

12.06 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

OIL INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT BOARD  
(EMPLOYEES' CONTRIBUTORY PROVIDENT  
FUND) RULES 1978

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM,  
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS  
(SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA): I beg  
to lay on the Table a copy of the Oil  
Industry Development Board (Em-  
ployees' Contributory Provident Fund)  
Rules, 1978 (Hindi and English ver-  
sions) published in Notification No.  
G.S.R. 512(E) in Gazette of India  
dated the 28th October, 1978 under  
sub-section (3) of section 31 of the  
Oil Industry (Development) Act,  
1974. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-  
2876/78].

INTIMATION RE: RELEASE OF  
SHRI VISHVESHWAR RAO RAJE

MR. SPEAKER: I have to inform  
the House that I have received the  
following wireless message dated the  
27th November, 1978, from the Police  
Inspector, Police Station Lakadganj,  
Nagpur:—

"Regarding the arrest of Shri  
Vishveshvar Rao Raja, MP. He is  
released today, i.e., 27-11-78 at  
16.15 hours."

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO  
(Karimnagar): What about Mr.  
Sathe?

MR. SPEAKER: I have not got any  
message. If it is so, I will take action.  
Call attention.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED CYCLONIC STORM IN GUJARAT,  
TAMIL NADU AND OTHER PARTS OF THE  
COUNTRY

SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK  
(Sonepat): Sir, I call the attention  
of the hon. Minister of Agriculture

and Irrigation to the following matter  
of urgent public importance and I  
request that he may make a statement  
thereon:—

"Reported cyclonic storm in  
Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and other parts  
of the country resulting in heavy  
loss of life and property."

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL-  
TURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI  
SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): At  
8.30 A.M. on the 23rd November, 1978,  
a cyclonic storm was reported to be at  
a distance of 150 to 200 kms. East of  
Trincomalee on the Western coast of  
Sri Lanka. The storm was proceeding  
towards Sri Lanka and it was appre-  
hended that it might cross over to the  
Southern coast of Tamil Nadu also.  
On the afternoon of the 23rd Novem-  
ber, 1978, the India Meteorological  
Department issued a warning that a  
storm surge was likely to build up  
upto 5 metres by mid-day or after-  
noon, on the 24th November, 1978  
over the South Tamil Nadu coast. A  
telex message was immediately sent  
by the Additional Secretary in the  
Department of Agriculture to the Chief  
Secretary and Revenue Secretary,  
Tamil Nadu requesting that all possi-  
ble measures to save life and property  
should be taken. The Revenue Secre-  
tary, Tamil Nadu was also contacted  
on the phone at 8.30 P.M. on 23-11-1978  
and was warned by the Additional  
Secretary about the storm and the  
warning of the India Meteorological  
Department was communicated to him.  
He indicated that the State Govern-  
ment was seized of the cyclonic storm  
and has been taking all possible  
measures for the safety of life and  
property in the coastal areas.

According to the information receiv-  
ed from the State Government on the  
phone, the cyclone which struck Sri  
Lanka crossed the Gulf of Manaar and  
struck the Tamil Nadu coast between  
Tuticorin and Pamban on the 24th  
November at 6 P.M. Pamban bridge  
and road are intact but the jetty put

(Shri Surjit Singh Barnala)

up for road bridge was smashed. Coastal areas of three districts of Thanjavur, Ramanathapuram, Tinivelli were affected. About 300 to 500 boats of fishermen are either damaged or missing. About 40,000 persons had been evacuated. No village was washed away but six villages were marooned. The cyclone moved towards the west between Coimbatore and the Nilgiris and there was heavy down-pour at the Nilgiris, and Coonoor market near Ottacamund was badly affected.

In all so far, according to the State Government, 14 human lives were lost and one person is missing. Nearly five hundred heads of cattle were also lost. About one thousand hutments have been damaged.

About 300 relief camps have been opened by the State Government. The Army had been alerted but their assistance was not required. According to the preliminary information, not much of the cropped area has been damaged and the damage to public utilities is being assessed.

In association with the storm, fairly widespread rain with isolated heavy falls were reported between the 24th and 26th November over Southern parts of Peninsula and over the Arabian sea islands.

On the 27th evening the depression causing the cyclonic storm lay centered about 400 kms. west of Goa. Latest Satellite picture at this stage indicated its north-westward movement and farther weakening. The storm was all along tracked by the Satellite and by the conventional ships and synoptic data.

Considering its north-westward movement and gradual weakening all ports and Government agencies along the west-coast have been dewarned on the 27th evening.

