upon in carrying out relief measures after widespread devastation by cyclone Ockhi. In this regard, I am duty bound to list out all the measures, one after the other, duly taken by the State Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Hon. Chief Minister Shri Edappadi K. Palanisamy. Immediately after cyclone Ockhi hit Kanniyakumari district, as per the directions of Hon. Chief Minister Shri Edappadi K. Palanisamy, Hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon. Minister for Power, Hon. Minister for Revenue, Hon. Minister for Fisheries, along with 11 senior IAS Officers went immediately to the affected areas to carry out the relief and restoration work. Meanwhile the fishermen who were stranded along the coast of various States were brought back to their respective places with the help and coordination of a team of five IAS Officers. An amount of Rs.2,000 each was provided as food allowance to the stranded fishermen by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. Each of the stranded fishing boat was provided to the maximum of 1,000 litres of fuel. Moreover, the assessment of damage to agricultural crops, fishing boats and equipments was carried out on war-footing basis. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Hon. Deputy Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu had held meetings with senior Officers of the State Government on a daily basis in this regard. On that particular day, 11000 electric poles were uprooted in Kanniyakumari district alone due to cyclone Ockhi. A team of Officers under the chairmanship of Hon. Power Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri Thangamani visited the affected areas. At least 20,000 State Government Officials from the neighbouring districts were pressed into service.

As a result, within two days, 11000 electric poles were repaired and installed restoring electric supply. Safe drinking water facilities were also restored. Trees fallen on the roads were removed and roads were reconstructed immediately thereby ensuring smooth transportation. Hon. Chief Minister also held a review meeting with the Officers of the Indian Navy, Indian Air force and Indian Coastal Guard about the progress of search operations carried out to find out the missing fishermen of Tamil Nadu. On 12.12.2017 Hon. Chief Minister visited Kanniyakumari to assess the ground reality. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ordered for issue of Rs. 20 lakh each to the families of deceased fishermen; Rs. 5 lakh as rehabilitation assistance for the fishermen who had serious bodily injuries; and Rs. 50,000 for the fishermen getting treatment in the hospitals. In addition to this, an amount of Rs.5,000 was provided to each of the families of fishermen and missing fishermen, as livelihood assistance. One member from

the family of each of the deceased fishermen will be provided employment in State Government institutions as per their educational qualification. In order to provide relief assistance as per existing law, a team under the chairmanship of Revenue Divisional Officer was constituted. The tribal people affected by cyclone Ockhi were also provided Rs.5,000 as livelihood assistance by the State government. If the loss to Plantain crops is above 33 percent, farmers will be provided compensation between Rs. 48500 and Rs. 63500 per hectare. For rubber cultivation, inclusive of Rs.32,000 per hectare for beehive farming, an amount of Rs. 1 lakh will be provided as compensation package per hectare. An amount of Rs. 28,000 per hectare will be provided as compensation for clove cultivation,

Besides, there will be adequate compensation for agricultural and horticultural crops affected by cyclone Ockhi. These were the announcements made by Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. In this scenario, the Leader of Opposition in Tamil Nadu Shri M.K. Stalin has made false and baseless allegations against the State Government. That's why I have listed out here, all the measures taken by the State Government of Tamil Nadu one after the other. Tamil Nadu Government wholeheartedly and steadfastly protects the fishermen and their interests. In the year 1974, Katchatheevu islet was ceded to Sri Lanka by the then DMK Government of the State of Tamil Nadu. Joining hands with the then Union Government led by Congress party, the DMK leader Shri M. Karunanidhi gave away Katchatheevu islet to Sri Lanka. As a result, the fishermen of Tamil Nadu are now facing lots of difficulties and indescribable miseries. At the same time, I should say that the present State Government of Tamil Nadu is making all-out efforts tirelessly in protecting Tamil fishermen and their interests.

Madam Speaker, Hon. Prime Minister visited the cyclone Ockhi affected Kanniyakumari on 19.12.2017. Hon. Chief Minister met the Hon. Prime Minister on that day and explained the damages caused by cyclone Ockhi and the continuous and excessive rains due to North East Monsoon in Chennai and other districts of the State. As the devastation caused by cyclone Ockhi is severe and widespread, Hon. Deputy Speaker of Lok Sabha Dr. M. Thambidurai in a meeting with Hon. Minister for Defence Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, stressed that it should be declared as a national disaster.

Hon. Chief Minister during his meeting with Hon. Prime Minister also explained the necessity of announcing this as a national disaster. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu also submitted a Memorandum to Hon. Prime Minister with so many demands. I wish to state here some of them. As per the long standing demands of the people of Kanyakumari a Naval base with helipad and telecom facilities should soon be set up. An amount of Rs.747 Crore should be released from the National Disaster Relief Fund. The amount of relief assistance provided at times of natural disasters should be increased. Particularly, the compensation given to loss of lives should be increased from the present Rs.4 lakh to Rs.10 lakh. Relief assistance for seriously injured should be increased from the present Rs.2 lakh to Rs.5 lakh. Compensation to plantain crops should be increased from the present Rs.13,500

to Rs.1,25,000 per hectare. Compensation to rubber trees should be increased from the present Rs.18,000 to Rs.2,50,000 per hectare. Compensation for replacement of cyclone affected high power grids, transformers substations and high power lines more than 11 KV should be provided under National Disaster Relief Fund. As many as 1,500 high frequency wireless sets should be provided with 90% subsidy from the Union Government. A control room should be set up in this regard in Tamil Nadu besides giving permission to use high frequency waves. To give alerts and to provide information on weather forecast for fishermen, a dedicated satellite radio channel in Tamil should be started soon.

In order to mitigate the problems faced by the fishermen particularly of Kanyakumari, telecom facilities, a fish processing park and an Integrated fishing harbour with all facilities, should be set up. Sea walls should be constructed along the coast line of Tamil Nadu with a view to stop erosion due to sea waves. To carry out this, an amount of Rs.4,218 Crore should be released by the Union Government. Search operations should be continued to trace all the missing Tamil fishermen. Hon'ble Prime Minister should order the security forces to continue the search operations till the last missing fisherman is found. The Union Government should release an amount of Rs.5,255 Crore to the State of Tamil Nadu for carrying out the relief, rescue and restoration work in the cyclone Ockhi affected areas, The North-east monsoon has affected Chennai and the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the Union Government to release Rs.4,047 Crore for carrying out restoration work and to create a permanent infrastructure preventing damages due to floods in future.

Madam Speaker, the Union Government should release a total of Rs.9,302 crores to Tamil Nadu for carrying out relief and restoration work in the cyclone Ockhi affected areas and North-east monsoon affected areas of Chennai and other coastal districts. After his visit to the Ockhi affected Kanniyakumari, Hon'ble Prime Minister announced that an amount of Rs.325 crores will be released to Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep. A meagre amount of Rs.325 Crore which is allocated for three States seems to be insufficient. In Tamil there is saying called, "Yaanaai Pasikku Chholap pori" which means feeding a starving giant elephant with too little food. This is just like paying peanuts. This is in addition to Rs.2,80 Crore that was released to Tamil Nadu earlier. Keeping in view all the facts, and the demand from Tamil Nadu is for Rs.9302 Crore, the Union Government has only released Rs.325 Crore for Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep. This is a matter of great concern. I think that Hon. Member Shri K.C. Venugopal has forgotten to mention this in his speech. I wanted to remind him. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister to directly intervene in this matter and ensure release of Rs.9,302 Crore as demanded by the State of Tamil Nadu. I also urge that all the demands mentioned in the Memorandum submitted by the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu to Hon. Prime Minister, should be considered by the Union Government for prompt action at their end. Thank you.

PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED): Thank you very much Madam for giving me this opportunity to speak on Ockhi disaster.

Madam, I mention here with great pain and agony that the aftermath of this traumatic Ockhi disaster could have been averted if the Kerala State Government had taken precautionary measures in the very beginning. To our information, the Government of Kerala, the Chief Secretary, the Chief Minister and the Disaster Management Authority, were all informed on 28th, 29th evening and 30th morning about the impending disaster but they took it easy. They did not even learn from the kind of things which have occurred on the East coast earlier. There was lack of coordination between various agencies in Kerala and, of course, in Tamil Nadu too.

12.54 hrs

(Shri Arjun Charan Sethi *in the Chair*)

So far no responsibility has been fixed. The experience in meeting such natural coastal catastrophic disasters on the Eastern coast, especially cyclonic disasters, was not made use of and this has resulted in this kind of a pathetic situation.

A deep depression was formed on 29th November, 2017 over South-West Bay of Bengal near Sri Lanka coast and reached the South-West coast of Kanyakumari, Thiruvananthapuram and went up to Lakshadweep. So, in the evening of 29th November and 30th of November, it was intensified ... (*Interruptions*).

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Let the hon. Member speak.

PROF. RICHARD HAY : It was intensified and developed into a dangerous cyclone. This was informed to the Government of Kerala by IMD and also by the Oceanographic Institute. ... (*Interruptions*) This was informed.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let him complete his speech.

PROF. RICHARD HAY : So, it may specially be noted that both Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari are areas of high density of fishermen in the country. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member is speaking. You can speak later on. Please sit down.

PROF. RICHARD HAY : So, it is evident that there was a failure on the part of the Government of Kerala and of course, also on the part of Tamil Nadu, in taking immediate action which could have saved the lives of hundreds of persons. Now, we find that many bodies are brought back. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record except hon. Member's speech.

PROF. RICHARD HAY : They are brought dead. This could have been averted.... (Interruptions) I can also very clearly mention that the Indian Navy, the Air Force and the Coastal Guard have taken all precautions. They have combed the high seas from day one onwards. But, the Kerala Coastal Police did not act well. That has happened. ... (Interruptions) Now, on 18th of December, the Kerala Government sent boats into the sea. What was the use of that? This should have been done on 2nd or 3rd of December, which the Indian Navy did. We are proud of the Defence Forces of this country. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let him speak. Please sit down.

PROF. RICHARD HAY : They have done justice to this country. They have worked very well. Of course, our hon. Prime Minister visited Lakshwadeep, Thiruvananthapuram and Kanyakumari on 19th and he comforted and assuaged the feelings of the afflicted persons personally. Our hon. Prime Minister personally listened to the victims of this cyclone. ... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please listen to him.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, my dear colleague, hon. Member of Parliament, Prof. Richard Hay, is speaking with a heavy heart about Ockhi cyclone and the havoc that Ockhi cyclone has created. There is a widespread feeling in the State of Kerala. Though the Government of Kerala got adequate pre-information from IMD, that warning was not given to the fishermen at large. That he is describing. ... (Interruptions) He is not casting any aspersions on anyone. The issue is the factual situation of Kerala and why the tragedy has happened, has to be brought before the House.

My colleague from the Congress Party, Shri Venugopal Ji, has also expressed his concern and grief on similar lines. Prof. Richard Hay is also saying the same thing. I request the Communist friends not to get excited about this. Allow Prof. Richard Hay to speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Richard Hay, please continue.

PROF. RICHARD HAY : Thank you very much. I am a person, the first Member of Parliament, to visit that place. Not only once, but twice and three times, I have visited this place. No other hon. Member

went there. ... (*Interruptions*) I know as to who visited that place. They have visited later but not then. I have listened to the feelings, woes and cries of the people afflicted by this Ockhi cyclone. They have told me that the Government has failed to help them. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, our hon. Defence Minister, went there and comforted the afflicted victims of Ockhi. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are a senior Member. Hon. Minister has already spoken. Please sit down. You can speak later. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. RICHARD HAY : Nobody else comforted them. She comforted them. It is because of her comforting them, the people got confidence that the Government of India is with them. ... (*Interruptions*) The Government of India has done well to mitigate the feelings of afflicted persons there in Thiruvananthapuram, Kanyakumari and also in Lakshwadeep. If the poor fishermen had been warned earlier, they would not have gone to the sea. The areas of Kanyakumari and Thiruvananthapuram are high density fishermen populated areas.

13.00 hrs

They are the poor fishermen of this country and they have to be supported. I know the Government of India is taking measures. They have already given some relief in December... (*Interruptions*). The Kerala Government was given relief of Rs. 76.50 crore on 11.12.2017. The Government of Tamil Nadu was given relief of Rs.280.50 crore... (*Interruptions*). At the first instant, the funds were released by the Central Government. I know that the money has been released.

Now, the Government of India knows what is to be done in this matter. Hon. Prime Minister visited that place and hon. Defence Minister also visited. Mr. Pon Radhakrishnan also visited. Hon. Minister, Shri Alphons Kannanthanam visited that place. Many hon. Ministers from the Centre have visited that place... (*Interruptions*). They know the hard facts of this tragedy.

Now let us all join together for giving relief to the poor fishermen of this country. The fishermen are demanding homes. They are the bread winners. They are poor fishermen who have lost their lives. The family has no bread earner. I urge upon the Government of India to provide them more homes, more educational facilities and more boats as they have lost their boats. They are the bread winners of the family. They have to be supported. On this occasion, I would definitely request the Government of India to take immediate measures.... (*Interruptions*).

As regards fishermen problems, at that time, the entire coast of Kerala was in danger and even now it is in danger for many reasons like breakwater which they call *pulimoodu* there... (*Interruptions*). There is unscientific construction of *pulimoodu*. In some places like Cochin area, they need *pulimoodu*. I visited the entire length of coastal area of Kerala and Kanyakumari. I am telling

this from the information I received from poor fishermen and not from any media. I myself visited that place.

These poverty-stricken fishermen need homes. They want food. They also want education, protection and security. Henceforth, this has not happened because of apathy and some indifferent attitude of the Government officials. The Disaster Management Authority in Kerala was defunct. There was only one expert in that and he too was in some other country. He was not in Kerala. During those three days, he was far away. The hon. Ministers of Kerala are not able to understand the consequences and aftermath of this devastating cyclone. That is the truth.

Not only fishermen, there are *kani* tribals living on the hills of Kanyakumari. They too have lost their houses and cultivation. Many farmers have also lost their crops because of this devastation. So they should also be compensated. I would request the Government of India that all the fishermen, farmers and *kani* tribals should be compensated. I think the Government is acting on this.

I especially thank the hon. Prime Minister for his personal visit to listen to the woes of the people who have been affected. I also thank hon. Minister of Defence, Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman who consoled them. Nobody consoled them at that point of time. She consoled every person who met her in those places from Trivandrum to Kanyakumari. That is a great thing which has been done by our Defence Minister and by our hon. Prime Minister. We are with the poor fishermen. We have to have a soft corner for them. They are earning precious foreign exchange for the country but they are always living in dire straits.

So I humbly request the Government of India to look into this. When the hon. Prime Minister went to Trivandrum, he ordered the officials to do DNA test of the dead bodies so that they could be identified. Even now many bodies may be floating in the high seas. They are helpless. I know the precarious state of a person when drowning in the deep sea. I myself had that experience. Today if I am standing here, it was the grace of God. On the day of the Tsunami, the 26th of December, 2004, there was no warning and I was swimming in the deep sea and I could escape by just two minutes. So, I know what is the sensation of dying by drowning in the deep sea; I can understand the agony of such persons. I can understand the trauma such a person undergoes. I can feel that as an humble MP because I serve the fishermen and I live amongst them.

Therefore, I would like to humbly request the Government of India to step in and provide these affected people with all kinds of reliefs required.

Thank you.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I stand here to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 relating to the natural calamities in various parts of the country, including the cyclone Ockhi in South of India.

The State of Odisha has been affected regularly by different types of natural calamities. Repeatedly year after year, the State of Odisha is being affected either by cyclones or by drought or by flood. This year, of course, there was another type of calamity that struck our farmers is the pest attack. The pesticide that was being provided actually did not yield the result. Subsequently our Government found out that the pesticide that was being provided through different shops was actually not up to the standard. A number of prosecutions have taken place against the culprits, but the loss has already been done.

