

ESTIMATES COMMITTEE**ELEVENTH REPORT AND MINUTES**

SHRI S. B. P. PATTABHI RAMA RAO (Rajahmundry): I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee on the Ministry of Communications—Telephones and Minutes of the sittings of the Committee relating thereto.

12.05 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**REPORTED DEATH AND DESTRUCTION BY TORNADO IN ORISSA**

श्री मूल सचिव डा. गंगा (पार्ली): उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं अविलम्बनीय लोकमहत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर कृषि और ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्री जी का ध्यान दिलाता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वे इस बारे में वक्तव्य दें— “उड़ीसा के बर्धमान जिले के कई गांवों में 17 अप्रैल, 1981 को आये बंडार में एक सौ से अधिक व्यक्तियों की मृत्यु और रिहायशी मकानों के व्यापक रूप से नष्ट होने के समाचार तथा सरकार द्वारा किये गये राहत कार्य ।

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION AND IRRIGATION AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH): With a sense of deep grief I rise to inform the House about a very tragic occurrence in Orissa. In accordance with the reports obtained from the Government of Orissa, a devastating tornado swept across nine villages in Saharapada and Patna blocks of Keonjhar district on the afternoon of the 17th April, 1981. According to the report obtained by the evening of the 18th April, 1981, 32 dead bodies had been recovered and 200 persons, of whom about 100 had been injured seriously, were lying hospitalised. More than 500 families with a population of about 3,000 were reported to have been worst affected. Severe damage to

houses and heavy loss of property and cattle are also reported. Detailed information is being awaited from the State Government.

2. A short while ago we collected some more information and according to the Revenue Secretary, Orissa, the number of deaths is stated to be 35. About 1,000 houses and 6,000 persons have been affected. One more village, Began also had affected by the tornado making the total number of villages affected, ten. The State Government is giving Rs. 1,500 as cash/gratuitous relief, for each earning member who has died.

3. The villages affected are about 30 to 35 kms away from the district headquarters at Keonjhar. The tornado struck between 2.30 p.m. and 3.30 p.m. in the afternoon and the information was received by the Collector, Keonjhar by 4.15 p.m. The Collector, Keonjhar started the relief operations by about 5.30 p.m. The State Ministers of Agriculture and Irrigation visited the area on the day of occurrence and the Chief Minister and the Revenue Minister visited the affected areas along with other Cabinet colleagues on the following day. The relief operations started on a war-footing immediately after the occurrence. Three mobile health teams with sufficient medicines and a team of veterinary personnel were pressed into service in the affected areas. The Indian Red Cross despatched tarpaulins, polythene sheets, water purifiers tables, dhotis and saris by midnight between the 17th and 18th April, 1981. They also have sent two medical units and two tonnes of milk powder. The Ministry of Health have issued instructions for supply of essential medicines, etc., to the State Government on demand. The Ministry of Social Welfare is mobilising voluntary agencies for relief operations.

4. The injured persons have been removed to three hospitals and more serious cases have been brought to Cuttack. High level officers are supervising the relief operations and

jaggery, choora, match-boxes, tents and tarpaulins, building materials, etc. have been arranged. All the dead bodies have been disposed of and the debris is being cleared. Emergent relief has been declared for 15 days and Rs. 15 lakhs have been released from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. The State Government does not have any problem of availability of funds and they have the margin money of Rs. 8.71 crores for initiating intensive relief operations. The State Government has requested for a visit of a Central Team for assessment of damages and assistance needed by the State Government. The Team will be sent as soon as the State Government is prepared to receive the Team along with the Memorandum. Constant watch is being maintained over the relief operations and everything possible will be done by the Central Government to assist the Orissa Government in their hour of need. The Government of India send their heartfelt sympathies for the bereaved and grief stricken families and wish early recovery of those who have been injured. I am sure the affected families will be rehabilitated very soon by the State Government.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Mool Chand Daga.

Every hon. Member will be very short.

(Interruptions)

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR (Ratnagiri): We have accepted the advice for zero hour.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Thank you. I am telling all.

