

in Gazette of India dated the 18th July, 1980, under sub-section (3) of section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1194/80.]

श्री राजाबतार शास्त्री (पटना) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैंने स्थगन प्रस्ताव दिया है। एक तो भागलपुर जिले में बटोरिया गांव के निकट 6 लोगों की कामरिया लोगों ने हत्या कर दी और पटना में कंकड़बाग कालोनी में 4 बिजली मजदूर मारे गये।

श्री अध्यक्ष महोदय (व्यवधान) : अब बहुत हो गया। श्री ए० पा० शर्मा।

REPORT ON THE WORKING OF THE COMMISSION OF RAILWAY SAFETY, LUCKNOW, FOR 1977-78

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the working of the Commission of Railway Safety, Lucknow, for the year 1977-78. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1195/80].

श्री अचिन्त नाथ मंडल (झंझारपुर) : उनके क्वेश्चन का क्या हुआ ?

व्यवधान....

MR. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over. Please sit down.

श्री हरिकेश बहादुर (गोरखपुर) : बांच आफ प्रिविलेज है।.. (व्यवधान) ..

MR. SPEAKER: We have taken note of it. We will do something.

NOTIFICATIONS UNDER INCOME TAX ACT AND CENTRAL EXCISES AND SALT ACT AND REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS OF DELHI FINANCIAL CORPORATION

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI R. VENKATARAMAN): I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy of the Income-tax (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 1980 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 562

(E) In Gazette of India dated the 24th July, 1980, under section 296 of the Income-tax Act, 1961. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1196/80].

(2) A copy of the Central Excise (Seventh Amendment) Rules 1980 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 749 in Gazette of India dated the 19th July, 1980, under section 38 of the Central Excises and Salt Act, 1944. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1197/80.]

(3) A copy of the Audit Report (Hindi and English versions) on the accounts of the Delhi Financial Corporation for the year 1978-79, under sub-section (7) of section 37 of the State Financial Corporations Act, 1951. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-1198/80].

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

REPORTED LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY DUE TO THE EARTHQUAKE ON 29TH JULY, 1980

श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत (अन्मोड़ा) : मैं अविलम्बनीय लोक महत्व के निम्नलिखित विषय की ओर कृषि मंत्रों का ध्यान दिलाना चाहता हूँ और प्रार्थना करता हूँ कि वह इस बारे में एक क्वेश्चन दें :--

“29 जुलाई, 1980 को भूकम्प के कारण देश के कुछ भागों में विशेष रूप से उत्तर प्रदेश के पिथौरागढ़ जिले में हुई जन धन की हानि का समाचार तथा प्रभावित व्यक्तियों को राहत देने के लिए सरकार द्वारा की गई कार्यवाही।”

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE (Rajapur): Before the hon. Minister replies, as I am one among the five, I would like to say something. Most of us had given actually the Call Attention Notice to the Minister for Science and Technology. We want to raise a number of questions relating to

science and technology regarding earthquake. I do not know how the Agriculture Minister is competent to reply to that.

12.05 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER in the Chair]

कृषि और ग्रामीण पुनर्निर्माण मंत्री
(श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव) : अगर बिजली
गिरेगी तो एग्रिकल्चर पर असर पड़ेगा।

प्रो० मधु दण्डवते : ठीक है।
I accept that you have knowledge of
all the departments.

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : जब बाढ़ आई,
तो मैंने जवाब दिया। जब सूखा पड़ा तो
मैंने जवाब दिया, पहाड़ गिरा, तो मैंने जवाब
दिया, घरती हिलती है, तो मैं जवाब दूंगा,
बिजली गिरेगी तो जवाब दूंगा।

श्री फूल चन्द वर्मा (शाजापुर) :
अगर सरकार गिरेगी तो कौन जवाब देगा।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : सरकार गिरेगी
नहीं जब तक आप रहेंगे। . . . (व्यवधान)

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: I
concede that there is collective res-
ponsibility. I have no objection.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICUL-
TURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUC-
TION (SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH
RAO): On the 29th July, 1980 an
earthquake was felt at about 8.30
p.m. in Delhi. The seismograph in
the Delhi Observatory showed that
the earthquake was of damaging
intensity at its origin. This was
found to be near latitude 29 degree
North and longitude 81 degree
East in Western Nepal at a
distance of 380 kms. away
from the Capital. The earthquake
registered a magnitude of 6.5 on the
Richter scale. An earthquake of such
a magnitude is capable of causing
damage around its epicentre. This
earthquake was preceded by a few
fore-shocks, one of which was felt in

Delhi at about 6.00 p.m. on the 29th
of July, 1980 and was of lesser inten-
sity. The earthquake has also been
followed by a number of after-shocks
which are still continuing. These
after-shocks as usual will die away
with time. As advised by the India
Meteorological Department, the
Government of U.P. has been inform-
ed accordingly.

According to available reports, this
earthquake was felt over a wide area
extending from Amritsar, Jaipur,
Gwalior, Varanasi and Kathmandu.
On enquiry the District Magistrate,
Pithoragarh intimated on the phone
at 6.00 p.m. on the 31st July, 1980 i.e.
last night that six people have been
reported killed and thirteen injured
due to collapse of houses and more
than 300 houses damaged.

