

**BETWA RIVER BOARD (AMENDMENT) BILL**

AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY : Sir, I lay on the Table of the House the Betwa River Board (Amendment) Bill, 1977, as passed by Rajya Sabha.

12.34 hrs.

**CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Damage to crops and property caused by recent cyclone in Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry**

SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU (Chittoor) : I call the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon—

“The damage to crops and property caused by recent cyclone in coastal districts of Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry and help rendered to victims and the remedial measures taken by the Government.”

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION : ( SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH ) : Sir, in accordance with the information obtained from the State Government of Tamil Nadu and the Administration of the Union Territory of Pondicherry, the position is as follows :

There have been heavy rains all over the State of Tamil Nadu from the 10th of November, 1977 culminating in a cyclonic storm which raged from 2.30 A.M. to 7. A.M. on the 12th November, 1977. power supply and communication facilities were disrupted in the Nagapattinam and several other parts of Thanjavur, Tiruchirappalli, Madurai, Pattukkottai and South Arcot districts. The Annavathi railway bridge of Tirucirappalli-Erode broad gauge section was washed away. The radio net work of Police Department in Nagapattinam and adjoining taluks was also completely immobilised. Breaches in the embankments of several tanks, Kaveri and Coleroon rivers and other minor streams have caused damages to roads etc. There have been several house collapses. Damages to human and cattle life, to cropped areas and other public property are yet to be determined.

An aerial survey was made by the Chief Minister accompanied by the State Minister

for Food and the officials concerned. The first impression of the survey is that the damages are extensive and the State Government is suspecting heavy loss of life and property. The Army, the Air Force and the Fire Service and the Police personnel are assisting in all relief and rescue operations. Members of Board of Revenue and senior officers are coordinating relief operations in the affected areas. About 30,000 loaves of bread have been sent from Madras for distribution in Nagapattinam and Tiruchirappalli by air till 14.11.77, and by road thereafter. Arrangements are being made for providing drinking water supply, inoculation against Cholera and for early restoration of power and communication for want of which relief operations are suffering. Boats from the Army, the Navy and private agencies have been used as also motor vehicles of all Government agencies and of the Army for relief operations. Marooned people are being moved to safety and provided with food and drinking water. Helicopters of the Air Force and the Navy have been made use of to reach inaccessible parts with supplies and for relief work. The State Government is keeping a close watch on the situation and proposing to seek Central assistance to meet the situation caused by long spells of rains from the 12th to 27th of October, 1977 which caused floods in Madras City and districts like Ramanathapuram followed by the cyclone in question. The Meteorological Department has forecast another cyclone of greater intensity to strike Tamil Nadu coast on 17-18th November, 1977 affecting weather conditions from the 16th evening and bringing in heavy rains.

In the Pondicherry and Karikal areas, dwelling houses and fishing villages have been damaged and about 7,000 acres of paddy crop are under water. Thirty-two mechanised fishing boats in these areas have been completely lost. The Pondicherry administration has not yet received any report about loss of human life. About six to seven thousand persons affected by the cyclone have been accommodated in shelters and are being fed through community kitchens.

The Central Government is keeping a watch on the situation and will offer all possible assistance at the request of the State Government.

A Central Team would be visiting the State as soon as the State Government is prepared to receive the Team and put up specific proposals for such assistance.

## cyclone in Tamil Nadu, etc. (CA)

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh]

Three Union Ministers, the Minister of Energy, the Minister of Railways and the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals will within the next 24 hours be proceeding to Madras to help in the relief operations.

This statement covers information received till 11 p.m. last night. This morning we were again contacting the State Government of Tamil Nadu and on the basis of additional information received this morning I am now making a supplementary statement with your permission.

In accordance with the reports received thus far, about two hundred human lives have been lost, but the number may be more, as the reports are still coming in. No estimate of number of heads of cattle lost or dead can be given. On being questioned whether the State Government are in a state of preparedness to meet any further cyclonic storm as forecast by the meteorological department, the State officials indicated that the cyclonic storm is now some where south of Ramanathapuram coast and that the State Government is having a meeting of all concerned at 11 A. M. today in order to meet the situation. On being asked whether any wheat is required for free distribution, it was indicated that it was not required for the time being. It was also indicated that the details about the damages are still being compiled and that the Central team should visit as soon as the State Government is ready with such details. The State Officials expected that they would be ready to receive the Central team within a week or so. Action has been taken to constitute a Central team. Through the Health Ministry, we are in touch with the State Government in the matter of supply of essential medicines and the need for mass inoculation against Cholera and other relief operations. The Indian Red Cross Headquarters in Delhi are also being alerted for arranging necessary assistance to the State Government.

