

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: What can we do when the laws are so?

SHRI RAM SAJIWAN: What for you are sitting in the Government when laws are so? Laws are violated, this what I am saying.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Better ask Basu Sahib in this regard.

SHRI RAM SAJIWAN: First of all, you should get prepared and the entire House, the majority would be with you, if you come forward courageously. This is all I am to say, and now I conclude while supporting it.

17.33 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Situation arising out of the cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the relief measures undertaken by the Central Government and Governments of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Union Territory of Pondicherry**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up discussion under Rule 193 on the situation arising out of the cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the relief measures undertaken by the Central and State Governments concerned.

Shri PC Thomas—not present.

Shri K.S. Rao.

SHRI K.S. RAO (Machilipatnam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, at least, I think, after 20 days after the serious devastation that occurred in Andhra Pradesh—it occurred on the 9th of this month—that this House could give us some time to discuss the matter. (Interruptions) After 20 days, we are discussing it. Four days back, I was insisting on discussing this matter under Rule 193. In fact, all the members from Andhra Pradesh

were aggrieved that this matter could not be discussed for 20 days. There is a saying that unless a child cries for milk, the mother does not give him milk. We have been giving notices right from the 10th of this month. But it could not come to the mind of either the Business Advisory Committee or the Government to allow this matter to be discussed in the House. The Government should not take into account how many members are there in the Congress Party from Andhra Pradesh; the Government must take into account the feelings of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Had the Minister taken serious note of the devastation that had occurred in Andhra Pradesh—He himself had expressed it in the note that he gave the other day—I am sure, every member of the House would have understood how serious it was. I will quote only one. If the newspapers and the Government were to give the number of deaths, they started with 30, then it went on to 409, 50 and so on up to 1000 now. After 20 days, obviously, we can understand that there are still areas which are inaccessible and the number of people died could not be accounted for, till today. The cyclone was there for only one day. If it had continued for some days I can understand their going on increasing the number of deaths. There is some meaning if such reports go on coming. But the cyclone was there of only one day and the reports of deaths are continuing to come even today.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHARY (Jagatsinghpur): That is the State Government's work.

SHRI K.S. RAO: The gravity of the cyclone and the pathetic situation of the people can be well imagined by the fact that several areas were inaccessible for quite a long time. That is why we were making an uproar in the house on the other day. I therefore request the hon. members not to misunderstand us.

I do not want to repeat the statistics given by the hon. Minister himself. More than a crore of people have been affected by it. Almost all the coastal districts have been

affected completely, and people along 1000 km of the coast line have been affected. The loss of property is, even unimaginable and even on governmental account it has been very heavy, which is possibly unheard of in the history of this country. About the property lost, it is pathetic state to see it.

The worst affected by the cyclone were the people who were living near the coast, especially the poor people in particular, and those of the farming community. The poor people have lost what all they have got, their household articles, utensils etc. I do not know how many years it will take for them to cover and procure the small things which they have lost now. The Government should never think in terms of rupees when it comes to the question of providing help to the affected people—whether it is the utensils or whether it is shelter or anything else because it may take months and years for the poor people to recover from the loss.

It is of course the duty of the State Governments as Mr. Loknath Choudhary has said. When the hon. Prime Minister himself, having seen the gravity of the situation was asked in my constituency, Machilipatnam to declare it as a national calamity, he said that, having seen the devastation caused, "I do not think that there will be any other calamity which can be called a national calamity." So, we do not have to emphasised that it is a national calamity and it has been accepted by the Prime Minister himself and the disaster has been, total. There is no point in saying that the State Government has to look after all these people. Everyone of use knows that when it comes to our State, our own constituency we turn to the Central Government for help and we will say that the Government of India should help them. But everyone of us will also agree that the devastation caused is so vast that it will not be possible for the State Government alone to come to the rescue of the entire people and the Central Government must help them in every respect including providing financial assistance to the State Governments.

We are certainly grateful to the Prime

Minister who has announced a relief of Rs. 86 crores. But all we wanted to impress was that this figure is according to the report of the Ninth Finance Commission. This recommendation was made by the Ninth Finance Commission in their report. But that is only a provision made not taking into account the seriousness of the national calamity it is a normal figure provided when a normal cyclone or flood or drought occurs. But such assistance should not be limited to the provision made by the Finance Commission's recommendation only. So, while we thank the Prime Minister for the assistance that as given, having come to the rescue of the people, I want to say that it is no place to the people. We request that the whole House should come to the rescue of the people affected by the cyclone and to bring pressure on the Government to come to the rescue of the affected people and to provide them their essential and basic requirements. Every one of us know the pathetic conditions of these poor people.

I would like to make a few points in regard to the farming community. The farming community in the coastal belts invariably is far from the civilised society. The accessibility is much less in some of those parts. They live almost in seclusion.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How much time do you need? Your Party has 41 minutes. I have a list of ten people to speak. You have already taken eight minutes.

SHRI K.S. RAO: I will take a little more time. The farming community has lost everything there, and particularly in my area. There are two crops of paddy which is being cultivated. The first crop was also lying in the fields as a heap and the second crop has come. Later the cyclone had come before they took away the paddy from the fields. So, they lost both the crops. In some parts, paddy is lying after harvesting in a bad shape which is to be taken by the FCI or some millers. As the FCI had not come forward to purchase their paddy, they could not oppose it. Also they did not have enough time, so, they lost both their crops. The condition of

[Sh. K.S. Rao]

the farmer in that part is, if you were to get 30 bags of paddy or two tonnes of paddy, one and a half tonnes goes towards expenditure and the net income to the farmer is only one third of total crop yield. That means, if one crop goes, he will become bankrupt for two crops. It takes two years for him to recover. In one year if he loses two crops, then it will take four years to recover for him. This aspect has to be looked into. He should not be treated like a businessman or an industrialist. So, the farmer must be understood properly. He is not getting the crop insurance properly. Crop Insurance also applies one if the crop fails. There is no provision for such calamities in the crop insurance. The Crop Insurance Act must be amended in such a manner that the people who lose the crops like this also must be compensated. We had requested the FCI to open local centres immediately for purchasing some of these paddy, which is discoloured, wet and even germinating sometimes. With the hope that FCI will come and purchase their paddy, they are still keeping the paddy in their fields. FCI, though promised but not in a substantial way. So, more promise, as I said last time, would not help the farming community.

Similar is the case of poultry people. Sixty lakhs of poultry were dead and the insurance people had not gone there. The poultry farmers are keeping the dead birds under the fear that if they are not physically shown, to the insurance people they will not repay. This is leading to epidemic. The smell is unimaginable and it is stinking. Nobody can go anywhere near it. Fortunately or unfortunately the dead cattle were removed. But these are lying there causing health hazards. So, I want the hon. Minister to direct the Insurance Companies to go to the rescue of these people and make a survey immediately.

In regard to self-employed personnel, I do not want to emphasise once again the same condition.

Drinking water is not available in the

villages today. It is polluted. They do not have water. Water is being carried for miles together. So, immediate arrangements have to be made to get underground water for drinking purposes at least, if not for other purposes.

I want to suggest some permanent measures which are to be taken immediately so that this can be tackled. The Government must find out the reason why cyclones are coming continuously, particularly in coastal areas. Almost every year we are getting cyclones. This is the experience for the last several years, particularly for the last ten years.

To save the human lives, every village must be provided with three or four cyclone shelters so that human lives can be saved in such an eventuality.

There is another thought. If at least 300 to 400 metres wide area adjacent to the sea coast is developed with tall trees, then the devastation due to cyclone which comes at a speed of 250 kph can be minimised.

Similarly, there is proposal on the part of the Government of India to construct coastal roads. This coastal road can be of use if it is constructed at least 6 to 10 metres high to prevent tidal waves or sea water entering into the villages of the coastal areas.

If these permanent measures are to be taken, though we cannot prevent cyclones, at least, we can save the lives of human beings, property, cattle and other things. So this may be given a serious thought.

Finally, I once again request the hon. Minister to declare immediately—though the Minister has told me personally, it is not officially declared—as a national calamity and assistance must be given treating it as a national calamity and the State must be given immediate assistance so that the people have immediate relief.

As several of my friends are there to tell

other points, I conclude by saying that the one Ham Radio which has helped to a very great extent in reducing the calamity. It is a professional radio and not a governmental organisation which is doing almost free service. It does not cost anything. But the service rendered by Ham Radio is enormous. I wish the hon. Minister to go into the details and assist that Ham Radio, those professional who work voluntarily in such eventualities, go to the villages and warn all the villages through wireless and other things.

[*Translation*]

\*SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU (Narasapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cyclonic storm on 9th and 10th of this month has affected very badly the state of Andhra Pradesh. Tamil Nadu and Orissa have also suffered to some extent.

At the outset I express my deep gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister who visited the cyclone affected areas of Andhra Pradesh on 12th and again on 19th of this month to study the situation personally. He was kind of enough to release Rs. 84 crores as grant immediately. He also released Rs. 2 crores from Prime Minister Relief Fund. Cholera vaccine and bleaching powder etc. were also supplied in time. The people in the State will ever remain grateful to him for the sympathy and understanding he has shown. He has shown personal interest in the rescue and relief operations.

Also, I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Meteorological Department of India for its timely warnings which averted a major loss of life and property. Similarly all the army, airforce and navy personnel who without caring for their lives rescued marooned people, provided them with food and drinking water deserve my special thanks for their services. The Hon. Minister of State for Agriculture has given particulars of loss. I do not want to waste the time of this House repeating the same. In view of the unprecedented loss the Govern-

ment should take the following steps to rescue the people.