This morning we have received
another telegram from U.P. With
your permission, I will read this tele-
gram which gives the latest informa-
tion received:—

From Shri N. C. Saxena, Relief
Commissioner, Uttar Pradesh.

“Reference Telephonic Conversa-
tion regarding damage by earth-
quake, Reports received so far only
from Pithoragarh and Chamoli, Dis-
trict Magistrate, Pithoragarh inform-
ed on Telephone about thirteen
deaths, forty injured and two
hundred eighty houses damaged.
Reports from Chamoli is incomplete.
Few Houses at Badrinath and Gair-
sain destroyed. Details being collec-
ted. Assistance being provided.”

This is the latest information that we
have received. Further reports are
awaited from the interior. The State
Government authorities are providing
gratuitous relief according to their
Rules to the families of the dead or
injured and to those whose houses
have been damaged. The Prime
Minister has felt deeply shocked about
the loss of valuable lives and ordered
a further gratuitous relief of Rs. 2,500
for each family of the deceased. The

Government expresses its deep sympathy with the bereaved families.

Telephonic contacts with the Chief Secretaries and senior officers of Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Delhi were made but no damage or loss of life and property has been reported from these States.

The Western Nepal-India Border region where the earthquake took place is a part of seismically active Himalayan Belt. This particular area has been more susceptible to earthquake in the past. Among the many earthquakes in the previous years in this region can be mentioned the earthquake in Dharchula in Pithoragarh district, on the 28th August, 1916 of magnitude 7.5 and more recently on the 27th June, 1966 of magnitude 6.2 on the Richter scale. Considerable damage was caused by these earthquakes also.

The earthquakes in this region are caused due to movement of subterranean masses across weak zones along foothills of the Himalayas, in conjunction with a few oblique faults near this region. From the behaviour of these weak zones as seen during the last half a century this region is likely to remain seismically active and earthquake of slight to moderate intensity is likely to occur occasionally.

At present, however, it is not possible to predict the occurrence of earthquake in the same manner as in the case of weather phenomenon. The mapping of the earthquakes made by the India Meteorological Department from the records obtained from the Seismological Observatories has, however, enabled the demarcation of earthquake prone areas in the country.

The State Governments have issued standing instructions to the district authorities for meeting situations arising out of natural calamities like cyclones, floods and earthquakes. The Central Government has also issued guidelines on relief manuals for dealing with natural calamities. The Home

Guards and the Civil Defence organisations have also their country-wide set-up for assisting the administration and the people affected by natural calamities like earthquakes. Since earthquakes cannot be predicted the scope of preparedness on a short run basis is limited. The State Government have available with them margin money for meeting the immediate expenditure on relief and rescue operations. In case of Uttar Pradesh, the margin money was increased recently from Rs. 2.18 crores to Rs. 10.80 crores. The State Governments can approach the Central Government for financial assistance if they find their resources to be inadequate to meet the situation. In case of earthquake, the Central assistance can be given as outright non-plan grant to the extent of 75 per cent of the expenditure over and above the margin money available with them. No State Government has so far approached the Central Government for any relief assistance because of the earthquake.

श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत : मंत्री महोदय के माध्यम से पहले तो मैं इन्दिरा जी को और उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री जी को इस बात के लिए धन्यवाद देता हूँ कि उन्होंने कल जब हम लोगों ने उनसे प्रार्थना की थी कि कुछ आर्थिक सहायता भूकम्प पीड़ितों को दी जाए ढाई हजार के करीब भूकम्प पीड़ितों को देने की बात स्वीकार कर ली थी और उत्तर प्रदेश के मुख्य मंत्री ने, मुझे जो जानकारी मिली है, उसके अनुसार पांच लाख रुपये भूकम्प पीड़ितों के लिए मंजूर किया।

मैं कुछ सवाल पूछना चाहता हूँ। उन्होंने पैरा चार और पांच में स्वीकार किया है कि हिमालयन रीजन के तलहटी में कुछ अवशेषों के जमा हो जाने से उसका बैलेंस बिगड़ जाता है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि इन अवशेषों के जमा होने का कौन सा कारण है? वे अवशेष हिमालय की तलहटी में जमा होते हैं इस प्रश्न पर सरकार ने क्या विचार किया है? जैसा मैं समझता हूँ

हिमालयन रिजन में जिसको ट्रिफ्ट एरिया कहा जाता है, नेपाल का, तिब्बत का और हिन्दुस्तान का, इस रिजन में बहुधा भूकम्प आते रहते हैं। इस रिजन के संदर्भ में भूगर्भशास्त्रियों की राय यह है कि हिमालय पहले समुद्र हुआ करता था और आन्तरिक क्रियाओं के कारण हिमालय के रूप में परिवर्तित हुआ है। जहां तक हिमालय में वनस्पतियों का सम्बन्ध है, लगातार देश की स्वतन्त्रता के बाद ऐसा देखने में आया है कि हमारी स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स ने फोरेस्ट्स की अच्छी तरह से सम्भाल नहीं की है और उनका रुख, जो है वह कमलिशलाइज्ड रहा है, बड़ा व्यापारिक रहा है और उन्होंने इन जंगलों को बुरी तरह से काटा है। साथ-साथ जो हमारे गांवों में रहने वाले लोग होते हैं, जो जंगलों से जुड़े होते हैं और जंगलों की पहले रक्षा करते थे उस तरह से वे नहीं करते हैं। उनके जो हक और हकूक 1928 के एक एक्टोमेंट के तरह हैं क्या इसकी वजह यह नहीं है कि उनको बढ़ाया नहीं गया है? जनसंख्या इतनी बढ़ गई है लेकिन हकूक नहीं बढ़ाए गये हैं। इसलिए क्या यह वजह नहीं है कि गांव वाले भी अब फारेस्ट से उस हद तक अपने आप को अटैचड नहीं कर पाते हैं? जंगलों के कटान से जब वर्ष होती है तो जो ऊपर की सायल होती है बरबद कर नदियों की तलहटी में आ जाती है। गंगा, यमुना तथा दूसरी नदियों की लहटी में आ जाती है।