All along the warnings issued in connection with this storm were quite

adequate and timely. As early as the 21st November, the All India Radio had issued warning about the formation, expected movement and the area likely to be affected when the storm centre was about 1050 kms. away from the coast line. Detailed warnings were issued through All India Radio, New Delhi and All India Radio Madras from the evening of 22nd November about heavy rainfall and strong winds. Warning about tidal waves were issued on the evening of the 23rd November which was nearly 24 hours before the event. Suitable Press bulletins were also issued from time to time.

Apart from Tamil Nadu no information of any damage due to this cyclonic storm has so far been received from any State Government.

From the Government of Gujarat who were contacted last evening, the following information was received on the phone a few hours ago. A cyclonic storm the warning about which was being received from the 8th November, 1978, struck the Gujarat coast on the night between the 11th and 12th November, 1978 affecting the districts of Kutch, Jamnagar, Surendranagar, Junagarh, Amreli and Rajkot. A tidal wave 7 to 8 meters high inundated coastal areas between Naliya and Mandvia in Kutch district. Three persons who were travelling in a boat are still missing and one person died of lightening. Fiftyfive villages had been evacuated. There was no loss of cattle life. Fortyfour huts were damaged and 46 houses collapsed. In the Little Rann of Kutch salt pans valued at Rs. 54 lakhs and salt worth Rs. 1 crore 55 lakhs were lost or damaged. Five thousand persons were marooned in the low lying areas which were inundated by heavy precipitation and incursion of sea waves also because of the full moon night. Ten thousand and five hundred food packets were air-dropped for these persons. Assessment of cropped area damaged mainly in Kutch and Surendranagar districts

is being made. The State Government has not yet asked for any Central assistance but they are proposing to ask for assistance from the Central Salt cess.

The Government of Karnataka who were contacted yesterday also indicated a few hours ago this morning that there had not been any reported damage due to cyclone in the State. Lastly, as per reports received from Lakshadweep cyclone winds ranging between 60 to 100 kms. per hour accompanied by heavy rains occurred in all islands except in Minicoy from the 5th of November till 7th November morning. There was no loss of life or disruption of communications. About 4000 coconut trees were uprooted and 16 houses have collapsed as a result of the cyclone. 90 houses were partially damaged and about 33 families consisting of about 250 persons were evacuated to safe places and were given all assistance by way of food, shelter, etc. One country craft which sailed with a crew of 17 members on 3rd November from Calicut with copra was caught in the cyclone but had reached Mangalore safely on 10th November. Damage to government buildings was estimated at Rs. 20,000. One mechanised boat of the Harbour Department was damaged beyond repair. Senior officials of the local administration have been deputed to the various islands to assess the damage and a detailed report from the administration was awaited. All the affected islands have sufficient stock of food, kerosene, etc. According to the administration there is no cause for concern or panic in any of the affected islands and the situation is perfectly under control.

**SHRI SHAMYANDAN MISHRA** (Begusarai): Sir, may I rise on a point of order. When you pass on from one item to another and in the mean time some papers are laid on the Table, one can hold one's breath

for some time but one cannot hold one's breath for all time. (*Interruptions*)

We are rising on our feet because we thought if the papers were laid on the Table of the House you will give us an opportunity to raise a point of order. This is an important point about which you have to give guidance for the future. Sir, you were pleased to say that the Leader of the Opposition enjoys the status of a minister and that he can come up any time before the House and make a statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** We are in the middle of the Calling Attention. I will give you an opportunity. Please sit down. I can give it more conveniently tomorrow because I have permitted the Minister to make a statement.

**SHRI SHYAMNANDAN MISHRA:** The Minister may not make a statement.

**MR. SPEAKER:** Even if he does not make a statement I will give you an opportunity.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

**MR. SPEAKER:** Don't record.

(*Interruptions*)\*\*

**MR. SPEAKER:** This is how professors behave.

**PROF. P. G. MAVALANKAR** (Gandhinagar): There are some professors who are behaving

**MR. SPEAKER:** I am sorry.

श्री मुख्तियार सिंह मलिक : स्पीकर साहब, देश के अन्दर सूखा, बाढ़ और साइक्लोन वर्गरह की एक ऐसी बीमारी हो गयी है जिस की वजह से देश के अन्दर काफी तबाही होती है और नुकसान होता है। पिछले साल साइक्लोन आया, फलड आया जिस की वजह से सोयल और फसल डेमेज हुई, लोगों की लाइफ गयी। उस के बारे में मंत्री महोदय ने हाउस के अन्दर एक लम्बा चौड़ा स्टेटमेंट दिया और उस में कुछ एश्योरेंसिज दी कि गवर्नमेंट इस किस्म के स्टैप्स उठा रही है जिस से कि लोगों की लाइफ और प्रापर्टी को बचाया जा सके। मेरी समझ में नहीं आया कि मिनिस्टर साहब ने पिछले साल जो एश्योरेंसिज दिये थे कि वे बड़े जबर्दस्त कदम उठा रहे हैं, और इस हाउस के अन्दर

[श्री मुख्तियार सिंह मालिक]

विये बे उनके बावजूद बे फलड और साइक्लोन क्यों भाते रहते हैं ?