श्री मूल चन्द्र ढागा : उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, 17 अप्रैल, 1981 को दिन के दो बजे जो विनाशकारी लीला हुई उसमें आपके सूत्रों के अनुसार 32 शव निकाले गये लेकिन जितने अखबार हैं वे कहते हैं कि सौ-डेढ़-सौ व्यक्तियों

को इस तूफान का शिकार होना क्या और हजारों घर डह गये। हमने अखबारों में पढ़ा है कि आपका जो ऋतु और विज्ञान कार्यालय कलकत्ता में काम करता है उसने इसकी सूचना पहले दे दी थी। वास्तव में आपने एक अच्छी बात की है कि आपने मरने वालों के प्रति सहानुभूति और संवेदना व्यक्त की है। इस संवेदना के साथ मैं अपने स्वर भी जोड़ता हूँ।

मैं उन स्वयं सेवी संस्थाओं की भी सगृहण करता हूँ जिन्होंने कि वहाँ जा कर तत्परता के साथ लोगों की सेवा की। लेकिन मैं यह पूछना चाहता हूँ कि इसी अप्रैल के महीने में, 16 तारीख को 1978 में भी इसी जगह पर, इसी उत्तरी उड़ीसा में यह घटना घटी थी। इस बीच आपका यह ऋतु कार्यालय, मौसम कार्यालय जो काम करता है उसने इस बारे में क्या क्या इतिलाएं दीं? हमने अखबारों में पढ़ा है कि उसने इतिला दी थी कि यहाँ पर इस प्रकार का तूफान खड़ा होगा। क्या नवर्नमेंट को यह मालूम था? अगर था तो नवर्नमेंट ने क्या कदम उठाये और क्या लोगों को इसके लिए पहले से सावधान किया या नहीं?

आपका जो यह मौसम कार्यालय है, इसके जो वैज्ञानिक हैं, यह जो कलकत्ता में काम करता है और विज्ञान की दृष्टि से यह मौसम कार्यालय विश्व में तीसरे नम्बर पर गिना जाता है इसने पहले आये तूफान के बाद से क्या कार्य किया और इस बारे में क्या दक्षता और तत्परता बरती? इसके बारे में आपको क्या कहना है?

आप यह भी बताइये कि दिन को दो बजे वहाँ तूफान आया। वहाँ के कलेक्टर फणी भूषणदास और एस० पी० श्री जोन नायक को सब से पहले इतिला किस ने दी? क्या वहाँ पर कोई विलेज लेवल वर्क था, कोई तहसीलदार था, सरकार का कौन वफादार आदमी था जिसने सरकार को यह इतिला दी और क्या इतिला दी? इतिला देने के बाद कलेक्टर

[श्री नूज चन्द ढागा]

साहब जब वहाँ पहुँच गये तो वे क्या एम्बुलेंस या दो-तीन गाड़ी लेकर पहुँचे ? अगर उनके वहाँ पहुँचने के तत्काल बाद उनको राहत मिस जाती तो मेरी समझ से बहुत से लोग बच जाते । आपने राहत का काम किस समय शुरू किया ? आज भी अखबार वाले सब यह कहते हैं कि सौ-डेढ़-ती आदमी इसके शिकार हो गये और 6 हजार आदमी बेघरबार हो गये । मेहरबानी करके यह बताया कि वहाँ कौन-कौन-सी स्वयंसेवी संस्थाओं ने काम किया । साथ-साथ यह भी बतला बीजिए कि जब 18 तारीख को आपके बंती महोदय वहाँ पहुँचे और उनके वहाँ पहुँचने के बाद वहाँ बड़ी क्षति और त्वत्परता दिखायी गयी, तो उन लोगों की कितनी क्षति हुई, कितनी जमीन बर्बाद हुई ? क्या इसके बारे में अब तक कोई सर्वे हो चुका है ? यदि नहीं तो क्या आप सर्वे करवायेंगे ? आप उनको बनाने के लिए क्या राहत देने जा रहे हैं ?

