

Situation arising out of cyclonic

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can do that later on. He has only intervened. Now I call upon Shri Nitish Kumar to make the statement.

16.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Situation Arising out of the Cyclonic Storm in the Bay of Bengal and the Relief Measures Undertaken by the Central Government and Government of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Chairman, my colleague Shri Upendra Nath Verma had already apprised the House on 10.5.1990 on the situation as arising out of the cyclonic storm in Andhra Pradesh. Since some more details are available now, I thought it proper to seek leave of the House to make a statement about the latest situation on damage and relief measures undertaken so far.

As the Hon. Members are aware, the

severe cyclonic storm with a core of hurricane wind crossed South Andhra Pradesh coast near the mouth of the river Krishna (South of Machilipatnam) on the evening of 9th May, 1990. It was accompanied with wind speed of about 200 to 240 km. per hour and a surge of 5 to 6 meters. Under its influence, heavy to very heavy rainfalls were recorded at a few places in North Tamil Nadu, coastal Andhra Pradesh, coastal Orissa and at one or two places in Gangetic West Bengal and Tripura.

All the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh bore the brunt of this cyclonic storm. The districts of Krishna and Guntur were worst affected. The other affected districts are West Godavari, East Godavari, Prakasam, Vishakhapatnam, Vizianagram, Srikakulam and Nellore. The other marginally affected districts are Khammam, Mehboobnagar, Warangal, Nalgonda and Chittoor. Some parts of these districts were inundated due to floods and heavy rains. The impact of the cyclone was also felt in a few places, though not severely in the State of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry.

As per the latest report received from the Andhra Pradesh Government, the position with regard to the loss of life and damage to property as on 22nd May, 1990 is as follows:

1.	Districts affected	:	14
2.	Population affected:	:	107.07 lakh
3.	Villages affected	:	5,717
4.	Human Lives lost	:	976
5.	Cattle heads lost	:	22,184
6.	Sheep/goats died	:	42,950
7.	Poultry birds died	:	36.98 lakh
8.	Ducks died	:	6,274
9.	Houses Damaged	:	9.19 lakh (4.79 lakh Partly)

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			and 4.40 lakh fully)
10.	People evacuated	:	6.57 lakh
11.	Relief Camps organised	:	1,535
12.	Damage to agriculture and other public utility services.	:	Rs. 792.78 crores

The exact details of the loss and damage are still being assessed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh and it will take some more time to get a full and complete picture. The available information, however, shows extensive loss and damage to agricultural and horticultural crops, poultry, telecommunications, roads and bridges, railways, power installations, houses and drinking water systems. Similarly the details of damage are also awaited from the Government of Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry. However, loss of human lives in the case of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry remained at 7 and 2 respectively.

On receipt of warning from the India Meteorological Department regarding the cyclone, the State Government of Andhra Pradesh took timely action in evacuating the people from the low lying areas. The evacuated people were kept in relief camps where feeding was also organised. Similarly, Government of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry had also taken the necessary preventive measures to meet the situation. Members may recall the huge loss of human lives numbering 10,000 during the 1977 cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. However, because of the timely preventive measures, the loss of human life could be minimised this time. The India Meteorological Department monitored the situation very closely and kept everybody informed about the development of this cyclone. Regular bulletins were issued to warn the people. Their efforts are praiseworthy.

Our Prime Minister visited the cyclone affected areas in Andhra Pradesh twice, viz. on 12th and 19th May, to take stock of the

situation personally. Among various other measures he sanctioned Rs. 2.00 crores from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. He also announced payment of half of the Central share of the State's Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 32.25 crores which has since been released to the State Government on 14th May, 1990. The remaining amount of Rs. 32.25 crores will be released as soon as the amount already released is spent by the State Government.

The Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister has also provided financial assistance to the States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry from the Indian People's Natural Calamities Trust (IPNCT) for distribution to the families of the deceased persons. In this connection, Hon'ble Members may recall the Statement made by my colleague Shri Upendra Nath Verma in this House on 11th May, 1990 wherein it was stated that Rs. 25,000/- would be paid to the families of each dead persons from the Indian People's Natural Calamities Trust. Since subsequent to that announcement Rs. 2 crores was sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund which includes payment of Rs. 10,000/- to the next of kin of every deceased person, it has now been decided to limit the assistance paid from the IPNCT to Rs. 15,000/- per death, in the case of Andhra Pradesh, thus bringing the total amount of financial assistance to Rs. 25,000/- in each case of death in that state.

In pursuance of a series of directions received from the Prime Minister as a result of his two visits to Andhra Pradesh, a number of steps have been taken to meet the

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urgent requirements of the State Government and extend all possible help and assistance to the people ravaged by the cyclone. 50,000 tonnes of rice has been additionally allocated to Government of Andhra Pradesh over and above the allocations made under the Public Distribution System. Additional allotment of 15,000 tonnes of phosphatic fertilisers and 500 tonnes of edible oil has also been made to them. 10 lakh doses of Cholera vaccines and 50 tonnes of bleaching powder has also been made available to the Government of Andhra Pradesh as per their requirements. Adequate quantities of petroleum products, viz., Petrol, Diesel, LPG and Kerosene oil have been made available in the State.

