

my request that the Hon. Minister's suggestion may please be approved.

SHRIGIRIDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Sir, discussion under Rule 193 goes for years. But I am talking of completing it in this month only. It could be continued tomorrow.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Please take a trouble for sitting one hour more. This is a matter of Public interest.

SHRIGIRIDHARILAL BHARGAVA: Sir, when it becomes night I cannot see properly and it becomes difficult for me to reach home. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI VJAY NAVAL PATIL (Erandol): Let the House be extended upto 7 o' Clock.

MR. CHAIRMAN: I think the majority of the hon. Members want the House should be extended up to 7.00 P. M.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KANDURI (Garhwal): During this discussion it is also stated that there will be a discussion on earthquake in Uttar Pradesh.

17.00 hrs

MR. CHAIRMAN: The question before the House is the flood situation in the Bay of Bengal. There is no mention of the earthquake in this.

SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMAN-GALAM: Sir, I have placed the report of the Business Advisory Committee just now and as per the Report, the earthquake will be discussed on the 10th December, 1991 at 3.00 P.M.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KANDURI: Thank you, Sir.

MR. CHAIRMAN: The sitting of the House is extended upto 7 o' Clock. Now, Shri

K.V. Thangka Balu to raise a discussion under Rule 193.

17.02 hrs

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Flood Situation caused by recent cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal

[*English*]

SHTI K.V.THANGKA BALU (Dharmapuri): Sir, I stand to raise a discussion on the statement made in the minister of agriculture in the House on 29 November, 1991 regarding flood situation caused by the recent cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and relief measures undertaken by the Government.

Every year, we are accustomed to get floods and its recurrence is a continuous feature now. The whole nation is aware of the severity of the North-West monsoon which hit the Southern States between 12 to 15 November. It was one of the severest one in the history that had occurred and damaged heavily, particularly the parts of Tamil Nadu, certain parts of Pondicherry and other parts of Andhra Pradesh, Kerala and Karnataka also.

We have seen the aftermath of the severest cyclonic affects by our own eyes and that experience I am not in a position to explain because that kind of severity I have never seen in my life in the past.

The depression in the Bay of Bengal which formed on 12 November and subsequently moved in the West and North West-erly direction crossed the coast of Tamil Nadu between Nagapattinam and Cuddalore and finally hit the whole district of Caid-e-Millet and Thanjavur and subsequently the Karaikal the Pondicherry region.

Against the normal rainfall of 864 mm, the actual receipt of rain during the period of cyclone was about 2,814 mm. The heavy rains lashed Nagapattinam Quaid-e-millet district Chingleputtu-MGR district, Madras, Dharmapuri, Madurai, Dindigulaana district, Pudukkottai, Nilgiri, Periyar, Salem and Tiruvannamalai-Sambuvarayar district of Tamil Nadu.

This is one side of the fact. The other side is that Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and some parts of Kerala and Pondicherry are also affected heavily. Several lives have been lost, villages have been marooned, cattles have perished. Lakhs of people have been displaced, several tanks have breached, and agricultural crops on more than three lakh hectares of land have been submerged. National and State Highways and roads linking panchayats and villages were damaged heavily. When the team comprising of the Union Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Balram Jakhar and the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam visited the State, even at that time they were able to see the severity of the situation. Government of India's teams have visited Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Pondicherry and other parts of the country also.

I do agree that the Central Government, particularly the Prime Minister's office, was in touch with the State Governments, Particularly with the people of our party, to alleviate the problems which are going to be caused to the people due to this cyclone and its aftermath.

In spite of effective steps taken by the Central Government and the State Governments, these happenings could not be stopped because men or material have no control over natural calamities.

We have witnessed that in Tamil Nadu alone, more than 3,920 villages have been severally affected, 3,65,115 families have

been rendered homeless and 185 lives were lost. Out of 275 lakhs of people in the coastal belt, we were able to evacuate only 175 lakhs of people. Because of so much precautions that we had taken, we were able to save the precious lives of hundreds of thousands of people, otherwise the loss of life world have run into lakhs and lakhs.

17.09 hrs.

[MR, DEPUTY SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

As I mentioned, among the four southern States, the most hit are Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. I have said earlier that the human life lost in Tamil Nadu alone is 185, cattles lost are 315, people evacuated are 1,75,000 and the huts damaged in Tamil Nadu alone are 230 lakhs. Cauvery, which was in spate, entered the Thanjavur district of Tamil Nadu and had about 20 to 25 breaches. In total we have lost more than 1,112 breaches which got damaged due to this cyclone and heavy rain. In Tamil Nadu alone 7,048 kilometers of road were fully damaged. About the water logging in the agrarian sector I may say that nearly 1,40,550 hectares of land was water logged and submerged and totally washed away. This was the pathetic condition of the cyclone and heavy rain.

In Pondicherry, about 40,000 huts were damaged. 20,000 acres of land was washed away. This is in a part of Pondicherry particularly in the Karaikkal region and some parts. of Pondicherry in the coastal belt.

Sir, I come to Tamil Nadu again. The people affected in the floods and heavy rains were the poorest among the poor, agricultural labourers and those who are working on daily wage basis and earning their daily bread. Such kind of common and poorest people were affected. As we know, even after the great efforts by our Party and our Governments, we are not able to settle them properly in a proper manner. That is why they are still living in the low-lying areas

[Sh. K.V. Thangka Balu]

without a proper house and without a proper mechanism for earning their livelihood.

I must also mention here about the efforts made by the State and the Central Government in the regard. The Prime Minister's office has been giving clear directions. The radio and television have done a good job in advising the people to evacuate and also to keep off from this disaster, and thereby our State Government took effective steps after the calamity took place. Hon. Jayalalitha, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu sent her ministers to the affected places and also made available, to the district authorities and the Central Government authorities, the defence boats. All the officers were at the affected areas and were able to do what best they could and which was at their command to provide relief to the people.

I would like to bring one more thing to the notice of the august House and the Government. In Tamil Nadu alone about 13,831 kilometers of National Highway and state Highway were damaged. This is one pathetic part. Subsequently in the villages almost in all the districts which I mentioned earlier, even today we are not able to go or drive or even reach the people quickly. That is the severity of the damage which was caused due to the severe floods. Particularly in the villages I may mention that about 6,356 kilometers of panchayat roads and another 9,552.27 kilometers of the interior roads have been considerably damaged. And particularly in all the districts the culverts, causeways and retaining walls have been severely damaged in several places. Similarly, there were 5,427 school buildings, noon-meal centres and the panchayat office building which were also damaged.

Sir, about 1370 percolation ponds, minor irrigation tanks and several channels were also damaged due to these heavy floods. Thanjavur and Quaid-e-milleth districts are the granaries of the whole state of Tamil

Nadu. Those two districts give food to the people of Tamil Nadu. Both the districts were totally damaged and the main rivers Araniyar, Kusathalayar, Palar, Penner, Vellar and Coleroon were full of water due to heavy rains and floods and they were in spate. In and around the whole area there was water. The three districts of Quaid-e-milleth, Thanjavur and south Arcot were submerged totally thereby we were to lose about 2 lakhs or more hectares of paddy crop out of which more than 20,000 hectares of paddy was ready for harvest. Even that was lost. The standing crop in three lakh hectares was washed away. At this juncture the pitiable part is the Central Government's direction to the State of Tamil Nadu when we were about to get pretty good harvest in this year due to good monsoon. But due to the sudden calamity we lost it and the Central Government has given another shock. The other day I raised this very important issue. When we are not in a position to feed ourselves, the Central allocation of rice to the State of Tamil Nadu was reduced suddenly from 81,000 to 65,000 tonnes.

