

is any threat to the country, he will lead the country. (*Interruptions*) You should commend his action.

SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister of Finance has started that supply of arms have not been received from the U.S.S.R. or its old friendly countries. Is there any such information with the Ministry that arms are being put to sale in the open international arms market by all the east European countries and Pakistan is purchasing these arms through them. If so, what steps have been taken in this regard.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: We have no such information.

[*English*]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, may I know whether, during the talks that the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister had recently with the Russian leaders, this question has been raised that it is not advisable to sell such strategic weapons to Pakistan in view of the situation and the atmosphere that prevails between Pakistan and India?

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Sir, I have already said that they are not selling these arms to Pakistan. We have definite assurance not only from the Soviet Union, but also from different European countries that they have not sold and they are not ready to do it.

Central Assistance for Cyclone Affected People of Andhra Pradesh

*103. DR. ASIM BALA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment made by the Union Government in respect of the extent of loss of human life and property due to recent unprecedented cyclone and flood in coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the financial and other assistance

given by Union Government to the State Government in this regard; and

(c) whether Government of India have ensured that the affected people are provided adequate help of food, drinking water, medicines and shelter?

[*Translation*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has indicated total damage amounting to Rs. 2247.76 crore and loss of 928 human lives. The Government of India has not made any independent assessment of extent of loss of life and property. However, a Central Team was deputed to Andhra Pradesh between 15th-19th July, 1990 to assess the quantum of Central assistance required. During the visit of the Team, the State Government has sought assistance to the extent of Rs. 867 crores.

(b) With the acceptance of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, a Calamity Relief Fund has been constituted for each State with certain allocated amount, 75 per cent of which is to be contributed by the Central Government in four quarterly instalments as non-Plan grant, and the balance 25 per cent is to be contributed by the State Government from its own resources. Following the constitution of Calamity Relief Fund, it is the responsibility of the State Government to undertake all relief measures and incur necessary expenditure in the wake of natural calamities. Andhra Pradesh has been allocated Rs. 86 crore for 1990-91 under the Calamity Relief Fund. Keeping in view the severity of the situation caused by cyclone followed by heavy rains of May, 1990 in coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, the entire Central share of the

Calamity Relief Fund for the year 1990-91 amounting to Rs. 64.50 crore has been released to the State Government in May, 1990. The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has sought additional Central assistance of Rs. 867 crore on the plea that the calamity is of rare severity which requires handling at the national level. Based on this request, a Central Team was deputed to visit Andhra Pradesh and it has submitted its report. The report of the Team is being processed in accordance with the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission. In addition to the release of the Central share to the State's Calamity Relief Fund, the following assistance has also been provided by the Central Government:—

- (i) Entire Central share of Calamity Relief Fund amounting to Rs. 64.50 crore has been released;
- (ii) Rs. 2 crore has been released from the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund;
- (iii) Rs. 78 lakhs has been released so far from the Indian People's National Calamity Trust (IPNCT) for making ex-gratia payment to the next of the kin of deceased;
- (iv) Necessary assistance was provided by the Armed Forces for rescue of the marooned people as well as air dropping of food packets, medicines and drinking water, etc. in the inaccessible areas;
- (v) Special arrangements were made for speedy movement of relief materi on priority basis by Railways.
- (vi) Special Task Forces were deputed for immediate repair and restoration of damaged installations connected with Telecommunications Roads and Bridges, Power and Railways;
- (vii) Insurance agencies were instructed

to settle all insurance claims expeditiously;