Norms for purchase of rain soaked/ discoloured paddy has rice have been relaxed, and the Food Corporation of India has been directed to make purchases, provided the paddy/rice is fit for human consumption. All the Public Sector Undertakings and Banks have been directed to adopt area/villages/town for providing necessary relief to the affected people. Banks are also taking necessary action for postponement of recovery and re-scheduling of the loans. Fresh consumption loans are being given by the Banks in the affected areas of Andhra Pradesh. National Seeds Corporation of India has been directed to meet the demand of the State of Andhra Pradesh for quality seeds in adequate quantity. Contingency Plans are being worked out for rehabilitation of agricultural and horticultural crops. All the concerned insurance agencies have been instructed to settle the insurance claims expeditiously. Various housing development and financing agencies have been requested to extend liberal loan facilities for replacement of houses destroyed by the cyclone with Pucca houses.

Right from the very beginning, the Crisis Management Group set up in the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation continued to monitor the position with regard to relief and restoration. All the Central Gov-

ernment Departments dealing with essential services are the members of this Group. These Departments are undertaking the restoration works on a war footing, so that all the essential services are brought back to normal condition within the shortest possible time. At the instance of the Prime Minister, Task Forces have been constituted by various Central Department to assess the damage and undertake repair/restoration works in respect of telecommunications, road transportation, power and railways. In order to improve the supply of coal to Power generating Stations in Andhra Pradesh, the despatch of coal from Western Coal Field Limited is being maximised. The production and despatch of coal from Singareni Coal Fields has also been improved.

The assistance provided by the Armed Forces viz., Army, Navy and Air Force needs mention. Despite the unfavourable weather conditions, they provided all assistance to the State Government even at the risk of their lives. People were rescued from marooned areas; and food, drinking water etc. were air dropped in areas which were inaccessible by any other means.

An Eight Member Central Team was deputed to visit the State of Andhra Pradesh between 13th -16th May, 1990 to make an on the spot assessment of the situation and relief measures required to tackle the situation and assess the immediate assistance required by the State Government. Action has already been taken to implement various measures suggested by the Team to help the State Government in providing necessary relief to the affected people.

I would like to assure the House once again that no stone will be left unturned in providing necessary assistance to the people and the Government of Andhra Pradesh for effectively meeting the situation caused by the cyclonic storm.

[English]

SHRI K.S RAO (Machilipatnam):
Madam, it is a very serious situation there

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because of the cyclone, and you must permit some discussion. I have been giving notice for the last 15 days.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now we have to take up the discussion under Rule 193, as you all know. But since the people of Andhra Pradesh are affected, I will allow only one Member from Andhra Pradesh. Otherwise, your own motion under Rule 193, will go off.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Madam, we have been discussing the Kashmir issue for days together. I have given notice for it and now you have to permit discussion on this.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is requesting you. If Mr. Kumaramangalam allows you to go on with this discussion.

SHRI K.S. RAO: No, Madam, but...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have called upon Shri K.S. Rao to speak. Will you kindly take your seats.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Do you want me to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Prof. Rangaji, do you want to speak?

PROF. N.G. RANGA: No, let him speak.

SHRI K.S. RAO: You must permit some Members from Andhra Pradesh to speak. It is a very serious matter.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: It is not up to me, it is for your Party to decide. Since I have called him, I will call, of course, Rangaji also.

SHRI K.S. RAO: We have given notice under Rule 193.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You can give notice.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Not once, but since 10th we have been giving notice.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may be giving. But that has to be discussed in the BAC. I have to go by the Order Paper, as you see, as agreed upon in the BAC about a particular discussion.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO: It is a very serious situation there, You have to permit other Members also to speak. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: I cannot say about all Members. I will allow two Members—you and Rangaji.

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY (Adilabad): Why only two Members? What is the rationale? Why only two? *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: You are all free to have discussion on this under Rule 193.

SHRI K.S. RAO: We gave notice on 10th, we gave notice on 15th...

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you want to speak on this or not?

SHRI K.S. RAO: I want to speak, but there should be a discussion. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please go on then. Please don't take the time of the House like this.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S. RAO: Madam, unfortunately the situation can be understood only by the people who see the situation there, but not by even discussing it here. There is a pathetic condition there because of the Cyclone that has affected many people. The

hon. Minister in his statement was reading the statistics from which it is understood that in the recent past, even 100 years or 200 years, in the entire history, it was not that badly affected any time as it was affected now. As the Minister said, even in 1977 when tidal waves were there in the same place in Krishna district, only 12,000 people were affected. But this time more than one lakh people are affected. Unfortunately, the hon. Minister has read the statement like a student going very fast, due to which our hon. colleagues could not follow the statistics. So, I would like to bring to the notice of my hon. colleagues that 107 lakhs of people were affected in the cyclone and 5,717 villages were affected. The deaths are less, that is 976, because of the precautions taken by the State Government in moving the people to safer places. Otherwise, it would have been more.