वहाँ पर मरने वाले कौन हैं ? वे सब हरिजन और आदिवासी हैं । भगवान जानता है कि इन लोगों को कहां बनाया जाता है ? ऐसी जगहों पर बनाया जाता है, ऐसी जगहों पर मकान दिये जाते हैं । इस तूफान में मरने वालों में 80 परसेंट लोग भी हरिजन और आदिवासी हैं । हरिजन और आदिवासियों के ही घर नष्ट हुए हैं । आपने अब तन न को क्या राहत पहुँचायी है ? आपने उनको कितना राशन दिया है, किस रूप में दिया है ? उनके लिए कोई सर्वे कराया है ? उनको बनाने के लिए आप कितनी राशि देंगे ? उनको मकान बनाकर किस जगह बसाया जाएगा, ये सब बातें मंत्री महोदय कृपया अपने उत्तर में बताएं । बताया गया है कि एक बच्चा अनाथ हो गया है, जिसके मां-बात दोनों चले गए एक वर्ष का बच्चा है, कौन उसको गोद लेगा उनकी देख-रेख कौन करेगा, यह भी बताने का कष्ट करें । क्या सरकार ने उसको गोद ले लिया है ? इसी तरह से कई बच्चे अनाथ हुए होंगे, उन सब का क्या होगा ?

इसी प्रकार से आपने कहा कि "इन्फर्मेेशन इस अवेटेड", 17 तारीख की बात है और आज 20 तारीख के दिन में यहाँ बात कर रहा हूँ और हमारे मंत्री जी को अभी तक पूरी सूचना ही नहीं मिली है । हो सकता है कि टेलीफोन की व्यवस्था ठीक न हो । घेरे खयाल से किसी सूचना का इंतजार न करते हुए किसी मंत्री को भेज देना चाहिए था । कृषि विभाग में तो मंत्रियों की भरमार है, मौके पर ही पहुँच जाते, यहाँ से पूछने की जरूरत ही क्या थी, लेकिन नहीं, दूसरे मंत्री चले गए, लेकिन उन्होंने भी वहाँ पर जाकर सहानुभूति के अलावा क्या कार्य किया, ये सब बातें मुझे बतला दें ।

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: The hon. Member knows very well that relief measures are taken by the State Government and not directly by the Central Government. The Central Government has a system of providing margin money to the States from year to year for meeting such situations. And a sum of Rs. 8.71 crores or so, as has been stated, is already at the disposal of the State.

This information, as we were told on the phone by the State officers, was received through a messenger who came on a bicycle to report to the Collector. After the receipt of the information, within an hour or so, the Collector moved in the matter. Relief measures were taken. Some Ministers rushed to the spot immediately. The Chief Minister along with other Ministers of the State Government also visited. I do not know if it would have served any purpose if a team of Central Ministers had also gone to the spot. All the State Ministers along with officials are there looking after this thing.

On receipt of the Calling Attention Motion we contacted the State Government. You would appreciate that at this time it is more important to provide relief, to look after the injured, to open camps for the people, to provide medicines and food. That

is being done. But to collect all the detailed information as to how many children have been left orphan, what is the extent of damage of the crops and houses and other property, will take some time. If the hon. Member is interested I shall get it and write to him about it later.

Tornadoes are very difficult to forecast. It is not being done even in the most advanced countries. The hon. Member has been mis-informed that a forecast was made by the Meteorological Office at Calcutta on 17th that a tornado was going to hit parts of Orissa. The only forecast and the warning that was given by the Meteorological Centre in Calcutta was:

"Scattered thundersqualls likely over North Orissa during the next 36 hours."

There was no such warning that a tornado was going to hit any area of Orissa.

Tornadoes are a general feature of the North-Eastern Region. But even in other parts of the country, sometimes they hit suddenly. At about the same time in the year 1978 tornado hit Delhi also. Buses were sucked up, cars were put on the top of the trees, walls of houses and colleges disappeared suddenly. This sort of thing is not possible to forecast. No advance action can be taken in this matter. We are doing everything possible.

As I have already stated, there is no dearth of funds for the purpose. This is a localised calamity which has hit only ten villages. Nearly Rs. 9 crores is at the disposal of the Government of Orissa. If they need more money after they have spent it, they may write to the Central Government we are prepared to send a team to get the area visited and in such matters if the margin money is not sufficient, then whatever the State Government spends, out of that 75 per cent is met by the Central Government as grant. That is sufficient relief in my view.