Last November and this December two unseasonal rains have affected large parts of our State. In November there was a low pressure, on 15th of November, which intensified into a depression. Under its influence heavy rains and winds severely affected the State of Odisha. This was due to the effect of cyclonic depression in the Bay of Bengal.

Sir, your usual comment, whenever we discuss about natural calamities, has been that nowadays we do not have monsoon rains, we have cyclone, depression and such things which have been visiting us during the rainy season. So, this November, between the 15th and 18th of November, it was totally unseasonal rain and this untimely rain has caused extensive damage to the standing paddy crops in the field and also to the non-paddy crops like vegetables, pulses, oilseeds and maize. In the district of Koraput farmers have been greatly affected because the maize crop was affected. There has been a spurt of inflation relating to vegetables and also a standing crop like paddy also got damaged to a very great extent.

As per reports that have been received from the districts it is understood that due to effect of untimely rain arising out of cyclonic depression, standing crops have suffered more than 33 per cent in four lakh hectares of area of around 14270 villages under 2460 Gram Panchayats of 133 blocks and 257 wards of 38 urban local bodies in 19 districts. Out of 30 districts 19 districts were affected because of this unseasonal rain in November 2017 between 15th and 18th. Of course, the Government of Odisha took prompt steps for crop loss assessment and provided required funds to the Collectors of the districts concerned for payment of agriculture input subsidy as per SDRF norms to the affected farmers who have sustained crop loss of 33 per cent and above. An amount of Rs. 364.76 crore has been released out of SDRF for the purpose in favour of 19 districts. An amount of Rs. 6800 per hectare for rainfed areas and Rs. 13,500 per hectare for irrigated areas are being provided to the affected farmers and the disbursement is going on. This amount is as per the provision that is there. But it needs to be increased because standing crop is totally destroyed. We also faced another low pressure or depression between

7th and 10th of December. Rain fall of more than 50 mm had occurred in two days, that is 9th and 10th in 19 blocks of five districts. Though early warning was given to them, farmers because of their anxiety to save the crop started cutting the crop. But they were unable to transport that crop to harvest it and also to keep it under cover. That is the reason why there is a need today to provide adequate funding. Joint inspection is also being done by the Revenue Department, the Agriculture Department and the Finance Department. Once this report is received, the Government, of course, will be providing some support and some assistance.

I want the indulgence of the Home Minister. When a standing crop is destroyed, the State Government in its wisdom, allows the crop loan to be converted into a mid-term loan. The Union Government has a provision for providing subvention in crop loan up to three per cent. Our State Government also provides subvention. So, the actual interest comes down to one per cent which the farmers have to pay. But that one per cent can be provided to the farmer, only if he makes that amount during the stipulated period. Once the Government converts this crop loan into a mid-term loan, this subvention is not being provided by the Union Government because it has not been paid within that stipulated period.

Therefore, when a conversion takes place relating to a crop loan because of natural calamity, then it is necessary that the crop loan mechanism should also extend to the mid-term loan so that the farmers will not be at a loss. They can pay back in three years' time. So, the same incentive should be extended to the farmers to that extent.

Another point which I would like to mention, which the Government should consider is this and it is very urgent. As it has happened in Kerala and Tamil Nadu, unseasonal rains and cyclone destroys infrastructure to a very great extent. The SDRF and the NDRF have a mechanism only to provide relief. You do not have that much of money to actually establish or bring the infrastructure back to normalcy within two to three months' time. Infrastructure, like lift irrigation points, electricity connection, gets destroyed. These things need immediate attention where some fund from this disaster relief mechanism can be provided to bring that system back into practice so that the farmers can get involved in going into the next crop which they would like to. This needs correction. This needs a little bit of attention from the Union Government so that the disaster relief fund can be utilised to bring back the infrastructure that has been destroyed either by cyclone or by flood or by any other type of natural calamity.

Pest attack is another greater concern. The NDRF has to look into that aspect also. This is something very uncommon. Suddenly you find different types of pests attacking a standing crop and the whole crop gets destroyed from villages to villages and from districts to districts. This time, it is very alarming in our State that particularly paddy crop has been affected in a large number of districts. So, I would urge upon the Government to consider pest attack as a type of calamity and extend the same

provision which is applied to crop loan when crop loss happens due to some calamity as it is given in the case of mid-term loans.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Today we are having a very important discussion on the destruction caused by Cyclone Ockhi. I have been listening to the speeches made by our hon. Members. While listening to them, I felt that the issues which we are discussing now are remedial measures and we are not talking about precautionary or preventive measures.

The Paris Agreement on Climate Change has warned the entire world to look into the issue of Climate Change. There is a report which says that the rarity of cyclones in the Arabian Sea in contrast to their frequency in the Bay of Bengal appears to have caught everyone off-guard. During Cyclone Phailin in 2013 and Cyclone Hudhud in 2014, the Indian Meteorological Department had given advance notice of cyclone path enabling local administration to mount large scale evacuation measures. But during the 2013 Uttarakhand flood and 2014 Srinagar flood, though it had warned of very heavy rainfall, State Governments complained that the forecast was too vague to take safety measures. This is what has happened here also.

सरकार की तरफ से जो भी कदम उठाए गए हैं हम लोग उस पर चर्चा कर रहे हैं। आदरणीय प्रधानमंत्री जी वहां गए और वह खुद मदद दे रहे हैं, लेकिन हम इसकी जड़ में नहीं जा रहे हैं। जब पेरिस एग्रीमेंट हुई तब कहा गया अगर धरती का तापमान दो डिग्री बढ़ जाए और यह जिस गति से बढ़ रहा है वह मानव जाति के लिए भय का निर्माण कर रहा है। अगर हम उसके ऊपर ध्यान आकर्षित नहीं करेंगे तो यह पूरी चर्चा विफल है। कभी ओखी आएगा, कभी हुडहुड आएगा और कभी कुछ आएगा, इतने लोग मर गए, इतने लोगों के मकान टूट गए। प्रिवेन्टिव मेजर्स क्या है? आज सुबह स्पेसिज के बारे में चर्चा हुई। Why are the species reducing? ऐसा क्यों हो रहा है? आज हम देख रहे हैं कि बाघ शहरों में घुस रहा है क्योंकि हम जंगल में घुस रहे हैं। हम पृथ्वी का नाश कर रहे हैं।

महोदय, आप समुद्र की तरफ देख लें, कभी किनारों पर घूमें तो पता चलेगा, तुफान अगर चला गया और समुद्र ने किनारे पर जो फेंका हुआ सामान है, उस प्रदूषण को हमने ही निर्मित किया है, हमने ही सारी वेस्टेज को पानी में डाला है और उसी को उसने वापस कर दिया है। हम पृथ्वी पर इतना आक्रमण कर रहे हैं सिर्फ पृथ्वी ही नहीं, बल्कि नभ में भी कर रहे हैं। कार्बन डाइऑक्साइड का इतना उत्सर्जन है जो वहां कुछ सालों तक होता रहा है, हम उसके बारे में सोचते नहीं हैं। नासा ने हाल ही में कहा है, समुद्री तटों पर रहने वाले मुंबई जैसे शहरों को खतरा है। पानी की मात्रा में बहुत ज्यादा बढ़ोत्तरी हो जाएगी और 80 फीट ऊंची लहरें आएंगी, उन लहरों से सारा शहर बर्बाद हो जाएगा। मैं उसका स्टेटमेंट पढ़ता हूं।

A former Director, Dr. James Hansen, of NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, in his book, Storms of My Grandchildren, has written: "Global warming of two degrees Celsius or more would

make Earth as warm as it had been in the Pliocene, three million years ago. Pliocene warmth caused sea levels to be about twenty five metres (eighty feet) higher than they are today". This he has forecast. ओखी क्या है? यही तो हो रहा है और इस तरफ हम ध्यान नहीं दे रहे हैं। महत्वपूर्ण मुद्दा यह है कि 1750 से आज तक पृथ्वी के तापमान में 1.2 डिग्री सेंटीग्रेड की बढ़ोतरी हुई है। पेरिस एग्रीमेंट में दो सेंटीग्रेड की बात कही है, अगर यह हर साल बढ़ता गया तो अगले पांच सालों में मनुष्य की क्या स्थिति होगी, हम सोच सकते हैं।

The World Meteorological Organisation's Dr. Petteri Taalas said: "This trend can be expected to continue for the coming 50 years. In this system, once you reach a certain level it does not drop soon." फिर तापमान बाद में नीचे नहीं गिरेगा। इसका कारण इंडस्ट्रलाइजेशन और डैवलपमेंट है। हम ऐसे चक्रव्यूह में हैं कि हम एक तरफ विकास चाहते हैं, इंडस्ट्रलाइजेशन चाहते हैं लेकिन दूसरी तरफ आक्रमण हो रहा है। हम देखते हैं कि प्रदूषणकारी कंपनियों का उत्सर्जन पानी में जा रहा है, पानी को प्रदूषित कर रहा है। पानी कार्बन को शोषित कर सकता है और वनस्पति पानी में भी है। पेड़-पौधे, जंगल और पानी कार्बन को कम कर सकते हैं। कार्बन-डाइऑक्साइड कम कैसे होगी जबकि हम जंगल में घुस रहे हैं, तभी तो पानी शहर में घुस रहा है।

अभी मेरे दोस्त जो कि एक सांसद हैं, उन्होंने पेड़ लगाए थे, लेकिन किसी ने जला दिए। हम दिल्ली का पॉल्यूशन देख रहे हैं। यह किस वजह से है? इसका कारण क्या है? सारी गाड़ियों से उत्सर्जन के कारण कार्बन-डाइऑक्साइड हवा में स्थिर हो रही है, यह बह नहीं रही है। इससे एक प्रकार का क्लाउड बन रहा है। आपने पिछले तीन-चार दिन से क्लाउड देखा होगा। यह क्लाउड नवंबर-दिसंबर से बन रहा है। यह क्लाउड बन रहा है क्योंकि कार्बन-डाइऑक्साइड का उत्सर्जन हो रहा है। हमें इसे कंट्रोल करना है।

हाल ही में सबसे अच्छी बात यह हुई है, The World Bank will end its financial support for oil and gas extraction within the next two years in response to the growing threat posed by climate change. वर्ल्ड बैंक ने यह निर्णय लिया। वर्ल्ड बैंक इन कंपनियों के बारे में सोच रहा है। हमारे विकास और प्रगति का चक्र वहीं से शुरू होता है, ऑयल से शुरू होता है, गैस से शुरू होता है। यही हमारे लिए भयंकर स्थिति है क्योंकि इस कारण से ही सारी चीजें आगे बढ़ रही हैं। हाल ही में माननीय नितिन गडकरी जी ने ट्रैफिक के बारे में कहा कि ऐसी गाड़ियां बंद कर दो, रास्ते में ऐसी गाड़ियां नहीं चलेंगी, इलैक्ट्रिक गाड़ियां आनी चाहिए।

मेरा सरकार से कहना है कि आप किसानों की मदद कर रहे हैं, उनका पुनर्वास करते रहे हैं। मैंने कल-परसों देखा कि सीआरजैड को चेंज करके 500 से 200 मीटर ला रहे हैं। हमें डर लग रहा है कि समुद्र की लहरें शहरों में घुसने वाली हैं, हम पानी में जाने वाले हैं। हम कितना एन्क्रोचमेंट करेंगे? आप देखें कि 300-400 साल पहले लोग किस ढंग से जी रहे थे। पुरानी तरह की खेती, पुरानी तरह का फर्टीलाइजर, पुरानी तरह के जानवर, गोबर से हमारा जीवन बहुत लंबे समय तक सही चला। आज हर चीज प्रदूषित है। कैमिकल फर्टीलाइजर्स यूज कर रहे हैं। कल-परसों सवाल आया था लेकिन मुझे पूछने का मौका नहीं मिला, आर्सेनिक के पानी को पेयजल के रूप में मत देखिए। आर्सेनिक पानी को खेती में यूज किया जाता है और उससे जो उपज होती है, उसे खाने से वही आर्सेनिक हमारे पेट में वापस आता है और चमड़ी के रोग होते हैं। मैं मांग करता हूँ कि इस विषय को बहुत गंभीरता से लिया जाए। एनडीआरएफ या दूसरी संस्थाएं इस दिशा में क्या कर रही हैं, इसका आकलन भी हमें करना चाहिए। नड्डा जी, आप स्वयं दिल से कहते होंगे कि they are not prepared to fight all these things. इलेवेन्थ ऑवर पर हम किसी को कोई काम सौंप दें, एनडीआरएफ में पांच लोग हैं, लेकिन वे एकदम क्या कर सकते हैं? Are we cautioning people to take care of all these things? Cautioning is more important. हवा में कार्बन

डाइऑक्साइड 600 से 1000 साल तक रहता है। हम सौर पवन ऊर्जा की तरफ जा रहे हैं, यह अच्छी बात है लेकिन कोयले के यूज करने से भी तो प्रदूषण होता है। इस समय कालचक्र पीछे घूम रहा है।

मैं सरकार से मांग करता हूँ कि सरकार को केवल ओखी चक्रवात या उसके रेमीडियल मेजर्स पर चर्चा न करके यह देखना चाहिए कि ऐसी स्थिति पैदा ही न हो। It is a threat to human life now. पृथ्वी का विनाश हो रहा है और विनाश काले विपरीत बुद्धि हो जाती है। हमारी विपरीत बुद्धि चल रही है और हम विनाश की तरफ जा रहे हैं। हमें विनाश को रोकने के लिए प्रिवेंटिव मेजर्स अपनाने चाहिए। सुबह मंत्री जी ने प्रश्न काल के दौरान अच्छे उत्तर दिए, मैं उनका धन्यवाद करता हूँ। आप देखें कि कार्बन डाईऑक्साइड को पेड़ सौखते हैं। क्लोरोफिल सन लाइट से मिलता है। Since the leaves absorb the sunlight, they look green. हम जितना जंगल बचाएंगे, पर्यावरण को उतना बचा सकेंगे। हमारी संस्कृति हमें यही सिखाती है। जिस तरह से शहरीकरण हो रहा है, वह बहुत खतरनाक है। आज खेती की तरफ कोई नहीं जा रहा है। हमने कानून बनाए हैं, अन्न सुरक्षा कानून बनाया है। यदि एक-दो दिन काम करके पूरे महीने का राशन मिल गया, तो महीने के बाकी दिन क्या काम करेंगे। Plastic is most dangerous. It has got a life of 500 years. हम जीने के लिए तरसते हैं और प्लास्टिक की लाइफ 500 साल की है। आज वाइल्ड लाइफ में बर्ड्स को देखना है। Can we watch sparrows now? Where have they gone? There are BTS towers of mobile. ध्वनि की जो लहर आ रही है, उससे पक्षी भाग जाते हैं। हमें इस स्थिति को देखना है। ओखी के विषेय में आप जो भी कर रहे हैं, वह ठीक है। मैं इस बारे में कोई शंका नहीं कर रहा हूँ। प्रधान मंत्री स्वयं जाकर पैसे दे रहे हैं और भी कई काम कर रहे हैं। हुडहुड साइक्लोन के लिए क्या किया गया। इसका कुछ पता नहीं है। आज बुखार हुआ है, तो क्रोसीन दवाई ले लो। बुखार सिर्फ बुखार ही नहीं है, वह वायरल भी बन जाता है। मैं इतना ही कहना है कि मैंने इस चर्चा में भाग इसलिए लिया है कि जब तक हम क्लाइमेट चेंज के लिए प्रिवेंटिव मेजर्स पर ध्यान नहीं देंगे, तब तक हम इस समस्या का सही ढंग से सामना नहीं कर पाएंगे।

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I would like to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 initiated by Shri K.C. Venugopal, my dear friend.