I earnestly appeal that when we are in difficulty, the Centre should have come forward and increased the rice quota to Tamil Nadu. But on the contrary, they have sent a communication to the State of Tamil Nadu stating that they are going to reduce it from the month of December. I do not know what happened now. I urge upon the Government to consider this request of the State and particularly from us. This request should be considered in a sympathetic manner so that the people of Tamil Nadu would not be in difficulties.

Sir, our union Minister for Agriculture, Dr. Bal Ram Jakhar, and hon. Minister Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, along with the Chief Minister of Pondicherry and the State Government Minister Shri Thirunavukarasu deputed by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, and other people visited the area. Here I would like to inform you that our hon. Prime Minister as the Congress

President sent a team of Congress officials under the leadership of Shri Janardhana Poojary, Myself, Shri Narayanaswamy, Member of parliament and also Shri Mallanna to visit the area and find out the reality and also find out what can be done and report back to him. Sir, we have travelled throughout the length and breadth of the area by foot, by car and whatever means available. We have done our best and we could meet the people and see the pathetic scenario thereby we could see the plight of those people in those places. The plight cannot be exaggerated, but it can be explained in a better manner. We also come from the villages where where agriculture is the main occupation. We see the pathetic conditions there. One could not imagine how they are in shambles. They are still in miserable condition in spite of the tremendous support given by the Government and the relief activities that are taking place there. We have visited those places.

I am told the Central Government have given a direction to the State, after the IX Finance Commission report, about Central relief that is to be earmarked every year through which they are allocating funds. That is one of the good measures which has been taken. We should congratulate the IX Finance Commission because hereafter as and when the calamity takes place, there is no need for the State Government or the concerned affected parties to request for relief. But on the contrary, the funds are already earmarked and State-wise allocations have been done. Accordingly, Tamil Nadu has Rs. 39 crores of allocation. Four installments have been given to the State. The State empowered to spend the money. The Chief Secretary of the State can take advantage of the fund and rush it to the affected people for relief immediately. It is a good suggestion. At the same time, the funds allotted are on average basis. This year, Tamil Nadu has been affected. Last year, Andhra was affected. Next year, Orissa may be affected. We do not know when the cyclone will hit where, while allotting funds,

the extent of damage should also be taken into consideration because the Central Government has got the machinery and mechanism to make the data available in all possible ways and to quantify the damages. I feel, the allocation made to Tamil Nadu is not up to the level of expectation of the rain-god or cyclone damage because the cyclone was very severe. According to our estimate, about Rs. 390 crores have to be provided to the State. Otherwise, nothing can be done in Tamil Nadu. This is the position. The bridges across the rivers have been damaged. The roads are affected. The people are suffering. Those things need to be given priority so that the people are rehabilitated and relocated. This is the minimum amount we require for the State of Tamil Nadu I will come to the other States later.

Here, I would like to say one more thing. According to the cyclone damage graph, from 1985 to 1990, the loss due to flood havoc in this country is about Rs.18922 crores, in the span of six years only. But the amount which the Government of India has sanctioned till 1991, after the IX Finance Commission, to the States is about Rs.603 crores. One good thing which the IX Finance Commission has one for which I should congratulate it is the amount which is given by the Centre is not as loan. But this is going as share of the Central Government. The States have to bear 25 per cent of the balance money for the calamity relief fund and according to the ratio, they have to spend for the calamity relief.

Compared to the extent of damage, the Centre has sanctioned for the last six years, only one-sixth of the amount. It has so far released only one-sixth of the amount.

The damage takes place in a large quantity and that much quantum may not be able to help but, at the same time, I must urge upon the Government that this should not be taken lightly. The damages caused by the recent floods in Tamil Nadu should be fully compensated by the Centre alone. We know

[Sh. K.V. Thangka Balu]

the resource crunch and the State is also facing the same kind of problem and we are not in a position to recover from the shocks as such shocks can be recovered with the help of the Central Government only.

There are a few suggestions that I would like to make before I conclude.

The poorest of the poor people live in the low-lying areas. Their houses were totally damaged. According to the direction of the Central Government, I can the State Government is giving Rs.500/- to reconstruct the huts. It is unimaginable. It is intolerable. The people are already in trouble and their position is not improving. In today's prices, one cannot build a house with Rs.500/-. This is common knowledge. *(Interruptions)* Previously Rs. 400/- was given. Now, the Government of Tamil Nadu revised it to Rs. 500/-. But even then it is impossible to repair fully the damaged house with Rs. 400/- or Rs. 500/-. We cannot even buy Ten bamboo with Rs. 500/-. This is the condition today. *(Interruptions)*

We have to reconsider the position. These poor people must be at least Rs. 3,000/- to Rs. 5,000/- to rebuild the huts. That is the bare minimum the Government must give. Immediate director should be given to the State Government in this regard so that the poor people may be relocated in the areas. In the same way, the half-damaged houses i.e., one wall collapse are full of water and mud and there is nothing else there here is only some dust standing. In that house, it is humanly impossible for common people and poor people to live in that condition. We should come forward and safeguard their interests. You should give guidelines that the half-damaged house should be given at least Rs. 3,000/- minimum so that they can repair and live in that house.

Alternately, the Government must consider to treat on priority basis those affected

families and those affected houses. Those people should be given loans on priority basis from the IRDP and JRY Schemes and they should be given other facilities so that the rehabilitation work can be speeded up there.

17.09 hrs

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

Secondly, a very important factor is, the agricultural operations were totally off today. There are no more operations because 3 lakh hectares of land was totally washed away and the water-logging is still there. Even today we get reports that more than one lakh acres of land is totally sand-covered area. This is not an ordinary job for common agriculturists, poor people. They remain helpless. With that agricultural operation, they are earning their bread and are living. The funny part of it is, we have contacted the bank officials, and the crop insurance people. We have demanded them to tell us what kind of remedial measures they are going to take for the affected people. They told us that crop insurance is only meant for farmers who take loans. Those who are getting loans for fertilizers and seeds will get only Rs. 500/- or Rs.1,000 /- or Rs. 3,000/-. Maximum, if they have two acres of land. Only that amount, what is given to them by way of seeds and by way of fertilizer, is covered by way of crop insurance. This is the pathetic condition, I would say. I come from a poor common farmer's family.

I know the reality; They say that the farmers will get a compensation amount of equal to Loan that 100 only when the crop is going to give yields. It may be after one or two months and the area covered may be one acre or two acres. Further, that Rs.10,000 crop value is not covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme. The Crop Insurance Policy is meant for the Government Loan only. They want to satisfy the banks. They want to safeguard the interests of the banks only and not the poor farmers. This is the

pathetic condition which is prevailing. The Government must bring forward some legislation to alleviate the problem of poor people. I would say that the Crop Insurance Scheme has become a mockery. Of course, the Crop Insurance Scheme is there. We discuss this with the officers at the ground level. They say: "We are sorry. You have to look for the Government. The Government must give directions and we cannot do anything. We will only ensure the loan is recovered.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.V. Thangkabalu, this is a subject pertaining to cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the relief measures undertaken by the Government, not about the entire agriculture. I have a list of about 10 people. You have to stick to the subject.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I have not yet started the subject.

MR. SPEAKER: You start with the subject.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I am only talking about the subject. I am talking about the affected areas.

MR. SPEAKER: You are talking about the entire agricultural policy.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: No. I am not talking about the agricultural policy. I am only talking about the affected people. I have seen personally the affected areas. I have visited the affected areas.