I have also to give this information that Rs. 1 Lakh has been sanctioned from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund. Just now, within half-an-hour, I have also received a telex message which gives only one additional information and that is about the Kodagavar dam in Madurai District having been breached. That is all the information I have upto now.

**SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU :** This unfortunate State was affected by cyclone in 1952, 1955, 1961 and now. Further there is a threat of cyclone by 17th or 18th. In the previous occasions, the effect was less. Now, even according to the reports of the Minister, the effect is more severe and the cyclone has affected Thanjavur,

Tiruchirapalli, Madurai, Pudukottai, South Arcot districts and in addition to them, Pondicherry also.

**MR. SPEAKER :** Ramanathapuram also.

**SHRI P. RAJAGOPAL NAIDU :** I ad Ramanathapuram also as per your advice. We have information that Mayuram recorded 14 cms. in 24 hours, Cuddalore—10 cms. Kancheepuram—9 cms, Pondicherry—12 cms., According to the report of the Minister itself, 70,000 acres of crop is under water and two hundred human beings have lost their lives and additional information is coming in and thousands of poor people have lost their houses. In the report on remedial measures, nothing is mentioned about any compensation being given to those who lost their lives and also to those who lost their houses. Whenever the cyclones come, the sufferers are the kisans. Always, they lose the crops and no compensation is given to them either by the Central Government or by the State Government. This brings in the urgency to introduce crop insurance. The Government is not giving compensation and it is not introducing crop insurance also. Therefore, the agriculturists are left in the lurch. Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh is considered to be a kisan leader and I want him to give compensation to the agriculturists at least now and introduce crop insurance immediately. The other thing is, they are saying that they are going to send a team from here. The Times of India states that there is a loss of Rs. 225 crores in Tamil Nadu, and Pondicherry. What I say is, interim relief should be given by the Centre before sending the team.

The practice of the Central Government is to send the team first, assess the loss and then give something. That is too bad. They require immediate help. Therefore, provisionally the Centre should sanction some crores of rupees on an *ad hoc* basis for relief, then send a team for assessing the loss and then give additional funds. Some of the loss could have been averted if the intensity of the cyclone could have been known earlier. A meteorological institute has been established there, but it does not have proper equipment. Therefore, it is not able to know the intensity of the storm. So, that equipment should be supplied to them. Other measures also should be taken to protect the people.

**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH :** In my statement I have said that the Air Force, Navy and others are helping the Tamilnadu Government in relief operations. In the financial allocations, a sum of Rs. 152 lakhs has been provided to the Tamilnadu government as margin money.

The purpose of allocating this margin money is to meet such calamities like cyclones, floods, droughts, etc., so that the immediate needs may be met. The Tamil Nadu Government in their telex message have said :

“The Central team may be sent in a week from now” They do not want a team immediately. In spite of that, three Union Ministers will go.

SHRI C. N. VISVANATHAN (Tiruppattur) : When did the telex come?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH : It was received by me just now when I was in the House.

MR. SPEAKER : He asked about crop insurance, giving damages to the farmers and improvement of the meteorological system.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH : All these will be looked into, but as far as I know there is no human ingenuity yet which can prevent cyclones.

MR. SPEAKER : He did not say that. He asked about crop insurance.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH : Crop insurance is not under the consideration of the government at present. We will try to improve the meteorological services. All the time we are trying to do that.

MR. SPEAKER : What about paying damages to the farmers for the loss of crop ? That will be under your consideration ?

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH : Yes, Sir.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : I am very sorry I am not satisfied with the statement and replies of the Minister. I hope the Speaker is also not satisfied.

MR. SPEAKER : Don't drag me in. I am perpetually satisfied !

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Some justice should be done to the people. The moth-eaten Janata Government cannot run the administration in this shabby manner. When a colossal and devastating cyclone resulting in loss of life and property hits Tamilnadu and other neighbouring States like Pondicherry and Karnataka also.

