

[Shri Ram Naik]

Demand No. 85 on page 32 is a supplementary demand of 250 crores relating to Nuclear Power scheme. There is shortage of energy in the country. If the concerned Minister is not present in the House, what is the purpose of speaking on this topic? (*Interruptions*). It would have been allright if the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs were present here. But he is not present.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Hon. Minister has gone after informing him. He is attending the meeting of BAC with Mr. Speaker.

DR. LAXMI NARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, a discussion on the situation of earthquake is due at 4 O'Clock. You should get it started.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN : All right, he will continue afterwards.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Earthquake in Maharashtra and Adjoining Areas

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay North): I will now initiate the next discussion, that is, Discussion Under Rule 193 on earthquake in Maharashtra and adjoining areas.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, I have a question to pose. Who is going to

reply to this discussion? I suppose Shri Balram Jakhar is the responsible Minister. He must be present here. Or, is Shri Chavan going to reply?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): I can be here. I can pass on your viewpoints to him.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Again, it is a question of propriety and practice. We are having a special discussion on the statement made by the Agriculture Minister Shri Balram Jakhar. Either he or his Deputy should be present in this House. There is to be some purposeful discussion. Just the presence of a Minister does not help us.

[Translation]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to initiate a discussion under Rule 193 on the statement made by Dr. Balram Jakhar on 13th December regarding the situation arising out of the earthquake in Maharashtra. This was the worst earthquake in the history of India. 1993 has been a year full of crisis for the State of Maharashtra. In Feb., 1993, riots took place in Bombay. These riots were started by Anti-national elements. Thousands of people were killed in them. In February, Shri Sudhakar Naik had to resign. That was a period of crisis for Maharashtra. The Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Subramaniam also had to resign. Then many bomb explosions took place in March in which two hundred and thirty five people lost their lives. As Mr. Muri Deora knows, two MLAs of Maharashtra were murdered in June. MLA, Shri More belonged to Shiv Sena and MLA Shri Prem Sharma belonged to BJP. Then, in September, this earthquake rocked the

State. According to Government figures, seven thousand people were killed in this earthquake. On Oct. 13, twenty nine women lost their lives in a train accident of a special ladies train. On Dec. 11, forty-nine small children died in the constituency of our friend Shri Anna Joshi. Thus the entire year beginning from Jan. to Dec. proved to be a year of great crisis for Maharashtra. Some of them were natural calamities while other were man made crisis. Earthquake rocked the State on September 30. Twenty ninth September was a great festival day of Maharashtra called the Ganeshotsava. This also celebrated as Vighna Harta day. Although his images were immersed in water by us but instead of showing any problems a new crisis hit the State in the early hours of September 30 when a terrible earthquake hit the State. The statement refers to all these facts and I do not want to waste the time of the House by repeating them again. It has been stated in the statement that 7601 people lost their lives, about 15846 people were injured, 19000 houses collapsed and 2.17 lakh houses were partially damaged. But the statement lacks the information which has been included in the White Paper published by the Government of Maharashtra. It states that 2519 villages have been affected. The effect of the earthquake was not confined to Latur and Osmanabad. The eleven districts of Maharashtra and some parts of neighbouring Karnataka and other states were also affected. In addition to it, twenty hundred cattle were also killed.

[English]

Now I must protest. There is no Cabinet Minister in the House now. The House cannot be taken so lightly. There must be a Cabinet Minister in the House.

We do not want to just speak here for the sake of speech.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: It is not a debating club, Sir.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES (Udipi): Is there any rule that a Cabinet Minister must be present in the House?

SHRI RAM NAIK: Yes, there is propriety; there is a convention that a Cabinet Minister must be present.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: The concerned Minister is here.

SHRI RAM NAIK: But where is the Cabinet Minister?

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): It has been a practice for years and the contrary is never accepted so lightly. Now Mr. Fernandes asks us to show the rule as to where the Cabinet Minister's presence is necessary in the House. I would like to know whether Mr. Fernandes means that we want to give up all conveniences.

SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: But the concerned Minister is here.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: That does not solve the problem. Even in the Vidhan Sabha of the State everyday at least one Cabinet Minister has to be present. There is a roster for the Cabinet Minister. I know the definite rules about it in the Government.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The House should not be taken so lightly. Otherwise there is no purpose of the debate if one Cabinet Minister out of so many Ministers is not present.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: What are they doing outside?

SHRI RAM NAIK: I know some of them are preparing for sending in their resignations. They are drafting their resignation letters.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Please do not worry about it.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: We are worried about the respect of the House. I am a member and I have to respect the House.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: You may speak, I have directed them.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I thank you for this. I was saying that more than 13 thousand animals were wounded. So many people and animals died due to this earthquake. Our Prime Minister, Leaders of Opposition Shri Advani and Vajpayee ji and our Lok Sabha Speaker, who belongs to that constituency visited the place to take a stock of the situation. The Chief

Minister of Maharashtra also went there. People as well as the leaders provided help and have shown goodwill in this hour of crisis. The voluntary organisations also helped a lot. You will be surprised to know that on that fateful day, the Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Alexander was in my constituency, taking part in a programme. He had no information about the earthquake till 11 A.M. The volunteers of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh were there in the Jan Kalyan Samiti at Latur within 40 minutes. The military was summoned. I would like to thank the people of Maharashtra and voluntary organisations for rendering help.

Now comes the questions of their rehabilitation. What should be done in this regard. We would have unanimous opinion in this regard. Now the question is whether the Maharashtra Government discharged its responsibility or not? Whether the Central Government provided the required help in this hour of crisis or not? The White paper issued by the Maharashtra Government says that a sum of Rs. 1050 crore will be required for rehabilitation of the people.

[English]

Housing and infrastructure	Rs.	856	crore
Restoration of economy activity	Rs.	31	crore
Provision of social services	Rs.	64	crore
Other related activities	Rs.	16	crore
Contingency (8.5 Percent)	Rs.	82	crore
Total (approx)		Rs.	1,050 crore

[Translation]

Shri Jakharji has said in his statement that two teams of World Bank

have visited that place. As per their estimates an amount of Rs. 1000 crore is required for this purpose. My point is whether the Government of India wants to

approach the World Bank in this regard. The third team of World Bank will be visiting next week. But is there any need to approach the World Bank? There was a mention in the statement about foreign assistance but its details were not given. Was this assistance received by the Centre or directly by the Maharashtra Government? I want to know whether it was done deliberately. Is there something wrong?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): At least you must have some restraint.

SHRI RAM NAIK: There may be something wrong but hon. Minister Sir, you have said in the other House that we have received foreign assistance to the tune of Rs. 904 crores.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Who said? I have not said.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The concerned Minister, Shri Balram Jakharji who is here, has said it and it is in the synopsis of Rajya Sabha debate.

[English]

But the Central assistance of Rs. 33 crores has also been released. Foreign assistance to the tune of Rs. 808.76 crores has been received.

[Translation]

This is your statement.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have given the details in this regard.

SHRI RAM NAIK: This is what they are demanding. When Rs. 904 crores

have been received from other countries then what is the need of taking Rs. 1000 crores from the World Bank?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Finance Ministry is dealing with the World Bank. The details regarding rest of the amount have already been given.

SHRI RAM NAIK: The statement has been given on behalf of the Government and it says... (Interruptions)... The white paper issued by the Maharashtra Govt. does not mention about the assistance provided by the people of Maharashtra. Some people from Maharashtra and other states also have directly sent financial assistance to the Maharashtra Government... (Interruptions)... It does not mention about how many states have provided the financial assistance and how much? All the States have provided financial assistance, therefore I demand that there should be a Parliamentary control over the money received by the State Government as well as the Central Government.

[English]

Whatever money has been received by the Central Government there should be a parliamentary committee to monitor the use of it.

[Translation]

Likewise, a committee consisting of MLAs should be set up to monitor the use of the money received by the Chief Minister. The help of the local people is not being sought in the rehabilitation work taken up with the help of all and sundry. The locals, opposition parties and voluntary organisations have a number of complaints in this regard. My second demand

[Shri Ram Naik]

is that all party committees should be set up to monitor the programmes being undertaken, so that implementation of these programmes may be done in a proper manner.

I have made a mention of World Bank, because two years ago there was an earthquake in Uttarkashi, in which 900 persons were killed. Thereafter, came a statement that Government was going to take up a number of relief measures. It was published by the Directorate of Publicity. It says :—

[English]

It is proposed to seek assistance from the World Bank also for the reconstruction of fully damaged houses in the area, for which technical as well as financial assistance is being provided by the Central Government.

[Translation]

But the World Bank assistance has not been received. The Government did nothing in this regard. Now please state in this context, I have mentioned this issue just to remind what happened two years ago. The hon. Minister of Agriculture while replying to the debate should inform the House about its nature and also when this assistance will be received. I have an apprehension that it might not end in a fiasco like the Uttarkashi case.

Secondly, as per your information a loan of Rs. 1000 crores from the World Bank will attract a nominal interest of .75 percent i.e. we are getting this loan at the rate of less than one percent. But the Chief Minister of Maharashtra says that

they will get this loan through Central Government @ 12 percent interest. Why is this profiteering? It can be understood in other cases that the Central Government takes some service charges on the loans received from the World Bank or any other foreign financial institution for various projects. But profiteering by the Government in the case of loans received for the earthquake victims doesn't seem justified on its part. Through you, I would like to make a request that the Government of Maharashtra should be given this money at that rate at which it is received from the World Bank.

I would like to mention one more point that on the insistence of the Prime Minister a Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. V.K. Rao, which was to submit its reports within a month. The committee submitted its report within the stipulated time but what does this report contain, whether the Government will accept its recommendations, if yes, to what extent and if not, the reasons therefor, all the details should be given to the House.

Moreover, this Report should be laid on the Table of the House so that the people of the country may be aware as to what is there in the Report presented by the committee of four famous scientists, lest this Report like many other committee Reports may lie pending getting dust in Prime Minister's office. This should not happen and so what is required is to provide details in this regard.