MR. SPEAKER: Please come to the point.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I have visited the cyclone-affected areas. They say that the Crop Insurance amount will be given only after the yield has come. After that only, they will quantify the yield. That will take one or two months. But till that time the insurance policy will not help the affected people in the affected areas. This is the pathetic condition. Moreover, they say that they will cover

only the loan amount. More than three lakh hectares of crops have been marooned, destroyed and the people are weeping in those areas. Therefore, I urge upon the Government that the Government must come forward with some bold measures and waive all the loans which were taken by the farmers in such flood-affected areas. Also, the Government must instruct the authorities that they should cover the entire affected areas and not otherwise.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.V. Thangka Balu, I am not going to allow you because the time given for this subject is two hours. You have started at 5 O'clock. You have spoken for 35 minutes. I have got 10 other Members to speak. You cannot do like this. It cannot go on like this.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will finish it quickly. There is no Problem. I want only another 10 minutes.

MR. SPEAKER: You will have to conclude in one minute's time. Already, you have taken 35 minutes.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: Actually, I am raising this issue.

MR. SPEAKER: Out of the two hours time, you have taken 35 minutes.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: The hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said that you can allot three hours.

MR. SPEAKER: No. It is not for the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister to adjust who else to speak. I have two hours for this discussion. You have spoken for 35 minutes.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will finish it in another five minutes time.

MR. SPEAKER: You have to conclude in one minute's time. Otherwise, I am going to call the other Members.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: It is very unfortunate. I am very sorry. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Out of the two hour's time, you have spoken for 35 minutes.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU: I will finish it. I was talking about the problem of the affected agriculturists. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government to waive all the loans which have been taken by the agriculturists. They should be given fresh loans for re-cultivation and re-plantation in the affected areas. In addition to that, the Government must bear the expenditure which has to be incurred by the States for the reclamation work done in those areas.

Finally, I would like to say that in order to stop the recurrence of floods etc. in our land, the Government must come forward with a proper water management policy. If the rivers are nationalised, the water management can be effectively done and this country will prosper. That is why we have been urging upon the Government to do this. Also, the Government should make use of more scientific methods to stop this menace. The poorest people in the society are always being affected. Therefore, the problems of the agriculturists, Harijan labours, ordinary agricultural workers and the other people living in the villages, should be alleviated. We can do justice only if we will do that.

Lastly the areas of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh are affected. The amount which was allotted by the Central Government is not adequate and the Government is not adequate and the Government must come forward and give more funds particularly to Tamil Nadu. We need at least Rs. 522 crores to reconstruct and renovate our waterways and also to help the poor people of Tamil Nadu. We request that this should be acceded to and accepted.

With these words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: Before I call other Members to speak, I would like to bring to your notice that the subject is 'cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and relief measures undertaken by the Government'. It is not irrigation, it is not waterways, it is not agriculture. Please stick to it. I have a list of ten members. If you do not stick to the subject, then we would not be able to do justice to other Members. The time given is only two hours and you shall have to discuss it in two hour's time. Please bear this in mind while making your speeches.

Now Shri Rasa Sing Rawat to speak.

[*Translation*]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT (Ajmer): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you I would like to submit that the cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal created a flood like situation in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Karnataka and Pondicherry and caused heavy losses to life and property. It was a national loss. In fact loss suffered in any part of the country is a loss to the whole country. After attaining independence, discussions are held now and then and many resolutions are passed in this august House in regard to floods, earthquake and other natural calamities every year and thereafter everything is filed and kept in the record room.

Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to submit that an effective and comprehensive policy should be formulated in this regard so that we are able to confront the problems at the national level with vigour and the States would also deal with the situation firmly. What happens every time is that when the floods occur the State governments forward a request to the Central Government. Thereafter, the Central Government sends its survey team and the surveys team submits its report. Thereafter, aerial surveys are also conducted. The Ministers arrive and make aerial surveys. They

express their sympathies and so on and so forth. Then they issue a statement that they have done this and that. Then it is also said that the Ninth Finance Commission has recommended constitution of a National Calamity Fund to which 75% will be contributed by the Central Government and 25% by the States. The Centre authorises the States to spend its share on such calamities. Mr. Speaker, Sir, the terrific cyclonic storms have caused a flood like situation and severe damage in Nagapattinam, Kaydemillat, Thanjavur, South Arcot, Chengalpattu and Madras of Tamil Nadu, Karaikal areas of Pondicherry, Sriprakashm and Nellore districts of Andhra Pradesh and Mysore and Bangalore districts of Karnataka, Crops worth crores of rupees have been damaged, Lakhs of hectares of land have been marooned under water, standing crops have been damaged and twenty to thirty people have lost their lives. Above all these lakhs of live stock have perished. The National Highways have been totally damaged. A railway accident took place due to landslides in Karnataka, and claimed 28-30 lives. In nut shell, it was a natural calamity and the States did not have enough funds to provide relief on their own, on time. I would like to request the Central Government that whatever may be the situation, whether it is the case of earthquake in Tehri Garhwal in Uttar Pradesh or drought or famine in Rajasthan or other cases in other states like Gujarat, Madhya pradesh, Tamilnadu, Kerala, Kamataka or Pondicherry or Andhra pradesh, the Government should conduct a study of the geographical and environmental conditions of the concerned areas and make some permanent arrangement for all this. A high wall should be raised along the sea shore so that tidal waves do not cause any damage to coastal areas.

India has emerged as a nuclear power in the world and we have made enormous progress in the field of science and technology. Cyclones and storms cause floods, Therefore, we should evolve some method

so as to ensure that minimum damage is caused by natural calamities. In this regard, an Urdu poet says the following:

"Jid hai halaton ko Bijliyan girana ki
Hamen bhi jid hae, Aashiyeon wahin
benane ki"

We should not yield to nature. But States lack in resources. Now Tamil Nadu needs Rs. 390 crores worth assistance against which it has been provided Rs. 9 crores only. Then what about the remaining Rs. 300 crores? Pondicherry has also suffered heavy losses. The people cannot bear these losses. Agricultural land should be made cultivable there so as to compensate the farmers. Damaged roads should be reconstructed. Many houses have also been destroyed. All the relatives of those killed in the calamities should be given compensation. Natural calamities have brought tears in many eyes. Government should adopt a humane approach towards their problems and constitute a Natural Calamity Fund. special Provisions should be made to provide assistance to the State hit by these calamities. It is up to the Central Government to see how all this is to be done. The States are being asked to lift funds from their next year's allocation. Suppose, one the entire money is spent and natural calamities strike again, then what to do. After all it is not Ramrajya where it is said:-

"DaihiK, Daivik, Bhautike, tapa, Ramraj
Kahu na Uyapa." People have to pay the price of the mistakes of the rulers. Such a situation has been created. People have to bear these extreme situations due to changes in the climatic conditions. I would like to submit that we must keep some thing in reserve for emergencies. At the same time, a special Calamity Fund should also be constituted. It should be ascertained as to how much aid should be provided to the States. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR (MAYILADUTURAI): Mr. Speaker, Sir, as has been pointed out by Thiru Thangkabalu, the worst affected area in the recent cyclonic rain and floods was Tamil Nadu and the worst affected constituency in Tamil Nadu was unfortunately mine. As many as 1,10,000 hectares have been seriously affected. Approximately fifty per cent of the paddy crop is irretrievably lost. We have been severely affected in regard to our banana crop; we have been badly affected in regard to our coconut crop.

While supporting with all the strength that I can give, the request made by Thiru Thangkabalu for enlarged central assistance in this calamity, for a much larger grant to poor people to rebuild their houses, for the waiver of bank loans taken by affected farmers and for general attention to be paid to the prevention of such occurrences in the future, I would like to make three specific requests of the Government.