- (viii) Required quantities of medicines were made available.
- (ix) Food Corporation of India have purchased rain soaked dis-coloured paddy and rice for which the norms were relaxed;
- (x) Adequate supply of coal was ensured to power houses;
- (xi) Banks were directed to postpone/suspend/reschedule bank loans and laos provide fresh consumption loans to the farmers;
- (xii) Rs. 3.00 crore additional short term loan was allocated for Kharif 990 for purchase and distribution of agricultural inputs;
- (xiii) Required quantities of essential commodities were allocated as required by the State;
- (xiv) National Seeds Corporation of India and State Farms Corporation of India have provided available varieties of seeds;
- (xv) Housing Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO) would undertake construction of one lakh pucca houses at an estimated cost of Rs. 99 crore. The project is being prepared by Andhra Pradesh Government in collaboration with Housing and Urban Development Corporation;
- (xvi) On direction from Central Government, the public sector undertakings operating in Andhra Pradesh have adopted areas/villages/towns for providing relief to the affected people.

(c) It is primarily the responsibility of the State Government to ensure that adequate

and timely relief is provided to the people affected by natural calamities. However, the Government of India have taken prompt action to see that all possible assistance as required by the State Government of Andhra Pradesh is extended to them.

[English]

DR. ASIMBALA: Sir, the unprecedented cyclone and flood made the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh suffer. According to the Government reports, the death toll is 928 and damage is Rs. 2247.76 crores. In addition, lakhs of people were rendered homeless and a large property was lost and 45000 hectares of land under horticulture was also damaged and livestock and poultry were also lost in this area. It is a flood and cyclone prone area. I would like to bring to your notice that over the last 9 years, i.e., from 1979 to 1988, there have been 175 cyclones of varied intensity and damage.

MR. SPEAKER: Please formulate your question. You have to ask your question.

DR. ASIM BALA: I would like to know whether the Government is having any plan to combat the severe cyclone. I heard that there was a report and recommendation regarding permanent measures. I want to know as to what are the permanent measures that the Government is supposed to take to save the agricultural production in the affected area.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon'ble member has mentioned about the devastation caused by the cyclone. The Government has replied about it in the statement laid on the Table of the House. Cyclones affect the coastal areas sometimes their intensity is great and sometimes less. So far as the point of taking permanent measures is concerned, the Government is making efforts for it. But it is not directly related with this question. The point of permanent measures is not at all related to the Ministry of Agriculture to a great extent.

[English]

DR. ASIMBALA: There is a recommendation in this regard that they should take permanent measures to save the agricultural production. The Minister should inform about the recommendations in this House.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: They have made recommendations for permanent measures stating there in as to how to construct dams and also how to give advance information to the people about the impending cyclone. About all that, information is given to the people. But if you want to ask a question about the calamity relief Fund from the Ministry of Agriculture, you can ask a separate question.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA: On 9th August, the same question was put to the Ministry of Welfare, but at that time, I could not get proper reply. Now, I would like to know as to what is the total quantum of relief rendered by the Central and the State Government in terms of money and other materials.

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: As per the report sent by the State Government, they have spent about Rs. 6 crores on relief measures, rehabilitation and other works. The Central Government has set up a Calamity Relief Fund with Rs. 86 crores, 75 per cent of that amount i.e. Rs. 64.50 crores has been released by the Centre.

[English]

DR. ASIM BALA: What is the quantum of relief for the states other than Andhra Pradesh?

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: So far as other states are concerned, an amount of Rs. 50

lakhs has been released from Indian National people's Calamity Relief Trust of Uttar Pradesh. Some money was expected from Haryana Government. But to this date, a sum of Rs. 50 lakhs have been received from Uttar Pradesh.

[*English*]

SHRI P. NARSA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister, in his reply, stated that the State Government had requested for a further assistance of Rs. 867 crores, for which a central team was sent and then the recommendations of that central team are being examined in view of the Ninth Finance Commission's recommendations. Now, under the Ninth Finance Commission, you have already released money. If you are to go only by the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission, the State Governments would not get any aid. The Prime Minister, during his visit to the State, had said that this was a national calamity. Therefore, in view of that, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister would assure the House that further assistance would be given.