मजें इश्क पर रहमत खुदा की

मज बढ़ता गया ज्यों ज्यों दवा की ॥

जितना ज्यादा आप कहते हैं कि इन आफतों को आप रोकेंगे उनको ही ये ज्यादा बढ़ती जा रही है। पिछली दफा आपने हाउस में एम्पॉरिसिस दिए थे। मुझे पता नहीं उन पर कोई असर भी हुआ है या नहीं हुआ है, कोई असर उनका हुआ है या नहीं हुआ है। मुझे तो ऐसा लगता है कि ऐसे ही ये पेंपर एम्पॉरिसिस थे, हाउस को बतलाने के लिए ही ये और बे मज खटाई में पड़े हुए हैं। नवम्बर के महीने में कई हादसे हुए हैं। पता नहीं यह नवम्बर का महीना कैसा चढ़ा है इसमें कई इन्फंटियायें हुई हैं। अच्छा है यह दो एक दिन में जा रहा है। मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि :

"The government of Karnataka who were contacted yesterday, a few hours ago this morning said that there had not been any reported damage due to cyclone in the State."

फिर बाद में मंगलौर बरौरह का उन्होंने जिक्र करना शुरू कर दिया। कब से ये हादसे शुरू हुए हैं ? पांच नवम्बर से शुरू हुए हैं। पांच तारीख को इतना जबर्दस्त धमाका हुआ कि लोक सभा को भी उमने हिट कर दिया। इंदिरा गांधी यहाँ पर आ गईं। माय माय पांच तारीख से कर्नाटक में एक स्टॉम शुरू कर दिया। यह कोई अच्छी बात नहीं थी। उमी दिन 77-78 धादमी एक हवाई हादसे में मारे गए। नवम्बर में यह जबर्दस्त स्टॉम आया और इमने तमिलनाडु और कर्नाटक के अन्दर तबाही मचाई। किम तरह से कोई यह मज चीज जुड़ी हुई है। इसको आप देखें। पिछली दफा प्राइम मिनिस्टर के तौर पर हलफ लिया था तो उसी दिन एक जेट एयरक्रैश हुआ था।

MR. SPEAKER: Let us confine to floods.

श्री मुख्तियार सिंह मालिक : सब के हवाई हादसे में 78 सैनिक मारे गये हैं। पांच तारीख से यह स्टॉम और साइक्लोन शुरू हुआ है। भाँध से और कर्नाटक से शुरू हुआ। मंगलौर बरौरह पर इसका असर पड़ा। यह कोई छोटा मोटा स्टॉम नहीं था। इस में तमिल नाडु में भी चढ़ जाने लगे हैं। भारी तबाह में मकान गिरे हैं। पांच ही हेडज आफ कैंटल इसके अन्दर पैरिश हुए हैं। तीन सौ से लें कर पांच सौ कित्तियां या तो डैमेज हुई हैं या मिसिंग हैं। अलग अलग नहीं

बताए हैं कि कितनी डैमेज हुई हैं और कितनी मिसिंग हैं। पांच ही फ्लडर बोटस के मिसिंग होने का मतलब यह होता है कि इसमें बहुत ज्यादा जाने गई होंगी। कितना भारी जानी माली नुकसान हुआ है उसका आज तक पता नहीं है। यह गवर्नमेंट की फेल्योर है कि इसका वह आज तक पता नहीं लगा सकी है। इन मच्छेंगों की क्या हालत हुई है यह भी सरकार को पता नहीं है। ये डूब गए हैं या क्या हुआ है कुछ पता नहीं है। 24 तारीख को यह समुद्री तूफान आया आज 28 तारीख हो गई है। सरकार को यह पता नहीं चल सका है कि उन कित्तियों का क्या हुआ है। सरकार ने एक नम्ब्रा चौड़ा ब्यान दे दिया है। आपने कहा है कि तमिलनाडु सरकार ने भी और ए आई आर ने भी उन लोगों को बराबर वॉनिंग दी कि तूफान आने वाला है। 20-21 तारीख में इनका देना शुरू हो गया था। उनको बना दिया गया था कि माइक्रोलॉजिकल वेंज आगामी। तभी न आ करके वे 24 तारीख को आई। जब आपको पता था और लोगों को भी बना दिया गया था तो ऐसे कदम क्यों नहीं उठाए गए जिससे हेडज आफ कैंटल जो नबाह हुए, मकानात प्रादि गिरे, वह चीज न होती।