पी० डब्ल्यू० डी० द्वारा सड़कें बनाई जाती हैं। वे बम्बई प्लान के आधार पर बनाई जाती हैं। उसमें कटिंग करके सड़क को निकालते हैं, दीवार के आधार पर नहीं निकालते हैं। उसकी वजह से भू-संरक्षण होता है। क्या यह भी एक कारण नहीं है कि सारी मिट्टी खिसक-खिसक कर हिमालय की तलहटी में जमा होती जा रही है? मैं कृषि मंत्री जो मे जानना चाहता हूँ कि हिमालय के रिजन में स्टेट गवर्नमेंट्स

का जो कर्मशियल इज्ड एटीट्यूड हो गया है उससे उनको वह छुटकारा दिलाने की कोशिश करेंगे और क्या कोई लेजिस्लेशन इसके बारे में सेंट्रल गवर्नमेंट बनाएगी ताकि बुरी तरह से जो जंगलों को काटा जा रहा है वह रुक सके ?

भुझे जानकारी मिली है कि नन्दा देवी और कंचन प्रभा के जो पहाड़ हैं, जो चोटियां हैं, दस फीट के करीब उनकी हाइ कम हो गई है। उनकी तहलहटी में पहले तो बारह महीने बर्फ जमा रहती थी। अब ऊंची से ऊंची नन्दा देवी की चोटियां जो हैं गर्मियों और बरसात की ऋतुओं में उन पर बर्फ जमी नहीं रहती है और इस कारण से गंगा और यमुना नदियों में क्योंकि ये बर्फानी नदियां हैं, इन में जहां वर्ष भर बरबद पानी भरा रहता था वहां वह अब घट गया है। सिकियांग, ह्वाबा, यांकी सिकियांग नदियां जो चीन में बहती हैं और तिब्बत से निकलती हैं, उनका जल स्तर पहले की अपेक्षा बढ़ गया है। क्या इसका कारण भी यह नहीं कि हमने जंगल जो बादलों को खींचते थे, उनको काटा है? उसके कारण मानसून हिमालय को पार करके सीधे तिब्बत के पठार में चला जाता है इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए केन्द्रीय सरकार इस बात पर विचार करे कि किस तरीके से उस रिजन के जंगलों को काटने से बचाया जाये। आज नीलम, ग्लेशियर और पिंडारी ग्लेशियर, जिन्हें टूरिस्ट देखने जाते हैं, सूख रहे हैं। इस प्रकार सब पहाड़ों में बहुत खतरनाक स्थिति पैदा हो रही है। क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई ऐसा बिल लायेगी जिसके अनुसार वनों के रख-रखाव के काम को प्रान्तों की सरकारों के बजाय केन्द्रीय सरकार करे ?

हिमालय को बराबर लूटा खसूटा जा रहा है। वहाँ पर चूना, खड़िया और मैन्नीसाइट के खनन का काम बहुत बुरी तरह से चल रहा है, जिसके लिए डायनामाइट से विस्फोट किये जाते हैं। जहाँ तक मेरी धारणा है, इसका प्रभाव भी वहाँ की आभ्यन्तरिक क्रियाओं पर पड़ता है। उसकी वजह से हिमालय रिजन का बल्लेस खराब हो रहा है, 1947 के बाद पिथौरागढ़ के धारा-चुला क्षेत्र में जो कि नेपाल से लगा हुआ है, और नेपाल के क्षेत्र में, कम से कम दस बार भूकम्प आ चुके हैं। नेपाल में भी कई बार जन-धन की बहुत हानि हुई है। इस बार नेपाल में हिन्दुस्तान की अपेक्षा ज्यादा हानि हुई है। नेपाल में भी बहुत बुरी तरह से जंगल कट रहे हैं। खनन के द्वारा हिमालय रिजन की बनावट को बिगाड़ा जा रहा है। मैं जानना चाहता हूँ कि उसको रोकने के लिए क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई कानून बनायेगी।

सारे देश के जल-वायु और पर्यावरण पर हिमालय रिजन का बड़ा प्रभाव है। हम देखते हैं कि हमारे देश की जलवायु में भी परिवर्तन हो रहा है। इस परिवर्तन को रोकने के लिए क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई काम्प्रहेंसिव प्लानिंग करने की दृष्टि से एक पृथक मंत्रालय या देख-रेख करने वाली संस्था बनायेगी, ताकि हिमालय रिजन के पर्यावरण को बिगड़ने से रोका जा सके और वातावरण को यथास्थिति में बनाये रखा जा सके ?