Sir, first and foremost, we have to remember that the badly affected area - the Quaid-e-Milleth district - is the rice bowl of Tamil Nadu. It is an SFP district i.e. Special Food Programme District. Our immediate objective must be the restoration of the agricultural pattern in the district so that it is able to supply food to Tamil Nadu and to the country; as also to provide the employment which ultimately is the only answer for relief and rehabilitation.

In this regard I would suggest that whatever measures are taken to restore agriculture to the maximum extent possible in the area, we should attempt to cut out all red-tapes so as to rush the relief and assistance required as quickly as possible. In order to cut out this red-tape I think it would be inappropriate in this particular circumstance to draw distinctions between small farmers, marginal farmers and larger farmers. If we attempt to do this then there will be

delays in the distribution of whatever is required. The objective here is not so much social justice as between weaker sections and stronger sections of the farming community as to ensure that food production reaches the maximum possible in the circumstances and that agriculture is resumed in a sufficient manner to ensure much more employment in this period of the year which is the period in which agricultural labour in the quaid-e-Millet district receives most of its employment in the year as a whole. In the light of this, I would request the Central Ministry of Agriculture to determine a package of agricultural assistance which will be disbursed very very quickly to all the affected farmers without bringing in the red-tape of attempting to distinguish between small, marginal and larger farmers.

My second request is that special and particular attention should be paid to the East-West Road Project. In the context of repairing no less than 1084 Kms. Of major roads affected in my constituency alone. Added to that here are minor roads, link roads, the Panchayat roads which will run into several thousands of kilometres. In repairing, restoring and restructuring the roads network in this coastal area I think it is important for us to recognize that one of the major reasons for which our roads have been so badly damaged is that they were in extremely poor condition to begin with. This is the area that is supposed to be covered by the East Coast Road. The East Coastal Road even in conception stops being a coast road at the northern end of my constituency and becomes a coastal road again only after my constituency has been crossed. With the result that we don't even in conception have an ECR which is truly a coastal road inside the constituency. So, in the process of restructuring and rehabilitating the road network of the area I think it is extremely important that we must ensure that an extremely major and important highway runs along the coast with all the bridges and the culverts that are required, so that it is able to withstand the fury of these cyclonic storms

which are a natural phenomenon in the area, which we cannot escape from, which are going to exist and if we persist with the system of not having a solid proper road network along the coastal region just over there, when the storms come the effect upon the road network will be even more severe than it need necessarily be.

The third specific point which I would like to draw to the attention of our Union Ministry of Agriculture and through them to the State Government is that the damage has been extremely severe because the Cauvery irrigation system including its drainage system has fallen into gross disrepair over the last twenty years owing to uncertainties about supplies of water from Karnataka into the Cauvery system. Now that we know that we are going to get a stable and adequate supply of water from Karnataka into the Cauvery system, if we are to prevent such cyclonic storms from resulting in massive water logging and therefore, as had happened just now, a loss of 50% of the paddy crop, it is essential that we move with all deliberate speed towards a very quick and complete rehabilitation of the Cauvery irrigation and drainage system in its tail-end reaches. For this we are totally caught up in a problem relating to the Cauvery Modernization Programme for which Karnataka's approval was required before we could pose the programme to the World Bank. Consequently the Present degradation of the system is going to be even more adversely affected if we wait for the entire CMP to be approved and posed for financing to the World Bank.

What we require immediately and what we require absolutely immediately is a special package on a long term basis, devised by the Union Ministry of Agriculture, in consultation with the Union Ministry of Water Resources and of course in consultation with the State Government which will start getting implemented with immediate effect so that in the coming samba season, we are able to retrieve some of the ground that we have lost

in the current KURUVAI and TALADI seasons. Therefore, it is extremely important that we move with all deliberate speed towards the rehabilitation of drainage as well as irrigation in the tail-end reaches of the Cauvery Irrigation system, so that we can recover what we lost, bringing back the Quaid-e-millet District again being the crown upon the agricultural head of Tamilnadu, to be able to feed our people, to be able to take our country forward in an agricultural sense, to make progress on the food front. For all these purposes, it is extremely important that the cauvery Irrigation and Drainage System be given as much importance as the Special Food programme requirements of the area as well as the roads network.

Placing before the Union Agriculture Minister and his colleagues these there requests, I would again the main recommendations made by Shri Thangkalu.

Sir, I think you for having given me this opportunity. I thank you on behalf of the one million inhabitants of the Mayiladuturai Constituency.

SHRIS. MALLIKARJUNAIAH (Tumkur):
Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was a heavy rain in the month of October-November, 1991, in Karnataka. Three districts are terribly terribly affected by this. They are Kolar, Tumkur and Bangalore.

The roads were damaged; crops were washed away; cattles have died and many houses have collapsed. 35,853 houses have collapsed in Tumkur district. There were eight deaths, 2,041 cattles were also washed away, 5,060 hectares of standing crops were washed away, something like 42,000 small and marginal farmers were affected by this. A large number of schools, buildings, hospitals, Government quarters, ANGANWADI buildings were terribly affected by this rain. Roughly about 36 main buildings were damaged.

These buildings do require immediate

[Sh. S. Mallikarjunaiah]

repairs. Bridges and roads were also washed away by the heavy rains. Tanks were also breached; that is, nearly 400 tanks were breached and some tanks are leading so heavily that they may breach any moment. The relief which is sought is Rs. 20 crores for Tumkur district. The Karnataka Government has raised Rs. 2.8 crores in the form of materials and Rs. 1.17 crores in the form of cash. The Karnataka Government needs a minimum of Rs. 200 crores for the repair work in all these three districts. Tumkur District in my constituency needs something like Rs. 20 crores. Many of the houses which were collapsed shall have to be reconstructed.

The hon. Agriculture Minister was kind enough to visit Kolar and some parts of Tumkur. I may now request that a team may be sent to these three districts to make an intensive survey of the damages caused. The districts of Kolar and Tumkur every year, are being affected by drought. But this time they were terribly affected by flood. Therefore, it is necessary, that the Central Government should come to the assistance of the State Government. The resources at the command of the State Government is very less.

Therefore, my humble request will be that the Central Government may kindly to the assistance of the State Government by donating or giving something like Rs. 200 crores; and that another team may be sent for investigating into the matter. Thank you very much.

SHRI P.G. NARAYANAN (Gobichettaiyalayam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, on 28th October, 1991, a deep depression was formed over the south-west Bay. On 29th, it was to cross the Tamil Nadu coast. The cumulative rainfall from 28th October to 19th November, which was very torrential, resulted in massive damage to private and public property.

This has affected the Public utility services also.

The recent floods affected four States: Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Pondicherry. Tamil Nadu is the most affected State. In Tamil Nadu, Six districts are badly affected. In addition to that, Madras city is also very much affected. I must thank the Government, particularly the Prime Minister for having sent a Central team consisting of our Agriculture Minister, Mr. Balram Jakhar, and the Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, Mr. Rangarajan Kumaramangalam to Tamil Nadu to assess the flood damages.

In Tamil Nadu, our Chief Minister also visited the affected areas in Madras city. Other State Ministers have been sent to other affected parts in Tamil Nadu. So far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, our Chief Minister has undertaken the relief measures effectively on a war footing in spite of our financial constraints.

So far as flood is concerned, the damage is very great. The continuous rains resulted in waterlogging in many areas. More than 2 1/2 lakh houses and huts were completely damaged in Tamil Nadu. The crops are destroyed. More than three lakh hectare of standing crops were destroyed. There was a great damage to roads and buildings also. The loss would be running to crores of rupees. Tanks and irrigational canals were cut off. Electricity pumpsets have been submerged in flood water. So, in what way the farmers can be compensated?