The hon. minister has eulogised the hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra too much and has said that the bold initiative taken on his part is a commendable work. He has really been much lauded for fighting the crisis ably. Every individual has his own way of working, but to award

him a certificate so hastily... (Interruptions)... When you get the chance you may also put your points and surely you will get an opportunity. I was saying that the way you awarded a certificate to him that he worked efficiently and nicely... (Interruptions)... Our leader Shri Atalji had also visited there and he also said that rescue and rehabilitation operation being carried out in the earthquake hit area was satisfactory. This is what was said by him and the same is being said by you and I. The re-construction work is going on well. Notwithstanding, I would like the Government to be honest enough to note as to how has it been able to do so.

Now, what I am going to say further is not based on the information furnished by Ram Naik or by any other leader of Bhartiya Janata Party. There were four journalists organisations in Bombay. All those four organisations including Bombay Union of Journalists, Ministry and Maharashtra Legislature Reporters Association, Mumbai Marathi Patrakar Sangh and Akhil Bhartiya Marathi Patrakar Parishad had set up a committee and moreover those four organisations had also formed seven groups which visited 50 villages. There were only journalists in those organisations and there is absolutely no party politics in that matter. After doing studies they submitted a report in the last week of November. I would conclude my speech by pinning at relevant portion of the Report so that the intention of the Government as also of Deshmukh Sahib may be revealed. It is laid down in the Report—

[English]

"Preliminary Help: Voluntary agencies came forward in a big way for supply of food, clothes, utensils, bedsheets, chaddars, mats, etc.

However, there are several complaints about the food articles supplied by the Government Civil Supplies Department, e.g. quality of wheat, quantity of sugar, scanty edible oil and kerosene. Many villages were not provided with ration cards. All help has been stopped after Diwali."

[Translation]

That is to say no relief has been provided after Diwali. This is the first observation. Now listen to the second observation—

[English]

"Panchanama of dead bodies: No panchanamas of dead bodies were made in several villages. Their names were only recorded.

Injured: There is a wide difference in the factual figures of injured persons and the reported number by the Government.

Temporary sheds: With some exceptions, the temporary sheds in the 50 villages surveyed by the media-persons were scanty and inadequate. Due to shortage of roof steel sheets or mat sheets, more than 50 per cent villagers stay in the grass-houses or huts. The steel sheet houses have no doors nor is the arrangement of bathrooms for women.

Drinking water and electricity: The tube-wells were drilled near the new camps: However, at many places, they do not yield sufficient water. Water tankers do not supply water

[Shri Ram Naik]

regularly. Since the water supplied in many villages is not clean and pure, people are suffering from stomach ailment and skin diseases. While electricity is provided in some steel sheet houses, other houses are without electricity.

Medical aid: There is general satisfaction about the medical aid.

Agriculture: Almost all the villages have been supplied with seeds and fertilisers.

Daily wages: The farmers do not have liquid cash to pay daily to the labourers. They are ready to give the foodgrains. However the labourers too have foodgrains and need cash for other purchases. They are therefore insisting for cash and demanding work under Employment Guarantee Scheme. Hence, many farmers have done their agricultural work only with the help of their family members. The farmers/labourers are afraid to leave their houses due to fear of another earthquake shock. Those who go return early. Since there are no doors to new sheds, one person is forced to stay in the house. It is necessary to provide new tools to them or requisite finance for purchases."

[Translation]

We claim to abolish caste system. This is a serious matter for all of us.

[English]

"Practically, all villages want reconstruction of their villages on the caste basis only. No efforts

have been made to change the old thinking either by the Government or the voluntary agencies.

This causes concern to all of us. Village people are not in favour of allowing any change in old structure.

[English]

Reconstruction of villages is crucial.

"Reconstruction work of houses has begun in very few selected villages and it is in the first stage. Only 10 villages out of 50 villages surveyed."

[Translation]

Reconstruction work has been taken only in 10 villages and Mr. Chairman, Sir, only the voluntary organisations are engaged in taking up the reconstruction work. Not even a single house has been taken up for reconstruction by the Government.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Now tender are about to be opened.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Leave the issue of tender.

[English]

"Those farmers who have given their land for house construction have not been paid any compensation nor do they know when it will be paid. Many villagers stated that if the Government is going to recover the cost of construction of 250 sq. feet houses by showing the cost as loans, then the Government should pay the money in cash and the vil-

lagers would construct the houses by themselves according to the design approved by the Government."

[Translation]

People want to know whether the money being provided there is a loan? If it is a loan and subject to refund, then in that case they should have freedom to utilise the money according to their own. This demand of the people is justified that if they are able to carry the work to the desirable standard then they should be allowed to carry it on.

Help should immediately be provided to the relatives of the deceased persons.

[English]

As regards help to the relatives of the victims, help has not been distributed even in one village. The villagers are not aware, how much help will be given.

[Translation]

Money has not so far been provided to the relatives of the deceased. Regarding the voluntary organisations it has been said:-

[English]

The villagers expressed their gratitude for the help rendered by the voluntary organisations. They also expressed their opinion that compared to governmental agencies, there was better discipline and judicious distribution".

[Translation]

Details of the voluntary organisations that worked there have been pro-

vided after conducting a survey of those 50 villages. The BJP, the Rashtriya Swamsewak Sangh, Shiv Sena etc. are included in it... (Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI ANKUSHRAO RAOSAHEB TOPE (Jalna): The Maharashtra Pradesh Congress has adopted some of the villages.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I am just mentioning the ground realities.

[Translation]

Keeping those things in view the Government should at least ensure that people should get new houses before the rainy season starts. Houses of two lakh and fifty thousand people have been damaged. This is the biggest tragedy of this century. We have to take this as a challenge. If the Government rises above political consideration to come to the rescue of the people, then we are here to lend our full support. The Government should make it a point and should take the people in confidence for the reconstruction work.

I would like Shri Balram Jakhar to reveal the plan of the Government in this regard while making a reply. With these words I conclude.

SHRI MURLI DEORA (Bombay South): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am the General Secretary of Maharashtra Earthquake Relief Committee. I hail from Rajasthan. There is a saying in Rajasthan that everything looks yellow to a jaundiced eye. I am sorry to say that the same thing is happening to Shri Ram Naik. Much has been done on the part of Maharashtra

[Shri Murlī Deora]

Government as also on the part of voluntary organisations. I myself had gone there one month back. The people of AWARE, CARE, Swami Narayan sects have no allegiance with the BJP or the RSS; they believe in religion. I do not think that the quantum of work done there by the Government and voluntary organisations was even done before in the history of the country. Such a horrendous tragedy is unprecedented in the history of the country. Never before in my life of 50 years had I seen the death of seven thousand people. May God forbid it in future. It is no use accusing the Government and the people. If you have anything to suggest, you may let it know to the Central Government and the Government of Maharashtra. When the earthquake took place on the 30th September, the hon. Chief Minister rushed there within one and a half hour. He visited the affected villages. At that time I was on a foreign tour. NRIs marched a procession in London and New York. An announcement in this regard was broadcast through TV and Asia Radio. A good amount of money was collected which was certainly not grabbed by anyone. The collected amount was handed over to Dr. L.N. Singhwi, Indian High Commissioner in London. No donation was given to any political party and yet a doubt is being expressed. I do not understand why is it so. This is not a matter of joke. I held talks in this regard with the hon. Prime Minister, in the presence of Atalji. He has granted hundred percent tax-exemption. He formed a new trust Earthquake Relief Fund. Shri Gopinath Munda and other colleagues of yours belonging to your constituency are members of that committee. A meeting of the committee was also held. Shri Mundaji had also thanked the Government during the meeting and said that a

commendable work was done by the Government. Help has been provided to a number of people. You are aware that when violence broke in Bombay many bogus persons received relief money without producing certificates. At that time I had made a complaint against that. Instead of providing help to the people, you are demoralising them. People are working there day and night. The Secretary of Maharashtra Government Shri Raghunath is working there day and night. Please you should not bring politics in it, if you have to provide any suggestion you may let that know to us.

[English]

You should bring before the Maharashtra Government or the Union Government what are the faults and what are the loopholes. But do not blame everyone singularly.

[Translation]

Shri Ram Naik said that there is no need of approaching the world Bank. The BJP should first decide as to what is its economic policy.

[English]

Whether you want the World Bank help or not.

[Translation]

The World Bank sent their teams twice to assess the extent of damage. The Government has to get 300 million dollar that is to say 20 crore rupees. What is wrong in it? Due tax will have to be paid on that amount. The same thing happened in case of water project in Bombay...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI RAM NAIK: What I wanted to say is that the Government should not make profit out of that.

SHRI MURLI DEORA: I do not advocate that profit should be made. I was quite necessary to take loans from the world Bank. Indian currency was required to take up construction of houses. It is known to all that there is a paucity of funds with the Government. If Maharashtra Government invests money there will be a shortage of funds in the State Budget. If the development work of the State suffers, voice will be raised here that funds are not being made available there. On the one hand it is said that the Government should not approach to the World Bank while on the other hand it is said that the Government is cutting short budgetary provisions.

The Government cannot mint money. The Government is aware that you all are aware of this thing. Shri Ram Babu should therefore not try to bring politics in it. I was much anguished when you said that the people of Killary village that falls between Sholapur and Latur have expressed the desire that their locality should be constructed on caste-basis. This is absolutely wrong. I too read this news. The fact, however remains that Hindus and Muslims are living there together.

[English]

They want to make their new living. They want to live together as they had been living.

[Translation]

I would therefore humbly request you not to spread communalism in the country. There has already been enough of clashes.

SHRI RAM NAIK: I had simply read out to you the Report of Journalists' Association of Bombay.

[English]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): It is not a sacred document for you to quote from...

[Translation]

SHRI MURLI DEORA: You should not have read it out. You do not know that these people keep on writing different things which cannot be trusted. Senior leaders of your party also say many things on the basis of reports published in various newspapers. It is not correct that people of that village are willing to be settled separately on the basis of castes. Earlier, there might have been some such thing but these days it is not so. I myself, the Chief Minister and several other Ministers like Shri Adik, Shri Vilasrao Deshmukh and Arun Gujarati visited the place and found that the news was not based on facts. So I request that news items published in newspapers should not be relied upon.