मंत्री महोदय ने मीटिंगलोगिकल डिपार्ट-मेंट का जिक्र किया है। पहले एक ग्रंथ बके प्रिडिक्शन प्रोग्राम को लागू करने की बात कही गई थी। उन्होंने स्वीकार किया है कि पाराचुना में बराबर भूकम्प आते रहे हैं। तो फिर सर-ने भी वहाँ पर कोई ग्रंथबके प्रिडिक्शन सेंटर स्थापित क्यों नहीं किया है ? यह सेंटर कहीं भी लगाया जाता, ताकि वहाँ के लोगों को इस बारे में जानकारी दी जा सकती। क्या मंत्री महोदय भविष्य में कहीं भी कोई ग्रंथबके प्रिडि-क्शन सेंटर खोलने पर, विशेषकर ट्रिफ्ट पर:

जहाँ तिब्बत, नेपाल और भारत की सीमा मिलती है, विचार करेंगे ?

इस एरिया में एक मंजिला मकान बने हुए हैं उनको भी क्षति हो रही है। मंत्री महोदय यह स्पष्ट करने की कृपा करें कि उस एरिया में भूकम्प से जन-धन की क्षति कम से कम हो, क्या इसके लिए उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार या केन्द्रीय सरकार कोई प्रोग्राम बनायेगी।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : डिप्टी स्पीकर साहब, जैसा कि मैंने पहले बताया है कि पिथौरागढ़ के इलाके में पहले भी जलजले आते रहे हैं। सरकार को अच्छी तरह से इलम है कि वहाँ कभी भी जलजले की वजह से दुर्घटनायें हो सकती हैं। इसलिए लोगों को समझाने के लिए जो कुछ भी हो सकता है, वह किया जा रहा है। लोगों को भी मालूम है कि ये इलाके ऐसे हैं जहाँ कभी भी नुकसान हो सकता है। मैं आनरेबल मेम्बर की इस बात से सहमत नहीं है कि सड़कों के बनने से या बर्फ की वजह से या पहाड़ के फिसलने से या जंगलों के कटने से भी भूचाल आ सकते हैं... (व्यवधान)...

I don't think so. It is a matter of opinion, but I am not an expert on the subject.

श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत : बाह्य क्रियाओं असर आन्तरिक क्रियाओं पर भी पड़ता है।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : जनजले आते हैं, जमीन के अन्दर जो पिघला हुआ मादा है वह पिघला हुआ मादा ईरप्ट होता है तो पहाड़ बनते हैं, कहीं झीलें बनती हैं, उस की वजह से जमीन में फास्टस पैदा होते हैं, रिफ्ट हो जाती है। कभी यह सारा जमीन के ऊपर जितना हिस्सा है, जितना क्रस्ट है यह एक था किसी जमाने में, फिर कई कांटीनेंटस अलग-अलग बन गए और कुछ फास्टस उस में पैदा हो गए। तो जमीन के अन्दर जो पिघला हुआ मादा है उस की वजह से जो मूवमेंट्स होती हैं और उन रिफ्टस के अन्दर जब हलचल

पैदा होती है तो उसकी वजह से जलजले आते हैं जैसा कि एक्सपर्ट्स का कहना है। बहरहाल जंगलों के मुताबिक तो हमारी पहले ही नीति है कि कम से कम कटने पायें और पहाड़ों पर एकोलाजिकल बैलेंस कायम रखा जाये। वह एक दूसरा सबजेक्ट है।

इस इलाके के अंदर पिथौरागढ़ में भी हमने एक परमानेंट स्टेशन कायम करने की मंजूरी दी है। . . . (व्यवधान)
अभी दी है, डेट तो मैं फिर बता दूंगा। आप को दूंगा। जितना मैं बता रहा हूँ वही सुन लीजिए, उतना ही काफी होना चाहिए आप के लिए। उतने से ही तसल्ली कीजिए। अभी इस इलाके में तीन मोबाइल सिज्मी-ग्राफ भेजे गए हैं पिथौरागढ़ में ताकि आइन्दा और खतरा हो जलजले का तो वह पहले से कुछ पता चल जाय। लेकिन अभी तक कोई ऐसा फूनप्रूफ मेथड दुनिया में नहीं निकला है जिस से कि जलजले का पहले से ज्ञान हो जाये। कहीं भी कामयाबी पूरे तौर पर हासिल नहीं हुई है।

जहां तक हमारे देश का ताल्लुक है डिपार्टमेंट ऑफ साइंस ऐंड टेक्नीलाजी की तरफ से जैसा मैंने कहा, 18 प्राब-जर्वेटरी इस हिमालयन रिजन में कायम करने का प्लान है इस सारे इलाके में जिस में जलजले आने का खतरा हो सकता है ताकि अगर कभी खतरा हो तो इस की अनकारी वक्त पर मिलती रहे।

हमारी कुछ यूनिवर्सिटीज भी इस में रिसर्च कर रही हैं जैसे रडकी यूनिवर्सिटी, है, जियो-फिजिकल लैबोरेटरी हैदराबाद की है,, वहां भी रिसर्च होता है और कुछ और यूनिवर्सिटीज भी इस बारे में रिसर्च कर रही हैं। तो जहां तक बन पड़ता है सरकार का इस तरफ पुरा ध्यान है और कोशिश की जा रही है कि लोगों को इन आपत्तों से नुकसान न होने दिया जाये।