So far as farmers are concerned, in the recent floods, they are worst affected. Farmers are already facing many problems. We are talking of agriculture economy. Most of the people in India depend only on agriculture for their livelihood. If our country has to progress, we have to promote the agricultural economy. We have to safeguard the interests of farmers at all times. In times of natural calamity like flood, we have to com-

pensate for the loss that farmers have incurred for which crop insurance scheme should be implemented very effectively.

In the recent floods, electricity system has been much affected in Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu is already facing shortage of electricity. During the recent floods, we have to make an utmost effort to restore normalcy in respect of the affected electricity system.

18.00 hrs

Nearly 185 persons lost their precious lives due to recent floods. According to the assessment of the State Government, the damage comes to Rs. 390.53 crores. But when correct assessment will be made, it may touch Rs. 500 crores. The Ninth Finance Commission allotted only Rs. 39 crores as Calamity Relief Fund to Tamil Nadu out of which we have already spent Rs. 9 crores on drought schemes. So, we have only Rs. 30 crores at our disposal. After these floods, the Central Government has released only Rs. 7 crores which is a very meagre amount. This amount would not help the rehabilitation work in any way. In this grave situation, the Central Government has reduced the quote of rice to Tamil Nadu is. The total requirement of rice to Tamil Nadu is now one lakh tonnes. But the Government, till date, has been supplying only 81,000 tonnes of rice to our State and it has suddenly reduced the allotment to 65,000 tonnes, which is very unfortunate. So, I request the Government not to go ahead with rice cut and it should not be implemented in the interest of the general public of Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu is facing financial problem also due to the implementation of the prohibition policy and so, it is incurring heavy losses. In this grave situation, the Central Government should be liberal and lenient in allotting more funds to our State. I request the Government to come forward with a comprehensive plan for the State to fight the floods in future.

With these words, I conclude.

PROF. UMMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU (Tenali): Mr. Speaker Sir, it is really heart-rending to note that successively for three times in a period of two months, the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh have been lashed away in a most unprecedented way. I think this is one of the most damaged States in several respects.

Sir, the official estimates that have been revealed by the State Government say that 420 villages have been marooned in the floods, 205 human lives were lost, crops in an area of 5.25 hectares have been damaged which amounts to a loss of Rs. 6.86 crores and all this leads to a loss of Rs. 250 crores worth of foodgrains. About 1.1 lakh houses have been damaged both partially and completely, 50,000 cattle were perished in the floods and communication systems have been totally disrupted.

1314 roads are damaged. 820 tanks are breached. The drains are silted. Orchards to the extent of one thousand hectares are uprooted. This is the vivid picture of the damage that has taken place in the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh. In particular, in the Godavari delta area, which is the 'Rice Bowl' of Andhra Pradesh, more than 2.6 lakh hectares of paddy crop which was ripe for harvest has been damaged.

When the Union Agriculture Minister has taken an aerial survey and also when the Prime Minister has visited the State, but not the affected areas of the State, they have announced that the FCI will open purchase centres to purchase all the damaged paddy as well as the discoloured paddy. But the Secretary in the Department of Revenue and Relief, Andhra Pradesh has issued a circular that Paddy damaged to the extent of 20 per cent only, will be purchased by these purchase centres. This is very unfair. I may put it on record here that the loss to the paddy crop is almost total. Particularly, in the Godavari delta, Krishna delta and Western

[Prof. Ummareddy Venkateswarlu]

Krishna delta area, the damage is to the extent of 70 to 80 per cent of the paddy grain, covering an area of 2.5 lakh hectares. If the damage to the paddy is restricted only to 20 per cent, I feel amounts that no relief is actually extended to the farming community when there has been a complete loss to their paddy. The farming community has raised all sorts of loans from institutional agencies and now they have to repay these loans. The farmers have to beg and borrow once again from these institutional agencies for the second crop and for various other agricultural operations.

I urge upon and plead with the Government about one thing. Let there be no restriction as far as the percentage of damage to the grain is concerned, for the purchasable F.C.I under these peculiar circumstances when the damage is to the extent of 70 to 80 per cent.

Sir, cyclones in Coastal Andhra are not new. In the past 100 years, cyclones have hit the coastal Andhra for more than 32 times. That means, on an average there is a cyclone once in every three years. Since the farmers are located in a very unfavourable area which is cyclone-prone, once in every three years, they have been losing their crops totally. When that is the situation, I request that a very apt and kind attitude should be taken while considering the plight of the farming community.

Sir, in the year 1976, the Kalyani Dam was constructed in Tirupathi area to provide drinking water to the town of Tirupathi which is a pilgrimage center. Due to unprecedented rains, the crest-gates of the dam have been washed away. The remaining water which is available in that tank is sufficient only for two to three months. The work to restore drinking water facilities to the town of Tirupathi has to be taken up on a war-footing.

When the Prime minister himself has

paid a visit to this State, people were eagerly awaiting his visit to the affected areas also, so that massive relief measures would be announced by the hon. Prime Minister. But it is really very sad that when he visited our States, he confined his visit to his constituency alone from where he was elected with so called a massive majority. He thanked the people and left unfortunately. He never did not find found any time to visit the cyclone-hit areas where even the handloom workers have been facing starvation deaths in to distress and hardship.

Sir, it is really a shameful attitude that the hon. Prime Minister did not pay a visit to that affected area. Even when the hon. Agriculture Minister paid a visit for a day, he just took an aerial survey and announced certain relief measures. When this type of cyclone hit the coastal area in May, 1990, the then Prime Minister, Shri V.P. Singh paid a visit twice in the first week itself and announced 88 crores relief measures so that they are effective in controlling the situation extending relief.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: The present Prime Minister believes in doing things.

BROF. UMAREDDY VENKATESWARLU: I will give you some figures. When the hon. Agriculture Minister visited our State he announced that Rs. 86 crores are provided to the State under the Calamity Relief Fund. Secretary, Revenue and Relief Department gave a very clear picture in the regard. Out of this Rs. 86 crores, that are now being provided as a relief amount Rs.16 crores will go towards the payment of advances that were taken in the year 1990-91 for cyclone relief measures. Out of the remaining Rs.70 crores, Rs.40 crores have already been spent during the months of August and September when we had received heavy rains. Now, hardly Rs.30 crores is available with us to be spent for this disastrous cyclone relief has occurred during the month of November.

The State Government also has come up with proposal. It has requested the Central Government that whatever has been given during the year 1990 may be treated as a grant since the State Government is not in a position to bear the total amount and since the State has been facing the cyclones in consecutive years. There were cyclones in 1986, 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1991. So, since the State of Andhra Pradesh is facing cyclones consecutively every year this may be declared as a chronic cyclone prone area so that one right grant may be provided by the Central Government, as is being done in the case of Rajasthan which is a drought prone area. Rajasthan has been declared as a drought prone area.

Earlier, Rs. 625 were given to the farming community as a subsidy in the shape of 15 per cent subsidy on all inputs like the pesticides, fertilizers, seeds, etc. Now, that among may be raised to Rs. 1000 per hectare.

Besides giving some of these measures like providing 25 Kg of rice to all the families which have suffered - also since the houses are damaged to the extent of more than 1.5 lakhs— one lakh pucca houses may be provided to those who lost their houses in the cyclone. I may also request that the bank loans may also be provided to the fishermen and to handloom weavers. The handloom weavers have already been facing the starvation deaths in our area.

When the hon. Prime Minister visited our State he said that the comprehensive crop insurance scheme is being extended to Andhra Pradesh also. During the last Budget Session, this particular aspect was discussed. While considering this comprehensive Crop Insurance scheme, certain aspects have to be taken into consideration in the absence of which that scheme will not be quite effective. It will not be of much use to the farming community. The insurance agencies are saying that so long as the crop

is standing in the field, the Crop Insurance Scheme will be covered. When the harvested crop is kept in the field in the form of shakes heaps and if it is washed away then this should also be covered under the Crop Insurance Scheme.

