

[Shri Saugata Roy]

15 hrs.

In this context, I will refer to the demand for bonus by the L.I.C. and G.I.C. employees. As regards the L.I.C. employees, the Government have said that it is *sub judice*.

As regards the G.I.C. employees, they have not been given bonus uptill now and the management have not yet come out with any declaration as to how they are going to give bonus to the G.I.C. employees.

I think that there are certain defects in the Bonus Act as amended.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Saugata Roy, why don't you continue your speech tomorrow?

SHRI SAUGATA ROY: Yes, Sir.

15.01 hrs.

MOTIONS RE. RECENT CYCLONES AND FLOODS IN THE SOUTHERN STATES

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the House will take up the motion of Shri Chitta Basu.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Chitta Basu.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I move:

"That this House expresses its concern at the situation arising out of the devastation caused by the recent cyclones and floods in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry and urges upon the Government to make all out efforts for undertaking a massive relief and rehabilitation programme".

Sir, while moving this motion, I would request the House to understand the grim situation on which we are called upon to deliberate. We are

now called upon to discuss a grim tragedy which has befallen us recently. It is not only an important issue for the House but this is an issue of national character. I would, therefore, urge upon the Members of this House to take part in the discussion of this motion cutting across the party barriers and party affiliations and also in isolation forgetting our regional attachments.

As you know, this House—Lok Sabha—true to its tradition, expressed its deep sense of grief and agony and sorrow at the loss of lives and properties in Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Pondicherry and Lakshā Dweep and, in a Resolution formally adopted by this House, has already expressed or conveyed the deep sense of sympathy to the members of the berieved family. We also stood in silence for a few minutes in this House itself.

As you all know, the President of the country took the earliest possible opportunity to express his sense of grief and agony at the heavy casualties and colossal loss of lives and properties and undertook a tour in the affected areas. You would also know that the Prime Minister of this country has, rightly, pointed out that the devastation was a national calamity and he was all the more explicit when he said that Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu's sorrows were the sorrows of the nation and hastened to assure the entire nation to see that the Government would do whatever is required to be done. All these things, I suppose, will set the conduct of the perspective and that perspective, I hope, is the perspective of the national interest. Within this well-defined conduit of the perspective let us now proceed to discuss this tragedy which has befallen us and evaluate the troubles ahead. Unless we do our duty in this national perspective—let me say—we shall be failing in discharging our national obligation and responsibility.

My first point is to make an attempt to identify the immensity of the problem that faces us today. The losses

are colossal and a casual glance at the information that has been made available to us through various agencies will only give us a glimpse of the totality of the problem and its immensity.

Let us take the example of Andhra Pradesh. It would be admitted by the House—as I have already mentioned—that the entire thing should be viewed in a national perspective. It should be viewed in a way which cuts across the party barriers. It should be viewed with a sense of isolation. It should be viewed in the context of national perspective. In that perspective I again reiterate that Andhra's share of grief in this day is the biggest and the entire nation should accept it in that way. I have collected the information regarding the loss of life and damage done to property in all the five affected States. After a casual glance at this information it leads me to this conclusion that Andhra's grief at the present moment is the biggest. It says that six coastal districts have borne the wrath and fury of nature. It left trail of over ten thousand dead and property worth crores completely destroyed. Paddy, cotton and tobacco crops extending over an area of not less than 30 lakh acres have been completely inundated and the standing crops in almost all the parts of Andhra Pradesh have been ruined. Sir, to describe the horror of the situation I would only quote a few lines of the news that were published in some sections of the Press. I quote:

"The magnitude of death and destruction caused by the cyclone in the district cannot be assessed correctly so soon. Thousands of corpse and carcasses were strewn all over and lay unburied...."

In some villages, the living were struggling for survival and have no time to stand to the dead. What is more, they are so shocked that they have ceased to cry. This is the grimness of the situation that the men and women who have survived have ceased to cry because they have lost

everything. This is the tragic point of human beings. They have ceased to cry at this particular situation.

Sir, I have got the information given by the Andhra Pradesh Government only today and they have tabulated the extent of the calamity and destruction. It is like this.

No. of houses affected	8,35,966
No. of persons rendered homeless	30,43,163
Crops damaged in acres	30,00,810
Cattle perished	2,35,750
Other live stocks	1,56,588
Loss of life	8,349

This is what the Andhra Pradesh Government has given which I had the occasion to know only a few hours ago. The value of total damages according to the Andhra Pradesh Government due to cyclone is estimated to be more than Rs. 1000 crores.

Now, I would like to discuss about the Tamil Nadu cyclone. Sir, in Tamil Nadu, the information so far received suggests that more than 500 lives have been lost while more than 10,000 heads of cattle have perished. Nearly three lakhs of crop areas have been totally destroyed. A tentative estimate of the number of houses damaged or destroyed puts it at 1.10 lakhs. According to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, the entire map of two districts has changed. The map of the two districts is completely changed. They cannot be recognised now with the old map. There has been an extensive damage to the railway track and other railway property. The Tamil Nadu Chief Minister has estimated the damages at Rs. 150.0 to Rs. 200.0 crores.

Now, I come to the scene of Kerala. The Home Minister of Kerala has recently stated that the damages caused by the cyclone was estimated at Rs. 10.0 crores. The cyclone has caused extensive damages to the standing paddy crops, plantations, coconut and

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sugar-cane fields. More than 70 persons have died. At least another score were missing.

Pondicherry and Lakshadweep also witnessed widespread damages and destruction in property and crop. Of course, it is a matter of great relief for us that no loss of life in these ill-fated areas of our country has been reported.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I must make it clear that we have only four hours for the discussion and there are twenty names from the Congress Party and a similar list from the Janata Party. Then other groups will have to be given some time.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I began at 3.05 and I have spoken for only ten minutes.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We began at 3 and you may conclude after taking four or five minutes.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: Now, let us look at the facts, they are not total. From the fragmented reports and fragmented information that we have received, I have my own impression of the situation as of today. That impression is that loss of life runs into thousands, not hundreds, it may well high reach the mark of 20,000 if complete information is made available about all the five affected states. Andhra's share is of course the biggest. The ruination of crop and property is immense, it cannot be estimated. The final tally when it becomes available on both counts will be quite staggering. And yet, permit me to say that it cannot be the total and full picture full story of the grief and suffering of the people of that part of our country. In fact that will ever remain a story untold. Whatever information we may collect, it cannot really tell the entire story of the grief, suffering and agony of the people, that will forever remain a story untold.

As I mentioned earlier this extreme situation should be viewed in a national perspective. At this stage, I want to place before you certain suggestions how to tackle the issue, what are the tasks ahead, because it is a national task and in that context we have to formulate our plans. Relief operations on a scale necessary to rehabilitate the cyclone victims of all the five states are certainly beyond the capacity of the state governments concerned. It is not possible for the state governments to cope with the situation. Central aid so far advanced is inadequate. I do not like harsh words. The Central Government should therefore launch a massive assistance programme in money and materials and should come to the succour of the states.

I suggest that the following steps be taken immediately on a war-footing basis, if a greater calamity than the one we have witnessed because of the cyclone is to be really averted. The cyclone part of the thing is there but the greater calamity awaits and that can be averted only if we take steps to provide relief to the affected people of this part of the country.

My suggestions are:

(i) Supply of free food on a large and massive scale to the people in the affected areas and fodder for the cattle;

(ii) Grants to the urban as well as rural poor to rehabilitate themselves and to rebuild their dwelling places and loans may be provided for other sections of people who are financially better off;

(iii) Grants and loans to the peasants for starting agricultural operations after the water recedes and supply of seeds, fertilizers and other inputs free of cost;

(iv) Assistance to the small traders and small industrialists to restart their business ventures and factories;

(v) The most important thing viz., writing off all Government dues in the affected areas, including land revenue and suspension of loan recovery and also writing off the tuition fees for the students at all levels.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You may conclude now.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am only making suggestions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I know. But you keep all your suggestions at the end. That is the trouble with you. You must have made your suggestions earlier. You must have some consideration for other Members also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I would suggest inoculation of the entire population of the affected areas and effective protective measures against epidemics, and formation of all-party Committees at all levels to conduct the relief operations. The popular co-operation of all States should be sought. Since you have forbidden me from speaking further, I will only make three more points.

The planning Commission, instead of sitting there in Yojana Bavan, at this stage, should set up a separate cell to prepare a plan for the rehabilitation of the affected people. This matter should not be dealt with only by the Chief Ministers of the five States which have been affected. The Prime Minister should take the initiative to convene a Conference of all the Chief Ministers (the Chief Ministers of both the affected and unaffected States) and pose it as a national issue. All kinds of relief measures should also flow from other States, including those in the North, Eastern and Western. That alone, I think, will really place the matter in a proper national perspective and by that we would have done our duty at the this time of agony and grief to the people who have been the victims of the Cyclone.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That this House expresses its concern at the situation arising out of the devastation caused by the recent cyclones and floods in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry and urges upon the Government to make all out efforts for undertaking a massive relief and rehabilitation programme."

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirappali): I beg to move:

"That in the motion:
 add at the end—

"and recommends to the Government to take the following steps as preventive and precautionary measures for the entire coastal areas facing the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea:

(a) to expedite action on the recommendations of the Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee of Orissa and Andhra Pradesh with modifications, so as to apply to the whole East Coast region from Rameshwaram to Calcutta;

(b) to undertake a programme of preventive measures—for construction of storm shelters for evacuation of population in the coastal regions, particularly for fishermen and salt workers and afforestation along coastal belt with suitable variety of trees;

(c) to strengthen and improve the meteorological system in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh so as to make weather forecast and cyclone warning more accurate and precise;

(d) to evolve guidelines and code for the administration at all levels for precautionary steps to be taken, before the commencement of cyclone season in the coastal areas and for emergent steps to be taken when a cyclone warning is issued;

(e) to take steps for proper dissemination of information to the people and to mobilise the people to be prepared for facing such calamities; and

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(f) to extend the Monsoon Experiment programme called 'MONEX, 79, so as to cover North Eastern Monsoon, i.e., between October and December.' '(I).

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN (Adoor): I beg to move:

"Taking into consideration the huge loss of life and property caused by cyclones, floods and landslides in recent weeks in the Southern region of the country, this House calls upon the Government to set up an all party machinery at the national level to mobilise resources and men for organising an effective and massive relief work in the affected region."

The disaster that has befallen the southern States is national calamity. All of us are agreed on that. I need not refer to the extent of devastation that has taken place. The mover of the other motion, Shri Chitta Basu has already referred to those facts. My main point is that in this hour of tragedy, let us all stand together and pull together irrespective of our political affiliations. Let us try our best extend relief and assistance to the unfortunate victims of this national disaster. The task before us is stupendous. Taking into consideration the colossal loss of life and property, a massive and effective relief and rehabilitation programme has to be undertaken and this is not with in the capacity of the States concerned namely, Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala and Pondicherry. Therefore, all of us, including the government at the Centre, the governments of the affected States, all political parties and voluntary organisations should join together. There must be an all-party relief machinery at the centre in order to mobilise men and resources for this massive task. That is the main intention of my resolution.

The assistance so far given by the Centre to the affected States is quite inadequate. Andhra Pradesh Government has estimated that the rehabilitation and relief programme would cost

Rs. 200 crores. The Tamilnadu Government has estimated that the relief programme would cost more than Rs. 100 to 150 crores. The Kerala Government has also prepared a scheme for rehabilitation and relief work amounting to more than Rs. 10.47 crores. The rehabilitation and relief work in Pondicherry and Lacadive would require very huge amounts. After all, what is the assistance given by the Centre? Rs. 5 crores each have been given to Tamilnadu and Andhra Pradesh. What a paltry sum!

And two crores of rupees to Kerala and that too as advance plan assistance. Advance plan assistance means the planning process of the State itself will be adversely affected. To the extent of the money advanced from plan assistance, the plan schemes will have to be cut in the States concerned. Therefore, it is no assistance at all. If there is truth and sincerity in what the Prime Minister and certain other Ministers have been saying, the Centre should come forward to take the main responsibility. When they say that it is a national calamity, they should come forward to take up the main burden of relief and rehabilitation in these affected States. Money should be given not as advance plan assistance but as special assistance outside the plan Rs. 200 crores is the estimated cost of relief and rehabilitation for Andhra Pradesh. At least Rs. 150 crores should come from the Centre. How can the Andhra Pradesh Government raise such a huge amount to carry out such massive relief work in the State? How can the Tamil Nadu Government find resources and how can the Kerala Government raise the finances to the extent of more than Rs. 10 crores when the State itself is in financial difficulties? Therefore, the Centre should come forward with the massive financial assistance.

With regard to Kerala, I have to say that in the last 30 years Kerala had never experienced such a disaster like this though the toll of human life was less—only 80 deaths and 62 people missing. But I would say here that as soon as the cyclone warning was given, the

Kerala Government took sufficient precautionary measures. It had prevented the fishermen from going to the sea after the cyclone warning was given and police were posted along the coast. Party and social workers were also deployed in areas where the fishermen were concentrated, that is, in fishermen's hamlets his alone could not prevent people from going to the sea because they have to earn their livelihood. The Government had to provide one week's free ration to about 13 lakhs families. The Kerala Government provided one week's free ration costing more than Rs. two crores. This is a relief work which is much beyond the capacity of the Kerala Government. Therefore, Kerala should be helped in a massive way and Rs. 5 crores should be given to Kerala. That is my request to the Central Government.

Lastly, I would say that the main human casualties in this tragedy, whether it is in Andhra Pradesh or in Tamil Nadu or in Kerala have been the poor people, it is mainly the poor people who have lost their lives in these areas. In Divi taluk in Andhra Pradesh where the tidal wave struck the people on 19th November, it was the agricultural workers and Harijans and fishermen who were mainly hit. In Tamil Nadu also it was mainly the agricultural workers and Harijans who were living in the slum areas in small huts who had been affected. In Kerala also it was the fishermen and poor people along the coastline who have suffered. Therefore in all the schemes of relief and rehabilitation, special care should be taken to cater to the urgent requirements of these poorer sections. All loans advanced to these poor people should be completely written off. They should be provided with free rations.

So far as agricultural workers are concerned, till Government is in a position to provide them employment, they will have to be provided with free rations. Otherwise they will be starved to death. I would also request Government to return the compulsory deposit money to the workers, because in Tamil Nadu and other affected regions, workers themselves have

come forward to donat one day' wages to the relief fund, though they have also been badly hit; and they have promised to work maximum to mobilize relief for the affected people. Therefore, it would be a good gesture on the part of the Government if they can refund the second instalment of the compulsory deposit money. With these words, I commend my motion.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"Taking into consideration the huge loss of life and property caused by cyclones floods and landslides in recent weeks in the Southern region of the country, this House calls upon the Government to set up an all party machinery at the national level to mobilise resources and men for organising an effective and massive relief work in the affected region."

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM: I have another amendment to move. I move the amendment standing in my name, to the motion of Mr. Kodiyan. I move:

That in the motion,—

add at the end—

"and recommends that the Government allot adequate funds for the affected States, particularly to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to enable these States to take up rehabilitation programme, in respect of reconstruction of the houses and huts, clearances of sand-cast lands, relief to the farmers who are affected by the damage to the crops, postponement of collection of arrears of loans from the farmers, and moratorium on recovery of debts incurred by ryots in the affected areas.

This House further recommends early refund of C. D. S. deposits to the workers in the affected area.", (1).

[Shri M. Kalyanasundaram]

When can I get a chance to speak, Sir?

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You will have to wait for your chance to come.

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the cyclone that has lashed South India has indeed created a calamity of national proportions. It has covered not only Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, but also the Union Territories of Pondicherry and Lakshadweep—which seems to have been overlooked by the movers of the Resolution. This is a national Calamity, and a national Calamity has got to be treated as such. If we simply call it a national calamity, and yet approach it in a partisan manner, we will not do justice to the people who have been affected. I had occasion to visit the worst affected areas in Andhra Pradesh, the Divi taluka, the Guntur district and the Krishna district. The destruction there has to be seen to be imagined. Nobody who has not been there can really have an idea of the magnitude of the calamity that has befallen the people. The only parallel that I can think of, is the area where the tank battles took place after the Indo-Pakistan war—we visited it, it was very close to my own home State. There has been total destruction; trees have been uprooted thousands of people have been killed, all hutments have been uprooted and tens of thousands of cattle were destroyed in those 4 or 5 hours. The damage to property, including hutments, buildings, standing crops and plantations, runs into hundreds of crores of rupees. This being the case, it is necessary that we should have a total commitment to rehabilitation and relief, and under no circumstances should we allow ourselves to be bogged down to unnecessary and avoidable controversies.

Two main points emerge: firstly the extent and the adequacy of the meteorological warnings that were

given; and secondly, the measures taken by the State Government immediately following, or even before the disaster. As far as the meteorological department is concerned, I have had occasion to look through the various broadcasts and predictions that were made. The position is now quite clear. The meteorological department was able to predict the cyclone, but the course of the cyclone was erratic. It grew over the Bay of Bengal. It was heading first towards Madras and the warnings went out mainly towards Madras, because it was thought that it would hit the coast. Then it suddenly veered north and headed towards Visakhapatnam; and then before anybody really knew what was happening, it hit the Machilipatnam coast; and it created that tremendous tidal wave which was 20 feet high 50 Kms. broad and which went inland upto 10 Kms. Sir, in our tour we asked the people, particularly why they did not vacate their houses in time. It appears that cyclones at this time of the year in that area are almost invariable, and there was nobody in living memory who could recall the terrible calamity that took place in 1864, which was over 110 years old; even the third generation there were not aware of this possibility. As a result of this, despite the warning, people were reluctant to leave their homes, and by the time the tidal waves struck at 3 P.M. in the afternoon of the 19th with strong winds lashing over the areas and heavy rain it was too late, and the people were swept away. In addition to the area directly ravaged by the tidal waves other areas were badly affected by the very strong winds reaching a velocity of upto 200 km. an hour, by the very heavy rainfall and house collapse.

