

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**ELEVENTH REPORT AND MINUTES**

SHRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO (Rajahmundry): I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Communications—Telephones and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**REPORTED DEATH AND DESTRUCTION BY TORNADO IN ORISSA**

श्री मूल चन्द्र डागा (पाली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अखिलभारतीय लोकमहत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की श्रद्धा कृषि और ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में दक्षतय दें— “उड़ीसा के बर्धमान जिले के कई गांवों में 17 अप्रैल, 1981 को आये बंडार में एक सौ से अधिक व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु और रिहायशी मकानों के व्यापक रूप से नष्ट होने के समाचार तथा सरकार द्वारा किये गये राहत कार्य ।

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): With a sense of deep grief I rise to inform the House about a very tragic occurrence in Orissa. In accordance with the reports obtained from the Government of Orissa, a devastating tornado swept across nine villages in Saharapada and Patna blocks of Keonjhar district on the afternoon of the 17th April, 1981. According to the report obtained by the evening of the 18th April, 1981, 32 dead bodies had been recovered and 200 persons, of whom about 100 had been injured seriously, were lying hospitalised. More than 500 families with a population of about 3,000 were reported to have been worst affected. Severe damage to

houses and heavy loss of property and cattle are also reported. Detailed information is being awaited from the State Government.

2. A short while ago we collected some more information and according to the Revenue Secretary, Orissa, the number of deaths is stated to be 35. About 1,000 houses and 6,000 persons have been affected. One more village, Began also had affected by the tornado making the total number of villages affected, ten. The State Government is giving Rs. 1,500 as cash/gratuitous relief, for each earning member who has died.

3. The villages affected are about 30 to 35 kms away from the district headquarters at Keonjhar. The tornado struck between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. in the afternoon and the information was received by the Collector, Keonjhar by 4.15 p.m. The Collector, Keonjhar started the relief operations by about 5.30 p.m. The State Ministers of Agriculture and Irrigation visited the area on the day of occurrence and the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister visited the affected areas along with other Cabinet colleagues on the following day. The relief operations started on a war-footing immediately after the occurrence. Three mobile health teams with sufficient medicines and a team of veterinary personnel were pressed into service in the affected areas. The Indian Red Cross despatched tarpaulins, polythene sheets, water purifiers tables, dhosis and saris by midnight between the 17th and 18th April, 1981. They also have sent two medical units and two tonnes of milk powder. The Ministry of Health have issued instructions for supply of essential medicines, etc., to the State Government on demand. The Ministry of Social Welfare is mobilising voluntary agencies for relief operations.

4. The injured persons have been removed to three hospitals and more serious cases have been brought to Cuttack. High level officers are supervising the relief operations and