Sir, this cyclone resulted in damages in the area consisting of 8 districts and neighbouring Pondicherry. But from the reply through the Statement made by the Minister I must say that it is not a Statement that any responsible Government should make and it was made without looking into the

gravity of the situation in Tamil Nadu. That is why I charge this Government that they have not shown any responsibility and they have shown discriminatory attitude towards South Indian State even when the State is facing a threat from cyclone.

MR. SPEAKER : Mr. Lakkappa, you are indirectly attacking the Tamil Nadu Government.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I tell you, Sir, that this is nothing but callousness of the Government and inefficiency of the Government in running the administration. That is why I charge this Government for the discriminatory attitude that they have shown. This rupees one lakh grant, do you think that this is a 'prasadam' from Tirupathi ? The result of the damage is assessed as Rs. 2.25 crores. You are unable to give correctly the estimate of the loss of cattle. More than one thousand cattle have perished and the people affected are more than a lakh. The People are undergoing a lot of suffering. And now you wanted to say at the end of your statement that “we are watching the situation.” That means, there will be more loss of life and property and now the effect of cyclone is going to be for another two days and it will devastate the entire State of Tamil Nadu, and you want to run the Government like this ? The Tamil Nadu Government must not have assessed the situation properly. But we stand for the people of Tamil Nadu. But you should not plead a fatalistic attitude. I would like to quote the following for the benefit of the hon. new Minister : This is from the editorial of the “Times of India” dated 15th November, 1977 :

“Cyclones are fairly frequent in the Bay of Bengal. During the seventy years ending 1960, some 400 of them are known to have been formed in the area and many of them have hit the coastal regions with devastating ferocity. There is, however, less justification than in the past, for adopting a fatalistic attitude towards them. Meteorological science and modern communications. . . .”

You are going to destroy science and technology already. I know the attitude of your Government towards science and technology in this country that was built for more than 30 years. You are adopting a fatalistic attitude towards them.

“Meteorological science and modern communications can now provide warning enough in advance for precautions to be taken in good time.”

Did they do that? Has this responsible Government made any assessment and fixed the responsibility on those people who are handling science and technology ?

[Shri K. Lakkappa]

"At the beginning of this year the government had begun to establish a big research Centre at Madras to process the information received from an American weather satellite as well as a weather radar in the city itself. But the authorities seem to have been rather slow in acquiring a reconnaissance aircraft that the men in charge of the centre badly need to fly into the eye of a developing storm and collect data on high winds and low pressures. This alone can enable them to predict precisely the path the cyclone is likely to take. In any case, the machinery for relaying the information to the officials in fishing ports and other vulnerable areas need to be vastly improved. How ineffective it is at present is shown up by the fact that nine mechanised fishing boats and twenty country craft, with eighty men aboard, were allowed to set sail from Vellayil near Calicut right into the storm on Saturday evening even as All India Radio was broad-casting "news" of the impending calamity."

This is a simple thing. The Government of India could have obtained advance information and the officers who were working there could have informed and alarmed the people and by that the people could have been saved from this disaster. And remedial measures could have been taken. Why have they not been taken? Why has not even one Minister visited the places so far? Why did they not even reach the Meenambakkam airport? I do not know whether Mr. Ramachandran has gone to Madras. I know he would not have. He knows the fury of the people. The loss to property is more than Rs. 2 crores. The entire train services in the South have been disrupted. (*Interruptions*) The hon. Minister has made a statement. It is a false statement to say that 200 persons have died.

MR. SPEAKER : You cannot accuse the government which is not here. The information which the Minister will give here will be what the Tamil Nadu Government gave to them. You are indirectly accusing the Government of Tamil Nadu—which I will not allow.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I am not accusing any government in the States. I know that the Central Government has neglected the States and has shown neglect in taking relief measures. The Government here wants to have integration by showing discriminatory attitude even in providing relief during times of peril and when people are suffering. Do you agree with this, Sir?

MR. SPEAKER. : I don't.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Please warn the Government. The communication links have been disrupted. Medicines should be supplied; and they are not reaching the suffering people. Even drinking water is not available. Diseases like cholera are already there. No food is available to the suffering people.