1. All the insurance and comprehensive crop insurance claims should be settled immediately.
2. All the areas upto 20 to 25 Kms from the sea have been submerged by the sweater. The tidal waves ranging from 6 to 10 feet height have wasted these away everything. The loss is total Even now all areas are submerged under salt water to a depth of 1 ft. to 2 feet. These tidal waters have deposited thick layer of saline earth in the fields detrimental to soil fertility. The Govt. should help the farmers in removing the salinity.
3. In thousands of acres the paddy stacks still lay under 1 to 2 feet water. The paddy stacks have been completely soaked in the continuous heavy rains. The Govt. should purchase this discoloured paddy or rice by relaxing the specifications through Food Corporation of India and Andhra Pradesh Rice Federation as they have done in the case of Punjab in the past.
4. Pucca buildings should be constructed for the people who have lost their houses in the recent cyclone with part of the money as grant, balance as loan from the National Housing Bank.
5. (a) The outstanding crop loans should be written off.  
 (b) Fresh loans must be sanctioned for the coming Khariff season.
6. In respect of the Poultry Farms, the present outstanding loans should be converted into long term loans

[Sh. Bh. Vijayakumar Raju]

and fresh loans should be sanctioned to undertake repairs to the structures.

7. Immediate steps should be taken to supply drinking water in tankers. Steps should also be taken immediately to supply fodder to the surviving cattle population. The entire responsibility should not be left to the state government alone.

Sir, I want to make few suggestions which will help in averting the tragedy in coming years. Experts have predicted that the sea level might go up by 3 or 4 feet in the next coming 3 or 4 decades. In such a case the entire area will be submerged in the sea water. The adjacent agricultural lands will lose their fertility. Lakhs of people have to be evacuated to safer places. All of them have to be rehabilitated. One can well imagine the huge expenditure involved in this. Hence an expert Committee should be appointed to study the entire matter thoroughly. Appropriate steps should be taken to avert the predicted calamity. Following steps will help in averting the future danger.

Kolleru is a world famous lake. Many artificial lakes have come up in recent years to boost fishery. New Roads have been laid around it. Many new farms have sprung up. In fact, Kolleru is not the Kolleru once it used to be. As a result the water is not flowing out freely, quite often resulting in the inundation of adjacent areas. Krishna, Godavari Districts are receiving floods mainly on this account.

Hence to serve Krishna and Godavari Districts from this danger it is necessary to dig Perantala Kanumu canal to take such water to Upputeru at a faster pace. Also a regulator should be constructed to save the area from the back lash of sea water.

The Government should also take up the following works in order to avert inundation due to heavy rains and floods:—

a) Bickavolu should be diverted to Eleeru

b) Kovvada Canal should be diverted to Godavari and a reservoir should be constructed on it.

c) Erra Kaluva should be diverted to Godavari;

d) Thammileru protection bunds should be raised and strengthened.

e) A parallel drain to Enamadurru drain should be dug up. The old course of Gontheru drain should be repaired immediately to drain out waste water into the sea. Otherwise sea water may flow back causing enormous damage to the entire area.

Sir, I do agree that the works mentioned above should be taken up by the State Govt. Since the State Govt. has no money to undertake these works it has been postponing the work indefinitely. East Godavari, West Godavari and Krishna Districts of the delta region are suffering year after year on account of heavy floods. Hence I appeal to the Central Govt. to take up the above mentioned works as a part of the strategy to combat floods. Budameru protection bunds should also be raised and strengthened.

A portion of Gunderu and Battiprodu drains should be diverted to river Krishna.

All the major, medium and minor drains should be widened and deepened in the delta area. Bunds should be also be strengthened and widened so as to utilise them as coastal roads. Sufficient number of regulators should be constructed to prevent sea-water entering the land. Sir, both the State Govt. and Central Govt. should team to undertake the above mentioned works. We, the farmers of the area are also ready to contribute our might for the execution of this gigantic task. We are prepared to pay betterment tax if necessary. Only by taking the above-mentioned measures, we will be able to avert inundation of these lands by sea water in the coming decades.

I hope the Hon. Minister would consider my suggestions seriously. I conclude my speech thanking you for the opportunity you have provided me to speak.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY (Amalapuram): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cyclone that hit the coastal districts during 7th, 8th and 9th of this month, was the first of its kind in this century because I had the opportunity to see the losses of previous cyclones. I was the first Member of Parliament to visit the cyclone-hit areas when the cyclone and tidal waves struck Diviseema in 1977. The loss of life was more but the overall loss from this cyclone was very much compared to that 1977 cyclone. In fact the State Government this time had taken certain steps that minimised the loss of life. We are grateful to the hon. Prime Minister also who has shown a positive gesture in visiting the places twice personally and also for announcing reasonable amount of assistance.

Sir, I would not make a long speech for want of time, but I would like to make some observations. In 1977, I had visited the cyclone devastated places and had also gone through Dr. Kotesam's Report which was submitted in 1955. In that Report, Dr. Kotesam had made certain recommendations. He had specifically recommended to construct cyclone shelters and also to raise a green belt on the coast line. He also suggested about the development of drainage system. At that time, I had raised this issue and had also represented to the hon. Minister at that time Mr. Kaushik was the Minister. The Government had taken a serious note of it and 828 cyclone shelters were constructed on the coastline. My friend made an observation that in every village three or four cyclone shelters will be able to help the people if tidal waves come. Certainly it will not be so, because each time the tidal waves come they take away lakhs of lives. After spending twenty days in the cyclone hit areas and discussing with the local people—most of them in the coastal belt—I could find out certain things. The Government has to take two important steps. One is that in the

cyclone affected areas they have to construct the coastal road; the second is to raise the green belt and that way the speed of the wind could be controlled. In the tidal-prone areas the Government has to take serious and sincere steps to construct a cyclone shelter in miniature for every family—I am repeating, Sir, a cyclone shelter in miniature for every family in the form of a terraced building because all the people of the village cannot be accommodated in one or two cyclone shelters. I visited a place near the sea coast where thousands of families were there. Only one cyclone shelter was there where about four hundred people were accommodated. Had there been tidal waves, almost two thousand people would have been washed away. In the entire coastal belt in my constituency, lakhs of inhabitants are there. Therefore, a few cyclone shelters will not serve the purpose. Once you provide the cyclone shelters in miniature in the form of terraced buildings, it will not only save the human lives but we need not spend thousands of crores of rupees for reconstructing the houses also by way of relief. In the long run, we can save thousands of crores of rupees. This is an important aspect and the Government should make a note of it and they must cooperate with the State Government. It should not be treated simply as a State subject. I am happy that the Prime Minister made an important observation and treated this as a national calamity. The second equally important aspect is that the people there must be provided road network... (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is six o'clock now. What is the desire of the House? Should we continue or should we take it up tomorrow?

AN HON. MEMBER: Tomorrow, Sir.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Let us finish it today, Sir.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: O.K. we will continue up to seven o'clock.

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): Sir,

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

there is no request from the Treasury Benches. It least the Minister should make a request.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): We have no objection, we are ready.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: If the hon. Minister agrees to take it up tomorrow, it is O.K., otherwise we can continue today.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: We are prepared, it all depends on you. We can complete it today itself.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will go up to seven o'clock because there are so many other matters to be discussed tomorrow.

[Translation]

SHRI SHOPAT SINGH MAKKASAR (Bikaner): Since it is a serious matter we should finish we today.

18.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we are discussing a very important issue. Let us discuss it in such a fashion that something comes out of it. It is a fact that the cyclone has hit the area and people have suffered. There is no dispute about it. There are certain things which are done by the State Government. There are certain things which have to be done by the Central Government and the State Governments need some assistance

and all that. Let us classify that and discuss it. There is no point in repeating the same thing what other hon. Members have said. Something should come out of the discussion.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURHTY:

Sir, I will give the suggestions instead of narrating the situation there. Sir, during the time when cyclone occurred last time, I also requested then to instal a radar system at Machillipatnam and they did it. That was set up, but it has been totally damaged in the present cyclone. During the cyclone, our experience is that one radar system will not be enough to help the people in warning about possible occurrence of cyclone. Therefore, there should be two more radar systems. Apart from one at Machillipatnam there should be one at Kakinada and another at Amalpuram and the radar system in Masulipatnam should be repaired because it has been heavily damaged in the present cyclone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is true that the entire eastern coastal area is covered with the cyclone warning system through Satellites. This is done through the Space Department.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:

Sir, apart from that, this time the communication systems have completely broken down. The installation and improvement of wireless system would go a long way in helping people in the coastal areas, specially during the cyclone.

Sir, the farmers have lost everything and the Central Government have given relaxation in the matter of purchasing paddy from the farmers there by the F.C.I. whether it is discoloured or partially spoiled. The State Government made all possible arrangements and the District Administration has also come a big way to help the F.C.I. Sir, I have been there for about 20 days and I have seen the problems faced by the farmers there. The F.C.I. is not at all responding in purchasing their paddy. I would like the hon. Minister to take this matter very seri-

ously. In spite of the fact that the Government has given relaxation, F.C.I. has not responded to help the farmers and they are always insisting on their own norms, instead of responding to the relaxed norms. They are trying to look after their own interests instead of looking to the interests of the farmers. This is a special situation of its kind and it is a national calamity. Therefore, I plead with the Central Government that they must immediately instruct the F.C.I. to help the farmers by purchasing their paddy. Coming to the assistance, I may point out that declaring the assistance in a routing way by the Central Government is not sufficient. The hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh made it clear in the recent interview with the World Bank team that the Central Government's assistance of Rs. 86 crores will not be sufficient to provide food and reasonable shelter even in the two districts. Therefore, the Centre should respond in a big way. I would request the Central Government to bear at least 50% of the total loss occurred in the recent cyclone. Besides, there are number of areas where assistance has not reached properly because there are big breaches on the National Highways. Even today most of the affected places are unapproachable and there are number of breaches on the roads. Even for me it has taken 20 days to reach the main land. Therefore, the National Highways and the other road systems must be repaired and improved immediately, specially on the coastal areas. I have been insisting the Government to construct the coastal road between Thada and Itchapuram and this road construction should be taken up right-earnest and if necessary it should be taken up on war-footing basis. It will definitely help the affected areas in a very big way.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have already spoken for 10 minutes.