मैंने गुजरात के बारे में एक मवाल दिया है। मेरी इन्सला के मुनाबिक वह कल आने वाला है। हो सकता है कि उसका नम्बर न आए। यानी मुझे पता चला है कि सैटेलाइट के जरिये कोई अली वॉनिंग मिस्टम ऐसा ईजाद किया जा रहा है जिसमें साइक्लोन का प्रिडिक्शन बहुत जल्दी किया जा सकता है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या उन्होंने कभी प्राइम मिनिस्टर से, क्योंकि वह मींस एण्ड इलैक्ट्रानिक्स का इंचार्ज है, इसको एक्सप्लोर करने के लिये कोई बानचीन की है या नहीं कि आया हम किस्म का कोई सैटेलाइट जिसमें फलड बरौरह या माइक्रोन बरौरह का प्रिडिक्ट किया जा सके या कोई आला ईजाद किया जा रहा है ? इससे कितना फायदा कंटी को हो सकता है या नहीं हो सकता है या तूसे मुस्कों को हो सकता है ?

श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरन्नाला : इस दफे तो जैसा मैंने अर्ज किया था कि साइक्लोन जब 1,000 किलोमीटर परे था, तभी पता लगा लिया गया था और वॉनिंग दे दी गई कि किम जगह पर खतरा है, कितनी उंची बेंच आयेगी और किस जगह पर स्टाइक करेगा। इस वॉनिंग का हो सतीजा था कि 40 हजार धादमी उस लोकैलिटी से निकाल लिये गये, नहीं तो नुकसान बहुत भारी होने का खतरा था। उसके बावजूद भी 14 जामे गई हैं, तो जब कभी ऐसा तूफान आता है, तो कुछ नुकसान तो होता ही है। यहाँ कहा गया कि कित्तियां 300 से 500 तक लापता हैं या डूब गई हैं, उनमें बहुत धादमी

होते, हर किस्ती में भादमी होते हैं ऐसी बात नहीं है। कोस्टल लाइन पर खासतौर से वाणिग दी जाती है, उस समय किश्तियां बांध दी जाती हैं, जब तूफान आता है तो बहुत सी किश्तियां का ले जाता है। किश्ती खाली होती है, उसमें भादमी नहीं होते हैं। जब कोस्ट पर वाणिग दी जाती है तो सब किश्तियां छोड़कर बांधकर बाहर निकल जाते हैं। इन्होंने कोई खास भादमी का नुकसान नहीं हुआ है, किश्तियों का जहर हुआ है, क्योंकि वह पानी में थी।

दूसरे आपने कहा है कि कलॉटिक में भी 5 तारीख को कोई माइकलान आया है। हमें ऐसे माइकलान की कोई इतिला नहीं आई है जिगका जिक्र आप कर रहे हैं, भले ही आप उमें माइकलान कहे या कुछ कहे, शायद आप मजाक में किमी और बात को माइकलान बना रहे थे। मैंने तो रिटेल दी है कि इस वाणिग को वजह से ही बन्दोबस्त हो सका है हम ट्रेक कर सके हैं कि माइकलान कहाँ जा रहा है। जब वह वहाँ से चला गया तो हमने डी-वानें कर दिया कि अब किमी को कोई खतरा नहीं है।

मैटेनाइट के जरिये हम ट्रेक करते रहे हैं, यह मैंने अपने स्टेटमेंट में ही कहा है। जब वह अरॉथियन सी की तरफ चला गया तब उस कोस्टल एरिये में डी-वानें किया गया।