MR. SPEAKER: You can only ask for information now. We are going to have a debate on floods. You are making a speech.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : I am not making a speech. I am drawing the attention of the Minister and asking what they are going to do. That is why I brought in the operation of the meteorological system. (*Interruptions*).

MR. SPEAKER: Please pass on your papers to the Minister.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : No information has been given by the Minister in his statement. Properties of Railways, and Postal department, as also roads, bridges, paddy fields houses and machinery have been damaged. The problem is of such a big dimension. The hon. Minister has given a bold statement; and our Prime Minister is giving 'prasadam' of Rs. 1 lakh to the needy people at this hour. How far is this justified? Will the Minister make a categorical statement just now and assure us that adequate supplies of all the necessities of life will be provided to the starving people of Tamil Nadu and of other areas affected? Will he give an assurance that he will not show any discriminatory attitude towards the Southern States? This discrimination will lead to disintegration. They are already supporting regional tendencies. We do not agree with the statement of the hon. Minister. So, we want a categorical assurance on all the points.

15 hrs.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : Sir, I suggest you kindly send a parliamentary delegation there, see the position and come back and report to you.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Minister. Whatever information the hon. Member has given, he can take; whatever questions he has asked can be answered.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA) : In fact, there is no question. He has made only some wild allegations.

**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH :** I totally deny the charge of any discrimination by the Union Government towards the Tamilnadu Government. Our sympathy with the people of Tamilnadu is more than what we have shown to others. We are ready to extend any kind of help to them. As regards the other parts of his speech, I can only say that I admire the hon. Member's infinite capacity to find fault where there is none.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :** Sir, he has not answered my question.

**MR. SPEAKER :** He has answered.

**SHRI O.V. ALAGESAN (Arkonam) :** For instance, he has asked about the meteorological department.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The Minister replied to it in answer to an earlier question.

**SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM (Tiruchendur) :** Sir, though we would like to believe the statement of the hon. Minister, we cannot. Sir, only yesterday I had been to your chamber to request you to include this in the agenda. I come from Tiruchendur constituency, especially from Tiruchendur proper. Everyday the people there used to catch lakhs of rupees worth of prawn and export it to foreign countries. When I asked a question—U.S.Q. No. 199 for 14-11-77—of my hon. friend on this subject, the reply was that he was not aware of these fishing operations and therefore the export of prawns Tiruchendur through Cochin did not arise. This is an example of his ignorance of the problems of affected people and lack of sympathy.

We all know the reputation of *The Hindu*, a local paper, throughout India. For the last three days this newspaper has given detailed statements of the things that have happened there. In one particular village, Vedasandur, about 2,000 people are missing. Nobody can say where they have gone. Can the Minister say where those people are?

Even according to the statement of the hon. Minister, this havoc continued from the 10th. What have you done for the State? If you have done nothing, what are you here for? Have you got any sympathy for Tamilnadu? Do you mean to say that Tamilnadu is not a part of India? It is a part of India. We are Indians. But you are forgetting and ignoring Tamilnadu. Today is 16th, six days have already passed. You have not done any-

thing during these six days. Of course, the State Government is doing something. That is a different matter. I want a categorical answer from the hon. Minister as to what the Government of India have done to mitigate the sufferings of the people of Tamilnadu. Railway bridges have been washed away. There are no trains. I am not able to go to my place and see my people there. And you are sleeping here. Our respected Prime Minister is saying that he has given Re. 1 lakh. It is said that my hon. friends Shri Bahuguna and Shri Ramachandran are going, but I want to know categorically when they are going.

If you allow me, I can read all the details given in *The Hindu* of the havoc caused there, how many lives have been lost etc. You have no respect for Tamil Nadu. Because nobody voted for your Janata Party, you are treating us like this. It is not fair. Government is only for the people, not for the party. So, I am charging you, this is not fair on your part, so far you have not taken any action, you have not thought of any action. A Calling Attention has come, and so you have come forward to reply to it.

In 1960, when Rameswaram was cut off, the entire machinery of the Government of India was there, and I was present. And in the 1973 famine Rs. 22 crores were given to Tamil Nadu by the Government of India. So, what are you doing now? We want a categorical reply.

Merely the hon. Minister going there is not enough. The officials should also go and assess the damage and give relief immediately on a war footing. This is my request to the hon. Minister.