As far as the measures taken by the State Government are concerned, I have also had occasion to see personally and to study the various documents that have come to our notice. I can say that it is entirely wrong and unfair to say that the State Government did not do anything, was not

aware of the danger, or was in a state of shock for six days. It is totally wrong. We have got the instructions that were given to the Collectors of the 8 coastal districts, the warnings that high storms were likely, tidal waves were likely, and that action should be taken immediately thereafter. Despite the fact that communication systems were disrupted as a result of the cyclone, the administrative machinery got into gear, the Collectors and the senior officers reached Guntur and Machilipatnam and immediately steps were taken to open relief camps, to give inoculations and to give food. When we went there on the 25th, by then we ourselves saw thousands of people being fed, cloth being distributed, cash relief of Rs. 150 being given to each family which is affected, and Rs. 1,000 to the next of kin of those who have lost their lives and various other measures that were being taken.

The main difficulty was the restoration of the communication system, the road system. Army wireless was pressed into service and, as soon as water cleared, helicopters began to make trips. Up to the 23rd about 100 sorties were made by the helicopters food packets had been dropped and 5,000 tonnes of foodgrains were rushed to the affected areas. Cooked food was also distributed in a big way. I have a lot of details with me with regard to this, 125,000 dhories have been distributed and 90,000 sarees. Water supply has been re-established, electricity has been restored and almost the entire population has been covered by anticholera inoculation.

The people of Andhra Pradesh were hit by the cyclone and the tidal waves which is a natural calamity. But what is really shocking, at least to this side of the House, is this that instead of rushing to the rescue of these people, instead of encouraging the Andhra Pradesh Government, very unfortunately, attempts were being made to have a political propaganda against

the Andhra Pradesh Government... (Interruptions) I must protest against this, because there has been a deliberate attempt, a planned attempt to demoralise, denigrate and humiliate the Andhra Pradesh Government. I would very humbly tell my friends on the other side that this is not the way to meet a national calamity. If it is a national calamity, you have got to rush to their rescue. Do you know that the Andhra Pradesh Government, the entire administration, the Chief Minister himself and thousands of officials, have been working for the last 16 days round the clock..

(Interruptions) It is entirely wrong, I must say... (Interruptions) I am very sorry to say that this is most unfortunate. I strongly protest against this attempt to make political capital from a national disaster. Not only that. Unfortunately, the army is also being dragged into the controversy quite unnecessarily. I would like to say that it is our national army, it is not the Congress army or the Janata army, it is the Indian army, and it is the duty of all of us not to drag it unnecessarily into a controversy. Army helicopters were used for air-dropping, army wirelesses were pressed into service. In a detailed message that was sent by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh to the hon. Prime Minister on the 21st, within 48 hours of the tragedy, he has acknowledged gratefully the help given by the army and air force authorities.

Why is it that there is this political cyclone has been unleashed against the Andhra Pradesh Government? I am very glad that the hon. Prime Minister is here, because he has always wanted to create high standards of public behaviour, and I must say that the statements made by him and the hon. President were balanced once. But the same cannot be said of all members of the Prime Ministers party. I was very sorry and shocked to read the statements. One hon. Member, a very senior Minister, a former colleague, said that for six days the Andhra Pradesh Government did

[Dr. Karan Singh]

not do anything to bring relief. This is an absolute falsehood. When the entire administration is involved, when thousands of people, from school teachers to patwaris, are involved in relief work, why is it that this sort of attempt is being made to demoralise them? Can it be—the Prime Minister will forgive me—because in the last general elections the Andhra Pradesh people firmly and overwhelmingly stood by the Congress and 41 out of 42 seats were won by the Congress Party? The Andhra Pradesh people are very intelligent. They made one very distinguished exception. The hon. President of the Republic was that exception. Otherwise it was a clean sweep. It is because of this that now, when this national calamity has befallen us, that these sort of statements are being made.

I would again appeal to the members of the Janata Party. They were talking about seven Ministers. I agree that they have no monopoly of opportunism. There are opportunistic elements in our party also, but I would urge: let us not make political capital; even in South India, let us not exploit a natural disaster. May I point out to hon. friends opposite that even in the north the wind has changed? The results in U.P. have shown that even there this wave is ebbing. Please therefore do not try to use this sort of methods to make your party strong in the south. You will only succeed in weakening the party and the Government at a time of national calamity.

I have lived with national calamities for 20 years. I have been in a border State where four times we have been attacked, where planes have flown over our heads laden with bombs. I know that at a time of national calamity it is the duty of everybody to rally together. Maybe something better could have been done—I do not take that view because I have myself been there; but

even if you take the view that such and such a thing should have been done, this is no way or time to exploit the situation. Day in and day out statements are being made by responsible members of the ruling party attempt to humiliate and denigrate the Andhra Pradesh Government. I would urge that this House is a tribune of the nation where we must rise above petty considerations; and we must desist from exploiting human misery.

Here I have one concrete suggestion. After the current session of Parliament ends, I suggest that an all-party team, led by the hon. Speaker, including, if possible, the Prime Minister, the Leader of the Opposition and members from all parties of both Houses, may visit the affected States in order to study the progress of relief work. Let us look forward to the problems that are ahead, and not backwards and blame each other for this disaster.

Not only, the nation but the whole world is watching how we behave in this calamity. You will remember that a terrible calamity occurred in China, and they were able to rebuild, but here, instead of rebuilding, we find this onslaught on the Andhra Pradesh Government, we find recrimination every day. This is no way to enthuse and encourage the people working there. They are working day in and day out, 18 to 20 hours a day. I have seen them there. The Chief Minister and half his Cabinet is there. Our sympathy should go to them, our support should go to them.

There is urgent need for massive relief, aid and assistance from the Government of India. I would like to congratulate the Prime Minister on what he said in the last intervention, namely that money will be no consideration, but I sincerely hope that his Finance Ministry also takes it in the same light. I have had the bitter experience for ten years in the Government. Whatever may be the Government policy, sometimes the procedures are

such that things get bogged down and then they will say, cut out of the plan allocations, cut out from here or cut out from there. The assistance must be given in addition to the plan allocation. Then alone will the problem of rehabilitation be solved at all and even then it will be a long range process. We must not only involve the Government, we must involve all sections of society. If it is a national calamity, all citizens must be involved whether they are from Kashmir or Kanyakumari or whether they are from Gujarat or Arunachal Pradesh. Our nation is like a human body. Any pain in any part of the body is bound to reflect in the entire organism. Therefore, the entire nation must be mobilised for this.

I would urge the hon. Prime Minister to consider what measures need to be taken on a long range basis in order to meet this calamity. I have suggested the setting up, on a permanent basis, of a national disaster mitigation organisation which could deal with cyclones, floods, famines, earthquakes which occur every year throughout the country. It could be an organisation which should involve all the Ministries and agencies both at the Centre and in the States.

An additional radar installation is urgently necessary at the Machilipatnam coast. The Meteorological Department which is doing good work, requires to acquire a reconnaissance aircraft which could fly into the heart of the storm and thereby supplement the computer forecasting that the Meteorological Department does.

The cropping pattern will also have to be changed. Previously, the crops used to mature in December. But as a result of green revolution, the high yielding varieties mature in November. But in October and November invariably there are cyclones and floods. So the Orissa Rice Research Institute, the Pusa Institute should get down to the task of developing a high yielding variety which will mature in December.

Where are many other things which require to be done but I will not take too much time of the House. I would finally like to commend the tremendous courage and fortitude that the survivors have shown. We have been round and met people who have lost everything. Yet I may say, they have not lost their dignity and they have not lost their courage. It was a moving experience to see the people who have lost seven members of their family. Even then they were erect, they have not panicked and they have no hysteria. We owe it to them to rise to the occasion. If it is a national disaster, let us rise above party considerations, let us sink our differences and rally to the help of the people. If we do less than this, we will be insulting the memory of the dead and we will be jeopardising the welfare of the living.

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा (दक्षिण दिल्ली) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, 19 नवम्बर, के काले शनिवार के दिन झारखण्ड प्रदेश में जो भयंकर प्रकृति का प्रकोप हुआ जिसके कारण 6, 8 घंटे के अन्दर 30, 40 हजार व्यक्ति मृत्यु का शिकार हुए, लाखों लोग बेघर हो गये, सारी धरती वहाँ पर नष्ट भ्रष्ट हो गई, ऐसा भयंकर प्रकृति का प्रकोप पिछले 100 वर्षों में भारत के किसी सामुद्रिक तट के उमर नहीं आया। उन लोगों ने, जिन पर यह विपत्ति आयी है उनके लिये अपनी जिन्दगी के अन्दर दुबारा इतना भयंकर धरती का रूप नहीं भर सकता जो उन्होंने उस दिन देखा। ऐसी भयंकर विपत्ति जैसा माननीय कर्णसिंह जी ने कहा है, सिवाय जिन लोगों ने उसको जा कर देखा है उनके अलावा और कोई अन्य आदमी कल्पना नहीं कर सकता। हजारों, लाखों लोग जो अनाथ हो गये, लाखों बेघरवार हो गये, उनके लिये न काम है, न घर है, न जमीन है, इस तरह की स्थिति वहाँ पैदा हुई। वहाँ पर बीसियों गांव ऐसे हैं जहाँ पर जिन्दगी का कोई नामोनिशान नहीं। जहाँ पर आदमी तो आदमी कोई जानवर

[श्री बिजय कुमार मल्होत्रा]

तक नहीं। बल्कि धरती भी मानो मर गई हो। मुझे यह देखकर आश्चर्य हुआ कि वहाँ पर एक बहुत बड़े क्षेत्र में एक भी गिद्ध या पशु दिखाई नहीं देता है। इससे अन्दाजा लगाया जा सकता है कि वहाँ पर तूफान का कितना भयंकर प्रकोप हुआ है। इसमें कोई शक नहीं है कि आन्ध्र में जो कुछ हुआ है, वह एक राष्ट्रीय क्षति है, एक नेशनल कलेमिटी है, और अगर यह एक राष्ट्र है, एक देश है, तो हमें केवल कथनी में नहीं, बल्कि करनी में इस बात को सिद्ध करना चाहिए।

जब बिहार में भूकंप आया था, तो राजेन्द्र बाबू ने सारे देश की आत्मा को झकझोर दिया था और सारे देश का ध्यान बिहार पर केन्द्रित कर दिया था, और सारे देश ने बिहार की सहायता करने में अपना योगदान किया था। आज आन्ध्र में जो कुछ हुआ है, उसमें तीस, चालीस या पचास हजार आन्ध्रवासियों की मृत्यु नहीं हुई है, बल्कि पचास हजार भारतीय प्रकृति के प्रकोप के शिकार हुए हैं। वहाँ पर लाखों एकड़ भारतीय धरती नष्ट हुई है और लाखों भारतीय बेघरबार हो गये हैं, जिनके लिए हम सब को मिल कर कुछ करना चाहिए।

अगर कोई आदमी इतनी भयंकर विपत्ति में राजनीतिक लाभ उठाना चाहे, तो उससे बड़ी कोई नीचता की बात नहीं हो सकती है। लेकिन श्री कर्णसिंह ने अभी जैसा भाषण दिया है, उससे मुझे दुःख हुआ है। बजाय यह कहने के कि आन्ध्र में लोगों को बचाने और उनकी सहायता करने में यदि कोई कमी रह भी गई है, तब भी सारे देश को उसके साथ खड़े रहना चाहिए, उन्होंने आने वाले चुनावों का ध्यान रखते हुए इस मामले को राजनैतिक रंग देने की कोशिश की, और जिन मंत्रियों ने वहाँ पर जा कर परिस्थिति को देखा है, उन पर कटाक्ष करके उस बात को जस्टिफाई

करने की कोशिश की है, जिसका कोई जस्टिफिकेशन और डिफेंस नहीं हो सकता है। आखिर क्यों नहीं इधर के लोगों ने तामिलनाडू के बारे में कोई बात कही है? (व्यवधान) तामिलनाडू में भी इसी प्रकार की मसीबत आई, किन्तु वहाँ की सरकार और अधिकारियों ने पहले से मिलिटरी के साथ ताल-मेल बिटाया और इसलिए वहाँ पर मिलिटरी की मदद तीन दिन पहले ही शुरू हो गई, पहले ही लोगों की इवैक्युएशन शुरू कर दी गई। इसी कारण तामिलनाडू में ईश्वर की कृपा, और लोगों की मेहनत से बिनाश काफी कम हुआ।

श्री कर्ण सिंह ने कहा है कि आन्ध्र में जो कुछ सम्भव हो सकता था, वह किया गया। ईश्वर न करे, अगर फिर कभी वहाँ पर ऐसी मसीबत आये, तो वहाँ की सरकार के द्वारा जो कुछ भी कार्यवाही की गई, कहीं उसे ही मैक्सिमम मान कर उसी के अनुरूप फिर कार्यवाही न की जाये, सिर्फ इसलिए मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि आन्ध्र में वहाँ की सरकार द्वारा तूफान के छः सात दिन बाद तक भी एक क्रिमिनल नेग्लिजेंस दिखाई गई। (व्यवधान) उस पर सामने के लोगों को शर्मन्दा होना चाहिए था, लेकिन उसके बजाये दूसरे लोगों पर कटाक्ष किया जा रहा है। (व्यवधान) इन लोगों ने वहाँ पर जा कर स्थिति को देखा नहीं है। मैंने देखा कि वहाँ पर चारों तरफ आदमियों और पशुओं की लोथें सड़ रही हैं। तूफान के आठ दस दिन बाद भी लोग गंदा पानी पीने के लिए विवश हैं, और अनाथ लोग गिरे हुए मकानों से चिथड़े निकालने की कोशिश कर रहे हैं।

मैं ने वहाँ पर लोगों से पूछा कि उन्हें तूफान के बारे में इनफार्मेशन कब मिली। उन्होंने बताया कि उन्हें गवर्नमेंट की किसी एजेन्सी से कोई इनफार्मेशन या बारनिंग नहीं मिली—सिवाये रेडियो के। (व्यवधान) माननीय सदस्य ने कहा है कि

ग्रान्ध सरकार ने पूरे कदम उठाये हैं । इस का मतलब यह है कि आगे भी लोगों को इस तरह की मुसीबत के बारे में वारनिंग नहीं मिलेगी । श्री कर्ण सिंह ने इस मामले को राजनैतिक रंग देने में शुरुआत की है । उन्हें इस में राजनीति को नहीं घसीटना चाहिए था । उन्हें आने वाले चुनावों को दृष्टि में रख कर ग्रान्ध सरकार का डिफेंस और जस्टिफिकेशन नहीं करना चाहिए था ।

इस घटना के सम्बन्ध में ग्रान्ध सरकार ने जैसा व्यवहार किया है, उस से असंतुष्ट हो कर वहां के सात मंत्रियों ने त्यागपत्र दे दिया है । (ब्यवधान) कल तक जिन मंत्रियों के साथ ये लोग बैठते थे, आज वे उन्हें आपरचुनिस्ट कह रहे हैं । (ब्यवधान) श्री कृष्णराव, जो एजुकेशन मिनिस्टर थे, उमी जगह थे, जहां मैंने दौरा किया । उन्होंने कहा कि मेरे अपने इलाके में बीस पच्चीस हजार लोग मृत्यु के शिकार हुए हैं । वहां हर एक अखबार कहता है कि मरने वालों की संख्या पचास हजार और एक लाख के बीच होगी । वहां पर सारे मंत्रियों ने कहा है । क्या जस्टिफिकेशन आप के पास है ? ग्रान्ध के चीफ मिनिस्टर इस को प्ले डाउन क्यों कह रहे हैं ? क्यों इस राष्ट्रीय क्षति को 7 हजार 8 हजार, या 10 हजार बता रहे हैं ? क्यों इस को प्ले डाउन किया जा रहा है ? ग्रान्ध में जो कुछ हुआ है, आप वहां जा कर देखें, लोगों की आंखों के अन्दर सूनापन है, खून है, उन के अंदर आंसू नहीं हैं, वे नहीं रो सकते । आप उस को इतना कम कर के बताना चाहते हैं देश भर में ? मैं कहना चाहता हूँ कि यह शताब्दी का सब से भयंकर प्रकोप है और यह शताब्दी का सब से भयंकर पाप आप कर रहे हैं । जो इस बात को राजनीति में घसीट रहे हैं और अपनी लापरवाही को छिपा रहे हैं । मैं अभी भी कहना चाहता हूँ, ग्रान्ध सरकार को कहना चाहिए कि कितने

बड़े पैमाने पर यह क्षति हुई है और उनको चाहिए कि देश की आत्मा को झकझोरें ।
16 hrs.

आप समझते हैं यहां राजनीति है ? यहां दिल्ली की गली गली में जनता पार्टी के लोग और दूसरे लोग इसे राष्ट्रीय क्षति समझ कर अपने भाइयों की मदद के लिए जो कुछ संभव है कर रहे हैं और करना चाहिए । हम लोग वहां जिन के प्राण पूर्णतया नष्ट हो गए हैं उन के अंदर प्राण तो नहीं फूक सकते, वह तो महाकाल कर सकता है, लेकिन हम उन लोगों के साथ इस विपत्ति में भागीदार जरूर बन सकते हैं । इसलिए मैं आप से कहूंगा कि आप बजाय इस के कि ग्रान्ध गवर्नमेंट की जस्टिफिकेशन करते रहें और जनता पार्टी को क्रिटिसाइज करते रहें, बजाय इस के कि इस सवाल को पोलिटिकलाइज करें सही स्थिति को सामने रखें ... (ब्यवधान) ... मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ 19, 20 और 21 तारीख को ग्रान्ध के चीफ मिनिस्टर यहां दिल्ली में क्या कर रहे थे ? ... (ब्यवधान)

श्री एम० सत्यनारायण राव (करोमगंज)
आप के होम मिनिस्टर उस दिन हैदराबाद में थे । अगर आप इस तरह क्रिटिसाइज करते हैं तो हम बहुत कुछ कहेंगे ... ।

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Satyanarayan Rao, you are going to speak on this. If you do not want to speak and shout, then I cannot help.