The next point is that the village and not 'mandal' should be considered as unit.

Thirdly the orchards which are grown should be taken up separately. The orchards owned by individual farmers should also be taken as one unit and not the mandal or the village as unit, further All those who are paying insurance premium should be considered and not merely the cultivators who have taken loans from the banks. So, hitherto, this scheme is being extended to those people who have taken loans from the banks and not to all the farming community who have paid the premium.

As far as other aspects are concerned, there are about 50,000 cattle that have been lost. Most of the cattle were taken on loan basis. They were taken under the DRDA Scheme. The farmers who have taken these loans, under the DRDA scheme should not be penalized for no fault of theirs. They should be written off.

As far as crop loans are concerned, they are to be re-scheduled. The interest accrued should be waived, since cultivators are not able to pay the interest. Long term loans for orchards and gardens should also be given on a very liberal scale.

Opening of purchase centres of FCI in the Guntur district have not been taken up. In Tenali district, where this Krishna Western Delta (KWD) is there, some purchase centre should be opened so that damaged paddy can be purchased by the Centre. With these few words, I conclude.

MR. SPEAKER: You have made very good points.

SHRI H. D. DEVEGOWDA (Hassan): Mr. Speaker Sir, Karnataka State has suffered twice in July, 1991, There was a heavy flood in Cauvery river due to which about Rs. 44 crore worth of loss had been assessed by the Karnataka Government. A memorandum was submitted in August 1991. After this natural calamity, in October-November cyclone came and about thirtyseven people died, two thousand catties, 42,000 house were either totally destroyed or collapsed and more than one lakh houses were partially damaged. The total loss that has been assessed, including the damage to public property like irrigation tanks, bridges, etc. All these things put together comes to Rs. 120 crore. The Karnataka Government has requested Rs. 100 crore relief from the Government of India.

The allocation for Karnataka in Natural Calamity Relief Fund is hardly Rs.27 crore. This has already been spent. I do not want to elaborate much on this issue because the Memorandum that has been submitted by the Karnataka Government to the Central Government while seeking the necessary help, in it, they have given all the particulars. More than 4 lakh acres of crop has been damaged due to shortage of rains in Northern Karnataka. Due to heavy rains in Southern part of Karnataka, more than two lakh hectares of crop has been damaged.

On the last occasion, when this issue was being discussed here, I tried to point out how the compensation had been given by the Karnataka Government to the flood victims. Now, I seek your permission to exhibit a cheque that has been issued particularly for the flood victims. The Karnataka Government has come forward with a plea that they have to give it following the norms and guidelines that have been fixed by the Government of India. They say they cannot give more than that violating the norms and guidelines given by the Government of India in 1985 by a circular order.

Whatever types of crops the people

have grown, if they are damaged or washed away due to floods, the compensation that has been given is according to the guidelines. The compensation is Rs.200 per acre irrespective of the crop that has been grown.

18.21 hrs

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER in the Chair]

If any house has been damaged or collapsed whether the cost of that house is Rs. 15,000 or Rs. 25,000 or even Rs. 10,000 - according to guidelines, they say, we will give only Rs. 1,500. Another rider they have fixed is that if the annual income of the person whose house has been collapsed is more than Rs. 5000, then he is not entitled for any type of compensation. This is the argument that has been advanced by the Karnataka Government while replying to the debate on the very same issue in the Legislature.

With your kind permission I would like to draw the attention of the Government to this aspect. Have the Government of India been following strictly the same guidelines in other parts of the country where the relief operations have been undertaken either in Orissa or in Bihar or in Uttar Pradesh or in West Bengal or in Andhra Pradesh? This is the first time that we are facing such a situation in Karnataka. During the last 50 years, we have not come across this type of natural calamity either due to heavy floods or due to cyclonic storms; we have never faced this type of a problem. This is the first time the people in Karnataka are put to such miserable conditions.

Taking advantage of the guidelines that have been given by the Government of India, the State Government of India, the States Government wanted to evade or escape their responsibility. Can you imagine that by getting Rs. 200 as compensation any farmer can make up his loss? Please let me know whether such instructions have been given.

The other day, Shri Balram Jakhar, minister of agriculture, said, when we raised the issue of compensation, that the compensation issue is totally left to the State Government; he said, the State Government can give whatever compensation they want to give; and we are not coming in the way of giving compensation. That is what Shri Balram Jakhar has said in this House while we were discussing the flood situation.

The issue of compensation is very important and it has been lurking in my mind. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you are also very well aware of the stand taken by the Karnataka Government while replying to the debate on the same issue in the Legislative assembly and the Legislative Council. The concerned Minister said that the Karnataka Government were strictly adhering to the guidelines given by the Government of India in 1985. If any crop is damaged due to floods or other reasons, the maximum amount fixed for the compensation is Rs. 200 per acre.

Were the houses have collapsed they say that only Rs. 1,500 is to be paid, according to the guidelines of the Government of India. One more important point is that if the victim has got an annual income of more than Rs. 5000 then he is not entitled to any type of compensation. This is the stand they have taken. Unfortunately this is the position. I am only quoting the figures which I could gather from the Parliament Library. Hundreds of crores have been given to various other States. In Karnataka this is the first time that such a situation has occurred and ever in the history of the past 50 years was there any cyclonic storm or heavy floods. In Karnataka 60 per cent of the cultivable land every year is facing drought. This is the first time that we are facing the flood and the effect of a cyclone.

While assessing the total value of the loss, the Karnataka Government estimated the loss at Rs. 130 crores and they have already submitted to the Government of

India a memorandum seeking at least Rs. 100 crores as assistance from the Central Government. But my agony is that they are justifying the compensation given by giving Rs. 200 per acre or Rs. 1500 for the houses damaged or collapsed, if the cost of the house is Rs.50,000 or Rs. 25,000 how can they justify giving Rs. 1500 only? Why should they argue on this point, I cannot understand.

If the Government of India has taken a stand on these lines, that should be totally revised based on the value of the damage that has occurred and victims should be compensated accordingly. If the Government of India has not taken a strict decision, then if the State Government is trying to give an evasive answer because of their own financial problems, then you must issue instructions to the State Government. This is the total responsibility of the State Government. Because, Shri Balram Jakhar on the other day said that it is the responsibility of the State Government and not of the Central Government and that they should not try to blame the Central Government. I do not want to bring any party politics here. But unfortunately this is the stand taken by the Karnataka Government and on this issue we may have to start an agitation. Let me be very plain on this issue.

Some of the farmers have lost their pumpsets and the well has been totally washed out. To such farmers not even a rupee of compensation has been paid up till now. The stand taken is that their annual income is more than Rs. 5000 and so they are not entitled to any compensation. So, if this is the argument advanced, what is the use of the relief operations? what is the use of the aerial survey made by the Government of India officials or the Central Government Ministers, I cannot understand.

With these remarks I would like to make a humble submission to the Government of India see that if such a circular has been issued containing such instructions, that

[Sh. H.D. Devegonda]

should be revised. If it has not been issued they should tell the State Government that they should not evade their responsibility or should not shift the blame on the Central Government. Then the people of Karnataka will really understand where the problem lies.

Let me be very clear that if they want to point out their hands towards the Government of India, we are here to take care of the Problem.

I have already quoted the figures. Nearly four lakh hectares of land is affected due to rains in Northern Karnataka. More than two lakh hectares of crop has been damaged by and cyclonic storms. More than 38 people died, apart from those killed in the Railway accident to K.K. Express that occurred.