**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH :** It has been stated that the Government of India is doing nothing, but that is not true. The Army, the Navy and the Air Force are rendering all possible help to the State Government. We have offered them food.

**SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM :** How much?

**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH :** Any amount.

**MR. SPEAKER :** And money also any amount, when they ask.

**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH :** We are in touch with the State Government. Assessment of the damage can be done only after some time. In consultation with them it will be decided how much relief is required in terms of cash and

[Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh]

that will also be advanced. It cannot be done in 24 or 48 hours. There is a procedure for it.

Regarding the number of deaths, if I have a choice between press reporting and the reporting by the Tamil Nadu Government, I would certainly place my reliance more on the Tamil Nadu Government's reporting. I had mentioned 200, but in this telex it is said that loss of life firmly reported so far is of the order of 180 only. So, you are just trying to make out a case where there is no case. We are in constant touch with the Government of Tamil Nadu. Whatever be their requirement, it will be considered.

MR. SPEAKER : They have told the State Government that whatever money they need; would be given. Now it is the State Government which has to ask for the money.

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki) : Is he going to give advance money against certain allotments as per the Commission's report or is it going to be an outright grant for the purpose of meeting the requirements?

MR. SPEAKER : That is a matter between the State Government and the Central Government.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM (Tiruchirappalli) : I am grateful to you and the House for giving us an opportunity to raise this matter which is of great concern not only for Tamil Nadu but for the entire country. This natural calamity is unprecedented in living memory. But the facts given here are very modest. The Tamil Nadu Government perhaps, thought in their wisdom that it should not be exaggerated. They themselves said in their statement that whatever information they have secured, is partial only. They have said in the Statement that in Tanjavur more than 2000 persons are missing. They cannot say for definite whether they are dead or whether they are recoverable. That is their difficulty. But this matter should be treated above party politics. This should not be treated as a matter of controversy. This House must jointly send its sympathies. Let us express our concern for the people of Tamil Nadu in their hour of distress. On behalf of this House, I convey to Tamil Nadu people the sympathies of this House.

MR. SPEAKER : You are perfectly right.

SHRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : The damage done is something colossal. I have been getting information daily and I have been trying to raise this matter in this House since then. But I am very much disheartened that it takes such a long time. That shows that the Central Government here was not alert. If such a thing is happening in the State where 600 miles of coastal area has been affected, what was the Government doing? Is it the responsibility of the State Government alone? Should it be left to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Food Minister and Revenue Board Member? What are they doing? I do agree that they have at last sent some helicopters from Bangalore and IAF planes for doing aerial survey. I really thank them for that. But you are the Government of India. You must have rushed there immediately. This has happened on 10th and today it is 16th. Some Ministers were designated to leave for Madras but they are still here. It is easy for them to go to Washington and Tokyo and come back. But to go to Madras is so difficult. They are still sitting here.

I am not interested in making any criticism. I am wanting the Government of India to rush all possible help to Tamil Nadu. The most important thing is monetary help. It should not be allotted against the Plan allocation. For four years consecutively we suffered from drought conditions. This year, we are suffering from another calamity. The finances of Tamil Nadu are in a very bad shape. However efficient a Government may be, it will be very difficult to manage the things without finances because of the past mismanagement. We have suffered from natural calamities consecutively for the last four years and, this year, it has been the worst calamity. I am 68 years old but I have not seen such a thing in my life. My constituency of Tiruchirappalli is affected; Mr. Somasundaram's constituency is affected; Mr. C. Subramaniam's constituency is affected where about 2000 people are missing; Mr. K. Gopal's constituency is affected where a railway bridge has been washed away. I am leaving for my constituency tonight but I am not sure whether I will be able to reach my place and see my people. Half of the Tamil Nadu State is cut off. There is no communication either by rail or road. It is too early even to assess the damage caused. Electricity has failed; drinking water has failed; wireless communication has failed.