I support the words of Shri Ram Babu regarding rehabilitation. It is good that people who lost their houses should be rehabilitated.

[English]

Reconstruction of the houses and reconstruction of the infrastructure.

[Translation]

I visited Uttarkashi after the earthquake and we sent goods there. A report was published in 'India Today' which said

[Shri Murlī Deora]

that the houses which were damaged have been reconstructed in a better manner and the people whose houses were not affected are feeling neglected and say that had the earthquake damaged their houses, it would have been better but this feeling should not be there. These areas do not have enough infrastructure so money should be spent on construction of roads and hospitals. There was not a much less loss of property. Schools constructed with good cement pillars and other buildings constructed with cement have not been damaged but the buildings and houses made of mud and heavy stones fell down. There is no secret in it. I met with the Chief of the World Bank Mr. Wood and Mr. Verghese, who have said that rehabilitation of the people is much more essential than the construction of the infrastructure. Big hospitals and roads like that of Delhi and Bombay cannot be constructed there but funds should be given for construction of houses. I congratulate the Maharashtra Government, the Government of India and all the people of the country for their efficient handling of such a big and critical problem.

[English]

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the earthquake that had occurred in the Marathwada region in the Maharashtra State at the small hours of September 30, 1993, when the whole nation was fast asleep was really an unfortunate incident.

It was the biggest natural calamity of the century and there was damage not only to properties but the death-toll also numbered more than 7,000 in this earthquake. The Khillari region in Marathwada is the worst suffered area in this calamity.

On 1st October, our leader, Shri N.T. Rama Rao, accompanied by several of us, has also visited that place, to consult some of the living people in this calamity. We have also gone round the area and we have also seen the magnitude of the suffering that had set in that area.

We have expressed our solidarity in the rehabilitation measures that have been taken up by both the State Government and the Central Government on a war-footing at that time. Our leader, Shri N.T. Rama Rao has also shown his gesture by sending about Rs. 2 lakhs to the Chief Minister's Relief Fund on that occasion. It was only a token gesture and in the magnitude of that type of disaster, this is really a drop in the ocean.

I take this opportunity to express our condolences on behalf of Party Telugu Desam to all the bereaved families who have lost their lives in that biggest calamity. On the occasion of this massive earthquake disaster which has moved almost the entire nation and also the people abroad, several people from different walks of life have come forward to offer their helping hand to the extent of their ability, including the employees, by giving one day's salary. Several Government organisations in our country and other countries have come forward and helped us and sent their donations to the Government of Maharashtra to meet this rehabilitation measure and really we should thank all those who have sent their donations.

The military and para-military forces, the voluntary organisations and also several other individuals have come forward to take part in the relief operations and also to express their solidarity and to be one with the people, in all this

post-earthquake relief operations. We should congratulate all these people including the military and para-military people who have taken part in the clearance of debris and also disposal of dead bodies and for sending the people who were injured to the hospitals.

The State Government of Maharashtra and also the Union Government have also done very well in taking up all the relief operations. There is no doubt about it.

Several organisations have come forward and they have lent their helping hand. In the crucial phase of the implementation of the relief measures during this critical period. There are two phases. One is the donations that have been offered and the total amount that has been collected and its utilisation in a very justified manner so as to reach all the suffering families.

The second one is the massive loan assistance that the Government of India is seeking from the World Bank.

Of the Rs. 1000-crore loan assistance that is being sought from the World Bank, I think about Rs. 920 crores are likely to come up. To my knowledge, there are two options that have been given here. One is, 30 per cent of the total amount is going to be offered as subsidy and on the rest of the amount about 12 per cent rate of interest is going to be collected by the World Bank. Further, the total burden is going to be on the State Government to pay back the amount. The second option is if a part of the total amount, that is, 30 per cent amount is not going to be in the shape of subsidy, about four per cent rate of interest is going to be collected on the total loan amount. Be-

tween these two options whichever is going to be beneficial, whichever is going to be helpful to our State or country, that is to be worked out. I leave it to the Government of India to work out these two options and accept whichever terms and conditions are going to be helpful to us.

The second aspect is since this is a very huge calamity, a very disastrous calamity, the total burden cannot be taken over by the individual State. This is a big natural calamity. It should be treated as a national calamity and the total loan burden or the total expenditure should be borne by the Government of India. Since we are in the implementation of the rehabilitation measures, several works are to be further speeded up. As Shri Ram Naik has very rightly put it, even the compensation to the farming community has not properly reached the farmers who have voluntarily lent their lands, given away or parted with their lands in view of this natural calamity. So, such works are also to be speeded up and the rehabilitation measures are to be taken up. They are further to be speeded up. The Government should see to it that all the sections of the people who have suffered, all those who have lost their occupations are to be rehabilitated accordingly by extending the assistance in whatever manner that is required. As far as this calamity is concerned there need not be any looking back in offering this assistance. I urge upon the Government to further go ahead in this regard. There is no politics or any such thing involved in it. It is only a question of extending a helping hand to those who have suffered in this massive earthquake. I wish the Government should further move and speed up the rehabilitation measures.

I thank you very much for having given this opportunity.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI (Pune): Sir, the enormous damage that has occurred in terms of human lives, built-up property and the other infrastructural constructions like roads, houses, electricity establishments, water supply arrangements etc. is very alarming. Beyond these things, the aspect to which we should pay more attention is the mental shock that is caused to the people who have survived all these damages there. It is not the lives of the people which have been affected but their mental condition has also been affected. Therefore, the task before us is offer comprehensive rehabilitation package which will enable the people to attain the reasonable degree of security, confidence and dignity.

Sir, I join Shri Ram Naik in thanking all the people and the organisations, the State Governments and the Central Government for the help they have rendered for the victims and for the rehabilitation of these people.

17.00 hrs.

But this is not sufficient. We have to hurry up the rehabilitation of the people. We have to see that all their day-to-day works are started about agriculture. Whatever industries have survived, those industries should start working. All possible help should be give for that. We have to think in those terms. In that land, there is a strip which is running along the length and breadth of the country. It is an earthquake-prone area and the disaster which has been caused, can be caused again. It can happen again in this area. What is the Government going to do for that? People's mind should be set at rest about this by saying, 'all right, the earthquake has come, it has caused the disaster and it may happen again. But we will make such arrangements that this disaster does not

recur.' There are countries in the world like Japan where the land is an earthquake-prone one and they are facing the earthquakes. When this earthquake occurred in Marathawada during the same week, there was an earthquake in Japan. And the intensity of that earthquake was also recorded at more than six degree in the Richter scale. But only one man died and a few houses collapsed. Why has this happened? It is because they have taken the stride over the earthquake condition. They have made arrangements to face the calamity which is occurring due to this earthquake. Therefore, I appeal through you to the hon. Minister that some arrangement should be made for the forewarning of the earthquake. We have not got that machinery at least. If it is not there, you will have to acquire it, you have to ask the scientists. If other countries are having...

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): They are also not having it.

SHRI ANNA JOSHI: Some forewarning should be there. There must be some exercise done on that as to what the people should do when such type of earthquake calamity comes.

We have to build the houses. How should we build them? In Japan and Italy and all those countries which are having volcanos, they are having some scheme for their housing. They are using some material for building which will bear the shock and which will not culminate into the disaster, that you have seen in the Usmanabad and Latur districts. Therefore, that type of houses should be constructed and that should be exhibited in all the villages so that people will have a model house for that.

I would like to insist upon one more point. While this rehabilitation work is going on, there should be peoples' participation in that and the participation of the social organisations should also be there. They should be taken in confidence. The programme should be announced and according to that, it should be done. I remember our C.M. who has done good work. And our hon. Shri Balram Jakharji has said, 'we have done very good work and all these things.'

In the recently held elections in U.P., he made public speeches saying that Shri Kalyan Singh's Government has taken nine months to start the rehabilitation work, after the earthquake in Uttar Kashi, whereas, he has started the reconstruction work within two months. Now, the fact is that even the tenders have not been floated but, in public meetings in U.P., he had stated that he had started the construction of the houses there. What type of falsehood is this? Is it not bringing politics into this? This is how the Chief Minister has made all the statements, that too, in the election meetings in U.P. It has nothing to do with the rehabilitation work at Osmanabad and Latur districts, though he talked about it in U.P. election meetings. He has stated like that. It would have been all right, if he had started the work and then he had talked about it. It would have been better then. But, he has neither started the work nor even the tenders were floated; and yet, he said like that which is false.

Therefore, we appeal to the Maharashtra Government and to the Central Government also that instead of bringing politics in this, if the rehabilitation work, keeping in mind all these points, is started,

the entire House and the whole country will cooperate with them and the rehabilitation work will be speeded up.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM (Arakonam): Hon'ble Chairman, let me thank you at the outset for having given me an opportunity to speak now. Let me putforth my views on Supplementary Demands for grants too along with the subject we discuss now. Let me congratulate first the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister for their achieving a Foreign Exchange Reserve to the tune of about Rs. 3500 crores.

Recently in Tamil Nadu due to flood havoc and cyclone, heavy loss to life and property has occurred. Tamil Nadu Government has asked for about Rs. 660 crores. I request the Union Government to release adequate funds immediately.

While doing so and while implementing various projects like IRDP, you must include the people's representatives of those localities. This would enable us to oversee and monitor the implementation of such relief measures and poverty alleviation programmes.

Apart from that I would like to impress upon the Government to involve people's representatives like MPs too in Committees that go into it. Thousands of crores of rupees have been allotted by the Union Government to various States for several employment generation schemes like IRDP and Jawahar Rozgar Yojana. But in Tamil Nadu only the State Administration and the local representatives like

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

[Shri R. Jeevarathinam]

[Translation]

MLAs are put in such Committees that go into the implementation of such social schemes.

