

[Shri Samar Guha]

the attention of the House to an urgent problem. In Calcutta, for the last ten days, the supply of all newspapers has come to a standstill, and as a result of this, the entire people of Tripura, West Bengal, Assam and Meghalaya are not able to know what is happening in the eastern sector. Yesterday, when I was coming, there was an air raid practice. But almost nobody knew about it and it was a farce. Just at that moment, there was an attack by the Pakistani saboteurs on the border. This makes the entire civil defence of the entire Government a farce.

Would you, therefore, kindly instruct Government to make a statement and to take early steps for the resumption of the supply of newspapers? Otherwise, when we are in almost an emergency and a situation is developing, the civil defence measures would all prove to be absolutely a farce, because people do not know anything of what is happening. Therefore, I would request you to urge Government to make a statement about the resumption of the supply of the Calcutta papers.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) Government must come forward and see that the dispute between the hawkers and the managements are immediately patched up and that the hawkers' legitimate demands are met. The situation in the border States is different from normal and the people should not be forced to go without a single daily paper. At present, the people do not know what is happening.

14.37 hrs.

MOTION RE : SITUATION ARISING
OUT OF RECENT CYCLONE
IN ORISSA

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND
POWER (SHRI B N KUREEL) . I beg
to move :

"That the situation arising out of the recent cyclone in Orissa, be taken into consideration."

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER Motion
moved :

"That the situation arising out of the recent cyclone in Orissa, be taken into consideration."

There are some substitute motions also. Hon Members desirous of moving them may move them now.

AN HON. MEMBER . The hon. Minister is not making any speech ?

MR DEPUTY-SPEAKER : It is up to him. If he does not want to make a speech, I can not compel him to do so.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY
(Kendrapara) I beg to move :

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely

"This House, having considered the situation arising out of the recent cyclone in Orissa, is of the opinion that —

- (a) the failure of the Indian Meteorological Department to issue cyclone warnings in time and the All India Radio's lapses to broadcast the belated cyclone warning with due promptitude and frequency resulted in much avoidable loss to life and property ; which should be investigated into ;
- (b) considering the magnitude of the unprecedented disaster, the Government of India must look upon it as a national disaster and render adequate financial assistance for relief and rehabilitation of the cyclone victims."¹

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour) . I beg to move :

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely :—

"This House, having considered the situation arising out of the recent cyclone in Orissa, is of the opinion that the Government and its appointed Com

mittees' failure to instal a NADWARN system, although Orissa was hit six times by cyclone in last 10 years, has caused a calamity of this magnitude and recommends that :—

- (a) the Centre should go all out to give and arrange resettlement of the victims through monetary aids and grants and free supply of all the necessities ;
- (b) a NADWARN SYSTEM be set up and the meteorological department's scheme to instal 8 powerful cyclone warning radars at Calcutta, Bhubaneshwar, Masulipatnam, Madras, Nagapatinam, Goa and Bombay be implemented and arrangements be made for A.I.R. to give adequate publicity to cyclone warnings in all local languages **

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI
(Bhubanehwar) : I beg to move :

That for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely :—

“This House, having considered the situation arising out of the recent cyclone in Orissa, expresses its deep sympathy for all those who have lost their lives in the cyclone and to the entire people of Orissa in their present hour of sufferings.”³

**SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA (Arambagh) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the terrible and heartrending cyclone that has swept over Orissa is unprecedented in its severity in the last 100 years. I, on behalf of my party and along with all the people of India express my deep sense of sorrow and sympathy to the people of Orissa at their misfortune.

It is true we cannot restore life to those that have fallen victims of this tragedy. But we have much to do for those that have survived. We had hoped that all steps would be taken to provide

all possible help and succour to the victims of this cyclone, but I regret to say that the Government is hopelessly lagging behind in this regard. I have got a report of the ‘Amrita Bazar Patrika’, of Calcutta with me according to which about 25,000 people have lost their lives in this tragedy. If a tidal wave of 15 feet in height rushes at a speed of 175 kilometres per hour, there is no doubt that it will bring untold devastation and destruction in its wake.