**श्री शंकरसिंहजी वाघेला (कपड़वज) :** जो ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव हमने रखा था, उसमें पहला नाम गुजरात का था। अभी जो मंत्री जी ने वक्तव्य दिया उसमें भी गुजरात और तमिलनाडु के नाम हैं, लेकिन हमको साढ़े 11 बजे तक जो वक्तव्य मिला, उसमें गुजरात का नाम बिल्कुल नहीं था। अभी भी जो वक्तव्य आया है, रिपोर्ट आया है, यह पूरी नहीं है, आधी है। इसमें भी यह है कि गुजरात की गवर्नमेंट से लास्ट इवनिंग में ही कॉटेक्ट हुआ है। 11, 12 नवम्बर को जहाँ तूफान आया है, वहाँ लास्ट इवनिंग को ही गुजरात सरकार को कॉटेक्ट किया जाता है और कहा जाता है कि नीचे लिखी इन्फार्मेशन कुछ घंटे पहले ही प्राप्त हुई है। आज की कार्निग प्रैटिसन है और कुछ पहले घंटे पहले इनको इन्फार्मेशन मिलती है कि गुजरात में यह हुआ है। 11, 12 नवम्बर को ऐसी घटना हुई और आज 28 नवम्बर को इतने दिन बाद हमारी केंद्रीय सरकार कहे कि आज सूचना मिली है यह दुःख की बात है।

दूसरे जो तूफान होता है, ठीक है वह ऊपर वाले को मालूम होता है और ऊपर वाला शाब्द जानकर भी धनजान रह सकता है लेकिन अगर सरकार जानकर भी धनजान रहेगी तो जो माल का नुकसान होता है, भादमी मारे जाते हैं, क्या हमारी सरकार इसकी कोई जिम्ता करेगी ?

इसके अलावा हवा-मौसम विभाग से रेडियों पर बातें आती हैं कि आज का मौसम सूखा रहेगा तो उस दिन मौसम भीगा रहता है और जब वह विभाग कहता है कि बारिश होगी तो मौसम सूखा रहता है।

**MR. SPEAKER :** Not this time. This time they had predicted correctly.

**श्री शंकरसिंहजी वाघेला :** यह जो इन्होंने बताया कि 23 नवम्बर को सूचना मिली और 24 को सूचना दे दी तो एक दिन की सूचना दी। इस स्टेटमेंट में दिया गया है कि इस तूफान के बारे में दी गई सभी चेतावनी पूर्णतया समय पर दी गई। तो एक दिन के समय को क्या वे पर्याप्त समय कहते हैं ? एक दिन की क्या बात होती है। गुजरात में जो अभी कच्छ में नुकसान हुआ है वह लाखों रुपये में है। गुजरात में ला गंड आर्डर की भी तकलीफ है। एक हरिजन लड़की तलवार से मारी गई, लेकिन आज तक कोई भादमी पकड़ा नहीं गया है। मैं मंत्री महोदय से यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि जिन किसानों का पाट का नुकसान हुआ है, नमक बनाने वालों का जो नुकसान हुआ है—नमक गुजरात का बहुत बड़ा प्राइवशन है—काटन का जो नुकसान हुआ है और जो जो मकान गिर गये हैं, क्या सरकार उन को कोई सबमिडी देने की योजना पर विचार कर रही है। जिन लोगों का नेशनल कलेमिटीज में नुकसान हो, क्या सरकार उनके बारे में किसी बीमा योजना, इनशोरेंस, पर विचार कर रही है ?

**श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला :** शायद माननीय सदस्य ने मेरे जवाब को ठीक तरह से देखा नहीं है। हमने 21 तारीख से वारनिंग देनी शुरू की और 24 तारीख तक वारनिंग देते चले गये। मैं समझता हूँ कि इस से बढ़िया और कोई वारनिंग नहीं हो सकती थी। हम कान्टीन्यूअसली यह वारनिंग देते रहे—रेडियों से देते रहे, और तरीकों से भी देते रहे। लोगों को वारनिंग थी और इसी लिए वे बच गये।

माननीय सदस्य ने फरमाया है कि उन्होंने गुजरात के बारे में सवाल दिया था, लेकिन उसकी पूरी इतिला नहीं दी गई। मुझे इस का नोटिस कल शाम को साढ़े सात बजे मिला। आपसे भी दरखास्त है कि these notices should be given at least twenty-four hours earlier. Immediately we started contacting various State Governments. The Chief Secretary of Gujarat had no information

[श्री सुरजित सिंह बरनाला]

about this. We then contacted the Director of Relief and Rehabilitation and he has given the information which I have supplied; it could not be made part of the statement. Similarly though information from Lakshadweep has been received later, but I have added that in my statement.