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Before concluding, I would like to impress upon the Government at Andhra Pradesh inherited a crippled economy. Secondly, the severe power out put halt to the progress of industrial growth. On both these counts it

requires much more help in this hour of need. Therefore, on these counts the Government should think in a big way and come forward with big financial assistance that would definitely help relieve the distress of the people of Andhra Pradesh now.

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV (Godda): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Andhra Pradesh was the worth hit from the cyclone that developed in the Bay of Bengal on the 2nd May. It paralysed the life in Andhra Pradesh and caused massive devastation. Similarly, the coastal areas of Bengal also suffered heavy loss due to this cyclone. These areas of Bengal and its bordering areas in Bihar did not receive any central assistance. Due to this cyclone, the districts of Dumka, Godda, Sahibganj, Pakurn Bihar received heavy rainfall. All the Kuchha houses were collapsed in the heavy rain. They are living under open sky in this hot season. The Central Government has taken no steps to mitigate their hardships.

I hail from Bihar. Bihar is the worst sufferer of floods. People are facing a lot of difficulties after this cyclone. Epidemic breaks out after floods. I would like to request you that the central assistance should be given to Bihar, West Bengal, Pondicherry and Tamil Nadu to the extent possible. Farmers in these states should be given loans as their crops have been destroyed. Side-by-side, preventive measures should also be taken to check spread of disease as also drinking water should be provided.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Drinking water has to be provided by State Government, not by the Central Government.

SHRI JANARDAN YADAV: I would like to reiterate that the maximum assistance should be provided to the cyclone-hit states to compensate the economic loss suffered by them.



[English]

18.09 hrs.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the cyclone that lashed the eastern region specially Andhra Pradesh is like a Pralaya. It is perhaps the worst in the cyclone history of India. I am telling this because I come from the State where cyclone invariably comes in the cyclic order in every three years and never the speed of the wind was less than 240 kilometres. So, what do 240 kilometres mean? Those who have been in the midst of cyclone would have felt it. So, sir, the cyclone as it has been stated has become something different. If you see the history of cyclone in the 19th century, in the 18th century and in this century, you will see that it is more frequent now. Never before, it was like this. Something has happened to the natural process. Therefore, cyclone has become almost a regular thing in this country. A lot of damage has been caused in Andhra Pradesh. It is beyond the powers of any State Government to meet the situation. The people should be maintained till the next crop is nurtured. The fertile lands of Guntur district of Andhra Pradesh are inundated by Saline waters. That land will remain unproductive and will not be fit for cultivation for five years and drinking water will not be available. I am speaking from my experience in Orissa. So, the Government should do something to maintain the people till the next crop is raised. The second thing is that they should do something for the land so that it is cultivated and rural people raise their crops. It requires a high cost. No State Government can meet the situation. The Prime Minister himself has said: if it is not a national calamity, then what will be national calamity? If you treat something as a national calamity, is it the responsibility of the State Government alone? The Government of India has released only Rs. 32 crores out of the Finance Commission's grant for natural calamity. Will it be sufficient to meet the situation? Therefore, in such cases where such devastation takes place and human misery comes to this position, it should be first the responsibility of

the Central Government to come forward with help. It should not behave in a way that some other Government is there and our Government is different. Such a tradition has been created in this country. The national calamity should be treated as national calamity involving all the national parties. My submission is to lessen the difficulties of the people of Andhra Pradesh, it is the primary responsibility of the Government of India to treat it as a national calamity and help the Andhra Pradesh Government because the resources of the State Government are not enough to meet the requirements.

In Orissa also, we are apprehending cyclone every three years. The speed of the wind that had hit the Andhra coast indicated something. When a low pressure comes, we should see whether the speed of the wind can be checked. Similar methods are being applied in America. Again and again, cyclone is destroying the eastern coast and makes the life miserable there. So, the Government of India should think about preventing in by limiting the speed of the wind so that the damage is reduced. For that purpose, the new methods which are applied in the America and other countries should be tried here also. To check this, a coastal road cum embankment is necessary. When thousands of people died in Orissa, Shri Biju Patnaik who was the then Planning Board Chairman, employed a commission under the leadership of Dr. Khosla, a renowned engineer. He said that this can be checked, if there is a highway on the coastline. It should start from Haldia to Rameshwaram in Tamilnadu on Eastern coast. This permanent measure should be taken to tackle cyclone. It is high-time to take action when the damage occurred due to cyclone in Andhra Pradesh is staggering. The Government has estimated the loss to one thousand crores of rupees. To check such an extent of damage, preventive measures should be taken.

Another point is, there should be a green belt and in the cyclone areas, intensive warnings are to be given. It is because of the warnings that the lives could be saved. In

Andhra, in the earlier cyclone in 1977 10,000 people died. This year only 1,000 people died and many lives could be saved. Therefore, warning should be more intensive and it should be done frequently. Advance warning signal radars should be installed and shelters should be made in a big way. It is not the duty of the Government to do it. It is not only Andhra Pradesh but Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Orissa and West Bengal should be taken care of so that further devastation does not come every year and destroy our national economy.

With this, I submit that while taking permanent measures to tackle cyclone, the Government must come forth with declaring it as a national calamity and taking the responsibility of mitigating the sufferings of the people of Andhra Pradesh, maintaining those who have suffered till the next crop comes and also helping them in every possible way so that they produce and live with dignity.

PROF. N.G. RANGA (Guntur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I endorse every word, every suggestion that has been made by all the hon. Members today and their speeches have been very constructive. I thank you for advising us to place the ideas before the House instead of simply repeating what we have seen about the devastation that has been caused by the cyclone.

Now I am glad that my hon. friend from Orissa has raised it to this level that it is a cyclone from one end to the other on the East coast and it has to be looked at that way. I am very glad that this time, the Government here at the Centre as well as at the State have risen to the occasion and have seen that the Prime Minister here and the Chief Minister their and their leaders of the parties they represent, to go there on the spot and see all the sufferings of the people and have come back. So have our Members of Parliament also. I may just add to what they have already observed. I wish to express my admiration for the heroic efforts that are being made by those lakhs of Harijans, weavers, backward class people and the Kisans to meet the challenge of this disaster

and to go on reconstructing their own social economy and crop economy also by their own efforts without having to wait for some kind of aid coming from the Heavens.

having said that, I would like to say that it is necessary for the Government, in view of the fact that these cyclones are periodical visitation, to think terms of working out a regular policy—not for prevention of cyclone but—for the prevention of the extent of damage that can be caused and that is being caused by the cyclone. Therefore, they should ask the experts to study the various ways and means by which they can prevent the extent of damage that would be caused by cyclone. Other countries like America have had this experience. But then, their standard of living is much higher. But to involve their experience may also be useful in our country. Let the Government make some efforts in that direction.

According to the latest statement made by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Dr. Chenna Reddy, thousands of crores rupees worth of damage has been done and more than Rs. 1,000 cores would be needed in order to provide protective steps. From where this money would come? All of a sudden, you cannot find it. The suggestion have been making over a number of years is that there should be a permanent Natural Calamities Protection Fund established here at the Centre to which the Government of India would be making annual grants and then at the State level also for these affected States especially. There is drought also in various areas, especially Rajasthan. There also they should have a world sponsored fund. Some years ago, there was talk of establishing such a Fund at the World Food Organisations. I would like the Government of India to support it and strengthen it. At that time, unfortunately our Government was unwilling to become partner in it nor did it care to take the initiative for fear of political interference possibly coming in the way of making these grants and also distribution and so on like that. But now the time is ripe for organisation like that at world level, then at the State level and at the national level.

[Prof. N.G. Ranga]

Every year, certain percentage of the national revenue should be contributed. Unless we have some such financial equipment, it would not be possible for the Government to go to the rescue of the sufferers.

Then there is the question of credit. My hon. friend Shri K.S. Rao has already referred to it. There is the credit which is needed by the farmers and which has already been supplied to the farmers but which cannot be repaid at all. The long-term credit which has been supplied to the farmers for which instalments have got to be paid, those instalments have got to be written off. For two years thereafter, the capacity of the farmers would not be there to repay these things. Similarly, taxes also. Land revenue, for instance, has to be written off. So many other things have to be done.

I would like my hon. friend the Minister in charge of it, to get a regular summary of the speeches and suggestions made here and also in the other House and let their officers give them the necessary advice in detail as to how much help has to be rendered to the State Government. This time, I must congratulate the Central Government for dismissing the earlier delaying procedures and for advancing money to the State Government and also for sending Study Groups so on. But that it is not enough. Whatever advance they have given today is not at all enough. 20 times such advance has to be given. Wherefrom is another matter. The help of insurance companies has to be invoked. Banks have got to be also pressed into service.

Having said all this, what is it that they can do? At least now, as I have said, they should express their gratitude to the weavers, to the Harijans, to the backward class people and to the helpless people, for having risen to help themselves and making their heroic effort in order to withstand the shock of this terrible calamity and then prove themselves heroic as befitting Indian citizens.

SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO (Aska): Sir, I will not take much time as the matter has been discussed thoroughly. But I want to just point out that though the cyclone has vastly devastated the Andhra State yet a portion of Orissa has been very badly affected, that is, the Ganjam District of Orissa. Unfortunately, the Government has not taken any note of it and no team has been sent to the Ganjam District. From the last assessment which I got from the Collector of the Ganjam District, the damage to crops, the Government buildings, roads, private buildings etc., comes to nearly Rs. 20 crores in only a portion of the district which has affected. While considering this cyclone which has taken place in Andhra, the bordering district of Orissa, that is, the damage done to the Ganjam District, must also be taken into consideration and sufficient help must be given to the Government of Orissa for relief measures.