Further, he had stated that all the paddy that had been soaked had been purchased by the Food Corporation of India, but only 10 per cent of the soaked rice had been purchased by the Food Corporation of India and the rest had been left high and dry to be put in the dustbin. So, I would like to know whether the Government would direct the Food Corporation of India to purchase all the paddy which had been soaked, so that the farmers would get some relief.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Central Team, which had gone there between 15-19 July, had submitted its Report on 30th July. Now, the matter is being taken up with the Ministry of Finance. The Prime Minister had also visited the area twice and had stated that it was a great calamity. It was in view of it that a Central Team had visited the area. There has been a colossal loss. The State Government has

stated that they have suffered a total loss of Rs. 2247.76 crores and sought an assistance of Rs. 867 crore from the Central Government. But the Central Team has recommended an assistance of Rs. 168 crore on the basis of central norms. A sum of Rs. 86 crore from the Relief Fund has already been spent. However, it is under consideration as to how much more of it can be released to the State Government. Hon'ble member has made a mention of the Ninth Finance Commission. It was in pursuance of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission that a Calamity Relief Fund had been set up but the Ninth Finance Commission has also recommended that if, after the present one, any other natural calamity occurs, the Central Government may consider to provide separate assistance in this regard. In this connection, the Prime Minister had stated there and the Ministry of Finance is also looking into it. So far as the second part of the question put by an hon'ble member regarding the relaxation in purchase norms is concerned, I would like to say that upto 30th July, a quantity of 64,854 metric tonnes of paddy and 1,46,600 metric tonnes of rice has been purchased.

[*English*]

SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Prime Minister was kind enough to visit twice Andhra Pradesh after it was hit by cyclones and severe floods and the Central Government showed a positive gesture in visiting and announcing some assistance. But so far as the action taken is concerned, I do not know whether they have realised the serious bottlenecks in the way because cyclones and floods have become a routine feature for the coastal districts. When we are personally organising specific things like drinking water, medicines and food, we are faced with serious bottleneck of transportation.

Most of the people in the coastal areas would have lost their lives had the State Government not taken timely action. Therefore, you have to provide *pucca* houses to the fishermen living there and also coastal

roads to be laid. Since it has been declared as a national calamity, the Government have to take this into view. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what is the plan, what kind of action they have taken in this regard.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: The State Government had taken up this issue and had also discussed it with the World Bank. The World Bank Team has already visited that place. The final round of talks of the representatives of the State Government and the Central Government with the World Bank is going to be held between 27th and the 31st August, 1990. The team of the World Bank has prepared an initial estimate of the element of assistance i.e. Rs. 660 crore. With that amount of assistance all the restoration work and other works to which hon'ble member has referred just now, would be completed.

SHRI RAM KRISHAN YADAV: Hon'ble Speaker, Sir, I had also visited the State of Andhra Pradesh at the time when it was hit by a cyclone. I found that main problem being faced by the people of that State was that of drinking water. Brackish water had entered their fields. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister about the steps taken by the Government so far to pump out that brackish water from their fields, ponds and other sources of drinking water?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Arrangement of drinking water was made immediately at that time. Hon'ble member may recall it that it was also clearly mentioned in the suo-motu statement made by me in the House.

[*English*]

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY: Sir, about the cyclones in Andhra, as you know, according to our Prime Minister, it will not be called as national calamity, then which should be called national calamity? The Finance Commission, no doubt, has made mild recommendations. But the Andhra Government will not be able to meet the devastation

which was caused by the cyclones and floods. Wherever it becomes necessary and urgent, the Central Government must come to the help of the State Government. But as I understand a Central team as visited the affected places and made recommendations. But the recommendations of the team were not placed here.

I would like to know whether the Government is having in its mind to take it up as special case to do something beyond the recommendations of the Finance Commission.