At the very outset, I pay my heartfelt homage to the innocent fishermen in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep. Not only fishermen, but many others also lost their lives during this natural calamity. First of all, I appreciate the Government that they have decided to discuss this issue. At the same time, the time that they have fixed is really unfortunate. You see that in the Treasury Benches or in the Opposition Benches, very few people are there because they want to leave to their own States. So, anyway the Government has taken this decision.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: We are moving an Adjournment Motion.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: I have given the notice for the Calling Attention, I have given the notice for this 193 and all that. But the Government has to take an early decision because it is a serious issue.

Sir, I do not want to go into the controversies as some Members have stated. I fully agree with Shri Venugopal that information was received on 30th November. I do not want to go into the details of

that as to whether we have received that information on 18th or 28th or 29th or 30th. As far as the report that we have got from the State Government or the State Secretary, they got it on 30th November. They might have given it on 28th or on 29th November, 2017. But that is a very serious issue. That may be in Lakshwadeep or in other places. Anyway, we will discuss as to what we can do especially in this very serious situation. So, I do not want to blame the Government of Kerala or the Central Government but we have to make all efforts to address the issue.

Sir, it was on the 13th November, 2017 that the cyclone 'Ockhi' had caused very serious disastrous effects in the coastal area of Kerala. It is true that it has affected other areas also, that is in Tamil Nadu and in Lakshwadeep. As we all know, the State of Kerala has a very long coastal area of 650 kilometres. So, either in tsunami or in the cyclone, when it affects, it affects to a large extent in all the coastal districts. The most affected area in this connection is Trivandrum and Kollam districts. Other districts are also partially affected. It has seriously affected the fishermen who live on the basis of fishing. Some of them have already gone to the sea before the information was received. We know that in the coastal area there is no other livelihood as far as the fishermen are concerned.

Sir, the tears and pains as stated by other Members is unimaginable because they are still waiting and they do not know whether their parents will be coming back or not. Now, we have got the report that 76 persons have died. But at the same time, we have the information. We are getting the boats from Maharashtra or from Goa or from Karnataka. It is because of the strong wave that it has gone to some other destinations. Whatever may be the reasons, the people especially the fishermen in the coastal area are suffering much and 76 is the number of persons who have lost their lives.

As far as the houses are concerned, there are 30,000 houses partially damaged and 350 houses are fully damaged. As far as the students are concerned, they lost their parents and many of them have lost their lives. This is true as far as many of the families are concerned.

As far as the agriculture sector is concerned, the coastal area is fully damaged. Either it is the production or the cultivable area which is fully damaged. It was already stated by Shri K.C. Venugopal. It is painful to say that the students were not able to go to the schools just because they lost their parents and their houses. As stated by Bhartruhari Ji, when these natural calamities come, the most difficult situation that the State Government faces is the complete damage of infrastructure facilities. It is either electricity or the roads or other facilities that we have. So, it is imaginable that how much we have to address on this. The only livelihood that the fishermen have, as you said is to go to the sea. Due to the serious effects of the cyclone, many of the boats, though they have started from Kerala, have gone to Tamil Nadu or to Maharashtra or to some other place. The State Government has already declared Rs. 25 lakh to those who have lost their live and rupees five lakh was declared to be given to those who were severely injured. All medical facilities are extended to all the affected families and persons. Some

of the fishermen who are admitted in other hospitals either in Mangalore or in other States, we are extending our medical help to them also. We are giving free ration to all the families of the coastal area. We know that the financial assistance and the kind words would not compensate the big loss that we have to suffer.

Kerala has not experienced such a terrible situation for the last 100 years. So, my learned friend is unaware of Kerala. That is why, he has made such a wrong statement. I do not want to go into those details. So, for the last 100 years, we have not had such a terrible situation.

I appreciate that our Prime Minister has visited it; our Defence Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman has visited it; the President of the Congress Party, Shri Rahul Gandhi has visited and many other leaders have also visited, for it is really the duty of the political leaders to share the tears of these people. So, this is not the time to blame the Government as to what they do or what they do not do. According to reports, there is a big loss in the agricultural sector. There is a loss of 7,816 acres of land as a result of this big cyclone. The Chief Minister of Kerala has met the Prime Minister and other Ministers. We have already given the representation. We, the MPs of both sides, either the LDF or the UDF, met the Prime Minister and made our representation but we need an immediate assistance from the Central Government.

Sir, it is true that there is a Natural Calamity Fund. That can be given at any time. According to the rules of that Fund, Kerala has to get Rs.240 crore--75 per cent from the Central Government and 25 per cent from the State Government. But a small portion is now allotted by the Government and that is not at all sufficient to meet the demand.

So, considering all these facts, our Government of Kerala has taken up a comprehensive scheme. So, we have demanded Rs.7,345 crore because there is loss in the agricultural sector; there is loss of houses; there is loss of persons and there is loss of infrastructural facilities. So, it is a long-term process of action that we have to take. I fully agree with Shri Venugopal that on this issue we should take a new chapter in our approach. It is not to blame any of the Governments because we have no modern equipment. We have got ordinary boats. Our fishermen have got the ordinary boats. Even for the Coastal Guards, it is insufficient to meet the demand. Also, we have to give the modern equipment. So, both the Central and the State Governments have to think about this. It is because whenever we experience the natural calamity, we think about it and after that we are forgetting it. So, this is the time to take it seriously.

Also, I strongly demand from the Government that this should be declared as a national calamity because there were such instances in Jammu and Kashmir; there were such instances in Mumbai and also in some other States. So, in such instances, we had declared it as a national calamity. So, here it is the question of the life of the people, life of the infrastructure; life of the wealth of the nation and also of

the States. So, this is the time to declare it as a national calamity. The State Government has already requested the Central Government towards this.

The other issue I want to say about is, according to the norms prescribed by the CRF, you see, if we lost a house, we may get only Rs.96,000. We know that it is a very meagre amount. The Government of Kerala has decided to give houses to all the affected families in the coastal area. We have a scheme of 'The Life' to give house to a person who has no house or who has no land. Here the compensation that is fixed earlier is very, very meagre. Also, when a boat is lost, only Rs.9,600 is given as compensation. Really, its cost may be Rs.2 lakh or Rs.3 lakh. That is true as far as the net is concerned. It costs Rs.600 or Rs.1,000. But a boat costs about Rs.2 lakh or Rs.3 lakh. So, that also has to be reviewed.

So, in this situation, while I appreciate the visit of the Prime Minister—we also met the Prime Minister—we want to get a very, very immediate assistance because we have to give a compensation of Rs.25 lakh. I admire that the Central Government has declared Rs.2 lakh but it is very, very insufficient. It is not at all sufficient to meet their loss. So, considering all these issues, not as the issue of Kerala or Tamil Nadu or Lakshadweep, not as the issue of the blamed State Governments and the Central Government, this should be really considered as an issue on humanitarian consideration, and the Central Government should take such a very, very serious efforts. We, the Members from Kerala, not only the Members of Kerala but also from other States also, request the Central Government—the affected places are Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep, and Lakshadweep is under the Central Government—to declare it as a national calamity and take all efforts to share the tears of these fishermen and restore the faith and trust of the people. That can be done only by action and not by words. I think that the Central Government should take such a serious measure on this issue. Thank you, Sir.

*SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA) : Hon'ble Chairman Sir, Indian philosophy teaches us to see god in every living being, whether it is in nature, or in human being. We see god in the heart of everyone. It is the real strength of our country. We have achieved a lot of progress in science and technology. Since the good old days one or the other form of natural calamities such as drought, flood, famine, cyclone is taking place in various parts of the country time and again. It is not a new phenomenon. But this time the 'Cyclone Ockhi' has shaken the entire southern part of the country, particularly the states of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. These places were severely affected by this deadly cyclone Ockhi. It also affected my parliamentary constituency, Dakshina Kannada district in coastal region of Karnataka. It is very unfortunately as it has created havoc especially in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep. At this juncture I would like to

draw the kind attention of all that as soon as the information received, our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has sent his cabinet colleague Smt. Nirmala Seetharaman ji to infuse confidence in the hearts and minds the affected people. Further, he himself visited all the affected regions in Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep and instructed the authorities concerned to take all measures to mitigate the agonies of the affected families and people. All these steps could ensure relief and rehabilitation measures reach the affected people without any delay. I would like to say that it is the example we set. Our NDA Government is not a "Soot-boot Government", our Government doesn't believe in words but in prompt actions. Our Government is for the farmers, our Government is for the fishermen, our Government does everything to protect the people, whenever they are in crisis. It is proven by our Hon'ble Prime Minister on many occasions. That is why I whole heartedly congratulate him and also express my gratitude to him on behalf of people of Southern India.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Most of the affected coastal area is under Kerala. That is the reason.

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL : The deadly cyclone Ockhi killed 87 people. 70 are from Kerala and 17 are from Tamil Nadu. More than 800 fisherman are still missing. As per the available statistics and reports more fisherman from Kerala were killed than Tamil Nadu. I would like to point out that the Government Kerala had not taken immediate measures to pass on the instructions given by the IMD to fishermen. And no adequate preventive measures were taken to shift the fisherman to safer places; if the Government of Kerala had taken the steps on the lines of Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep, the number of casualties of Kerala fishermen could have been reduced. It is clearly the 'failure' on the part of Kerala Government. I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Members some earlier incidences that our Hon'ble Prime Minister was in aboard trip at the time of when the massive fire incident reported in Kollam. However, he curtailed his foreign trip and visited Kollam to take stock of the situation arising due to the unfortunate fire tragedy in Kollam. And also the immediate measures he took to rescue the fishermen in the Cyclone Ockhi ensure that the compensation reach the affected person in all the incidents or calamities in the country. Our beloved Prime Minister has set the best example to all the State Governments and Chief Ministers they should respond promptly to the situations such as natural calamities and fire accidents. I would request all the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of the State Governments that they must help to mitigate the agonies of affected people.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I want to say that it is not right. He is not telling the right thing. In 2014, Dr. Manmohan Singh visited the affected areas the next week itself. He visited that place within three-four days. ... (*Interruptions*) He met the victims also. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Hon. Member, please sit down. Nalin ji, please continue your speech.

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL : I would also like to point out that the Government of India has taken all possible steps. Essential materials and shelter etc were provided to the affected people in

these regions. I would recall the services rendered by the Indian Navy. Coast guards and Disaster Management Authorities in rescuing the people affected to cyclone Ockhi. I congratulate them. I would like to request the Union Government to take all necessary steps to encourage our scientific community to conduct research and studies to provide accurate and clear information about the weather condition well in advance. So that it would help the authorities and the respective Governments to act in time to save precious lives of people, and protect the valuable infrastructure and properties of the country. More over it also help the farmers to save their standing crops and prevent losses.

I would further like to point out that the State of Karnataka has been facing the problems of various forms of natural calamities from the last one and a half decade. Some parts of the State are having drought and other parts are suffering from flood, etc., the state has lost thousands of crores of rupees due to vagaries of nature. For example since my Dakshina Kannada district is situated in coastal region, it has been facing the problem of "Sea Erosion" every year. Fishermen are forced to shift their dwelling units from one place to other, due to sea erosion. Huge number of fishermen facing difficulties.

Every year the Government is spending money on various measures to prevent soil erosion. But it is not yielding any desired result. Hence I would like to suggest that Government should take some effective steps to erect permanent walls to check the soil erosion using state of the art technology. The Government should use modern technology and also best available measures at the international level to put an end to this menace.

I hope that such permanent measures would protect not only fishermen but also common people, including farmers, women, and children from facing any uncertainties. I would say that spending money on permanent measures to put an end to sea erosion would yield appropriate and desired result.

Apart from these measures the State Governments should take better decisions to utilize their own resources to prevent such problems instead of blaming the Government of India. If this is done, it helps to check the loss of public properties and infrastructures such as road, bridge, electricity etc. I would also request the State Governments to take measures for the Welfare of all the people as it is taken by the NDA Government under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

I would like to say that if the Kerala Government would have shown the concern to save the lives of fishermen, as it was done by the Central Government. Many lives of fishermen were saved in Tamil Nadu, and Lakshadweep because of the prompt action of the State Governments. The Government of Kerala has taken all the steps to protect 'murderers' but not done enough in the case of fishermen suffering due to cyclone Ockhi.

SHRI P.K. BIJU : Has the Central Government given information about it to the State of Karnataka separately? ... (*Interruptions*) We got the bulletin from INCOIS for print and visual media and others

concerned for public attention on 30/11/2017 at 1.30 pm. ... *(Interruptions)* We received a bulletin from IMD for public attention on 30/11/2017 at 9 pm. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL: The State Government of Kerala was informed about the cyclone Ockhi and about the missing of hundreds of people. Even then these is no adequate steps taken by the State Government to trace out their missing fishermen. I would like to say that in Dakshina Kannada district of Karnataka the authorities have informed to fishermen about the warnings issued by the IMD, similarly Lakshadweep and Tamil Nadu Governments also issued instructions to their fishermen. That is the reason why the number of casualties of fishermen is very low these. I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Members that two boats of Mangaluru were found in Lakshadweep. Soon, the Government has taken measures rescue and inform the concerned authorities in Mangaluru in Karnataka. So no tragedy is reported due to appropriate measures taken by the Government of Lakshadweep. Whereas Kerala Government has failed to take necessary steps in mitigating the tragedy. If the Kerala Government alerted the fisherman about the weather conditions as soon as it had received information from the Central Government, many precious lives of fisherman could have been saved.

SHRI P.K. BIJU : You cannot decide about it. We won 91 out of 146 seats in Kerala. ... *(Interruptions)* The people of Kerala believed in us, and will have faith in us in the future also. ... *(Interruptions)* There need not be any doubt about it at all. ... *(Interruptions)* You have tried to create a situation in Kerala, but it did not work out in Kerala. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. He is speaking, and the hon. Member is on his legs.

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL : So, I would once again say that the NDA Government under the dynamic leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji has been successful in taking all kinds of welfare measures for fisher folk, farmers, labors and all the sections of the society. Had the Kerala Government followed the similar steps, fishermen and all people of Kerala, could have been rescued from the cyclone Ockhi. Our Hon'ble Prime Minister and our NDA Government has been successful in winning the hearts and mind of the people of Kerala.

SHRI P.K. BIJU : Sir, he is attacking and accusing the State of Kerala. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL: Before concluding my speech I once again express our gratitude to our Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji, and Hon'ble Minister for Defence Smt. Nirmala

Sitharaman Ji for showing concern for the people affected by cyclone Ockhi.

Thank you sir.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to speak on the natural calamity, the Cyclone Ockhi, which took place in South of India and affected the States of Kerala, Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Lakshadweep very badly. According to estimates, 120 people have died from Tamil Nadu and Kerala. In Kerala, it is reported that 77 people have died; 100 are missing; and about a thousand houses have been destroyed.

On behalf of the people of West Bengal, I extend my sympathies to the people of these States, and offer condolences to the families who have lost their people. It is a terrible thing to be caught in an open sea in a cyclone. It shows how helpless man is against nature! With small fishing boats to go out fishing, deep into the sea, and then, the cyclone strikes; the sea becomes unruly. Human beings are helpless. That is what happened in Kerala and Lakshadweep and Tamil Nadu, especially in the district of Kanyakumari, which I would describe a little later.

Sir, since the cyclone, the Kerala Government has announced Rs.25 lakh to those who have died; the Tamil Nadu Government has allotted Rs.20 lakh to the families of those who have died; and help is being extended. The Kerala and Tamil Nadu Governments have also submitted their demands to the Government of India. Even yesterday we learnt that the Centre has not yet sent its team. Only after the Team goes, makes its report; comes back to the Home Minister, then, the meeting will be held, and then the money will be released. At this point, we must reach succour to those who have been harmed by the Ockhi, those whose boats have been destroyed; those whose houses have been destroyed; and those who have lost the next of kith and kin.

But while we discuss Ockhi, one or two points needs to be mentioned that while nobody can prevent a natural calamity, what human beings can do is to give advance warning so that people can take precautions. Unfortunate thing is that the cyclone struck land, at its landfall, on the morning of 30th November. The Indian Meteorological Department issued its cyclone warning at noon on that day. Most of the people had gone into the sea by that time. So, the warning did not reach them.

