

(a) whether the Government have formulated a scheme of orange card for Non-Resident Indians;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with implications and incentives offered;

(c) the response of Non-Resident Indians to the scheme;

(d) whether the Government have received some suggestions regarding modification in the scheme;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the changes proposed to be made in the light of suggestions received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI
RAJESH PILOT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (f) However an Inter-Ministerial Group set up by the Government on 8.4.93, had proposed to issue PIO Card to Persons of Indian Origin which may entitle them for special concessions/facilities. No final decision has been taken by the Government on this.

12.00 hrs.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : Yes, Dr. Bhoi, please.

RE: FLOOD SITUATION IN KERALA

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA) : Sir, I would like to submit a very important point. I know that discussion on flood is going on but just now I got a telephonic message from Kerala that the entire State is under floods. The death toll has increased

to 150 and the estimated loss is of the order of 500 crore. This is a very serious matter and since the Minister of Agriculture is present in the House, I would like him to react and immediately announce some relief for the flood affected people of my State.

MR. SPEAKER : We are discussing the same thing in the afternoon. You can raise all your points at that time.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Many people have died in my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER : So, you should take it up in a proper way, that is, when the matter comes up for discussion and when your name is called. At this time I have called Dr. Bhoi to speak.

12.01 hrs.

RE : FIRST HEART TRANSPLANT
OPERATION IN INDIA AT AIIMS

[English]

DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI (SAMBALPUR) : Sir, today is a very happy day for the Indian people because at this hour the first heart transplant has been successfully done by Dr. Venugopal. In 1965, Dr. Christian Bernard started the heart surgery in South Africa for the first time. Due to your efforts, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this august House could pass a legislation with regard to Human Organs Transplantation. For that reason I congratulate you and hon. Members because with the help of that legislation only we could conduct this first heart transplant operation in our country today.

Dr. Venugopal is a Bachelor of international repute of heart surgeons. None other than Dr. Denton Cooley, father of the bypass surgery of Globe, sent a message to

him saying that the whole world will remember Dr. Venugopal because he has conducted a surgery of a type which has not so far been conducted anywhere in the world. The difference lies in that he has conducted the surgery using less dose of Cyclosporin, that is the immuno suppressive therapy. We are really very happy that in a poor country like India a common man has undergone a transplant operation and the donor is a 35-year old woman. I am sure that it will be hundred per cent successful. So, we must felicitate him and congratulate him on this achievement.

I would like to read a few lines in regard to this.

The Heart Transplant Surgery carried out by Dr. P. Venugopal and his colleagues at All India Institute of Medical Sciences yesterday is a landmark in India's march towards medical and scientific excellence. We, the representatives of the Indian people, salute our professionals, technocrats and the medical fraternity for achieving this milestone.

The intricate surgery involving advanced technology should usher in an era of further growth and development of medical science in the country and serve as a model for other professions to put our motherland at a place of pride in the world technology map. It is also a matter of satisfaction for us to note that the common man suffering from complex heart ailment can now look for medical facilities within the country for saving his life.

We, therefore, express and record our deep appreciation today for the commendable team work done by Dr. P. Venugopal and his team of dedicated doctors of AIIMS.

PROF. SAVITHRI LAKSHMANAN (MUKUNDAPURAM) : Sir, I also join Dr. Bhoi in conveying the message of congratulations to the eminent Surgeon Dr. Venugopal of AIIMS for the India's first successful heart transplantation.

Sir, it is a landmark in the history of our medical science that Dr. Venugopal, with his team, who had spent five hours in the Operation Theatre for the success of this novel venture, need appreciation. I join the donor family in their sorrow for their dear departed but with thanks I appreciate their readiness to donate the heart of the deceased. Even though the expenses on operation come to nearly Rs. 40,000, yet they are very low compared to similar cases in foreign countries. The post-operation expenses come to nearly Rs. 40,000 per annum. It is an unusual thing to go in for such an operation. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to make necessary arrangements for giving full financial assistance to the needy persons.

DR. VASANT NIWRUTTI PAWAR (NASIK) : Sir, firstly, I also join Dr. Bhoi in congratulating Dr. Venugopal. It is not the first heart transplant case in India. Dr. S.K. Sen had tried in Bombay, but the patient did not survive. In this case, however, the patient is still surviving after 30 hours of operation.

My second congratulations to the Government for passing the Transplantation of the Human Organs Bill. Because of that only she could donate the living heart.

My third congratulations to the family which had sent a good message all over India by donating the living heart to a deserving person. She had donated it because she was suffering from a brain

hamorrhage or brain stem disease. She was about to be declared dead. But her heart was beating. I congratulate the donor family for the same. Although the survival rate is about five per cent, yet the patient can survive maximum for a period of about twenty years. Let us all hope for a new era in the organ transplantation in India and we will always stand by such technocrats and congratulate Dr.Venugopal.

MR. SPEAKER: I think this House would like to congratulate Dr. Venugopal and his team for the momentous achievement and also congratulate the donor family for agreeing to donate the organ.

12.09 hrs.

[English]

RE : FLOOD SITUATION IN KERLA. -
CONTD.

SHRI PALAJI.K.M. MATHEW (IDUKKI)
: Sir, I rise to draw the attention of the House to a matter of urgent public importance. My colleague Prof. Kurien had already raised the matter.

Sir, I have been receiving so many telephone calls, for the last so many days, telling that the whole State of Kerala is almost submerged under water. Kerala is facing the worst flood in thirty years. This is what *The Hindu* has reported this morning. For the last one week, in all the newspapers of Kerala, this news item has been appearing in the banner headlines showing the extreme urgency of the grimmest situation and so on. Now, the toll has gone up to 143. Two or three days back, the toll was 109. Every day the toll is increasing. The number of people who had suffered injuries had gone up to 253. Over 17,000 houses had been

totally damaged and more than 40,000 houses had been partially damaged. Now, there are 1280 relief camps housing about 40,000 people. The total loss - no less a person than the Finance Minister of Kerala had stated this in the Assembly yesterday - come to around Rs. 500 crore. In Kerala alone, the sitting of the Assembly had been put off so that the members may go to their respective constituencies for providing relief and rescue to the people.

So, the situation is not only calamitous, but it has already assumed an explosive proportion. Now, the monsoon has been lashing the State for the last two months, especially the northern part of the State. For the last one week, the entire State is being lashed by heavy incessant rains; throughout 24 hours, it has been raining.

The total damage, as I said, is around Rs. 500 crore. The assistance given by the Government is very meagre. So, I would request the Central Government to re-assess the whole situation and make a new study of the latest developments, especially in the last two -three days in the State and enhance the assistance in a very considerable way.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN (MAVELIKARA)
: Since my friend Mr. Pala K.M. Mathew has given the details, I am not going into them again, My constituency is affected the most. The entire southern part of Kerala is also affected.

In the whole country, the total number of deaths is 500 ; in Kerala, it is 143 ; more than one -fourth of the deaths is in Kerala. But the problem is that we have only Rs. 23 crore from the calamity relief fund; according to the Finance Commission's allocation. The State is not having any additional fund. The situation is very serious.