

because of the bad job being done by the Federations. They are not selecting properly. They are not training people properly. It is their job, not the Government's. As far as the federations are concerned, they claim autonomy as registered bodies...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Why should you agree to that ? (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : Last year, we brought the guidelines known as the Operation Excellence, so that certain selection criteria could be there, and national selection committees have been set up for the first time, bringing in the federations, the IOA, the coach, a former international player and an Arjuna Awardee and a representative of the Government to make it a national...

MR. SPEAKER : If we can amend the Constitution, can we not make amendments there also? You say, they are autonomous bodies...

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA: Even last year, when there was this debate, the House had asked that we should take steps to see that some kind of control on federations and on registered sports bodies should be brought in. We have come in with the proposal to bring Sports on the Concurrent List, so that there can be an all-India legislation on Sports...(*Interruptions*) Unfortunately, even that is being sought to be politicised ...

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: They should be accountable to you.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I want to say that it is not something new. We have brought legislation from from about 26 countries: socialist, democratic, all types of different systems, in which coach development has been directed by an the central legislature or of Parliament. This is what we have

sought to do, and we have introduced a Bill for bringing it on the Concurrent List. I would request all the Members to support this, so that we can come up with some kind of an all-India legislation. I can only say this, that all that has been suggested in the debate—I have no time, Sir, since you are already asking me to sit down—selecting children under the age of twelve, selecting talent from special areas and giving them the necessary coaching in sports schools, have all been launched.

MR. SPEAKER : Okay take note of them.

SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA : I can hope that whether I am there or not, in the next two years, you will see the result of what we have done. Thank you.

17.47 hrs

(ii) ~~Damage due to cyclone in the States of West Bengal, Orissa and the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands~~

MR. SPEAKER : Now, Kumari Mamata Banerjee: Only five minutes to you. Summarize what you want to say.

**KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE:** (Jadavpur): Okay, Sir.

Recently, a big cyclone has devastated West Bengal, Andaman- Nicobar and parts of Orissa. More than 500 people have died, 800 fishermen are still missing and 55,000 cattle were lost. Forty per cent of the crop are has been totally damaged. I went to visit some areas, especially in the South 24-Parganas, Sunderban areas, Gosaba, Basanti, Namkhala, Bokhali, Kuli and other areas. I also know that some areas in Mr. Indrajit Gupta's constituency have been affected to the maximum extent. People have totally lost their homes.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Order please...

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : I am grateful that according to the instructions of the Prime Minister... (*Interruptions*) . Why are you disturbing ? Only five minutes have been given to me.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't interrupt the gentle lady here. Be chivalrous

KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE: You are going to visit the place. You have given the commitment that whatever you can do from the Central Government, you will do. I want to make a request to you: the people there now need immediately, polythene, tarpaulin sheets, medicines, bleaching powder and milk powder. I would like to suggest that you send immediately a Central team to assess the extent to which property and lives have been lost there, because no proper assessment has been made so far. Secondly, you should give adequate funds to the State Government, so that the affected people can get some relief from the Central Government. But I would like to say that you should involve the MPs concerned—M.Ps whose constituencies are actually affected. You should involve all these MPs—whether they are from this side or that. Through them, you can spend this money for the affected people.

You have already called for an all-party meeting, and then you have told them that you will involve the members of all the political parties in this relief work. I want to know what is the progress made in this regard.

Thirdly , you know that there is scarcity of water there. People have lost their houses, and the lives of their kith and kin. Damage to property has been caused. People are now totally helpless.

So, I would like to request you to consider waiving of their agricultural loans. The loans which they have taken from the banks, which have to be repaid, may be waived. Because the people there are totally helpless. Those areas are totally damaged. Also, you should think of giving them agricultural loans for the next crop. Otherwise those people will not be able to plan their new crop.

I do not want to give more details, because I want Shri Indrajit Gupta to speak on this matter.

I would only like to make an appeal. When there was an earthquake in Armenia—which is a big earthquake—Mr. Gorbachov who was at the United Nations at that time, immediately returned to Armenia. I do not want to make any political speech here. But I would only want to request Mr. Indrajit Gupta and Shri Basudeb Acharia to request their Chief Minister to visit the affected area, because it will be a good gesture, after all.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA (Basirhat): Sir, I have to race against the clock.

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, five minutes.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: This is the most unprecedented cyclone that we have ever seen in this part of the country and it has not only devastated parts of the North 24 Paraganas and South 24 Paraganas districts, but after that it has turned and gone to Bangladesh, and caused a great deal of devastation there also. I am speaking with particular reference—you will understand me—to where the cyclone turned.

MR. SPEAKER : Mamataji has already mentioned it.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : It came; over from the Bay of Bengal, went North, and turned into Bangladesh. In that place where it has turned unfortunately situated is, one

block, Shingalganj of my constituency which has been absolutely devastated.