I would like to point out a fact that MPs are responsible for allocating funds through Supplementary Demands for Grants and so on. But they are not assigned any responsible role in implementation when the money is spent. I request you to think it over and see that justice is done in this regard. I would like to point out earlier instances too. When Late Shri Rajiv Gandhi was our Prime Minister, we took up this to his notice. He in turn took it to the notice of the then Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Late Shri M.G. Ramachandran. He immediately acted on it and gave orders to include local MPs also in Committee to implement such rural projects. MPs were invited to such meetings. MPs were given right and privilege. As long as Hon'ble MGR was alive this practice was there. I do not know why the present government is not following that.

[English]

SHRI M. R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN: No. He is not telling a fact. In every Government function all the MPs and MLAs are invited irrespective of their party.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: I know. I am an M.P. When thousands of crores of rupees is provided by the Centre, we have a right to be included.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please don't disturb.

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: I would only reiterate that MPs do not have that right now. I do not know why my Hon'ble colleague gets angry now. He is also an MP. He should touch his heart and say whether he has that right now. I am not saying anything against the State Government. MPs are peoples representatives and also Central Government's representatives. Hence they should have that right. I only want you to think over this.

[English]

SOME HON. MEMBERS: He is fighting for all of us.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Nextly I would like to point out to you about the non-implementation of the scheme to enable MPs to carry out developmental projects in their Constituencies. It was announced that Rs. 1 crore would be earmarked to every Lok Sabha Constituency. It was said MPs would implement schemes in their Constituencies with the funds so allotted. But the scheme announced last year is yet to take shape. The funds have not been allotted. I request you to implement it as early as you can. The MPs of respective Constituencies should be fully entrusted with the responsibility of choosing and locating projects, distributing and monitoring fund flows etc. Only projects that are pointed out by MPs should be taken up in that scheme. Road repair and maintenance of tanks as pointed out by MPs should be carried out through that scheme. Required law to this effect should be

framed by this House to provide rights to the MPs.

Our departed leader late Shri Rajiv Gandhi's Memorial is in Sriperumpudur. Some funds have been allocated for the Memorial in this Supplementary Demands for Grants. I feel it is not adequate. More should be spent on erecting a befitting monument to Shri Rajiv Gandhi who is considered one with the galaxy of world leaders. He gave his life there and hence a big memorial should come up there. More funds should be allotted.

I would like to draw your attention to the plight of Freedom fighters. Government is giving pensions to them.

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: This is most important. I am sorry to say that many Freedom Fighters are yet to get pension. Recently Madras High Court has observed in a judgement that such pending petitions should be disposed off favourably within three months. They will be with us for few more years only. Hence based on recommendations from their fellowmates, they should be given pension. (Interruptions)

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please. Don't disturb him. Please conclude.

[Translation]

*SHRI R. JEEVARATHINAM: Impressing upon the Government to take up these suggestions let me conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA MAROTRAO GHANGARE (Wardha): Mr. Chairman, Sir, our country has faced the biggest earthquake of this century and statistics of loss as a result thereof have also come to light. Shri Sharad Pawar has told that 9,783 people were killed. On 13th December in a statement Shri Balram Jakhar told that 7,106 people were killed and newspapers say that this figure is somewhere near 30,000 and 16,000 people were injured. I would like to know the reasons for such a big difference in these figures. Efforts are being made to suppress the amount of loss of life and property. According to the statistics in all the small and big villages, approximately 15-16 thousand houses have tumbled down. Karnataka is also affected by this earthquake, and in 31 villages ten people were killed and 216 houses tumbled down. Andhra Pradesh also suffered the loss due to this earthquake, which has revealed that Khillari was the centre point of this earthquake. People are frightened and jolts of earthquake are being felt even today. Several districts of Maharashtra including Usmanabad and Latoor have been ruined. Huge property has been damaged in Satara, Aurangabad and in its nearby areas. Assistance has been received from several places. Every town and village has sent assistance, but total amount of assistance has not been estimated. Central Government has also sent the money, a big amount has been deposited in the Chief Minister's Relief Fund and foreign assistance has also been received and people want to know as to what is the exact amount of this assistance. I visited several villages, where people doubt that this money will not reach them and a big amount will disap-

[Shri Ramchandra Marotrao Ghangare]

pear. Their doubts should be removed. I consider that the Chief Minister reached the area within 2-3 hours after receiving the news of earthquake. I praise him for this. KALITAS has lent a helping hand. Kerala administration, housing construction Division of Kerala, ADRA, KALITAS, Mahila Greh Udyog units like Lizzat Papad have given their assistance. In these places I found that upper caste people handed over the relief material to Sarpanches of their own community and lower caste people say that they have not received any assistance. I do not know whether they received any assistance later on or not, but partial attitude was evident in providing assistance. Alongwith that RSS, Congress Seva Dal and Sholapur and Kerala branch of Communist Party have also assisted the people and sent money, partially, it was sent to the Government and partially it was spent on the spot and distributed among the people. I have no intention to blame any party on this point. Everyone has tried his best to help them.

It is a natural calamity, but attention should be paid to see if any thing could have been done to check it. Earthquake has not struck for the first time in this area, tremors of earthquake have been felt several times in Latoor and Usmanabad districts and earthquake has been felt several times in the last few decades. From August to October in 1992, 200 tremors of earthquake have been felt. People were distributed and could not sleep and they felt eight tremors of earthquake sometimes in one day only. They told that they felt as if four goods trains were running simultaneously under the earth. The Sarpanch of Khillari has made a lot of correspondence in this regard, but the Maharashtra Government paid no

heed to it. Later when he met with the representatives of the people then they assured him that the material would be sent to geologists for identifying the truth. Perhaps the apprehension of the people may be wrong. But geologists told that such tremors are common and in Delhi also such tremors have been felt and there is nothing serious about it. It was not taken seriously and result is before us. When people from Khillari village met the Minister for Rehabilitation Shri Shivaji Rao Deshmukh and demanded 400 acres of land. only 25 acres of land was sanctioned. Population of this village is 18 thousand, and the land was given in Talani which is also a ruined place and the people do not want to go there. I myself visited the area and found that on the South side of the State highway, there is land having black clay and on the upper-side there is stony land.

The part of earth containing black soil caved in. But the sugar mills at Khillari escaped unhurt. The people have been saying that if the Government wants to undertake the rehabilitation work they should also be consulted. I, therefore urge upon the Central Government to take care of this aspect of the problem and consult the people in respect of the places where from the rehabilitation work should be undertaken? It has been stated here just now that we will perform bhumi poojan ceremony during Dussehra. In the second phase of rehabilitation work in Osmanabad and Lathur, construction work of 9105 houses will be completed upto 26th of January. But I doubt that the work will be completed in time. So, I would like to submit that this work should be completed at the earliest. The work of remaining villages will however be left over. I would also like the Government to come forward with all the details in respect of the donations they have been received from within

the country and other foreign countries. To expedite the work of rehabilitation, an all party committee should be constituted so that all those who want to help the victims should have their representation in that committee. Likewise the farmers should also be given assistance towards agricultural inputs. In this direction something has been done for them. They have not been given full assistance. Assistance should therefore be given to them to set up their own industry. Job opportunities should be started for agricultural labour. The sugar mill at Khillari, which is facing closure should also be revised. It will provide employment to 2500 people and the farmers will find it profitable to go in for sugarcane production.

I hope that all these things will be taken up and completed at the earliest. With these words I conclude.

SHRI ASHOK ANANDRAO DESHMUKH (Parbhani): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would like to thank Shri Naikji for starting this discussion. This issue does not pertain Maharashtra alone but it concerns the whole country and it is in this context that this issue should be discussed in this House. After this horrible earthquake, assistance has been received not only from the people of our country but also from abroad. It is the worst ever crisis for our people which has taken a very heavy toll of human lives. I have myself seen 9-10 thousand of dead bodies.

The first tremor with an intensity of 6.5 came at 4 A.M. prior to that event and after the ceremony of Ganesh Chaturthi thousands of people with some from outside the area were lying asleep. So, it took a heavier toll of human lives. 83 villages of Osmanabad and Lathur districts have been the worst hit in this mishap be-

cause the walls of mud and stone houses built up there came down with the first tremor. Most of the victims of this earthquake were farmers with all the cattles. As soon as the Chief Minister of Maharashtra heard of this accident, he immediately rushed to the spot. Troops were also sent there. Of all these villages, Khillari was the worst affected. Here a large number of relatives of the earthquake victims were pouring in and it was because of this situation that the Governmental agencies were to work for the first two days. This could send the supply of essential commodities to affected villages. In those days it was very difficult to make out as to which of the villages had not received their supply. 80-85 such villages where all the houses had crumbled down. On the first day the people extricated and cremated the dead bodies. On the second day whatever bodies were found by the police they cremated them. In this way this exercise continued for three-four days. In the remaining work help of sniffer dogs was taken to trace out the dead bodies. The entire atmosphere was polluted with foul smell of dead bodies. Hence the doctors from the entire Maharashtra came forward to discarding their clinics and help the people. In those moments of hardships all the political parties and people of all age groups from all the villages gave their donation generously in the Marathawada earthquake relief fund for a humanitarian cause. For their assistance I would like to thank the whole country and the people from abroad.

By way of agricultural assistance, the Government gave them fertilizers, tractors, trolleys, seeds and other manual help in their efforts to restart cultivation process to the extent of ploughing their fields. Until the completion of that exercise Shri Yadav the Agriculture Secretary himself stayed there. Likewise the other

[Shri Ashok Anandrao Deshmukh]

secretary Shri Sood also remained there. The condition of the people there was so terrible that even their tears had dried up. With a view to help the people, the Government undertook the process of cultivation of Sun-flower and other Rabi crops in a vast stretch of 2-3 thousand acres of land.