Second point is, it requires most of the work to be done in the form of construction and preventive work. Since the cyclones are very often coming to that area and are affecting the people why can't the Central Government take permanent measures to control cyclone and prevent further damages? Is the Government of India considering a scheme to help the Andhra Government which would help them starting construction work and also give employment to the people and thereby rehabilitating the people. I would like to know whether such an idea is in the minds of the Government to take some steps as permanent measures to prevent the effect of cyclone so that greater damages are not caused. Orissa was affected by the cyclone and, of course, so much damage has been done that paddy crop has been affected. The FCI is not purchasing the paddy. The Government of Andhra Pradesh are not purchasing from Orissa. Rice is selling at Rs. 90/- a quintal in Orissa.

So, I want to know whether the Government has got special measures to purchase paddy from those areas where the crop has been affected and damaged by the cyclone so that the peasants are not ruined.

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question asked by the Hon'ble member is whether the Government wants to consider it as a special case or no.. Had it not been a special case, then the Prime

Minister would not have gone there twice and it was on his direction that the Central Team visited the place and an enquiry was conducted by the Central Team. The report submitted by the Central Team is under consideration of the Ministry of Finance, as I have already stated it earlier. So far as the point of permanent solution is concerned, it was discussed in the last session of Lok Sabha and all the points were discussed and everything had been made clear by the Government. Now, there is nothing new in it. The third point is about the State of Orissa. A Calamity Fund of Rs. 54 crore has been created for the State of Orissa.

[*Translation*]

The cyclone victims of Andhra Pradesh were provided urgent relief and an amount of Rs. 25000/- was given to the families of each person killed in the cyclone from the Indian People Trust by the then Deputy Prime Minister and Agriculture Minister. The families of the persons killed in the recent Orissa cyclone were also provided financial assistance on the same lines. The Central Government immediately act upon the report submitted by the State Government. This was stated last time also and same is the position even today.

[*English*]

SHRI A.N. SINGH DEO: This cyclone is not confined to any State, though the question is about Andhra Pradesh. Orissa is also affected by cyclone and floods, specially the Ganjam district. I want to know how much relief was sanctioned by Government for Ganam district.

Secondly, flood prevention measures should be taken for both Andhra Pradesh and Orissa in combination. There is a proposal to have an embankment starting right from Gopalpur-Balasore up to Andhra Pradesh. Is the Government considering taking up that project?

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker,

Sir, in reply to another question I stated that we would take permanent flood prevention measures with the assistance likely to be received from the World Bank. In addition to it, attention will be paid to permanent measures under the plan scheme also.

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister, since assistance was given to the cyclone victims of Andhra Pradesh after assessing the loss whether Government has formulated any norms to give assistance to other states also suffering natural calamities. Is there any proposal to provide relief to Rajasthan which faced fury of floods recently in which nearly 140 persons lost their lives?

MR. SPEAKER: This question is related to Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, this question is not directly related to the main question but a Calamity Relief Fund has been created in pursuance of the recommendations of the Ninth Finance Commission and assistance is given to the states which suffer natural calamities from that fund. 75% of the amount to this fund is contributed by the Central Government and the rest 25% is contributed by the States under non-plan expenditure. Therefore, assistance can be given to any state including Rajasthan from this fund if they suffer any natural calamity. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: The cyclone in Andhra Pradesh has been declared as a 'national calamity', that too by the highest office in the land, the Prime Minister of the country. It means that it goes beyond the norms of regulations, rules and Commissions. So, Andhra Pradesh should get more funds. Today our Chief Minister has gone to the World Bank for aid. I want to know one thing specifically from the hon. Minister. He seems to say that the Finance Ministry will answer question (a) and some other Ministry will answer question (b). What

I want to say is that this flood seems to be an almost annual feature in Andhra Pradesh. Our State experiences flood every year. I would like to know what is the Agricultural Ministry thinking or doing as a long-term measure to see that this cyclone is completely averted. Secondly, at one stage, Shri Devi Lal-ji promised that Rs. 25,000/- would be given to the next of kin of the deceased. I want to know how many people have been given this and what is the amount that has been released in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the question put by the hon. Member has already been covered in replies to earlier questions. Had the Government not been concerned over the matter, the hon. Prime Minister would not have visited twice and the Central Team would not have gone there and its recommendations not considered in the light of the recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission. (*Interruptions*)