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO: Sometimes shouting is necessary.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. no. it is not necessary.

श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, जहां पर दस दस दिन तक लोगों को पीने का पानी न मिले, दस दस दिन तक कोई लाशों को जलाने का प्रबन्ध न करे, जानवरों की लाशों पर चूना तक न डाले, जहां पर किसी को दवाइयां तक मुयस्सर न हों,

[श्री विजय कुमार मल्होत्रा]

वहाँ आप यह कह दें कि सब कुछ किया गया और बड़ा शानदार काम हुआ यह आने वाले समय के लिये बड़ा भयंकर सिद्ध हो सकता है, इसलिए मैंने यह बातें कहीं ।

मैं यह सुझाव देना चाहता हूँ कि यह जो सिस्टम है कि वहाँ पर सभी जगह जो कलेक्टर हैं, जो आई० सी० एस० या पी० सी० एस० आफिसर्स हैं, उन को दो दो तीन तीन साल के बाद तब्दील कर दिया जाय, इसे बदलने की जरूरत है । इन इलाकों के अन्दर जो अफसर होते हैं उन को तट पर आने वाले इस तरह के खतरों और तूफानों की जानकारी बहुत कम होती है और जब इनका हमेशा ट्रांसफर होता रहेगा और कोई आदमी वहाँ पर इस तरह का जानकार नहीं होगा जिस को यह मालूम हो कि किस प्रकार की विपत्ति यहाँ आती है, कैसे इवैक्यूएट होना चाहिए और किस तरह से उस को इन्फार्मेशन होनी चाहिए तो उस से बहुत नुकसान हो सकता है । मैं यह कहना चाहूँगा कि इस प्रकार की तटीय इलाकों में जो आफिसर हों उन की इस बारे में ट्रेनिंग हो और उनकी वहाँ पर परमानेंट अम्बाइंटमेंट हो ताकि उन को इस बारे में पूरी जानकारी रहे ।

यह ठीक है कि आज की हालत में दुनिया के अन्दर जो लेटेस्ट साइंटिफिक इन्वेस्टिगेशन हुई हैं उस के मुताबिक 24 घंटे से ज्यादा समय इस के बारे में नहीं मिल सकता कि 24 घंटे में किस प्वाइंट पर आकर यह साइक्लोन हिट करेगा । अगर यह स्थिति है तो 24 घंटे के अन्दर सारी मशीनरी को खड़ी करने का इंतजाम कैसे हो सकता है यह हमें सोचना पड़ेगा । वहाँ पर सड़कें हों, वहाँ इस प्रकार के पेड़ हों, और चार पांच घंटे की नोटिस पर आखीरी गांव तक लोग पहुंच सकें और

उन को इवैक्यूएट कर के किसी जगह ले जा सकें ये सब बातें उस के अन्दर आनी चाहिए। इसी के साथ वह चाहे मिलिट्री की हेल्प का सवाल हो या दूसरी हेल्प का सवाल हो इस सारी मशीनरी को गेयर करते और उस के लिए एक पूरा आपरेशन सिस्टम हमें बनाने की जरूरत है । यह ठीक है कि इस प्रकार एक विपत्ति मछलीपत्तनम में एक बार पहले आई और उस के बाद 110 साल बाद यह आई परन्तु छोटे मोटे तूफान उड़ीसा के तट पर, बंगाल में और बंगला देश में आते रहे हैं, उस के अन्दर हजारों की मृत्यु होती रही है । तो इस सारे सिस्टम को बैठ कर सोच कर उस के लिए मैक्सिमम इंतजाम करना चाहिए । यह सही है कि प्रकृति के तत्वों से मनुष्य पूरी तरह से निपट नहीं सकता, न उस से लड़ सकता है, लेकिन इन्सान जो कुछ कर सकता है वह करने की जरूरत है और फिर मैं यह कहना चाहता हूँ कि इस सवाल को बिना पार्टी का सवाल बनाए हुए सारे देश को इस में मदद करने के लिए प्रयत्न करना चाहिए ।

SHRI K. SURYANARAYANA (Eluru): Sir, first I want to express my gratitude to all Members of Parliament who have conveyed their sorrow and condolences to the members of the bereaved families on 21st November. I also want to express my thanks to the President of the Indian Republic who visited Andhra on 24th or 25th November, and also our Agriculture Minister, Shri Barnala, who visited the affected areas. They have got all first hand information. On 30th November, our Prime Minister visited personally and got all first-hand information. As the other friends have said, this should not be treated as a political issue. I was doubting why they were concentrating only on Andhra and were not taking so much interest in the case of Tamil Nadu and

Kerala where also people have suffered, though not as much as in Andhra. That is, perhaps, because, elections in Andhra Pradesh are coming. Some of the members of the ruling Party—not the entire Government—unfortunately want to exploit it and politicise the issue. I do not like that. That should not be there. My friend who spoke before me, in the first instance, made a political speech, but finally said—I am glad about it—that it should be treated as a national issue. The Government of India should help in every way and come to the rescue of the people there.

The recent cyclone was not a new thing for the Andhra coast. On October 13, 1679, a massive cyclone hit Masulipatnam and the neighbouring area; about 20,000 people were killed. In 1789 also, a violent inundation of the sea took place in the neighbourhood of the port of Coringa in the present East Godavari district. On April 15, 1752, the Vizagapatnam area was the target of a destructive cyclone: I think, 30,000 people died. Again on May 20, 1787, there was a cyclone in the East Godavari district. In December, 1789, a tidal wave swept the town of Coringa, East Godavari district, and 20,000 people perished. On November 19, 1879, a 'disastrous cyclone overtook Krishna district. One of the worst cyclones in history overwhelmed Masulipatnam on November 1, 1864. Coming to the present century, the Nellore cyclone of November 1, 1927, was very intense. In the Masulipatnam cyclone of October, 1949, about 10,000 people died. In 1969 also, there was a cyclone. And the latest happened on 19th November, 1977.

All these people may not know the seriousness or the gravity of the situation in the cyclone-affected areas. Immediately they say 'Andhra' and 'South India'. The issue should not be treated in this manner. We are not treating it like that. We are all Indians. We want this to be considered as a national issue. As Dr. Karan Singh said, if there is pain in any part,

the entire body feels the pain. Similarly if there is any calamity in any part of India, the whole nation suffers.

Our Chief Minister, after the Prime Minister's visit, has, in his letter, given all the details, and he has said that, whenever they wanted the assistance of Army, they had taken their help. But the loss of property suffered has not been given. The total crop loss in terms of area is 12.36 lakh hectares and the value is Rs. 35,512.40 lakhs. The fodder damaged in terms of quantity was 12.39 lakh tonnes and the value is Rs. 3,717 lakhs. Tobacco was also damaged. I am talking of the small farmers. The Land Mortgage Banks and the Reserve Bank have been kind enough to sanction loans. The number of tobacco barns damaged was 6,140 and the value was Rs. 1,200 lakhs. The area affected was about 20,000 hectares. The loss of fertilisers, seeds and pesticides in government godowns came to Rs. 18.88 lakhs. The loss of the Andhra Pradesh Seed Development Corporation is Rs. 1 crore. There are so many other people also. So, the rehabilitation assistance we require is Rs. 30500 lakhs and, again, a subsidy of Rs. 65.4 lakhs for tobacco barns and full subsidy for reclamation of saline lands. I have myself visited some areas in four or five districts and I was there for about a week. I have found that the small farmers and even big farmers will take two to three years to rehabilitate themselves. So, I would request the Prime Minister to give subsidy to them. In some places I have seen that the entire sugarcane crop over 15 to 20 acres has been affected. Such is the gravity of the situation there. Therefore, full subsidy for reclaiming sand-cast and saline lands to the tune of Rs. 700 lakhs should be given. The Prime Minister, who recently visited the place, has also said that money is not a problem, but the other day the Minister told me that only Rs. 5 crores from out of the Plan allocation has been given. This would not be helpful. Assistance outside the Plan should be given. This is a national

[Shri K. Suryanarayana]

calamity. Whatever the Andhra grow is not for the Andhras alone. We have surplus lands and last year there was no necessity for us to import from outside. We want to develop ourselves again: we want the farmers to be back on their fields and we want to give a fillip to the small industries.

There are some other figures I would like to give. The Andhra Government has already opened 199 camps for poor-feeding during the last 15 days. So many people from other countries and other States are also visiting the place even without the knowledge of or without the request of the Andhra Government. The number of persons rendered homeless, according to the official figures, is 30 lakhs but I think nearly 50 lakhs of people have been rendered homeless. The total damage to crops is Rs. 30 lakhs and odd and the loss of cattle and other livestock like goats, pigs etc. is nearly 5 lakhs.

All small farmers and agricultural labourers, particularly Harijans, had borrowed from nationalised banks to develop themselves, but even these people have lost their bullock-carts etc. So, all their loans taken from nationalised banks should be written off. During a calamity like this even private loans are asked to be written off. So, these loans which the agricultural labourers and Harijans had taken from nationalised banks should be written off.

Finally, I would like to quote from the letter written by the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister:

It would be a sad day if at a time when we should have utilised every minute of our time for the relief and rehabilitation of these unfortunate fellowmen we would be diverting our attention to explaining what we have done or failed to do. I sincerely believe that officials and non-officials and a number of voluntary agencies are presently working in spite of the most unfavourable

conditions with a high sense of missionary zeal and enthusiasm. I am sure you will agree that any diversion of attention at this juncture would not only demoralise these sincere and dedicated workers but also seriously hamper the progress of relief operations and we would have done a great dis-service to our countrymen.

So I would request all the Members who are visiting us (we welcome them and we will give them all facilities) not to make this a political issue. Elections are there, but there are so many other aspects also. Ninety per cent of our policies are the same and we differ only in the matter of implementation. We all want to help the poor man and get rid of corruption.

I would like to make a personal request to the Prime Minister kindly to consider the request of Chief Minister, Andhra Pradesh and rush to them all the help that is required at the present hour.

I have visited all the affected districts myself and seen their miserable plight. One of the immediate requirement of the farmers in these districts is fertilisers in terms of ammonia sulphate. Unless you rush them two hundred thousand tonnes of this fertilizer, they would not be able to grow their second crop. In my district, West Godavari alone, 70 per cent of the crop has already been harvested, and 30 per cent has been lost. For second crop, in my district, alone 1 lakh tonnes of fertilizers are needed. They have to grow again seed-beds. For that, I would request that free loans should be provided to them immediately.

In a calamity of this nature, you are providing for compensation for certain non-essential goods, but there is no insurance for the crops and for the cattle. We have been asking for that for the last twenty-three years, but this has not been provided. There

is no security for the agricultural community, and there is no security for the rural population. The carpenters, potters, black-smiths, fishermen etc. have all lost their implements. They need to be looked after immediately so that they can re-start their life. I would also request that crop insurance should be provided for with immediate effect.

Our people are not afraid of a cyclone, but this time it was an unprecedented calamity. There was no indication or warning about this impending calamity by the Meteorological Department regarding the tidal wave. The scientists have not been able to provide any satisfactory explanation for the fire seen in the sea. Let us not blame any Government or any official; they took the required precautions. The tidal wave covered an area of 500 square metres and you will appreciate that it is not possible to take all the required precautions in that short period even if there is an indication earlier about it.

We have seen that there have been a number of railway accidents in the country during the last few years. The Government and particularly the Railway Minister are very much worried about it. But can we ask them that as the Government is not able to check these railway accidents, they should resign? The fact is that somebody is behind these accidents and the Government will catch hold of them and punish them suitably. Therefore, I would request the Government to render all the assistance required by the Andhra Pradesh Government immediately and on war footing.

The problems created by the recent cyclones in the Southern States are beyond their limit. The Prime Minister has himself seen the devastation caused by this calamity. He is fortunately present here. I would once again request him and the Minister for Agriculture, let us not make it a party issue; it is a national issue and has to be tackled at national level. When

India fought against Pakistan, the Government and the then opposition, now the ruling party, all joined hands together to face that situation. That is why we have won. In this manner we did not discuss the matter. Mr. Morarji Desai also spoke on that day in support of the Government's action against Pakistan. In the same way, let us go jointly because we do not think of to-day only; we have to think of tomorrow and the day after. Otherwise, we could have exploited the situation. I want to exhibit the photos of the cyclone and the tidal havoc in the Central Hall with the permission of the Speaker. The photos will be coming in 2 or 3 days. If you see them, you will know what it is like—the cyclone havoc and the tidal havoc. People from other parts of the country will not easily believe that the Andhras have lost so much. As an instance to show how people are ignorant. I will tell you one incident. Some years ago some scientists and some engineers visited our place. They asked: 'Sir, how is the water getting into the coconut?' So, they are laymen and they do not know these things.

Please don't take advantage of this calamity in Andhra in a political way. Andhras may not be of the warrior race as you are, but they are a desperate people. Which way the wind will blow, you may not know.

I want to make a request. Please do not make other friends not to raise their voice. We are not for shouting, but because you speak something, our friends also shout.

I wish to express again our gratitude from our Andhra friends who have suffered. In one of the villages we visited, we saw people standing in a queue. They were taking Puliyodara—tarmarind rice. When I asked a lady, she immediately cried. She was also having 20 acres of land. She said, 'I am having 20 acres. What use? My children have all died.'

[Shri K. Suryanarayana]

That is why I am here in the queue. Sir, this is the plight to which our people have been reduced to.

Sir, with these words, I once again thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

SHRI SARAT KAR (Cuttack): I have nothing more to say. I stood because I gave my name in the list.

There was a similar cyclone of the same magnitude in Orissa in 1971 and I was then the Minister for Education and Cultural Affairs. There was the Congress Government in the Centre. So I know that it is unfortunate that when the cyclone has subsided there in that area, it is gathering momentum inside this House.

With due respect to the hon. Members, Dr. Karan Singh who visited the place chose to accuse our side that we are making it political, but to call us political is also not less political. That is why our Prime Minister has given his wise advice that this should not be discussed here and that we should start working rather than go on discussing it for hours and hours. However, I would like that a parliamentary team of both Janata and Opposition members should visit the area and see what sort of work is going on. It is ultimately the affected people who will decide who has done what. It is not unlikely that some Central Minister or the Prime Minister or any other leader who has visited the place might have found some inefficiency on the part of some government. It is rather delicate that there is the Janata Government in the centre and there is the Congress government in the State. In Orissa in 1971 we were the Utkal Congress government and there was the Congress government here. I think we did not drive about that. Probably Mr. Biju Patnaik was there in the Assembly and he was not in the government. The central government extended us assistance much later but the whole Cabinet and all

officials ran to the spot. It was really an unexpected calamity. Every school was converted into a hospital and every teacher went there. We patrolled the whole area and collected the rotting corpses and set fire to them. International and other national relief organisations reached there after a week or ten days and they had all praise for the work we did and that was the certificate we got unasked for. Whether the Andhra government rose to the occasion, or not, it will be decided afterwards. Because the elections are coming and because there is the Janata party government here, we are unnecessarily entering into controversies. So, let us stop here and now and thus far and no further. We must think of the short-term and long-term measures. Let an expert committee go—I am told the committee is already there. Let them assess and advise the government about the action to be taken. In the words of the Prime Minister, money will be no bar.

So, I do not want to take the valuable time of the House. I would only request our Minister for Agriculture, Sardar Surjit Singh Barnala to see that all assistance is given and whatever is asked for, is given. As we did in Orissa, all the hutments should be reconstructed and the rehabilitation work must start. But that is a long-term process but immediately the Ministry of Health should rush the necessary medical relief and all sorts of assistance should be rendered immediately and the sand-caped land has to be reclaimed and made suitable for cultivation and for that a long-term protection should be there. Our sea shore is not always prone to such an un-expected cyclone. The forests are necessary to protect from cyclone. Attention should be attracted for doing all these things. It is not a question of to-day or to-morrow, but for years together.

With these words I finish my speech. We must start the work.

SHRI V. ARUNACHALAM (Tirunelveli): Mr. Deputy Speaker, the cyclone in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu resulting in unprecedented loss of life and property has imposed heavy responsibility on the shoulders of the Centre and the respective State Governments.

It is a terrible national calamity. Therefore, at this time of distress the Government is propelled to mobilise all the resources and forces at its disposal to carry out relief and rehabilitation measures on war footing.

So far as the Government of Tamil Nadu is concerned, soon after the cyclone havoc, the Government machinery rushed to the spot with 4 Helicopters, one Dakota and two Avros to supply the immediate necessities to the victims in the affected area. Our Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivar, M.G.R. wherever it was not possible to travel by road due to floods, made aerial visits. He rushed to the other areas by car to succour the victims.

Then he deputed Honourable Ministers immediately to the affected areas to take all tangible relief measures without delay.

The staggering loss in men and material defies description. According to the available information in Press and Government nearly 600 persons lost their lives.

Kudaknar Dam recently constructed at the cost of Rs. 4 crores was washed away by the flood.

The dam constructed across Vallal Nathi was also swept away by the flood.

The standing crops over the area of 5.75 lakh acres have been affected extensively.

The crops in 1,20,000 acres in Tanjore and Trichy districts are totally lost.

Crops in 51,000 Acres have been submerged in the water. Lakhs and lakhs of plantation trees and coconut trees have been devastated by the tornado.

Nearly 4.05 lakhs of houses have been heavily damaged and 69,377 houses have collapsed.

Nearly 5400 transformers have been damaged by the fury of the cyclone. The 66 K. V. Massive transmission tower on Tiruvarur route has collapsed.

Almost all the land to the extent of nearly 5 lakh acres adjoining both sides of the rivers are silted up with mud. It requires several crores of rupees for desilting the land.

Out of 16400 irrigation tanks, 3818 tanks have been breached by the flood. Repairing them alone will cost Rs. 13 crores.

About 6450 kilometres length of roads belonging to National and State Highways Department and 1200 Kilometres of Panchayat and Union roads are affected by the flood and cyclone. There are 4509 breaches in Highways roads and 893 breaches in Panchayat roads.