I would also like to take this opportunity to point out a few matters which need immediate attention. As you know, our friends have already described how the Eastern Coast is prone to cyclonic conditions. The worst cyclonic condition that we have seen is in Andhra and in Orissa. There was a time in Orissa in 1971, when the cyclone took about 15,000 lives. If you cannot prevent a cyclone, at least, you should take some measures so that the brunt of the cyclone is lessened. Out of the many suggestions that were given and mooted in those days, one was that every village should you should take have a raised platform to provide a shelter to the cyclone hit and flood hit people. And whenever there is some measures so that the brunt of the cyclone or flood, the villagers should be evacuated to take shelter in those places. But, unfortunately, nothing has been done. As my hon. friend as said, it is never possible for any State Government to take these measures. It is time when the Central Government starts planning in a proper manner to prevent this devastation of cyclone and at the same time to come to the help of the State Governments.

There is another aspect which we have not taken into consideration that is about the

crop damage. When there is a cyclone, the town people, the rich people are not affected. It is only the poor class, the Harijan class and people living in villages who are affected and especially the farmer class. If we have a permanent crop insurance scheme and when there is a cyclone or a flood, if they are paid compensation from the insurance scheme that will go in a great measure to help these people. Second thing is, the Central Government had started a scheme a year back known as fire protection scheme for giving insurance compensation to fire affected villages. Unfortunately, it has not been working successfully and in our State not a single pie has been paid under this scheme. But the scheme is there. I would request the Central Government to extend this fire insurance scheme also to cyclone and flood affected areas so that whenever any village or a house is washed away or blown out, the poor people should be able to immediately obtain this compensation from this similar scheme like the fire insurance scheme. Therefore, these measures must be taken up immediately. Otherwise you never know when and at which place the cyclone will hit next year—it may be Tamil Nadu; it may be Orissa; it may be West Bengal or it may be Andhra. The whole Eastern Coast is prone to cyclone.

With these suggestions, I would again request the Government to take into consideration the flood damage that has been done to the Ganjam District and provide necessary help.

SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI (Berhampur): Mr Deputy Speaker, Sir, the extent of loss to human lives animals birds as well as property in the State of Andhra Pradesh can well be gauged by the detailed report on the cyclone presented to this House by the hon. Minister of State for Agriculture Shri Nitish Kumar recently. In this regard, I take this opportunity in expressing my heart-felt condolences to the members of the bereaved family. I earnestly request the Central Government to offer more liberal assistance both in cash and kind to the affected people of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu,

Orissa as well as of the Union Territory of Pondicherry. The prompt of the cyclone affected areas in Andhra Pradesh by the Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Rajiv Gandhi are praise worthy.

We have observed from past experiences that owing to the geographic nature of the coast line of Tamil Nadu Andhra Pradesh, Orissa and even West Bengal, these states have become highly cyclone prone. Hence it is worth while seriously explore the idea of providing more cyclone shelters or circular shaped buildings which are more cyclone resistant. These should be put up all along the coast line of the Bay of Bengal.

Further a long term plan must be implemented to repair the drainage system and protect the people, in the general sense, living along the one thousand kilometre coast line of the State of Andhra Pradesh.

It is reliably learnt that the United States has given 25 thousand US Dollars to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to assist the victims of cyclone hit districts of Andhra Pradesh. This is according to the United States Information Service release. I highly commend this exemplary humanitarian gesture. I also take this opportunity to appeal to all corners of the world for rendering immediate liberal assistance to all the cyclone affected victims of Pondicherry, the states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Orissa.

In Orissa State, I wish to furnish details of damages to life and property reported in the *Economic Times*, dated the 24th May 1990. I quote:

"Irrigation projects, roads and buildings suffered serious damages in the recent rains that lashed Orissa's Ganjam District and the resultant floods with the loss estimated at about Rs. 20 crores, according to a preliminary official estimate." 756 houses were completely razed in 419 villages while 7965 houses were partially damaged. One person was killed when an electric

[Sh. Gopinath Gajapathi]

pole fell on him. The high floods had badly hit several villages under Bhis-magiri Panchayat of Digapahandi Block of the district. The rivers which wrought havoc were the Rushikulya, Godahad, Vamsadhara, Ramnadi and its tributaries. The estimates showed that the Ghodahad medium irrigation project sustained damage as the swollen waters overtopped the reservoir while the canals breached the embankments at several points. Several hundreds acres of paddy land was sandcast by Ramnadi in Digapahandi Block. The sources said that the floods played havoc in the riverin villages in Palakhemundi subdivision entering 50 villages in Parlakhemundi and Kasinagar blocks."

"The flood waters, which crossed the red mark at Kasinagar, entered into low lying areas of the town, demolishing several hundred mud houses of poor Harijans.

According to information reaching here, at least 500 minor irrigation projects suffered heavy damages on the eve of paddy sowing season. Many of the irrigation tanks were breached in Digapahandi, Sankehamandi, Chikiti and Chatrapur blocks.

Although the Bhalluabhai minor irrigation project had not suffered any major damage, its four km long canals were breached at several points and about one dozen structures had collapsed."

Sir, I have taken the valuable time of this august House particularly to apprise the hon. Minister of state for Agriculture present here of the full details. Last week, when I had a personal discussion with the hon. Minister to request him for rendering immediate assistance to the flood-affected victims of Ganjam District of Orissa State, I was perplexed to know that the official report from the Government of Orissa had not yet reached

the Centre, to enable the later it render speedy assistance to the flood-affected victims of Ganjam.

In this regard, I have written twice to taken up with the hon. Chief Minister of Orissa as well as the District Collector of Ganjam to expedite the essential official report to the Centre.

In keeping with the decision of my party leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, for donation of one months' salary

by all Congress(I) MPs for cyclone relief to Andhra Pradesh, I am pleased to donate in my own small way my one months' salary for the flood-affected victims of Ganjam district to which I belong.

I take this opportunity once again in earnestly appealing to the Central Government to offer its maximum assistance, both in cash and kind, to the cyclone victims of Ganjam District in this hour of calamity.

SHRIA. VIJAYARAGHAVAN (Palghat):  
Sir, regarding the natural calamity, which had taken place in Andhra Pradesh, the hon. Members have already discussed the details and the velocity of the problems faced by the farmers and people.

I would also like to point out some of the difficulties faced by the people of Andhra Pradesh. As a person from Kerala, we have acute shortage of rice. Only one-third of the required quantity of rice is produced in Kerala and we are always collecting it from Andhra Pradesh. If there is no rain in Andhra Pradesh, then the Keralites will always pray for rain in Andhra Pradesh because if there will be rain in that state then only will we get rice. This time, after hearing about this calamity we are quite afraid about the situation in our State. So, while discussing this thing, I would like to recall something about the defects in relief. Even though we had enough idea before-hand regarding the natural calamity, which was going to take place, there were reports that there was adequate relief

measures during the first three days of the natural calamity. Why was the state of affairs? In the first three days, the position was very bad. So, many villages had lost connection with the other places. I have read in the newspapers that due to the effective system of relief measures, there was an increase in the price of rice up to Rs. 12 and in the case of kerosene, it was up to Rs 8.

Regarding relief measures taken by the Government, they have given 12 points, but allotment of Kerosene was not included in it. We should have anticipated that electrical connection and distribution system will be affected due to cyclones. There should be kerosene available to the affected people. The required quota of kerosene was not given. The statistical figures show that from 1979-90, there were about 175 cyclones with different intensity and damaging the coastal areas. This means that this is a regular process in this area. So, some permanent measures should be taken in this regard would like to point out the bad drainage system in the Godavari region. Godavari is the main area of rice production in the whole country. The drainage system in Godavari region was planned before 200 years ago. At the time of floods and cyclones, the saline sea water enters the cultivated area. The sea is not accepting that much water, it is resulting in floods. Due to the inadequate drainage system in that area, there are many hardships faced by the people. So, there should be proper and adequate drainage system in this area. The drainage system of this area should be improved.

I would like to say something about the housing pattern in this area. In advanced countries like Japan, there are frequent earthquakes. The mechanism that they have been using should be introduced here. The housing pattern should be in such a way to tackle the cyclones successfully. We should think over and improve our housing pattern to meet the calamity and HUDCO should take the initiatives in this regard. Necessary help should be given to the affected people. Shri K.S. Rao has rightly pointed out about the allocation of rice to the people. At least 50

kg. of rice should be given to each family which is affected and only then, they can survive till they get some job. Regarding financial assistance, we are giving Rs. 100/- but we should give them the utensils also. Regarding the waiver of loans, the Central Government has announced that an amount up to Rs. 10000/- is to be waived for 1988-89. But for Andhra Pradesh, the loan waiver for 1988-89 also should be considered by the Government. About the handloom weavers, we have to give them the looms and as per the announcement of the Government, we are giving them only Rs. 100. Our fishermen have lost their boats and nets. So, proper help should be given by the Central Government so that they can get back their nets and other things for their livelihood. As far as cyclone shelters are concerned, we have already some cyclone shelters. But we should calculate the population of each and every village of the area and according to that, a new system should be introduced to tackle the cyclone. The Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has come with a new proposal regarding the permanent measures in this regard. It is regarding the World Bank loan. I have some reservations in this regard. In his connection, there should be proper evaluation and consultation as we are going to the World Bank to get huge financial assistance. The welcoming part as far as the issue of cyclone is concerned is that there is no dirty linen washing among the leaders of the various political parties. We are thankful to the new system which has been introduced, namely, the calamity relief fund. I am thankful to the Chief Minister, the Prime Minister and all the concerned political parties. I am from Kerala and we have had bitter experience during the previous regime. When we had floods, one of the Central Minister, came and had an aerial visit of the floods. The people had anticipated that something will come from the Minister after his visit, but we have had a bitter experience. The Minister come back without any assurance to the people and did not announce any relief to the people. On the next day, one of the prominent newspapers came out with a column news on the relationship between the floods and the Minister. The paper said: The Minis-

[Sh. A. Vijayaraghavan]

ter was born on a day when there were floods; his father fell into the floods and the Minister was also swept away in the water. There was no assistance by the Government at that time.