Now, two points were cited. First is that people in the West Coast are not used to cyclones. People in Odisha, your State, or in Andhra or the eastern seaboard of Tamil Nadu are more used to cyclone. We had Phailin; we had Hudhud; and we had the worst supercyclone in Odisha in 1999. There, the early warning system is in place; in Kerala particularly, this early warning system failed. I do not want to go into accusation but the Kerala Chief Minister, Mr. Pinarayi Vijayan, whether he has done it politically or not, he has openly alleged that Kerala was not warned about the cyclone by the Centre. No

advance warning on cyclone – Kerala CM. Shri Vijayam said that the first information the State Government got was on 30th noon. There is no advance information of cyclone Ockhi at all.

Our colleague, Dr. Shashi Tharoor has written a letter to the Centre to enquire into why there was this lapse in warning people. If they had issued warning in time, then much loss of lives could have been avoided, and maybe much damage to property could have been avoided. Sir, you will realise that the problem with the cyclone was that this originated in the South West of Sri Lanka. Normally what happens, cyclones travel upwards at the rate of 13-14 km. an hour.

14.00 hrs

People expected it to go towards Maldives. But, instead of going towards Maldives, it came towards the Lakshadweep and the Kerala side. People were taken totally by surprise. As I said, normally the Arabian Sea is cooler than the Bay of Bengal. As a result of this, less cyclones take place in the Arabian Sea than in the Bay of Bengal. That has led to a state of mind. What is immediately necessary is to look into the early warning systems in place in Kerala and in the Southern part of Tamil Nadu as also Lakshadweep. I had been to the picturesque Island of Lakshadweep. It is totally a small pearl in the middle of the sea. People are helpless in Lakshadweep and in Kavarati. This early warning system ought to be in place so that the routine is worked out properly.

Nobody knows as to how many people have been missing. Our Defence Minister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman went on the 4th of December. But, still the Indian Navy is searching. There is also a complaint that there was a delay by the Coast Guard and the Navy is putting their ships into action. In Kerala and particularly in Tamil Nadu, fishermen have complained that they had told the Coast Guard personnel to take some local fishermen with them on the ship because they would know as to where the fishermen go to find the source of fishing. But, it was refused in the initial stage. So, in our inquiry, we must find out as to why there was no sufficient early warning. Why did the Coast Guard refuse to cooperate with the fishermen and their representatives?

The Centre has given Rs.325 crore up till now. The Kerala Government has sought a package of Rs.7,340 crore. The Prime Minister went to Tamil Nadu on 19th of December, almost more than two weeks after the incident. The Tamil Nadu Government also submitted their demand. The Home Minister is sitting here. In Tamil Nadu, the National Highway 98 and the State Highway 75 have been totally destroyed.

The cyclone warning systems have let down the fishermen of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. As it is, the Tamil Nadu fishermen are tortured. They are captured by the Sri Lankan Navy. Kerala fishermen suffer from the attack of the trawlers and again from the nature's fury. The nation must extend its helping hand to these people who brave the forces of nature to go out into the sea to catch fish and to help our people.

I can well realise the sort of misery people in Dr. Shashi Tharoor's constituency Thiruvananthapuram because the tip of India was the most affected. Strangely enough, the Indian Space Research Organization has its headquarters in Thumba, Thiruvananthapuram, which is the affected area. That is the affected area. From a satellite, you can see clear images of cyclone forming but why Kerala, where ISRO is located, could not know is a tragic thing which has to be looked into.

There is a problem relating to disaster relief. Yesterday we discussed about floods in Bengal in the months of June, July and August. The money for these floods has not still been released. There is delay at the Central level. They say, 'You have got State relief fund. We will decide about the national disaster relief fund later.' But when such a cyclone or natural calamity takes place decisions should be taken in a jiffy, more quickly. There is an urgent need to review the deployment of search and rescue aircraft and vessels by Coastguard and the Navy in the vicinity of Thiruvananthapuram. All these matters need to be looked into.

You would be surprised that the wind was so strong that fishermen in Kerala went all the way up to the Maharashtra coast and took shelter there. You can imagine, they crossed the whole coast of Karnataka and went to Maharashtra! So, it was a really terrible thing. They should be compensated for the loss of boats. The Government should swing into action on this matter and we must have a figure from the Government of India telling us according to their reports exactly how many fishermen have been killed till now and how many fishermen are still missing because people in the coastal areas are searching for their relatives in Thiruvananthapuram and in all the other places.

I thank you for allowing this discussion. We are not from these areas but our heartfelt sympathies are there for the people of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Lakshadweep.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Thank you, Chairman Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak in this special discussion on the happening of the Ockhi cyclone.

First of all, on behalf of our State and our Party, we would like to extend our sympathies and concern to all the families which have lost their family members in this unfortunate event. On behalf of the State of Kerala, we would request the Central Government that whatever demand has been put forward, irrespective of the parties and irrespective of the places they come from, to take complete responsibility and hold up their right in serving justice to the State of Kerala, and also to Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep.

I speak here because I come from the coastal region of Srikakulam in the State of Andhra Pradesh. We are not totally new to cyclones. If you take our history in the last five years, we have had major cyclones: in 2012, we had Cyclone Phailin; in 2014, we had Cyclone Hudhud; in 2013, we had

Cyclone Laila. Recently in the month of November, we had an early warning of another cyclone which was missed but we had heavy floods in our region.

If you see in our region in the yearly calendar, between the months of October and December, there is no November for us; there is only the cyclone month. What comes after October is the cyclone month. At the end of October, it brings so much fear in the minds of farmers, fishermen and people in general that they keep wondering what cyclone might come and what natural disaster might come. It is at this time that we have to think of bigger challenges, not just one cyclone at a time, based on the experiences that we have faced especially from the Cyclone Hudhud which was devastating for the north coastal Andhra Pradesh, especially for the city of Visakhapatnam.

I would like to put forward some suggestions to the Central Government. Sir, whenever this kind of a natural calamity happens in the country the Central Government sends the teams to assess the damage. I have to put forward this suggestion, Sir, because there had been a very big delay in finding out the extent of the damage that had happened in these places. When Hudhud had happened, the State Government within a week had assessed the primary damage and sent a list to the Central Government for the support of approximately Rs.16,000 crore. But the Central Government sent its own team. For a period of one month they went around the affected areas and came up with a different figure.

We appreciate the fact that the Prime Minister took time and visited the affected area. It helped us to build hope and confidence in the people but what was to be followed up was that sufficient amount of compensation reached the affected areas in a justified time. Like we say, 'justice delayed is justice denied', support delayed is also support denied. If you send any amount of money after six months or one year to these areas, when you have to send it within a week or two of its happening, it does not have the same effect. So, the Central Government should keep in mind that whatever support it intends to give to these areas, it has to be sent with immediate effect. That is one concern that I want to put forward to the Central Government.

There are a lot of Central Government schemes in terms of building up of infrastructure. We have the Housing Scheme, a special scheme of PMGSY for building up of roads and infrastructure. Whenever an event of such high magnitude happens, the Central Government should associate some of these schemes to these areas. The reason why I say this is, when Hudhud happened in my own constituency there were areas where the roads had been completely devastated. Till now we have not been able to lay down new roads in those areas. We have submitted sufficient proposals to the State Government as also the Central Government but sufficient support has still not been given. If they could have attached those areas with one of the already existing schemes then we could have a better chance of fulfilling the needs of that area. So, the Central Government schemes should be given priority in these kinds of affected areas. When that is done, the infrastructural loss that has happened in these areas can be covered up in a better way.

First of all, in these times, we have to remember the farmers and the fishermen community. They are the first ones to be affected. When it comes to the farmers of Visakhapatnam, Vizianagaram and Srikakulam, which are completely rural areas, a lot of paddy growers are involved. November is the harvest time for all these farmers. When the crop is ready to be harvested, when it comes to their hand, it has been destroyed time and again by calamities like this. Recently also, it pains me to say that, in November we again had four days of heavy floods which actually have damaged the complete crop of our district and also the adjacent district of Vizianagaram. For this reason I would request the Central Government to take up a special plan, at least in the coastal areas, to build storage facilities for these farmers because in these times they are totally helpless.

If you consider my district, every year the production of paddy is up to 10 lakh metric tonne but the storage capacity that we have is just a mere 2.5 lakh metric tonne. What about the extra production that we have? Even if we want to send it to other districts or other States, it takes at least one or two months. What happens to this paddy? It just lies on the fields, just lies in front of their houses waiting to be damaged. So, the Central Government needs to come up with a special plan to build up storage facility, especially for the agricultural production that happens along the coastal areas.

Also, when it comes to the fishermen community, they all are registered under the insurance scheme but they get entangled in the paper work. When they start the paper work, it takes a minimum of two to six months. For one year they do not get the necessary compensation which otherwise they should get. So, there has to be an effective mechanism. In times like this and when people are facing such pain and horror, we have to take extra responsibility in reaching out to them and we need to simplify the measures and ways by which we can send the money to the bereaved families. So, the Central Government should take the responsibility in simplifying the measures and in offering the compensation to the families, especially to the fishermen community. I need five minutes. I come from an area which is being continuously affected by cyclone.

When it comes to the businesses also, the companies get affected by the infrastructure. They also apply for insurance. My suggestion to the Central Government is this. The Central Government should, at least, give 50 per cent of the insurance claims immediately. It will help the companies to restart themselves. You know as to how much loss it is for the companies if they cannot run also. So, at least, from the insurance companies, if the Central Government takes the responsibility of offering them 50 per cent of the insurance in the immediate aftermath, then they can at least start their activity at the earliest.

What pinches me, time and again, is that we are terming all these disasters as natural disasters. But, what we have to keep in mind is that in some way, it is like a man-made disaster only. Whatever calamity has happened due to Ockhi cyclone, it is because of the warming of seas and it is associated with global warming, which is the doings of the humans itself. So, just by terming it as a natural

disaster, we are resisting ourselves to look into the preventive measures which need to be taken on behalf of human beings itself. Instead of looking at remedial measures, we also need to look at the preventive measures and as to how to effectively counter these kinds of global climate changes. I am coming from a coastal place. I have one suggestion. If you do a lot of afforestation in the coastal areas, it will actually protect the coastal community and will also help in countering the global climate change that we have. So, there are some innovative, simple and creative ideas that we can do to counter it. It might look like a very big cyclone for us, but small steps which are taken today, can effectively counter it in future. So, the Central Government should sit down with all the related departments – whether it is agriculture, business, industry or commerce and chart out a proper plan when it comes to natural calamities. Just by having one discussion whenever a calamity happens and just by sending some amount to the respective States, will not help in the future. It is time that we should all sit down together and chart out a proper plan in countering these kinds of natural calamities in the future.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to discuss on the natural calamities in various parts of the country, with special reference to Ockhi cyclone in South India. On behalf of my party, TRS, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the families affected by the cyclone. Human being boasts that he can fight anything against the Universe. But, we should realize that no person can fight against the Nature. The example is Ockhi cyclone. The natural calamities are not under our control. That is why, we believe in Almighty God. I go to Tirupati often to pray to Lord Venkateswara.

Sir, in the year 2017, we have seen a record number of floods across various States including Assam, Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, which claimed hundreds of lives. When the current Government took power, they had promised to make the country more disaster resistant. However, three years since the Government is in power, the top post in the National Disaster Management Authority is lying vacant. In July this year, the hon. High Court of Delhi had to intervene and asked the Government to fill the vacant post in the National Disaster Management Authority and National Institute of Disaster Management.

The post of Vice Chairman and the post of Secretary were lying vacant in NDMA since 2014 and there were no efforts to fill them. To effectively combat a disaster, the management needs proper guidance and coordination from the top authorities. Vacancies of crucial top posts for a long period affects proper functioning of the organization. This should have been taken care of in a timely manner by the government.

Now, I would like to raise certain issues of my home State of Telangana which it faces. Telangana suffers from irregular and unseasonal rainfalls. We have had drought months in August and

July and there was unseasonal excessive rainfall in the month of October of this year. We have a problem of drought which fortunately was not there this year but during the later part of monsoon season, there was the problem of excessive rainfall.

I would like to speak on the problems that arise due to such inconsistent rainfalls. During the initial period of monsoon season this year, there was an alarming crisis of drinking water due to deficit rainfall that had taken place last year. This acute shortage of drinking water is also caused due to pending issue of water sharing of Krishna River between erstwhile Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka. The Telangana Government sent an official letter to Karnataka Government in August of this year to release 15 TMC of Krishna water. Both the Water Tribunal and the Krishna River Management Board have been unsuccessful in settling the water sharing issue.

KRMB has been unable to even stop water diverting techniques used by Karnataka as well as by Andhra Pradesh. They have not been successful in convincing any of the States to divert water in times of acute need. In my own constituency, Mahbubnagar, there is a problem of drinking water shortage in many of the divisions. For 15 days in a month, water is not released from the Karnataka side.

This period of drought was followed by a period of excessive rainfall. Till mid-October of this year, around 98,000 hectares of sown land in Telangana was affected after two weeks of heavy unseasonal rainfall. In many places, the rainfall was way above the annual average. The State Agricultural Department assessed the damage caused and stated in the preliminary report that close to 1.3 lakh farmers got affected due to these rains. Now the farmers had sown cotton on over 49 per cent of the farm lands during the Kharif period. This cotton cultivation was spread over 1.9 million hectares. Out of this, around 73,000 hectares of cotton produce was damaged in the rains. Due to this, the farmers faced problems in selling their produce. There was no initial support from the Cotton Corporation of India. The cotton produced was of B Grade quality owing to the climatic conditions. We have to speak to the Minister of Textiles in this regard. She came to the rescue of cotton farmers this year. They supported in buying B Grade cotton also.

In cases of other commodities like paddy, there is procedure to purchase the produce in discoloured form if that is due to climatic conditions. Such a procedure should be extended to other produce such as cotton too. The Ministry of Textiles should take note of this. This time they have come forward and saved the farmers by buying the cotton. I would request Shri Radha Mohan Ji also to please help in buying the paddy and save the lives of the farmers when such an excessive rainfall is there.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I have been listening attentively to debate so far and I have to say that for me this is not a theoretical matter or second hand issue. I was there when the cyclone started. I was in Thiruvananthapuram, the night of the 29th and the 30th. I actually went out to the coastal area in the morning of the 30th. There were extremely heavy rains and howling winds. In fact, we were expecting the next day the visit of our party leader Shri Rahul Gandhi ji. I remember filming on my phone the posters and hoardings put up for him fluttering, flying about in the breeze and the tents that had been constructed for him for his function was already being ripped apart by the winds. I said that this function is not going to happen; this is going to get worse.

Having seen it from that point, I can assure you that what developed after that was a matter of intense personal concern because over the next few days I had the mortification, not just of watching it unfold and helping with some of the coordination of the response, including calling Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman at home and pulling her out and she was extremely helpful and responsive, calling the Coast Guard officials myself. Apart from all of that there is also the fact that I then had to go to the homes of those who were bereaved, either who had lost people certainly or whose people were missing, whose loved ones were missing.

There is really something terribly sobering to go to village after village; there is a billboard with photographs and names of the people missing, very often young people, teenagers in some cases, husbands, fathers, brothers. I had gone to a make-shift shrine where four women were waiting for the return of their loved ones and I lit *agarbattis* and prayed with them. I went to homes of people in which both children, in some cases both brothers, had gone. There were cases in which one brother had come back and another had disappeared under the waves. I remember walking into a church where every inch was occupied by the families of wailing women waiting for news of their loved ones. Some had lost her father; some had lost their brothers and sons and some were in complete despair because they had no place to go because their homes had also been shattered by the howling gust of wind.