SHRI CHITTA BASU (Barasat): I join the Minister in expressing our deep sense of grief and concern for those who have fallen victims to the tornado in Keonjhar District of Orissa. To-day's newspaper carried the news that there has been a widespread cyclone also in some parts of West Bengal and some other States. I think the hon. Minister might have by this time collected information about the cyclone which swept some parts of West Bengal yesterday. Since the issue is not cyclone as a whole, I am not raising that question. I am drawing the attention of the Minister simply to say that information should be made available immediately and necessary steps should be taken.

My information regarding these areas of Keonjhar District is that there the main problem is for and arrangement to provide temporary shelter. I agree that the State Government has been doing their utmost, of course subject to certain financial constraints. The State Government has announced that emergency relief will be provided for fifteen days only. My first question is since 500 families have been affected, they have lost their homes and everything; the entire area consisting of eleven villages has been completely destroyed, the operation for relief should be for a long period. But the State Government has decided to provide relief for an emergency time specified—only for fifteen days. Would the hon. Minister advise the State Government of Orissa that these affected persons are provided relief till they are completely and comprehensively rehabilitated in their places? Will the Government of India provide shelter, tarpaulin, polythene sheets for providing temporary shelter for those who have been rendered homeless. I think this is not within the capacity of the State Government to provide temporary shelter for those who have been rendered homeless. The questions of the visit of the Central Team and money have been raised. Does he agree with me that the

[Shri Rao Birendra Singh]

visit of the Central Team, assessment, by the team of the requirements, is a long drawn and time consuming process? Having regard to that would the Government make *ad hoc* grant, apart from that particular provision of money, which can enable the State Government to start immediately the rehabilitation work of those affected people?

Thirdly, in the long statement that the hon. Minister has made, he has not mentioned anything about the compensation. About 100 persons have died.....

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: 35 persons.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: But some newspapers say that about 100 persons have died.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Don't go by newspaper reports.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: All right; 35 people. This number may also increase because some people are in the hospital also.

May I know whether the Government propose to advise the Government of Orissa to provide for compensation to the surviving families of those who have been killed and, particularly, to provide employment to the members of the surviving families so that they may be helped to have a permanent settlement?

May I also know whether the Government would take up the responsibility of reconstructing all those 11 affected villages which have been completely destroyed? Merely giving Rs. 1000 or Rs. 2000, as is generally provided as relief by way of house-building grant or Rs. 500/- by way of house-repairing grant, will not do. Since these 11 villages have been entirely destroyed and this area is tornado-prone, the Government should

take up the responsibility. If I am not mistaken, on 16th April, 1978, Purnabandhuguda village was affected by this kind of Torando which took a toll of 175 persons. This means that this area is a torando-prone area. Therefore, I would request the hon. Minister to see that a comprehensive plan is taken up by the Government of India for the reconstruction of these 11 villages by way of helping them to build pucca houses so that there may not be repetition of this kind of tragedy.

In this connection, I may remind the hon. Minister that on an earlier occasion, when there was a cyclone in your State, Sir, in Andhra Pradesh and in other parts of the country, we raised the matter in this House and made a suggestion that the Government should have a permanent mechanism of national reconstruction or relief measures to meet the exigencies of national calamities of this nature and that a statutory authority be set up with sufficient funds to meet the requirements of the situation. Would the Government give an assurance to the House that the proposal made by a large number of members belonging to all the parties in this House about two years ago, and I repeat it, would be considered?

Lastly, I would like to say about the meteorological forecasting. He has also made some observation about that. In this particular case, as I am informed, the Calcutta meteorological centre claimed that they had informed the Orissa Government but the time was too short for the Orissa Government to take any precautionary measures. Of course, the tornado is a different type of a thing which cannot be foreseen. But, overall, the cyclones are taking place and fore-warnings are not always forthcoming. In this context, he will agree with me that this lack of fore-warnings indicates or reveals certain deficiencies in the working of the meteorological system in our country. India had decided to participate in the MONEX,

the Monsoon Experiment, which is a special programme of global atmospheric research project in 1979. This Global Atmospheric Research Programme, it is claimed, is to increase the range of accurate weather forecasts by as much as 2 weeks, to develop more realistic computer models of the atmosphere and to understand and predict the climate. This is the claim of the Global Atmospheric Research Programme. India is also included in this world weather organisation right from 1950, if I am not mistaken.