As regards the matter of giving the financial assistance, it has been stated that the money has not been given to them whereas it is a fact that they have been given such assistance. Since some of the villages had been completely destroyed and there was no record available to verify the actual place of residence and total population of a village. The Government thought that the money disbursed by them should not go in the wrong hands. To ensure that the amount of money given as donation in the relief fund is not misused. The Government tried to trace out and collect the documents available in the form of registers maintained in the dispensaries at the district level. On that basis the names of people were identified for the purpose of giving compensation to their family members. All this exercise took some time. It needs no repetition that for each of the deceased a compensation of Rs. 50 thousand was given by the Government. However there were such type of people also as lived in town, but had come there to demand compensation. The Government took a decision that until it was confirmed that the amount was being given only to the right persons who had suffered a loss on account of the earthquake, no money will be given to them.

Three types of houses i.e. with an area of 250 Sq. feet 450 Sq. feet and 750

Sq. feet respectively will be allotted to the affected. Houses having covered area of 750 Sq. feet have been given to the people who have to keep their cattle with them. The Government has made a promise of giving 30 thousand houses in 83 villages. During the Pooja holidays (Dussehra) we have personally gone there to see the rehabilitation work in which a number of voluntary organisations have made their financial contribution. We have seen their work in 20 villages. Construction of houses has not yet fully started. But the Government has provided them the construction plan for such houses which will protect the occupants against the loss of life in the event of earthquake.

17.36 hrs.

(MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*)

Similarly some other organisations are also engaged in rehabilitation work so I would like to say that whatever has been stated by some of the hon. Members is not a fact.

The assistance is also coming from the World Bank which will be spent on the construction of houses in 60 villages. In the villages which have been left over, the work of assisting the people has also been undertaken. In the district of Lathur and Osmanabad where 83 villages have been the worst hit, financial assistance is also being provided to the people for the construction of their houses. Some hon. Members have mentioned here that the work of construction of houses has not been undertaken and nothing has been done by the Government in that regard. It is something totally wrong. In fact we are taking care of all those who have actually suffered a loss. Besides this, a number of

voluntary organisations including those working in German collaboration are working there and helping the people. Our Speaker and the Deputy Speaker have also visited all the affected villages. Many other people visited that site. When our Speaker Sahib went round to the people. Here I would like to make it clear that whatever help has come through him deserve appreciation. I am appreciating you for that in your presence. I would like to tell you that even the children saved money to donate it in the Speaker's Earthquake Relief Fund for the affected people of Osmanabad. I would like to thank you for your assistance in helping the earthquake victims.

In the end, I would like to thank all the people, all the organisations and the people belonging to all sections of the society, who have come forward to help the victims. I do not only hope but I am sure that the Government will fulfil their promise by providing the people built up houses. We expect some assistance from the World Bank for the 10 district areas. I think that perhaps it is only after the receipt of that amount the Government will take some decision in this regard. I would like to thank the Government for the assistance they have provided in relief work. With these words, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: There are a few Members who would like to say a few things. We should allow them. Shri Kapse may speak now very briefly.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): Thank you, Sir, I will be very brief.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, when I think about the disaster in Maharashtra, I feel that if the history of earthquakes in Maharashtra had been taken into account, this disaster would not have happened.

In the same area, in the Maharashtra region, there are two villages, namely Ter and Ruki. Even a book is available on these two villages. It mentions that as you go underground you get many remnants of the old civilizations and most probably it is the result of the earthquakes.

So, the earthquake in Maharashtra is not a new phenomenon. It started long back in historical times. If that would have taken into account, this deccan plateau is safe. That contention would not have been there and, in that case, we would have been more alert. I leave aside history.

About Koyna Nagar incident, in 1967 we experienced Koyna incident. After this earthquake, Shri Kumaramangalam was speaking to the Pressmen and he said that there was no connection whatsoever between the Koyna Dam as stated in some newspapers and the occurrence of this earthquake. Let him say it about the Koyna Dam but at least Koyna earthquake and this earthquake has some relation. Koyna earthquake in 1967 should have been taken note of and after 1967, the study of Deccan Plateau was a must. That was neglected.

In 1973, a scientist gave a warning that there is a possibility of earthquake in this area. Even that was neglected.

Then in 1987, a Committee appointed by the Government of India submitted its report. It is with you and still it is

[Shri Ram Kapse]

being neglected. In that report, they said:—

"The committee had warned the Government that the historical data which said damaging earthquake at a given site is a relatively rare in this country "can be misleading". It underlined that "the development of dense populations in seismically hazardous regions is a relatively recent phenomenon in India. As this development continues, the average loss resulting from earthquake in future is bound to be many fold.;"

The committee while agreeing that prediction of earthquake with certainty was not possible, had pointed out the improvement in prediction capability was dependent on capability of interpreting future events "and related premonitory effects". The charge against scientists in the Latur case is that they had ignored these very "related premonitory effects."

17.42 hrs.

[SHRI TARA SINGH *in the Chair*]

This charge still remains because even in Khillari, what happened?

I said about Ter and Dhoki. Then I referred to Konya. Then I referred to 1973 scientist's observation. Then I referred to 1987 Committee appointed by the Union Government.

Now let us go ahead. The tremors occurred on 125 occasions between August 2, 1992 to 30th September, 1993.

These were warning bells that there is possibility. The villagers under the leadership of the Village Chief were all the while active and said "do something for us". Rs. 50 lakhs were sanctioned for that purpose but not spent. Here again, the scientists and Government is both working together. Some scientists went there and said "No". There will not be earthquake of this magnitude. The Government said; "Don't worry." Hereafter, do you expect that people will believe in the Government and the scientists after whatever has happened? I feel that at least hereafter be careful.

There is one Shri Adyalkar, the former Director of Geological Survey of India and he has said that in January, 1994 there is a possibility of earthquake in Maharashtra.

About North-East, there is a prediction.

About Bombay, there is a prediction.

About Delhi, there is a prediction.

About Madhya Pradesh, something will be said by the people of Madhya Pradesh. So, if these are the warnings, do not neglect the warnings. That is my first suggestion to the Government. Please be careful. I know that exactly we cannot say when it would occur. But at the same time if we do not keep our science in such a primitive stage, the effect can be minimised. As far as our seismological recording in India is concerned, it is quite primitive. It fares better than, say, countries like Nepal and Pakistan. We expect something more. The expenditure expected is only Rs. 10 crores for making it up-to-date. Is it not expected of you to provide that? At least as far as science is

concerned, you should do something urgently. At least it should not be neglected hereinafter. That is my second suggestion.

Sir, whoever constructed the RCC houses, such houses are in tact. Those who could not build the RCC houses had to face the consequences. So, poverty became an offence. When you say that because there was soil and stone used in the construction, the loss of life was more, in that case, the responsibility of the Government should have been more. The scientists who predicted about this told not to worry about this fact, you should have been more careful while telling all these things. If people had been shifted to safer places, then the problem would not have been there.

Shri Kumaramangalam, while appointing a Committee of experts after the Maharashtra incident, said that there was some mistake. He said that there was something amiss. Moreover, I asked a question in Parliament on the 7th December and it was replied to on 15th December. It was about the Expert Committee appointed after the Maharashtra incident and the reply given is that Dr. Rao and the others have submitted their report to the Government. I would like to know when the Government is going to publish that report. It should be made public. As Parliamentarians, we would like to know from the Minister immediately what are the observations of Dr. Rao Committee report as far as the earthquakes were concerned. There are so many Committees that have been appointed now. I would request you to see that there is more coordination among the scientists, among the Committee members as far as earthquake is concerned. We expect that that should be done immediately.

My last point is about the World Bank loan which is being given to Maharashtra. This is a letter from the Maharashtra Government written to me. It has asked all the Members of Parliament from Maharashtra to do this. It says: "...The Members of Parliament to take up with Government of India that considering that World Bank credit is for earthquake-affected, it should be passed on to Government of Maharashtra at favourable terms which should carry minimum possible rate of interest. It is understood the that World Bank loan will bear .75 per cent interest with 35 years moratorium period of which 10 years moratorium will be allowed. The Government, however, is likely to charge 12 per cent interest on 70 per cent of the loan." This is a letter from the Government of Maharashtra. So, I urge upon you that if the World Bank is giving this loan at a cheaper rate with more instalments and if the Maharashtra Government is willing to accept all the responsibilities if there is devaluation and all that — whatever problems are there, they will solve them — in that case it is your responsibility to pass on this loan with easy instalments and less interest. It is expected of you. Otherwise the whole budget for the next few years of a well-administrated State of Maharashtra will be in jeopardy. So, I request you again to look into these matters and oblige.

[English]

*SHRIMATI KESHARBAI SONAJI KSHIRSAGAR (Beed): Mr. Chairman, Sir, earthquake tremors of very great intensity occurred in Latur and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra on 30th September, 1993. The first tremor was followed by two other tremors of great intensity. The tragedy caused by the earthquake was really very

*Translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

[Shrimati Kesharbai Sonaji Kshirsagar]

alarming. 60 to 90% houses collapsed due to this earthquake. Thousands of persons were killed and they lost their near and dear ones just in a moment. —

The tragedy was ghastly because the earthquake occurred in the early hours of the morning when people were asleep and had least idea of the tragedy. From the humanitarian point of view farmers, workers, employees and all others rendered all possible assistance for the victims. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra Hon. Shri Sharad Pawar reached the site of tragedy within 4 hours of the occurrence of the tragedy. He remained there for three weeks and gave relief to the people and consoled the victims. When I myself visited there, I saw 100 dead bodies lying at a place. It was really a painful and ghastly sight. It was such a treat tragedy where children lost their parents, brothers and sisters. So many children became orphans. It was indeed heart rendering sight.

In this hour of crisis assistance was rushed from all the states. Massive assistance came from all parts of the country. International agencies also rendered help. Hon. Prime Minister Narasimha Raoji also visited the district of Latur and Osmanabad. Union Agriculture Minister, Hon. Balram Jakhar also went there. The Speaker of Lok Sabha, Hon. Shivraj Patilji who comes from this area also went there.

The Police, Military, Army also rendered invaluable help there. Though it was raining very heavily there, they did the most difficult job of taking out the dead bodies which were to be extricated from mud.