This is a major national calamity and I urge the Government to recognise it for what it is. Frankly, in this part of the country hardly anyone paid attention because the Gujarat elections were on and that is what the media was focussed on. But the lives of hundreds of people have been affected. In Kerala 77 are certain, confirmed killed, still over a hundred missing almost certainly not likely to come back. In Tamil Nadu the numbers, particularly in Kanyakumari are also high. We have had lots of boats missing and a boat is not just a boat, and it is not just like using a car, it is a means of livelihood for poor people who have nothing else. Then you have the houses that have been damaged as well and the psychological trauma waiting for news of their loved ones. This really is a horrendous human tragedy that we in Parliament must truly grasp and understand the nature of.

I would like to say with deep respect to the Home Minister, who is here for us today, that there is no substitute for a serious enquiry into what happened. I have had the privilege of calling on the hon. Prime Minister both alone and subsequently with MPs from Kerala. When I met him alone I did say that it was extremely important that an enquiry be conducted so that we know exactly what happened. Take the debate that we had a little earlier today on the warning issues. Both sides, as you know, were shouting at each other here and I do not want to enter into that.

What I do want to say is that I have looked into this with some detail. I have the Indian Meteorological Department official's cyclone warning document -- The Standard Operating Procedures of the Indian Meteorological Department. According to that there are four stages. There is a pre-cyclone watch which would be for early potential disturbances; there is a cyclone alert which is supposed to be 48 hours before a cyclone; there is a cyclone warning 24 hours before and then post landfall outlook until the disturbances subside. Now, what have we got here? I have looked at the actual bulletins received in Kerala. I can tell you that there is only reference to a depression and deep depression. I have actually got the exact wordings. I do not want to waste the time of this House. I have conveyed this to the hon. Prime Minister also. At 11.50 am on 29th it says that there is depression over South-West in Bay of Bengal of Sri Lankan Coast; 30th at 5.30 am, it says deep depression over the Comorin area, that is Kanyakumari area and neighbourhood; at 8.30 am on 30th it still says deep depression over Comorin area and cyclone alert for Lakshadweep islands and it is only at 12 noon on 30th it says that it is the cyclonic storm Ockhi.

By that time, the cyclone had hit. People had gone out to sea as late as the previous night. May be those who had gone out two or three days earlier could not have been saved. The sad thing is, people who went out literally until such time as the cyclone hit could not be saved. To my mind, there is something to be looked at as how we allowed this to happen, how could precious human lives have been lost. I leave the question of blame game between the IMD and the State Meteorological Department to them. I think the Central Government, as a neutral player, should definitely conduct an inquiry into this issue. But this is not the only issue. There is very seriously the question of protocols and the equipment for search and rescue.

I do not claim to be objective or neutral. I am basing myself on the complaints of the fisher people and the people in the fishing villages who have spoken to me. They say, for example, that on the 29th night, when they first got the distress signals from some of their fishermen, the Coast Guards were unwilling to go out. They also claim -- the Coast Guard may not confirm this and we need to know what the truth is -- that when the Coast Guard did go out on 30th they could find nobody. In fact, I believe in the entire day they only found one person. That was unacceptable when there were hundreds or people out in peril at that time. They also pointed out that when the Navy got involved -- I am very pleased that

the Defence Ministry responded as soon as an appeal was made to them – they did not know where to look. The Coast Guard has a territorial limit of 12 nautical miles. They cannot go beyond that. But the Navy can go much farther. In fact, they can go as far as they wish. But they did not know where to look.

According to fisher people, for four days no one agreed to take the local people on-board the ships to actually find them. When the Navy went out, one of the people who went on board the Navy ship told me that they found a body floating, but the Navy said, ‘We cannot take this body because we have no facilities to keep the body on board. We not have no mobile ice boxes; we have no deep freeze facilities, etc. So, we cannot take the body’. This was a horrifying thing to the fisher people when families are waiting desperately for news of what happened to their loved ones.

I immediately called the Defence Minister from the village as soon as this news reached me. The Navy issued a statement saying that they have not refused to pick up anybody, but in the same statement they said that they are still in the process of acquiring mobile mortuaries. I think one can draw a very clear inference. They did not have it and the fishermen have no reason to tell a lie to me. So, these are very serious issues that also need to be the subject of a serious inquiry.

The third question is about the infrastructure. That also needs to be looked at. Prof. Saugata Roy very rightly mentioned about the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre and the satellite. It is not just the question of satellite. The Central Government has spent Rs. 20 crore on a Doppler radar system, that is supposed to warn about cyclones. What happened to that? Did it work or did it not work? If it worked, where did the information go? Who is responsible for neglecting the information? I think there my hon. friend, Prof. Saugata Roy is totally correct. The Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre is based there, and that too in Thumba in Thiruvananthapuram itself, in my constituency. Yet the information did not reach the people whose lives, therefore, could not be saved. That too needs to be looked at. I hope that the investigation would cover this.

Are our existing protocols adequate? What about the Joint Typhoon Warning Centre that was set up in US? Can we participate? Are there financial issues preventing us? We are being increasingly subject to weather disturbances. Let us face it. Global warming is making weather all the more unpredictable. It has been pointed out by an earlier speaker that normally typhoons are on the eastern side. They occur in Bay of Bengal not in the Arabian Sea side. Today we have seen a cyclone coming right from south-west Sri Lanka, pass Kanyakumari to Thiruvananthapuram and to Lakshadweep. This is news. We must prepare for this and if it means more expenditure please let us do this.

The fourth aspect of an inquiry must be deployment. Where are we deploying our search and rescue vessel capacity? I am sorry to say that there is very little in Thiruvananthapuram. The search and rescue aircraft and vessels that exist are actually in Kochi. That means we are losing half an hour to one hour each time even by air if we have to do any serious search and rescue. ... (*Interruptions*) There is

nobody in this House who is more affected than me. My constituency is the most affected. Please give me five minutes more.

Sir, 77 people from my constituency have died. I suggested to the Prime Minister and to the Defence Minister that we set up, in our country, the marine equivalent of the Territorial Army. We have a Territorial Army. If one day, God forbid, there is a serious war, we will be pressing the Territorial Army into service. Why can we not do this at the level of the Coast Guard for our fisher people? We can hire people from the fishing community – people who understand the sea, people who understand the problems, they understand where the fisher people are going – give them one month's training, recruit them and thereafter they can go back to their normal profession and then, perhaps, whenever there is a natural calamity and search and rescue issue, we can bring them on board and get them to go. If the reason why the Coast Guard and the Navy initially did not accept these people is because they felt that they are not professionally trained, then my suggestion to the Home Minister would actually respond to this need because you would be able to train them and as trained people, they would be able to go on these Naval Ships and guide them to rescuing lives. This is my humble request to the Government.

I finally want to end on the issue that everybody has already spoken about because I realise there is not much new to be said and that is the question of compensation. The fact is that when the Finance Minister replied yesterday to the discussion on the Supplementary Demands, I suggested that there should be a serious compensation package. But he only referred to the existing national disaster funds that are administered by your Ministry. Now you know, Sir, that that is not adequate. The entire Prime Minister's Relief Fund is only Rs. 153 crore whereas for this crisis alone, we have got, from the Kerala Government, a request for Rs. 7,348 crore and from the Tamil Nadu Government, I believe the request is for about Rs. 9,000 crore. Frankly, it needs, if necessary, a separate appropriation to deal with this calamity. Let me stress that it is not just compensating the families of those who have lost their lives or those who have been injured. There, you can give Rs. 25 lakh as the Kerala Government is giving or Rs. Five lakh to the injured and you can add some money to rebuild houses. But this is not enough. We need some structural steps to be taken so that the money that we are asking for from the Central Government can be used constructively.

My colleague has mentioned about *Pulimuttu*, sea walls that break the force of the water. That is one thing certainly on which resources have not adequately been devoted. I can assure you about this because I go up and down my coastal areas. We do not have enough of these and, in fact, whatever building occurred, it occurred many years ago and there have not been resources available. I would go beyond that. I would say that your team should go at the earliest and look not only at immediate needs prompted by the disaster, but also at medium term and long term needs. Amongst the medium term needs, I would stress very much the necessary infrastructure that I have just mentioned. But equally in the longer term needs, I would like to request that this is the time when we have to think in a visionary

way. Can we live in a society in which the children of fishermen are condemned to only being fishermen? Can we not give them serious vocational training and skill development so that many of them can move away from this profession? I would say that both agriculture and fishing are now in a position where more people are trying to live from these professions than the professions are able to sustain. This is a very serious challenge facing our country. If we approach it with vision, we have to say that we do not need so many people on the farms, we do not need so many people out at sea. There is so much desperation. As an MP, I have had cases of the boats of the fishermen from my constituency being arrested in Diego Garcia by the British. They have gone that far because they cannot get adequate fish in the waters closer to India. We have over-fished these waters. So, the livelihood issue is serious and, I believe that we should take the opportunity of this disaster to approach the matter with vision and conviction and come up with a solution that will give us a long term solution to the problems of the entire fishing community.

I do want to add one final word of appreciation. I do realise that when we, in Parliament, seem to be critical, it is because the criticisms are coming to us that we are also, perhaps, coming across as ungrateful. I want to place on record our gratitude to all the men and women of the Coast Guard and the Navy. I have spoken to some of them and they have done as much as they could, I am sure, and with the best heart. I do not want anyone to think that we are ungrateful or that the fishing community is ungrateful. So, I appreciate, as I said earlier, the responsiveness of the Central Government.

I spoke to Nirmala ji on 30th and by 4th of December, she was there personally. The Prime Minister had been there a couple of days ago. This is good and we appreciate the fact that the Central Government is giving importance to this issue. We will not say the importance it deserves because for us there it deserves even more and more urgent importance but there is some importance. I will be very grateful, if, in addition to the gratitude, the long-term outcomes reflect your commitment to resolving this. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir.

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Sir, thank you very much for allowing me to participate in this discussion on Ockhi cyclone affected areas under Rule 193.

On 29th, we got the information that there is a huge cyclonic effect going to happen. On the same day, I think, in the evening, I spoke to the hon. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh ji over phone. He was very well available on phone and we spoke to each other. I updated him about the situation. Immediately, he said: "The Home Ministry is there with you for all support." On the very next day, on

30th, under the Chairmanship of our Administrator Farooq Khan, we had a meeting with top officers. We passed the information to all the Islands, the sub-Divisional offices, took precautionary measures as the cyclone was likely to hit Lakshadweep, especially, Minicoy and Kalpeni Island, etc. With these precautionary measures, thanks to God, no causality happened in Lakshadweep. On the 30th night, around 2.30 a.m., it started hitting Kalpeni and Minicoy Islands very badly. To my knowledge, after 1968, we had a big hit of cyclone in Kalpeni, after that this is the most dangerous one that Lakshadweep has ever witnessed. Since the precautionary measures were very good, we had closed schools by declaring holidays. All the schools were opened as rehabilitation centres. People who had taken shelter at sea shores, we rescued and rehabilitated them in schools. I would like to extend my thanks to the people of Lakshadweep who have cooperated with the Lakshadweep Administration very well. Normally, what happens is that people never leave their houses to come to rehabilitate areas. Therefore, once again, I would like to extend my thanks to the people of Lakshadweep for their cooperation. On the very next day, the 30th night, at around 2.30 a.m., this cyclone had hit these two islands very badly. I was not able to communicate back to those islands because the communication measures were damaged. There was no electricity. There was no source of communication available. So, I personally took this matter again to the Home Minister saying: "Sir, this is the issue and we are not in a position to contact the people over there, especially, the people of these two Islands." By God's grace, around 10 o'clock, I got connected with the people. Then I got the visuals of these Islands. You cannot imagine the force of water flushing inside the Islands. It has crossed half of the Island too. It has damaged all the compound walls. Nearly, one lakh coconut trees were uprooted.

When you speak about the fishermen and their fishing boats, in Minicoy Island, I personally walked into all the houses of the affected areas. In Minicoy Island, where nearly 15 fishing boats are there, which are most sophisticated and which cost nearly Rs. 30 lakh to Rs. 40 lakh per boat, by seeing with their naked eyes, they could not do anything. That was supposed to be the safest area, lagoon area, I would say, even in that area, they were not in a position to save their boats. When I stepped into their houses, they asked me: एमपी साहब अब हम क्या करेंगे? हमारी सोर्स ऑफ इनकम यही था। हमने पिछले साल लोन लेकर इस बोट को खरीदा था और यही हमारी आमदनी का सोर्स है। अब हम क्या करेंगे, हमारी फिशिंग बोट खराब हो गयी है। मिनीकॉय और कल्पेनी द्वीप में तीन करोड़ रुपये का नुकसान फिशिंग बोट का हुआ है।

When we talk about coconut trees in Minicoy, one lakh coconut trees have been uprooted there. Rest of the coconut trees standing now seem to be non-fertile. It is because, the wind which was blowing to Minicoy Island was blowing at the speed of nearly 135 kilometres per hour. You can imagine, wind blowing at the speed of 135 kilometres per hour for eight hours continuously and going like a round. The fertility of coconut trees are damaged. Now, entirely, the Minicoy Island is not in a position to get coconut. Now we have to transport it from other islands to Minicoy Island. That itself is a very huge damage.

Thirdly, in Minicoy, several houses partially got damaged. All roofed houses have been taken away by wind. Wind has taken away all the roofs of houses. Falling of coconut trees on houses has completely damaged them. The amount of damage to these two Islands has contributed nearly to Rs. 150 to Rs. 300 crore. When we took a meeting of Parliamentary Standing Committee on MHA yesterday, Lakshadweep Administration is yet to give the correct quantum of assessment of loss happened so far. The Lakshadweep Administration falls under the direct control of the Home Ministry. So, I would request the Home Minister to take initiation to get the assessment as quickly as possible and also the compensation thereof. As was said earlier, the fishermen who had their fishing boats there, their livelihood has stopped now. The solace which the Government is envisaging to give, that should be given in a very fast mode and it should not be delayed.

I have to put some suggestions for the future aspect of Lakshadweep. As you know, Lakshadweep is surrounded by seawater. There is no shelter for anything. There is no protection wall as of now constructed. A total of 26 islands are there out of which 10 are inhabited. The 10 inhabited islands would constitute nearly 100 kilometres area. We have requested even the Prime Minister also. When he visited Lakshadweep, he had a serious view on these Islands. He had a discussion with the elected representatives also. In that also, I have requested the hon. Prime Minister – I am requesting the Home Minister also – to have a retention wall, a protection wall around the islands so that they can be protected against the force of water to a certain extent. At the same time, we need shelter in all the islands. Whenever such huge cyclonic effect is happening in the islands, we need to have a shelter, a breakwater type of a thing so that our boats, motor sailing vessels can be sheltered inside the island very safely.

I would like to mention one more thing. In the capital island, Kavaratti Island, on the 30th night, a motor sailing vessel which we call dhow, which carried around 150 metric tonnes, which is an active transport for the livelihood of people from Mangalore and Calicut to Island, this dhow was there in the eastern side of Kavaratti Island. Before the cyclone hitting Kavaratti Island, it was very well available in Kavaratti. But we could not do anything. Even the presence of Coast Guard and Navy was there in the Island but they could not do anything to save this vessel. For the whole day, the vessel was in the mid sea. Finally, by God's grace, there was a ship of Lakshadweep Administration, in outer named MV Kodithala. They went and rescued the persons from the boat. They had to abandon the ship. So, taking all these aspects into consideration, I would urge upon the Home Ministry to release the solace, the help as quickly as possible so that especially the fishermen who have lost their boats, who have lost their source of income, could get relief. Please look into that matter and release the grant as quickly as possible.

Thank you very much, Sir.