May I know from the hon. Minister what particular benefit we have so far derived out of our association with the MONEX or GARP or our association with the world weather organisation. Have we been able to improve our forecasting system? Have we been able to create an infrastructure for forecasting and meteorological observation so that forecastings may be made effective? If not, what particular efforts every State Department proposes to make to generally improve the meteorological observation system and forecasting?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I have already stated that weather forecasting is not capable of giving any specific information with regard to tornadoes.

Tornadoes hit like lightning and thunder-bolt any place at any time. Nobody can foresee a tornado by the atmospheric conditions. Fortunately, in India we are not very much susceptible to tornadoes. In the recent past, we had only 4 major tornadoes, one in West Bengal in 1963, another in Orissa in Cuttack and Keonjhar district in 1978 as the hon. Members mentioned. Then there was one at Ludhiana in Punjab in 1975 and Delhi also had one tornado in March, 1978.

As you would see these are places scattered all over the country but I have already said that North-Eastern Region is somewhat more prone to

tornadoes. But this country, as I said, is fortunate. The occurrences are very few and far between.

We have been trying to improve our meteorological service for weather forecasting. That process is going on. We are taking benefit of the latest scientific advancement in the field and it is my opinion and I hope hon. Members also would probably agree with me, that we have a fairly good system of weather forecasting. Well, there is always room for improvement on all sides.

As regards this particular calamity in Keonjhar, I have already stated that relief camps have been opened. I will convey the feelings of the hon. Members to the Government of Orissa. There should be no difficulty in keeping these relief camps open for a longer period, if need be. Relief has already been provided though I myself would not think that it is very adequate as it is only Rs. 1,500/- per earning person dead in a family. I wish something more could be done. But, in a matter like this, I would not think in terms of giving any specific instructions to a State Government from the Central level. We have to go by the judgment of the State Governments according to the circumstances of the particular case in a particular area. But the money provided is quite sufficient—it is Rs. 8.71 crores. In 1978 when a tornado hit nearly the same area in Cuttack and Keonjhar district, the amount of money provided was only Rs 3.58 crores. Now, it is almost double of that, and it should be possible to provide better relief. Tarpaulins, medicines, food and other things are already being provided to the affected people.

There is also a thinking going on at the Planning Commission level, as the hon. Member suggested that there should be some Central agency, organisation, on disaster management. I hope something will emerge out of that. But the provision of margin money which is placed at the disposal of a State is also for the same purpose. The State Governments do

[Rao Birendra Singh]

not have to ask for permission of the Central Government to spend this money; and if this money is exhausted or not found sufficient, then immediately Central Teams are sent to visit the areas on the demand of the State Government and more money is always provided.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: What about compensation?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have said that they have given Rs. 1500. I wish it could be more.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO (Dhenkanal): History has an uncanny way of repeating itself. Arising out of the reply of the Minister, it is obvious that this catastrophic tornado hit the Keonjhar district, only 35 kms away from the District Headquarters with near-demonical fury leaving behind death, destruction and devastation. The Minister has given us the figures of people who have been rendered homeless—6,000—, the number of cattle which have died the number of people who have died and the people who have been hospitalised and whose condition is serious. The paper reports indicate that all the drinking water facilities have dried up; some of the wells and ponds have been sand-cast and filled up with mud and most of the people who have been affected are the landless labourers, the tribals, the Harijans and other weaker sections of the society, who are the inhabitants of Keonjhar district which is a predominantly tribal district of Orissa. 41 per cent of the people of Orissa are either tribals or Scheduled Castes and other weaker sections, and 71 per cent of the 2.6 crore population of Orissa are below the poverty line. Therefore, the speed and promptitude with which the State Government have acted so far. So also, the district authorities as well as the students and the people of that area—is very commendable; the Chief Minister, the Revenue Minister and the Agriculture Minister have been camping there; even our colleague,