But this time, our Prime Minister went to have an on-the-spot assessment of the cyclones. He announced Rs. 86 crores of help to the Government; without any formal request or memorandum, the Central Government has given Rs. 32 crores on the spot. I would congratulate the Government for this and request them to take further steps to assist the people.

[Translation]

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO (Karimnagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cyclone has brought misery to crores of people, yet there has been less damage and devastation this time because the scientists of our country forewarned it some two-three days in advance. I would, therefore, like to thank those scientists through you. Secondly, I would like to thank the Government too for its instant and timely assistance rendered to the affected people. Then, the hon. Members who come from Andhra Pradesh and Orissa have given some very good suggestions here in the House. I would like to render two-three suggestions more rather than repeat the suggestions already given by them. The Government should keep in mind the suggestions that have been given here for a permanent solution to this problem. The hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Minister of Agriculture paid an immediate visit to the cyclone-hit areas and promised large scale assistance and relief measures there. Then our hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh and the State Finance Minister too met the hon. Prime Minister there. He promised every possible assistance to them. He was of view that more any more assistance in this case should come from the centre itself because this was a huge and difficult task and the State Governments could not do anything in

it because their finances are very limited and relief measures could not be taken up unless the Central Government comes forward. This is the view of Member of every party. I hope that the concerned hon. Minister will come forward to announce the promised central aid to meet the situation.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with regard to the loan waiver scheme of the Central Government, it has been said here that the Government is going to proceed with it. The Central Government should waive the co-operative loans as well. I mean to say that you should, at first waive the loans of the cyclone affected people of Andhra Pradesh, keeping in view the extent of loss they have suffered forthwith and further give them fresh loans so that they can earn a livelihood. Do not get bogged down in Centre-State wranglings, rather initiate relief measures expeditiously. Again, write off other loans, if any, of such people.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the whole cyclone hit village remained inundated in water for 3-4 days altogether. Derooted trees lay flat across the roads but the surrounding villagers, who were themselves a poor and hungry lot, cleared the roads of all the obstacles against heavy odds and helped out the affected people. I would like to thank them all through this House. Without caring for their lives, they chopped the wood of the fallen trees and cleared off the roads for communication. Thus, I say that the rural people always come forward to the help of others despite being themselves in pain and misery. Such affected people will migrate to the cities and confront many odd problems if we fail to evolve a permanent solution to the problem. My submission is that credit should be given forthwith to such poor people as the agricultural labourers, weavers and fishermen as well. The loans they have drawn till should be written off and further advance loans given to them so as to make them able to earn a livelihood. Then, any extra loans given to them by the co-operative or other banks should be based on easy terms of conditions. The whole paddy produce of the

farmer has been damaged by getting drenched into water. I express my thanks to the Government of India for the relaxation they have given in purchasing this damaged produce. They have taken a timely action. But there is no further purchasing there. This is not a coastal area alone. It is very unfortunate that 60 lakh people in the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh have been affected by this. Along with this, some of the paddy produce has been damaged due to the subsequent excessive rains in Telangana, Khammam, Warangal, Nalgounda, and Karimnagar and relaxation should be extended to these areas as well. It is very regretful that paddy has been sold at a price of Rs. 40 lesser than the support price at Karimnagar, which is my constituency and no mill and no trader is ready to buy it even at this price. The Food Corporation of India has opened up certain centres on the eve of the advent of Rabi season but the lower rung officials of the corporation are divesting the farmers in collusion with the traders. The Central Government or the hon. Minister is very sympathetic to us after much of pressure was exerted by us and so is the Food Corporation but lakhs of people are still suffering out of it in Telangana area. It has brought misery to 60 lakh people in this Delta area. In Telangana area too, the crop is selling at Rs. 40 less than the support price and it has inflicted heavy losses upon all the farmers. Co-operative loans should be extended forthwith without being languished in the debate entrusting the responsibility thereof either upon the Central or the State Government. Again, the Centre should write off the loans upto Rs. 10,000. I would like to speak for half a minute more. The seeds and the fertilizers should be distributed free of cost. As most of the land has been rendered unproductive due to the cyclone, the farmers should be given a 50% subsidy or as much as they need in the next season for the purpose of carrying out their farming. The farmers cannot cultivate anything in the coming seasons if this aid is not given now and this will affect their economic position very adversely in the next year as well. While bringing this to your notice, I take your leave.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, I have given a list of a few Members who want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Five speakers from your party have already spoken. You should have decided as to how to allot the time. I have been warning you from the morning.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, it is a very important subject so they want to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you time but please don't repeat the points. You have given me ten names which are to be adjusted in 40 minutes.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, please don't get angry.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should understand the difficulties of others also. I can give you as much time as is possible but what is the point in repeating the whole thing. We are already sitting late.

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, it is a very important subject.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is why we extended the time from 6.00 p.m. to 7.00 p.m. All right, you don't now waste the time.

Yes, Shri A. Venkata Reddy.

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY (Anantapur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are aware, there was a terrible loss of life and damage to property in Andhra Pradesh due to the recent cyclone. The State Government has taken very prompt action and a save a lot of lives. The agriculturists and the labour class were affected very badly and the State Government is doing very good things in order to help the victims and the needy people. The Prime Minister was pleased to



[Sh. A. Venkata Reddy]

visit the affected areas and announced some relief and the relief which was announced by the Prime Minister is not adequate. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister of Agriculture, who is present in the House, and also the Prime Minister to grant more aid liberally, because, there is a heavy loss of life and property in the area. I hope and trust that the Central Government will do the needful in the matter.

I would also bring to your kind notice that in addition to cyclone affected areas, there are areas which are affected by droughts and famines. I am very glad that the State Government and the Central Government are taking prompt action as far as the areas which are affected by cyclone are concerned. As far as the areas which are affected by droughts and famines are concerned, the State Government and the Central Government are not taking them very seriously. Because, whenever any drought or famine occurs, the people suffer due to want of rain, drinking water and food. The people who suffer due to drought or famine are more than the people who suffer due to cyclone. Therefore, I would request the State Government and the Central Government to take prompt action and take permanent measures for the eradication of famine. I hope and trust that the State Government and the Central Government will do the needful in the matter.

In Andhra Pradesh, there is a Rayalseema region which consists of Anantapur, Kurnool, Cuddappa and so on.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Anantapur district is not a cyclone affected district.

SHRI A. VENKATA REDDY: They are backward districts. The condition of the agriculturists and labour class is very poor and they are becoming still poor. The rainfall in the Anantapur district is very low. It receives second lowest rainfall in India. Anantapur district is suffering because of famine. Because of vagaries of monsoon, people

are suffering. They are not getting drinking water because of want of rain. The geologists have also made a survey of Anantapur. They have said that the Anantapur district is going to become a desert very shortly and unless the Government takes a keen interest to save the district from becoming a desert it is bound to become a desert. To save the district of Anantapur from becoming a desert, I request the Central Government to constitute Anantapur District Prone Area Authority as was done inaisalmer, Rajasthan.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA (Bolangir): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I do not want to repeat what other speakers have already told.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that East Coast has become a regular victim of cyclones for the last two decades at least. In this Coast, where afforestation was there, had been totally depleted. So, through you, I would request the Government to have a green belt of at least one kilometre on the shore line from Rameshwaram to Haldia and this green belt should be strengthened by a *bund* for the same length.

19.00 hrs.

In a cyclone, as you know, the tidal force spoils agricultural land totally, and the farmers do not get crops for ten years; the salinity of the land increases and so, life becomes a problem there.

Similarly the power supply system usually breaks down when cyclone is there. So, I request Government that in this cyclone-prone belt, instead of cables which are erected on poles, it would be better—and I think it would be permanent solution—if underground cables are laid throughout the region.

I thank the Prime Minister who has shown his concern by visiting the cyclone-prone areas twice; but, unfortunately, after the Prime Minister's visit and the Chief Min-

ister expressed concern over the tragedy of the people, reports have come in the media that the benefits of the relief measures which were to be taken, are not reaching the people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I think we will sit for half-an-hour more.

SHRIBAL GOPAL MISHRA: Some anti-social elements, village touts are taking advantage of the situation—which usually takes place in such a crisis. So, the Central Government should supervise things, and request the State Governments to take stern measures against these anti-social elements, so that the relief reaches the needy people.

In 1982-83, Orissa had a severe flood, and got relief to the tune of Rs. 360 crores, out of which hardly Rs. 100 crores were spent in Orissa, and the remaining Rs. 260 crores were misutilized and misappropriated by certain vested interests.

Lastly, I would inform the Government that during this Andhra cyclone, Ganjam district in Orissa was very badly affected, and the loss—according to information from the Collector of Ganjam district—is more than Rs. 50 crores. The neighbouring district of Koraput was also affected by a flash-flood, in which the communication system of Koraput district was totally disrupted. So, I take this opportunity to request Government that a Central team should also be sent to Koraput and Ganjam, to assess the loss and to give aid to those people, because a part of Orissa has also been a victim of chronic drought in 1987 and 1988, and again in 1990 when it has been hit by a cyclone. So, the economic condition of the farmers is pitiable. They are worse than beggars. Government of India should take note of this, and help these people.

SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM (Tenali): I represent the Tenali parliamentary constituency which was directly hit by the cyclone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You should have spoken first.

SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM: It started in Edirumandi, which is in my constituency. I would also like to bring to the notice of the House that 10,000 people died in 1977 in Devisema which is also in my constituency. Though I am the first man to be affected by the cyclone, perhaps today I may be the last man to speak on it.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You may take as much time as you want, if you raise new points.