The hon. Minister was good enough to fly by helicopter over that area for a short while and he has seen something from the air. But I must tell him that unless you go on the ground and walk through these areas and these villages, you cannot have an idea of the extent of the calamity that has taken place. What is required now is a massive operation, a joint operation, by the State and the Central Governments, for relief and rehabilitation of those people. About 500 people have been killed, thousands of cattle have perished, about 55,000 cattle have perished, about 800 fishermen who were out at sea, who live in this area, have not come back; they are missing. There is no drinking water available. The ponds from which people draw their drinking water normally are all contaminated now. The people who have somehow managed to survive the cyclone are likely to die because of lack of water or poisoned water. So, some special emergency measures have to be taken to supply drinking water to these people, whether it is by boring wells which will take some time, or supplying water through boats and all that. That is being done, I may tell you, from the opposite side of the river, by people from Bangladesh. You should know that. The people from Bangladesh are bringing big tankfuls of water by boats and are trying to help these people on this side. We appreciate very much this gesture of good neighbourliness from the other side. Houses have been destroyed by thousands.

The Government has said—we were present at the meeting together in Raj Bhavan in Calcutta the other day—that Rs 500 will be given to every family for rebuilding their house! Rs. 500 where a single piece of bamboo is costing Rs 40 now. With Rs. 500 people are expected to rebuild their houses! So, this is the fantastic thing and I would request the Government to enhance it. They

say that this is the sum, or norm which is fixed, this amount of Rs 500. If it is a norm, then all I can say is that some way should be found under some other head, by which this amount can be increased. Otherwise these people will die. That is all. Whole villages have been just lifted up in the air by the cyclone and thrown two miles, three miles away. There is no trace left of them at all. People have lost everything. All the primary schools have been destroyed. Some of the high schools which were in *pucca* buildings have been shattered also. The students have lost all their books and papers and everything. Examinations are coming. Therefore, in such a situation the cattle also which have survived will die without any fodder. There is no fodder of any kind.

Therefore, you can understand the extent of the calamity and the dimensions which are required of a big relief operation in order to save these people and the cattle and everybody. Therefore, I am told that the Central team has not gone yet but it is expected to go after a few days. Then it will go round then it will come back, then it will submit its report, then the Central team will make up its mind, then some money will be sanctioned. The state Government has asked for Rs 52 crores and they have sent a detailed memorandum to the Government on the 9th of this month. So, I would like to know from the Minister he has only five minutes to speak—how they are going to move quickly in this matter.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : (Diamond Harbour): Please allow me one minute, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : What can you say in one minute?

SHRI AMAL DATTA : It concerns my constituency also, Sir.

MR. SPEAKER : That has already been said. What does it matter? Say what it is.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : Sir, the Minister had met us on 6th of December and on 7th he made a speech here and he has said on both the occasions that the Central team will go as soon as the final assessment has been given. The final assessment was submitted on 9th. Seven days have passed today and the Central team has not gone. The Central team should have been to there and some money should have started flowing from the Central exchequer. Already the State Government has spent Rs seven crores. This is over and above the margin money which has already been spent on the North Bengal floods. So, the State Government does not have any margin money. It is spending entirely out of its own resources by diverting funds from other sources. The Central funds must flow immediately because the State Government is spending at the rate of Rs 10 lakhs per day and it cannot carry on with the relief works if the Central funds do not flow...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That is all.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : So, I would request the Central Minister to see that the funds start flowing on the basis of the State Government...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : That has been said three or four times.

SHRI AMAL DATTA : The State Government has requested that they have spent so much. So, on that basis, some funds can already start flowing even before the Central team goes...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER : You have said it four times now. That is what he has said. It is all right now. It does not form part of the record...

*(Interruptions)\**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): Sir, we are very much concerned about the tragedy and I have myself seen how wide-spread damage has been done to the people...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AMAL DATTA: What is the sanctity of this, Sir?...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: This is the last day of the session. It is my compassion that I have brought it. I have brought it because I have the compassion. Otherwise it would not have come here.

SHRI P.M. SAYEED: He has not visited Andamans, Sir. He should have visited Andamans also.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Sir, immediately on the direction of the Prime Minister, I visited the area and the same night the Prime Minister was kind enough to grant Rs. 20 lakhs to the West Bengal Government for immediate relief. Later on, after seeing our report, the Prime Minister was further pleased to grant Rs. 30 lakhs as a relief measure for the West Bengal Government.