18 major bridges, 667 culverts and 72 minor bridges were washed away. The cost of repairs to the roads, bridges and tanks damaged by the recent cyclone in Tamil Nadu are estimated to be over Rs. 30 crores.

All the colleges in Tiruchi town were submerged and marooned by flood waters for many days. Libraries, laboratories, everything was washed away in the flood which caused a loss of Rs. 1.5 crores.

Thanjavur had experienced the fury of cyclones and flood in 1900, 1852, 1855 and 1961.

Sir, since 1900, we have not come across a cyclone of such a virulent nature. Almost all river Cauvery, Kollidam, Vaikal, Amarayathi, Pennar,

[Shri V. Arunachalam]

Palar, Thambiraparani, Kadana Nadhi, Rama Nathi and Chitra Nathi were on spate. The river Cauvery carried the maximum designed capacity of around 1.82 lakhs cusecs of water in 1961. But, this time, it carried a little over 3 lakhs cusecs of water.

Never in the history of Tamil Nadu have we faced such a colossal loss of lives and property. The virulent hands of the cyclone have almost destroyed the coastal beauty of our land. A true friend never fails to come to rescue at the time of distress. Aply so, soon after the cyclone while our affected people were perching like birds on rooftops of buildings and trees and standing dazed with tears and tattered clothes in battered conditions, our President, Prime Minister and other Central Ministers visited the affected areas, to pat and pacify the victims. On behalf of the people of Tamil Nadu, especially, the victims of cyclone, I thank the President, the Prime Minister and all the other members who have visited the affected areas.

No doubt, our State Government has taken speedy and effective steps for relief and rehabilitation work. It has been duly acknowledged by all the celebrities. Shri Bahuguna, our Minister, who visited there has admired the work done by our Government. Sir, the Minister has in reply to a question, denied that Government or Government machinery did not act swiftly in meeting the situation caused by floods. They had taken all possible steps to meet the challenge and in providing succour to the affected people.

Sir, it will be more appropriate if I refer to what our Defence Minister, Mr Jagjivan commended about the relief work in Tamilnadu. Talking to newsmen at Raj Bhavan after his visit, he said:

"He found standing paddy crops in ripe stage submerged under flood

waters. In many places, he saw banana gardens, coconut and plantain graves and several small houses and huts destroyed".

"The Tamil Nadu Government and its officials had done a good job in providing relief to the victims as expeditiously as possible".

The eight-member Central study team under the leadership of Shri R. K. Saxena inspected all the affected areas and discussed with the officers and said:

I quote:

"The leader of the team, Mr. R. K. Saxena, told newsmen that their impression was that relief work had been provided in time, and the people were on the whole satisfied with the relief measures undertaken.

The State administration has left no stone unturned in giving relief to the affected people and we are very much impressed by the way the State Government has coordinated the relief work."

Sir, above all, the tribute given by our Prime Minister to the officers who have been entrusted with the burden of the relief work is noteworthy. He said to the correspondents at Madras airport and I quote:

"The spirit for social work evinced by the Tamil Nadu Government officials should be appreciated".

Sir, I am referring to all these things not for any pontification but just to state how our State Government has done its duty for the restoration of the normal life of the victims. We have done our best. At the same time we are not content with this immediate relief of this type. We want longterm permanent and constructive measures. That can be taken only with the help of the Centre.

In Tamil Nadu, the total lost amounts to nearly Rs. 200 crores. Now, the Government have proposed to spend

Rs. 100 crores for relief and rehabilitation work. At the same time, the Government at the Centre which is expected to share a heavy responsibility at the time of this national calamity and devastation will be guilty of dereliction of its duty if it does not rise to the occasion.

Expending Rs. 100 crores from the State Government's Exchequer is another havoc financially to the State Government. So, the Central Government must come forward to bear at least the major portion of the expenditure which is proposed to be spent by the State Government. The response from the Centre is not adequate. It has granted only Rs. 7 crores as advance towards the relief measures so far. The magnitude of the calamity and the stupendous task facing the State Government have been testified by the President, the Prime Minister and other Central leaders. The attitude of the Government granting money towards the relief work is far below what we expected eagerly to be. The Central Government have been repeatedly saying that money is not a problem. Help will be given. At the same time the Central Government is insisting on the principle of Sixth Finance Commission. I am quite sure without changing the principle of the Sixth Finance Commission it is highly impossible for this Government to help the State Government. We know the Central Government was generously granting money for relief measures but some States took undue advantage of it and magnified the factual position and manipulated the actual losses. As a result thereof the Sixth Finance Commission was forced to adopt a principle. But the present situation is a different one. It is accepted by all that it is a national calamity. Since it is a national calamity extraordinary consideration of the Central Government is indispensable. I want to know from the Central Government whether it is going to change the principle of the Sixth Finance Commission and whether our Prime Minister thinks that the principle of the Sixth Finance

Commission is based on wise policy. It is a challenge not only to our ability but also to our nobility and spirit of unity. That is why a change in the policy is necessary. I mentioned certain lapses and omissions and defects and faults not with an intention of making any charge but only to present our difficulties and sentiments which have not been duly realised by the Central Government. I know this is not the time to criticise or accuse anybody. It is a vital hour for lending a helping hand. Therefore, with folded hands I beg to the Central Government to change the principle of the Sixth Finance Commission to wipe out the rolling tears from the cheeks of millions and millions of people. If the Central Government with an annual income of Rs. 12,000 crores fails to resuscitate the normal life of the victims, don't think your inability will be established; instead your irresponsibility and indifference will be exposed to the world.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN (Madras South): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, my colleague and comrade Arunachalam has given details of the losses that had occurred in Tamil Nadu. The difficulty that arose in Tamil Nadu was that there was continuous rain before the cyclone. Then there was a cyclone and it was followed by continuous rain thereafter accentuating the difficulties even of relief measures. The cyclone affected the coastal areas and devastated the whole place. Floods affected Tirucharpalli district and completely submerged two major cities, namely, Tirucharapalli and Srirangam. The Kodagarar dam burst completely submerged the Vedasundur area and hundreds of lives were lost. Now, it is because of the floods and the cyclone coming together that the problem was accentuated and the losses have become very acute and severe. When we went round and saw those areas we found that misery was writ large on the faces of the people which cannot be described.

Sir, I must at the outset pay my tribute to the Tamil Nadu Government

[Shri R. Venkataraman]

for the prompt and effective action which they took. Sir, I do not belong to that party, but certainly where good work is done, it must be acknowledged. The Government immediately took steps not only to rush relief measures to those places but what they did was even more effective work by way of evacuating the people from the coastal areas and then finding them shelter in view of the oncoming cyclone. There was a heated discussion a few minutes ago about the provision of relief measures by the Andhra Government in the cyclone affected areas. If one had looked at the chronology of events, one would understand that even on the 19th till 4 O'clock — that afternoon — the Meteorological department said that the cyclone was hitting the Madras City coast and all the people in the Madras city, people particularly living in the coastal areas, particularly in the Foreshore Estates and other places, should be compelled to move out of that place. In fact, when people were reluctant to move out, electricity was cut and they were compelled to move out of those places. It was only after 4 O'clock in the evening—sometime at about 6 O'clock or so — they said that the course of the cyclone had changed and that it was going to hit the Andhra coastal districts of Nellore, Vijayawada and Masulipatnam. So, it would be wrong to say that the information was given earlier in respect of the severity of the attack, in respect of Andhra. Every body was fearing and feeling apprehensive that it was going to hit the Madras coast and all the precautions were taken only against the cyclonic devastation in the Madras area. Therefore there is no use of shifting the burden on one side or the other, shifting the blame on one side or the other. It is better that we devote ourselves to the task of rehabilitation. The Tamil Nadu Government also did a very nice thing. The roads were blocked with the uprooted trees and communications had become comple-

tely impossible. Normally, in Government, we would announce a date on which those trees would be auctioned and then on that particular date auction would be held. The highest bidder will have to cut and take the trees. This will take at least 15 days to one month and during that period, the entire road would be blocked and the communication would be affected. The Tamil Nadu Government said "anybody who wants to cut and carry away the trees can do so". By this the entire road block was cleared within 24 hours. I mention this because in future the Government may take a lesson from this. Of course, by this process, they might have violated the rules. Perhaps they may even be charged by the Public Accounts Committee for not following the usual procedure as laid down in the rules for disposing of the trees. But by doing what they did, it enabled the restoration of the communication system and relief measures could be rushed to various areas as quickly as possible.

I do not want to repeat the figures which my friend Mr. Arunachalam has given. But I would say what should be done in future. The need for work is imminent, urgent and necessary so far as the agricultural lands are concerned. There is already the report of the Tamil Nadu Government that thousands of acres of land have been silted with sand and they have got to be reclaimed. I would appeal to the Government to request the Reserve Bank of India to take immediate action through the Land Development Banks for affording the necessary relief for the purpose of reclamation of the land. We do not want the Central Government to give any aid. The people who own lands do not want any help in that way. All that they want is that immediate credit should be available on a long term basis spread over 15 to 20 years so that they can reclaim their land and then make them cultivable. Many lands will not

be able to raise a second crop in this or the next season. On account of that it is possible that food production in Tanjore district will go down. My appeal to the government is that immediate instructions be given to the Reserve Bank to give liberal loans through land development banks for the purpose of land reclamation.

The second thing is, crops have been destroyed and the Tamilnadu government, I am sure, will give revenue remission. I would suggest that the levy may be suspended in Tanjore district. That is the area where crops have been completely submerged; the whole crops have been destroyed. It is not proper to continue the levy in that district where there has been so much destruction. Whatever little is available will be distributed among the people in the district and levy is causing a great deal of hardship. When I went round the district they said: at least save us from the levy for this particular harvest; the next harvest you can have levy and for that we have no objection. But so far as this harvest is concerned, the levy must be immediately withdrawn.

With regard to loans, I may say that the loss has been so great that they would not be able to repay this even in the future. If they could not write off any instalment and the interest, at least the interest thereon for this particular year should be written off. Unless they write off the interest, the accumulated interest and interest on interest carried over for ten or 15 years will become three times the amount and the burden will increase so much that they will not be able to bear. So at least the interest due on cooperative and other loans for this year may be written off.

Next seriously affected area is plantations. In Tanjore district we have a large number of coconut, banana, betel-vine plantations. All those trees which have been standing for ten years or even 50 years, were lying prostrate

when I went round, paying homage to the cyclone God who had destroyed them. They cannot be put up again; they will have to be planted again and loan and subsidy will have to be given for replanting both. A subsidy of about Rs. 300—500 per acre is necessary to support new and fresh plantations and bring them up.

I would also suggest that there should be a moratorium on these loans. A coconut starts yielding after ten years and if a person is asked at the end of the second or third year the instalment and the interest it is a sure way of ruining him. In respect of those crops which take a long gestation period to yield, particularly coconuts, a moratorium for payment may be given. The cattle lost has been considerable. People in the district, when I went round asked for small loans of Rs. 200 or 300. I do not know; the other side may be allergic to the twenty point programme but so far as we are concerned, we had implemented the twenty point programme in Tamilnadu so effectively and got loans to the poor people from the banks to carry on small trade, small business and so on. With the result that when I went round this time they asked me to get again the very same loans. I told them that the government had changed and I could no longer get it. They said: you are the person who got it the last time; why don't you get it again. Therefore, I should like some of my friends there to come to Tanjore district in Tamilnadu and see how people there appreciated small loans given by the banks to them to carry on small business and trade.

The next item is houses. About five lakhs of houses—that was the figure given to me by the government—have been destroyed and a house on an average costs anything between 500 and 5000. If you put it at an average of Rs. 2000, the loan required would be of the order of Rs. 100 crores. There again, no subsidy is required. All that we want is a liberal aid by

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the Reserve Bank, in the form of long term loans so that they may rebuild and repair the houses. In Tamil Nadu, during my time, I had started an institution known as the House Mortgage Banks. There are financial institutions to provide credit for building houses, but there are no societies for helping people to repair the houses. We have started one such society and the result was we could help from the Reserve Bank for the purpose. That institution may be revived not only here but all over the country and people may be helped to rebuild the houses, repair the houses with the help of loans given by the Reserve Bank.

The next point is, in Tiruchirapalli, as I said, rivers Cauvery and Coleroon joined together. In fact they were separated and Lord Ranganatha stays in the middle. The name 'Srirangam' stays because of the encircling of the God by the two rivers. The temple and the neighbouring areas were all submerged under water. Both the rivers came together. I would like to mention that the five Colleges viz., Seethalakshmi Ramaswamy College, Holycross College, St. Joseph college, Bishop Heber College and the National College, have suffered such a damage that the Vice-Chancellor of the Madras University, who visited that place, had estimated that the loss would be of the order of Rs. 1.5 crores. He has already written to the UGC and has asked for assistance in this regard. I would like the UGC to give a sympathetic consideration to this and give all possible help. Otherwise, it will be very difficult for these institutions to run. Lastly, there is a United Nations Distress Relief Organisation (UNDRO) which gives relief to various countries when they are affected by disasters of this kind, flood, fire and so on. It would be a good idea to approach this international organisation for relief in this regard.

श्री गंगा सिंह (मडी) : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे जो भाई आन्ध्र प्रदेश, तमिलनाडु, केरल और पाण्डिचेरी में रहते हैं, उन के ऊपर एक महान दैवी प्रकोप आ पड़ा है, जिस के परिणामस्वरूप लगभग 20 हजार हमारे भाई बहन, और बच्चे मारे गये हैं। उन की जान और माल का बहुत नुकसान हुआ है, उन के पास न खाने को कोई चीज है, न मवेशी है और न कोई दूसरे साधन है। यह ऐसी विपदा है जो न केरल राज्य सरकार पर है, न केवल केन्द्रीय सरकार पर है, बल्कि सारे देश के ऊपर यह विपदा आई है और सारे देश को इकट्ठा हो कर इस का मुकाबला करना है।

हमें इस बात की बड़ी ख़ुशी है कि हमारी केन्द्र की सरकार और हमारी प्रदेशों की सरकारें जितना भी उन से हो सकता था, इस का मुकाबला करने की कोशिश कर रही हैं। इस विपदा की घड़ी में किसी भी प्रकार की राजनीति में जाना मैं समझता हूँ—गलत होगा। हमारी सरकार और हमारी पार्टी की ओर से ऐसा कोई भी प्रयत्न नहीं किया गया है कि इस विपदा के कारण किसी भी प्रकार का राजनीतिकलाभ उठाया जाय। आज तो सारे देश से यह आशा की जाती है कि सब इकट्ठे हो कर इस का मुकाबला करें हमारा देश एक बहुत बड़ा देश है, हमारी आबादी 60 करोड़ है, आज यदि पचास लाख आदमियों पर यह विपदा आई है तो सब को इकट्ठे हो कर इस का मुकाबला करना है। हालांकि यह विपदा बहुत बड़ी है, लेकिन इतन बड़े महान देश में यदि 60 करोड़ की आबादी 10-10 रुपय भी इकट्ठे करें तो इस विपदा का मुकाबला किया जा सकता है। पहले बंगला देश के बहुत से शरणार्थी यहां हमारे देश में आए थे और उस समय सारा देश सहाय्यार्थ इकट्ठा हो गया था और सारे देश ने उन की सहाय्यता की। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि अगर सरकार के पास पर्याप्त धन नहीं है, तो जिस प्रकार बंगला

देश के शरणार्थियों की स्थिति के मौके पर एक डाक टिकट करके रूप में लगाया था, उसी प्रकार से अब भी धन इकट्ठा किया जाए और और मैं यह चाहता हूँ कि साइक्लोन से कितनी भी क्षति हुई है चाहे सड़कें टूटी हों, चाहे मकान टूट हों भूमि बही हो अथवा दूसरी चीजों को क्षति हुई हो, जिस स्थिति पर यहां वस्तुएं पहले थीं, उसी स्थिति पर वे अब भी बननी चाहियें। इस अवसर पर नार्थ, साऊथ और दलगत भेदभाव नहीं होना चाहिए। इस भेदभाव को मिटाकर इस विपदा का मुकाबला करना चाहिए।

16.56 hrs.

[Shri D. N. TIWARI, in the Chair]

पुराने जमाने में भी दैवी प्रकोप आते थे और चाहे किसी भी प्रकार का प्रकोप, उस की जिम्मेदारी उस समय के राजा लेते थे। भले ही दैवी प्रकोप हो लेकिन जिम्मेदारी राजा अपने उपर स्वीकार करते थे। मेरे कुछ दोस्तों ने यह बात उठाई है कि ठीक समय पर खतरे की सूचना नहीं दी गई। मैं यह समझता हूँ कि ठीक समय के ऊपर अगर सूचना दे भी जाती और उस के ऊपर सरकार पूरा अमल करती, तब भी विनाश जरूर होता, हो सकता है कि कुछ कम होता। इसलिए हमें इस बात में नहीं पड़ना चाहिए कि किसी ने ठीक काम किया है या नहीं किया है। इन बातों को तो बाद में जब हम रिलीफ वर्क्स पूरा कर लेंगे तब देख लेंगे और तय कर लेंगे कि किस ने पूरा काम किया या नहीं किया। आज तो जो विनाश हुआ है, उस को हमें दूर करना है और जो रिलीफ वर्क्स हैं, उन को पूरा करना है। उन को पूरा कर लेने के बाद हम लेखा-जोखा कर लेंगे कि किस ने पूरा काम किया है और किस ने नहीं किया है। इसलिए मैं सभी सदस्यों और देश के लोगों से यह प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि इस स्थिति में वे वहां के लोगों की सहायता करें। सारा देश इस रिलीफ कार्य में रत है। छोटे-छोटे बच्चे केरल के लिए और तल्लिमाडु

2856 LS—12.

की सहायता के लिये पैसा इकट्ठा कर रहे हैं। मैं हिमाचल प्रदेश से हूँ। हिमाचल प्रदेश के बच्चे और हिमाचल प्रदेश के दूसरे आदमी भी और दूसरे कार्यकर्ता और संस्थायें, इस रिलीफ काम में जुटे हुई हैं—वैसे ही सारा भारत। मैं दक्षिण भारत के मित्रों को यह विश्वास दिलाता हूँ कि जितनी हमदर्दी आप लोगों को साइक्लोन पीड़ित लोगों से है, उतनी ही भावना, उतनी ही वेदना और उतना ही दर्द नार्थ के लोगों को भी उन के प्रति है और जिस जिस चीज की जरूरत होगी, उस को देने की हम कोशिश कर रहे हैं। सरकार हमें आदेश दे, सरकार जनता को आदेश दे कि हमें इस दैवी प्रकोप का मुकाबला करना है। सारा देश उस के लिए तैयार है, सारा देश उस के लिए एक है।

इन शब्दों के साथ मैं आप को धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि आप ने मुझे बोलने का मौका दिया और जो लोग साइक्लोन में मारे गये हैं, क्षतिग्रस्त हुए हैं उन के लिए संवेदना प्रकट करता हूँ।

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirappalli): Sir, I do not want to take the time of the House by going into details of the losses suffered as a result of the cyclonic havoc in Tamilnadu, Andhra Pradesh and other places. Previous speakers have given the details. Speaking about Tamilnadu, the details given by Shri Arunachalam and Shri R. Venkaraman are only based on the facts given by the administration and even the administration admits that the facts are not complete. So, the losses may be still more.