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): It is because of the earlier warning.

SHRI K.S.RAO: Yes; from the 4th of this month, warning was given; thanks to the Government, thanks to the Meteorological Department and thanks also to the State Government which has taken immediate precaution to shift the people to safer places. Shri Rajiv Gandhi has visited the State on 13th. the Chief Minister visited the affected places several times, but not even two per cent of the damage that was caused is relieved. The people are still not finding food in their own villages; they are not finding shelter to live in their own villages because 9.19 lakhs of houses were put to ground. If 500 houses are gutted in Delhi, we are discussing it for days together.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rao, please ask only clarifications. You cannot make a speech. Under the rules, you can only ask certifications. That is why I have permitted you to ask clarifications.

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S.RAO: Madam, as gentlemen, we are just keeping quiet all these days,

without making any noise. I gave notices under rule 193 and 197 on 10th, 15th, 21st and 22nd of this month. Till today, it was not accepted. *(Interruptions)* We want a discussion on this matter. How many houses were gutted in Delhi and how many hours have we discussed it here? Now, you are not permitted a discussion on this. Our hon. colleagues should also understand our problem. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM (Salem): Madam, I think the Business Advisory Committee meeting is still going on. So, the matter may be brought to the notice of the BAC. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: The rules are made by the House and not by me. Please cooperate.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Vijaya Bhaskarji, you had been the Chief Minister there. Please cooperate with me. As long as I am in this Chair, I am bound by the rules.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Due to your concern, I have allowed you to ask clarifications.

SHRI K.S.RAO: We do not want to ask clarification. We want a discussion here. *(Interruptions)* What was the rationale in the Business Advisory Committee or in the Government to discuss for hours together when 500 houses were gutted in Delhi? When Vigyan Bhavan was gutted by fire, we discussed it for hours together here. When lakhs of people are affected and hundreds of people died, can we not discuss it here? We do not agree for the clarifications only. We want a discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You give a notice for that.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I have given notice. We have given it not once but several times.

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want a discussion under rule 193, you give a notice for it. It will be considered by the Speaker.

SHRI K.S.RAO: Let the Minister come forward and say that they agree for a discussion.

For such a serious situation, you are not permitting at all.

MR. CHAIRMAN: This is not proper. I have allowed you. Why don't you ask clarification?

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am on my legs. Will you kindly take your seat? Let Mr. Rao continue his clarifications.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will all of you speak together?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM (Sivaganga): We are trying to help you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Rao, I have given you the permission to seek clarifications.

SHRI K.S. RAO: It is not the mercy or favour. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI JAGPAL SINGH: There has been so much destruction that we sent Rs. 2 crores from Ganganagar. You are wasting the time of the House.

SHRI P. NARASA REDDY (Adilabad): What happened? Why are you shouting? *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: If you want to seek clarification, you can continue.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Please lis-

ten to me. They want a fuller discussion. Let the Minister say that if B.A.C. fixes time, he has no objection. *(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN: This will not go on like this.

Mr. Rao, do you want to continue to speak or not?

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We want a fuller discussion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shall I call upon Prof. Ranga to speak?

(Interruptions)

SHRI K.S.RAO: Hon. colleagues need not be in fury.

SHRI LAKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): So much damage has taken place in Andhra Pradesh due to cyclone and the situation is so horrible. Therefore, they should be given time for a discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: You have wanted a discussion. Now the BAC meeting is going on. It has been conveyed to them that you wish for a discussion. Please wait. In the mean time, as you were seeking clarifications, you please seek clarifications.

SHRI K.S.RAO: The point here is that the Members belonging to these districts have gone to the area. We know the actual situation. We have got lot of grievance that this discussion is not being accepted for the last 14 or 15 days. Still we are not making noise. Every day during zero hour, we are trying to raise this issue and on Hon. Speaker's saying, we are sitting down and we are suffering very badly. Some person who is making noise about 200 deaths in some fire or one death somewhere, he will make a hue and cry and discussion is being permitted on it. How much are we aggrieved? All that we are requesting is the hon. Minister should hear coolly and every Member should

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realise the gravity of the situation and then they themselves would demand for a discussion, not I. They themselves would demand. (*Interruptions*) I will speak only for a second.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): We are also supporting you.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I will request Mr. Rao to address the Chair and go on with his clarifications

SHRI K.S.RAO: As the hon. Minister was saying, except for the earlier intimation and warnings to the people in the area at least by five days in advance, the human loss would have been in lakhs. From the statistics that he himself gave, it is seen that 107 lakh people and 5,717 villages are affected. 976 deaths have been so far been reported by the Government. The cattle loss is 22,184 and sheep in 47,950. The poultry—loss is about 65 lakhs. Birds have died. The poultry people and the poor people who do not have anything are waiting for the insurance or for some Government Officers to come and say "We will give compensation." this is the situation today. Keeping these dead birds and some of the cattle also is going to bring an epidemic in that area by which you will hear once again that thousand of people have died in the area. That situation should not come. If this situation had come, not only K.S.Rao but the entire House would have asked for a discussion. If the Government were not to accept the discussion on this matter since five days, on which other matter can you discuss?