श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत : मैं ने अर्ज किया था कि इस एरिया में बराबर भूकम्प आते रहते हैं, वहां मकान बगैरह एक मंजिले हैं लेकिन इसके धावजूद भी वहां लोगों को बहुत क्षति पहुंचती रही है। तो इस सम्बन्ध में उत्तर प्रदेश की सरकार को कोई कार्यवाही करने के लिए कहेंगे। जिस में लकड़ी के मकान बनाने के लिए वहां उन को वह प्रोत्साहन दें और उस के लिए सहायता दें।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : आनरेबल मेम्बर के सुझाव पर जल्द अमल किया जायेगा। उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार को भी हम कहेंगे कि जहाँ इस किस्म की मुसीबत आ चुकी है कई बार पहले, वहां उन लोगों को समझाया जाये कि वह हल्की छत के मकान बनाएं।

श्री हरीश चन्द्र सिंह रावत : इस सन्दर्भ में उन को सहायता भी दे क्योंकि बिना सरकारी सहायता के ये वे नहीं बना सकते।

श्री बीरेन्द्र सिंह राव : सहायता न तो पक्के मकानों के लिए दी जाती है न कच्चे मकान के लिए दी जाती है और लकड़ी के मकान तो और भी आसानी से बनाए जा सकते हैं। अगर वे पक्के मकान बना सकते हैं तो लकड़ी के हल्के मकान भी बना सकते हैं बगैर सहायता के। सहायता मकानों के लिए अलग स्कीम में दी जाती है। इस बारे में मैं अभी कुछ भी वायदा नहीं कर सकता।

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Sir, the hon. Minister has rightly said in paragraph 6 that at present it is not possible to predict the occurrence of earthquake in the same manner as in the case of weather phenomenon. That is the correct position. The difficulty is, with the help of seismograph all that you can do is, once the earthquake takes place, you are able to detect its intensity and with the help of that

you are able to detect the seismic focus and you can also find out what is the epicentre and which exactly is the place where the maximum disturbance takes place, and therefore, in this context I would like to know from the hon. Minister: Has the Government made proper survey as to how many epicentres are there in our country today and in the vicinity of our country where already there has been an occurrence of earthquake in the past? You will be surprised to know that from 1949 upto 1980 in Delhi itself earthquake tremors have occurred 30 times. It is because the epicentres are located somewhere near On 29th July when the earthquake took place, the epicentre was at the tri-junction of Tibet, Nepal and Indian border, and as a result of that, all those regions which were in the vicinity of the epicentre were disturbed a lot.

It is true that the number of deaths is not high because in the past in different parts of the world there have been earthquakes in which 25 to 30 thousand and even 8 lakhs of people have died, but, after all, the intensity of a tremor is not merely judged by the number of people killed. As he rightly said on 29th July, the intensity was 6.5 on the Richter scale, and earlier in 1960 it was 7.

So, after 1960 this is the biggest tremor that has taken place in Delhi, U.P. and the vicinity. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they will try to have any research, as they are trying in some other parts of the world like the U.S., and the USSR though they have not yet succeeded, by which not only the intensity of the earthquake can be measured once it has occurred, but it can also be predicted before its occurrence.

Sometimes, a false scare is created that due to the pressure of certain dams, earthquakes and tremors take place, but actually the earthquake takes at 30 to 40 miles below the surface of the earth where the temperature is 2200 degrees Fahrenheit, and from there they go on spreading in

different directions. It is a fact that where earthquakes have taken place for the first time they could not be predicted. For instance, when a big earthquake took place in Japan for the first time, it could not be predicted, but once an earthquake takes place, that place becomes vulnerable for further earthquakes. Therefore, a proper survey of the epicentres in different parts of the country and its borders is absolutely necessary, so that you can mark out the regions likely to be affected by earthquakes and take precautionary measures.

In the earlier statement it was said that six deaths had taken place at Pithorgarh, but the latest telegram puts it at 13. I would like to know from the hon Minister whether any railway tracks have been disturbed, whether there has been loss of crops or property in the form of buildings, and whether he will introduce crop insurance and other forms of insurance so that these damages can also be covered. As a result of the earthquakes, not only this earthquake but suppose in future, if the railway tracks are disturbed, already the Railways are taking the social burden, as Panditji rightly pointed out, of the order of Rs. 273 crores, there should not be additional social burden which the Railways should be required to lift up. Therefore, that contingency fund should also be available.

There is one more point which I would like to raise. As far as this earthquake is concerned, the preventive measures cannot be taken at present. But will it be possible to bring out some legislation by which an exclusive Department for considering the research and facilities for the affected areas can be undertaken?

DR. KARAN SINGH (Udhampur): There is already India Meteorological Department.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: That is not sufficient. I know that. For instance, Seismological department is a part and parcel of Meteorological Department. But what I am suggesting is, since a number of regions in India

have now become vulnerable for earthquakes, will they set up a separate department to conduct all these surveys and to try to find out what exactly is the destruction of materials, crops, buildings and all that and try to see that the relief measures are properly monitored and coordinated. These are the specific queries that I have made and I hope to get specific answers from the Minister.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I am thankful to the hon. Member, Prof Madhu Dandavate. He has given several good suggestions. He seems to know quite a lot about earthquakes, and the measures that can be taken to prevent damages of serious nature on account of earthquakes. This particular motion was only in respect of the earthquake that occurred on 29th of last month. The epicentre of this earthquake, as I have said, was near Pithorgarh, only 80 kms. from Pithorgarh.

