

12.14 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER  
OF URGENT PUBLIC  
IMPORTANCE

Flood Havoc in Kerala

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN (Kasergod) : I call the attention of the Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and I request that he may make a statement thereon :

"The reported flood havoc in Kerala especially in Cannanore and Calicut districts resulting in large-scale damage to houses and properties."

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : Monsoon started in Kerala on 25th May and the rainfall has been normal. Low-lying areas in Cannanore District were submerged but elsewhere there has not been any serious damage. The damages due to floods consist mainly of damage to houses and cropped areas. No loss of life has been reported. Damages are being assessed. So far it is reported to be in the neighbourhood of three quarter of a lakh of rupees.

Sea erosion has been active in some areas of Trivandrum, Quilon, Alleppey, Ernakulam and Cannanore Districts. It has been particularly active in Purakka, Punnappara, Vadakkal, Karoor and Andhakarua azhi in Alleppey District, Srayikad, Chavara and Myanaad in Quilon District, Poonthura, Pannathurakara and Kovalam in Trivandrum District, Vypeen, Chelianam, Mallipuram and Parur in Ernakulam District and Azhikkal and Padana Kadappuram, Neeleswaram and Talangara in Cannanore District. Heavy damage is reported from Alleppey District.

Nearly 21 Km of beach has been affected and 750 huts and houses have been damaged. Also a number of coconut trees were uprooted. The erosion was severe over a length of 6 Km in an average width of about 30 metres.

SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : According to the report in the papers I want to know why the Minister has omitted the Padassery project where the bunds have been washed

away. Whether he has got the report or not, I want to know. Padassery project in due to be completed. It was taken on hand in 1961 and not completed till now but its bunds have been washed away. I want to know whether it is a fact. If so, before the next monsoon when it will be completely washed away, will the Government do something and sanction some more amount so that it is completed ?

As far as the statement of the Minister is concerned, it is said that it is normal and there has not been any serious damage. It is just like saying : a man fell from a tree and the head was severed from the body and then saying that there is no damage, only head has been severed. Here 21 kilometres of the beach has been affected and 750 huts and houses have been damaged and also the erosion was very severe over a length of 6 km in an average width of about 30 metres. This is not the first time. Every year there is report of sea erosion during the monsoon and now so much land has been washed away. Epic says that Parasuraman took Kerala out of the sea. Now sea will devour Kerala and Kerala will not be on the map of India. This is very severe. Every year there is erosion and land is washed away and this year it is 6 Km in an average width of about 30 metres. This is very serious situation and the State Government has asked the Central Government—I understand—that something must be done. Rupees two crores must be sanctioned. In Cannanore and all over the coastal area, in Alleppey district where it is very severe, Quilon and other places every year land is washed away. This is a very serious thing. Government should take all these into consideration and see at least after this great damage that something is done. I want to know what the Government is doing and whether the Government is going to sanction the amount that is asked by the Kerala Government or they will do something every year and spend some lakhs of rupees and see that every year this sea erosion does not take place. I want the Government to consider this as a very serious issue and tackle this issue so that this may not happen and the whole sea coast is not washed away.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : I am sorry I do not have the information. It has not been reported to me. I will call for the

information and if the banks have been breached, I will see that necessary steps are taken. The hon. Member has said that this project has been started long ago. I am aware of that.

With regard to erosion, what the hon. Member has said is correct. In Kerala we have got the serious sea erosion problem. About 200 miles of the sea coast is exposed to erosion every year. We have so far tackled 40 miles. Still 160 miles remain to be done. Government attaches the greatest importance to anti-erosion measures here. The only thing that is standing in the way in finance. We have got complete technical designs and measures to be undertaken. Unlike in Assam—Assam has no definite schemes—here we have got schemes. The question is one of financial restraint. About Rs. 40 crores are required. It is a State subject and it is a question of adjustment and so on...

SHRI VASUDEVAN NAIR (Peermede) :  
Not a State subject.

