

13.15  $\frac{1}{2}$  hrs.

PETITION RE: INCLUSION OF LIMBOO  
COMMUNITY IN THE SCHEDULED  
TRIBES LIST OF SIKKIM

[English]

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHAN-  
DARI (Sikkim): Sir, I beg to present a  
petition signed by Shri Bir Bal Limboo,  
Chairman and other office bearers of the  
Sikkim Limboo Action Committee for  
Tribal Status, Gangtok, Sikkim, regarding  
inclusion of Limboo community in the  
Scheduled Tribes List of Sikkim.

13.16 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER—*Contd.*

**Recent Cyclone/Flood in Tamil Nadu  
and Pondicherry**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE  
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI  
ARVIND NETAM): Sir, I seek leave of the  
House to make a statement on the situa-  
tion arising out of recent cyclonic storm  
and floods, particularly in Tamil Nadu and  
Pondicherry and the relief and rehabilita-  
tion measures taken by the Government.

As the Members are all aware, the  
east and west coasts of India are highly  
prone to tropical cyclones arising in the  
Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea. On an  
average, about 5-6 tropical cyclones form  
in the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea  
every year, out of which 2-3 become  
severe.

A cyclonic storm developed over  
the Bay of Bengal on 2nd December,  
1993 intensified into a severe cyclonic  
storm on the next day. This, with a core of  
hurricane winds crossed the Tamil Nadu  
coast around 11.00 hours on 4th Decem-  
ber, 1993 near Karaikal in Pondicherry.  
Under its influence, coastal areas of Tamil  
Nadu experienced heavy rains, strong  
winds and high seas. The monsoon which  
accompanied the cyclonic storm caused  
heavy rainfall in the coastal districts of  
Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry also.  
The intense rainfall accompanied by high  
velocity winds resulted in flash floods,  
floods in the rivers and plains and sea  
erosion in the affected areas.

In fact, immediately before this,  
during the first week of November, 1993,  
there was a trough of low pressure that  
formed and extended itself from the Gulf  
of Mannar to the Southern Bay, off Tamil  
Nadu coast from 4 to 9th November,  
1993. It brought in an unusually heavy  
rainfall in the coastal districts of Tamil  
Nadu and Kerala causing substantial  
damage in many inland districts of the  
States. It caused landslides also in some  
parts of Tamil Nadu.

In Tamil Nadu, the coastal districts  
bore the immediate onslaught of the cy-  
clonic storm and heavy rains in Decem-  
ber, 1993 resulting in loss of 111 lives and  
damage to over 1.61 lakh huts. Paddy  
crop close to harvest has been exten-  
sively damaged. The Government of  
Tamil Nadu undertook timely relief mea-  
sures in the affected areas including  
evacuation of people from inundated ar-  
eas to safe shelters, ex-gratia payment to  
the next of kin of the deceased and in-  
jured, compensation for damaged houses  
and issue of essential commodities free of  
cost to those rendered homeless. The  
State Government has already distributed

[Shri Arvind Netam]

Rs.23.00 lakhs as gratuitous relief and has also announced cash dole of Rs. 500/- each for all the huts damaged in cyclone and heavy rains of November and December, 1993.

Because of precautionary measures taken by the Pondicherry Administration like evacuation of people to safer places, no loss of human life has occurred. However, damage to public and private properties could not be prevented. In Pondicherry, particularly Karaikal, large areas of standing crops were damaged. Fishing crafts etc. were washed away; buildings, roads, bridges and irrigation channels were damaged; telephone and electric poles were uprooted; huts in large number collapsed; low lying areas were inundated; coastal areas were eroded by tidal waves and communication was disrupted at many places. Preliminary assessment of the Pondicherry Administration indicate a damage of the order of Rs. 40.56 crore in various sectors. The Administration provided temporary shelters to the evacuees and more than 40,000 families in the affected region were distributed free ration. In order to save the standing paddy crop from submergence, the Administration reinforced all the weak points along the river banks and breaches were plugged.

As the hon. Members are aware, under the present arrangement, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) is operated by the State Governments for meeting expenditure on relief and rehabilitation measures in the wake of natural calamities. 75 percent of Calamity Relief Fund is contributed by the Government of India and balance 25 percent by the State Governments. Tamil Nadu has an allocated Calamity Relief Fund of Rs. 39.00

crore. In the wake of Tamil Nadu cyclone in November, 1993 two quarterly instalments of the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the current year, amounting to Rs. 14.625 crore were released in advance last year. Further, the third and fourth instalments of Calamity Relief Fund for the current year were also released in advance in April, 1993. Thus, the entire share of Calamity Relief Fund for this year stands released.

As desired by the Prime Minister, my senior colleague undertook an aerial survey of the entire affected area and also visited some parts of the State which suffered extensive damage on December 9, 1993. He also held discussions with the Chief Ministers and Officials of the State Government and Union Territory Administration. Both the Government of Tamil Nadu and Administration of Pondicherry swiftly responded in arranging for rescue and relief operations. On return, he also has recommended advance release of Rs. 14.625 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu from the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund due for the next year to augment their resources. Since the Union Territories have on provision of CRF, it is Government of India which usually provides necessary assistance to U.T. Administration to meet such expenditure. For the present, he has recommended release of Rs. 2.00 crore to the Government of Pondicherry for this purpose.

During the course of the visit, the Governments of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry presented memoranda detailing the damage caused and requirements of fund for meeting the expenditure on relief and rehabilitation. The Central Team which accompanied my senior colleague is looking into the memoranda.

Hon. Members will kindly recall that in the wake of cyclone and floods in the Southern States in November, 1992, Prime Minister had visited the affected areas and held discussions with the Chief Ministers on the rehabilitation measures required to be undertaken. On the direction of the Prime Minister, the coastal States had formulated a comprehensive Cyclone Emergency Project for reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure on the lines of the Cyclone Emergency Reconstruction project being implemented in Andhra Pradesh. This project was presented to the World Bank. The Bank has expressed some reservations about this project but are prepared to consider some of its components within the on-going Agriculture Development Project and/or another project on Water Resource Consolidation which is under preparation.

We are in touch with the State Government for further action to be taken in the matter in the light of the observations of the World Bank. The Government of India has also, as a very special case, approved a scheme for reconstruction of houses damaged during the 1992 cyclone with 40 per cent HUDCO loan assistance and Central and State subsidy of 30 per cent each. The schemes submitted for assistance are under consideration of HUDCO.

Sir, I may assure the House that Centre fully sympathises with the hardship and sufferings caused to the persons affected by the recent cyclone in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry and would render whatever assistance possible in undertaking suitable rehabilitation programme.

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Only a portion of the calamity fund has been released. What about the Central grant ?

MR. SPEAKER: You can discuss it when we take it up for discussion.

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANNARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): The cyclone has hit the Timal Nadu coast afterwards also.

MR. SPEAKER: At 4.00 p.m. we are discussing earthquake. Probably, you can say something on this also.

MR. SPEAKER: Now we will take up legislative business, the Legislative bills to be introduced. Item No. 27

13.26 hrs.

RE:INTRODUCTION OF PUBLIC  
 SECTOR IRON AND STEEL  
 COMPANIES (RESTRUCTURING)  
 AND MISCELLANEOUS  
 PROVISIONS (AMENDMENT) BILL

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Rosera): Sir, it should be taken up after lunch because many members would oppose it. (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): A number of members have given notices. They will speak.

MR. SPEAKER: When you oppose the introduction of the Bill, the point is technical, very short speeches have to be made by one or two Members, not all Members.

(Interruptions)