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will you allow a second intervention because I forgot to ask one additional question that was very relevant to this tremor? Dr. H. M. Choudhry, Director, Seismology, Department of Meteorology, has already stated—that has appeared in the press—that the after-shocks of this earthquake of 29th July are likely to continue for one full month. That is the statement that has come

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: I have myself stated that its effect is likely to continue. It is only for this purpose that three mobile units of seismograph have already been despatched to the area, only to keep track of any future possibilities. As I said, the epicentre was at a place, Siligari in Nepal, which is only 80 kms. from Pithorgarh. There are five zones that have been identified in the country for earthquakes, one in the centre of Deccan, the second, further north, along the Aravalies, the third in Satpura and the fourth in Kutch. But the worst affected is the fifth zone along the Himalayas as Mr. Rawat also

stated. The Meteorological Department has set up 24 permanent seismological observatories and 16 special observatories. 19 of these 40 are in Himalayan region. We are already looking after this region particularly. The suggestion that there should be a separate department to advise as to what type of houses should be constructed will be taken into consideration. I think we are already well-equipped to advise on this subject. Our engineers in the existing departments can do it easily. There has been a suggestion that there might have been some crop damage and the railway tracks might have been damaged in that area. We have received no reports about any damage to railway track so far and as the hon. Member himself would agree, there is very little damage to crops on account of earthquakes. It is only large buildings and heavy constructions which are generally affected. Tremors in the earth do not affect the standing crops.

We shall certainly take into account all the other suggestions that the hon. Member has made and we shall see if we can improve upon our existing system of monitoring and predicting earthquakes in future.

—
APOLOGY BY MINISTER FOR ABSENCE DURING QUESTION HOUR

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): Sir, I wish to tender an unqualified apology for my absence during the time when my Question was called and I greatly regret the inconvenience that was caused to the Chair and to the hon. Members.

SHRI MANI RAM BAGRI (Hissar): On a point of order, Sir. I have given notice of a motion under rule 223 for this and you have not mentioned in the House.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is under consideration. In the meanwhile, he has apologised. As a gentleman, you should agree to his apology.

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CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER
OF URGENT PUBLIC
IMPORTANCE—*contd.*

REPORTED LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY
DUE TO THE EARTHQUAKE ON 29TH JULY,
1980—*contd.*

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Pon-
nani): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the
hon. Minister has stated in his state-
ment;

"At present, however, it is not
possible to predict the occurrence
of earthquake in the same manner
as in the case of weather pheno-
menon."

More than half of the area of our
country is liable to moderate or
severe earthquakes. That is the posi-
tion. This is apart from political
earthquakes that can come!

The great earthquakes of Bihar in
1934, Assam in 1950 and Koyna in
1967, are nightmares to us. We have
been further told by the hon. Minister
that the Indo-Tibet-Nepal region is
the site of frequent earthquakes. When
this is the situation, I would like to
ask the hon. Minister for Agriculture
whether it is not a fact that there
were predictions of major earthquakes
in 1980. You will remember that on
16th February, 1980, there was a solar
eclipse. It attracted worldwide atten-
tion. At that time, there were appre-
hensions of major earth tremors coin-
ciding with the solar eclipse. Fortu-
nately, such major tremors did not
occur. But then predictions were made
that major tremors are inevitable.
Even Dr. S. N. Shah of the Geological
Survey of India said then "that an
earthquake of a severe magnitude is
almost inevitable in the north-east
region any day from now". When this
is the situation, we must know from
the Government whether there was
any follow-up work on such major
predictions made, whether these were
taken seriously, whether any pre-
paredness programmes were drawn up
and whether there was any contingency
plan to mitigate any probable damage.
That is the first aspect that I would
like the hon. Minister to clarify.

Serious inadequacies of our own
Department have come to light. These
merit attention. The entire district
about which we are talking, in U.P.,
was rocked six times—the first at
6-00 p.m., then at 8-20, 8-26, 8-30 p.m.
and at 12-15 a.m. and 6-30 a.m. We
are further informed—if we are not
correct, he may please correct us—
that the earthquake was so strong
that eleven out of twelve seismo-
graphs in Delhi were knocked out of
action and only one remained; and
this lone seismograph that recorded
was also disturbed for fifteen minutes.

If this is the situation, will the hon.
Minister tell the House what steps
are being taken for improvement in
and effective instrumentation of these
earthquake predictions? What steps
are being taken for further strength-
ening of the Department so that it
may be able to do its work?

I may now turn to the question of
relief: it is an important point. We
are told that the State Government is
looking into it and we are thankful
also to our Prime Minister who has
announced a further Rs. 2,500/- aid
per family. This is 'per family': now,
why not have it as 'per deceased'?
The amount is also insufficient. I
would like to draw your attention, for
the purpose of comparison, to the
landslide in Uttarkasi in U.P. some
time back where the relief, even
though given per family, was also in
accordance with the number of mem-
bers unfortunately lost. For example,
where two members of a family were
lost, Rs. 3000/- was given per family
and where more than two members
were lost, Rs. 5000/- was given per
family. Now, the first point I want to
make is about this very insufficient
amount. They must think about equat-
ing it with air and railway victims.
After all, why this discrimination—
this point has often come up here—
in matters of human life? Secondly,
even in the case of families, you may
have it not as 'per family' but as 'per
deceased'.