SHRI UMANATH (Pudukkottai) : Now  
it is your subject.

DR. K. L. RAO : As per the position of the moment, it is a State subject. I am convinced that it is difficult for the State to do this work, and as far as we are concerned, we are sending a study team to Kerala to assess the quantum of assistance required there.

SHRI E. K. NAYANAR (Palghat) : Kerala State is under President's rule. The Minister cannot evade this by saying that it is a State subject. The Central Government has all along been taking a lukewarm policy with regard to whatever happens in Kerala, as if it is not the concern of the Centre. Sir, the reply given by the Minister states that sea erosion took place in Alleppy and Cannanore districts. In the papers it has already been reported that Elathur and the coastal belts of Cannanore have been very badly affected by sea erosion. The Minister has not received any information. In the Cannanore district, 300 miles of coastal belt is there which is affected. After 22 years of Congress Government rule this is the position. The UF Government there

demanded Rs. 15 crores for flood control and anti sea erosion works. What is it that the Government had allotted? In the first Plan, Nil. In the Second Plan, Rs. 41 lakhs were allotted; in the Third Plan the allotment was Rs. 366.69 lakhs. The yearwise break up is: For 1966-67 the expenditure was Rs. 90 lakhs; for 1967-68, Rs. 75 lakhs and for 1968-69 Rs. 75 lakhs. When the flood increases the allotment is reduced. This is the position. Whatever demand may come from Kerala, the Government will take an indiscriminate attitude.

Sir, in August 1968 the Lok-Sabha discussed the flood situation in Kerala and in the 1968 floods 63 human lives were lost; properties worth Rs. 9 crores were lost. In 1968 the Kerala Government demanded for assistance of Rs. 3 crores; but only Rs. 1 crore was given. It was very inadequate allotment for giving relief to the distressed people.

In August-September the harvesting season will begin. But the crops are under water. In the suburban area of Calicut and its neighbourhood the crops are under water. The people who are residing there are vacating their houses. Due to sea erosion near Calicut, Elathoor is affected and sea water has swallowed the coconut trees and fields and lands. 700 huts and houses have been damaged. What is it that the Central Government is going to give by way of assistance to Kerala? Will the Government consider the grant of Rs. 50 crores for anti-sea erosion works? What are the immediate steps that they are thinking of?

DR. K. L. RAO : I may inform the hon. Member that I have given the information as furnished by the State; this is the information supplied to me at 4 O'clock yesterday evening. I got in touch with them and we got this information. Of course, it is not a surprise to me that more lands are affected. In Kerala coast, we have got a peculiar position where 200 miles of the coast are exposed to the tidal damage every year and if some more parts are affected it is not a surprising thing. The question is one of finding finance because financial restraints are there and not any technical difficulties. It is suggested that

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

this year Kerala is going to get an amount of Rs. 1.9 crores as share of additional Central taxation, outside the State plan. I am going to advise the Kerala Government to devote some of this money to this work.

**SHRI P. GOPALAN (Tellicherry) :** In his statement, the hon. Minister has estimated that the total loss due to the floods is in the neighbourhood of about Rs. 75,000. But it is reported in the Malayalam press that in Cannanore district alone, the damage due to floods and sea erosion has been very huge. Altogether, not less than 300 houses have completely collapsed due to floods, and at least 3000 people are rendered homeless. Moreover, a number of main roads have been very seriously damaged. Thousands of acres of potato crops have also been damaged. Apart from this, the main canal of the Payassi project has also been damaged. In the light of this, I cannot understand how the hon. Minister has come to the conclusion or the estimate that the total loss will only be in the neighbourhood of Rs. 75,000. I suspect that the State Government authorities have made an attempt to hide the actual fact and the total volume of the calamities in Kerala because of, I do not know, something in their mind.

As regards sea-erosion, a number of Members have already expressed their apprehension that gradually the entire coastal area of Kerala will be grapped by the sea.