This tragedy caused havoc. The damage to property was immense. Many

people did not have anything to eat and nothing to wear. But the Central Government rendered huge assistance to help the victims. In fact, a decision was taken to construct 30 thousand houses for the earthquake victims. Large number of children who became orphans were generously helped by the people and Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra. State Bank of India has advanced a loan of Rs. 100 crore. This loan will greatly help for economic rehabilitation of the victims. The entire country rushed the assistance there and it was evident that people helped from humanitarian point of view. The assistance which was given included clothes, medicines, foodgrains etc.

The farmers who were affected by this tragedy forgot their own sorrow and carried on their cultivation. The Govt. of Maharashtra helped them by assistance. I am happy to mention that sowing has taken place in this area.

The tragedy of earthquake occurred in other parts of the country also. In Beed district also there were tremors of great intensity. 135 villages of this district were affected. 50 to 60% houses collapsed. There were cracks in 80 to 90% of the Houses. There are many people who have no houses. They sleep on the roads and in the fields. I request the Govt. to make measures for the temporary as well as permanent rehabilitation of the victims. The Govt. should take precaution that such a tragedy does not occur in Beed district. The State Govt. as well as Central Govt. should allocate 25 crores of rupees for the permanent rehabilitation of earthquake victims.

The Government should send an Expert Committee all over the country and find the cause of earthquake. People should be told as to what type of houses should be built. Low-cost houses constructed with light material will be

suitable. I request the Govt. to give assistance for construction of houses and for other needs of the victims.

With these words, I thank you for giving me opportunity to speak and conclude my speech.

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, hon. Members have spoken at length about the earthquake in Maharashtra, I do not want to make any repetition. There is a lack of proper rehabilitation arrangements for the affected persons. The Government failed to make elaborate arrangements in this respect. I would like to refer to Madhya Pradesh in this regard. Khandwa district is bordering Maharashtra State. Some of the villages, like-Dali Kalakhuri, Bagmar, Taklikalan, Sarola and Koidutt etc. have also experienced tremors. The residents of these villages live outside their houses and are leaving their places now. During the last two weeks as many as 250 tremors have been felt in these areas. They fear mishap similar to Maharashtra in their areas. The Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh has urged the Central Government to make immediate arrangements in this regard. The residents of Khandwa district have erected tents and some temporary sheds to live in. Tremors are continuously being experienced during day time as well as in the night. Let some team from the Centre visit these places. Dr. Negi, a seismologist has drawn the Government's attention towards the fact that whole of the Nimar district might experience a disastrous earthquake. The locals are

leaving their houses thus their fields and animals are being neglected. They must be asked not to leave their places. Even the District Administration has confirmed that tremors are being experienced there; as a result thereof the locals are fleeing away to some other safer places.

18.00 hrs.

The area of Madhya Pradesh bordering Maharashtra is experiencing continuous tremors which is a matter of grave concern. A timely action should be taken in this regard. Just now a suggestion has come up that a seismological laboratory should be set up there and an expert team should be sent from the Centre. This will certainly benefit the people as well as the Government. The hon. Minister should see to it.

SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT (Nandarbar): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for providing me an opportunity to express myself. The earthquake in Latur and Osmanabad districts of Marathwara region in Maharashtra was certainly a natural calamity. It has terrified the people of Maharashtra and they are still gripped in its fear. At the outset, I pay my homage to the persons died in this tragedy. Any sort of help from Government of India or any other quarter cannot restore their lives. I request that a team should be sent there to conduct a seismological survey. Tremors were even experienced in Madhya Pradesh. In our region tremors were felt in Nasik and Dhulia, they are still being felt. People are frightened. Our Chief Minister Shri Sharad Pawar started the rehabilitation work in 82-83 villages on Dussehra. Our Prime Minister Shri Rao and other Minister Shri Jakhar and Shri Chavan also visited the place and consoled the quake-affected people. Our Chief Minister reached there within 4-5

[Shri Manikora Hodliya Gavit]

hours and provided assistance to the affected persons and showed his sympathy towards them. To carry out rehabilitation work for so many villages is not a child's play. This responsibility is not only of the State Government but also of the Central Government. The Government of Maharashtra is making its utmost efforts towards the rehabilitation work but the Government of India should also pay due attention to it.

Many educational and other organisations are engaged in the rehabilitation work. The villagers are sending their contribution and also lending a helping hand. Assistance is also being received from metros and other States. The whole nation mourns the death of the people in this tragedy, and has full sympathy with the Kith and Kins of the deceased. The Government has undertaken the rehabilitation work there. It had chosen a piece of land in Killari village for this purpose but tremors are also being felt there. Therefore, the rehabilitation work should only be carried out after making a proper survey in this regard. I have every hope that the Government of India will undertake rehabilitation work in the villages of Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH (Jahanabad): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are discussing today the tragedy which occurred in Maharashtra. This is a tragedy in which numerous human lives were lost. People cannot be compensated against this tragedy. Besides this, a tragedy occurred in Bombay also, where

the military did a commendable work. People from the whole country also rose to the occasion to help in this regard.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): Sir, I want to make one request. We are having quite a number of Bills which we have to adopt during the remaining period of this Session. The most immediate and urgent business is that of passing the Supplementary Demands for Grants. So, I would request that the House may extend its sitting today. We can sit upto 7.30 pm or 8.00 pm or till the time we are able to finish the Supplementary Demands for Grants because this is an extremely important one. If we are able to do this today, then we can take care of rest of the business tomorrow. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAM NAIK: From our side, there are only two important points involved in this. One is this. We have spoken on the specific Grants of different Ministers. When the reply comes, it must come from the Minister concerned. When the Appropriation Bill comes, the Finance Minister may reply. But, replies to the issues raised by us must come from the Ministers concerned. I do not know whether the Government is ready for this.

(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN): It is not necessary at all.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is necessary.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Why should it be so? (Interruptions)

SHRI RAM NAIK: It is the convention. When we address a particular Demand of a particular Ministry, the reply has to come from that Minister.
(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: It has been the tradition of the House that when a subject is being discussed, the Minister of the concerned Department should remain present in the House. At present the Minister concerned is not present. He should be here to reply to the points raised by us.

[English]

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): This has never been the case. It is unheard of in the Parliamentary history.

[Translation]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The first point is that the sitting of the House be extended upto 7.30 p.m.

[English]

SHRI RAM NAIK: Upto 7.30 p.m.

SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Till we are able to complete the Supplementary Demands for Grants because we are extending it to see that the Supplementary Demands are completed today itself.

SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH: Mr. Chairman, Sir, I was speaking on this subject when several of the Members interrupted and I took my seat as per your order. In 1934 when I was a child, I had seen such tragedy in Bihar also. That earthquake was so disastrous that hundreds of villages were destroyed. It was heart rendering scene. Whenever I think about that incident, I feel terrified. Several such incidents had taken place in these years, but no attention was paid towards them. In 1934, people used to say that everything is linked with sin and this earth is balanced on the head of the serpent. When there is increase in sin, earthquakes take place. The science gives other reasons for these earthquakes. But it failed to give reasons why no forecast can be made about the earthquakes. Earthquakes were a frequent phenomena in Japan, but it appears that the Government there had controlled it a little bit by making adequate arrangements. But spiritually earthquakes occurs when there is too much increase in sins. It appears some great sin has actually been committed. The bomb explosions in Bombay and the demolition of Babri Masjid were great sins. We should think about them. Those who do such things are traitors. But they remain alive and others die. This incident has shaken the country.

Along with others, I have also contributed in the Prime Minister's Fund. An announcement in this regard was made on Doordarshan and the people contributed as much as they could do in the Prime Minister's Fund and Chief Minister's Fund. Our party has also contributed for the purpose. All the parties, institutions and people who have

[Shri Ramashray Prasad Singh]

contributed should be thanked and besides that the role played by our Prime Minister and the Chief Minister of the State was quite commendable. I would like to suggest that those who have suffered losses should themselves reconstruct the houses. In Bihar, the people themselves reconstructed the Houses. The Scheduled Castes and backwards there constructed their houses with the funds provided to them by the Government of India and the Chief Minister of Bihar himself had gone there to inspect. They are constructing good houses.

18.13 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

So, funds should directly be given to those who want to construct the houses and only their work should be monitored and they can construct the houses according to their own satisfaction. In this way, there will be no complaint of bungling of funds. I, therefore, would like to suggest that the houses should be constructed by the people themselves. A permanent solution should be found by the scientists or through spirituality in this regard. Our country has suffered a big loss.

With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI PRATIBHA DEVISINGH PATIL (Amravati): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the earthquake of 30th September was terrible and caused a lot of destruction. Nearly 83 villages suffered destruction and Khillari village, which was the epicentre of this earthquake suffered maximum loss. The houses in that village were of mud and stones. When this

earthquake occurred during night the people were sleeping and those heavy stones came upon them causing their death. Had this earthquake occurred during day time, people would have rushed out their houses and the number of deaths would have been possibly less. It was also said that had the houses been constructed with RCC cement, there would have been less damage, but all the houses constructed there, whether belonging to the rich or the poor were of the same type. Prof. Ram Kapse has said that the houses of the poor had suffered more damage, it is not so. The houses of all the villagers had suffered extensive damage and stones and bricks fell on them while they were sleeping as a result of which a large number of poor as well as rich people died. When people queued up for getting aid, some were unhappy about the fact that they had to stand in the queue with labourers who worked for them. This was the situation there.

The tragedy was a natural calamity and it caused large scale deaths, but we should consider how we can save our people in case of such natural calamities in future. We cannot stop an earthquake but we should make efforts to reduce the loss of life and property and a concrete policy should be formed in this regard.

An experts committee was recently constituted and the Members of the Committee gave their suggestions. I would like to state that such a policy should be formed, as may be able to inform the people in advance what they should do in case of recurrence of such situation. I have read that in countries like Canada, the people are trained to cope with the situation in case of an earthquake.

