

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, no it is like that.

*[Translation]*

SHRI KALI PRASAD PANDEY: I am making my submission to invite your attention. The hon. Minister is not present here. In the next Budget session, you should make provisions to ensure that the afforestation work is entrusted to panchayats. The unemployed youths who are struggling to find a job should be entrusted this responsibility. As per your data, the 30 lakh hectares of land have been brought under afforestation. I want to know honestly, whether this was the actual target of the scheme? If a proper evaluation is made, we will find that we have not even achieved half of this target. I have observed in the rural areas that for the work undertaken for planting trees along the railway lines, duplicate registers are maintained for the labourers engaged there. Minimum wages have been fixed by the Central Government but two registers are maintained for the labourers who work here. In the duplicate register the real amount of wages which are in the ranges of Rs. 200 to Rs. 250 is shown, whereas in the original register wages are shown at the Government rates of Rs 500 to 600 a month which are shown to the state Government for verification. Until you bring radical change in this matter, we will not be able to provide peace to Shrimati Indira Gandhi's soul. Therefore, the Government should get it properly implemented. The people of our country had welcomed this Bill when it was introduced by her in the House. If it is a mere formal welcome then I also welcome it, the District boards and the P.W.D. are indulging in the business of setting trees. Old trees which give shadow and fruits are being hewed and sold for Rs. five hundred to Rs. one thousand. Now, the business of illegal felling of trees is extending from villages to cities. There should be two objects of preservation of forests. We get medicinal herbs from them. Our ancient sages had observed that the persons of primitive ages used to subsist on the fruits of trees, water of rivers and sea but the modern man have entered

a new world and that it is why our age old values, civilisation and culture have been vanishing. Government should feel sorry for this state of affairs. Instead of planting eucalyptus trees, other useful trees such as mango, guava etc. Can be planted on both sides of the road, Government can earn crores of rupees by getting this work done on contract basis.

Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir, these things were about environment. But now I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards my own constituency, Gopalganj. In the Gopalganj the sugar mills have polluted the atmosphere of the area. I had written a letter to the Minister of Forest and Environment and in response to that, a team was sent by the Centre to my constituency. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, but you will be astonished to know that after visiting the area that team recommended a machine costing Rs. 10 lakhs, but later on, the mill owners created such a situation that even after a lapse of three years the orders of the Government have remained on papers only and no action has been taken in this regard. I think that we want to protect the environment against pollution. We can do it by developing our villages. With these words I support this Bill.

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17.52 hrs.

STATEMENT *RE* DAMAGE FROM CYCLONE IN WEST BENGAL, ORISSA AND ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS ON 29.11.1988 AND RELIEF MEASURES UNDERTAKEN

*[English]*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI. SHYAM LAL YADAV): Sir, A cyclonic storm formed in South Andaman Sea on 23rd November, 1988 and moved northwards and transformed into a severe cyclonic storm with a core of hurricane wind with a sustained wind

speed of about 200-225 kms. per hour. It crossed India- Bangladesh border on the evening of 29th November, 1988.

On receipt of the information about the likelihood of the severe cyclonic storm the chief Secretary and Relief Commissioner of Government of West Bengal were contacted on phone and were informed of the details by telex. They were also advised to evacuate population from the coastal low lying areas and to take measures for protection of vital installations. The Chief Secretaries of Orissa, Assam, Nagaland, Manipur,

Meghalaya Mizoram and Tripura were also informed of likely cyclone and were advised to take precautionary measures. The control Room in the Krishi Bhavan was activated to work round the clock from 29th November, 1988.

Different State Administrations have been reporting progressive extensive damage and the relief measures taken on day-to-day basis. As per the latest reports received from the State Governments and the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar Islands, the cyclone damage has been assessed as follows:

**A. West Bengal**

**I. DAMAGLS**

1. No, of districts affected	—	5 (North 24 Parganas, South 24 Parganas, Howrah, Hooghly and Midnapur).
		The districts of North 24-Parganas and South 24-Parganas have been severely affected whereas the impact on other three districts has been less severe.
2. Population affected	—	25 lakhs
3. Human lives lost	—	500 (247 in North 24-Parganas and 253 in South 24-Parganas)
		800 fishermen are still missing and efforts are being made to trace them.
4. Cattle lost	—	55,000
5. Crop damages	—	40% of the cropped areas (con- fined to North and South 24- Parganas).
6. Number of houses damaged partially and fully	—	3.17 lakhs

**II. RELIEF MEASURES**

(i) Periodically cyclone warnings were issued and the local Admini-

[Sh. Shyamlal Yadav]

stration and police authorities were advised to arrange for shifting of the population in the coastal areas to safer place and control rooms were activated at the State, district and block levels in the face of the likelihood of the severe cyclone storm.

- (ii) The State Govt. have so far distributed about Rs. 25 lakh from contingencies, 1264 MT of wheat rice, 33600 tarpaulins, 6000 dhoties, 11,000 sarees, 15,000 children garments, 3000 blankets, 4,000 lungies and 400 bags of milk powder.

B. ORISSA

No human or cattle casualty has been reported, Betel gardens and 30 school buildings and some private house are reported to have been affected in Balasore district. Assessment of detailed damages is being done.

C. ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

- (i) Losses in Agriculture Sector like paddy, vegetables, pulses, oilseeds and plantation crops.
- (ii) Foreshore roads, jetties, seawalls, bridges, culverts, dwelling houses,

electricity and water installations are reported to have been damaged.