I understand that generally the Central Government finance the anti-sea-erosion schemes in the form of loans which have to be repaid by the State Government. I cannot understand how the Central Government are financing an unproductive scheme like anti-sea erosion scheme in the form of loans. Therefore, I would like to know whether the Central Government are prepared to take the responsibility of protecting the shores of Kerala from the ravages of the sea.

The hon. Minister has stated that Government are going to send a team to Kerala to assess the total loss and what is to be done for preventing this erosion. I would like to know the details about the composition of this team, and whether Members of Parliament or State legislatures will also be included in that team, what the scope of inquiry by this team is, and the

time-limit within which this team will submit their report.

Moreover, I would like to ask the hon. Minister specifically whether the State Government or the State Governor has asked the Centre for any additional financial assistance to deal with the situation created by floods and sea erosion.

**DR. K. L. RAO :** The information that I have given is based entirely on the reports from the State Government. I do not think that the State in hiding anything. Probably they have not been able to visit the spot and it may be that the damages are not yet assessed and they are in the process of assessing the damages, and, therefore, the amount that they have indicated may not be correct and it may be much larger. But then we have got to await further information from the State Government.

With regard to the financing of the anti-sea-erosion-work, this is a matter which has been under consideration between the Centre and the State, and a number of meetings have been held and the Public Accounts Committee of the Lok-Sabha in their 47th report had suggested that it should be taken over by the Centre, and so, there has been some consideration given to it. But under the new scheme of assistance from the Centre by block grants and loans, no special provision has been made for it as a separate item.

With regard to the committee to which the hon. Member has made a reference, usually it is an official committee which goes and assesses the damages and then gives a report after their visit. Hon. Members can give that committee all the information that they have get in their possession.

The Kerala Government have asked for Rs. 2 crores by way of assistance for the anti-sea-erosion work this year. This has been under discussion with the Government of India. The Government of India have suggested that the additional assistance that the State Government is going to get to the tune of Rs. 1.9 crores may be diverted to some extent for this purpose.

**SHRI C. K. CHAKRAPANI (Ponnani) :** The statement of the Minister and his subsequent replies do not give us a clear

picture of the situation. During the months of June, July and August and even September, there is a constant threat of floods in Kerala. The statement says that the rain fall is normal. Actually, it is not normal, it is heavy compared to previous years. In the coastal areas of Mallapuram and Trichur, the damage has been very heavy. In places like Nattika, Chowghat and Ponnani there has been sea erosion. Low-lying areas of Ponnani and Trichur have been submerged. The Centre has now a special responsibility because of President's Rule in Kerala. The aid and assistance given by this Government have not been upto our expectations in the last few years. In view of all this, would the Minister pay a visit to Kerala now to ascertain all the facts ?

DR. K. L. RAO : It is not necessary for me to visit Kerala for this purpose. I will be going in September in connection with the Idikki Project. Then I will also visit these areas.

SHRI VISWANATHA MENON (Ernakulam) : Go tomorrow itself and assess the extent of the damage.

SHRI HEM BARUA (Mangaldai) : I have already written to you about the murder of a trade union worker, the Joint Secretary of the Northeast Frontier Railway Mazdoor Union in Alipore Duars. May I raise this question ?

SHRI S. KUNDU (Balasore) : One trade union man who is the Joint Secretary of the Northeast Frontier Railway Mazdoor Union has been murdered in cold blood. No enquiry has been made, no statement has been made. On this matter Mr. Hem Barua has written to you. He may be permitted.

SHRI HEM BARUA : This man has been murdered because there is a deteriorating situation in West Bengal. Our demand is that there should be a judicial enquiry into this matter.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) : He is the Secretary of the recognised union. Some extremist elements had recently undertaken an illegal strike, and it is because he is the

Secretary of the recognised union that he has been murdered. (Interruptions)

SHRI R. K. AMIN (Dhandhuka) : The news has appeared in the *Monitor* that Comrade Mohan Kumaramangalam is going to be appointed the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. In view of the fact that he is a comrade, he is being favoured. The Prime Minister is appointing committed people to important key posts. Therefore, I want to have an assurance that the normal conventions will be followed in the appointment of the Chief Justice and that the retiring Chief Justice will be consulted before the appointment is made.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA (Tumkur) : May I know whether in regard to the P.S.P. worker who has been murdered in West Bengal they are going to give compensation to his family ? We want an assurance from this Minister.