Another question is that of houses.
We are told that nearly 3000 houses

have been damaged. Will the Government come forward and give some house subsidy for the purpose of reconstruction of these houses?

To conclude, just one word—and that is about the attitude of the Government towards the whole human tragedy. The tragedy took place on the 29th July and we are told, in the very first page of the statement, that enquiries were made with the District Magistrate and he intimated on the phone at 6-00 P.M. on 31st July 1980. The tragedy takes place on the 29th July, and the Government does not seem to move at all. We give some Calling Attention Motions or some motions, with your kind and gracious permission, Sir, and then the District Magistrate is contacted on phone and on 31st July he gives the information. Still, much more information from the interior parts is also not available. I would only like that Government should not move at a snail's pace...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You can conclude by saying what are the effects of the earthquake on you! that 300 houses had been damaged...

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: The entire nation is affected.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Did you feel the earthquake?

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: I request the Government to see that it moves at a proper speed in matters of such human tragedy.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: First of all, I would like to correct the hon. Member about the number of houses. I had stated in the main statement, submitted earlier to you, that 300 houses had been damaged...

AN. HON. MEMBER: Not 3,000?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Not 3,000. According to the telegram that we received—I have again read the telegram—the latest information was that 280 houses had been damaged...

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY (Midnapore): This may not be the final information. You have yourself said

that the final information has yet to come.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Why are you afraid that the damage will be more? I have already said that as many as 19 observatories have been established all along the Himalayan region and the Government is aware of the fact that the most earthquake-prone area is the north-eastern region. Some scientists in the Jorhat Observatory had predicted as long as 1977 that there was a likelihood of an earthquake of serious nature in this region in the year 1980. And that has happened. So, our scientists are quite well up in the matter of research and predictions. It can be judged from this fact. And the then Assam Government had been warned by the Government of India. Even in 1979 they had been asked to prepare for any eventuality, and certain plans were prepared to meet any emergency. It is not that Government has been sleeping over it or that our scientists do not know anything about the earthquakes. This impression must be dispelled...

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: When scientists helped you, what did you do by way of preparation? Why did you not prepare yourselves? That is the point.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Scientists only inform us and then we do everything not the scientists.

SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: What did you do?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: We warned the Assam Government. A plan of action was prepared. But fortunately there has been no serious mishap, so that we could use that plan. We are prepared. And if there is any likely lightning strike, I will be prepared for another Calling Attention Motion. Why are you always trying to think that Government is not doing anything and it is only on the demand of some Opposition Members that Government wakes up?

Prof. Madhu Dandavate asked me as to how predictions were made.

[Shri Birendra Singh Rao]

Mr. Banatwalla has also raised this question. I do not say that I am an expert, but from whatever information I have got from experts, there are five areas or fields in which we try to work, so that some advance information about earthquakes can be known. One is the seismic field and the pattern of earthquake occurrences that has been monitored in the past. That can give us some idea. Then, the geo-physical field, including magnetic intensity and gravity of earth currents, etc. Then, measurement of minor earth deformations; wherever they are found, the faults are measured and identified. Then, there are Radon emissions from wells and ground water fluctuations which precede major earthquakes; some predictions can be made from these. Then, unusual animal behaviour and other empirical observations—because some countries like China have tried it. You must know that from animal behaviour they tried to predict earthquakes and it was once thought that this would be a fool-proof method but that was also found to be not perfect because soon after that, in 1976 there was a very severe earthquake in China for which they could not prepare in advance and millions of people have died. As I have in my statement earlier said, it is very difficult to know all the secrets of nature. All that we can do is to prepare for them.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA (Balsore): I am very grateful to our hon. Prime Minister for extending her sympathy to the bereaved families and also for sanctioning a sum of Rs. 2,500 as immediate relief to each family. But in this context, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the relief measures and the gratuitous relief will be extended to all those who were killed as reported in the House. Also the Minister said in his statement that further information is being collected. So, in case some more deaths come to light, I want the relief should be extended to them also.

Dr. H. M. Chaudhary, Director of Seismology in the Department of Meteorology has observed that this type of earthquakes will be felt for a month. Corroborating this observation, I am bringing to the notice of our hon. Minister that to-day's newspapers like 'Indian Express' have reported the death of about 100 persons on account of earthquake in Nepal. The hon. Minister has said that necessary measures are taken and are going to be taken. But may I know whether this type of prediction could be intimated by the Meteorological Department even one hour before or not? While enquiring about the reason of this quake, in the course of my discussion with an eminent scientist—I do not want to mention his name because he is a government servant—he was telling that another major reason for earthquakes is the silting of our major irrigation projects which are under water for years together. Of course, I would request the Minister to kindly verify whether this is one of the reasons or not. If so, I would like that the Irrigation Department may be asked to have regular dredging and also have trees planted in the project areas.

Prof. Madhu Dandavate asked about crop insurance ...

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Don't repeat what he said. You ask your question.

SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA: In his statement, the hon. Minister has given the information to the House that 280 houses have collapsed. I think none of these houses was insured. I would request the Minister that he may think whether the houses in those areas which are earthquake prone areas can be insured or not. This may kindly be thought of.