So far as the question of permanent measures is concerned, the Central Team went there from 15th to 19th July; it submitted its report on 30th July and today on the 16th August it is being discussed in the House. The House has already been informed that Government will extend all possible help to the state. As regards the then Deputy Prime Minister Shri Devi Lal's announcement that Rs. 25,000 would be given to next of the kin of the each bereaved family, an amount of Rs. 78 lakh has so far been granted to Andhra Pradesh Government in this regard. An amount of Rs. 2 crores has been sanctioned from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Each family will get an additional amount of Rs. 1000 from this fund. Thus Government is committed to give Rs. 50,000 to each family. An amount of Rs. 78 lakh has already been released to Andhra Pradesh Government from the Trust Fund and no further information has been received from the State Government about the amount still required by them and the number of persons still left. We are committed to provide assistance to Andhra Pradesh

Government and we will provide further assistance to them as soon as we receive any information from them (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: He is confusing the issue.

MR. SPEAKER: He is replying to your question.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Benjamin, I have not called you.

SHRIMATI UMA GAJAPATHI RAJU: Sir, the Chief Minister has asked for more funds. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI YUVRAJ: I would like to submit that the State Government made a demand of Rs. 367 crores before the team sent by the Central Government. But only Rs. 86 crore were given. This is only one tenth of the total demand put forward by the State. Therefore, I want to say it very categorically that the amount of Rs. 86 crore given of Andhra Pradesh is inadequate to meet the requirements. Of course, an amount of Rs. 2 crore have been given from the Prime Minister Relief Fund and yet another 75 per cent has been given in accordance with the formula recommended by the Ninth Finance Commission. It would like to know whether Government is aware of it that the amount of Rs. 86 crore given to the state is only one tenth of the total demand and it is insufficient to meet their requirements? Will the Government consider the matter and give more assistance to the state to launch schemes for providing drinking water, constructing houses for harijans and adivasis etc?

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: I have already

replied the points raised by the hon. Member. The State Government made the demand but the amount has been released as per the norms fixed by the Central Government. This norm is applicable to all states of the country. On the basis of the norm, an amount of Rs. 65 crore has been recommended for the state. As I have already state that the question of released of the rest of the amount is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

PROF. N.G. RANGA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is some consolation that the hon. Prime Minister had visited that unfortunate area which has suffered so terribly. But then there seems to be something wrong. I would like the hon. Prime Minister as well as the Ministers concerned to give their attention to this. The study team which they have sent to Andhra Pradesh are supposed to be experts in making the studies. They have estimated the losses at Rs. 867 crores, whereas the experts of the local Government—they are also IAS officers, experienced people, supposed to be experts too—have estimated it to Rs. 2,247 crores. Why is this discrepancy? It is only one-third. Apart from that, the Prime Minister himself recognised this as a national calamity and crisis, not like any other crises. According to the other estimates, how many crores did they offer? They offered only Rs. 64 crores. Now are they not aware of the inadequacy and unacceptability of this kind of an approach? Now how many months are over after the calamity? They are still studying. When are they going to give any kind of succour to all those people who have suffered? Lots of them, most of them are Harijans, all of them are depressed class people. What sort of assistance is being given? On the other hand, Government should have said here that they appreciate the sense of self-reliance displayed by our Harijans and backward class people whose huts were destroyed and the small savings which they had in the form of loans, they were also destroyed and everything was lost. (*Interruptions*) Even their brass vessels and various other things were

lost. Instead of expressing appreciation to the contribution made by the sufferers in order to rehabilitate themselves, they should have given them some real timely succour. They have not given that. What they have done is something good but not enough, not at all enough. Under these circumstances, what is it that the Government of India propose to do in order to supplement the efforts made by the local Government to help these people? The Chief Minister has made some efforts to persuade the World Bank. Are the Government of India also using their good offices to persuade the World Bank?