In this context I say Sir, that it is not possible for the Government of Orissa to combat this natural calamity of unprecedented magnitude all by itself. The Government of Orissa lacks in resources and it was looking to the Central Government for help. It is true the army was pressed into service there speedily for relief work and although attempts were made to send relief to all affected places speedily, they were not successful. Relief did not reach the interiors. It was not possible to rush relief to all places where they were acutely needed. The relief material that was available was not being distributed properly to all places according to urgency. I find that attention in this respect is being centred at particular places only. The steps that should have been taken by the Central Government in the very beginning but were not taken by them at that time, should now be taken immediately. But we find that the Government is still proceeding in a slipshod and casual manner in this respect although a long time has since elapsed. Even on such a serious and heartrending matter, our Government is playing a game of politics. The people of Orissa, belonging to various political parties and ideologies, have united and are trying their best to bring relief to the affected people but are finding the task difficult due to their lack of resources. But it is being unjustly said by the Government that they are playing a game of politics there. Even today I have read in the newspapers about this. The rulers at the Centre have passed a resolution at their party meeting to the effect that politics is being indulged-in in Orissa in the matter of Cyclone relief. Therefore, they have

**The original speech was delivered in Bengali.

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decided to send a Parliamentary Committee consisting of their own party members to Orissa to probe into the matter and see that politics is not indulged-in. Is it proper? The people of Orissa belonging to various political parties and ideologies have united and are jointly trying to help the victims with their meagre resources, but it is being alleged that they are indulging in politics. By issuing such statements and deciding to send a Parliamentary Committee of their own party members there, the Central Government is mischievously starting their game of politics in Orissa afresh.

The Central Government is trying to interfere in all State Governments wherever there is non-Congress Government in power. In Orissa also, in its hour of misery and suffering, the Government is trying to interfere from a political angle. If Mrs. Gandhi wanted to approach the problem with sincerity and with humanitarian considerations, if she was really interested in providing the maximum possible help to the sufferers, then I would not have said this. But I find that efforts are being made to interfere in Orissa with political motives. The army officers who went to Orissa in connection with the relief work have stated in their report that efficient working has not been possible due to want of coordination. If Mrs. Gandhi wanted to go to Orissa to help in the co-ordination work with a view to effect efficient working of various agencies, then I would have welcomed it.

In this connection I, on behalf of my party will place a few suggestions for the consideration of the Government. Firstly, the people of Orissa who, irrespective of their party affiliations have undertaken the relief work may be allowed to function as at present. The Government should supply them with all the necessary relief materials. Secondly, I would like to point out that during the last ten years repeated and dreadful natural calamities have befallen Orissa. The causes of those should be investigated and steps should be taken to prevent such recurrences.

We have noticed how recklessly deforestation is taking place in Orissa today.

Forests have been destroyed indiscriminately. Forests serve as natural checks to such calamities. We have seen that the Sunderbans have protected and shielded Bengal for generations against natural calamities just like one's forefathers. I, therefore, suggest that afforestation should be taken up extensively all along the coastal regions to afford natural protection against calamities. Furthermore, radars should be installed extensively according to modern scientific methods so that our meteorologists may warn the people of such impending dangers well in advance. This would enable the people to escape such dangers to some extent.

In conclusion, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will request the Government not to indulge in politics taking advantage of the miseries and sufferings of the people. If they do not heed, then the people of India and especially the people of Orissa will never forgive them. With these words, Sir, I conclude my speech.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHA-PATRA (Balasore): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, at a time when the entire sub-continent is faced with a great problem like war, and when our Prime Minister and the entire Cabinet are busy pondering over this great matter which has confronted 55 crores of the Indian people, we have also, at the same time, an internal matter which has broken the economic foundation of a State of India, that is, Orissa, engulfing about two crores of people.

Sir, I have already spoken in the flood debate and it is needless for me to repeat again and again about the disaster which the floods in the coastal tracts of Orissa had created. I can tell the House that Orissa has become a perpetual place of drought, flood, cyclone and saline-inundation and tidal bore.

AN HON. MEMBER : Just like Assam.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHA-PATRA : The hopes of the people who have looked to the State Government for relief have been utterly belied. In the 1967 drought, about 68.32 lakhs of people were affected; in the 1967 flood, 19.66 lakhs

of people were affected; in the 1967 cyclone, 8.74 lakhs of people were affected; in the 1968 cyclone, 14.28 lakhs of people were affected; in the 1969 floods, 22.96 lakh people were affected; in the 1970 flood, 19.42 lakhs of people were affected; and in 1971, we have already seen in the newspapers what a tremendous amount of catastrophe Orissa had to pass through.

Now, what is the remedy for it? The remedy is that the Government of India should be more vigilant about it, should be more considerate about it and year after year we need not come to the Lok Sabha to repeat our arguments. I can bring to your kind notice the fact that in 1942 October, there was a great cyclone in West Bengal and in Orissa and about 15,000 people died in it, and about 16,000 heads of cattle completely perished. It was just the beginning of the cyclone-effect in our sub-continent.

