

(2) Should not the Chief Justice of the High Court be given reasons stating why his opinion is overruled and why appointments are made against this opinion?

(3) Is a High Court a mere appendage of the Supreme Court? It is also alleged that such type of actions are being taken intentionally, so that the present High Court Judge would leave his post easily. All these things should be looked into seriously before anything happens.

(xiii) DEVASTATION CAUSED BY THE RECENT CYCLONE IN COASTAL DISTRICTS OF ANDHRA PRADESH.

SHRI T. BALAKRISHNAIAH (Tirupathi): Sir, I wish to bring to the notice of the Government about serious devastation caused by unprecedented cyclone in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, namely, Nellore, Ongole, Guntur and Krishna, on 12th May, 1979 where more than one million people were rendered homeless causing colossal damage to the standing crops, dwelling houses and human lives. The cyclone started from Tada to Krishna and Godavari districts on 12th May, 1979. The cyclone spread from coast to coast at a wind speed of 160 K.M. per hour and over 200 mm of rainfall was recorded during 30 hours. Nellore was the worst hit town due to cyclone and it was cut off from the rest of the world. Thousands of poor people particularly weaker sections, who were living in huts and small houses, were rendered homeless and the entire area between Bakingham canal and the Sea in Nellore turned into a vast sheet of water. The recently constructed protectional wall in Divi Taluk of Krishna District at Soglagundi village was hit by the tidal waves and the bund was breached. The following are some of the note-worthy features of the cyclone:—

(1) Cyclone in November, 1977, caused damaged mostly to human lives but the present cyclone caused damage not only to the human lives,

but also to the properties and standing crops in Nellore, Prakasam and Guntur districts. As per the report in the *Times of India* dated 17th May, 1979, more than thousand people were dead. The correct figures are yet to be ascertained;

(2) 15 to 20 villages were flooded due to overflow of the rivers, namely, Palaru, Musi, and other rivers which could not find exit to the Sea, which were turbulent on that day;

(3) More than 40 tanks were breached due to heavy rains in these areas;

(4) In Nellore District alone about 1,500 villages were affected and about 1.6 lakh hutments were destroyed. The loss of sheep, cattle and poultry is colossal;

(5) Traffic, both rail and road, was dislocated due to heavy breaches of roads and railway tracks;

(6) 6,000 acres of banana and betul were damaged;

(7) The worst affected Taluks are Sulerpet, Venkatagiri, Gudur, Kovvur, Kavali, Nellore, Atmakur and Udaigiri and the major portion of the area was in my constituency;

(8) There are complaints that a cluster of 300 hutments abutting the Sarvapalli Canal has not been provided any relief and it is said that they have been starving from Friday last. A similar tale of woe was related by the residents of Vengalrao Nagar, where there are 2,500 hut dwellers, which is situated three miles away from Nellore Town. The hut-dwellers are mostly Harijans;

(9) The total damage estimated was about Rs. 500 crores.

This is a national problem. This area has been subjected to cyclones frequently. This has to be taken up at the national level to tackle the problem for a permanent solution, and it should not be left to the State Government to be looked after. As per the recommendation of the Sixth Finance Commission, in a calamity of this type

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no State Government will be in a position to tackle the situation. The present policy of the Central Government to spend money within the allotment made to the State Government for any sort of emergency is not sufficient. I, therefore, appeal to the Central Government to consider this issue sympathetically and take up this matter at the national level and sanction adequate funds, keeping in view the amount of damage caused which is more than Rs. 500 crores.

(xiv) **HARDSHIPS CAUSED TO BARYTES MINE-OWNERS DUE TO CANALISATION OF BARYTES EXPORT THROUGH M.M.T.C.**

SHRI DARUR PULLAIAH (Anantapur): The Barytes export trade was canalised by the Government by an announcement in Parliament on 30th March, 1979. Even though one month and 18 days have passed, no steps have been taken by the Government or the Canalising Agency, the MMTC, to buy the barytes mineral, i.e., powder or lumps from the mine-owners and the pulverising mill-owners. Huge stocks of lumps and powder are held up at Madras harbour and at the railway stations.

There are ready orders covered with confirmed L.Cs, which were obtained before canalisation. Due to the sudden canalisation orders, the producer exporters could not honour their pre-canalisation commitments. Though the producer exporters having orders as mentioned above applied soon after canalisation for permission to the Chief Controller of Exports & Imports and to the hon. Minister of Commerce with the required documents to allow them to fulfil their pre-canalisation commitments as per rules, so far no orders have been passed to honour the commitments.

As huge stocks of barytes powder and lumps worth about Rs. 2 crores are piling up, the mine-owners are subjected to hard financial pressures, and as a result, they have closed down their mining and pulverising industries, thereby depriving work for nearly 10,000 labourers. This barytes mine-

ral is mainly produced in the backward area of the Rayalseema region of Andhra Pradesh where there is no other industry worth the name. This is also a chronically drought-affected area. It is very surprising why the Government is not taking any action in this matter when there is good demand for this material abroad and the quantities are also piling up, while the requirement of the material to the country is very marginal.

When there was canalisation in 1976-77 Canalising Agency, the MMTC, could not export even 3 lakh tonnes for a period of 27 months. The present Government realised that canalisation was a failure and that MMTC could not succeed in selling this mineral. Therefore, the Government de-canalised rightly on 1st April, 1978, allowing MMTC and the original producers to export the mineral to the extent they produce, eliminating middlemen who were hitherto buying from the producers and exporting. During the period of decanalisation of 12 months alone, the original producers could export 3 lakh tonnes, equivalent to the quantity exported during 27 months when there was canalisation. The original producers could also export more finished products, i.e., powder, than crude lumps, thereby earning added value of foreign exchange.

This is a small export business where personalised efforts are required for studying International market and marketing this product with prompt deliveries both FOB and C&F basis. M.M.T.C., in a big organisation which has to look after important minerals with big turnovers, will not be able to concentrate on this small trade. Evidently the Government could realise the failure of the performance of M.M.T.C. during the 27 months of canalisation period. Therefore, it has been proved to the satisfaction of the Hon. Minister of Commerce and Trade that M.M.T.C. could not handle this small trade and the original producer exporters alone would be able to handle this small trade effectively in the interest of sustaining their small