MR. SPEAKER : I shall convey this to him.

SHRI RANGA (Srikakulam) : Let him make a statement as soon as possible about Shri Mohan Kumaramangalam.

SHRI HEM BARUA : The Government should make an enquiry and report to the House. When I wrote to you about this murder, you should ask the Minister to make a statement.

MR. SPEAKER : I said that it would be conveyed to the Minister.

श्री लखन लाल कपूर (किशन गंज) :  
अध्यक्ष महोदय... (व्यवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय : यह रोजाना ग्राम लोग इस तरह से खड़े हो जाते हैं यह बड़ी गलत बात है।... (व्यवधान)

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA :\*

SHRI LAKHAN LAL KAPOOR :\*

SHRI SAMAR GUHA :\*

SHRI K. N. TIWARY (Bettiah) : Unless you permit a Member, what he says should not go on record.

MR. SPEAKER : I have not allowed it. When Mr. Kundu spoke and Mr. Hem Barua also spoke, I answered that it would be conveyed to the Minister. After that I am not going to allow the other remarks to go on record. (Interruptions.) Nothing will go on record. Papers laid.

#### PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Reports etc. re. National library, Calcutta

शिक्षा तथा युवक सेवा मन्त्रालय में राज्य मन्त्री (श्री भवत दर्शन) : ग्रन्थालय महोदय, मैं निम्नलिखित पत्रों की एक एक प्रति सभा-पटल पर रखता हूँ :

- (1) नेशनल लाइब्रेरी, कलकत्ता, संबंधी समीक्षा समिति (जिसके अध्यक्ष डा० बी० एस० झा थे) का प्रतिवेदन। [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3958/70]
- (2) नेशनल लाइब्रेरी, कलकत्ता सम्बन्धी समीक्षा समिति की सिफारिशों पर की गई कार्यवाही का विवरण। [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3959/70]
- (3) प्रशासन तथा कर्मचारियों के बीच विकृत सम्बन्धों के बारे में नेशनल लाइब्रेरी कलकत्ता, के सम्बन्ध में मुख्य श्रम आयुक्त का प्रतिवेदन। [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3960/70]
- (4) नेशनल लाइब्रेरी, कलकत्ता, के कर्मचारियों के बीच विकृत सम्बन्धों की जांच के बारे में समिति (जी० डी० खोसला समिति) का प्रतिवेदन। [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3961/70]
- (5) नेशनल लाइब्रेरी, कलकत्ता, सम्बन्धी खोसला समिति की सिफारिशों पर की गई कार्यवाही का विवरण। [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3962/70]

#### Notifications Under All-India Services Act

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (2) of section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951 :—

- (i) The Eighth Amendment of 1970 to the Indian Administrative Service (Pay) Rules, 1954, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1075 in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3963/70]
- (ii) The Indian Police Service (Appointment by Promotion) Third Amendment Regulation, 1970, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1076 in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3964/70]
- (iii) The Indian Administrative Service (Appointment by Promotion) Third Amendment Regulations, 1970, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1077 in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3964 (A)/70]
- (iv) The Indian Administrative Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Amendment Regulations, 1970, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1079 in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3964 (A)/70]
- (v) The Indian Police Service (Fixation of Cadre Strength) Fourth Amendment Regulations, 1970, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1080 in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3965/70]
- (vi) The Ninth Amendment of 1970 to the Indian Police Service (Pay) Rules, 1954, published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1081 in Gazette of India dated the 25th July, 1970. [Placed in Library. See No. LT—3965/70]