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR: Meham is also important.

SHRI KOTLA VJAYA BHASKARA REDDY (Kurnool): You go there and see and you will know.

SHRI K.S.RAO: It is not a clarification that I seek from him. It is a detailed discussion and we want a reply from him. Do not think that we are making noise here. It is

paining our mind that it is not being heard in the House and that it is not felt by them properly because it is not brought to the House at all so far. Initially, people felt happy when it was announced by the Deputy Prime Minister that Rs. 25,000/- would be paid to each person who died. But now he was telling that Rs. 15,000/- only will be paid. If it were in Punjab, in the same House they would say that Rs. 50,000/- to Rs. one lakh is being paid. What crime Andhra Pradesh has committed. What crime these people who died have committed of their own accord? It has happened because of natural calamity and all of them died. I request the hon. Minister once again to see that Rs. 25,000/- is paid to each person who died in the cyclone as announced earlier by themselves. Let the hon. Minister say that the discussion would be allowed tomorrow under 193 for which notice was given by many of the Members from Andhra Pradesh almost every day from 11. I myself gave notice five times, under 193 and 187 also.

SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA (Rajahmundry): I have also given notice.

SHRI K.S.RAO: If the hon. Minister agrees, we will have a detailed discussion. I do not want many more clarifications on this matter. If you agree for a discussion on this matter and say that it will come tomorrow, I have no objection.

SHRI CHAIRMAN: I say that the matter has been brought to the notice of BAC. BAC is meeting and whatever business was earlier decided upon was also decided upon by BAC in which your Members were also there. This is the position. Now I call upon Prof. N.G.Ranga.

SHRI K.S.RAO: I want to say only one thing. The hon. Minister has said that so many things have been done but nothing has been done there. FCI has not entered in a big way in purchasing the discolored paddy which was in lakhs of tonnes lying in water there. They are germinating. And if it is delayed, it will become useless. Poor farmers are still keeping their paddy in their fields. They are

under the impression that Government will announce something and the FCI will entire into purchasing these things. There is a possibility of rice mills taking all these wet and discoloured paddy and convert it into half-boiled rice. I want the Government to ensure for the effective implementation of all these thing instead of making only statements.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Madam Chairperson, I am glad that you have realised how seriously the whole thing has affected us, and how anxious we are to have areal full dressed discussion over this matter. I hope and I request you to use your good offices with the Government and with the whip and with the senior whips also to see that the time is given by this House to have a full-dressed debate. This is a most vital question. I am glad, you have said that the Business Advisory Committee is discussing it. It is for the Minister to take the initiative. I do not know why they have delayed it for so long. No wonder, my hon. friend Shri K.S. Rao, who comes from the very centre of this area, which has been affected so badly is so much excited. I do recognise the rules. According to the rules, we can only ask for clarification and not carry on a discussion at this stage. But a discussion is needed. A debate is needed. Time has got to be found out by the Government themselves. At this stage, I would like to inform the House and also ask the hon. Minister how much of this aid which has been detailed here has actually been conveyed to the actual sufferers. Nearly 1000 people have died. Everyday the number is going up. I have just now come this morning after touring in that very same area. I know how the people are suffering. Whatever he has said is true he has not exaggerated at all. Even the ripened paddy crop has been heaped up and it is flooring and the rest of it is rotting. Paddy itself, when harvested has been under water for all these ten days and its quality is likely to go down. I do not know at what price it can be sold. Government has got to come to the rescue of our people. So far as agricultural workers, *jhompariwalas* are concerned, they are busy in raising small huts, *jhomparis* for their

shelters. There are no wage paid for that. I do not know whether anybody, giving them any money. I have not come across people saying that some rations have been given to them. Therefore, I would like my hon. friend to get telegraphic information from the Andhra Government whether actually these foodgrains and other things, which are of equal daily importance are being actually supplied to the sufferers—how far and to what extent. What steps are they going to take in order to monitor its distribution. All these things are needed. I would like the Government to take the earliest possible opportunity to enlighten the House about this matter, and at the same time rush there whatever help they can to the rescue of those millions of people who are suffering very badly in five districts and particularly in three districts which are terribly hit.

SHRI KOTLA VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY (Kurnool): I have spent three days in all the seven districts that have been affected by cyclone and floods. As you know, I have been in active politics for nearly forty years.

PROF. N.G. RANGA: He was the Chief Minister there.

SHRI KOTLA VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: I was a Minister and became the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh also. I have seen so many cyclones and droughts. But the gravity of this, I have never seen in my life. I hope and pray that such things never happen again.