In such a situation, if some one is living at the top floor of the building or children are in school buildings, they should go beneath benches or should move to the concrete structure underneath the door frame to save their lives. It is necessary to educate the public about protective measures to be taken in such situation. It is a well-known fact that no body can prevent earthquake, but certainly the extent of damage may be minimised. The Government should evolve a policy in this regard.

Here I would also like to offer one or two suggestions that there is need to equip and update our seismology Department so that the department may forecast as to where the earthquake is likely to occur. There are frequent incidents of earthquake in our country. It has also been predicted that earthquake is likely to occur in Bombay, Delhi and in other parts of the country. Of course, we cannot prevent earthquake but the Government may atleast create awareness among the people how to take precautions in the event of earthquake. There is a stampede when the earthquake occurs and people are fearstricken. In this regard the Government is required to frame a policy.

Moreover, the way help and assistance were provided by the people and organisations in relief work is indicative of humanitarianism of the people who rush to the place whenever and wherever the country is faced with such crises. People belonging to all sections of the society participated in relief work. The hon. Chief Minister visited here, sat among the people and listened to their woes and miseries. The hon. Speaker, the hon. Minister of Home Affairs as also several other leaders belonging to other political parties went

there. Voluntary organisations also paid their visits there, even foreign nationals also went to the earthquake areas. This shows humane feeling towards such tragedies. Another point that emerged here is that we cannot of course, prevent the occurrence of earthquake, but the Government may certainly instruct the people way of making a policy as how to minimise the extent of damage. Other measures are being taken, the mode of providing relief is also being streamlined, but I believe that if something more could be done, it would be far better.

[English]

SHRI P. G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettipalayam): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, nature's fury has struck mercilessly in Maharashtra. The loss of life and property in the earthquake tragedy has reached truly staggering proportions. There were ample warnings of seismic activity around the villages in Latur District which was most severely hit. We must learn to wake up before a natural disaster ambushes us again with such a fury. While such disasters cannot be predicted with accuracy, there should be a plan of action to cope with and face the upheaval and provide all possible help to the affected. What needs to be kept in mind in such moments is the kind of resources and consequently, the infrastructure that a developing country like India can channelise into rescue and relief operations. The most important aspect is to have an effective natural disaster management policy to face the problem, be it in the case of mobilising manpower, machinery and in providing the necessary funds to undertake relief operations on a large scale. To make such a contingency beforehand, a reserve fund at an international or a regional level, as in the case of Prime Minister's Relief Fund at

[Shri P.G. Narayanan]

the national level is a matter for consideration. No doubt, in the case of the Maharashtra earthquake, relief funds were contributed by all States and generous help came from abroad too. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister also contributed nearly two and a half crores of rupees for earthquake relief fund.

Despite the tremendous technological advances that mankind has made, it is one area where humans lose all control over the forces of nature, some of which are still beyond our grasp of understanding. The need of the hour is to adopt a more instrument-based quantified information in all the national laboratories in India.

Here I would also like to mention about the havoc caused by cyclonic storms and floods in various parts of the country. On the 3rd and 4th December, 1993, a severe cyclonic storm crossed the Tamil Nadu State near Karaikal, a small enclave of the Union Territory of Pondicherry, leaving behind a trail of death, destruction and devastation. At times, nature exhibits its fury in the forms of rain, flood, cyclone and earthquake. Some three months before, the earthquake in Maharashtra killed thousands. Now Tamil Nadu has experienced unprecedented rain and cyclone. The fury of nature has taken a toll of more than 100 precious human lives in our State. Besides causing extensive damage to thousands of houses, irrigation tanks and lakes, the cyclone with a gale wind speed of more than 100 kmph uprooted electric and telecommunication poles in Karaikal and hundreds of trees in the coastal Nagapattinam, Tanjavur and Pudukottai districts, disrupting road and rail traffic.

The torrential rain that battered the coastal areas in the wake of the cyclonic storm inundated many low lying areas, forcing evacuation of a large number of people to safer places.

Our Chief Minister had made an aerial survey and listened to the grievances of the affected people and instructed the District Collectors to take speedy action on their repression. On the spot she distributed rice, clothes and other material to more than one thousand people and received petitions from the public. She also directed boats and nets to be provided to fishermen...
(Interruptions).

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Narayanan, we have to go to the next subject also. The time allotted to this subject is already over.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir, time has not been allotted to floods separately. The hon. Speaker has told me that I can take some time on speaking about floods also.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: That is true but the time at our disposal is very short. You just conclude your speech.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: There will be no separate occasion to discuss the flood situation in Tamil Nadu.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You please conclude.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Sir while almost all the reservoirs in the State have improved their storage position because of the heavy rain, the roads and the crops which had been ravaged by the

November floods, were further battered by the severe storm. Over 40,000 hectares of paddy crops were fully damaged and in another 35,000 hectares, paddy was partly damaged. The crop loss was put at around Rs. 60 crore. Nearly 1.60 lakh small and marginal farmers were affected. Besides these, 10,000 hectares of horticulture land was also affected. Over 17,000 wells were spoiled. So, the damage caused by the cyclone in Tamil Nadu is estimated at Rs. 666 crore.

After the Union Minister for Agriculture, Shri Balram Jakhari inspected the cyclone areas, our Chief Minister submitted a memorandum seeking Rs. 600 crore from the Centre for the Relief Fund. Now since the Minister of Agriculture has personally visited the cyclone affected areas, a detailed memorandum has been submitted to him.

I want to make a submission regarding relief measures to be taken and finance to be allotted for the State to meet the relief operations. From the statement made by the Minister, it is evident that he has recommended only an advance of Rs. 14.625 crore to the Government of Tamil Nadu from the Central share of Calamity Relief Fund for the next year to augment the resources of the State. Tamil Nadu had been allotted funds during last year and in the previous year also from the Calamity Relief Fund and was not given grant at all to meet such calamities. This year also, in spite of the Minister for Agriculture having visited the cyclone affected areas personally and assessing the actual damage, the Ministry has announced release of funds only from the Calamity Relief Fund and not as a special grant to meet the relief operations.

In extraordinary and special cases,

the Central Government goes to the extent of providing any amount of relief.

I would, therefore, again appeal to the hon. Minister to give more funds as a special grant keeping in view the severe damage caused to the life and property in Tamil Nadu due to the recent floods.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Many Members have participated in this discussion on earthquake and flood havoc etc. Very valuable suggestions have been made to the Government. Hon. Minister is here to reply. I request Shri Charles to be very brief.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Sir, I am not keen on speaking on this. But I gave my name just to draw the attention of the House to one point made by Shri Ram Kapse. He is not here now. He was highlighting that if proper caution had been taken by the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra this could have been avoided. I only wanted to highlight one thing. He said that in Bombay, Nagpur and Delhi and so many other places there were warnings. I wonder if all these warnings are taken into consideration where the people are going to be shifted. I do not say that we need not be careful about what had happened.

I am glad to inform the House one thing. There are barriers of caste, religion, and language, and all the problems are there. But when the earthquake occurred and when there was calamity, the nation stood as one throughout the country. I feel this is the time when we have to thank the people all over the country.

In Kerala alone, one newspaper, the *Malayala Manorama*, advertised and

[Shri A. Charles]

collected more than Rs. 2 crore for the earthquake relief. Even the Government of Kerala, with all their meagre funds, adopted one village and our Chief Minister, Shri K. Karunakaran, came there and inaugurated it.

So, there was unanimous support from all parts of the country. In this country we are one. In spite of what has happened, in spite of the heavy loss of life and property, I am glad and it is a matter of great joy for me to say that in the midst of the calamity we have shared the agony of the people. We have been with them and we are one. I feel that this spirit should be there so that this country may progress and in the 21st century we will become the first country in the world.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Sir, I will be very brief.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in the light of massive earthquake that shattered part of Maharashtra and also parts of Karnataka, specially the districts of Gulbarga and Bijapur, we are enabled this opportunity to discuss about the loss caused to the human lives, men and material and also about the preventive and corrective measures that could be taken in the future. I would like to use this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government to two or three points.

We are told that this is the eighteenth major earthquake that has taken place in different parts of the country. Earthquake have hit Assam, Himachal Pradesh, even Srinagar in Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Karnataka and many parts of the country. A study shows that about two-

thirds of India's area lives in seismic zones of moderate to severe intensity. This is a matter of great concern. I would submit that an intensive study about the causes of earthquake will have to be undertaken.

Secondly, upgradation of technology for seismological recording will have to be made. India is a country where the seismological recording is in quite a primitive stage. We will have to upgrade our technology so that the earthquake-prone areas could be identified. What is required for this purpose is to have a very long base interferometer used in astronomy. This would cost not more than Rs. 10 crore. Elsewhere in the world such an effort is being made.

We are talking about taking some help in the form of soft loan from the World Bank also. Rs. 10 crores could very well be invested for upgrading the technology. Disaster preparedness will have to be looked into. Thousands of dwelling houses have collapsed in this earthquake this time specially in Gulbarga and Bijapur districts. Though the loss of human life is very minimal—only 13 people died — but thousands of houses collapsed.

18.36 hrs.

[SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA *in the Chair*]

In Indi taluk of Bijapur district alone, 2,000 houses have collapsed. We have got the agency, the Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee and the laboratory under the CISR which have offered its technology for quake proof shelters by January, 1992. If that technology is made use of, then disaster preparedness could be upgraded and we could construct such dwelling units so that

the after-effect of the earthquake could be limited.

We must also have a proper long-drawn plan of action. It is very necessary in the light of this disaster that we must have a national natural disaster management policy. We do not have one such policy so far as the damages that are caused due to earthquake are concerned.

In the 19th century itself, I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that India has been hit 11 times by major earthquakes. Different parts of the country were affected during 19th century itself. Now we have been hearing about the forewarnings given by many people who have made intense study in this regard and at least now the Government should stand by and rise to the occasion and make full preparation so that proper advance intimation could be given to the people who would be affected and proper measures could be initiated by the Government to minimise the losses.