17.00 hrs.

What we have to do for the future is more important than what we say about the losses suffered. This tragedy is something like an external aggression. If there is a threat of aggression, we expect the whole nation to stand united and face the aggression. Like that, nature also has its own way

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of threatening especially our Southern coast. Geography cannot be changed. Our peninsula is under tropical zone. The tropical seas have their own behaviour. We have to learn to live with cyclones of the Bay of Bengal, of the Indian Ocean and of the Arabian Sea. We have to prepare our people and we have to prepare our administration for that.

Some hon. Members were saying that the Andhra Government was not doing the correct thing or doing a wrong thing. Even when the relief work has been done properly, what are the steps taken by way of preventive measures? Except for some administrative measures taken in Kerala, nothing was done by way of preventive measures in both Tamil Nadu and Andhra, although the warning was given. We have to admit that our meteorological system has made tremendous advance during the past 15 years of our Independence in spite of the hangover of the colonial rule of more than two centuries. Before Independence, the function of the meteorological system was giving information to mercantile ships of the British Government or for some limited purpose. Today it has advanced. It is called upon to perform very important functions with regard to agriculture, civil aviation, shipping and so many other things. It has become part of the economic life of the country. They have done some useful work also. There were cyclones previously, as explained by some hon. Members. Nowadays the newspapers are also doing some useful work by diving into the archives and bringing out the facts regarding the various cyclones in the past. But recently there were two big cyclones, one in Orissa in 1971 and the other in Andhra Pradesh in 1970. At that time, at the initiative of the Central Government, Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committees have constituted, one in 1970 and the other in 1971. The reports of those Committees are there. What was done on the basis of those reports? Those

Committees have made very valuable suggestions for precautionary measures when there is a cyclone threat. They have recommended the steps to be taken before the commencement of cyclone season, during the cyclone season and after the cyclone season. Some guidelines are there as to what should be done. Even with regard to these recommendations, I think they are still in the library records. A decision has not been taken on these recommendations. But this is not the responsibility of the Meteorological Department. Other departments must come together and take a decision and give guidelines to the district administration. If there is a break-down of law and order, the District Collector knows what he is expected to do. If there is a declaration of Emergency, he knows what he has to do. If there is a famine, he knows what he has to do. But if there is a devastation on such a colossal scale due to cyclone and tidal wave, the District Collectors are unable to know what they are expected to do. But it is left to the district administration or the State Government. I think the Government of India should prepare the State Administrations and the Defence forces—especially the Navy—and other wings of Administration, as also the people, to face such calamities bravely in advance. There are several suggestions. The resident has now repeated these suggestions; and the Prime Minister has also done it. It is good that at least now they remember it. Let the losses suffered by our country and the lives lost by us be a warning for the future. Let us not be talking about it as a calamity and a tragedy, let us transform this tragedy and calamity into a opportunity for national re-construction and for saving the coastal areas in the future. That should be the attitude of the Government of India. Of course, the Minister who is going to reply, alone cannot take the responsibility. All the concerned Ministers should sit together, and think of working out a scheme for the prevention of such a calamity.

I now come to relief and rehabilitation. Some experiments have taken place; and some more experiments are yet to take place. Although in the World Meteorological Conference, the Western delegates declined the proposal of the Indian delegation to construct a centre for the study and analysis of the tropical cyclones tidal waves and storms, because they are not interested, and they will be interested only in constructing naval and atomic bases in our Ocean, and not in the construction of bases for defending our country against the cyclones—our meteorological system has conducted one experiment in 1963, and again in 1973 with Soviet collaboration—Indo-Soviet experiment, as it is called. In April 1977, there was another experiment called the Monex 1977. Again in 1979, they are going to have the Monex i.e. Monsoon Experiment, with the help of the Soviet meteorologists and ships and also of Indian scientists. This cooperation is a good augury for the future. These experiments will help us to study the behaviour of the seas and especially of the Bay of Bengal, Arabian Sea and the Indian Ocean, and will be of immense help to our meteorologists to forecast not only in the routine manner, but even to fore warn more precisely about cyclonic storms, and even tidal waves. It is possible. Theoretically, scientists agree that it is even possible to attack the cyclone and mitigate its devastation. Theoretically, science has advanced so much. But we have yet to devise the mechanism for the practical implementation of that method. Let us think in terms of how to give protection to our country against these natural calamities, which have almost become frequent. Of one studies the history of cyclonic storms during the past century and more, one will find that the cyclone has become a habitual visitor to one part or the other of our country. I suggest that money should be spent on these projects also. Money should not be a problem for these projects.

Coming to the problem of relief and rehabilitation of the affected States, the Central team has gone there, and the Ministers of course would have gone there, to console the affected people and to give them encouragement. It is good; but what is needed is money. The State Governments resources are very thin. For four years we were suffering from drought in Tamil Nadu. Even three months ago we were clamouring for drought relief. This is so sudden that the whole thing has changed and now we have to ask for help for reclamation of sand-capped land, replantation of banana trees and coconut groves, reconstruction of damaged dams and breached bunds of the rivers. As at present, the estimate comes to nearly Rs. 200 crores. The State Government by itself cannot meet this large expenditure. Even if the amount is allotted from the Plan allocation, the economy of the State will suffer, it has already suffered.

Out of 15,000 tanks, 3,000 important tanks have been washed away. Many villages in Mr. Subramaniam's constituency have been wiped out, you cannot see them. That has happened in Trichy also. The whole economy of the State, agriculture, industry, all are affected. More than that, the builders of the nation—the fishermen, the handloom weavers, lakhs of agricultural labourers, small traders and workers in factories — are in distress. It is not charity that is needed. The nation owes a duty to this section of the people whose labour it has exploited and built big houses and bungalows. In the same affected areas, well-built houses have not suffered much loss.

In places like Srirangam and Tiruchirappalli as also Nagapattinam, no section of the people has been left out; even temples and gods have not been spared. Everybody was subjected to severe loss. Small traders, merchants, peasants, bidi and cigarette workers, all have suffered.

This requires a big programme of relief. The Tamil Nadu Government

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is doing its best within its resources. The help given is not adequate. The devotion with which the administration is discharging its duty should be acknowledged. Voluntary organisations are also coming forward to help. I must, from this House, acknowledge the services rendered by several voluntary organisations immediately after the cyclone. Particular mention should be made of the public sector undertaking Bharat Heavy Electricals. Thousands of young, trained workers went into action with some make-shift boats to save the people hanging on to trees and house-tops. Their services should be acknowledged and appreciated.

I would appeal to the Government to stand by the promise made by the hon. Prime Minister that money will not be a problem, but it should be given in time, within three months. Our people do not want to beg and stand in a queue for a handful of rice or anything like that. They are prepared to work, give them work. Let them go and build roads and houses, close the breaches, reconstruct the damaged dams. Labour is available, and the work is there. Please put both together with some adequate grant and let these people look after the construction.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN (Ernakulam): Mr. Chairman, an unprecedented calamity has befallen our country. That the recent killer cyclone caused death and destruction only in certain regions of the country does not detract from the national character of the disaster. In fact, the immensity and intensity of this disaster was such that it has evoked international concern and sympathy. It is an irony of fate that a depression that started in the Bay of Bernal in the second week of last month, soon developed into a cyclone and lashed at several States of our Union. My esteemed colleague, Dr. Karan Singh, who headed a Congress Parliamentary Party delegation to the cyclone hit areas, has presented before this House a graphic picture of the situation as

he and his team found and assessed. I, therefore, do not want to go into details of the various areas where this cyclone has hit and caused terrific destruction and damage in terms of human lives lost, destruction of cattle, property and standing crops and dislocation of traffic and communication, which is unprecedented. Although the destruction was of such a magnitude, the Central Government has not taken that much of interest which it ought to have taken. I do not want to make a political exploitation of the misery of the people involved in this tragedy; but is it right on the part of the Central Government to leave this entirely to the States with their meagre resources especially when some of the States had to undertake similar relief work only three or four months before? I would come to that aspect later. The details of loss sustained by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu have been presented by hon. Members who spoke from those States.

I would like to say something about the loss sustained by my State, Kerala. In the background of heavy losses in terms of human lives, property, etc. sustained by Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, we may not come into the picture in that big way. As a matter of fact, at a meeting held in Kerala, on this problem of cyclone and the devastation it has caused in Kerala, people raised the question why the Kerala Government did not give due publicity to the destruction in Kerala but it was explained by the Ministers that they did not want to highlight the losses because they were struck and shocked by the thousands of lives lost in the neighbouring States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and their hearts and sympathies went out to those people, people accepted that view. Such was the national concern that was shown about this tragedy. However, the loss sustained and the anguish and travail of our people in Kerala should not be lost sight of. I am reading from a handout issued by the State of Kerala regarding the damage caused

to the State. According to the Chief Minister's statement, the damages caused have been of the order of Rs. 10,30,43,000/-. The number of houses destroyed was 8492 and the loss in terms of money was Rs. 2,71,74,000. The number of houses damaged was 19,863. The crop area destroyed was 38,400 acres and the crop area damaged was 52,500 acres. Number of fishing vessels lost was 110 and the number of fishing vessels damaged was 735.

It must be said to the credit of the State of Kerala that they had given a sufficient warning about the cyclone to the people. Not only they had given a warning to the people but they had deputed a large police force all along the coast since the 9th of last month when we had a big land-slide at Palghat where some people lost their lives. They heeded the advice given by the Meteorological Department and posted policemen all along the coast. They prohibited the poor fishermen who were living from hand to mouth from going to the sea. If they had not taken those precautionary measures, certainly, the loss in terms of human life and property would have perhaps exceeded what other States have suffered.

Thanks to the blue revolution that has taken place in Kerala in the last decade and in the neighbouring States, Kerala has a fleet of about 7,000 fishing boats. The total number of people engaged in the fishing industry comes to 3-4 lakhs. All of them would have been in the sea. Probably everyone would have been killed. We had taken enough precautionary measures. That is why our loss in terms of human life is not that much. We are thankful to God. And yet we had a loss of 80 persons and 62 persons were missing. We have not yet been able to trace the missing persons.

The Government and a number of voluntary organisations have plunged into relief and rehabilitation work. The figures that I have given earlier are exclusive of the cost of remedial measures, relief and rehabilitation expenses, dislocation, loss of employment, etc. For the last three weeks,

the fishermen have not been going to the sea. There has been a huge loss in terms of foreign exchange that could have been earned during the last three weeks. They are earning about Rs. 500-600 crores in terms of foreign exchange by way of export of sea food alone. This is the situation in Kerala. The Government has taken remedial steps which have been channelised through the following categories.

Grant of free ration. About 32,000 people have been evacuated from the coastal area. We have stopped fishing operations in that area. We had to see that free ration is distributed to the suffering people particularly the fishermen who are the most vulnerable section of the people and also to those people who are living below the poverty line. That has cost about Rs. 70 lakhs. We are still distributing free ration. Then, famine relief works have already been started. Assistance to those people whose houses have been destroyed; assistance to those persons whose houses have been damaged; assistance regarding mechanised boats lost or damaged. Each mechanised boat costs about Rs. One lakh and more. 400 such boats have been lost or damaged. We are giving assistance regarding country craft lost or damaged; we are taking up anti-sea erosion measures, repairs to roads and communications; ex-gratia assistance in the case of deaths and persons missing for more than two weeks and minor irrigation works.

For all these measures, we require about Rs. 5 crores and odd. We have already taken up measures to meet this calamity. I do not want to go into any more details because the time at my disposal is very short.

The problem that Kerala is facing today is on two fronts. One is the terrible and chronic sea erosion. We have to launch a massive anti-sea erosion work. That is our primary concern. Second is the problem of frequent land-slides. As early as on the 9th of last month, there was a big land-slide at Palghat where there was a considerable of human life and

[Dr. Henry Austin]

damage to agricultural lands. In Mr. Stephen's constituency, land-slides have taken place and agricultural operations have been completely paralysed resulting in the loss of money in terms of foreign exchange because a number of cash crops like pepper, cardamom, rubber and tea that are grown there have been completely damaged.

I would now like to suggest some measures we should take to meet the situation in future. Dr. Karan Singh has made certain proposals. I would like to endorse them and add a few more. It is imperative that instead of always going in for short-term measures, we think in terms of long-term measures. My first suggestion in this regard is to form a National Calamity Prevention and Mitigation Board.

We have been seeing these natural disasters for the last several centuries. As a matter of fact the entire Caromondal coast is cyclone-prone. If you trace the history of the last 500 years, you will find that it has recurred all along. When I was going through some papers about it, I found that in the early 19th Century an entire French fleet which was besieging Madras against the English was destroyed by the cyclone. Even in the European records, they have recorded about the appearance of cyclone on the East Coast of India. It is important that we take care of this situation on this entire East Coast where cyclones are recurring every now and then.

A Natural Calamity Mitigation Board should be constituted. It is important that we should associate not only the Central Government and the State Governments but also the voluntary associations on this Board. Additional radar facilities are to be installed on the coastal region, particularly on the East coast. The science of meteorology has acquired new sophistications in recent years. The World Weather Watchman Programme or the World Meteorological Organisation has developed sophisticated equipments to detect and track cyclones. Mr. Kalyanandaram has earlier pointed that there are scientific ways to even break

the cyclonic clouds. By employing new scientific ways we can prevent cyclonic storms.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): Who said that?

AN HON. MEMBER: Mr. Suryanarayana.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: It is important that we should acquire certain modern equipments of the above mentioned type and fit them all along the coast, particularly in Machilipatnam on the Caromondal coast.

In advanced countries, they also keep what you call, a reconnaissance plane. These planes always remain on the coastal regions. They detect these disasters and pass on this information to the meteorological regional centres for computer forecast. Some of these arrangements are already there, but they are perhaps in a rudimentary stage. We have got to pump in a lot of money and make it up-to-date so that we could do something about this recurring phenomenon.

In my own constituency, we have about 12,000 people now evacuated from coastal areas and most of them are poor fishermen, agricultural workers and others. They are being lodged in schools and other government buildings. Now, we should think in terms of constructing permanent RCC shelters all along the coastal region and other storm prone areas so that we could accommodate these people. On other occasions, they could be utilized for other public purposes. Now the educational institutions are closed all along the coastal region. We should go in for permanent shelters to be constructed all along these areas.

I suggest that immediate steps should be taken to start anti-sea erosion work. I had raised this matter several times in the Fifth Lok Sabha and the Government was good enough to depute Dr. Rao, the then Minister. He has submitted a report to the Central Government in which he has said that if we invest Rs. 40 crores then the entire vulnerable section on coastal belt of Kerala could be protected

from sea erosion. This amount is not much when compared to the loss that we sustain every year from these sea erosions.

In the Quilon area, there are huge accumulations of rare earths like ilmenite, monosite, rutile and sircon. These are varieties of rare earths which are used for atomic energy. In fact, in my childhood, I had found hills of these rare earths along the coast. Today, most of them have been washed away by sea erosion. If we had only protected these rare earth, the nation would have become richer. In terms of present calculation, it is worth about Rs. 3-4,000 crores. If you compare it with the huge loss that we are incurring every year by sea erosion, the cost of remedial measures would be negligible. Therefore there should be sea walls constructed in areas, vulnerable to sea erosion. Otherwise, entire Kerala would be lost. You know the myth about Kerala. The myth was that Kerala was formed by Lord Parusrama throwing an axe into the sea. In other words, it has come out of the sea. Now, the Sea God will take it back if it is not protected. The State itself will be lost if we cannot find Rs. 40 crores to construct sea walls. That is another problem. Kerala is a land of coconut trees. Each coconut tree costs about Rs. 300. About 10,000 coconut trees have fallen all along the coast during the disaster last month. The name of 'Kerala' itself originated from the word 'Kerum' that is coconut trees. Keral means land of coconut trees. If all the coconut trees are allowed to fall like this, the name of Kerala itself will have to be changed.

I want to make yet another suggestion. There should be drainage channels from the coastal region to the back-water or to the rivers in the interior, so that when there are tidal waves, water could be canalised and thrown into the back-water or the interior rivers.

One more suggestion. In Japan they have developed a technology for

preventing sea-erosion, that is, by growing a particular kind of tree along the coastal belt—I think it is mangrove—whose roots take firm hold on the sea-coast. That is the Japanese method of preventing soil—and sea-erosion. That method should be tried here.

I think, I have taken too much time. Our sympathies go out to the people of Andhra Pradesh where the greatest human tragedy has been caused by the tidal waves. The Government of Andhra Pradesh are doing their best to alleviate the sufferings of the people. As pointed out by Dr. Karan Singh, in the best traditions of the Congress, our Party has also plunged our heart and soul into the relief and rehabilitation work. In Tamil Nadu also, the Government have done well. Some voluntary organisations also have done good work there.