With these words I once again request you to increase the allocation that is given to the Government of Karnataka to calamity relief fund. It is hardly Rs.27 crores now.

Sir, I do not want to find that fault with the Government of India. In the name of relief operation, hundreds of crores of rupees will be given by the Government of India to various States. This is first time the Karnataka State is facing this cyclone storm effect and also the floods. I came to know that Rs. 10 crores were released in August and now Rs. 17 crores or Rs. 18 crores were released. But the damage was estimated to be more than Rs. 130 crores by the Karnataka Government and they submitted a Memorandum to the Government of India in November. The damages assessed were based on per acre crop loss Rs. 200; per house loss Rs. 1500 and if the income of the victim is more than Rs. 5000, no compensation.

I would like to know whether the Government had issued such strict guidelines with a direction to adhere to the State Gov-

ernment while giving the compensation, if what is so, say so, and then it will be the responsibility of the State Government. We know as to how to take care of the problems.

I request that there should not be any discrimination between State and State and there should not be any type of restriction of the part of the payment of compensation, whether his income is more than Rs. 5000 per annum or less. Every victim should be given sufficient compensation based on the actual loss.

With these words, I conclude.

PROF. K. VANKATAGIRI GOWDA : (BANGALORE SOUTH): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the flood situation in Karnataka and Bangalore city, which haply is my constituency.

The floods in the Karnataka State, in the Bangalore city and also in the neighbouring states of Kerala, Pondicherry, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh created a grave situation. They produced a picture of destruction, devastation, destitution and dismemberment. I had witnessed the horrifying scene in Karnataka and in Bangalore city in particular. The other areas, which were affected, were Tumkur, Kolar, Bidar and Gulbarga.

The rains were both torrential and incessant. The low lying areas of the State were the worst hit. All the rivers were in spate and great damage was done to the crops, property and to the lives of the people living on their banks. Cattle, sheep and goats died and their carcasses were washed away in floods. The number of bovine population which died was estimated to be about 2,000. The people who lost their possessions including huts have no where to go and they have to stay under the trees risking their lives due to their possible uprooting. There was no way in which the Government could come to their rescue. Nature held sway over the State causing destruction, devastation and destitution.

The Bangalore city, where I come from, presented a picture of devastation and the people who live in slums and squatter settlements presented a picture of naked destitution. They live in houses with mud walls and thatched roofs. The fast blowing storm blew the thatched roofs off the tops of the huts. The incessant rains softened the mud walls and made them collapse killing those who were asleep. The inmates, who survived, were rendered homeless. They do not have trees under which to take shelter. Sky was the only shelter. But the sky was pitiless. It sent down lashing rains to render the lives of the slum dwellers miserable. People were in tears with nobody to wipe them off. Even the buildings, which were thought to be strong collapsed like houses of cards killing the residents in consequence. Nature with its red claws and sharp teeth killed many. No power on earth could face nature's fury.

I brought this to the notice of the House on Friday, the 22nd November, and I appealed for substantial grants to Karnataka State.

The same day, Shri Mullapally Ramachandran, Minister of state for agriculture and Cooperation, wrote to inform me that a sum of Rs. 20.25 crores was sent to the State Government of Karnataka on the same day as equal to my speech. A study team under the leadership of Shri Bal Ram Jakhar was to study the flood situation in four States. This team visited these states. It visited Bangalore on 25.11.91. It made an aerial survey of the Bangalore city. The report of Shri Bal Ram Jakhar was made to this House on 29.11.91 confirming my observations. We were pleased to announce that the Central Government had released relief grants to these States as under Andhra Pradesh Rs. 86 crores; Tamil Nadu Rs. 39 crores; Karnataka Rs. 27 crores; total; grant given Rs. 152 crores.

Andhra Pradesh was the worst hit and it is understandable that it got Rs. 86 crores. The damage caused by the cyclonic fury in Karnataka was more severe than that caused

to Tamil Nadu which got Rs. 39 crores. Therefore, I make a fervent appeal to the Government of India to release at least Rs. 15 crores more to Karnataka to match the grant made to Tamil Nadu and earn the gratitude of the people of Karnataka. The Government of Karnataka is hard pressed for funds. It needs that much more immediately to undertake relief operations.

Now I must repeat what my friend, Mr. Devegowda has said that Karnataka is a victim of step-motherly treatment by the Government of India and the grants given to it are paltry. Even though the population and per capita income of Gujarat is as much as that of Karnataka, Gujarat gets the lion's share in the grants given by the Central Government. I request the government to see that Karnataka is no longer made the victim of the step-motherly treatment.

Those who lost their crops should be given full compensation. Those who lost their cattle, sheep and goats should be given full compensation. And those who lost their house in the floods, should be given sufficient funds to re-build them. Then the Central Government should direct the State Government to see that the funds are used properly. I wrote to Shri Banagarappa requesting him to see that the funds are sent to the targeted groups and not allowed to be misused by the unclean bureaucrats or the meddling politicians who keep an eagle's eye on such public funds.

With this I conclude my remarks.

[Translation]

SHRISURA NARAYAN YADAV (Sahasra): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I had paid a visit to the area when cyclonic storms hit southern India. I had gone there because I was also born in a flood prone area. I know what havoc floods play on human beings and their homes.

[Sh. Sura Narayan Yadav]

Sir, every year, our crops suffer 50% damage on account either of cyclonic storms in coastal areas or floods caused by Kosi river in the Terai region on China and Nepal borders. We spend crores of rupees on rescue and relief operations throughout the year. It is understandable that the coastal storms may be out of control of government but I am at a loss to understand why the Government cannot protect the Terai region on Chinese border from flood? Every year, we spend hundreds of crores of rupees as grants-in-aid on relief measures. Again crores of rupees are spent every year for flood, drought and cyclonic storms. If we take into account each pie spent for this purpose during the post-independence era, I can say with confidence that the savings on this account would have fulfilled all the requirements of people in nook and corner of the country.

Due to financial problems, the Government is unable to do that. Shri Devegowda was saying just now that the government of Karnataka has proposed to give Rs. 200 as grant-in-aid. How a person getting just Rs. 200 will make good the loss? You do not know the reality. Neither the farmer nor anybody else would be benefited by it. We should not do politics of vote in this programme. Though it sounds good that we are spending hundreds of crores of rupees as grant-in-aid, but in reality it does not look nice... (Interruptions)...

[English]

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN): Cheques of the value of Rs. 3/- Rs. 6/- and Rs. 12/- were given to each victim and to take the cheque, they had to affix a stamp of Rs. 2/-

[Translation]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: I have seen that condition of all roads is very bad. The standing crops suffered heavy losses.

The life and property of people was damaged. You should conduct a survey. No State government can control these natural calamities. The Central Government wants to hold the Chief Minister responsible by just giving grants for the purpose. Shri Bindeshwari Dhubey used to be the Chief Minister of Bihar during the Congress rule. During the floods, food items were airdropped from helicopters. Cost of petrol consumption on sorties made by helicopters was much more than the cost of food items dropped. This is gross misuse of money. Cyclonic storms appear in the States of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, and Karnataka every year. Arrangements should be made at district headquarters to combat such situations in the areas which are prone to floods. We make gross misuse of things and commit a sin against humanity. The State Governments should be made vigilant to solve this problem and the amount of grants should be enhanced. It should be ensured that money given as grant-in-aid is not misused. Otherwise, arrangements should be made to make direct payment. We should take proper care in all areas whether it is Terai region of Nepal or Andhra Pradesh or flood-prone areas of Ganga. People have elected us. They are our masters. We must protect them properly, whether we are in Government or not. With these words, I conclude.