The human sufferings that I have seen cannot be described. It is heart-burning. I could not recover from it for four-five days. It was a calamity and the people of Andhra are facing it boldly. The State Government has done a wonderful job; it must be commended for this. But for the timely help that they have given, the deaths would have been more than a lakhs. They are doing their best to accommodate the people in camps and also to rehabilitate them. The State Government must be congratulated.

[Sh. Kotla Vijaya Bhaskara Reddy]

The resources with the State Government are very little. It cannot reach anywhere near the magnitude of the situation. So money is needed. This should be, Mr. Minister, treated as a national calamity and you should go to the help of the State Government and through the State Government rehabilitate lakhs and lakhs of people who have lost their entire things. Million of poultry chicken are dead, million of animals are dead and paddy is washed away. These four districts have the granary of the entire State. They supply grain to the entire South. All these farmers who are suffering must be given some aid to again take to the work of transplantation. The Government of India should take care of these people and this should be treated as a national calamity. Otherwise the State Government cannot do. Their resources are very limited.

I hope the Government of India has realised the magnitude of the situation. The Minister has said this in his statement also. I hope that this will be treated as a national calamity and the Central Government will go to the rescue of the Andhra people.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since the BAC is discussing this proposal, I would request all the Members to wait for that. In the mean time let us proceed with the business.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands): Madam Chairperson, there are some territories which are always affected by cyclone. The last November there was a devastating cyclone in the Andaman and Nicobar Island, particularly the middle Andaman was the worst affected place. So far, in spite of our best efforts to get the relief to the affected people, the victims, no relief has been given to that part of the country.

In the past also there were cyclones and floods. Thereafter half of the victims were provided relief and the rest half were not provided anything. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he would like

to have a uniform policy for the flood and cyclone affected areas where in a uniform manner the victims are provided relief then and there and the Government in the Centre would come to the rescue of the State Government or the Union Territory Administration.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Well, as I said already, it is under discussion in the BAC. I will allow only Shrimati Jamuna to speak on this subject.

SHRIMATI J. JAMUNA: Last week I had been to the East Godavari District. Everyone was telling about what a disaster this has been. I would like to bring to your kind notice that in my constituency Rajahmundry which has got a very good history, the mighty river Godavari is running there, every year frequently we get floods, rains and cyclones also. I request the Government to think of a permanent solution for this. I have travelled some places there by boat also. The medical aid is very necessary because the medical assistance was very poor. So I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to kindly make necessary arrangements to send more medicines for the poor people who are suffering in that area. A permanent solution should be found immediately. Our colleague Shri Rao and veteran Prof. Ranga also made a mention of this. They have already announced Rs. 25,000 for the relief of the people who died in the calamity. I request that they should keep up the word. I also request the Government of India that they should come to liberally help the affected people. Thank you very much.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the Minister want to respond?

SHRI Y.S. RAJASEKHAR REDDY (Cuddapah): I may also be permitted to speak for a minute.

Madam, whenever major cyclonic storm erupts in the Bay of Bengal, it always crosses Diviseema. About 10 or 12 years back, a similar situation arose where more than 10,000 people had lost their lives. This year,

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because of the very good warnings by the Department, a lot of precautionary measures were taken, wherein people were moved to safer places, quite in advance—at least three or four days in advance—So, this year, fortunately because of all these precautionary measures that were taken, the loss of life was not more, i.e. loss to human life was about 900. But the loss to the property was very very great, and is colossal. Ultimately the agriculturists are the worst suffers. For the past four or five years, we were talking very great about Crop Insurance Scheme. If the Crop Insurance Scheme would have been implemented in a proper way, these losses should have been, definitely compensated by the Insurance Company. But that is not just happening. We are only to pay the insurance premium. God only knows when we get the money from them. So, the Government should take absolute measures to see that the Crop Insurance Scheme are implemented very correctly.

As far as the losses to the artisans, their houses and other things are concerned, because of the regular occurrence of the cyclonic storms, in those areas, earlier, cyclonic shelters were built. Unfortunately in this cyclone, even those shelters got collapsed. Whenever the shelters are built again, please see that stronger shelter are built so that they will not get collapsed. Even if the water does not recede in one or two days, some sort of precautionary measures should be taken so that the lives are protected and the crops are also properly protected.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI (Vijayawada): I am supporting Shri Rajasekhar Reddy's statement.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: We do not want any discussion.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: In that case, a discussion is not called for. I will call other Members also and then settle the thing.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: it is correct that there was a cyclone. But the House is not discussing this subject at the moment. We have to adopted some procedure. Please cooperate with me.

(Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, I will call other hon. Members to speak for two minutes each and then the Minister will reply.

(Interruptions)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): But they cannot scuttle the discussion under Rule 193.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry, you are not the Deputy Speaker.

(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI: I will just add only one point.

Due to heavy rains, flood and cyclones are coming by which crops get damaged and the farmers are suffering. I am supporting the Crop Insurance Scheme. It is necessary. Shri Rajasekhar Reddy also mentioned about this. Due to floods, houses are washed away which is the biggest problem. In my Vijayawada Parliamentary Constituency, there is a Budumaru river through which entire flood water comes. Because of this, the sheds and the huts are washed away. So, I am requesting the Government to build pucca houses for the weaker sections of the society. Please do consider the pucca house scheme. I am again requesting the Government to help the State Government to build shelters. I sheds and canals. This is absolutely necessary for us.