Now about huts and hutments, HUDCO is asked to help them to construct their houses. What is it that is being done? There is no information here. There are number of items here. People want real support, adequate support. But the Government of India does not seem to be sufficiently active. And who gives the answer here—a junior Minister. It is fortunate whether he wishes it or not, when the Prime Minister happens to be in the House. Would he be good enough to assist him own Minister, junior Minister and give some satisfaction to this House and give adequate assistance to the local Government when the social economy has been so badly affected, harmed and destroyed. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Benjamin, what is this? Please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: Mr. Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to submit that I have a high regard for Shri Rangaji. He took active part in the freedom struggle. He has objected to my giving reply to the question. I do not think that it is legally or constitutionally wrong on my part to give reply to this question. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I have called you to give reply. You should start replying.

SHRI NITISH KUMAR: From where can we bring an old guard like him to stand here from our side? In so far as damage assessment is concerned, the Central Team did not assess the damage. Whatever report was sent by the State Government in regard to damage was accepted by us. As per the report of the State Government, damage is estimated to be Rs. 2247.76 crore and not Rs. 868 crores. We did not challenge the report. The State Government has asked an amount of Rs. 868 crore for relief operations. We have recommended Rs. 168 crore under the norms fixed by the Centre but the State Government has so far spent only Rs. 116 crore against the demand of Rs. 867 crore. So far as this question is concerned, I have already said that the matter is under consideration of the Government and the assurance given by the hon. Prime Minister would be fulfilled. From World Bank... (*Interruptions*) Only 16 days have passed since then, just remember the old days. All this has been done in a very short time. The cyclone which hit Andhra Pradesh this time was of unprecedented nature in magnitude and ferocity. As regard assistance, the matter has been taken up with them and the World Bank, the negotiations are going on. The World Bank has accepted the preliminary assessment of Rs. 660 crore. Significant assistance is likely to be received from them also. As hon. Rangaji has said just now, a large number of houses have been destroyed there, HUDCO has agreed to construct one lakh pucca houses. One lakh more houses would be constructed under this scheme on which Rs. 99 crore will be spent. In this way different public sector undertakings have been directed to select for development different villages with a view to restore them. Thus, all possible help is being extended. Never before relief work has been started at such a large scale as has been done this time.

Cold Drinks from Fish Tail Tree

*106. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that

'Fish Tail' trees are utilised for preparing cold drink in Bastar District of Madhya Pradesh, a popular drink among tribals;

(b) whether Government are also aware that Fish Tail trees are dying as a result of some unknown disease for the last few years; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take special steps to save Fish Tail Tree?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) It is reported that fish tail trees are tapped for toddy.

(b) and (c). An expert team deputed by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) visited the Bastar area in December, 1987 and reported that continuous tapping of the palms results in their complete exhaustion which leads to the wilting and eventual death of the palms. The team made recommendations for management of the disease. The report was sent to the Collector and District Magistrate, Bastar and Director of Horticulture and farm forestry, Government of Madhya Pradesh in February, 1988. The State Government have propagated the measures recommended by the Expert Team amongst the farmers which has reduced the incidence of the disease.

SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, Fish Tail tree called 'salfi' in Bastar, is the source of a popular drink. It is as popular among tribals of Bastar as beer is in some sections of the society. It is a symbol of prosperity there. The section which has maximum number of trees is considered to be the most prosperous and it is also a fact that even murders take place for these trees. The hon. Minister said that continuous tapping of trees resulted in their complete exhaustion which led to wilting. But it is also a fact that the trees which have not been utilised are also dying. What are the reasons therefor? The study group has mentioned a particular disease in its recommendation.