So far as the money matter is concerned, I told the Government there, the Finance Minister also, that they ~~carry on~~ with relief measures. We shall ~~depute the~~ team immediately after receiving their detailed memorandum and I am right to inform the hon. Members that the Memorandum was received on 9th December. A team was constituted on 14th December and because they have to plan the visit in consultation with the State Government, the team is going on the evening of 18th December. It is proposed that on 19th and 20th, they will visit North 24 Parganas and South 24 Parganas. On 21st

they will hold discussions with the State Government and return back on 21st evening, and immediately after that, they will finalise the recommendations. I can assure the hon. Members that the ceiling of expenditure will be approved before the end of this month within the shortest possible time...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: Within this month?

SHRISHYAMLAL YADAV: Yes, within this month. So far as the immediate relief is concerned, the State Government have the money available with them. If there is any difficulty of ways and means, we can look into that. Otherwise, as I enquired from the Finance Minister, he told me that there is no difficulty for ways and means. Therefore, he can spend from his own account. After that we shall give the money on the norms that have been...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIBASUDEB ACHARIA: They have already spent what they had got.

SHRISHYAMLAL YADAV: So, they have got the money with them, the way and means money. There is no difficulty about that...(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: That is what they have said they can get it reimbursed. That is what he has said.

SHRISHYAMLAL YADAV: So, they can spend the money. Their position, you will be happy to know, is sound and they can spend the money. There is no problem of money with them.

Now, Sir, the second thing is about the norms of assistance that is provided for house building, for cattle, for marginal and small farmers. Those norms were recently

revised in the year 1986...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Do you consider that Rs. 500 are enough?

18.00 hrs.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: No, not that. Those norms are there. For fully damaged houses, particular units, for relocation and construction, it is Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 500 for only construction and for repair and partially damaged houses it is Rs. 200/-. This is the assistance given. Otherwise, for other purpose for goat and other things, for desilting, for animals, assistance to small and marginal farmers, to handloom weavers, all these classes are classified and there norms are settled. From time to time as the need arises, norms are revised. But at present this is the norm. We shall see if anything more can be done.

Now, after my team goes there, they will have detailed discussions with the officials of the State Government and they will try to find out some way out to assist the people who have suffered. So far as the grains are concerned, sufficient grains have been provided to the West Bengal Government and their requirement will be met further also. I can assure you this.

Sir, so far as Andaman and Nicobar Islands are concerned, we have not received any information from them. We have received information that there has been slight damage, not much. There is not much to be done in the case of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. It is for the State Administration there to take care of this and if they forward any demand or Memorandum we can certainly look into that. So far as medicines are concerned, there is sufficient medicine with the Government and we have also assured that whatever medicines are required, we will immediately make them available.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: What about polythene?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Yes, that we have already provided they are lifting it.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: Whether it will be sufficient...?

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: They will be provided. We have asked them to lift as much as possible but they have a very strict rule and restriction on polythene. Unless they inspect, they will not accept any inch of polythene. But that is the limiting factor. Otherwise I can do whatever is possible.

MR. SPEAKER: Whatever steps are needed for the people, I think they will be taken.

SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV: Yes, whatever is needed, we shall try to fulfil. I can assure you, Sir, I can assure again the hon. Members that the Central Government is so much seized of this and whatever assistance is required we shall be making them available. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: That is what I said. They need relief because they are in distress. Whatever should be done at the earliest possible time because I have seen in Punjab and I have seen elsewhere also. This is the urgency of the matter and I think as the hon. Minister has taken care of that, he will seize of the situation and he has got that compassion and he will do whatever he can.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMEN-  
TARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF IN-  
FORMATION AND BROADCASTING  
(SHRI H.K.L. BHAGAT): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I

just like to submit that this Session has been a momentous Session, particularly because of the Electoral Reform Legislation which was enacted. Sir, under your guidance, this session has gone on very well and we are quite happy about it. The Deputy-Speaker has been putting in a lot of hard work and taking a lot of burden I must say quite ably under your able guidance. The Members on both sides took a lot of interest in this session and spoke on various matters, on various subjects and I must thank all the Members from both sides. I must particularly thank the leaders of the Opposition for the cooperation that they have been extending from time to time.

Then, Sir, I would like to thank the Lok Sabha Secretariat and the Secretary-General. They have been given encomiums rightly from time to time in this House also and we are very happy with them. Sir, the Parliamentary Affairs Department takes a lot of burden in these days and I think they also deserve a special mention for the hard work. I am talking of the officers and the staff, not about myself. I have always been keen to thank the Marshal. At least I can speak for myself and say that he knows the rules better than myself.

Then, Sir, I will be failing in my duty if I do not thank my colleague, Shrimati Sheila Dikshit. I must also thank all the staff including the Watch & Ward and all the other staff who have been doing their job very well.

Last but not the least, I must thank the press who have been covering the Session. Thank you.

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you very much.

SHRI AMAL DATTA: We are thanking ourselves and congratulating ourselves.

MR. SPEAKER: Why not? You have done your job