As we are told, no doubt, we cannot fully do away with such disasters but we can minimise the effect of the disaster by taking suitable measures.

With these few suggestions, I would like to thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: All the parties have taken their turns. The hon. Minister is waiting to reply.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR (Khargone): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we experienced a horrible earthquake in

Marathwada region. Death enveloped human lives even before people could make a cry. We all experienced how the scene of death was permeating through villages. Long ago before the occurrence of this earthquake Seismologists had forewarned that earthquake might occur there but the Government took no notice of those forewarnings and ultimately such a tragedy occurred. During the last three weeks there have been tremors for two hundred and fifty times within the radius of 30 kilometres in our district Khandwa. of our neighbouring district Khandwa. There have been several tremors of earthquake there that were experienced at far and distant places. Villagers do not sleep inside the houses. People are fear stricken. The Government should come to the rescue of the people there and should take appropriate actions in its regard.

Madam, if the Government of a country does not learn from the past, future of that country becomes miserable. At present, the people of Marathwada area leave weeping bitterly they had an apprehension that perhaps the tragedy might be repeated there since tremors of earthquake are still being experienced there so frequently. The bed of Sukta river has been twisted at an angle of 90 degree. The recipient of Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Award is living in our area and the scientific advisors of the Madhya Pradesh Government are also hinting that a big earthquake is likely to occur within three months which will push the development of Maharashtra back. I would like to say why earthquake proof houses are not built in earthquake prone areas. Houses based on modern technique should be built there so that there is no damage to those houses in the event of earthquake. People over there should be trained how to face the situations of earthquake. I am thankful to

[Shri Rameshwar Patidar]

you for providing me an opportunity to express my views.

THE HON. MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, the hon. Members expressed their views seriously. I share their feelings. Even a stony heart will be moved to see this tragedy. The manner and extent of this tragedy cannot possibly be explained in terms of words. I express my feeling of sorrow alongwith that of colleagues. I am much grieved and so is the people throughout the country. Messages of condolences have been pouring in from all corners of the world. Some of the persons of the areas were personally known to me. Just one month before the occurrence of the tragedy, we had assembled in Pune. They were also grape growers which bound us together. We often held discussions. The Government did whatever was possible to solve their problems. When after one months, those friendly people are no more living, it may be imagined how hurt I must be feeling. This is a personal loss which is naturally casued by the loss of lives of friends. We all feel that whatever loss has been occurred due to this natural calamity, it cannot be avoided but in future we should be much more careful to avoid such incidents and now it is our foremost duty to provide relief and assistance to the living persons. Naik Shaib has rightly said, but it is not proper to think that nothing has been done there and the Government is not moved by it. We should be thankful whatever is done; be it fully done or partially done. If we adopt such attitude the workers feel demoralised. People expressed sympathy when there was a flood. Not only on Government level but on social level also

every one tried to provide help. There was no organisation that missed rushing help there. Whatever he said for the Government, was not right. The Government do not have any magic wand to resurrect the things so quickly. It takes time. The Government is trying to overcome the difficulties coming in the way. Work is being carried out successfully there. There was pile of dead bodies all along, there was debris. Children were languishing. Electric poles were uprooted, roads were damaged. People began work in the backdrop of such a situation. Ten thousand military personnel were deployed. They constructed temporary shelters for affected persons. They made arrangement of drinking water and checked the crowd to come in who also wanted to lend help.

The work should be praised and not criticised by saying that this has not been done or that has not been done, otherwise, it will be called out ungratefulness. I myself visited the place. No one can be a magician to restore the position in such a short time. Many foreign agencies and persons, media persons and big leaders have visited the place and seen how the relief work is being done there. All have seen that people were helped. In such a situation, it is wrong to think that someone will misappropriate the money.

SHRI RAM NAIK: Earlier, when I praised, you were not here. I have praised work done by the people, the Government, the paramilitary and the military personnel. I have commented upon the work relating to the rehabilitation only.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: Your intention is the same.

[English]

Everything takes time, please do not make hurry.

[Translation]

It takes time. It is not that you push a button and the work is done. I have seen personally and I am satisfied with the functioning of the Panchayats, the Army, the paramilitary forces, police, civilians and the voluntary organisations, all collectively have done an unprecedented job. Teams of experts from foreign countries for rehabilitation and for providing medical assistance also visited. I will tell you the source and the amount of assistance received for it. We have received assistance through NGOs from the foreign countries. We have received 25 lakhs from France, 408 lakhs from Norway, 200 lakhs from Sweden, 23.75 lakhs from Christian Aid of UK, 166 lakhs from Canada and 11.75 lakhs from Denmark. In the same way, we have received commodities/humanitarian aid also. European Commission sent Rs. 178 lakhs. France sent rescue material and team of doctors. We also received Rs. 596 lakhs from Japan, Rs. 295 lakhs from UK and Rs. 533 lakhs from USA. Australia sent cash assistance of Rs. 61.5 lakhs and United Kingdom sent approximately 12 lakhs. Likewise for reconstruction and rehabilitation work, we received 141 lakhs from Denmark, 1800 lakhs from Germany, 2980 lakhs from Japan and several other countries have also assured us assistance. We have received Rs. 137.73 crores in Chief Minister's Relief Fund, in which Rs. 52 crores were given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. People have also

donated money for earthquake victims, so, the relief work is going on. You have raised the issue regarding loan but all this work cannot be done within a minute. The houses were made of mud and stones and some were concrete built houses. One factory has not collapsed. It should be kept in mind that only old houses have collapsed. Now the whole work is being done in a systematic manner. Nobody can predict that earthquakes would not occur again. It was a safe zone. As regards Koyna Dam also, we cannot say anything.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, even in developed countries there is no mechanism to predict earthquakes. We have to see what scientists say in this regard. There were earthquakes in China, Iran and Mexico also. It is a natural calamity. Flood can be predicted. We are importing equipments which can provide some information about earthquakes. A team has been sent to Madhya Pradesh. They will decide collectively, so that their team can reach there at the earliest. They have been apprised of your apprehensions. Work will be undertaken as soon as the loan is received. The work has started in twenty villages. Now these new houses will have all the facilities and will be well-built and there will be provision for one window, so that the new generation will have a systematic arrangements for everything. I have seen the arrangements for operations and x-rays in these villages, even in Killari also. Arrangements for schools and provision of drinking water are being made. I am happy that inspite of such a big calamity, no epidemic spread in the area because the situation was tackled efficiently in time. I told the Chief Minister that we had enough material and the required quantity of seeds can be supplied from Ahmedabad. The sowing has already been completed. Children have helped in

[Shri Balram Jakhar]

harvesting of grapes crop as there was less people who could work because many had left and some were suffering from injuries. There is a problem of unemployment also and I want to tackle it also. I have asked the Government to provide financial assistance for undertaking repair of dried-up tubewells and this loan can be recovered later on. The Ministry of Agriculture is committed to help them. After receiving the assistance we will ensure fullproof arrangements in this regard with the help of technical experts to avoid recurrence of such situation in future. The technique and material used in construction of houses will minimise will be removed. You can always give suggestions for improvement. I have asked Chief Minister of Maharashtra to make arrangements for the supply of cement, bricks, iron etc., as per the requirements of these people.

I would like to clarify one more thing that some hon. MPs said that 9000 persons were killed and some said 7000 persons were killed. The newspapers put the figure to 30,000. We have inquired from the Panchayats and now the registration is complete. We do not want that more people die. According to statistics prepared on the basis of the information received from the Government, from the panchnamas, patwaris and the sarpanches. 140 children are still to be rehabilitated. Arrangements for protection of their property and required assistance are to be made. Keeping all these things in mind, we will help them. We will undertake other works also soon as we receive loan. There is suggestion to provide houses for them measuring 250 sq. feet, 400 sq. feet, and 750 sq. feet. Recovery of the loan will be in small

instalments. These points are under consideration. I thank you for your sympathy I thank all the parties, workers, officers the Government and the individuals. I have asked to release the advance.

19.00 hrs.

We can discuss the matter as and when it is required.

[English]

Whatever we can do from the Agriculture Ministry, we can do. Whatever was left, has already been given. I have given the advance of relief fund for the next year also. (Interruptions)

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN: Let the Minister reply to the flood situation also because there is no separate discussion on floods.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We will see later on. There is not much now to discuss. (Interruptions) We are taking it up. As soon as money is available, we will do. You cannot do it without money.

[Translation]

Things will move only when there is money. Money will be received shortly. I, as well as the Government want that after receiving it, we should do something before the onset of the monsoon.

[English]

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): About the World Bank loan, you have referred to your meeting with the Finance Minister and you said that he would look into the

matter. But the Maharashtra Government is demanding one thing and the Finance Ministry is deciding in the other way.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: I have told you. There is not much now to do.

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM KAPSE: I would request that if a meeting of the Finance Minister, the Agriculture Minister and the interested MPs is arranged in the next two days, that will help because in January, you are expecting the World Bank loan.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: You need not worry about that now. I have told you.

SHRI RAM KAPSE: Maharashtra Government wants us to worry.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: There is no question of any profit making from the Maharashtra Government to the Central Government or otherwise. They are part of the same. We will do whatever is best for the people. That is what the Finance Minister has assured. You can also talk to him. There is no problem in that.

(Interruptions)

SHRI PRITHVIRAJ D. CHAVAN (Karad): Madam, Koyna is another major centre of earthquake in Maharashtra. Will the Government consider installing modern telecommunication facilities and wireless telecommunication facilities at Koyna and at Tantulikhurd which have been experiencing serious earthquakes even after the main earthquake at Marathwada? There is none at the moment.

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR: We will take care of it. *(Interruptions)*

19.05 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Thirty-sixth Report

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT. (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS) AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK): On behalf of Shri Vidyacharan Shukla, I beg to present the Thirty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

19.07 hrs.

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 1993-94 — *Contd.*

[English]

MR. CHAIRMAN: The House will now take up discussion and voting on the Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 193-94, for which two hours have been allotted. Shri Ram Naik had been on his legs. He may continue now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bomaby North): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I have already said a