Lastly, Sir, from my own experience, I would say that my telephone was out of order from that day, that is, from 29th. Only yesterday evening it was repaired. On my enquiry from the telephone authorities, I am told by some of the employees of the Postal Department, that because of

earthquake, the underground cables got disturbed and so my telephone along with many others was out of order for the last three days. So, this may also be taken note of by the hon. Minister. Because of the intensity of the earthquake, if all the telephones go out of order, how can you get the information from the interiors? So, this aspect may kindly be looked into.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: As far as telephones are concerned, if they have not been repaired, you will not have to wait for after-shock.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, to make our telephones out of order, no earthquake is necessary. (*Interruptions*).

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: The earthquake is responsible for putting the telephones out of order. I share the concern of the Member about the relief not being adequate. But, our difficulty is that in matters like this, the Government of India cannot take the liability for providing compensation at a substantial rate. You would also kindly agree that it is not possible to give full compensation for the lives. The persons have to suffer, the family has to suffer, for long periods. The Government is expected to give a fair amount of compensation only as *ex gratia* grants that are needed immediately, as a measure of government sympathy. The Government of U.P. is doing it. For the damaged houses also, I am told, that Rs. 800 per house will be given by U.P. Government, as grant.

The Government of India, on the orders of the Prime Minister, has also given the *ex-gratia* payment of Rs. 2,500 per family. This only shows that we have deep sympathy with the sufferers. But to put these disasters on par with the railway accidents or air accidents and to give compensation according to what is paid by the Railways, that will not be possible. After all, the Government—is responsible for the passengers who travel in the Government of India trains and...the passengers who travel in the planes of

due to earthquake(CA)

the Indian Airlines Corporation, are in a way insured. But, for the calamities like this, Government of India cannot shoulder any definite responsibility for compensating for the damages and the lives lost.

Silting of rivers, to my mind, and afforestation, as I have already said earlier do not have any effect upon earthquakes. But, on large dams it may possibly, at times, be creating some effect. If the water seeps to a very deep level, as Prof. Dandavate said, for a few kilometres in the earth crest, it is very hot—it is all molten metal—and, if water comes into contact with it, there may be evaporation and it may create disturbance. And that might be responsible for earthquakes in some places under certain circumstances. But, generally, these things do not have any effect.

It is not possible to forecast as to whether we shall have after-shocks in these regions; all I can say is that we should have faith in God and hope for the best. I hope there will be no further calamity and the damage that has occurred will probably remain as it is and no further suffering, God will give to the people of this country on account of earthquake.

13 hrs.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA (Karnal): Sir, in view of the fact that earthquakes are a greater challenge and earthquakes take place in various parts of the country, there have been world conference on earthquakes. I would like to ask only two questions. First, whether the government would consider the desirability of starting earthquake engineering in the country; and secondly, whether quake recorders would be installed on tall buildings?

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO: Sir, I have already informed the House that we have as many as forty observatories situated all over the country and recordings are taking place. If there is any further need and any area has been left uncovered the

Department of Science and Technology will look after this.

I do not know what the hon'ble Member means by earthquake engineering. But I shall certainly have government look into this aspect and if any engineering department or any training amongst the engineers is needed we shall do whatever can be done. So far as I know in Roorkee university, earthquake engineering is already part of the course there. If Roorkee does not provide sufficient education and does not meet the requirements of the students who want to study earthquake engineering this can be thought of being introduced in other universities also.

13 02 hrs.

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): Sir, on behalf of Shri Bhishma Narain Singh, with your permission, Sir, I rise to announce that Government Business in this House during the week commencing 4th August, 1980, will consist of:—

(1) Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order Paper.

(2) Consideration and passing of:—

(a) The Brahmaputra Board Bill, 1980.

(b) The Territorial Army (Amendment) Bill, 1980.

(c) The Dock Workers (Regulation of Employment) Amendment Bill, 1980.

(3) Consideration of a motion for modification of the notification regarding rates of Customs Duty and baggage.

(4) Consideration and passing of:

(a) The Delhi Rent Control (Amendment) Bill, 1980.

(b) The Ear Drums and Ear Bones (Authority for use for Therapeutic Purposes) Bill, 1980.

(c) The Delhi Municipal Laws (Amendment and Validation) Bill, 1980.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA (Ponnani): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have to urge upon the government for the need for a statement on the fast and steadily deteriorating situation in Kerala. Very recently also—just two days ago—there was firing there on the peaceful demonstrators at Malappuram collectorate. There was demonstration there against the anti-language, anti-Urdu and anti-Arabic policy of the Kerala government. These demonstrators were fired upon. Some were killed. And a large number of them were injured. The State Government's attitude of suppression of the right of these people to agitate peacefully against its policies, is, to say the least, subversion of the Constitution . . .

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER: The items which you have mentioned are very clear. You can read them.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: My second point is this. I have given a Motion under Rule 189. It is admitted and it is given No. 146. It is to take into consideration the First Annual Report of the Minorities Commission, with Memoranda of Action, laid on the Table of the House. Government should come forward and introduce a Bill without any further delay, to confer constitutional status on the Minorities Commission. It is a principle already accepted by the Government. Therefore, there should not be any delay with regard to this subject.

My next point is this: The Youth Wing of the Janata Party has recently announced certain programmes and