SHRI BASAVAPUNNAIAH SINGAM: Anyhow, our friends, had suggested several measures. I will not repeat all those things. So far as devastation is concerned, it is a well known fact, and the entire country has taken note of it, and the Prime Minister has rightly described it as a national calamity. I would also like to thank the Leader of the Opposition for having visited the affected areas and sharing the suffering of the people. But I would have been more happy if the leaders of the other political parties had also visited the affected areas. But I am sorry to say that during the present discussion of such a serious subject, all the front benches are vacant, except the Congress benches, where our leader Mr. N.G. Ranga is sitting. When this is the situation, what will be our feelings?

I am not taking it as an objection, but it would have been more appropriate if more Members had been present. A calamity like this is a recurring menace to the entire eastern coast.

In the circumstances, I would like to appeal to all the Indian scientists to take this as a challenge. (*Interruptions*) I have already thanked the Prime Minister and other leaders who visited the affected areas. I appeal to the Indian scientists to take this as a challenge and see that, to minimise the devastation that may be caused to the sea coast, whenever there is a cyclone, they can create artificial depression somewhere else

[Sh. Basavapurnaiah Singam]

so that the cyclone can be diverted. They can dilute the intensity of the cyclone also. Everything may be impossible to do, but after research the scientists may find some way out how to minimise the intensity of the cyclone.

In a calamity like this, normal allotment of the funds is not sufficient. In these circumstances, I have rightly observed that only in the rural areas the sea coast people are being affected by the cyclone. But there are rich people living in the cities like Bombay, Madras, Calcutta and Delhi. The income tax assesses are there. So, I suggest to the Government of India to levy surcharge particularly for cyclone. They can keep this amount in reserve fund. Whenever there is a cyclone, they can take this amount and immediately come to the rescue of the people affected. Nothing is going to be affected now and then. Particularly in my constituency as well as the sea coast of Andhra Pradesh, every district was affected by the cyclone. You know it very well that the cyclone will be followed by heavy rains. Due to heavy rains, there is flood in every areas. More damage is being caused by the flood, particularly in Krishna and Godavari Divisions. delta areas, which are the greenery of India they are being affected by these floods. It is a cultivation area for the last 100 years. But the drainage system was not attended to by the Government. So, the Central Government should take special interest and see that the drainage system is repaired and restored to the vulnerable position.

Several friends have spoken about the measures to be taken. I suggest to the Government that the House Committee may be deputed to visit the affected areas. In Orissa, Madras and Bangalore, where there is recurrence of this menace, they can study it and suggest to the Government what are the measures to be taken up by the Government. It may be more appropriate particularly in the eastern coast in Andhra Pradesh.

There is a proposal pending with the

Government of India that a Highway from Ichapuram to Toda should be constructed. It is a motorable road. Whenever there is a calamity, it is difficult to approach the people because of lack of communications. If this road is constructed, then there will be no difficulty to approach the people in case of crisis. That proposal is pending with the Government of India; and the Government of India has to take immediate steps to sanction this project and see that this road is constructed.

The Government of India should maintain permanent helipads in same places. That was our experience. Ahalipad was not there in the sea coast. That is why a helicopter couldn't go far away and drop the food packets. So, I suggest to the Government of India to construct a permanent helipad in the coastal area so that it becomes easy to help the people in case of crisis.

I also request that the Government may announce immediate relief for the farmers which were badly hit by the cyclone. They have to commence their agriculture in the month of June, which is the next month. Instead of waiting to find out whether they are wilful defaulters or not, the previous loan may be written off and the new loan may be granted again. The Government should come to rescue of the farmers.

With these words, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Surcharge on income tax was your new point.

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY (Adilabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker I would not repeat the points which the hon. members have already mentioned, but to two or three points, I wish to invite the attention of the Government. One is that the yard-stick of giving Rs. 25,000/- per family has been reduced to Rs. 15,000/-. Since the Prime Minister was kind enough to give Rs. 2 crores they are adding that sum of Rs. 10,000/- to this Rs. 15,000/- and are saying that is Rs. 25,000/-.

I respectfully submit to you that the Government should not have any differentiation between a person who dies in Delhi and a person who dies in Punjab. All these people who have been affected by the cyclone, have lost their crop, their houses and they have actually lost everything. They are all now in relief camps and their number is about six lakhs and odd. So, it is not as if we are asking for lakhs and lakhs; even if the Government gives proper assistance on par with the other persons then I think the State and the Central Governments would be doing justice. That is one point I want to mention.

Secondly, the hon. Prime Minister was pleased to say on the 18th May that this is a national calamity and that it must be treated as such. I would invite attention to the report of the Seventh Finance Commission which said,

"Where a calamity is of a rare severity the Central Government should extend assistance to the State concerned even beyond the schemes suggested by the Commission."

Now, earlier it was the margin money and advance loan of 5 percent that was only being given and a sum of Rs. 240 crores was yearly given. The Ninth Finance Commission had said that, notwithstanding this, Rs. 86 crores should only be given. That was the figure arrived at for the last ten years which was being given by the Central Government to the State Government. This is a strange way of deciding things because in the years 1979, 1980 and up to 1988 the Central Government was giving, for all the calamities like floods, droughts and everything. These years the Rs. 6,140 crores but tender gave only Rs. 900 crores upto 1989-90. So in that context, for floods the average that they have given all those ten years was fixed at Rs. 86 crores, notwithstanding or not taking into consideration the demands made by the State Governments for the calamities. All these ten years the have been giving according to the recommendation made by various Finance Commission; but it is fantastic and it is not according to principles of natural

justice. Nor is it according to the demand made by the Seventh Finance Commission.

AN HON. MEMBER: That recommendation was by a Congressman.

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY: Yes, the recommendation of the Seventh Finance Commission is also by a Congressman. You need not be very anxious about it.

So, I request that the recommendation of the Seventh Finance Commission be taken into consideration.

The other side which I wish to bring to the notice if the Central Government is about the Railways and the highways. They have been badly damaged. It would cost about Rs. 98.33 crores to repair the national highway and the Central Government will have to provide the money, and also expedite the repairs. So also, about the Railways, it is estimated that daily the Railways are suffering a loss of Rs. 40 lakhs because the iron ore is not being brought to Visakhapatnam port as the embankment of 30 to 40 kilometres has collapsed and four bridges also have been damaged. Therefore, the Eastern Railway is not at all able to run the trains and from the southern side from Vijayawada up to Waltair the trains services are disrupted. Unless these railways lines and the National Highways are restored and for that also money is given by the Central Government movement of the traffic both the road and rail, and normalcy cannot be restored. The movement of the supply of rice also has been disrupted. The Central Government should give money and help the State Government in restoring the communications on a war footing.

My fourth point is, what Shri Murli Deora has already said. In 1977 I was a Minister for Revenue when cyclone came. I had been to Maharashtra and met the Chief Minister and also several industrialists. They wanted only exemption under Section 80G or other relevant sections of the Income-tax Act. Many voluntary organisations are there to give clothes, utensils and zinc sheets for housing

[Sh. P. Narsa Reddy]

in Gujarat and Maharashtra. During the last cyclone, they had given crores worth of material. So, free arrangement of goods through railways or by planes must be made for the donated articles. Income-tax exemption also will draw more funds which will go a long way in helping the affected people.

The hon. Minister has mentioned that he has arranged 15,000 tonnes of phosphate fertilisers. We are thankful to him. But the Minister has not shown in his note about the land damaged. Twenty thousand hectares of land had become saline. The Relief Commissioner has requested the Central Government to provide gypsum, apart from phosphate fertiliser, to cure salinity. The Central Government must be provide gypsum in a larger way.

The other point which the hon. Minister has not shown is that 55,000 hectares of garden land had been damaged. Thirty-three thousand hectares of mango gardens nine thousand hectares of banana land, and six thousand hectares of lime garden which are uninsured crops. Normally the landholders lease them to the poor people. These poor people have suffered. If there is any provision under the General Insurance Act, then we can help these poor people.

Forty-two crores of rupees worth of damage had been caused to the irrigation canals. One-third of the cost must be borne by the Central Government and two-thirds must be borne by the State Government. The Central Government should come forward to bear the one-third cost.

Lastly, there is an acute shortage of power. We have got two thermal stations. For Kottagudem thermal station, coal allocation is 2.8 lakh tonnes and for Vijayawada, it is 2.70 lakh tonnes. This is the allocated supply by the Central Government. The requirement for full generation in regard to Kottagudem thermal station is 3.6 lakh tonnes and for Vijayawada it is 4.0 lakh tonnes. Therefore, there is a shortfall of about 2.2

lakh tonnes. So, special arrangements should be made to provide this from Singareni Collieries or Talcher in Orissa. My hon. friend Mr. Choudhary asked the Central Government to provide this. The Central Government must immediately supply coal so that the power shortage caused due to this cyclone could be to some extent redeemed.

DR. VISWANATHAM (Srikakulam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I will take only a few minutes.

Floods and cyclones go together. Here, prevention is better than cure. Unless you have a measure which links all the rivers, especially in the cyclone prone area, even God cannot help it. Suppose cyclone affects one area, the other area can take the flood water and reduce the havoc. In this regard, our scientists have given us their ideas much earlier. But nothing has been done so far. I hope the present Government will look into the matter and act very quickly. The present Government has given us to understand that village development will be their priority. About fifty per cent of the revenue is being allotted. Now it is an opportunity for them to develop Andhra Pradesh area. Agriculture and employment, village development, and reconstruction of collapsed houses in the villages, all these can be taken afresh. Instead of having small hamlets on the river or sea shore, you can make large cluster of houses at centrally located places. They can be viable colonies with 500 or more houses where everything can be provided easily especially roads and other facility systems. There you can construct three-tier houses on columns which can stand both the floods and the tidal waves. Suppose, you have two to three tier system. In case of cyclone, people need not go to far away villages but they can simply go from one tier to the other tier and save their lives. If these measures are taken on a war footing and with innovative new methods, I think, repeated spending of non-productive expenditure can be minimised.