15:17 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Whatever might have been the aggressive manner in which Mr. Lakkappa has spoken, I hope, what he has said will be taken note of by the Janata Government. That is

about the functioning of the Meteorological Department. This time it may be Nagapattinam; last time, it was Dhanushkodi which was washed away some 20 years ago. It may be Cuddalore or Pondicherry or Madras or Kakinada or Orissa, I want to know what steps have been taken by the Government of India to strengthen the Meteorological Department. The Meteorological Department can send a warning to the State concerned. Is science and technology so bad that we cannot anticipate or forecast such a calamity? Man must learn to control nature. Nature must serve the interests of the people. That is the purpose of science and technology. Cannot the Meteorological Department give a warning? What were they doing? They had not given sufficient warning to the fisherman. Many of the fishermen have lost their lives. If a warning had been given, the fishermen would not have gone to the coasts. The fact that so many coasts were washed away and so many fishermen did not return, what does it show? It shows that they were not warned in time. I suggest that a high-powered technical committee also must be constituted to study the situation in the area and to take preventive and protective measures against calamities of this kind in future.

Mere money alone is not enough. Lakhs and lakhs of people have been rendered homeless. Their homes must be re-constructed. The Government must give them a grant for constructing their homes. Most of them are Harijans and the people belonging to the fishermen community. The fishermen who have lost their country boats for fishing must be compensated. They must be given all help to rehabilitate themselves to start their work.

Medicines and clothes must also be supplied to them free. I do not think even a medical depot in Madras can cope up with the situation. Medicines and clothes are required in large quantity. The army personnel and doctors must be sent there to help the people. If possibly, the army personnel should be asked to put up tents for the people. The Government can build *pucca* houses. But the number of *pucca* houses may not be adequate. Lakhs and lakhs of people are involved. They must be helped to rehabilitate themselves at least temporarily to begin with.

Immediate relief is necessary. A long-range plan is also necessary. Let us take a lesson from the experience of the past and have a long-range plan to provide for such calamities. That is why, I suggest that the Government should allot sufficient funds but not against the plan allocation.

In this connection, what a parliamentary Committee will do or not is not the point. But the people will be happy that this House thought it fit to send a delegation there to see the whole situation and express their sympathy when they are suffering. Even a sense of expressing sympathy will be a great consolation for them. I appreciate the suggestion made by the hon. Member Shri Jyotirmoy Bose that a parliamentary delegation consisting of Members from all sections of the House should be sent there to see the people affected over there and assure them that the Central Government and this Parliament will stand by the people of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I have not made any claim that the information that I have given is the final one. All my information is based on telephonic communication with the officials of the Tamil Nadu Government. Whatever they have informed us, we have placed before you. Another point that I want to make is that relief in such situations is entirely a State subject. As far as relief is concerned, it is a State subject and whatever relief is to be provided has to be...  
(Interruptions)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : He is not expected to take that plea.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Relief is a state subject and whatever relief has to be given.....(Interruptions) If they are not interested, then there is no point in replying. I am only stating that relief is a State subject and whatever relief has to be given has to be channelised through the State Government only, and we have asked the State Government to place their request or proposals or whatever it is before us. As soon as we receive them, we will go all out to help them. But it cannot be done in a manner that is being suggested by some of the hon. Members here. It has to be channelised through the State Government. We have offered every kind of relief and help to them and when we receive those requests, they will be attended to very promptly.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Pannani) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has refuted the charge of any discriminatory attitude towards Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry; he has refuted that particular charge, but the Government cannot escape the fact that it had adopted a cold attitude towards this great human calamity faced by Tamil Nadu. It is very deplorable that so many days have passed and none from the Treasury

[ Shri G. M. Banatwalla ]

Benches ever thought it fit to visit Tamil Nadu. Even up-till-now, the hon. Minister has not tried to explain to this House as to what was the reason for this serious lapse. I say that Tamil Nadu has suffered a double injury at the hands of this Government. The first one is the cold attitude of this Government and the second one is the unrepentant attitude of trying to justify their callousness in this House. This unrepentant attitude of the Government, trying to justify its callousness, is most deplorable. Let the Government come forward with an unequivocal statement that a total and complete rehabilitation of all the uprooted people, all the unfortunate victims of this calamity, will be undertaken by the Government. We here should be able, at least, to hold out that promise to our people in distress. I, therefore, ask the Government to make an announcement in this House that a total and complete rehabilitation of all the unfortunate victims of this calamity will be done by the Government. Then only, perhaps, the callousness of the Government can be wiped out.

