

working of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Sponge Iron India Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 4719/93]

- (d) (i) Review by the Government on the working of the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1992-93.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Neelachal Ispat Nigam Limited, Bhubaneswar, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT - 4720/93]

Annual Report and Review on the Working of Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, Tamil Nadu for 1992-93

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): I beg to lay on the Table -

- (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, Tamil Nadu, for the year 1992-93, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the working of the Paddy Processing Research Centre (Tamil Nadu) Society, Tamil Nadu, for the year 1992-93.

[Placed in the Library. See No. LT - 4721/93]

12.31 Hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTERS

- (i) **Earthquake in Maharashtra and adjoining areas**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): I seek leave of the House to make a statement on the situation arising out of recent earthquake in Maharashtra and adjoining areas and the relief and rehabilitation measures taken by the Government.

An earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter Scale struck the Marathwada region of the country just before day-break at 3.56 a.m. of September 30, 1993. It had its epicentre at Killari village in AUSA Tehsil of Latur district in Maharashtra. It was followed by three after shocks of declining intensity on the same day. Milder after shocks still continue to be felt in the region.

Although parts of Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Goa and Pondicherry also experienced mild tremors, the brunt of damage and destruction was experienced in Latur and Osmanabad districts of Marathwada. The earthquake severely affected 36 villages in Latur and 31 villages

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in Osmanabad, causing several deaths and extensive damage to residential houses and public buildings. In addition, there was damage to dwelling houses in 5.2 villages of Latur district and 374 villages of Osmanabad district. 11 other districts of Maharashtra also experienced damage of varying degrees to houses and public buildings. In Kamataka, the quake affected 22 villages in 5 districts. It is with great pain and anguish that I inform you that as many as 7601 people lost their lives and 15846 people were injured in Maharashtra. It also completely damaged nearly 19,000 houses and caused partial damage of varying intensity to 2.17 lakh houses. In Kamataka, the losses were comparatively minor where the earthquake resulted in loss of 10 human lives, complete damage to 216 houses and partial damage to nearly 28,000 houses, besides some damage to other infrastructure.

The heavy toll of human lives and extent of damage destruction and human misery caused by the earthquake benumbed all of us. However, the relief machinery of the country swung into action immediately. The Chief Minister, Maharashtra, along with Ministers and Senior officials reached the site and provided the leadership to organise rescue and relief operations. Army columns comprising of sappers, engineers and medical and para medical units with field equipments moved in from Bombay, Pune and Secunderabad within 24 hours of the earthquake. They numbered 10,000 and mounted one of the largest peace time operations in independent India. The army succeeded in rescuing over 9,000 injured. In addition, over 6,000 dead were removed and cremated or buried.

Nearly 12,000 non-military personnel, surgeon to medical, public health, police,

revenue, engineering, home guards, etc. were also engaged in the rescue and relief operations. There was also spontaneous response from volunteers and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who took a major part especially in providing food, medical aid and other needed assistance. The rescue operations were substantially completed by October 5, 1993. Along with treatment of the injured, medical teams took preventive measures against the danger of epidemics with the result that there was no outbreak of any epidemic inspite of the presence of a large number of dead bodies and complete dislocation of normal life.

The Prime Minister visited the areas on 4th October, 1993, assessed the situation and comforted the bereaved families.

At the Central level, the Crisis Management Group (CMG) headed by the Cabinet Secretary met on the day of the earthquake to consider measures to be taken by various Central Government agencies. Cabinet Secretary has been reviewing the situation regarding the steps to be taken for relief and rehabilitation on weekly basis. The CMG headed by the Central Relief Commissioner in the Ministry of Agriculture was meeting daily during the crises period and now periodically to review the situation and provide assistance needed by the State Government from time to time. Government of India have released Rs. 41.25 crores to assist the State Government in relief and rehabilitation measures.

The State Government along have so far spent Rs. 38.6 crores on relief and rehabilitation measures.

Government of India deputed 15 medical teams consisting of 45 specialists in various fields to assist State Governments efforts to provide immediate medical relief to

the affected population. Besides emergency food, cotton blankets, life saving drugs and other items of relief assistance were also airlifted for distribution among the victims. Ministry of Railways carried relief materials free of cost. Air India also carried relief material from abroad free of cost. All customs and Central excise Collectors were directed to exempt the articles intended for relief and rehabilitation in Maharashtra and Karnataka from customs duty and Central excise. Income-Tax exemption has been granted to the contributions for earthquake relief and rehabilitation.