Shri Brajamohan Mohanty, Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Civil Supplies, is also there. If you go through the Parliamentary proceedings, you will find that, in the past two decades, from 1954 onwards, every year, every Session has been marked by debates, discussions, Calling-Attention, and Short Notice Questions on natural calamities in Orissa in the form of drought, floods, cyclones—starting from the breach in Dalaighai in 1955, the cyclone in 1967 in Paradeep which left two lakhs of people homeless, then 1971, 1972 cyclone of 1978, and floods of 1980 and cyclone of 1981 as has been indicated today. These natural calamities and furies of nature have only resulted in the State Government diverting its scarce resources away from development in giving doles and relief. When the Minister has said that a margin money of Rs. 8.3 crores is now available with the Government of Orissa, which is better than Rs. 3.5 crores which amount was available in 1978, I hope he would have taken into consideration the fact that in the last three years the inflation rate has neutralised Rs. 8.3 crores and it is less than Rs. 3.5 crores. Therefore, unless the Central Government comes in a massive manner with liberal aid—he also said that “whenever the State Government wants the Central Government will come in a big way,”—the State Government alone cannot meet the situation. Sir, the Revenue Secretary of Orissa. Mr P. K. Patnaik has sent a wireless message yesterday to Mr. S. P. Mukherjee, Addl. Secretary of the Ministry of Irrigation and Agriculture for liberal central assistance and immediately despatching a central team to go and study the damage done.

Sir, the Government of Orissa is in dire need of liberal central assistance. When the last cyclone took place in 1978, the then Agriculture Minister took the plea that the Sixth Finance Commission had made no such recommendation. What Orissa

needs is not the Gadgil formula or the Sixth Finance Commission recommendation, neither sympathy nor pity. What Orissa needs today is a massive and liberal central assistance not only for immediate relief but also for a permanent measure.

The Minister also said that cyclones or tornadoes cannot be forecast. Any elementary student of geography knows very well that cyclones occur because of differences in pressure and when winds blow from high pressure to low pressure areas. Tornadoes are an offshoot of such cyclones under squall conditions. The Meteorological Department has totally failed in this case. It could not give any advance warning that such a low pressure area was developing in the Orissa and Bengal coast as it has predicted today that in the next 24 hours the country and the Parliament should expect another thunder-shower, another low pressure belt and another cyclone. Therefore, Sir, living in a world of science and technology we must utilise the results of scientific and technological research and studies towards reducing the intensity of cyclones and tornadoes as is happening in other countries.

Therefore, I would like to know whether the intensity of the cyclone or the tornado is because of the interference in the ecological balance and the environmental control. (2) With regard to the liberal central assistance sought by the Government of Orissa, what is the quantum going to be given apart from the formula of the Sixth Finance Commission or the Seventh Finance Commission or the Gadgil formula which does not serve the purpose at all? Thirdly, since it is the same area which has always been beset with this sort of natural calamities—it is not a man-made calamity—I would like to know what is the permanent solution which is going to be taken to rehabilitate and resettle these Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections of the society which are every year subjected to such type of calamities?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I have already stated that this amount of margin money is at the disposal of the Orissa Government and everything needed should be possible to be found within the means at their disposal. But this margin money cannot be increased by the Government from year to year. This has been fixed by the Finance Commission and the margin money as now available to the States was according to the decision of the Seventh Finance Commission. But that should not stand in the way of finding more money to meet such calamitous situations as I have already stated.

I have never said that cyclones also cannot be forecast by the meteorological people. I have said that weather conditions can be forecast fairly accurately. But the question of tornadoes is absolutely different. Conditions are suddenly created in the atmosphere—funnel like things—due to difference in pressure. Then it sucks up things with a great pressure. Even advanced countries like Japan and the United States which are prone to tornadoes very frequently have not been able to deal with these situations. As you might be hearing from time to time, the frequency in some of the countries is very high. It is only a few hours or a few minutes earlier that the fishermen are warned that there will be tornado hitting the coast. That is causing damage in some of the countries in the world. But, we are fortunate that the frequencies in India are not very large. We only had about two to five tornadoes reported in this country every year and they also differed in their intensity.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He said that Orissa was affected more than two times. Therefore, he wants some permanent arrangements. Something like that he said.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Orissa had only one more tornado in the recent history; one was in 1978 and this is the second one.

(Rao Birendra Singh.)