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY (Adilabad): Madam Chairman, I take serious objection to the manner in which this matter has been dealt with because in a circular, that has been given to us, it is stated that the hon.

[Sh. P. Narsa Reddy]

Minister will make a statement immediately before a discussion under Rule 193. This is the circular given to us today. Now, the hon. Minister has given the statement without giving us even a copy, about what amenities and what help he is going to give on behalf of the Central Government. He has just made a casual statement. I want to invite the hon. Minister's attention to this important topic. Lakhs of persons are still residing temporarily in flood-affected areas after vacating their houses. Now, the monsoon has started. It has come to Andamans. It will come to Kerala by June. In about 10 or 15 days, the rains will come again. What would happen to the lakhs of families which are living in those causal camps? Secondly, due to sea water, that has come into the coastal areas, lakhs of acres have been affected with salinity. Gypsum is required. The Relief Commissioner and the State Government has asked the Central Government to supply gypsum to a very large extent so that salinity may go. Unless the farmer is allowed to continue his agricultural operations, the moment the rainy seasons sets in, he cannot go with a begging bowl either to the Central Government or the State Government. He will have to stand on his own feet.

Thirdly, about the loan, which the hon. Minister has promised, he has said that they would not ask for it. I would respectfully submit that for the Central Government it is not just sufficient to feed the Press that they are doing so much. They must write off the loans. If they are not willing to write off, at least the collection must be stopped. And for this year, fresh crop loans must be given so that wherever there is land, the cultivator may try to stand on his own legs. A cultivator naturally is not a beggar. He will not go around to the Central Government and the State Government. You must provide the minimum requirements.

Drinking water is also in short supply. It has been polluted by sea water. So, urgent efforts must be made. The amount of Rs. 34 crores, which the hon. Minister has very

kindly mentioned, is only a pittance. Nothing will happen with that. The State Government has already got deficit budget of Rs. 180 crore. I want drinking water. Gypsum is required for removing salinity. Housing material should also be provided for the poor, who are residing temporarily, in view of the coming monsoon.

SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM (Tenali): Madam, Cyclone had started in my constituency, Tenali, and there was much devastation.

AN HON MEMBER: 200 people died in his constituency.

MR. CHAIRMAN: He is speaking. You need not supplement.

SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM: I need not say about the devastation. But this cyclone started south of Madras. Everybody expected that it will certainly hit Madras. It had taken the northward direction. When it took the northward direction, everybody thought that it would hit West Bengal and if there is any deviation, it would hit Orissa. We do not know what the Chief Ministers of Madras, Orissa and West Bengal did but it appeared as though they conspired and misled the cyclone and it hit Andhra Pradesh. A lot of devastation has taken place.

This is a chronic disease taking place every year in our part, particularly in my constituency. I suggest to the Government of India to make it a point to construct *pucca* buildings within 25 kilometres of the sea port irrespective of any reservation. All the buildings must be *pucca* ones.

I also suggest that there must be an amendment to the Insurance Act to insure all the villages against the cyclone. Then there would not be much damage. In future, the problem can be tackled easily. Therefore, the Government of India should take action on these lines.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Since most of the Members have expressed their anguish, I

would request the Minister to respond to their points.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Madam, I have already mentioned about the serious consequences of the cyclonic storm in my statement. There are no two opinions that it was the worst cyclonic storm ever and there was lot of devastation there. Hon. Member Shri Rao mentioned extracts from my statement. We had clearly said that the Government does not want to hide anything. It is my mistake that I was reading a bit fast or when I was reading the statement, you were not paying full attention towards it but whatever you have followed, I have already explained everything about it...

SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANAGALAM (Salem): He read it fast as it was related to cyclonic storm.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Yes, as it was relate to cyclone, I read it fast. Shri Kumaramanagalam is correct.

I want to say a few things on the points raised here and about with clarification has been sought. Firstly, it has been said that the Deputy Prime Minister had announced Rs. 25,000 for the families of the dead but in the statement only Rs. 15,000 has been mentioned. I have clarified in my statement how the total comes to Rs. 25,000 which would be provided to the families of the dead or the next of kin. When cyclonic storm hit the area on the first day, there was need for immediate help. The Minister of agriculture is the Chairman of the trust which I mentioned. He announced at once that Rs. 25,000 will be given and therefore whatever sum he had with his was sent. Shri Ranga has asked how much money has been sent as relief so far. I would like to tell him that Rs. 48 lakhs has been sent to Andhra Pradesh by the trust and additional amount of Rs. 30 lakh is being sent to them. In this way the promise of Rs. 25,000 to each family would be fulfilled. But when the Hon. Prime Minister paid a visit there, he announced that Rs. 2 crores

will be given from Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Therefore, Rs. 10,000 will be given from this fund to each family of the deceased and Rs. 15,000 will be given by the trust thus the family of the deceased will get total relief of Rs. 25,000.