The people of this country have always shown great fortitude in facing natural calamities and mobilising the human and material resources for succour to the victims. They contributed very generously to the relief and rehabilitation efforts of the Government of Maharashtra. In fact voluntary work by a large number of agencies public and private played a crucial role in alleviating the misery of the people. The spontaneous offer of money, material, expertise for relief and rehabilitation from a wide range of foreign donors which include foreign governments, UN bodies, non-Government Organisations and individuals and the compassion expressed by them have proved the solidarity and innate humanism of the international community in times of extreme crisis like this. It was very touching to see even the groups of school going children and the people from vulnerable sections making small but extremely valuable contribution. I am sure this house would join me in expressing our deep sense of gratitude to all of them.

We are now faced with the problem of providing appropriate rehabilitation - social, economic and psychological to the victims families, disabled persons, destitute women and orphaned children. The Ministry of

Finance is already negotiating with the World Bank for assistance for a comprehensive reconstruction package, proposing an investment of over Rs. 1,000 crores. A World Bank team has pre-appraised the project report for an emergency reconstruction credit. The Board of the bank is expected to consider the proposal for final approval early. Private donor agencies have started construction of dwelling units and community facilities in 20 villages with the permission of the Government of Maharashtra.

One of the matters to be firmed up regarding construction of dwelling units, other buildings and infrastructure is the technology and materials to be used in reconstruction so as to withstand the impact of possible future earthquakes. Government of India have appointed an Advisory Group to consider the question and its report has just been received.

The area affected by the calamity had been classified seismically and Zone-I which is least vulnerable to moderate and great earthquakes. This assumption has now been belied and, therefore, the need for a re-look at the seismic zoning classification especially in peninsular India. Prime Minister has already announced Government's intention to undertake this review speedily. In this connection, a Committee by the Government of India to look into the inadequacies of the existing seismic survey reports and to recommend corrective measures has submitted its reports which is under consideration. Besides, a Task Force to examine the need for seismic instrumentation and an Expert Committee for updating the project document on seismic observations are already at work.

While a large number of dignitaries, both Indian and foreign as also teams of

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officers from Central Government have been visiting areas and giving us the benefit of their advice and feedback, I have had the most recent opportunity of personally visiting the area interacting with the affected persons and reviewing the relief and rehabilitation programmes with the State Government. I wish to record my appreciation of the goodwork done by the State Government, Armed Forces, non-Government Organisations and public spirited individuals. While conveying my heart felt sympathies for the affected people, I wish to assure this House that we will spare no efforts in meeting the challenges of rehabilitation.

MR. SPEAKER : Should we have a short discussion on this ?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Later on Sir.

MR. SPEAKER: We will fix up a time for that.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : Any time that you say I am prepared.

MR. SPEAKER : You were to make a statement on the cyclone.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : That I will do later on Sir. The report is being prepared. The assessment is coming. My teams have gone and they will bring out the data.

MR. SPEAKER : Will it be possible tomorrow?

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam) : Only Rs. 1 crore has been released as a token amount. I demand more funds should be released. Nearly one week has passed since his visit.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR : He does not actually have the facts. We have already

recommended. That has to be gone through the process. You do not worry about it. I have already recommended for the early release of the instalment for the next year also. You do not worry on that score. We are taking care of that. I am going to make a statement about this and then I will come back to you.

SHRI S. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur) : Some three districts in Karnataka are also affected. A liberal attitude should be shown. Because Karnataka is not in a position to meet the demands of the people.

SHRI E. AHAMED (Manjeri) : In such matters Parliament should be taken into confidence earlier. Even on earthquake it is a post-mortem report of the Government of India. About cyclone it will take two-three weeks more. It has to be brought to the notice of the House at the earliest possible opportunity.

MR. SPEAKER : It is going to be a long drawn process and we will consider it very carefully.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA (Madhubani) : There have been repeated tremors in the Marathwada area and the areas around.

MR. SPEAKER : We are going to discuss that issue.

*(Interruptions) **

MR. SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

(ii) Unmanned Level Crossing Gate Accident Involving 7304 Syhyadri Express and a Bus on Miraj-Pune be Single Line Section of South Central Railway on 11.12.1993

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : It is with deep anguish that I apprise the House of an