Action to be initiated in the wake of cyclone in the affected areas by the various Ministries/ Departments is being monitored by the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation on a daily basis. Indian Naval Aircraft and a coast guard vessel are carrying out search

operations to locate fishermen adrift at sea as also a missing Light Vessel of Calcutta Port Trust reported missing. Department of Telecommunications have assessed the damage caused to the communication lines and have restored the uprooted telephones in the affected districts. Ministry of Health and Family Welfare have assessed the medical stores available in the state and have taken necessary steps in conjunction with the state authorities for deputation of medical teams in the affected areas for undertaking necessary health measures. An amount of Rs 20.00; lakhs have been sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund by our Prime Minister for augmenting the relief efforts in West Bengal.

On the direction of the Prime minister of India, I visited some of the areas severely affected by cyclone in West Bengal on the 6th December, 1988. During my survey of the cyclone hit areas, I witnessed widespread damage caused to crops as well as the houses in the Gosaba, Basanti, Sandeshkhali, Hingalgunj, Hasnabad and Sunderban areas of South and North 24 Parganas districts.

I discussed the dimension of the cyclone damage and the relief measures being taken by the State Administration and their requirement of Central assistance in this regard with the concerned Ministers of West Bengal, and the Members of Parliament and the Legislators of the affected districts and senior officers of

the State. I exhorted the State Government authorities to set up measures to reach relief and succour to all sections of the cyclone affected areas of the State and assured all possible assistance from the Central Government to the State Administration in this regard.

The State authorities were informed of the Govt. of India's decision to make an additional allocation of 5000 MT of rice and 5000 MT old wheat under PDS in the State in the wake of disaster. I also informed the State that the Regional Office of the Indian Petro-Chemicals Corporation Limited (IPCL) has been advised by the Department of Chemicals & Petro-Chemicals, Government of India, to make the desired quantities of tarpauline (polythene sheets) available to the State for distribution amongst the cyclone affected people who been rendered homeless. I also advised the Agriculture Department of the State to explore the possibility of growing alternative crops in the areas which suffered severe crop damage during the cyclone. All necessary help by way of requirements of seeds, fertiliser, etc. To implement such a contingency plan has also been assured to the State Administration.

The State Government submitted a preliminary report on the damages caused by cyclone in west Bengal and their requirement of funds for relief and restoration during my visit. They have put their requirements of funds at

Rs.52.68 crores on a preliminary assessment basis. They were advised to carry on the relief and restoration works with the available State funds and to submit a detailed memorandum for cyclone relief assistance to the Central Government which they assured to do so in the next few days. The State Administration was assured that a Central Team would be deputed immediately on submission of their final memorandum to assess the damage and the requirement of funds for relief purposes and that the ceilings of expenditure required for cyclone relief in the State would be determined expeditiously. Similar action for approval of ceilings of expenditure for cyclone relief would be taken on receipt also.

I also made an appeal to the voluntary and other philanthropic organisations of Calcutta City and I would like to repeat this appeal in the House, through you, to come forward to help the cyclone hit population of the State by way of distribution of blankets, blankets, clothings, medicined etc, to the affected people.

I would like to assure the Honourable Members that all possible help will be provided by the Central Government to the people affected by the cyclone as has always been done in the past in the wake of natural calamities.

18.00 hrs

SHRI HARISH RAWAT (Almora): It needs a detailed discussion. It is a serious

[Sh. Harish Rawat]

matter.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: You give notice. We will do it afterwards.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN:(Jabalpur): When we meet on 12th of this month, we would like the hon. Minister to make a statement as to whether the contingency plan has been made by the State Government because the hon. Minister has given indication that there is no contingency plan to fight the cyclone.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: We cannot discuss it now. I already told the hon. Member that he can give a notice and we can do it. I cannot allow discussion on the statement.

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: On 12th, the hon. Minister should make a statement as to what has been done. Bengal has no contingency plan for cyclone hit areas.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV): I can reply again, if you permit me.

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18.01 hrs

FOREST CONSERVATION (AMENDMENT) BILL *CONTD.*

[English]

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Ram Bhagat Paswan.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN (Rosera): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, forests are our precious treasure. The Bill which has been presented here is very important

as regards the control of floods and droughts. But after the independence as the population went on increasing, in the name of development.....

(Interruptions)

It causes erosion in a unsystematic manner. The magnitude of erosion was so much that the physical nature itself has undergone a change. The temperature has increased. Floods and drought were also controlled with the help of forests but deforestation which is still going on, is causing great loss and in case it continues, it will adversely affect our agriculture and industry.

[English]

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: I am not a point of order.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is your point of order?

SHRI AJAY MUSHRAN: We are discussing today a Bill which is going to either solve or make the situation worse so far as the environment of our water resources and progress of development works of the country are concerned. I can understand if the hon. Minister go-se out for two or three minutes. But he has goes out for such a long time.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The hon. Minister has to make a statement in the Rajya Sabha. The hon. Minister has gone there. That is why, the hon. Minister Shri K.R. Narayanan is taking his place.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: So much damage has been caused to the forests in Bihar that this State has to face flood fury every year. There are many rivers in Bihar and there were many trees on the banks of these rivers. There was a forest between the 'Terai' region of Nepal and