

(v) The exemption now applicable to imported edible oils will apply also to edible oil seeds imported from abroad,

(vi) The new Order exempts any commission agent from the purview of the ceiling limits prescribed for pulses and edible oilseeds provided that he does not retain with him any such goods received by him for more than 15 days from the date of receipt of the consignment. This time-limit of holding is prescribed to ensure uninterrupted turnover. This exemption will not however apply to stocks of edible oils including vanaspati.

(vii) The new Order also places the wholesalers in primary mandis namely those centres where the farmers make first point sale of their produce of pulses and edible oilseeds on a different footing. Stock limits for these mandi centres would be the same as those prescribed for category A cities. The list of such mandis is to be notified by the respective State Governments. This exemption will come into effect only after the State Governments have notified the list of such mandis.

(viii) In the earlier Order there was no stock limit prescribed for producers namely persons carrying on the business of milling pulses or expelling or extracting edible oils. They were only required to furnish fortnightly stock returns if the stocks held by them exceeded a specified limit. The present Order brings the millers under greater discipline. According to the new provisions no producer of mustard oil can have at a time in his possession a stock of mustard seed exceeding one-twelfth of the seed used by him in the year ending October 1977. The miller cannot hold the finished stock namely mustard oil in a quantity exceeding 1/24th of his production in the preceding year (15 days production). The same limits will apply to millers of pulses also.

(ix) As for mills producing edible oils other than mustard oil, the possession of stock of oilseeds has been limited to one-eighth of the oilseeds used during the one year ending October 1977. The stock of finished products cannot exceed 1/12th of his production during the preceding year (one month's production).

(x) The new stock limits would become operative from 6 December. In other words dealers who have stocks in excess of the prescribed limits will have a fortnight time to dispose them of. On the last day of this time-limit any dealer having excess stocks shall inform the Collector indicating the excess stock held by him. That excess quantity shall be disposed of by the dealer in accordance with the directions given by the Collector.

12 20 hrs

STATEMENT RE LOSS OF HUMAN LIVES AND DAMAGE TO CROPS AND PROPERTY DUE TO CYCLONE IN ANDRA PRADESH

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH) Sir with a sense of great sorrow and heartfelt sympathy I rise to state that there has been heavy loss of human lives crops and property due to cyclonic storms in the coastal districts of Andrapradesh.

Sir you will recall that in my statements made in the Lok Sabha on the 16th November 1977 and in the Rajya Sabha on the 18th November 1977 I had indicated in connection with the cyclonic storm in Tamil Nadu that the Meteorological Department had forecast another cyclonic storm of greater intensity to strike Tamil Nadu coast on 16-18 November 1977 affecting

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh]

weather conditions from the 16th evening and bringing in heavy rains. This cyclonic storm struck the Masulipatam Kakinada coast on the 19th November, 1977 and in accordance with the information obtained from the State Government caused widespread havoc in the coastal districts of Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna East Godavari and West Godavari. The storm rose in intensity from 7.30 p. m. on the 19th and caused high tidal waves in the Masulipatam and Chirala areas of Krishna district. The wind speed ranged from 100 to 150 km per hour and there has been heavy rainfall in the affected areas on the 19th and the 20th November, 1977. Repalli Taluk of Guntur district had been completely cut off and a helicopter was given to the Collector to reach this area.

In accordance with the latest information the State Headquarters have received reports of loss of 628 lives in the district of Guntur, 223 in the district of Krishna, 23 in the district of Prakasam and five each in the districts of East Godavari and West Godavari. One death was reported from Nellore district giving a total of 385. Most of the deaths are reported to be due to house collapses. These figures are only tentative and the State Government are anticipating further reports.

It was also indicated by the State Government that there has been extensive loss of standing and harvested paddy crop and a large number of houses and huts have been destroyed or damaged. Sugarcane, tobacco and other plantation crops also have been very badly damaged and trees have been uprooted. About a lakh of people are feared to have been rendered homeless in the town of Guntur alone. Road, railway, telephonic and telegraphic communications have been affected and this is telling upon the relief operations. The State Government have deputed four senior officers for supervising and co-

ordinating relief operations in the four districts of Krishna, East Godavari, West Godavari and Guntur.

The Chief Minister accompanied by the Chief Secretary and other senior officers have left Hyderabad for aerial survey this morning. It is understood that the State Government are taking all necessary action for relief and the Defence Services are offering all possible assistance to the Civil authorities and the State Government are fully satisfied in this regard. They are also satisfied that adequate advance notice about the cyclonic storm had been given and all possible precautions had been taken. No shortage of foodgrain has so far been reported and the needs of the State Government in this regard will be fully met. Difficulty is being experienced due to failure of electricity which is also affecting drinking water supply. The financial position of the State Government is satisfactory. The State Government is likely to approach for Advance Plan Assistance after the full assessment of the damages is available in a week's time. In accordance with the information available, the cyclonic storm has abated though in certain areas aerial operations were not possible yesterday afternoon because of bad weather. Further information is being ascertained. The Central Government is keeping continuous watch on the situation and is in touch with the State Government. The Ministries of Health, Education and Social Welfare and Engery have been alerted to render all possible assistance to the State Government. Every effort is being made to alleviate the sufferings of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

12.24 hrs.

RE: FAST BY NEO-BUDDHISTS

SHRI VASANT SATHE (Akola):
Sir, I want to request you to allow a discussion in the House on the situation arising out of the fast undertaken by the leaders of Buddhist followers of Baba Saheb Ambedkar. It is the seventh day of their fast. Their condition is very critical. We want