So, far as the question of the Pondicherry and Tamilnadu is concerned, details have not been received by the centre so far. We have some details and figures regarding deaths. According to these figures 7 and 2 persons died in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry respectively. I would like to say it categorically here that Rs. 25,000 to each family of the deceased would be given definitely. Not a single penny less than Rs. 25,000 will be given to the families of the deceased. This I am telling on behalf of the Government.

So far as the question of purchase of paddy is concerned. Government will take immediate action in this regard. The information given by the hon. Members who hail from there will be duly considered. We will try and avoid any delay, so that it can be purchased on time because Government's policy is to give relief to them. The relaxation in purchase has also been given to provide relief to the people there. The intention of the Government is not just to make announcements but also give relief in the real sense. The Government will look into whatever the hon. Member has said and it is committed to provide relief.

I have already said that the Hon. Prime Minister visited the area twice and he announced the relief immediately. Just now it has been said that it should be declared as a national calamity. I want to tell you in this regard that Calamity Relief Fund for every state has been set up on the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission. Rs. 86 crores have been allocated to Andhra Pradesh from Calamity Relief Fund. 75 per cent of it will be given by the Central Government. So the Share of Central Government is Rs. 64.50 crores out of Rs. 86 crores. Half of this amount is already released and as soon as the amount is spent rest half will also be released immediately. The share of

[Sh. Nitish Kumar]

Central Government which is Rs. 64.50 crores, will be released at the earliest, no reduction or delay will be made in it.

Another point is that the people have suffered extensive damage and loss. We accept it and every body accepts it that there has been extensive damage in the area. Whatever the hon. Member Shri Bhaskar Reddy said just now or whatever Shri N. T. Rama Rao and others have said in the State, the Hon. Prime Minister has given them assurance that he would consider it seriously. About the devolution of the Ninth Finance Commission, it has been said that Central Government should think over it. The Central Government is looking into it and the Hon. Prime Minister has directed that it should be examined. I would like to mention here that the Government will certainly respond to it.

So far as Insurance companies and banks are concerned they have been directed in clear terms to re-schedule loans and issue fresh loans. The Hon. Prime Minister visited the area twice and everything is being done on the directions of the Hon. Prime Minister. A point was raised regarding pucca houses. We would try to provide all necessary assistance under the Hut Scheme or other schemes of the Central Government. Besides, financial institutions which are already involved with this work, have been asked to give help to the poor in this regard. The houses of the weaker section which have been destroyed or washed away should be given assistance to build pucca houses. I mean to say that Government is aware that relief and assistance should be provided to the people affected by the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh or in other States. I have myself mentioned in the statement on behalf of the Government that if Metrological Department had not informed on time, the situation would have been for more devastating and, casualties would have been more. Not only crops, property roads, railways, transport, communication, infra-structure, have suffered a loss but cattle, and men

have also perished in this cyclonic storm. It is a serious matter and a matter of national concern. The people of the entire country whether they belong to Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu or Pondicherry are anxious and they realise that the people of Andhra Pradesh are in great difficulty. That is why the Haryana Government has provided Rs. 30 lakhs for relief and the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has also made an announcement in this regard. The hon. Deputy Prime Minister and the Hon. Prime Minister have also appealed to the people and the voluntary organisations to come forward and help. This is a matter of concern for all. Central Government is aware of it and it will pay attention to the suggestions made by the hon. Members and consider how the problem can be solved on non-party issue basis.

SHRIMANORANJAN BHAKTA: Please tell us about Andaman too.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am speaking about all the places about which information has been received by the Central Government. What can we do if the State Governments do not send information in details. If have said about Andhra Pradesh because the State Government sent us information. If information is not received by the Central Government what can it do. A team of the Central Government visited the affected areas to assess the situation.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKATA: Union territories are directly under the control of the Central Government.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The Government will take action on the information received from the cyclone affected areas and try to provide relief accordingly. The Government will look into what you have said. I there has been damage, relief would be provided. Government will definitely consider it. In the end, I would like to appeal, through you, that during this period of crisis everybody should come forward to provide relief whether they belong to the ruling party or opposition, whether they are in Government or out of it. They should work for the restoration of nor-

malcy. With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI VIDYA CHENNUPATI: You have not said anything about Crop Insurance.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Everybody knows about Crop Insurance policy. It is there and is still continuing.

[English]

SHRI K. S. RAO: That crop insurance scheme is applicable only if the crop fails. Here, the crop was all right; it was washed away by cyclones. That scheme, therefore, does not apply. You would need to bring an amendment to that to cover this perhaps.

SHRI S. BENJAMIN (Bapatla): There is a heavy loss of tobacco, particularly the variety called 'Burly' tobacco. Lakhs of tonnes of tobacco have been damaged. I am very thankful to the Government for expressing its concern, but what are the steps that have been taken to compensate the people concerned? The ITC must come forward to purchase that tobacco.