Now, Dr. Rao, our eminent Minister, told here in the Lok Sabha on 17-11-1969 about the activities of the Meteorological Department in India. He said that the Meteorological Department is one of the very good departments; the people in the Meteorological Department have done their best, but they do not have the equipment; they do not have radars; they do not have the tools; now they have planned to instal radars at Calcutta, Paradip, Vizagapatam and Madras. If Dr. Rao told this on the 17th November, 1969, what prevented the Government of India from installing a radar in Paradip? Supposing Dr. Rao gives us this assurance today and I know in our party meeting also he was telling us this, and Dr. Kuran Singh was telling us that he was requesting the Finance Minister to release the exchange-what is the guarantee that if Dr. Rao tells us that there will be a radar installed at Paradip, it will be installed immediately? So, I would only request the hon Minister here that action should be taken immediately, and the matters should be expedited, and the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister should be told that to help the people immediate action on a war-time footing should be put through. I have to say certain things about the precautionary measures which the Government of Orissa did not take. That

there will be a cyclone was known to us by the night of the 28th. The next day, about noon, the Chief Secretary of the Government of Orissa was alarmed about it: how to evacuate people. It is a great problem in my district; in Bansa which is in Balasore district, there is not even a mile of road. It is extremely difficult in such circumstances to evacuate about a lakh of people. By merely giving the alarming news that there will be a cyclone, by alarming the emergency department and the State Governments, we are not able to evacuate people. A machinery should be set up to evacuate people. During the war, people were told what to do in emergencies, they were asked to get into the trenches; they were told whether or not to shut the doors and windows; people were told about all these things. If posters are prepared and pasted, people could know what to do. Suppose there is a cyclone, what the people should do. The department has to tell the people so that they can do things accordingly. This was not done. What about the vehicles? How to evacuate 50,000 people or about a lakh of people? Not only the State Government but the Government of India also should ponder over this problem. These are all allied matters and we cannot separate it from getting alarm signals through the radar.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : This is the outcome of 25 years of golden rule of the Congress.

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA : 25 years of Congress rule has done many good things. I want to say that simultaneously with the installation of the radar, machinery should be set up to evacuate people, unless it is done it will be difficult for the people to save themselves.

I shall briefly refer to the saline inundation. The entire tract from **Bogra** in Balasore to **Astaranga** in Puri district is very much affected by saline inundation. Our eminent Irrigation Minister will agree that this is happening year after year. To check this there should be construction of a big bund or a great wall. Committee after committee had been set up and speeches have been made, but not a single mile

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of bund had been constructed on this border. The hon. Minister should assure the House that he will immediate concern himself with the construction of a big bundh to check the overflow of saline water which spoils crops over a lakh of acres.

We should not concern ourselves only with cyclone. Had there been no cyclone like this, probably this House would not have bothered about floods at all. The real catastrophe of the people of Orissa is from floods in rivers like Swarnarekha, Vaitarani, Brahmani and Rusikulya. Floods in these rivers had been responsible for loss of crores of rupees over the years. Dr. Rao though about two years ago of construction of double embankment on Swarnarekha. The people of Orissa revolved as about 80 lakhs of people would lose their houses and lands if that idea went through. Eminent man that he is, Dr. Rao thought that it would be a very difficult problem to rehabilitate so many people. So, he felt and he assured me and some others that he would construct dams, barrages, reservoirs and canals on that river. It is a wonderful idea. But when will it be executed? I have gone to the villages of that area and there the people say; ever since 1942 when the entire North Balasore was affected by cyclone and about 5,000 people were thrown into the sea, dead, we have been listening about this. North Balasore lost crores of rupees since then. They have been told that there would be a bundh or a reservoir or a canal or some drainage system. But nothing has been done. We are now in 1971.

I said in my last flood debate and I repeat it. Pending construction of a dam on the river Swarnarekha the hon. Irrigation Minister should concentrate on the drainage system. There is no drainage system at all in North Balasore. The mouth of Swarnarekha has been silted.

Bida Balanga is a very small river. It became famous because Jatindra Mohan Mukherjee, known as Bagha Jatin, was held captive there by the British when he fought against them. It was nothing but a trickle but now it has become a big river during the last flood because of the rains. Such

was the tremendous flow of water as a result of the cyclone and tidal bore that 50 people died. It is unfortunate that the Orissa Government's report does not say anything about it. They have circulated among the MPs so many figures that one does not tally with the other. In one report, they say that 315 people died in Balasore. In another report, it is 200 and odd. Which is true? They have no figure. Now the Orissa Government say that probably 10,000 people died. There is another report, saying, probably 20,000 people died. In another report, it is 25,000 people. How to know which figure is true? The Government has not been able to penetrate into remote, interior areas. If there were no Red Cross or Roman Catholic missionary agencies etc, probably people would have died on the streets, reminding us of the famous Bengal famine of 1943.