माननीय सदस्य ने यह पूछा है कि जिन लोगों का नामक का नुकसान हो गया है, क्या उन्हें कुछ एमिस्टेज दी जायेगी। भेन जिक्र किया है कि स्टेट गवर्नमेन्ट का यह ख्याल है कि वह सेटल माल्ट सेम में कुछ एमिस्टेज लेना चाहती है। उनमें हमें एमिस्टेज के बारे में नहीं लिखा है। जब वह लिखेगी, तो जरूर उसके बारे में गौर किया जायेगा।

श्री शंकरसिंहजी बाघेला : मंत्री महोदय ने इनशोरंस के बारे में जवाब नहीं दिया है।

MR. SPEAKER: Are you going to have some insurance scheme for this?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: There is no such proposal before the Government.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Pon-nani): Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is commendable that as compared to the cyclone last year, this time both the Central and the State Governments have shown good signs of their alertness. However, there is a wide disparity with respect to the assessment of loss and damage due to cyclone in Tamil Nadu. For example, we are told by the hon. Minister that 300 to 500 boats of fishermen are either damaged or missing, whereas the reports that have appeared in several newspapers place the damage at about 700 boats. Further, while the hon. Minister says that six villages were marooned, there are reports saying that as many as forty-eight villages are under water today. Similarly, while the hon. Minister says that according to preliminary information, not much of crop area has been damaged, reports, and reliable reports, indicate that standing paddy crops in lakhs of acres have been damaged. In view of this disparity with regard to the assessment of losses, I have to ask the Government whether the Government

intends to have a joint inspection and assessment of the damage along with the Government of Tamil Nadu in order that we may have a true picture of the loss and damage and think of the assistance accordingly.

Secondly, what is the type of assistance asked for by Tamil Nadu Government, and what is the type and extent of assistance that will be extended by the Central Government?

This is a repeating phenomenon. Several hundreds and thousands of huts near the coasts are washed away or destroyed. Is the Government thinking of some permanent measures such as special types of shelters that can be provided, so as to guarantee at least some amount of safety and security against ravages of these repeated cyclones?

The last point that I have to make is this: the Finance Minister of Tamil Nadu has said, after consulting the Chief Minister, that his Government is willing to provide Rs. 10 lakh worth of goods as relief to the cyclone-hit people of Trincomalle areas of Sri Lanka, where there are predominantly Tamil-speaking people—if the Prime Minister gives permission. What is the reaction of the Central Government?

MR. SPEAKER: The last aspect does not arise from this question.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I have put it. In Sri Lanka, it is a natural calamity.

MR. SPEAKER: The question is about calamities in India.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: It is a humanitarian question. I think a very humane person like the hon. Minister would like to indicate the mind of the Government on this.

Finally, with respect to the Government of Gujarat, we are told that the State Government has not yet asked for any Central assistance, but that they are proposing to ask for assist-

tance from the Central Salt Cess. Will the Government enlighten us as to the position with respect to assistance from that Cess, the type of assistance that can be given, and the immediate effect? I hope Government will enlighten this House on all the aspects raised here.

**SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA :**  
The hon. Member has mentioned that there is a contradiction between the statement made by me, and the loss mentioned by some papers. We collect information from the State Governments. My statement is based mainly on the information received from the State Governments. Sometimes the statements in the Press are not very correct. So, we always base our statements in Parliament on the information collected from the State Governments. So, the loss that I have mentioned is as has been stated by the State Government of Tamil Nadu.

It has been mentioned that we should agree to a joint inspection. Joint inspection is not needed when we agree with the inspection of the State Governments; whatever loss they tell us, we agree to it. If they ask the Central Government to send a Central team, we send it—which can have talks with the officers and people there, and assess the whole situation and the damage, so that proper facilities could be provided for that area. But in this case, so far no Central team has been asked for; if they ask for a Central team, we will surely send it to that area, to assess the damage and loss.

It has been mentioned that the Government of Gujarat has informed us that they did not want any assistance from the Central Government, but from the Central Salt Cess. As I had mentioned earlier in my statement, the loss in that area is mainly of salt. The salt pans valued at Rs. 54 lakhs of salt, belonging probably to the private entrepreneurs, and pans worth Rs. 1.55 crores in another area, were

damaged. That is why they have mentioned the Central Salt Cess. If the State Government of Gujarat asks for any assistance from us or sends a memorandum, we will examine it and try to provide the facilities.

I forgot to mention about the permanent measures. It was taken into consideration last year also by the State Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. It was mentioned that some permanent structures should be constructed in the coastal areas, where at the time of cyclones, these people could go and take shelter. So far, Tamil Nadu has a proposal of constructing 37 anti-disaster shelters which can house, at such times, about 500 persons in each of these shelters. They can be used as community centres for education, medical facilities and as community halls in the other periods.

**SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA :** What is your assistance there? They are doing it.

**SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA :**  
We have provided a lot of assistance last year. For Tamil Nadu alone, earlier Rs. 29.31 crores had been sanctioned. Later, again in March, a Central team was sent. They again made some recommendations on the basis of which this year again Rs. 14.40 crores were allocated. Some food assistance was also given.

**DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI** (Almora) : According to this statement, at 8.30 p.m. on 3rd November, the cyclonic storm was reported. Which was the agency that reported this cyclone—was it a national agency, or an international agency?

Again, they have said that adequate measures have been taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. What were actual measures of relief work—evacuation etc. Which were taken?

Then comes the question of this cyclone—from a different perspective. It is as if the cyclones are appearing

(Dr. Murlī Manohar Joshi)

generally in the month of November. There is a history behind it, that during the month of November there generally is a situation like the cyclone. The tornado appears in the months of March and April. I will not dilate upon statistics. The Minister knows them. In Delhi, there was a tornado in March 1978. Earlier they were there in Punjab and other places. It is in March that tornados appear, and in November the cyclones. There are certain zones. I would like to know from the Minister whether Government has identified that such and such places are the tornado zones, and that certain other places are cyclone zones. If they have identified them, what is the Central scheme for having a permanent agency to monitor the information, to organise relief and shelter in those zones?

It also appears that we do not know much about the cause of the cyclones and tornados in these areas. Is the Government thinking of organising certain special studies to tell us, and to have a complete data as to why these cyclones appear? Is it not a fact that they appear due to certain disturbances in the tropical atmosphere? There are very incomplete studies about this. India does not have sufficient data and personnel to give this information to the country. There have been certain international programmes like the Global Atmospheric Research Programme launched by the World Meteorological organization in 1960. Is India participating in that programme? If the cyclone forecast is made known a week or two earlier, it will be easier to organize evacuation and relief. There was an experiment in 1973 jointly with the Soviet Union, called the Indo-Soviet Meteorological Experiment. What are its results? Has the country been benefited by that experiment? Then there was Monex 1967. What are the results of both experiments? It was said that a weather satellite is going to be launched. What is the progress in that regard? It is supposed to be

launched somewhere in 1979. It involves not only India and Sri Lanka, it involves a number of other coastal countries also. Is the Government thinking of having some joint international programme of the Indian Ocean nations so as to have a complete picture of the tropical weather? If so, we would like to have full information from the Minister.

**SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA:**  
So far as cyclone affected areas in India are concerned, the eastern coast is more prone to cyclones, starting from West Bengal, covering part of Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. These are more prone to cyclones, have been affected by cyclones, more than the western coast. On the western coast also cyclones do occur sometimes, but the damage on that side has been slightly lesser than the damage on the eastern side.

So far as tornados are concerned, it has not been possible to have any predictions even in the scientifically most advanced countries. Even in America, where the largest number of tornados occur they have not been able to find out or identify the particular zones, or to trace them. They can know only when it is formed, and then they can track it and go after it. Here also we can know about the tornado only when it is actually formed, and not earlier than that. So, there can be no warning about it.

**MR. SPEAKER:** They go after that or before that?

**SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA:**  
They can follow it, by sending wireless messages to the area to which it is travelling. That is what is normally done. They send information through wireless, through radio, to the areas which are likely to be affected by it. In the case of cyclone, there is forecasting. There also we give a warning from a distance of about 1,000 km, three days before the cyclone is actually likely to hit the area.



So far as monitoring is concerned, we have a good warning system. We have on the east coast cyclone radar stations in Calcutta, Paradip, Visakhapatnam and Madras. Two more are proposed to be established at Karaikal and Machilipatnam. On the west coast we have it at Bombay and Goa. So the warning system is quite good. We are trying to improve the warning system.

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI: What about Monex 1967? Have we been able to utilize them and get satisfactory results from this experiment? Then, which agency gave the report? Was it a national agency?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: The report was given by the India Meteorological Department. They had issued this warning, which was relayed by the All India Radio and published by the press. It originated from the India Meteorological Department, our own national agency. India is also participating in WMO Tropical Cyclone Project. It is a project in which we are trying to take part.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY (Barrackpore): It is hardly a controversial matter in which many questions can be asked. In fact, that is our complaint that we are not allowed to raise many controversial questions.

MR. SPEAKER: I think we should have more fruitful questions than controversial questions.

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: That will make the House more sedate.