श्री जय प्रकाश नारायण यादव (बांका) : सभापति महोदय, यदि आपका आदेश होगा तो मैम्बर्स बोलेंगे नहीं तो नहीं बोलेंगे। हमारी पार्टी को भी पांच से सात मिनट का समय मिलना चाहिए।

महोदय, सदन में एक अति महत्वपूर्ण विषय पर चर्चा हो रही है। देश में जो प्राकृतिक आपदा (नेचुरल कैलामिटी) आई, उस पर सदन में चर्चा हो रही है। पूरे दक्षिण भारत में खासकर केरल और तमिलनाडु में इसके कारण परेशानी पैदा हुई है, उस पर होने वाली चर्चा में मैं हिस्सा ले रहा हूँ। प्रकृति ने देश को बहुत कुछ दिया है, जहां प्रकृति ने हमें हंसने का मौका दिया है, वहीं कभी-कभी हमारी खुशियां छीनकर हमारी आंखों में आंसू लाने का काम किया है। अभी जो तमिलनाडु और केरल के इलाकों में देखने का मौका मिला, जो आदरणीय श्री शशि थरूर जी का क्षेत्र है, सम्पत जी का क्षेत्र है और हमारे भाई, जो लक्षद्वीप से आते हैं, उनका क्षेत्र है। हम सभी इस दुख की घड़ी में उन इलाकों के अपने भाइयों के साथ हैं। मुझे लक्षद्वीप जाने का मौका मिला था, वह बहुत अच्छी जगह है।

मैं सबसे पहले मांग करूंगा कि इसे राष्ट्रीय आपदा घोषित किया जाए। यहां माननीय गृह मंत्री जी बैठे हुए हैं। वहां जान-माल का भारी नुकसान हुआ है और लोगों को बहुत परेशानी हुई है। इसलिए वहां के लिए अनुग्रह राशि बढ़ाई जाए तथा लोगों के पुनर्वास की व्यवस्था की जाए। उस इलाके में 125 वषों के बाद यह सबसे दुखद घटना घटी है। वहां के अनेकों लोग लापता हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि वहां संचार की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए तथा पहले से चेतावनी देने और लोगों की सुरक्षा की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, बेहतर नावों की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए तथा वहां जो मौसम का मिजाज अचानक बदलता है, उसकी पूर्व सूचना इलाके में मिलनी चाहिए। इसके अलावा समूचे देश में चाहे वह आसाम हो, बिहार हो, बंगाल हो या उत्तराखंड का इलाका हो, ऐसी घटनाएं घटती रहती हैं तथा दक्षिण भारत में भी ऐसी घटनाएं घटती रहती हैं। इसके लिए चाक-चौबंद इंतजाम होना चाहिए। अभी मैंने केरल और तमिलनाडु की दुखद घटना की चर्चा की। हम लोग भी बिहार के उस इलाके से आते हैं, जो हमारा बांका संसदीय क्षेत्र है। यह गंगा नदी के पाट के इलाके में बसा हुआ हमारा क्षेत्र है। जो हमारे सुलतानगंज, भागलपुर, कहलगांव, पीरपेंती, मुंगेर, बरियारपुर तथा झऊआ-बहियार के इलाके हैं, उन इलाकों में भी इस तरह की घटनाएं होती हैं तथा जान-माल की हानि होती है। हम यहां नमामि गंगे की बात करते हैं, गंगा की सफाई की बात करते हैं, लेकिन जब वहां गंगा में बाढ़ आती है तो लोगों की कई परेशानियां बढ़ जाती हैं, वहां लोगों की सुरक्षा नहीं हो पाती है। चाहे कोसी, घाघरा, गंडक या गंगा नदी हो, इनसे वहां बड़े पैमाने पर जान-माल की हानि होती है। फसल तथा फलदार वृक्षों की बरबादी होती है। इस सारी तबाही और बरबादी से सारे इलाके परेशान हो जाते हैं। हमारा क्षेत्र सुलतान गंज का इलाका, श्रीरामपुर का इलाका तथा अकबरनगर के अलावा और भी कई इलाके हैं, जो इसकी चपेट में आते हैं।

मेरी मांग है कि वहां दवाइयों की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, नावों की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए, गोताखोरों की व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए तथा समूचा सूचना तंत्र मजबूत होना चाहिए। अभी यहां लक्षद्वीप आदि इलाकों की चर्चा की गई। वहां रहने वाले लोगों को बहुत तरह की परेशानियां हुई हैं।

सभापति महोदय, अंत में मैं यहीं कहना चाहता हूँ कि जो प्राकृतिक आपदाएं आती हैं, उनसे देश के कई कोनों में बड़ी आपदाएं आती हैं, जान-माल की हानि होती है। जैसे अभी दक्षिण भारत, केरल और तमिलनाडु में हुई। हम लोग उनकी तकलीफ में उनके साथ हैं। मेरा निवेदन है कि वहां सरकार द्वारा अधिक से अधिक धनराशि मुहैया कराई जाए जाए, लोगों की सुरक्षा की जाए तथा बिहार में गंगा नदी और हमारा क्षेत्र जो सुलतानगंज का इलाका है, उन इलाकों को भी सुविधा देने की व्यवस्था की जाए।

इन्हीं शब्दों के साथ मैं अपनी बात समाप्त करता हूँ।

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you Sir for giving me this opportunity to intervene in this debate.

First of all, I would like to pay my tributes to the persons of poor fishermen who lost their lives and also pay my condolences to the family members of the bereaved families.

Sir, as rightly, just now, Mr. Shashi Tharoor, has narrated the incident in a well structured way, I would also like to submit before you the second worst affected district in the State of Kerala which is my constituency, the Kollam constituency. Kindly permit me some time so that I can substantiate my points just before the hon. Minister.

Sir, this is the second tragedy which my Constituency had to face. In 2016, there was a Puttingal Temple tragedy. In that, 108 precious lives were lost. And, this is the second tragedy which we are facing. So, the first submission which I would like to make is, this has to be considered as a national calamity. I know the hon. Minister may also reply that according to the National Disaster Management Act there is no provision for declaring it as a national calamity. Since 2000, the Act has come into force and there is no such provision. Even then, it is our humble request beyond all the political barriers that we, the people from Kerala as well as Tamil Nadu, Lakshadweep and all the States, are demanding unanimously that this should be considered as a national calamity and such a significance and importance should be given in giving the rehabilitation package and doing the relief measures. That is the first submission which I would like to make.

Regarding the condition of the fishermen in the coastal area, rightly Shri Venugopal has said that we are giving so many amenities, facilities, rights and privileges to the Adivasi and the Tribal people who are living in the forests and we have enacted a law also, that is, the Right to Forest Act. But if you see the living conditions of the poor fishermen in the coastal area, it is also in a very bitter shape. So, these fishermen in the coastal area should be compared and they should be considered as equal to that of the Adivasi people in the forest areas. If the Tribal people or the Adivasi people are having the right to forests, similarly the fisherman is having the right to sea or right to enjoy the sea. Such a privilege and right should be given to the fishermen. That is the second submission which I would like to make.

Regarding the other pathetic situation, I am not going to narrate it. I was there on 30th and on 1st and for the five days, I was in the coastal area, involved in the relief and rescue operations and visited so many houses and all that. We were all fully actively involved in this. Sir, regarding the disaster management, according to me, on perusal, there are mainly three stages. The first stage is to mitigate and minimise the impact of disaster by giving warning or by giving alert warning. The second stage is

the relief and rescue operations, and the third stage is the rehabilitation. These are the precautionary and preventive measures which have to be taken at the first stage, that is, what is called the 'alert warning'.

Sir, what is happening in this House and outside the House also is that a big political blame-game is going on. The Government of India is saying that sufficient warning has already been given to the State Governments but the State Governments have not acted upon the warnings given by the Indian Meteorological Department of the Central Government. That controversy is still there. When I hear my learned friend, Faizal, he is saying that in Lakshadweep they have taken all precautionary measures so as to prevent or mitigate the calamities or the casualties. So, as rightly Dr. Shashi Tharoor has pointed out, in order to clear the cloud of suspicion, an inquiry is highly essential and the responsibility has to be fixed. Who is responsible for this? The Government of India is saying that they have given intimation on 28th, 29th and 30th but the State Government is saying and even the Chief Minister has specifically and categorically stated in the Press Conference that the State Government of Kerala has received the cyclone message only by the noon of 30th of November. Which is the truth? The country wants to know at whose fault it has happened.

Suppose on 29th sufficient warning is given to the fishermen or on 30th sufficient warning is given to the fishermen, so many lives of poor fishermen could have been saved. So many lives of the poor fishermen could have been saved if sufficient warning has been given in the proper time. Unfortunately, that has not been done. So, my third point which I would like to make is that some responsibility has to be fixed so that it shall not happen in the future. So, those precautionary and preventive measures have to be taken.

Coming to the fourth point, that is, regarding the rescue and relief operations, the effort of the Government of India is clumsy. I was witnessing these operations in all these places. I also tried to contact the hon. Minister's office. I could get his Private Secretary and I had detailed all these issues also. I would say that for the first three days, the rescue operations were in a very bad shape. I can very well say and I could very well witness it. Even the Navy, the Coastguard, the Marine Enforcement—all these forces were not active for the first 2-3 days

15.00 hrs

After three days, we do admit that they did a wonderful service. We are not disputing that. But on the first three days of the calamity when the people were facing a lot of problems, these services were in a very bad shape and there was no coordination.

Sir, when the cyclone hit heavily, there was no warlike mobilization and action. That is the hallmark of disaster management! When a calamity takes place, an immediate warlike mobilization and

action is required. Unfortunately, in the Ockhi cyclone, such an action was not seen. No coordination was there. As a result of this, many precious lives were lost.

Sir, we are having the Disaster Management Act, 2005. The National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009 is there. There is also a Disaster Management Plan of 2016. Then, a National Response Force is also created by the Government of India. But, unfortunately, the services of these Forces were not satisfactory and upto the mark.

My next point is about rehabilitation.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Please conclude.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sir, I will conclude in just two minutes. We will finish it before 3.30 pm before the Private Members' Business.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, you please conclude it. Hon. Minister is here to reply on it.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Do you not want the reply of the hon. Minister?.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : Sir, we want the reply.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Shall I tell you one thing! You know the limitation. At 3.30 we have to start the Private Members' Business. I request you to be brief, please.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN : I thank the hon. Chair and the hon. Minister.

Regarding rehabilitation package, yesterday we intervened and said that disaster management and relief package is not sufficient. A separate relief package is required just like the Tsunami Rehabilitation Package. The Tsunami Rehabilitation Package is not according to the provisions of the Disaster Management Act. It is entirely different. So, in this case also, a separate package is required.

My last point is about certain suggestions. They are very important suggestions. ... (*Interruptions*) The coastal States should be empowered with sea disaster management systems. A Coastal Rescue Force has to be constituted.... (*Interruptions*) Warning systems should be revamped. Coastal protection should be given prime importance by constructing sea walls... (*Interruptions*) A separate Fishery Ministry is highly essential. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to participate in this discussion. On November 29th and 30th the country saw and especially most of the South Indian States saw the most devastating cyclone in South India, mainly in the State of Kerala. It has taken the life of almost more than 75 people and more than 300 fishermen are still found missing. After Tsunami, perhaps, this cyclone has been the most devastating one during the last two decades.

Here, I just want to be precise and make a point for submission and as the hon. Member, Shri Premachandran said, since it hit many people in most of the States, the Centre should declare it as a national calamity and there should be a comprehensive package for the fishermen.

Then, regarding lapse, I do not want to blame the Central Government or the State Governments, but definitely there has been a lapse with regard to the disaster management system; there has also been a lapse on the part of the Meteorological Department. If you take, for example, the case of advanced countries like America and Europe, whenever such a calamity takes place, a warning or an alert is given to the cyclone prone areas many days or sometimes weeks before. But here, what we find is that, the related warning is given just one or two days before its occurrence. It takes two to three days for fishermen to go for a catch into the deep sea and there is no way to communicate with them in such a short time when the calamity takes place.

Sir, as you know, with regard to information and technology, India is far ahead than any other country in the world. But still we do not have a system to warn and issue alert about such calamities well in advance.

Sir, another major point which I would like to mention is that the Fisheries Department nationwide has given about Rs. 35,000 to the nation as revenue. There is a high demand that the Fisheries Department should be converted into a separate Ministry, the Fisheries Ministry. As one of my colleagues mentioned, before the election, the BJP manifesto had mentioned that when they come to power, the Fisheries Ministry will be formed, but it has not been formed till date. My submission would be to form a separate Fisheries Ministry.

My last submission is that whenever such incidents take place, a team from the Centre visits the area which is affected. Generally, it takes months together or maybe years. But what we need is that immediate attention should be paid to it and immediately a team should visit the affected area, and assistance should be given as early as possible.

Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Hon. Members, as there is no member from the Panel of Chairmen available at the moment and I have to go for some urgent work, I request the senior Member Prof. Saugata Roy to preside over.

1517 hrs (Prof. Saugata Roy *in the Chair*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Now, there will be reply by the hon. Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): Sir, I was also supposed to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

माननीय सभापति: टाइम नहीं है। We have to take up Private Members' Business at 3.30 p.m. If the Minister cannot speak now, no reply will be given.

I know that you have many important points to raise.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let the Home Minister speak. Let him finish by 3.25 p.m. If you have any questions, you can ask them.

I will allow one question per Member.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can ask clarificatory questions. Yesterday, you asked questions to the Finance Minister.

The Home Minister is on his legs. So, it does not look nice.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Salimji, I will mention the name of West Bengal in my reply.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is true, but Parliament is bound by rules. At 3.30 p.m., we have to take up the Private Members' Business. What can we do? The Home Minister has to reply also.

Hon. Home Minister.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: सभापति महोदय, सबसे पहले तो मैं उन सभी सम्मानित सदस्यों को धन्यवाद देना चाहता हूँ, जिन्होंने साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म जैसी बड़ी ट्रेजडी के सम्बन्ध में अपने विचार व्यक्त किए हैं। इस ट्रेजडी के बारे में बहुत डिटेल में बताने से पहले मैं यह कहना चाहूंगा कि जैसा कि हमारे एक सम्माननीय सदस्य श्री प्रेमचद्रन ने कहा कि इसे एक 'नेशनल कैलेमिटी' डिक्लेयर किया जाना चाहिए, तो मैं प्रेमचद्रन जी से बहुत ही विनम्रतापूर्वक यह कहना चाहूंगा कि हमारी कुछ कम्प्लेक्स हैं, हमारी गवर्नमेंट की भी कम्प्लेक्स हैं और किसी भी गवर्नमेंट की कम्प्लेक्स हो सकती हैं। जो भी इस समय रूल्स, रेगुलेशंस अथवा प्रोवीजंस हैं, उनके तहत हम इसे 'नेशनल कैलेमिटी' डिक्लेयर नहीं कर सकते हैं, क्योंकि the scheme of SDRF and NDRF does not contemplate declaration of any natural disaster as a natural disaster or calamity, but I would like to say that the disaster has already been considered by our Government as a disaster of severe nature for all practical purposes. The Central Government stands shoulder to shoulder with the State Government for managing this disaster of Ockhi.