Now, within 24 hours, three Ministers are proceeding to Tamil Nadu. A suggestion has been put forward about sending a Parliamentary Delegation. Let the Government tell this House in unequivocal terms that this delegation of Ministers will be turned into a Parliamentary Delegation. What hesitation can there be on the part of the Government to accede to this most reasonable demand of this House? I hope that the hon. Minister will not be evasive in replying to the various questions concerning this great human tragedy, that have been raised in this House.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: Sir, it has been asked a pointedly....

श्री उग्रसेन (देवरिया) : यह भी बतायें कि तमिलनाडु सरकार ने अभी तक क्या किया है? जरा उसकी भी सफाई हो जाये।

AN HON. MEMBER: The names of Tamil Nadu MPs unfortunately, did not come in the ballot (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : It is not a question of north-south. I protest against this attitude. We are one; we are Indians.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: There is no question of north-south. It is a question of human tragedy.

SHRI RAGAVALU MOHANAR-ANGAM (Chengalpattu): What is the reason for this inordinate delay, if it is not a question of north-south? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. If three Members are simultaneously on their feet, nothing will go on record.

I have called the Minister.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: A very pointed question has been asked of me whether all the damage done will be completely and totally rehabilitated. My reply to this pointed question is 'No'. It is just not possible. It has never been done before. It cannot be done. It has not been done even in a rich country like the United States whenever there were such calamities....

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Then why are you running this Government? If you are helpless, you better resign and go. We will administer better. Why are you talking like this? (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : Mr. Lakkappa will please resume his seat. Now whatever he says will not go on record. Four Members are on their feet. Nothing will go on record. I am very sorry. The Minister may continue.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I have already promised maximum relief. But if a question is raised of total rehabilitation, then I would like to know from the hon. Members whether any Government anywhere in the world has ever rehabilitated fully in the case of natural calamities. It is just not possible.

As far as sympathy is concerned, I have already expressed full sympathy. In fact we will do more than what we have done for the North-Indian States; rest assured about that. It is not we who are making a political issue of natural calamities; it is some of the hon. Members sitting on that side who are trying to take advantage of a natural calamity, which is very deplorable.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY (Nizamabad) : You tell us what is possible.



SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH: I have already said that all relief will be channelised through the State Government. As and when they ask for help we are ready to extend it to the maximum extent possible.

the Committee vice Sarvashri Sheo Narain and Jagdambi Prasad Yadav ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers of State".

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER : The question is :

15.32 hrs.

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

SIXTH REPORT

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND LABOUR (SHRI RAVINDRA VARMA): Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

"That the members of this House to proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of the Committee vice Sarvashri Sheo Narain and Jagdambi Prasad Yadav ceased to be members of the Committee on their appointment as Ministers of State".

*The motion was adopted*

COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

SIXTH REPORT

SHRI NIRMAL CHANDRA JAIN (Sconi) : Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Committee on private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The process of election will be notified in the Bulletin.

15.35 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

ELEVENTH REPORT

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki): I beg to present the Eleventh Report of the Public Accounts Committee on paragraphs 11113 to 11117, Railway Operations and Earnings included in the Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India for the year 1974-75, Union Government (Railways).

(i) RECENT CBI RAIDS ON OFFICES OF POLITICAL PARTIES IN PUNJAB

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : I raise an important matter under Rule 377 regarding the Vigilance and CBI raids on our Party Office. During the last two or three months the treatment meted out by the so-called Janta Party to political institutions is such that the people of this country hang down their heads in shame. The deplorable functioning of the Janta Party and its political witch-hunting cannot be exonerated. By according such treatment to political institutions, they are making a mockery of democracy. The like of the recent raids on our political Party office is not known in the annals of history....

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

SHRI C. M. STEPHEN (Idukki) : I beg to move:

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) : My Party Offices have been raided no less than five hundred times.

"That the members of this House do proceed to elect in the manner required by sub-rule (3) of Rule 254 read with sub-rule (1) of Rule 309 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Committee on Public Accounts for the unexpired portion of the term of

श्री उपर्युक्तः देवरिया मध्यम महोदय, जब हम लोग सीसा में कैद थे, हमारी पार्टी का दफ्तर पुलिस ने गिरा दिया, जो आज तक नहीं बना।