We are unhappy that the Minister's statement was incomplete in the sense that it has not touched the cyclone damage that has been done to Nilgiris in Tamil Nadu. Though Nilgiris has not been a coastal district, it has been the worst affected district in the whole south. Coonoor town was completely ruined and communication to Ooty has been completely disrupted and large areas of coffee plantations have

been cut off. A central team has already gone there to assess the damage. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister (a) whether, according to his information, this damage to the Nilgiris has been caused due to large-scale deforestation that has taken place there and, in that case, whether he has in contemplation any afforestation plan in the Nilgiris; (b) whether he is prepared to give sufficient assistance to the Tamil Nadu Government to overcome the losses suffered in the Nilgiris district; and (c) whether he is satisfied that the early warning system along both the east and west coast, which did not prove very satisfactory earlier, is good enough? The cyclone hit Sri Lanka first, and there was great loss of life and damage to property there, and then it came to India. So, the Minister says that our early warning system was very good. The early warning was in fact given by the cyclone hitting Sri Lanka, and not by our warning system. The tracking of a cyclone is possible if its eye moves slowly. If the eye of the cyclone moves very fast, as in the case of the Andhra cyclone, our early warning system fails. So, what is in fact necessary is not five or six stations on the east coast and only two on the west coasts, but may be 20 along the east coast and ten at least on the west coast. Is the Minister prepared to accept that?

MR. SPEAKER: Now you see it is not non-controversial!

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It is not correct to say that the warning was given only after the cyclone had hit Ceylon, it was not like that. It was given even earlier than the cyclone hitting areas of Sri Lanka.

Regarding Nilgiris, it was not a cyclone that caused the damage, it was heavy rains. De-forestation has nothing to do with cyclones, cyclone cannot be the effect of de-forestation. De-forestation can result in land slides, silting etc., but not in cyclones.

**SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY** (Mangalore): On a point of order. Under rule 53, yesterday I have given notice of an adjournment motion.

**MR. SPEAKER:** It does not arise. A point of order is on a subject which is under discussion. Now, there is no subject.

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**PETITION RE. WORKING OF LIFE INSURANCE CORPORATION OF INDIA**

**SHRI R. K. MHALGI** (Thana): I beg to present a petition signed by Shri Sudhir Anant Barwe and others regarding working of Life Insurance Corporation of India.

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12.52 hrs.

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377**

**(i) NEED FOR A COMMON POLICY FOR THE SETTLEMENT OF BOUNDARY DISPUTES AMONG VARIOUS STATES**

**MR. SPEAKER:** Matters under rule 377.

**SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO** (Mor-mugao): Several inter-State boundary disputes have remained unsettled for the last several years. The Assam-Nagaland dispute, the Maharashtra-Karnataka dispute and the Punjab-Haryana dispute offer some examples of these border tiffs where no solution has been reached. These issues have caused much trouble and agitation from time to time. It is unfortunate that the Government of India have generally chosen not to interfere and as a result no peaceful and lasting solution has been found for these disputes. I therefore request the Government to evolve immediately a common policy for the settlement of these boundary disputes so that they may be decided once and for all. I also request Government to make a statement in this regard?

**(ii) REPORTED STEEP FALL IN PRICES OF COTTON AND DIFFICULTIES OF COTTON GROWERS OF PUNJAB, HARYANA AND RAJASTHAN.**

**SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOO-WALIA** (Faridkot): With your permission, Sir, I make the following statement under rule 377 on a matter of urgent public importance.

The cotton growers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan have been economically ruined due to steep fall in the prices of cotton which are less by Rs. 1500 to Rs. 200 per quintal compared to the previous years. A further fall of Rs. 50 is expected this week as the markets of these States are being glutted with cotton. The farmers of these northern States are being distressed and disappointed. The Cotton Corporation of India's attitude towards the kisan is criminally indifferent. The CCI is planning more in favour of textile owners at the cost of poor primary producers of cotton. The price of kapas (cotton) is Rs. 300 only whereas the price of rui (cotton for fibre) is Rs. 1500. The poor farmers' domestic budget, such as, to purchase rabi seeds, diesel, necessities of life, clothes and other requirements have been totally disturbed.

The Government of India should come to the rescue of these farmers. The CCI who is importing cotton bales at the rate of Rs. 3500 from Russia and Rs. 4000 from Egypt compared to Rs. 1700 per bale in India should stop import of cotton. A special subsidy fund be granted to help the cotton growers immediately. The A.P.C. should reconsider its recommendations about cotton price. The price of cotton must be linked with the price index of fabric and cloth prices. The CCI should be attached with the Ministry of Agriculture. Two cloth mills should be established at Bhatinda and Malout in Punjab.

I would request the Government to make a statement on that.

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