सभापति महोदय, मैं इस सदन को सूचित करना चाहूंगा कि वर्तमान वित्तीय वषण में देश के कई भागों में, चाहे वह फ्लड हो, चाहे साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म्स हों, जैसे बहुत सारे नैचुरल डिजास्टर्स से कई क्षेत्र प्रभावित हुए हैं, जिनमें लगभग दो हजार से अधिक लोगों की जानें गई हैं। इससे इम्पूवेबल और मूवेबल प्रॉपर्टीज़ का भी बड़ा लॉस हुआ है।

देश के सदरन स्टेट्स में हाल में ही साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म आया, जिसे हम "ओखी" कह कर पुकारते हैं, उसने भी बहुत बड़ी तबाही मचाई है। इस "ओखी" साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म ने तमिलनाडु, केरल और लक्षद्वीप के कई भागों में नुकसान पहुँचाया है। सबसे पहले इस स्टॉर्म में साउथ तमिलनाडु और साउथ केरल के कोस्टल एरिया को 13 नवंबर को दोपहर बाद ही प्रभावित किया था। लक्षद्वीप में यह तूफान लगभग एक दिसम्बर को पहुँच पाया था। इसके बाद, यह नॉदर्न कोस्टल महाराष्ट्र और सदरन कोस्टल गुजरात से लगते हुए इलाके में पहुँचा; लेकिन जब तक यह महाराष्ट्र और गुजरात के इन क्षेत्रों में पहुँचता, यह तूफान बहुत ही वीक हो चुका था और अब इसका कोई साइक्लोनिक इफेक्ट नहीं रह गया था।

हमारे बहुत सारे सम्मानित सदस्यों ने यह पूछा कि समय से इसकी सूचना नहीं दी गई। इसके संबंध में, मैं कहना चाहूंगा कि मिट्रियोलॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट ने 29 नवंबर को पूर्वाह्न 11:50 मिनट पर एक वार्निंग जारी की और हर तीन घंटे के बाद बुलेटिन जारी किया, जिसमें स्टॉर्म की विभिन्न स्थितियाँ, जो डीप-सी में साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म से और अधिक हाई इंटेन्सिटी वाले साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म में तब्दिल होने के बारे में बराबर जानकारियाँ दी जा रही थी।

वास्तव में, पहली सूचना इस डिप्रेशन के बनने के बारे में थी, जो कि अगले 48 टू 72 ऑवर्स के दौरान होने वाला था। यह सूचना ट्रॉपिकल वेदर "आउटलूट" में बारह बजे 28 नवंबर को ही जारी की गई। मिट्रियोलॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट ने यह भी कहा कि इस ट्रॉपिकल साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म, जो इक्वेटर के निकट डेवलप हुआ था, अपने आप में एक रेअर इवेंट था और यह स्टॉर्म वास्तव में रेअर था; क्योंकि यह डिप्रेशन से डेवलप हुआ और 24 घंटे के भीतर लेथल साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म में बदल गया। इसने बे ऑफ बंगाल के साउथ वेस्ट में डेवलप होकर एक एक्स्ट्रा-ऑर्डिनरी रास्ता अपना लिया और यह गुजरात के निकट वेस्टर्न कोस्ट पर जाकर समाप्त हो गया।

इस समुद्री तूफान के वएन 1891 से वएन 2016 तक के ऐतिहासिक आँकड़ों की तुलना करने पर पता चलता है कि यह एक ऐसा केवल चौथा साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म है जो 125 इयर्स में केरल के कोस्ट एवं लक्षद्वीप तक पहुँचा। इसके पहले, वएन 1912 में दो तथा वएन 2025 में एक साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म कॉमरीन-सी में उत्पन्न हुआ था, मगर साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म "ओखी" ऐसा पहला तूफान है, जिसकी रैपिड इंटेन्सिफिकेशन मात्र छह घंटे में डीप डिप्रेशन से साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म में बदल गई।

इसकी एक अन्य स्थिति यह है कि बे ऑफ बंगाल में इक्वेटर के निकट से शुरू होकर, यह साइक्लोन स्टॉर्म वेस्टर्न कोस्ट में गुजरात तक बढ़ा। ऐसी भी कुछ रिपोर्ट है कि स्टैंडर्ड प्रोटोकॉल के अनुसार सही समय पर चेतावनी जारी नहीं की गई।

सभापति महोदय, मैं बताना चाहूँगा कि स्टैंडर्ड प्रोटोकॉल के अनुसार मिट्रियोलॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट को मौसम के खराब होने से 48 आँवर्स पहले साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म का अलर्ट और 24 घंटे के पहले साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म की वार्निंग जारी करनी होती है। यह प्रोटोकॉल के अनुसार करना होता है, फिर भी इस मामले में बुरे मौसम की चेतावनी लगभग 24 घंटे पूर्व अर्थात् 29 नवंबर को पूर्वाह्न 11:50 पर जारी कर दी गई थी और फिशरमैन को भी अलर्ट कर दिया गया था। साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म के बारे में अलर्ट 30 नवंबर को प्रातः 05:30 एएम और वार्निंग 30 नवंबर को 11:55 नून में दी जा चुकी थी।

साथ ही साथ, इंडियन मिट्रियोलॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट के बुलेटिन के आधार पर एनडीएमए और मिनिस्ट्री ऑफ होम अफेयर्स के कंट्रोल रूम से भी रेगुलरली बुलेटिन जारी की गई। मिट्रियोलॉजिकल डिपार्टमेंट ने स्पष्ट किया है कि यह कॉमरीन-सी में मात्र छह घंटे में एक्स्ट्रा-ऑर्डिनरी इंटेन्सिफिकेशन के कारण अलर्ट हो अथवा वार्निंग, 30 नवंबर के फोरनून से पहले जारी नहीं किया जा सका। यह ओपन सी में साइक्लोनिक स्टॉर्म की इंटेन्सिटी से काफी अलग है, जो जनरली वे ऑफ बंगाल के सेंट्रल पार्ट और अरेबियन सी में होता है, जिसमें सामान्यतः एलर्ट अथवा वार्निंग जारी करने के लिए करीब 72 घंटे का समय उपलब्ध रहता है, क्योंकि डीप डिप्रेशन में साइक्लोन बनकर कोस्ट पहुंचने में कम से कम करीब 72 घंटे का समय लग जाता है। इस स्थिति से निपटने के लिए हमारी सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट ने जो कदम उठाए हैं, मैं बहुत ही संक्षेप में यहां पर उनकी चर्चा करना चाहूँगा।

केद्र सरकार ने तत्काल समुद्र में जो भी ऐसे हमारे फिशरमैन पड़े हुए थे, सर्च एंड रेस्क्यू के लिए इंडियन एयरफोर्स, नेवी एवं कोस्ट गार्ड के एरोप्लेन्स, शिप्स और हेलीकॉप्टर्स जो भी उपलब्ध थे, वे तैनात कर दिए। एनडीआरएफ की सात टीमों को तमिलनाडु और केरल के साइक्लोन अफेक्टेड एरियाज में लोकल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन को रेस्क्यू आपरेशन और मछुआरों की सर्च और उनका बचाव करने तथा सहायता देने के लिए तैनात कर दिया गया। राज्य सरकारों और साथ ही साथ यू.टी.ज. का जहां तक सवाल है, उसके साथ-साथ रक्षा मंत्रालय और केद्र सरकार के अन्य मंत्रालयों और विभागों के साथ निकट और नियमित कोआर्डिनेशन बनाए रखा गया। कैबिनेट सेक्रेटरी की अध्यक्षता में भी पहली दिसंबर और चार दिसंबर को दो बार नेशनल क्राइसिस मैनेजमेंट कमेटी की बैठक भी आयोजित की गई। राज्यों के मुख्य सचिवों से भी वीडियो कांफ्रेंसिंग के माध्यम से इस चर्चा में शामिल होने को कहा गया और वे शामिल हुए और उनकी आवश्यकताओं के बारे में यह पूछा भी गया। जो कुछ भी उन्होंने कहा, जितना सम्भव हो सकता था, सहायता भी उन्हें उपलब्ध कराई गई। उन्होंने इस बात की भी पुष्टि की कि लोकल एडमिनिस्ट्रेशन ने फिशरमैन को चेतावनी और एडवाइजरी जारी की थी, यह स्टेट गवर्नमेंट के चीफ सेक्रेटरीज ने भी वीडियो कांफ्रेंसिंग के दौरान बताया।

मैं एक बात और स्पष्ट करना चाहता हूँ, वह यह है कि फिशरमेन जो बहुत दूर गहरे समुद्र में चले जाते हैं, वे 15 या इससे भी अधिक दिनों के लिए बाहर रहते हैं। वे 2 हजार नॉटिकल माइल्स तक अन्दर चले जाते हैं। डीप शी में जाने के लिए 10 दिन का समय लगता है और 10 दिन तक वे फिशिंग का काम करते हैं तथा वापस आने में भी उन्हें 10 दिन का समय लग जाता है। इसलिए यह जो अवधि होती है, वह लगभग एक माह की हो जाती है। इस तरह से उन फिशरमेन को इतनी दूर तक जाने से रोकने की चेतावनी देना सम्भव नहीं हो पाता है। दूसरी सबसे अच्छी स्थिति यह हो सकती है कि उन फिशरमेन की सर्च और उनका बचाव करने के लिए सभी सम्भव संसाधनों का इस्तेमाल किया जाए। यह इंडियन नेवी, कोस्ट गार्ड और वायु सेना की मदद से किया जा सकता है।

जहां तक उन सारी बोट्स को आइडेंटिफाई करने का सवाल है, एक स्टेप हम लोगों ने और उठाया है कि लो कॉस्ट ट्रंसपॉडर्स की व्यवस्था की जा रही है और उसका ट्रॉयल हो चुका है। मैं समझता हूँ कि उसमें आवश्यकता इस बात की रहती है कि जो फिशरमेन हैं, उनके पास मोबाइल होने चाहिए, लेकिन अभी इसे डिप्लॉय नहीं किया गया है, अभी इसका केवल ट्रॉयल हुआ है। हम इसकी व्यवस्था आगे कर रहे हैं।

सभापति महोदय, इंडियन नेवी, कोस्ट गार्ड और जितनी स्टेट एजेंसीज हैं, लोकल फिशरमेन को उनकी बोट सहित अपने साथ ले गई हैं तथा उन्हें उन सम्भावित स्थानों के बारे में गाइड किया जा सकेगा, जहां वे आम तौर पर मछली पकड़ने के लिए जाते हैं।

डॉ. शशि थरूर (तिरुवनन्तपुरम) : चार-पांच दिन के बाद ले गए, पहले चार-पांच दिन ले जाने के लिए नहीं थे। ... (व्यवधान)

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : मैं इसकी जानकारी कर लूंगा। अब तक कठिन समुद्री परिस्थितियों के बावजूद 845 फिशरमेन को केरल, तमिलनाडु और लक्षद्वीप में बचाने में हमारी इंडियन नेवी, कोस्ट गार्ड और एन.डी.आर.एफ. कामयाब हुए हैं। जैसा शशि थरूर साहब ने कहा है, वे सभी बधाई के पात्र हैं। उन्होंने एक बहुत ही रिमार्केबल यह काम किया है। सर्च और रेस्क्यू कार्य के लिए जहाज 700 नॉटिकल माइल्स तक चले गए यानी शिप्स 700 नॉटिकल माइल्स तक गए हैं। 21 दिसम्बर, 2017 की स्थिति के अनुसार तमिलनाडु में 18 और केरल में 74 डेथ की रिपोर्ट प्राप्त हुई है। तमिलनाडु के 274 और केरल के 215 फिशरमेन अब भी लापता हैं, यह जानकारी प्राप्त हुई है। मैं सदन को यह भी सूचित करना चाहता हूँ कि तमिलनाडु ने गुमशुदा व्यक्तियों की संख्या पहले 433 रिपोर्ट की गई थी अब मछुआरों के वापस आने, बचाव और समुचित पहचान के बाद इनकी संख्या घटकर 275 रह गई है। अभी भी जो फिशरमेन लापता हैं, उनकी तलाश करने के लिए हर संभव प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। मैं सदन को जानकारी देना चाहता हूँ कि शिप और एयरक्राफ्ट जिसने सर्च का काम किया है उन्होंने लगभग 14,20,383 स्क्वायर किलोमीटर तक फिशरमेन की सर्च करने की अपनी तरफ से कोशिश की है। बोइंग एयरक्राफ्ट से सभी जगहों पर जाकर निगरानी की। जहां-जहां पर फिशरमेन दिखें, चाहे कोस्ट गार्ड की शिप हो अथवा इंडियन नेवी की हो, उनको डायरेक्ट किया ताकि मछुआरों को पिक-अप किया जा सके और उनकी जान को बचाया जा सके। अब भी नेवी और कोस्ट गार्ड की 18 शिप सर्च और रेस्क्यू ऑपरेशन में लगी हुई हैं जबकि आज 22वां दिन हो गया है। एयरक्राफ्ट ने 400 घंटे से भी ज्यादा देर तक उड़ान भरी है, नेवी और कोस्ट गार्ड ने रेस्क्यू और ऑपरेशन के लिए लगभग 759 घंटे की उड़ान की है। अगर दिनों के हिसाब से देखें तो कोस्ट गार्ड ने 190 दिन और नेवी ने 180 डेज तक इस काम को किया है, आपस में इनका कॉपरेशन बना हुआ है। जहां तक लक्षद्वीप का सवाल है, इंडियन नेवी और कोस्ट गार्ड के काफी बोट्स और शिप को सेव करने में कामयाबी मिली है। मैं मर्चेंट शिप के बारे में भी कहना

चाहूंगा, इसमें मर्चेट शिप को भी एक्टिव किया गया, मर्चेन्ट शिप को लगभग 29 लाइव्स को सेव करने में कामयाबी हासिल हुई। मछुआरों को ढूँढने के लिए चाहे इंडियन नेवी की शिप हो या दूसरी शिप्स हों, ये सारी लगी हुई हैं।

माननीय सभापति : गृह मंत्री जी, वेणुगोपाल जी आपसे एक छोटा सवाल पूछना चाहते हैं।

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Hon. Minister, we are raising a serious issue of early warning system. As you rightly pointed out, the Central Government agency has given three, four warnings to the Government of Kerala about deep depression. But as per your records, the message about cyclone was given only on 30th November at 12.30 p.m. Therefore, there is a need for an enquiry into that. Had the warning been given at an early date, things would have been different. But, both the Central Government and the State Government failed in this regard. It is not the fault of the fishermen. We could have saved the fishermen. This is a special case. It is a national calamity. Therefore, there is a need for a separate package for this purpose. There is also a need for an enquiry into this matter. I would like to know whether the Home Minister is going to reply on that.