I would be failing in my duty if I failed to mention a word about Laccadives, our neighbour and also Pondicherry. In neither of these Resolutions, mention has been made about Laccadives, which is my neighbour—separated only by sea-water. Terrific destruction has been caused there and also in Pondicherry. Our sympathies go out to the people there. I am sorry, the hon. Minister has not visited Kerala, Madras, Pondicherry and Lakshadive. I hope, he will make a personal visit to those places and make an on-the-spot study.

I am sure, this discussion will have highlighted the concern, anxiety and anguish of the people of this country—not only of this country but of the whole world—on the problem and that it will do some good to alleviate the sufferings of the people affected by the cyclonic storm and also to make the Government take long-term measures if possible to prevent and checkmate these disasters.

श्रीमती प्रतिभा श्री० संजयकर (उत्तर-प्रदेश):
उत्तर-प्रदेश) : सभापति महोदय, हमारे कर्नाट, तमिलनाडु, आन्ध्र प्रदेश, पाण्डिचेरी और लक्षद्वीप पर जो आपत्ति आई है, यदि कोई

[श्रीमती ग्रहिल्या पी० रांगनेकर]

इस का वर्णन करने लगे तो लफज ही खत्म हो जायेंगे। कोई भी शरूस वहां पर कितनी हानि हुई है, लोगों को कितना दुख पहुंचा है—इस के बारे में पूरे तरीके से वर्णन नहीं कर सकता है। मैं कुछ गांवों का उदाहरण दूंगी—किसी गांव में 400 की आबादी थी, तो वहां 388 मर चुके हैं। किसी में 200 की आबादी थी तो 150 मर चुके हैं। किसी में 900 की आबादी थी तो वहां 786 मर चुके हैं। ऐसे बहुत से देहात हैं जहां कुछ भी बाकी नहीं बचा है। घर तो सब खत्म हो गये, खेती के लिये वहां केवल लाशें पड़ी हुई हैं।

सभापति महोदय, यह समस्या इतनी बड़ी है कि कोई भी एक सरकार उस के लिये कुछ कर नहीं सकेगी, आज सचमुच हमारा राष्ट्रीय कर्तव्य है—पूरा नेशन एक साथ मिल कर आगे आये, तब यह काम पूरा हो सकता है। इस लिये मैं यह समझती हूँ कि इस में जानबूझ कर किसी तरह की कोई पोलिटिक्स नहीं लानी चाहिये। मुझे हमारे डा० कर्ण सिंह जी से यही कहना है कि अगर इस में कोई पोलिटिक्स लाये है तो आप ही की पार्टी के लोग लाये हैं। हमारे बम्बई के गवर्नर ने एक मीटिंग बुलाई थी, वहां आप की स्टेट की एक सोशल वर्कर, जो एक्स-ए-०एल० है, आई थी। उन्होंने वहां कहा कि हम खुद जीप से देहात में गये, लेकिन हमारे चीफ मिनिस्टर कहते हैं कि हमारी जीप नहीं जा सकती है। उन्होंने यह भी कहा है कि तीन, चार दिनों तक लोगों के पास कोई पहुंचा नहीं है। मेरे सामने नागा-लंका पंचायत के सरपंच का स्टेटमेंट है। उस ने कहा है कि 20 हजार रिफ्यूजी थे और 24 तारीख तक उन को राईस नहीं मिला। उस के बाद उन को राईस मिला और एक सेर तीन आदमियों के लिए मिला है। यह तो उन्होंने कहा है लेकिन उस का मैं यहां कैंपिटल नहीं

बनाना चाहती हूँ। मैं यही कहना चाहती हूँ कि पहले आप के घर में जो आग लगी है, उस को देखो, दूसरों के चूल्हों के धुएँ को मत देखो (ध्वबधान)। यह सरपंच का स्टेटमेंट है। इसलिए मैं कहती हूँ कि पहले आप अपने लोगों को रोकें। आप के पांच मिनिस्टर्स वहां पर इस्तीफा देते हैं और वे स्टेटमेंट निकालते हैं। पहले आप उन से कहिये कि इस में पालिटिक्स लाना गलत है। मैं भी कहती हूँ कि इसमें पालिटिक्स नहीं लाना चाहिए और जब सारा राष्ट्र उन के लिए खड़ा हो जाएगा तब उन को पता चलेगा कि सब मिल कर हमारे काम के लिए जुटे हुए हैं। हम को आपरेशन करने के लिए तैयार हैं।

एक माननीय सदस्य : शुक्रिया ।

श्रीमती ग्रहिल्या पी० रांगनेकर : हमें आप के शुक्रिया की जरूरत नहीं है। हम शुक्रिया के लिए काम नहीं करते हैं। कांग्रेस पार्टी के शुक्रिया के लिए हम वहां पर नहीं जाते हैं। अगर इस में सचमुच में पालिटिक्स को नहीं लाना है, तो इस में पहल स्टेट गवर्नमेंट को करनी चाहिए और जो इंस्पेक्तीबिल स्टेटमेंट्स निकल रहे हैं, आप को उन को रोकना चाहिए। यह मेरा कहना है।

सभापति महोदय, हम देखते हैं कि वहां पर जो नुकसान हुआ है, वह पहला सवाल है। उस को पूरा करने के लिए बजट चाहिए और कोई भी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट इस पूरी जिम्मेदारी को नहीं उठा सकेगी। इसलिए सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट को पैसा देना चाहिए लेकिन मेरा कहना यह है कि लोन की हैसियत से उन को पैसा नहीं देना चाहिए बल्कि ग्रान्ट के रूप में उन को पैसा देना चाहिए।

17.38 hrs.

[Dr. SUSHILA NAYAR in the Chair]

अगर सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट यह कहेगी कि हमारे पास इतना पैसा नहीं है, तो

मैं यहां उन से एक सवाल पूछना चाहती हूँ और वह यह है कि 1962 से जो पुरानी गवर्न-मेंट थी, उस ने हमारे देश में वार रिस्क इंशोरेंस लगाया था और जो इंडस्ट्रियल एस्टेट्स हैं उन के ऊपर हाफ पर सेन्ट ग्राफ टोटल वॉल्यू ग्राफ फिक्स्ड एसेट्स था। इस से एक साल में 200, 300 करोड़ रुपया सरकार ने जमा किया है। 13 साल से वह इस को जमा कर रही है और बजट में उस का कोई जिक्र नहीं है। वह पैसा कहाँ है। वह पैसा अगर सरकार के पास है तो अब तक 13 साल में वह 3 हजार, 4 हजार करोड़ रुपया इकट्ठा हो गया होगा। यह वार रिस्क इंशोरेंस का पैसा कहाँ है, इसका पता चलना चाहिये। अगर वह पैसा सरकार के पास है तो वह पूरे का पूरा इन लोगों के लिए दे देना चाहिए क्योंकि इस से कम में इन लोगों के लिए कुछ नहीं होने वाला है। ग्रान्ट की हैसियत से यह पैसा आन्ध्र प्रदेश, तमिल नाडु और केरल को दे देना चाहिए। उन के लिए ग्रीजिएटली पैसा खर्च करना चाहिए। आप देखते हैं कि जिन के घर बर्बाद हो गये हैं, उन को गवर्न-मेंट 100, 150 रुपया दे रही है। 150 रुपये में घर नहीं बन सकता है। इसलिए मेरी सजेशन यह है कि पैसा न दे कर उन को काइन्ड में मदद देनी चाहिए जैसे बेम्बूज या दूसरी चीजें जो घर बनाने में लगती हैं, वे उन को देनी चाहिए। हर स्टेट में अगर काइन्ड में मदद दी जाएगी, तब तो वे कुछ कर सकते हैं। दूसरा मेरा कहना यह है कि जब तक उन के घर नहीं बनते हैं, हमारी आर्मी के पास जो टेन्ट्स हैं, वे उसको देने चाहिए ताकि वे उन में रह सकें। हमारी आर्मी को जा कर टेन्ट्स लगाने में उन को मदद करनी चाहिए क्योंकि घर बनाने के काम में तो बहुत देर लगेगी और 150 रुपये में कुछ नहीं हो सकता है।

इतना ही नहीं खाने की चीजों का भी उन को नुकसान हुआ है। इसलिए खाने की चीजें राइस वगैरह : भी उनको जल्दी से जल्दी मिलना चाहिए। इसका इंतजाम भी सरकार को जल्दी से जल्दी करना चाहिए।

इस से आगे जा कर मैं तो यह भी कहूँगी कि उन के लिए लांग टर्म मेजस भी अभी से लिये जाने चाहिए। यह ठीक है कि ये चीजें उन को मुहैया करके आप उन्हें रिलीफ पहुँचा देंगे लेकिन अगले पांच सात सालों के लिए भी आपको अभी से काम करना होगा। उन के स्कूल बंद हो गये हैं, उनके कार्लिजिज बंद हो गये हैं। उनकी जेन-रेशन की एजुकेशन बंद हो गयी है। इसलिए मैं चाहूँगी कि जिस तरह से आप बेअर फुटिड डाक्टर्स गाँवों में भेजने का इंतजाम कर रहे हैं, उसी तरह से आपको इन के लिए बेअर फुटिड टीचर्स भेजने का इंतजाम करना पड़ेगा। आज वहाँ कोई जाने के लिए तैयार नहीं है। यह सब आपको देखना पड़ेगा।

सभापति महोदया, जिस तरह से हम वार के लिए काम करते हैं, अगर उसी तरह से हम इन के लिए काम करेंगे तभी हम इन के लिए कुछ कर सकते हैं। अगर आरडिनरी तरीके से ही हम चलते रहे तो उस से तो कुछ होने वाला नहीं है। अगर उन के लिए कुछ करना है तो वह वार फुटिंग पर किया जाए। यह काम सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट को करना होगा। अकेले स्टेट गवर्नमेंट इस काम को नहीं कर सकती है। सेन्ट्रल गवर्नमेंट को इस की जिम्मेदारी अपने ऊपर ले कर इस कार्य को वार-फुटिंग पर करना चाहिए।

सभापति महोदया, एक मुझाब दिया गया कि एक आल पार्टी डेपुटेशन वहाँ जाए और यह देखे कि वहाँ रिट्रिब-लिटेशन का काम कैसा चल रहा है।

[श्रीमती अहिल्या पं० रांगनेकर]

यह सुझाव अच्छा है और मैं इसका स्वागत करती हूँ और चाहती हूँ कि ऐसा ही डेपुटेशन वहाँ जाए और इस काम को देखे ।

मैं एक सुझाव और देना चाहती हूँ । वहाँ पर जो आरफंस हो गये हैं उन आरफंस के लिए दूसरी स्टेट्स में भी इंतजाम होना चाहिए और हरेक स्टेट को इन आरफंस को भेजा जाए और वहाँ स्टेट उन की जिम्मेदारी ले । इसी प्रकार से इन आरफंस की समस्या हल हो सकेगी ।

इतना ही कह कर मैं अपना भाषण समाप्त करती हूँ । इस से ज्यादा आपका समय नहीं लेना चाहती ।

SHRI P. M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): Madam, Chairman, first of all I would like to express my sympathies for all the victims of this unprecedented national calamity, the cyclone. I have already spoken and expressed my feelings about the cyclone and the loss caused in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep.

When I talk of cyclone, I know well what a cyclone can do. Perhaps, I am the only person in this august House who was actually present there when the cyclone came during the third week of last month. It was on the 20th November that Kalpeni, which is the fifth largest island in this Union Territory was worst hit in Lakshadweep. We got information about this on the 20th itself and at that time I was in the capital of Lakshadweep, Kavaratti. Though the devastation is not of the same magnitude as in other places, yet it was not insignificant either. I would like to enlighten the House with the better side of the tragedy that has taken place in Lashkadweep. In Lakshadweep, not a single life was lost. This was due to the timely warning

and timely action taken on the suggestions of the village elders.

SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN (Madurai): Village elders?

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Yes, village elders.

The population was moved to strong buildings and high locations. Only because of that no single life was lost in Lakshadweep.

Lakshadweep is also a place where such cyclones take place frequently. In 1847 the worst type of cyclone havoc was caused and the present Kalpeni island which was a major island became five minor islands after that devastation. Many lives were lost. Immense property, coconut trees, boats, huts, buildings and everything was lost in the 1847 cyclone. That was the biggest loss that has been recorded

After the 1847 cyclone, we had cyclones in 1942, 1965 and now the present tragedy. This has overtaken the loss that took place in 1847. But as I said in the 1977 cyclone havoc there is no loss of life and this is only the better side of the tragedy. They have survived the cyclone but they are left with nothing to survive any more.

I want to give a brief picture of the loss that has been caused by this cyclone. The worst hit island is the same Kalpeni island which was also hit in 1847. This is an island of 625 acres, covering an area of 2.3 sq. km. It has a population of 4000 and it is away from the mainland by about 160 miles. Out of the 600 houses on the island, all the 300 houses which needed major repairs collapsed totally. Out of 2 lakhs coconut tree, 1 lakh were totally uprooted and of the remaining 1 lakhs trees, 50 per cent will have no fruit-bearing capacity since most of the coconut heads were blown off and of the remaining, 25 per cent of the tree may not bear fruits any longer. That is the condition of the coconut trees. That is the

only means of livelihood in Lakshadweep.

About the standing crops, nothing to say. No standing crops is there and everything is gone and no crops will grow for years because the entire island was under 4 feet of sea water.

Two-thirds of the cattle perished. Out of 1400 goats only 200 have survived. Out of 6000 poultry birds, only 1000 birds are left and in the southern part of this island, there is no drinking water available and whatever is available, because of the sea water, is salinated. As a result people are getting stomach ailments.

So, this is the type of devastation that has been caused in Kalpini.

Lakshadweep is a tiny, small island away from the capital. Perhaps the farthest portion of our country is Lakshadweep and our tragedy is also the greatest because due to the immense havoc that has been caused in the eastern region—when there is murder, dacoity and theft, of course, only for murder one is charged—so also due to the gravity of the situation which was there in Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and other places, we are rather forgotten. The Prime Minister and other Ministers of the Central Government are rushing aid. Even the Government appointed team has gone only to these regions except Lakshadweep. I have a reason to say that we are far away, we are very small, and therefore, perhaps, we are taken lesser care of. I would like the hon. Minister to enlighten the House at least in this late hour whether any hon. Member from the Council of Ministers or anybody from the Government of India or anybody is going to visit Lakshadweep so that the people of Lakshadweep should not be under the impression that they have been forgotten because they are far away.

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI Biju Patnaik): Yes.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: A sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Government and a sum of Rs. 50,000 has been given from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. This aid is very insignificant to meet the devastation caused there.

The economy of the island depends entirely on the income from coconut and fishing. The coconut trees have been totally destroyed. Fishing boats have been totally destroyed and fishing country-boats have also been destroyed. Standing crops are already gone and the houses in Kalpini and the strong buildings over there are no more. How are you going to rehabilitate them?

I would like to place a few suggestions because the Government:

Free rations at least for a year should be given to Kalpini island.

Epidemic is spreading. Medical team of doctors, etc., should be sent from the mainland.

The soil scientists must be sent because the coconut trees have been completely destroyed. Unless scientists go and test whether the soil is fit for replanting the coconut, I think it will be futile on the part of the farmers to plant them again.

The seedlings and other seeds and also fertilizers must be made available free to the farmers.

Coconuts as well as fishing are the two sources of income of the people of Lakshadweep. In Lakshadweep—ten out of twenty islands are inhabited. Kalpini is the 5th largest island. All the fishing boats have been destroyed.

I request the Government to see that fishing boats are made available to the

[Shri P. M. Sayeed]

fishermen so that they will be in a position to earn their livelihood. They should not only be supplied with grains but also the building materials like the timber, cement, tiles, asbestos and also some money in order to enable them to re-build their houses. They have lost everything. Though they have survived due to cyclones yet they are left with nothing to live. That is the condition that is prevailing there.

Therefore, I would request the Government to consider the suggestions that I have made. Another point which I would like to highlight is this. The islanders, especially, the Kalpini islanders who are highly educated and who are in the Laccadive groups of island must be given preference over others in the matter of employment both in the island administration as well as in the mainland.

I would request the Government to see that some circular or some instruction goes to the other State Government whether these unfortunate people could given some preference over others to get employment.

Finally the most important thing is this. Whenever such cyclones take place causing such a tragedy, what solution have we got? This is a national calamity. So, for this purpose, I suggest that there must be a permanent fund to be utilised for the people affected as a relief and the public, organisations, State Governments and the Central Government may offer or contribute to that permanent fund so that whenever such a calamity overtakes the country, from such funds, financial assistance can be made available without any hesitation or without immediate difficulty.

Therefore, I request that the hon. Minister, while replying, will say something with regard to the suggestions that I have made. I hope he

will take note of them and given them a proper consideration so that the sufferings of thousands of people may get minimised by giving such an immediate relief.

SHRI K. RAGHURAMIAH (Guntur): Madam Chairman, already much has been said about the damage done in Andhra and other parts of the country by the terrific cyclone. I do not think I can draw on a more graphic picture except by saying that so far as Andhra is concerned, there are two areas one where the people are dead and two where the people are nearly dead. I include in the latter category of people those who have lost everything, their homes, their hearts their fields, their crops and everything. Paddy crop is gone, chilly crop is gone, turmeric is gone, cotton is gone, banana is gone, tobacco crop is gone, coconut is gone palmirah is gone. It is just a total destruction. What is more gruesome is that this is not the first year that this thing has happened. I am sure many of the peasants who have got the necessary courage would have withstood this natural calamity body had it not for the fact that this is the second year in succession that the cyclone has hit them. In fact, in some parts, this is the third year in succession where we they have lost the crops. In the first year, due to pest they lost the crop. In the second year, there was a similar cyclone and the crops were damaged. I talked to the peasants when I went to my constituency, Guntur—all the hon. Members who went that side also must have visited that—and I had no courage to face them because they were full of tears. When I talked to them, they said that on the 18th evening when they had gone there to the fields, everything was all right, there were wonderful crops in the fields and they enjoyed that sight much. But, the very next day for the second year in succession, the cyclone destroyed everything.