In addition, the farmers, especially the small and marginal farmers are affected.

The credit of Rs. 10000 is taken only by a few people. But other people, who are of the same status, are not given the loan due to paucity of funds. Now the Government must look into the matter afresh and those eligible farmers must be given extra loan relief of Rs. 10,000 for clear their private loan and save them from this peril. So, I request the Government through you to review this loaning relief system along with those people whose loans have been wiped out, other people who have not taken the loan, must also be given Rs. 10,000 and while treating them on par with the beneficiaries.

**SHRI S. BENJAMIN (Bapatla):** While thanking the Government for the timely assistance, the way the damage was caused, it can be divided into four categories.

First is, steam boats to a great extent, were washed away. And prawn plantations were completely damaged in one constituency. In other constituency plantation of mango, paddy and also rice mills were blown away to a great extent. In the third constituency, tobacco of burly quality of millions of kgs. was completely drenched. For these three items, there is not other way except that the Central Government make a survey and take necessary action. In the fourth constituency, the industries were also washed away. And several educational institutions which were to open from 16th also washed away. So the UGC must have to come forward with assistance. I do not know to what extent they have taken action so far. I request the Government and the UGC to come forward in a great measure to help these areas.

Government has come forward with one thing and that is right to work. By this providential manner, the projects were opened where there is lot of work for the workers. I request the Central Government to come forward to provide the work.

[Translation]

**SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Rosera):**  
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we all feel pained

due to the large scale devastation inflicted by the cyclone and other natural calamities upon our countrymen. I would like to make one thing clear about it, at the very outset, that there is need to make certain changes in the Relief Code. We are having an obsolete Relief Code formulated far back and no amendment has been made in it subsequently. The farmer living in rural villages, the backbone of our country, have to suffer many losses today. We do not provide them relief and assistance when they fall a victim to the natural calamities. Therefore, I request you to change the Relief Code and make a provision therein for providing more and more assistance at such times.

Secondly, I would like to say that the surveys conducted in these areas do not prove helpful in channelising the aid and assistance to the people really affected by the calamity. The people affected by the calamities barely become the beneficiaries to the loans and assistance provided by the Government. I would, therefore, request that the Government of India should depute a fact-finding team to the affected areas that can conduct survey for 10-15 days of its stay there and submit the report.

Thirdly, I would like to say that the grant-in-aid extended by our Government in the shape of loans and other assistance at the time of these calamities is not adequate. That should be enhanced in order to provide prompt assistance to the suffering people and share their agony and apathy.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that a drastic cut in the income of the country's farmers is being made in the name of the Crop Insurance. The amount of Crop Insurance is deducted from the amount of loan extended to the farmer, but when his cor gets destroyed or washed away, his claim is nullified by the Government by simply denying having received any money from the farmer in the name of crop insurance. May be the farmer's money does not get deposited in the bank due to the involvement of the Cooperative Bank in the process. But I submit that the crop insurance scheme

[Sh. Dasai Chowdhary]

should necessarily be enforced and compensation provided to the cyclone affected people for the damage caused to their crops. With these words, I thank you.

SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN (Murshidabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, almost all the points and aspects have been dealt with but one point remains to be covered as yet. Floods or draught and cyclones are a regular and recurrent phenomenon of our country. The relief manual is an outdated one. There are inadequate resources available in our area to meet the eventuality of providing prompt and timely relief. I would like to request the hon. Minister to bring about amendments in the relief manual so that adequate, instantaneous relief and assistance can be expended to the flood, draught and cyclone hit people.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, Sir, the time of the House can be extended until you conclude your speech.

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: One point which I would like to make is that the debate has been quite pointed. Many good points have been made. I think you may please look into the suggestions which have been made and act appropriately.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CO-OPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I will conclude my speech in just 15 minutes. I would, at the outset, like to thank, on behalf of the Government all the hon. Members who participated in this debate. The healthiest part of the debate was the constructive suggestions were rendered by the hon. Members in this hour of national calamity rising above their party politics to a humanitarian platform. I had given a detailed description of the loss

and damages caused due to the cyclone while making a statement on behalf of the Government in this House. The hon. Members who participated in today's debate also did not make any mention of the Government concealing the details of the damage caused. The House was informed about the details of devastations as received by the Central government. So far as relief measures in this hour misery are concerned, the Central Government has very aptly and progressively provided the assistance. Our hon. Prime Minister visited the area twice, first on 12th May and then on 19th. He made an aerial survey as also met the affected people in order to get acquainted to their misery by visiting the area by road.

Certain issues have been raised by hon. members. The Prime Minister issued several directions after returning from there. Those directions are being followed. The hon. members have raised a discussion besides those instructions. Most of it relates to relief. I am not referring to permanent solution in fact no member has suggested anything new which is not covered in the directions given by the Prime Minister. As far the question of declaring it a national calamity a similar demand was made in Andhra Pradesh. The same demand was also made when a statement was made in the House in this regard. This demand has been reileable today also. The Government is considering it seriously. The people living in that region and the State Government have asked the hon. Prime Minister to consider it as a national calamity Mr. Deputy Speaker, sir, you are aware that the Ninth Finance Commission made certain suggestions and recommendations and on the basis of those suggestions a calamity relief fund was established in 25 States. It was formed separately in every State having 75 per cent contribution of the Centre and 25 per cent contribution of the State concerned. In the past whenever there occurred a calamity there used to be great demand for Central help and considering this fact a calamity relief fund has been established in the States. As per the Ninth Finance Commission a fund of Rs. 86 crores has been earmarked for

Andhra Pradesh. The total amount of relief fund for 25 States is Rs. 804 crores. When the Prime Minister paid his visit to that State for the first time he announced that for the year 1990-91, Rs. 86 crores have been kept in the calamity Relief Fund of Andhra Pradesh. The Central Government have to pay Rs. 64 crores and Rs. 501 lakh in four quarterly instalments, but keeping in view the effect of the storm half the amount of Rs. 64 crores and Rs. 50 lakh that is Rs. 32 crores and Rs. 50 lakhs has been released. After this amount is spent the next installment would be provided by the Centre. It has not come to surface fully otherwise in normal circumstances only wage and means advance would have been given. I want to say something regarding Bihar. In the wake of hailstorm at that State the Prime Minister visited the area and gave an assurance that the necessary relief would be provided to them. A central team went to the State of Bihar on tour and on the basis of its report Rs. 54 lakhs was released as wage and means advance. If the Bihar Government need further assistance after spending this amount then additional assistance would be released out of calamity relief fund of Central Government.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Mr. Deputy Speaker, had asked all the Members not to repeat what the other Members have said. You are repeating the same thing which you have told in your statement. We want something more to be told now.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I am coming to that point. The Central Government took the matter very seriously and released the necessary amount. Now the question is this that the Ninth Finance Commission has stated that the Government can consider the matter if the sufferings are on a large scale and it should do that. The Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister convened a meeting on 24th May in which the opinion of the concerned departments were sought. They were

consulted and the State Government's opinion is being sought regarding the requirements of Andhra Pradesh. Whatever stand is taken in the case of Andhra Pradesh, the same will hold good in case of other states also. As per the recommendations of the ninth finance Commission. As such, discussions are underway regarding the situations under which national calamity can be declared. It is not that government want to ignore it but from procedure point of view it is necessary. A detailed memorandum from the State Government in this regard has been called for. I would like to say that the State Government, people living in that region and the hon. members of the House have also made a demand, but no memorandum in this regard has been received from the State Government so far. Memorandum is also necessary for this. The centre can take action on that only. Ranga Sahab, you need not worry in this regard. It is no use to make any announcement, a serious initiative is underway in this respect. As such there is no reason to worry. The second thing that I wish to say is this that the Government has made a provision under HUDCO insurance in the event of loss to the houses in the event of outbreak of fire but not in the wake of flood or cyclone. Consequently it is not possible to get any kind of immediate benefit out of it but discussions regarding the courses of action to be adopted in the wake of such a situation are underway. The financial institutions like HUDCO, commercial banks or Housing banks have been advised to grant loans on liberal term for the repair of damaged houses and construction of new houses. The chairman of HUDCO has gone to Hyderabad to discuss the issue with the State Government. Instructions to build permanent houses in place of temporary ones have been given and the financial institutions should extend assistance in this regard.

Arrangements to provide seeds are also being made. The National Seed Corporation and other such agencies who supply authorised seeds have been asked about the availability of the seeds and to provide the variety of seed as per their requirement. Recently has been said that assistance



[Sh. Nitish Kumar]

should be given by the government for horticulture and contingency plan. The Central Government is prepared to formulate horticulture and contingency. It wants to extend help to them under this lay. The State Governments have been asked to prepare contingency plans and the Central Government would make all possible effort to implement the same and this has been communicated to them.

The hon. members had also mentioned about the procurement. They have asked that the damaged paddy and rice should be purchased on concessional rates. Eighty centres have been opened for this purpose and the purchase is being made. As per the latest information received by me before coming to the House, 4611 M.Tonnes of paddy and 7894 M.Tonnes of rice have been purchased till date. Rao sahab will say that this is less and we also do admit that it is less. The officers of our department are continuously monitoring it and are making efforts to create a healthy situation. Instructions to make the purchases without any delay on the basis of the relations has been given. The Government is alert about it.

Many members have said regarding the damages to roads and Railway tracks. In that context I would like to say that the disruption caused to the traffic on account of the damage to railway tracks between Samalkot and Vishakapatnam and you are also aware that the down line has been repaired. Repair of up line will be completed by 5th June. The track between Gollprolu and Ravitampattu section is expected to be set in order by 15th of June. Many members have raised the questions and I also want to say that whatever loss to electricity has been caused there, efforts are on to set it right. Loss in the production of electricity that has occurred due to short supply of coal in thermal plants is being set right as 5 to 6 rakes of coal is being supplied from Western Coal fields instead of 2 to 3 rakes being supplied earlier. The quantity of coal supply from Singhereni Colliery Ltd was 25727 M. tonnes

on 18th May. It was been increased to 42042 M.Tonnes by 21st May and efforts are being made to maintain this pace with a view to ensure that power generation is not affected or least affected. The instructions that had been issued by the Prime Minister in respect of telephones have been complied with the and approximately 93% telephones have been set right. Out of the National highways that were damaged, traffic on National Highway No. 5 has been restored fully and rehabilitation work on National Highway No. 43, which was partially effected is in full swing and a sum of Rs. 50 lakh has been released for its restoration.