I hope this will be the last time that Orissa gets the tornado.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He wants a permanent solution to this problem.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: Last time the damage was much more. Many people died in Orissa. As I already stated, we are thinking of some other organisation at the Central level. The exercise is going on at the level of the Planning Commission; if possible and practicable, we shall try to set up some mechanism so that better relief in such emergencies can be given.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: The State Government is giving the relief. What is the permanent solution which the Central Government is planning? We want liberal assistance apart from whatever is given by the Sixth or Seventh Finance Commission as per the Gadgil Formula.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: He wants special assistance for Orissa.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Naturally.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: I said that for Orissa, if the money is not sufficient and if we receive the recommendation of the High Level Committee, we shall certainly find more money.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Lakkappa. Not here. Shri Bapusaheb Parulekar.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I share the sentiments expressed by the hon. Minister while expressing the deep grief over the tragic occurrence in Orissa.

Sir, the tornado is not a matter of recent occurrence. As for my information, since 1872 till this day, that is 1981, we had many tornadoes. Of course, as compared to the tornadoes in the world, they are less in number here. But, the important thing which

I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister is this. All these tornadoes from 1872 upto this day excluding the one at Jullundur and one at Delhi are mainly near the east-coast of this country. Therefore, it would be necessary to find out the reason for this. I am mainly going to ask questions to the hon. Minister not with reference to the relief but the main causes for this. My friends have already asked about the relief given. I would like to know if any in-depth study has been made by Government in all these years to find out the reason or the cause for such tornadoes. I am fully aware when the hon. Minister stated that the tornadoes are such that they cannot be detected well in advance. But, as Mr. Singh Deo has rightly said, the tornadoes cannot be distinguished from the cyclone because the tornadoes are the off-shoots of the particular cyclone.

In this connection, I would like to invite the hon. Minister's attention to the fact that within 24 hours, the very belt has been hit by the cyclone, that is on the 17th and 18th April. The incident in 1978 also took place on the 16th April. So, these dates and month are important. If you make an analysis of the tornadoes and cyclones, you will find that in the months of April and May these tornadoes and cyclones take place on the east-coast. The history shows that in seventy years, there were 408 cyclones and tornadoes which erupted from the Bay of Bengal. Only 83 were in the Arabian sea. This would show that there is something which leads to the occurrence of the tornadoes on east-coast.

I further find from the Meteorological Department Statistics that the centre of the cyclones is in the Andaman Islands and when this erupts, it moves eight degrees to fourteen degrees northwest and in between these eight degrees and fourteen degrees there are areas which fall in the belt of Orissa and some parts of Chittagong.

I would like to know through you from the hon. Minister whether since 1872 till 1981, all these tornadoes and cyclones had erupted on east-coast and whether any study had been made as to the reasons why this particular belt was affected by the cyclones and tornadoes.

I want to know whether any study team has been appointed so far. What we do is immediately after the tragic incidence happens, we go with all the assistance. That is not sufficient. We must go to the root cause of the same. Sir, the hon. Minister has just now said that it is not possible to detect a tornado. This may be correct as far as our country is concerned. In Latin America where about 200 to 300 tornadoes have taken place they have studied in depth the causes for the same and they have found a solution. I would, therefore, like to ask the hon. Minister whether this Government would sent a special team to study the steps taken by the Government of United States in connection with emanating of tornadoes and how best they could be avoided. I would also like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware that in March 1963 the Ministry of Transport and Communications had published a pamphlet 'How to Guard against Cyclones and Tornadoes' and they have made valuable suggestions. Has the hon. Minister gone through this particular Report. If so, whether any suggestions made in this particular Report have been implemented or the Report has just been put in cold storage?

Sir, when it is not possible for the Meteorological Department to give data the cyclones are termed as tornadoes because then it becomes easy for the Department people to say we could not detect the same because it was a tornado. With reference to this particular incident there is a report which says that this was mainly a cyclone which came from Andamans. It passed through the valley and because of the cutting of forest trees this particular cyclone got converted

into a tornado. The details given by one of injured says that first a thick blanket of clouds appeared. Then it became red. Then there were showers. It came from the Eastern side. Then there was whirling wind. So, these details mainly show that it was a cyclone. I would like the hon. Minister to tell the House what was the length of the track and speed along the track and whether there is any relationship between intensity and rate of travel. This answer can provide us a clue to decide whether it was a tornado or a cyclone.