18 hrs.

I do not think there can be more gruesome human suffering than this. That is why many of them did not know what to do. So, it is not a question of the State Government or the Central Government but, I think that both the Governments must pool their resources together and show them a way out. I have seen those who have lost everything and they do not have the wherewithal to pay even the labour. They have mortgaged everything. Ninety-five per cent of the Andhra peasants have mortgaged their everything as they have suffered for three years in succession. I wholly endorse the suggestion made by the hon'ble Member that there must be a national crop insurance scheme. I do not know why we could not think of it earlier. No Government can compensate a peasant. It can only be through a national insurance scheme. Can't this country take up such an insurance? I hope the Central and the State Governments will give serious thought to it. A cyclone may be a rare phenomenon but there are also floods and droughts. There must be a national thinking on it. It is no use to have a debate and then forget about it. I plead once again that there must be a serious thinking about national crop insurance scheme to cover the crops as well as the cattle which are so fundamental to the economic existence of the rural folk of this country which is the basis of our economy.

There is a huge loss of life. Ten thousand is a modest number. Thousands of people from other areas migrate to these places for employment during this period of the year. All of them are washed away. So, I am sure the final figure about the loss of human life will be double or treble. Of course, some money is being provided but I wholly endorse the idea of orphanages. Orphanages must be built for the little children who have lost their every body. Then for the old men and women who have lost their sons and daughters some way must be

found to give them livelihood. Government must help to remove the silt and the sand from the lands. No peasant can be expected to do it as their ten years' income may not be enough for this.

As regards those who come from the other part of the area where human life has not been so much lost but property is lost, I have a few suggestions to make. How do you get the economy going for a peasant who has mortgaged everything over a period of three years? The banks must have imagination. They must have a cyclonic imagination and not the petty, bogging accounting type of imagination. I was told that last year after the cyclone the peasants were given the money but they were asked to pay interest on that every three months. How can a peasant pay interest every three months? It is just a fraud. This is not a business. It shows lack of imagination on the part of the bank operators. They must realise that a peasant can only pay once a year. I would appeal that for God's sake write-off the interest. The State Government should also write off the revenue cess Collection.

SOME HON'BLE MEMBERS: It has been done.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: They have not done it in all places. In Sattanapalli taluk, I have been told that it has not been done. I am bringing this to the notice of the Government. They have been contributing to your coffers for so many years. If there are any dues, write them off in the case of those areas affected by cyclone and do not collect them. They cannot give any fresh security. Therefore, please write off the loans also or reschedule the loans so that they may pay after 6 or 7 years. Please give fresh loans. I have seen myself that in Guntur district there is not a single roof left except the cement roofs. The roofs of cinema houses had been blown off, the roofs of godowns and factories had been blown

[Shri R. Raghu Ramaiah]

off, the roofs of high schools had been blown off and the roofs of tobacco barns had been blown off. The peasants growing cotton and tobacco invest Rs. 3000 per acre every year and they have invested for three years on the cotton and tobacco growing lands. Now they have lost Rs. 9000 each per acre. And there are people with one acre and two acres of land. They are poor people. How will it be possible for them to recultivate their lands? The Government should instruct the banks to write off the loans still pending or reschedule the loans after 6 or 7 years. Now, they should give them fresh loans. Not only that. In the case of land which have been silted by sand and salt water, the Government should come forward in a big way to help them. The Government should give them subsidy. I am glad that the Tobacco Board has already come forward with a suggestion. I think, probably, this is under the consideration of the Central Government. I think they will consider that and ensure that these tobacco growers are given subsidy in order to enable them to construct their barns. As one of my friends here remarks, peasants are not beggars coming to you with folded hands. They have the pride. It is your duty to see that their pride is maintained because their pride is your pride and the pride of the nation. Their sorrow is your sorrow and the nation's sorrow.

SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN (Nagercoil): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I will confine myself to the cyclone-hit areas in Andhra Pradesh and its consequences thereafter. Before that I will say a few words about Tamil Nadu. Sir, Mr. Arunachalam had narrated in detail the action taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. I do not want to repeat the same. But I want to point out that some responsible persons have come out with complaints saying that kerosene and rice had not been supplied to all the people regularly and in sufficient quantity in some parts of the affected areas. I want the concerned

authorities to take note of it, but apart from that, the Tamil Nadu Government has got the credit in the matter of relief measures. But the Andhra Government could not reach the relief measures to the affected areas because of its bad management. So, we need not deal with this question.

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN (Tirupattur): Let him say where kerosene has not been supplied.

SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: In and around Nagapattinam and in some other places. Though I do not want to belittle the efforts of the Tamil Nadu Government, I wish to point out that the Tamil Nadu Government has got much credit because the Andhra Government provided a comparison.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Ananthan, will you please move forward and speak so that the reporters may be able to hear you? Now, I might mention that it is now 6.10. We have to finish the general discussion by 6.30 p.m. It means that we are just left with twenty minutes. I have still ten persons on my list. So, Members will have to think whether they want to take less time. Even then the list cannot be finished. I request the hon. Member to be as brief as possible and not to repeat what others have already said.

SHRI PURNA SINHA (Tezpur): Please extend the discussion till tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry it cannot be done, it has to be finished at 7 O' clock today. At 6-30 I am going to call the hon. Minister to reply.

SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: It seems that the Army authorities talked to the Chief Secretary of Andhra Pradesh 48 hours before the cyclone and again 24 hours before the cyclone. The stock reply of the Chief Secretary was: "we have sufficient men and material and machinery to tackle any situation." Do the Members of that side think that it was a proper response and proper reply from the Chief Secretary of

a State? The army was standing ready with storm boats and wireless sets but was not asked to help. The services of the Army were requisitioned only after four days of the occurrence and that too for disposal of the dead bodies.

The hon. Member said that 90,000 sarees were distributed and I ask: when? When we were there on the spot on the 25th, that is the sixth day of the occurrence we saw so many human bodies and among the bodies, a woman was loitering. When questioned, she replied that she was in search of a cloth for her. That was the position of the affected people. I want to ask one or two questions. When did the Chief Minister visit the affected area? When was the Cabinet meeting convened? What are the reasons attributed by the Ministers who left the Government for their resignations? (Interruptions)

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please do not interrupt him; there is hardly any time.

SHRI KUMARI ANANTHAN: People who live in the areas which are prone to cyclone must be educated about the gravity and immensity and the imminent danger in the case of and advent of cyclone and the transport department must issue instructions to the buses what to do when they are asked to evacuate people.

The magnitude and devastation and loss of life is immeasurable. Mother sea who gave livelihood to thousands of people has given birth to a bad child, a cyclone. The date of birth of the cyclone was 19th November and it devastated vast areas in our country in Andhra and elsewhere. That also happens to be the birth date of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who devastated democracy in this country.

SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM (Palani): Madam Chairman, there was devastation on an unprecedented scale in my

constituency, part of which is in Madurai district. That is one of the worst drought stricken areas and when I was campaigning for the elections in the early part of the year, people were saying that there should be some method of solving their problem of drinking water, leave alone water being available for cultivation. In that area there was unprecedented flood. Warning was given that flood was coming in a particular river. As a matter of fact, I would call it a stream. But people ridiculed it because they have never seen any floods or stream coming like that. Therefore, they refused to move. But unfortunately the floods did come and wash away the villages. When I went there, in many villages, there was not even a trace of any house. Even the big stones forming part of the buildings had been washed away. That was the sort of calamity that had happened there. When I went round the whole area, I found that instead of being a drought stricken area it was like a delta area. Therefore, this was unexpected and people were not accustomed to see water of that magnitude. That is why they were taken unawares and in spite of this, I congratulate the State Government for having taken all necessary measures for providing immediate relief to the affected people and the people were happy with the relief measures provided by the State Government. Not only in my Constituency, but also in the adjoining district Tiruchi and then Tanjore also, there has been a good deal of damage caused by cyclone and floods. A mention was made about Tiruchi city and the five colleges there have been damaged and it would not be possible for them to restart these colleges unless their laboratories are restored and their libraries are rebuilt. Therefore, what is more important now is, while we have taken immediate relief measures, what sort of rehabilitation measures we are going to take, what sort of reconstruction and reclamation programmes we have got to take. That is the most important thing. As far as these colleges are

[Shri C. Subramaniam]

concerned, we should not look for precedents for giving grants of the order of Rs. 1.5 crores. Unless we give them the necessary financial help, they would not be able to function effectively and thousands of children, boys and girls would be affected in their educational career. And in the same way we have to rebuild many of the huts and pucca houses. Then there is the question of reclamation of land. This is where the Agriculture Ministry has to take a big hand, particularly in the matter of reclamation of land. Where it is affected by tidal waves, not only silting would have taken place, but the land would have become saline and therefore it would not be possible to undertake cultivation. Therefore, I would like to make a suggestion to the hon. Agriculture Minister that a team of scientists consisting of soil engineers, soil scientists and even crop specialists should visit these areas and then chalk out a plan of action not only for reclamation but also the pending reclamation, whether any sort of crop can be grown and what sort of crop can be grown and for that all necessary assistance will have to be given.

As far as reclamation is concerned, I do not think, it should be left individual initiative. It would be impossible because it would be of such a magnitude and it should be on the basis of whole villages and whole areas. Therefore this should be the responsibility of the Government to undertake this reclamation scheme.

Now since the time is short, I would like to make some practical suggestions with regard to the finding of the resources for meeting the expenditure of this magnitude. I know the Finance Commission's Reports. But certainly, I cannot show the Report to the people and say to the people 'here is the report, I am not in a position to do anything'. I do remember occasions, when I was the Finance Minister,

the Finance Commission officials showing to me the report and saying—these are the recommendations. And in this House I declared that I cannot show to the people the Finance Commission's Report and say 'See the Report, and be satisfied with that'. Therefore, when it is an unprecedented calamity you cannot have a precedent for that, precedent with regard to the scale of assistance and the mode of assistance also. Therefore, my suggestion to the Finance Minister is—he is not here but, I am sure the Agriculture Minister will convey it to his Finance colleague—that as far as the immediate relief measures are concerned, which have been undertaken, perhaps, the Finance Commission's formula could be applied. Because of the magnitude of the problem, no State government will be able to meet the financial requirements as far as reclamation; reconstruction and rehabilitation are concerned. Therefore, you should have a separate formula now for meeting these requirements. I have no doubt that it should be possible to find a solution. All these things cannot be given as grants to the States. In some cases perhaps you may have to give it as loan assistance. The loans also should be of three categories for putting up buildings and reclamation also. Firstly, where the man is poor and has no resources left, it should be an interest-free loan with a moratorium for two or three years. Then it should be recovered in a period of 7 or 8 years. Secondly, in some cases the loan may be given at a concessional rate of interest. Thirdly, there may be some people who may have resources but still they may not have the immediate financial resources to meet their needs. They should be given loans at the normal rate of interest. All these categories of loans should not be short-term loans. We should take into account the nature of reclamation and how soon they would be able to get into the normal strides of life. Their debts should be scheduled in such a way that it will be possible for them to repay and survive. People should not just live

and work only for the repayment of the loans and perish in that process. I know in cases like these, wastages and sometimes frauds also may occur. Therefore, it should be properly planned. There should be common teams consisting of officials from the Central and State Governments, who should sit together and formulate plans as quickly as possible. If it is left to bureaucratic methods, it will take months and years and we cannot wait that long. These teams should make the assessments and also find out what would be the order of financial requirements for these purposes, how much should be grants, how much should be loans free of interest, how much should be loans at concessional rate of interest, etc. Therefore, apart from the relief works, rehabilitation, reconstruction and reclamation work also should be taken up. There, finance should not stand in the way, as promised by the Prime Minister. But it should be properly planned. Money alone would not do. Money properly utilised alone would be able to bring a new life to the people. Now that we have given vent to our political feelings. I hope and trust that there will be a truce on that side and hereafter there will not be any politicking in human misery and human calamities.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Shri Nageswara Rao. Only three minutes please.

SHRI NAGESWARA RAO MEDURI (Tenali): The worst affected areas in Andhra Pradesh are the Tenali constituency, including Divi, Nagayalanka and Koduri in Krishna district and Repalle taluk in Guntur district. I am sorry not only for my constituency has been severely affected, but I have also been affected here by being given only three minutes time. I came by train today which also arrived 3 1/2 hours late. Anyhow, let us not discuss our differences on the floor of the House. The Prime Minister has rightly said that in this hour of need the whole nation stands as one person.

I do not want to take much time. I request the government to provide relief in the following ways to the tidal wave and cyclone hit people. The first important task is to bale out the sea water from the drinking water wells and tanks and also ensure that adequate fresh water sprouts up. Water is everywhere, but there is no drop of water to drink. That is the fate of the area there. The water due to the tidal wave spread nearly 10 miles from the sea and the ground was all covered by sea water and salt. It will take another ten years or even more time to make the land cultivable to get crop there.

Another thing is to undertake a massive programme to desalinate those lands flooded by sea water and immediate medical relief by sending special medical teams.

Another step, as suggested by our Rashtrapathi, is to grant loans to those who had lost their houses for constructing houses. I would also request the Government to think in terms of building permanent structures in the affected coastal areas so that during calamities like this people in and around those buildings could take shelter there, as suggested by our Rashtrapathi, Dr. Sanjiva Reddy.

Another important thing is that the educated youth of the families who have lost their homes and properties, should be immediately provided with jobs whether they have registered in the Employment Exchange or not. They must be given some appointments if they are fully qualified according to their qualifications. Apart from this, loans should be given to others at differential rate of interest to buy auto rikshas etc. for earning their livelihood.

Many of the students who are now studying in schools and colleges have lost their properties and their families and are not in a position to continue their studies. Relief should be provided to such students till such time

[Shri Nageswara Rao Meduri]

they complete their studies and are in a position to stand on their own feet.

All the coastal villages must be linked with the trunk roads. This is essential. This tidal wave and cyclones occurred not only this year, but as Mr. Raghu Ramaiah pointed out rightly, they occur once in a year or two years or three years. At that time the All India Radio or the TV may tell so many things, but it is highly impossible for the rescue teams to go to the villages to save the lives of the people unless the villages are connected to the trunk roads.

Another thing is that some of the people who have lost their houses are supposed to be the richest men and they are now standing in queue for their daily rations, leave alone the coolies etc. If the Government gives sufficient loans to agriculturists immediately at differential rate of interest or in whichever way the Government likes, they can go to the fields and raise a second crop and some of them can grow crops in their fields and then the agricultural labour can be employed immediately. It is a question of making it a political issue. It is a question giving them practical assistance to tide over their difficulties.

To my bad luck I do not have sufficient time to speak and I thank you for the time you have given to me out of sisterly affection.

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN (Tirupattur): Madam Chairman, regarding the disaster which took place in Tamil Nadu and the measures taken by the Government there, my friend Mr. Arunachalam has spoken in detail. He has also spoken about how the Central Government is helping in this respect. The Food Corporation of India released to Tamil Nadu, 50,000 tonnes of rice. We also had timely help from the Army Air Force and Navy. We thank the Central Government for the help rendered to Tamil Nadu.

Some hon. Members said that may be a pre-incident but the cyclones will

occur in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh next year also—India being a monsoon country and South India being surrounded on three sides by the seas it will come any time. What are the concrete steps that the Central Government is going to take for the next year? I want to know from the Minister how the Government is going to help the people living near the coastal areas, and how they are going to protect them before the cyclone attacks them. The Minister should indicate the measures he is going to take.

In "The Hindu" of Madras, there was a news item last week about a measure taken in Argentina. There, they fired rockets to the hale clouds. The chemicals will be sent, under this method, to the hale-clouds by the rocket; the hale-clouds will be converted into rain-clouds to rain into the sea. And the cyclone will be avoided by this rocket-firing method. I am drawing the attention of the Minister to this method. It may be adopted in India also, to avoid this kind of a cyclone, which will otherwise cause a great disaster to the human lives and cattle. We must urge the United Nations to set up an international organization for this purpose. Natural calamities occur—and cyclones and droughts occur—throughout the world. Government of India must take the initial steps to form this kind of an organization which will take long-term measures to save human lives—particularly those of poor peasants—and cattle, from natural calamities. This is the most appropriate time to appoint a scientific research organization and a commission to do research on how to avoid cyclones. The meteorological department must develop fully, to help us in this regard. We are wasting money on rockets. If you start such an organization, it will help farmers—who constitute 90 per cent of the population in India—and we will be able to save their lives in future, as also the economy of our country. The

nation's wealth will also be saved thereby.

*SHRI N. KUDANTHAI RAMALINGAM (Mayuram): Madam Chairman, at the very outset I would say that Cauvery Delta which is known as the granary of Tamil Nadu has been worst hit by the recent cyclone. My constituency Mayuram forms an important part of Thanjavur District which has unfortunately become the principal victim of this virulent cyclone. As our hon. Prime Minister in his recent statement to this House remarked that the hon. Members of this House, instead of making speeches here, should have been in the affected places sharing the suffering of the people in their hour of agony, in fact, I had spent ten days in the midst of misery, touring the cyclone-ravaged areas in Tanjore District.

Last year Tanjore district was under acute drought and the crops withered away for want of water. This year all the standing crops have been washed away in swirling flood waters. The people of Tamil Nadu are predominantly agriculturists and in particular the agriculturists of Tanjore District this year have lost their plantain crop, coconut groves, rice crop, their betel leaves etc. Many lakhs of agricultural labour have lost their livelihood. Some lakhs of people have lost their abodes of living. Thousands of cattle-heads have been lost and their carcasses are strewn all over. The builders of the nation—the agriculturists, the weavers, the fishermen other artisans—have been battered. The cyclone destruction defies description. The sight of breached bunds and damaged dams in Tamil Nadu is awesome. Many lakh acres of fertile land have become fallow overnight, with sand-castings and salt-deposits.