Many hon. members have expressed concern about the loans by the banks. I want to inform the House that hon. Prime Minister has issued directions and in compliance of those directions, R.B.I has issued instructions to all banks;

1. Recovery should be suspended.
2. The loans should be converted.
3. Re-scheduling may be done.

Banks will work according to these instructions and to review the progress of implementation of these schemes, regular meetings of the Banking Consultative Committee at State and district level will be held. This work will be carried out under the guidance of lead banks. In this regard, whatever directions have been issued by the Prime Minister shall be strictly enforced. One hon. Member mentioned about drinking water I want to inform that efforts are being made to improve it and as per the available information 739 water supply systems have been damaged and this includes 87 water supply schemes through pipes. To restore water supply immediately State Government have released Rs. 15 crores. 34 tankers have been put into Operation in the affected areas to supply water. In addition to this bullock carts are also being used for the supply of water. To assess the extent of loss to water supply system and the desired relief to the State Government the Additional Secretary

has gone on tour to Andhra Pradesh. He is to come back today. The Government is alert about the future course of action. Some hon. Members have raised a doing regarding Ganjam district in Orissa. We share the concern of the hon. members. However, no demand or report regarding damage has been received by us from Orissa Government. Still we want to inform this House that the manner in which a calamity relief fund of Rs. 86 crores has been provided in Andhra Pradesh, a similar relief fund of Rs. 47 crores has also been provided for Orissa also. In case the Orissa Government wants to make use of the relief fund they can do so and if they approach the Central Government then the centre can also consider releasing its share to Orissa Government. We have not received any such information from there. We have received some information regarding Pondicherry. There has been some damages to the horticultural especially the banana crop, more than hundred hectares of land has been affected and some cattle lives were also lost. Two casualties were also reported. According to the information received from Tamil Nadu, seven people lost their lives, but now this toll has risen to 13, but detailed information regarding the damages, is not available with the Central Government and as such it is not in a position to take any action at the Central level.

Many hon. Members have asked us as to what we propose to do regarding damages to poultry. In this regard, I would like to say that earlier the relief used to be provided at the rate of ten rupees per bird. We have given clear-cut instructions to the insurance agencies to provide assistance, without delay, to those who had taken insurance policies.

[English]

SHRI. K.S. RAO: But it must be done immediately, otherwise epidemic will come there.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: But I would like

to say that the Central Government has not yet received any information from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, regarding the assistance to the poultry sector. We have not received any such request from Andhra Pradesh in this regard. However, I would like to tell you that our Department of Agriculture and Co-operation has drawn up a contingency action plan at its own level, so that assistance could be provided, as soon as we receive a request from the State Government to this effect.

[English]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, he contradicts his own statement. He himself had stated in the statement that 32 lakhs of birds have died.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Rao Sahib, you are referring to the damages. I would like to tell you only this much that the Central Government has drawn up a contingency action plan in advance and we are giving weightage to each and every point. The State Government could have asked us for some assistance particularly for the poultry sector, but so far, we have not received any such request. So far as damages are concerned, as I had said earlier, we i.e. our Central team visited each and every area and made an assessment of the extent of damages to the houses, roads, railways and other assets. To save the precious time of the House, I do not want to repeat them. Keeping in mind the unanimity of the House in this regard. I would like to assure the hon. Members belonging to all the parties, who maintained the highest standard of decorum throughout the discussion on this issue, that the Central Government, with the active co-operation of the State Government and voluntary organisations working there, are putting in their best efforts to combat this calamity. It is but natural for the Members to come up with good suggestions during the discussions of such nature and it becomes the bounden duty of a sensitive Government to give due weightage to such issues and to accept good suggestions. Many sugges-

[Sh. Nitish Kumar]

tions have come up regarding a permanent solution to this problem and many of them are constructive. I once again appreciate the spirit with which the hon. Members have given these suggestions... (*Interruptions*). According to the information available with us, I would like to say that we are all feeling distressed and express our sympathy for all the cyclone affected people, whether they are in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, Pondicherry or any other part of the country. The spirit with which the hon. Members took part in this discussion and the work being done by this Government and others, to provide relief and assistance to the cyclone-affected areas, despite our limited resources, is praise worthy. We sincerely hope that those affected by this grave calamity would be rehabilitated, as soon as possible and that they would start their life anew. With these words, I thank you and conclude... (*Interruptions*) ...

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Would your Department look into the long-term measures?

[*Translation*]

SHRINITISH KUMAR: Regarding long-term measures, I have already said that the Government has taken note of the suggestions given by the hon. Members and we are definitely going to take concrete and effective measures.

[*English*]

SHRI K.S. RAO: Sir, irrespective of the party affiliations, the entire people of Andhra Pradesh have felt extremely happy when the hon. Prime Minister had visited the State on 11th and also on 19th. They have pinned great hopes when he mentioned that he was going to treat this as a national calamity and declare it the moment he reaches Delhi, after consulting the officials. Now, the entire description of the reply of the hon. Minister

indicates a total dilution of the statement of the Prime Minister in regard to his promise about the national calamity. He did not say even one word that the Government is going to declare it as a national calamity in a day or two or after 10 or 15 days. We are only interested in the implementation of the statement. So, we humbly request the Government once again not to make it diluted and request them to see that it is implemented.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I do not agree with Shri Rao; as here there is no question of any dilution of the P.M.'s statement. The process of translating into action all that whatever the Hon. Prime Minister has said there, has already begun. On the 24th the Principal Secretary covered a meeting of the officials concerned with it. Mere lip service would not serve any purpose as far as providing relief is concerned, rather, arrangements have to be made in a comprehensive manner to make available the relief material to the affected people. Our Government believes in work and not in words. Whenever, a declaration is made by this Government, the entire necessary ground work is done by them well in advance. I have already said that the Principal Secretary had convened a meeting in this regard.

[*English*]

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU: The entire drainage systems in three deltas are completely collapsed due to the recent cyclone. It is happening every year. Even for every rain, the drainage is closed. Everything is on record.

What I am requesting is that the hon. Minister may please take necessary steps as a long-term action to repair the drains and other things. Otherwise, they are not in a position to drain out.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Action has to be taken by the State Government also. It is a long-term measure.

SHRI BH. VIJAYAKUMAR RAJU: Yes, it is both the Central Government and the State Government which should take measures. We are also ready to give betterment taxes.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DASAI CHOWDHARY (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, regarding the 'Relief Code' I have just stated that when the hon. Minister was a Member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly, he used to create uproarious scenes whenever the State was affected by floods and he used to say that it was necessary to make changes in the 'Relief Code'. I would like to know whether even now, the hon. Minister feels the need to bring about changes in the 'Relief Code' or not?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has asked a question of a personal nature. The factual position is that the Relief Codes are evolved by the State Governments themselves and the responsibility of providing relief rests with the State Governments. When I used to speak in the Bihar Legislative Assembly, I concentrated on the need of effecting changes in the Relief Code of the State and even today, I feel that there is need to make amendments in the Relief Code to update it.

[*English*]

SRI HAMENDRA SINGH BANERA (Bhilwara): Relief Code was made during the British time? Are you going to change or amend the code or not?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not expect him to give immediate reply on this position.

SHRI BALGOPAL MISHRA: Will the Minister consider changing the Relief Code? Will the Government also include hailstorm as one of the natural calamities? At present, hailstorm is not considered as natural calamity. Hailstorm is not less harmful than flood, cyclone or drought.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as I have already said Relief Code is a subject concerning the State Government and it is upto the State Government to update it. It was laid down years back and it is necessary to make changes in it from time to time so as to keep it upto date.

SHRI ISHWAR CHAUDHARY (Gaya): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I didn't get an opportunity to speak. I have two suggestions to make in this regard. The hon. Minister has referred to both instant and long term measures. About the instant measures, he has said that relief work is going on it its full swing, but he did not elaborate on long term measures although big canals (drainage system) and equipments have been damaged. Does the hon. Minister propose to work on any long term plan? If so, please tell us about the amount proposed to be allocated for the purpose, as it is a national calamity.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very comprehensive question and it does not concern this department alone. It is a question involving all the departments. Therefore, at the moment, it would not be possible for me to say anything in this regard.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: The hon. Member Mr. Raju of the ruling Party as well as several other friends have referred to the damage done to the drainage work, canals and bunds. If money is not immediately available with the Government, would they be willing to raise a loan, hand it over to the local Government and see that the drainage works are taken up?

And the other suggestions regard to income-tax relaxation and so on, I hope my hon. friend would note down and convey the suggestions to the hon. Finance Minister.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: With reference to whatever hon. Prof. Ranga has said, I would like to submit that so far as the allocation of money is concerned, we have already given to the state, a lumpsum amount of Rs. 32.5 crores as Central Assistance. As soon as it is spent, another instalment of Rs. 32.5 crores would be made available to the State Government and all your suggestions regarding other matters, the views that have been expressed here and other related issues as well as the creative suggestions will be sent to the State Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: You should at

least write off the loans of small farmers, weaver, and the fishermen. What steps do you propose to take to alleviate their sufferings?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already dwelt on these things in my speech.

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now the House stands adjourned to reassemble tomorrow at 11.00 AM.

19.55 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven  
of the Clock on Tuesday, May 29, 1990/  
Jyaistha 8, 1912 (Saka)*