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : मैंने पहले ही कहा कि यह साइक्लोन रेयर नेचर का था, जैसे सामान्य तौर पर स्टार्म आता है उस तरह का नहीं था, अपने आप कुछ विशेष प्रकार का था, इस कारण से इसकी सूचना नहीं आ पाई थी। मैंने इसकी जानकारी पहले ही आपको दी थी।

सभी माननीय सदस्यों ने कहा कि प्रधानमंत्री जी ने स्वयं जाकर केरल और लक्षद्वीप का दौरा किया, डिफेंस मिनिस्टर और लोकल मिनिस्टर पॉन राधाकृष्णन भी लगातार सात-आठ दिनों तक मौजूद रहें, जो तूफान से प्रभावित परिवार थे उनके साथ संबंध बनाए रखा है।

जहां तक असिस्टेंस प्रोवाइड करने का सवाल है, एसडीआरएफ और एनडीआरएफ के अंतर्गत सहायता के अतिरिक्त माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने घोषणा की है कि केरल, तमिलनाडु और लक्षद्वीप की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए केंद्र 325 करोड़ रुपए की तत्काल सहायता प्रदान की जाएगी। यह सहायता एसडीआरएफ की दूसरी इंस्टालमेंट के रूप में तमिलनाडु को दिए गए 280 करोड़ रुपए और केरल को दिए गए 76 करोड़ रुपए की राशि के अतिरिक्त है, उसमें शामिल नहीं है। यह भी घोषणा की गई है कि साइक्लोन ओखी से पूरी तरह नएट हो चुके 15,000 घरों के निर्माण के लिए प्रधानमंत्री आवास योजना के अंतर्गत भारत सरकार सहायता प्रदान करेगी। इसके अंतर्गत प्रत्येक लाभार्थी को नए घर के निर्माण के लिए डेढ़ लाख रुपए की सहायता मुहैया कराई जाएगी। इसके अतिरिक्त बीमा कंपनियों को भी कहा गया है कि प्रभावित व्यक्तियों को जल्दी से जल्दी इंश्योरेंस का जो भी एमाउंट है, भुगतान कर दिया जाए। मृतक के निकट संबंधी को दो लाख रुपए की सहायता राशि और गंभीर रूप से घायल व्यक्ति के लिए 50,000 रुपए की सहायता राशि की मंजूरी प्राइम मिनिस्टर नेशनल रिलीफ फंड के अंतर्गत दी गई है।

केरल से 20 दिसंबर और तमिलनाडु से 21 दिसंबर को जो मेमोरेण्डम राज्य सरकार द्वारा प्राप्त होना चाहिए था, वह मेमोरेण्डम प्राप्त हो चुका है। भले ही आप यहां अधिक डिमांड कर रहे हों लेकिन केरल सरकार ने 442 करोड़ रुपए की डिमांड की है। तमिलनाडु ने 876 करोड़ रुपए की राहत राशि की डिमांड की है। इन दोनों राज्यों

की सरकारों से मेमोरेण्डम प्राप्त हो जाने के बाद सेंट्रल टीम तैयार है, सेंट्रल टीम 26 दिसंबर से 29 दिसंबर तक केरल जा रही है और उसके बाद तमिलनाडु में जो भी लॉसिस हुए हैं, उनको एसेस करने के लिए जा रही है।

‘ओखी’ के दौरान ज्यादातर मौतें समुद्र में खतरनाक साइक्लोन के कारण हुई हैं। मैं समझता हूँ कि कोस्ट और लैंड पर कम्पेरिटिवली कम नुकसान हुआ है। बहुत से पेड़ उखड़ गए हैं और बिजली के खंभों को बहुत क्षति हुई है। प्रभावित राज्यों को वित्तीय सहायता प्रदान करने के लिए केरल राज्य को 76.5 करोड़ रुपए और तमिलनाडु को 280 करोड़ रुपए की एडवांस फंडिंग एसडीआरएफ की दूसरी इंस्टालमेंट केंद्र सरकार द्वारा प्रदान कर दी गई है। जैसा कि मैंने बताया है कि प्रभावित राज्यों में फॉर्मल मेमोरेण्ड प्राप्त हो चुका है और सेंट्रल टीम वहां जा रही है।

15.27 hrs

(Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

इस समय इंडियन नेवी, कोस्ट गार्ड, एनडीआरएफ में बहुत ही म्युचुअल कोऑर्डिनेशन होना चाहिए। मैं सदन को यह जानकारी भी देना चाहता हूँ कि इन सब में बहुत ही बेहतर कोऑर्डिनेशन और कोऑपरेशन बना हुआ है।

A control and co-ordination centre has been already set up at the Joint Operation Centre of Navy at Kochi. This includes State Government representatives from Tamil Nadu and Kerala; the Lakshadweep Administrator is also in this Committee; the members from Tamil Nadu and Kerala Fisheries are also there. The coastal police and the State Disaster Management Authorities are also members of the Joint Operation Centre. All inputs of missing fishermen are collected by the State Governments. I would not go into much detail now.

I would now like to say something regarding the issues raised by Dr. Shashi Tharoor. Dr. Tharoor asked me regarding the protocol for search and rescue operations. An immediate response by the Navy and Coastguard was given. On 29th November, 2017, three of the ICG ships sailed in the night. On the 30th November, 2017, both Navy and ICG ships sailed out. Aircraft searches were launched. Search by aircraft depends on prevalent weather. Flight safety requires aircraft to launch if weather conditions permit. However, as early as possible, aircraft were launched on 30th November, 2017 itself. Both Navy and Coastguard, on 30th November, 2017, rescued and assisted 136 fishermen at sea, of both Tamil Nadu and Kerala. ‘Where to rescue-where to search’ – Navy and Coast Guards searched....

माननीय सभापति : मंत्री जी, आप एक मिनट बैठ जाएं।

माननीय सदस्यगण, मंत्री जी के उत्तर के पश्चात् निजी संकल्प को लिया जाएगा।

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : मैं अपनी बात जल्दी समाप्त करूंगा।

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे (गुलबर्गा) : सभापति जी, मेरा एक क्लैरीफिकेशन है। एनडीआरएफ की टीम केरल, तमिलनाडु, गुजरात और महाराष्ट्र में भेजी गईं। सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान केरल में हुआ और वहां आपने चार टीम भेजीं। तमिलनाडु में आपने तीन टीम भेजीं। गुजरात में कोई नुकसान नहीं हुआ, लेकिन वहां आपने सात टीम भेजीं।...(व्यवधान) क्या यह आफिसर की गलती है या असेसमेंट ठीक नहीं था या वे साइक्लोन को ठीक से समझ नहीं पाए?... (व्यवधान) यह आपकी ही रिपोर्ट है। आपने गुजरात में सात टीम भेजीं, जहां किसी की जान नहीं गई और कोई नुकसान नहीं हुआ।...(व्यवधान) आपने गुजरात में ज्यादा टीम भेजीं, यह ठीक है, लेकिन केरल में सबसे ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ है, इसलिए आपको सबसे ज्यादा टीम केरल में भेजनी चाहिए थीं, उसके बाद तमिलनाडु में ज्यादा नुकसान हुआ, वहां भी आपको एनडीआरएफ की ज्यादा टीम भेजनी चाहिए थीं। शशि थरूर साहब ने बिना तथ्य देखे ही आपको सर्टीफिकेट दे दिया है। इस तरह से भेदभाव नहीं किया जाना चाहिए। आपातकाल सभी के लिए एक जैसा है। इस बात की इन्कायरी होनी चाहिए।...(व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : आप मंत्री जी को उत्तर देने दीजिए।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : सभापति जी, मैं समझता हूं कि किसी तरह की इन्कायरी की जरूरत नहीं है। मैं कहना चाहता हूं कि हमारी सरकार इतनी इनह्यूमन नहीं हो सकती है।...(व्यवधान)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : This is as per your Report.... (Interruptions) As per your Report, seven teams were deployed in Gujarat....(व्यवधान)

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : हमारी सरकार बहुत सैंसटिव सरकार है। जहां तक एनडीआरएफ की टीमों को भेजने का सवाल है, पहले से ही दो टीम तमिलनाडु में थीं, ऐसे ही दो या तीन टीम पहले से ही केरल में थीं। बाद में केरल और तमिलनाडु में कुछ एडिशनल टीम आवश्यकता के अनुसार भेजी गई थीं, क्योंकि तमिलनाडु और केरल में हमारी इंडियन नेवी और कोस्ट गार्ड इस काम को वहां आलरेडी कर रही थी।...(व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : आप मंत्री जी को उत्तर देने दीजिए, उसके बाद प्रश्न पूछिए।

...(व्यवधान)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : Our fishermen are missing.... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: This is wrong. These are false charges. (Interruptions)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : You only wish to protect Gujarat. We are also part of India.... (Interruptions)

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : शशि थरूर जी ने डोपलर वैदर रडार के बारे में जानकारी पूछी है। Doppler Weather Radars were operational at Thiruvananthapuram and Kochi during cyclone period and data from these two radars was utilized along with satellite ground-based observing system and the models for

monitoring and forecasting. The Doppler Weather Radar, Thiruvananthapuram could detect the cyclone on 30th November, 2017 only.

अन्य राज्यों, चाहे बिहार हो, पश्चिम बंगाल हो, जहाँ फ्लड अथवा दूसरी प्रकार की केलेमिटी आयी थी, के संबंध में भी केन्द्र सरकार ने क्या किया है, इसके बारे में भी माननीय सदस्यों ने जानकारी चाही है। इसके बारे में, जानकारी काफी विस्तृत है। मैं 14 राज्यों के बारे में यहाँ पर जानकारी दे सकता हूँ। ये राज्य मिजोरम, मणिपुर, असम, राजस्थान, बिहार, पश्चिम बंगाल, गुजरात, उत्तर प्रदेश, नागालैंड, हिमाचल प्रदेश, आंध्र प्रदेश, तेलंगाना, सिक्किम, केरल और तमिलनाडु हैं। यदि इन राज्यों के बारे में, मैं विस्तृत जानकारी दूँगा, तो बहुत समय लगेगा। लेकिन, यदि इजाज़त दें, तो मैं इसकी जानकारी दे सकता हूँ।

मैं पश्चिम बंगाल के बारे में आपको जानकारी देता हूँ। पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार द्वारा 15,924.7 करोड़ रुपये की डिमांड की गयी है। वहाँ पर 10 से 14 अक्टूबर के बीच सेन्ट्रल टीम विज़िट कर चुकी है और upon receipt of report from the Inter-Ministerial Committee, it will be processed for placing before the National Executive Committee and thereafter, this report will come before the High Level Committee. Then after that, we will take the decision as to what assistance we have to provide.

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी (बहरामपुर): मंत्री जी, इसमें कितना समय लगेगा? ...(व्यवधान)

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : इसका प्रौसेस थोड़ा लम्बा है। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस दिसम्बर तक या 15 जनवरी के पहले इस पर फाइनल डिसेज़न हो जाएगा।

माननीय सभापति : माननीय सदस्य, आप बैठ जाँएँ। मंत्री जी को जवाब पूरा करने दें।

...(व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : मंत्री जी की बात के अलावा अन्य किन्हीं की बात कार्यवाही में नहीं जाएगी।

...(व्यवधान)...*

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : एनडीआरएफ से संबंधित जवाब के अतिरिक्त आप कुछ और जानकारी चाहते हैं, मैं आपको डिटेल् में जानकारी देता हूँ।

मैं श्री खड़गे जी को बताना चाहता हूँ कि एनडीआरएफ का डिप्लॉयमेंट राज्य सरकार के रिक्विज़िशन पर होता है या उसके कंसलटेशन से किया जाता है। उनकी आवश्यकता के अनुसार ही एनडीआरएफ का डिप्लॉयमेंट किया गया। एनडीआरएफ का ऑपरेशन लैंड बेस्ड होने के कारण इसके उपयोग की आवश्यकता तमिलनाडु और केरल में बहुत ही कम थी। इस कारण से वहाँ पर कम एनडीआरएफ की टीम डिप्लॉय की गयी। तमिलनाडु एवं गुजरात में एनडीआरएफ की एक-एक बटालियन का मुख्यालय है। उनकी माँग पर एनडीआरएफ की तैनाती की गयी थी। यदि उनकी तरफ और रिक्विज़िशन होती, तो और एनडीआरएफ टीम की तैनाती वहाँ पर की जाती।

श्री सलीम साहब, मैं पश्चिम बंगाल के बारे में जानकारी देना चाहूँगा कि वहाँ की राज्य सरकार ने अपना मेमोरेण्डम पुनः रिवाइज़ कर दिया है। हम लोग इसलिए डिसेज़न नहीं कर पाए क्योंकि वहाँ सरकार ने जो मेमोरेण्डम

पहले भेजा था, उसको फिर से रिवाइज करके भेजा गया, जिसके कारण विलम्ब हो रहा है, नहीं तो सहायता राशि मिल गयी होती।

श्री मोहम्मद सलीम: पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने मेमोरेण्डम कब भेजा था और पुनः रिवाइज्ड मेमोरेण्डम कब भेजा?... (व्यवधान)

श्री राजनाथ सिंह: हम उसके लिए भी जल्दी ही सेन्ट्रल टीम वहाँ भेजेंगे। ...(व्यवधान)

श्री अधीर रंजन चौधरी: पश्चिम बंगाल सरकार ने आपसे कितनी राशि की माँग की थी?... (व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति: आप लोग बैठ जाइए।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री राजनाथ सिंह : माननीय सभापति महोदय, मुझे ज्यादा कुछ नहीं कहना है। मैं इतना ही कहना चाहता हूँ कि अभी तक एसडीआरएफ में एनुअल सेन्ट्रल कंट्रीब्यूशन के रूप में वित्त वषण 2017-18 के दौरान केन्द्र सरकार ने केरल सरकार को 153 करोड़ रुपये और तमिलनाडु सरकार को 561 करोड़ रुपये की राशि जारी की है। ... (व्यवधान) राज्यों से प्राप्त सूचनाओं के आधार पर 'ओखी' साइक्लोन से प्रभावित लोगों को राहत सहायता देने के लिए केरल की एसडीआरएफ एकाउंट में 175 करोड़ रुपये की राशि और तमिलनाडु के एसडीआरएफ एकाउंट में 550 करोड़ रुपये की राशि इस समय उपलब्ध है।...(व्यवधान) जहाँ तक लक्षद्वीप का सवाल है, लक्षद्वीप प्रशासन के पास इस समय यू.टी. डिज़ास्टर रिस्पॉन्स फंड के अधीन 10 करोड़ रुपये की राशि है। ...(व्यवधान) मैं सदन को आश्चस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि इन सभी राज्यों से जो भी मेमोरेण्डम प्राप्त हुए हैं, हमने उनके आधार पर उन राज्यों के लिए सेंट्रल टीमस काँस्टिट्यूट कर दी हैं। ...(व्यवधान) सेंट्रल टीमस जल्द ही इन राज्यों में विज़िट करने वाली हैं। ... (व्यवधान) जब ये टीमस वहाँ से विज़िट कर के लौटेंगी, तो उनके द्वारा दी गई रिपोर्ट्स के आधार पर इन राज्यों को जो और अधिक असिस्टेंस प्रोवाइड की जा सकती है, वह हम करेंगे।...(व्यवधान) मैं सदन को इतना आश्चस्त करते हुए अपनी बात यहीं समाप्त करता हूँ। धन्यवाद। ...(व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : अब हम आइटम नंबर-29 लेते हैं।

...(व्यवधान)

श्री मल्लिकार्जुन खड़गे : इसमें फाइनेंशियल पैकेज नहीं है। ...(व्यवधान) वहाँ हैल्प करने में भी आपने डिस्क्रिमिनेशन किया। आपने एन.डी.आर.एफ. की टीमस में भी डिस्क्रिमिनेशन कर दिया। वहाँ जो तत्काल रिलीफ भेजी जानी थी, वह भी आपने नहीं भेजी। मंत्री जी, आपका उत्तर समाधानकारक नहीं है। हम आपके उत्तर का प्रोटेस्ट करते हैं।

श्री अनन्तकुमार: सर, यहाँ जो हो रहा है, वह बहुत अनफॉर्च्युनेट है। ...(व्यवधान) कांग्रेस पार्टी के नेतागण ऐसी आपदा के विषेय पर चर्चा के समय भी राजनीति कर रहे हैं। ऐसा करना उन्हें शोभा नहीं देता है।

भारत सरकार ने माननीय राजनाथ सिंह जी की अगुवाई में इन आपदाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों के लिए जितनी राहत देनी चाहिए थी, उतनी राहत देने का काम किया है। ...(व्यवधान) हमने केरल, तमिलनाडु और लक्षद्वीप के त्रासदीग्रस्त

लोगों और मछुआरों के पास राहत पहुँचाने का कार्य किया है। ...(व्यवधान)

इस विषय में गलती यह हुई है कि केरल सरकार ने आपदा की पूर्व सूचना देने में देर की थी, जिस कारण वहाँ यह समस्या उत्पन्न हुई है। ...(व्यवधान) यह बात केरल सरकार और वहाँ के प्रशासन को समझनी चाहिए। ...
(व्यवधान)

माननीय प्रधान मंत्री जी, माननीय गृह मंत्री जी और माननीय रक्षा मंत्री जी जी इन आपदाग्रस्त क्षेत्रों में होकर आए हैं। ...(व्यवधान) उन्होंने उस क्षेत्र का पूरा निरीक्षण किया है और वहाँ जो मदद, सहारा और राहत देनी चाहिए थी, वह उन क्षेत्रों के लिए दी है और मैं सदन को आश्चस्त करता हूँ कि हम आगे भी इस प्रकार वहाँ के लिए सहायता देंगे। ...(व्यवधान)

माननीय सभापति : अब आइटम नंबर-29 लिया जाएगा, श्री थांगसो बाइटे।