Though I belong to the Congress Party, I have no hesitation in paying my tributes to the All India Anna

D.M.K. Government in Tamil Nadu for rushing to the relief of cyclone victims. I expect that the Janata Party Government at the Central would not make the suffering of the people the scape-goat for self-interest. But just because the Andhra Government is being run by the Congress Party, I find that the Janata Party Ministers and Members are hurling abuses at the State Government and are spreading the canard of human corpses having been covered by grass so that they would not be seen by our President. Madam, I wish to state that the misery of the masses should not become the manifesto of any political party. I deprecate the insistence of F.C.I. for advance deposit of Rs. 7.5 crores before 50000 tons of foodgrains are sent to Tamil Nadu.

Coming now to the question of steps that the Government should take to alleviate the agony of the people I would like to emphasise the emergent necessity of associating the Central Public Undertakings like the National Textile Corporation, National Buildings Corporation, the I.D.P.L. and such other public utility industrial units in the massive relief work to be undertaken with minimum of delay. Coarse cloth from 103 Textile Mills being run by the N.T.C., cheap building materials and technical advice for constructing houses with the barest minimum investment from N.B.C., maximum quantity of medicine from I.D.P.L. so that the afflicted people get immediate medical attention must be organised by the concerned Ministries of the Government of India. The nationalised Banks must come to the rescue of the people in distress with interest-free loans for the purpose of immediate rehabilitation. The agricultural labour must be given unemployment subsidy till the land is made ready for cultivation; otherwise they will become living corpses. Besides these short-term measures, I would like to suggest that the Government of India must think

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri N. Kudanthai Ramalingam]
of implementing a long-term scheme of Canal and Drainage system, like that of Tennessee Valley system in the U.S.A., in Cauvery Delta so that the people are saved from recurring wrath of Mother Nature.

The Tamil Nadu Government has envisaged a massive investment of Rs. 200 crores for rejuvenating the shattered economy of Tamil Nadu. I urge upon the Central Government that out of this a sum of Rs. 100 crores must be given as assistance without strings to Tamil Nadu. The tradition of the people of our country is to forget all differences at the time of natural calamities and I hope that the Central Government should rise to the occasion and come to the succour of the suffering millions in the Southern States, without trying to make political capital out of this national calamity.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now, the hon. Minister.

SHRI PURNA SINHA (Tezpur): Some Members have returned last night. Will you kindly allow one of them to speak?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am sorry.

श्री लखन लाल कपूर (पूणिया) : **

श्री पूर्ण सिन्हा : {धर रिकार्डिड है ।

If you want you can hear it.

SHRI K. GOPAL (Karur): On a point of order.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I am not going to call anybody. Only the Minister will reply. I say with folded hands to sit down.

SHRI K. GOPAL: On a point of order. You in your wisdom asked one of our colleagues to finish and he finished. Now, if a Member speaks without your permission, can that be recorded? I would like to

know whether you are going to expunge whatever he has said.

SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN (Madras South): Can a Member bring a tape-recorder inside the House? Are you going to allow it?

MR. CHAIRMAN: I have heard everybody. Now, the ruling is that Members cannot bring their taperecorders in the House. Now, the Minister.

SHRI K. GOPAL: You have not replied to my point of order.

If a Member speaks without your permission can that be recorded?

MR. CHAIRMAN: With regard to that the Speaker has given the ruling yesterday and he said that when the Speaker did not allow a person to speak, it should not be recorded. Now, the hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): The Government of India shares the anxiety shown by the hon. Members while discussing the motion on the damage and devastation done by the cyclone in the southern States. At the very outset, I may assure the House that the Central Government will do whatever is possible in helping the State Governments in mitigating the grievances and difficulties of the persons who are suffering and rehabilitating the victims of the cyclone.

A controversy has arisen over here regarding the extent and adequacy of the meteorological warnings given regarding this cyclone.

I have with me here a press statement issued by the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh wherein he has mentioned that the district collectors and the State Government started getting warnings of the impending

cyclone from 17th onwards. He goes on to say:

"The definite warning both in regard to its direction and intensity was received on the 18th by 11.30 P.M. The concerned officer in General Administration Department immediately contacted all the collectors along the coast from Nellore to Srikakulam. They were told that the expected cyclone was going to be of the most devastating kind accompanied by gale, rain and even tidal waves and might hit the coast anywhere between Nellore and Machchlipatnam...."

Also, regarding the precautions to be taken, the collectors were informed that they should close educational institutions, not allow grazing of cattle or fishing in the seas, closing of vehicular traffic and similar other precautionary steps to be taken. They were also specifically told that the army was standing by and would be ready to help. It goes on like that.

So, a definite information, a positive information, was received by about the mid-night on the 18th and the warnings had been given. But, unfortunately, it appears specific warning regarding evacuation was not given. I do not know why the authorities did not think it proper to give that warning also because that was one of the essential warning that should have been given at that time. I do not blame anybody for that. There might be a lapse on the part of somebody. But the only thing is that it was not done. Otherwise, possibly, some more number of people could have been evacuated from that place and could have been saved. Without

entering into any political controversy, I would like to make a few observations.

I had made a statement in the House on the 1st December and given some details of the damage and devastation caused. I need not add anything more to that statement though I have received some more information because I am receiving it every day and almost twice a day from all the States regarding the latest figures. At that time, I had mentioned that two Central Teams have been sent to Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. The two teams returned on the 2nd December. Their reports were available on the 4th. Immediately thereafter, that is, on the 5th, a meeting of the high level committee was convened to consider the assistance to be provided to the States concerned. A central team is proceeding to Kerala tomorrow and its report should be available in the course of next few days. After the meeting of the high level committee of yesterday, I met the Finance Minister today, this morning, and had discussions with him regarding the aid. I am happy to be able to inform the House that the Government of India have decided to assist the Government of Andhra Pradesh up to a ceiling of Rs. 75.13 crores and the Government of Tamil Nadu upto a ceiling of Rs. 33.91 crores.

The break-up of the above figures is as follows:

Resettlement of people rendered homeless in Andhra Pradesh—Rs. 6 crores; rehabilitation of animal husbandry—Rs. 2 crores; gratuitous food relief—Rs. 13.50 crores which comprises of 45,000 tonnes of rice and 45,000 tonnes of wheat.

(Rs. in crores)

Public health measures	1 00
Orphanages	0 20
Assistance to agriculturists	7 44
Central scheme for community nurseries & tobacco barns	0 31
Assistance to fishermen, artisans etc.	5 00
Restoration of roads and bridges	10 00

[Shri Surjit Singh Barnala]	(Rs. in crores)
Restoration of public buildings	5.00
Restoration of aided schools and other educational institutions	1.93
Restoration of irrigation including tidal banks	6.00
Restoration of electrical installations	10.00
Restoration of drinking water wells	0.75
Repairs and reconstruction of municipal property damaged	1.50
New schemes, link roads	0.50
Diranage schemes	0.50
Repairs of ports and godowns	0.50
Short-term loan	3.00
TOTAL	75.13

Tamil Nadu

Foodgrains (10000 MTs of wheat & 10000 MT of rice)	2.60
Irrigation	5.04
Roads	5.00
Government buildings	1.50
Panchayat buildings	0.50
Ports	0.30
State Electricity Board and electric installations	3.00
Local bodies	1.25
Assistance to fishermen	0.75
Assistance to weavers	0.50
Agriculture	5.34
Medical and health care	0.25
Assistance to aided schools & colleges	1.22
Reconstruction of huts	4.40
Drainage Board Schemes outside Madras City	0.26
Short-term loan	2.00
TOTAL	33.91

The situation in these areas is continuously being kept under watch, and if necessary the Central Teams will be sent to these areas again.

An interim Advance Plan Assistance of Rs. 2 crores has already been provided for Kerala. Further assistance will be considered on receipt of the report of the Central Team. We

have released 1000 MTs of wheat free of cost to Kerala and propose to release a further 1500 MTs of wheat.

For Pondicherry, we have sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10 lakhs as an interim measure. The Central Team have visited Pondicherry and a decision on the quantum of assistance will

be taken very soon. They have submitted a report, but we have not taken a decision so far.

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: There is no need for wheat. You should send rice. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: An interim assistance of Rs. 2 lakhs has been sanctioned for Lakshdweep. My colleague, Shrimati Barkataki is visiting Lakshdweep shortly and we will give all the assistance that may be needed. I have heard with keen interest the Members from that place and we will be providing all the assistance that is required.

I had earlier mentioned that a co-ordinating machinery will be set up to take decisions quickly. A meeting of the High Level inter-Ministerial Coordinating Committee was convened yesterday to consider the reports of the two Central Teams and other important matters connected with relief and rehabilitation of the people in the South affected by cyclones.

It is being proposed to convert all short-term loans given by cooperatives into medium-term loans as also to postpone recovery of medium-term and long-term loans. The Reserve Bank of India has initiated action and their representative is visiting the cyclone affected areas. The Commercial banks have already been instructed to augment credit supply in these areas to enable the farmers to start agricultural operations.

These are the suggestions which are now made by the hon. Members. The Life Insurance Corporation and the Housing and Urban Development Corporation in the Ministry of Works and Housing are being involved to assist the cyclone-affected people for housing on a massive scale.

This suggestion was also made. We are sending from our Department

teams of experts and scientists for these purposes—for reclamation of sand-cast and saline land, salvaging the damaged crops and plantations and in raising a second crop of paddy.

The other Ministries are also assisting. I would make a mention about that also. The Union Ministry of Health came to the assistance of the State Governments in a big way and so far more than Rs. 29 lakh worth of medicines were provided to Andhra Pradesh and more than Rs. 5 lakh worth of medicines to Tamil Nadu. The Army Medical Teams are also in the field, and with the joint efforts made by the State and the Central Government so far no epidemic has been reported in any of the southern States even though a grave danger has been looming because of the carcasses and corpses which could not be disposed of for some time.

All the concerned Ministries at the Centre have been making their utmost contribution to help the people in the cyclone-affected areas.

The Ministry of Railways—though a small contribution, it is a contribution all the same—has granted concession of free carriage by passenger and goods trains for consignments of relief material needed for free distribution in the affected areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

The Ministry of Home Affairs airlifted a mobile Civil Emergency Force to Andhra Pradesh equipped for relief and rescue operations.

The Army, the Air Force and the Navy came to the assistance of the affected State Governments throughout. They provided air sorties and assisted in deployment of medical teams, rescue of marooned villagers and restoring communication and water supply system, plugging breaches, etc. A control room set up in my Ministry is monitoring all arrangements in relief operations.

Additional allocations of cement have been made to Andhra Pradesh

[Shri Surjit Singh Barnala]

and Tamil Nadu. The Hindustan Photo Films has agreed to supply medical X-ray films worth Rs. 1 lakh each to the Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. Apart from the assistance given by the Ministries, their staff are also making individual contributions for the relief of the affected people.

I shall be failing in my duty if I did not acknowledge with profound gratitude the offers of assistance in cash and kind which have been received by us from international agencies, Governments of friendly countries and voluntary organisations in India and abroad. The service being rendered by the Indian Red Cross has been commendable. While we have deliberately launched no appeal for international assistance a number of countries including the USA, the Federal Republic of Germany, the U.K. Japan, G.D.R., Canada, Australia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Switzerland, France, the EEC and many others, have come forward with spontaneous offers of assistance in cash and kind as a gesture of goodwill and international solidarity. Many voluntary organisations have also done the same. We have accepted those offers with gratitude. Our present assessment is that India has adequate stocks of foodgrains, medicines, clothing, etc., to meet the immediate relief needs of the cyclone victims. It is in the longer term and more complex task of rehabilitation that assistance would be most useful. This assistance could take the form of fertilisers, pesticides, pre-fabricated housing, fishing boats, fishing nets, etc. We are giving advice along these lines to those who approach us while not limiting the discretion of donors if they have strong preference for expressing their sympathy in other ways.

The whole nation is in a state of grief and every citizen of this country, I am sure, would like to contribute his best to mitigate the sufferings of our brothers and sisters in the south. We have to

transcend all political, regional and other considerations in this task and I am sure that all sections of the House will endorse this view.

Before I close this statement, may I appeal to all members of this House and through them to the whole nation to come forward to assist in the relief and rehabilitation of the affected people and also to generate such an atmosphere as would promote relief and rehabilitation operations most effectively in these areas.

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH: What about crop insurance? A suggestion has been made by many Members about crop insurance. I would like the Minister of Agriculture to assure us that they will at least study the proposition in consultation with the State Governments. Let the Minister say something in that regard. (*Interruptions*).

MR. CHAIRMAN: May I suggest that the clarifications that you individually want to get may be got from the Minister afterwards.... (*Interruptions*). If so many of you talk simultaneously, I cannot understand anybody: so how can the Minister be expected to understand? Mr. Raghu Ramaiah, please put your question again.

19 hrs.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: I will reply to his question...

DR. HENRY AUSTIN: Let me put my question also so that he may answer both together.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether this assistance that has been promised is from within the Plan allocations or outside. If it is from within the Plan allocation, then it will dislocate the entire Plan.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Would it be possible for the Government to create a permanent national fund to meet such calamities?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: Now, many questions have been raised. Regarding crop insurance, it

is a matter which has to be studied in depth...

SHRI K. RAGHU RAMAIAH:
What you study it?

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA:
A study had been going on previously also. We will definitely study the matter because such calamities occur in all parts of the country one way or the other and if some solution can be found it will be a good thing.

Regarding the assistance, most of it, excepting the gratuitous relief, is by way of advance Plan assistance, but we will make sure that next year we study this matter also because, this is according to the Sixth Finance Commission's recommendations. We will have to study in what manner we should make provision for the future.

Regarding the creation of a national fund, a proposal had been made earlier also. Commissions were set up and cyclone distress mitigation committees were set up in Andhra Pradesh and Orissa and they submitted their reports and made their recommendations but recommendation about the fund was rejected by the last Government. So, something has to be done about this also.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I am happy to know that almost all the Members who have taken part in the debate have said that the issue is of national importance and should be viewed from a national perspective. That is a very important element and I am happy about it. But I am equally unhappy when I have to say that the Hon. Minister, in the course of his intervention, made a certain announcement which ultimately proved an elusive one. It is elusive because he has admitted that the entire aid will be adjusted towards Plan assistance—and the only other aid or help he wants to give is just that he will consider the matter. So, they would only be releasing aid in advance

which they might have released in a regular way in accordance with the normal norms as set by the Sixth Finance Commission or the Planning Commission itself. But the whole theme of the discussion was that the cyclone was of an unprecedented nature. The calamity is of a national character and the devastation caused by it has got no precedent. Therefore, no precedent should really come in the way of allocation of funds which are required for mitigating the misery and sufferings of the victims. On this account, I am extremely unhappy and I would like the Government of India to reconsider the whole issue in the interest of the nation, in the interest of the down-trodden people. Reconsideration is very much necessary because of the unprecedented nature of the calamity. As I said, the issue should be reconsidered and the assistance announced by the hon. Minister should be outside the Plan allocations. Only then it will be a real assistance, otherwise it will be an illusion. We refuse to be subjected to this illusion and this House, I am sure, would take that view.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Madam Chairman, I am really distressed by the reply of the hon. Minister to the discussion in this House on this very serious matter. We had a very fruitful discussion without bringing in much of a politics which I had feared at one stage. The hon. Members have discussed this issue in a very sober and serious manner. We had a fruitful discussion, but the hon. Minister's reply has only disappointed us. It was proclaimed by the Government and the Prime Minister himself that this will be treated as a national disaster and money would not stand in the way. But after all these pronouncements, I was extremely disappointed and amazed to see the hon. Minister taking a miserly attitude when the question of money came. He has abundance of sympathy for the victims but when it comes to practical question of assistance, he becomes a miser.

[Shri P. K. Kодиyan]

I would earnestly request the hon. Minister—and I hope he will agree to that—to turn this sympathy for this national calamity into practical assistance in the form of outright grant outside the plan allocation. Then only it will be a national assistance for a national disaster from a national government.

SHRI C. N. VISWANATHAN: We welcome it.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: I hope the hon. Minister will do it.

At the same time, I have also to point out that I am also a little disappointed that no central team has been so far despatched to Kerala and the Lakshadweep.

SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA: It is going tomorrow.

SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Tomorrow they are going. But what is the use of going there after so many days? What will they inspect? The State Government has already spent more than Rs. 3 crores from their own resources and now you are sending a small team of officers there. I was extremely pained to know that an hon. Minister from the Centre who had been to Kerala after getting the discussion on railway accidents postponed on the plea of his visit to Kerala, did not care to visit the affected areas. Only he participated in a party meeting and returned. This is not the attitude which is expected from a government which claims that it considers this calamity as a national calamity.

I hope and trust that the hon. Minister will reconsider the whole issue and announce within the next few days that all this assistance he has announced today will be treated as an outright grant from the centre.

MR. CHAIRMAN: There is an amendment moved by Mr. Kalyanasundaram to the motion at serial No.

12. I will put that amendment to the vote of the House.

Amendment No. 1 was put and negatived.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I will put the main motion to vote.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPAN (Cannanore): Why put to vote? This is an issue where there is a consensus in the House. Why should the House be divided?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): The purpose of the motion was to enable the House to have a full discussion and to enable members who wanted to make suggestions and draw the attention of the government to the situation prevailing in these States to do so. Perhaps that purpose has been fulfilled by the debate that has taken place. Therefore, I will appeal to the hon. Member not to press his motion.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I have a desire to respond readily to the appeal made by the hon. Minister and I agree to withdraw the motion in anticipation that the Government would also reconsider the issues posed by the Members of the House in the matter of converting this help into a grant and afford all necessary help and relief to the cyclone affected areas. As I said, I express my wish to withdraw the motion. I seek leave of the house to withdraw my motion.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Does the hon. Member have the leave of the House to withdraw his motion.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now I will put the amendment moved by Shri Kalyanasundaram to the motion at serial No. 13.