Another question which I would like to ask the hon. Minister is whether the Government is thinking of taking active and passive steps? This is the phraseology used in warfare. But in the United States they have taken active Defence measures to meet the cyclones and tornadoes for deflecting, interrupting and moderating the impending disaster. There was an international seminar on this and in that particular seminar a conclusion has been arrived at as to how these particular tornadoes can be deflected or ceded. I would like to know whether Government of India had participated in this seminar and whether any report has come to the Government of India, and if so, whether the suggestions made in this particular seminar have been considered. There is one more question which I would like to put to the hon. Minister through you. As far as the Home Ministry is concerned, there is an Emergency Relief Organisation. This is assisted by the Central Advisory Committee which coordinates the relief measures whenever there are such types of disaster. Now, Sir, I do not find any report that this ERO which is to coordinate such activities has really gone into action. Then, I would like to know one thing from the Minister through you. May I know whether this ERO has in fact has gone into action with the assistance of the Central Advisory Committee and if so, what have they done? These are my four or five questions

and I request the hon. Minister to reply to these questions.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: To my mind, there is difference between cyclone and tornado.

As I have already stated, it is possible to fairly accurately forecast a cyclone. But, sometimes, a cyclone can also be termed as 'tornado'. My friend Mr. Chitta Basu was talking about Tornado in West Bengal.

SHRI CHITTA BASU: I said, Cyclone. Please don't misquote me. I said, tornado came in Keonjhar district of Orissa and what came in West Bengal was a cyclone. Now the question remains: What is a cyclone? Can it be converted into a Tornado?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: What you call as 'cyclone' is not a 'cyclone'. They were only strong winds. At best you can call them a squall. They are usual features and they are called *kal baisakhi* winds in West Bengal. So, this is one like that. Nothing more than that. Bengal also gets strong winds during this time of the year and they call them *kal baisakhi* because of the damage that they do. Tornado has a width of 50 metres only, or it may be slightly larger. Cyclone can be anything from 150 to 1,000 kilometres. They cover very large areas. They are formed about 10 to 17 kilometres high up in the atmosphere. But Tornado is more or less like whirlwinds which we suddenly find when we walk along a *bagoola* evolving right in front of you. Anything which is far more stronger and much larger can be a tornado. It is very difficult to predict them though of course there may be some relationships between the atmospheric conditions which create cyclone and which create tornado. The same condition may be creating tornado also. But the frequency of tornado is so little in India that it is very difficult to establish a direct relationship between these two. You can't establish a direct relationship between the cyclones which normally occur on the eastern coast, in the Bay of Bengal

area etc. and these tornadoes, which have no particular places in India to hit,—it can hit any area, it can hit Punjab or Delhi or Orissa. In Orissa unfortunately it happened twice during the recent past. I have already said that the north eastern region is more prone to such occurrences. It may not be possible to identify immediately the reasons for such occurrences but it will certainly make an interesting study for scientists and meteorologists to study such strange coincidences. It took place in the same area in Orissa. It took place in 1978 on the same day as this, on the 16th of April, or so. It was followed by cyclone. But these strange coincidences do occur in nature as well as in our daily lives. I will suggest to the scientists that they make a study of it. It will be very interesting study. But I don't think that anything more could be done at this time.

SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR: I asked a question, whether you can send a team of Scientists to U.S. to study the question.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH: There are large number of meteorologist officers all over India engaged in forecasts about cyclone and about weather conditions. When I say that I will suggest to the scientists that they may study it, certainly, visiting the area will be a part of the study.

13 hrs.

MATTER UNDER RULE 377

(i) Special Trains for Mata Purna-Matters under Rule 377

श्री हरीश कुमार गंगवार (पंजीभात) :
उपाध्यक्ष महोदय, माता पूर्णागिरि का मेला जो कि टनकपुर (नैनीताल) क्षेत्र में हजारों वर्ष से लगता आ रहा है और लाखों भक्त इस मेले में माता के दर्शन हेतु पहुंचते हैं। प्रति वर्ष रेल प्रशासन यात्रियों की सुविधा के लिए