[English]

SHRI GOPT NATH GAJAPATHI (Barrampur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, as has been observed by the hon. Members of Parliament, the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Pondicherry have been damaged by the fury of the cyclone last November. There was severe loss of property, livestock and even precious human lives.

At the outset, I take this opportunity to express my deep regret to the affected people and would fervently appeal to the Central Government and the State Government to extend their maximum assistance expendi-

tiously. I would reiterate expeditions assistance here because in it lies the real worth to the suffering people.

The time tours undertaken by our hon. Prime Minister, the hon. Union Minister for Agriculture and other Ministers were commendable. simultaneously, the expeditious follow up action is also much awaited. It is on this aspect of expeditious assistance that I wish to stress in this august forum.

In the State of Orissa, Ganjam District to which I belong was devastated by unprecedented floods in November 1990, which is thirteen months from now. However, most regrettably, lakhs of hapless residents of Ganjam district are subjected to lingering torture even to this day. Time and again I have raised this issue, including that during the 9th Lok Sabha. The magnitude of the damages was so high that it was beyond the scope of the State Government to manage it on their own. Our former Prime Minister, late Shri Rajiv Gandhi undertook a arduous day-long tour of the flood-affected areas on the 7th December, 1990, followed by an aerial survey by the then Prime Minister, hon. Chandra Shekarji. On the 9th December, 1990, the then prime Minister had announced the central grant of Rs. 50 crores at a public meeting at Bhubaneswar. Subsequently it was also confirmed to me by his Government that this amount had been disbursed to Orissa. Surprisingly, the government of Orissa categorically maintained that they have not, I repeat not, received this amount till today. This mystery needs unravelling fast to alleviate the protracted sufferings of the lakhs of residents of Ganjam district.

Again in may this year, Orissa State was affected by heavy rains, followed by floods, affecting eight major districts very badly. This has only further aggravated the problems of the flood-prone State of Orissa.

In conclusion, I would appeal to the Central Government to provide liberal standing contingency funds to all the States so

that the affected States can draw these much needed funds in time to come to the rescue of the hapless flood-affected victims.

[Translation]

SHRIRAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH (Jehanabad): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this debate is being held to discuss the situation arising out of cyclonic storms in coastal region. It is true that it is pricing a curse for this country and not being converted into a boon. Due to shortage of time, I would like to draw your attention to a few prominent factors.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, during the recent floods, and storms hailstones as big as two to three kilos have also fallen. It is not known how long will this situation continue. Many hon. Members have pointed out to the damages caused by such storms and floods. Farmers are badly affected and labourers are the worst affected community. All their property gets damaged and house collapse. What do they get as relief? A sum of Rs. 50 or Rs. 100 will not serve any purpose. It is all right that the Government does not have sufficient funds. I would like to make a suggestion in this connection. A few days back, flood and storms hit Orissa and the Hon. Prime Minister assured a central assistance of Rs 20 crores. A recent state Government report says that the money has not yet been received by them. It has been observed time and again that the situations caused by floods and storms become uncontrollable for the state government. There are not two opinion that the Central government should take relief measures in its hand whether it concerns Andhra Government or Orissa Government and it should constitute a permanent authority which should work under the supervision of the Central Government. If this method is not followed then Government money would be grossly misused. We are already in need of funds.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER. Mr. Minister, please come to this side other was somebody may object.

[English]

SHRI P.M. SAYEED (Lakshadweep): There are many prospective Ministers in the House...(interruptions)...

SHRI MUKUL BALKRISHNA WASNIK (Buldana): The Ministers are trying to be closer to the Members of parliament, particularly on the other side...(interruptions)...

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN: I am listening to all points.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH: I was going to submit that my area Jahana-bad is in Bihar. Hundreds of areas of A grade agricultural land have come infertile by recent flood. Now nobody is there to take its care. I took the Irrigation Minister and Relief Minister of the state on a visit to that place, but no solution to the problem was found. The farmers there possds minimum one to for case of land The whole land of Gidarpur, Murgichack, Mirbegahs, Daultpmr. Arbit and Madhopur has become completely uncountable, I would like to make a suggestion for such areas which fall in category 'B' A survey should be conducted in this connection so that it could be assessed as to how much land has become uncultivable. Every effort should be made to make this land cultivable. This should be the responsibility of Central government. If the Central governments wants to provide funds, it must provide as much funds as would be necessary to complete this work. I would like to suggest two things. First is that a sample survey should be conducted to find out the land that has become uncultivable. At three place, Makadumpur, legislative constituency, Kurtha and Karpi, the standing crops have been damaged? Think of their plight? All boshes have collapsed. If you cannot control these natural calamities, you can certainly take preventive steps. Therefore, Government should take a decision to constitute a authority and secondly a sample survey

should be construe a surtout and secondly a sample survey should be conducted.

With this, I conclude.

[English]

SHRIDATTATRYA BANDERU (Secunderabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the recent cyclone in the Bay of Bengal affected particularly Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. In Andhra Pradesh the cycloone lashed out particularly the coastal districts of Nellore, cuddapah, Prakasam, guntur, Krishna East Godavari, and West Godavari. These districts were very severely affected. Nearly 210 people died because of the cyclone and floods. More than 8000 cattle and 45000 birds were killed. About 90, 000 huts were severaly damaged. five lakh hectares of standing crips was dangaged in all the districts and particularly the rice bowl of Andhra Pradesh, viz, East Godavri and west Godavari districts. They have lost 40 to 50 oper cent of standing paddy crop and the total loss of the farming community is nearly Rs.600 crores on account of the loss of paddy, chillies, sugarcane and some of the poultry and fishery farms and others. So, nearly 1182 panchayat roads and 333 R & B. roads were totally damaged and 312 panchayat read tanks were totally breached and 508 irrigation tanks were also totally washed off and 24,599 houses were fully damaged and 72,603 houses were partially damaged. So far, many people expressed the inadequcy of the relief measres because of the lack of funds and in recent times in Andhra Pradesh among the wavers, there were 911 starvation deaths. The weavers were totally affected in prakasam and Guntur distinct. The relief measures provided by the State Government are inadequate.

I want to stress one point. The prime Minister hails from Andhra Pradesh and he recently won the Nandyal seat. He came for two days on a political trip to Andhra Pradesh, but unfortunately he could not visit the affected areas of the coastal districts.

19.00 hrs

That is why once again I appeal to the government because in the present cyclone severe damage has occurred to the farming community. I appeal to the government of India to re-schedule agricultural loans to the farmers and to provide loan on long-term basis to the affected district. The State Government has also waived the share amount. Therefore, I appeal to the Central Government to advise NABARD accordingly.

As my friend has told, the Food corporation of India has undertaken to take only 22 per cent of the damaged crops. But severe damage has taken place in the coastal districts. That is why I appeal that the percentage of damage crops to be purchased should be increased and entrusted to the State Government to purchase other crops in the affected districts.

I appeal to the hon. Prime minister who hails from Andhra Pradesh to appreciate the worse situation. Merely last year flood havoc had caused minim Rs. 1400 crores loss. In

the same way, even year, Andhra Pradesh is closing nearly thousand cores of rupees due to cyclone disaster...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can continue your speech tomorrow.

Those who have given the names are:

Shri Dhanajaya Kumar, Shri Sudhir Ray, Shri Gangawar, Shri Bhogendra Jha.

(Interruptions)

SOME HON. MEMBERS : We have also given our names.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: We have got the list. According to the list, the names of all those persons will be called. The debate will continue tomorrow also. The house now stands adjourned.

19.02 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday December 5, 1991/ Agrahayana 14, 1913 (Saka).