Further, a number of educational institutions etc. were damaged during these cyclones. What steps have been taken by the UGC to rehabilitate those institutions?

I would request the Government to consider these two aspects also.

SHRI LOKNATH CHOUDHURY: Madam, some parts of Orissa are also affected by the cyclone which affected mostly the Andhra Pradesh. As you know, Madam, I would like to tell the Minister that, Orissa coast and especially Midnapuri in West Bengal during the months of October and September are prone to cyclone. I would request the Minister that from now onwards he should take preventive measures to see that Orissa and West Bengal are not affected by the cyclone. Will the Government of India keep this point in mind?

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South):

Earlier during such calamity, things worth crores and lakhs of rupees were allowed to be flown free by the Indian Airlines. In the past the Indian Airlines had allowed such donations to be flown free from the Centre. I would request the Minister to direct the Indian Airlines that if anybody wants to donate anything, be it from Bombay, Delhi, Madras or Calcutta, such donations should be allowed to fly free.

MR. CHAIRMAN: First of all, we should express our deep sympathy to the people of Andhra Pradesh and also to the people of other States which are affected. If anybody else has any suggestion to make, he can give it in writing to the Minister.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We should have a full discussion on this.

MR. CHAIRMAN: That I don't know. B.A.C. knows that. We now move on to the next item i. e. discussion under Rule 193. The time allotted for this discussion is two hours. I think you will plan your speeches accordingly. Now, I call upon Shri Kumaramangalam.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Just a minute Madam.

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Madam, I yield to one of the Member on the Panel of the Chairmen.

SHRI JASWANT SINGH: Madam, I just want to know that till how long the House will sit today and also till how long will this discussion on LTTE go on. Is it to spill over to tomorrow? We would like to know so that we can structure the rest of our day.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The normal time for adjournment is 6.00 O' Clock. Everybody knows that. We can take the sense of the House. If all of us want to sit up to 6.00 O'Clock....

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: We would like to sit only up to 6.00 P.M.

MR. CHAIRMAN: So, we will sit up to 6.00 P. M. and after that we can see. I now call upon shri Kumarmangalam.

16.59 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Situation arising out of the Reported
Activities of LTTE in Tamil Nadu**

[English]

SHRI P. R. KUMARMANGALAM (Sa-lem) Madam, Chairperson, I am extremely obliged that you have at last called upon me to raise a discussion, though I think the cause is very justified to the extent that it was on a very important issue which had a very strong humanitarian angle. But I raise this discussion with tremendous pain and anguish in my heart. Madam Chairperson, being a Member of Parliament from the State of Tamil Nadu, my mother State, it is but with a tremendous amount of restraint and understanding that I think all of us must participate in this debate.

17.00 hrs.

The situation is not just serious but it is moving to a crisis point. I think it would be relevant for me to go into the immediate past about the activities of LTTE in Tamil Nadu and then come to the present situation. Actually, after the Indo-Sri Lankan Accord, around October, 1987, the LTTE, which had spread out in Tamil Nadu were told in on uncertain terms that they must return and they did pack their baggages and moved out. The moment the Assembly elections were over, they returned, that is, in January of last year and returned not in small numbers but in quite a large contingent of them but lay quite low. Now and then we saw sporadic action on their part in the coastal areas. But they started preparing grounds in the hinterland of Tamil Nadu itself. The real first flash was, when they openly moved in for a kill as it is called. It took place around 19 and 20

December, 1989 this House would recollect when this was brought to the notice of the Government through the Speaker who was in the Chair at that moment. At that time, five customs' officials were kidnapped by the LTTE. We were later informed that they have been released. This obviously was done with an intention to intimidate the customs and immigration officials. That was the beginning of the serious phase in Tamil Nadu. The five of them were taken into custody or detention by the LTTE in a mid-sea encounter with the militants on the 9th of December. Thereafter what is interesting is that, we found that they were imposing their control over the seas not just the portion of the seas that belonged to the international waters of Sri Lanka but also the portion of the seas that belonged very clearly, according to any international law, to us. Our fisher folk, specially from Rameshwaram, could not even venture into the sea and fish near their shores-which were an old practice-were, prized prawns were available. But on the contrary, their fishermen, to only fish in our waters, but also move on to our shores and kept control. One of the worst happenings that I could bring to the notice of the hon. Minister for Home Affairs is that they have been walking around in the coastal areas in Rameshwaram, in the city of Madras and they have been seen in the city of Madurai, carrying AK-47s openly on their shoulders. They are not shy of exposing that they are armed and they are flaunting about. In fact one example was that the two tigers were in their full uniform-they were not in the *mufti* but were in their battle dress.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Tigers?

SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM: Yes; they are called Tigers.

My friend Mr. Rawat is asking: 'Tigers?' and I have to explain to him that it is the nickname that they have got for themselves. They have cap and all, a full uniform, carrying AK-47 rifles and were waiting for a friend of theirs at the railway station at Rameshwaram, a friend who is coming from Egmore