The opposition says that we are bringing in politics into this matter. The Finance Minister said, we gave them Rs. 3 crores and odd, but they have not been able to spend it. The Relief Commissioner of Orissa Government has circulated a note among Orissa MPs saying that the statement of the Government of India is incorrect. Who is bringing in politics? We or they? All these papers which the Orissa Government have circulated remind me of the jugglery statistics. I am reminded of a funny thing. I am a student of history and also a Professor. There was a failure of potato crop in England when Pitt, the Younger, was Prime Minister. He was also the Chancellor of the Exchequer. He also had a perfect command over statistics. It was a difficult problem to face the position. He called the opposition for talks across the table. During the discussion, Pitt, the Younger, went on reading out all kinds of statistics, data, figures, etc., with the result that the Wigs and Tories were confused. In utter confusion, they left the meeting and Pitt, the Younger, was saved! Similarly, the Orissa Government have produced so many statistics and data only to confuse us.

SHRI P. R. SHENOY (Udipi) : It is a cyclone of figures !

SHRI SHYAM SUNDER MOHAPATRA : Yes. For cyclone, the

installation of radar and precautionary measures may be all right. But the real problem is the flood havoc. Unless we check the erratic rivers, the economy of Orissa will never improve; So, I suggest that the construction of dams, reservoirs, canals, drainage schemes, etc., should be immediately taken up. Subarnarekha should be connected with Budabalanga by a canal, so that there is a perfect irrigation system. If these things are done, I think the economy of Orissa will improve.

We have sent a central team to Orissa to investigate the loss of human beings, crops, cattle, etc. It is unfortunate that this central team of experts could not go into remote areas. They have probably gone to place where cars could take them. This should not have happened, because the Government of India will not be in a position to get a clear picture. So, I suggest that a Parliamentary team should visit the place. The Prime Minister and the Irrigation Minister must have their own assessment because both of them have gone to Orissa, The people of Orissa repose confidence in them. They look to them for guidance and assistance. I personally feel that if this will be the attitude of the Government towards Orissa, it does not matter whatever be the attitude of others, including political parties, the Indian Government will be in a position to help the people and the economy of Orissa will be improved.

15 hrs.

SHRI D. K. PANDA (Bhanjanagar) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I feel that it is not necessary to go into the details of the havoc wrought by the cyclone, because it has already been admitted not only by the State Government, the coalition of Swatantra and Utkal Congress, but also by the Central Government. All of them have indicated the magnitude of the crisis, although in different tones. But I still feel that neither the State nor the Central Government has actual realisation of its magnitude in the sense of taking practical measures. The action should be commensurate with the declaration. Till today only very little has been done in this direction which is just like a drop in the ocean. If this havoc is

taken into consideration, along with the past havocs since 1970, namely, the drought in 1970, the heavy floods in July to September, 1970, cyclonic winds between 14th, 16th October, 1971, the cyclone, the heavy rainfall, saline inundation and tidal bore on 29th, 30th and 31st October, I feel that the relief measures so far undertaken do not show actual realisation of the problem by the government.

A meeting of the relief committee was organised by the Governor, who is the Chairman of the Committee, on the 13th. At that meeting, without the seal of authority of either the Governor or the State Government, a report was circulated. Being a member of that committee, I pointed out this mistake. On the 15th another statement, which is a supplementary to the statement on the flood situation in the country, was circulated by Dr. K. L. Rao. We can find vast differences between the two statements, the one which the Governor has circulated and which gives some facts—whether he depended upon the State Government machinery or not is not our concern; our concern is that it was the Governor who as the Chairman called the meeting which we attended and at the very outset of which the report was circulated among all the members—and this report which was placed on the Table of House on the 15th and was circulated amongst us. It does not give the same picture as the one of the 13th. The report reveals something different form that circulated on the 13th. At least, the hon. Minister, Dr. K. L. Rao, should have been aware that his own Governor, who also belongs to his own party, has himself circulated this report. That should form the basis. But that is given a go-by. I do not know what are the reasons.

Till today there is no sincere effort to assess the correct position—the real and actual damages, the loss of human beings, property and other crops etc. Anyway, basing upon this report circulated by the Governor to members of an all-party committee I would call upon the Central Government to come to the aid of Orissa and the people who are being affected by the unprecedented cyclone havoc. One after another ministers have visited Orissa and the affected area. But what is it that those

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people have done there? So far Rs 2 crores have been sanctioned. Is that adequate? Is that worth considering any help or aid? Not at all. Not only that, even the Prime Minister after her visit has not only expressed sympathy but has also admitted the real, indescribable havoc in terms that it is a calamity of great dimensions.

We have been telling the Government—my party, the Communist Party of Orissa, having made investigation into those areas, submitted a report telling the Government that it is a national calamity and, therefore, mere declarations would not do, something concrete, something tangible, something in reality which will benefit the people must be forthcoming from this Government. If not, all these promises and all these declarations will remain only as lip sympathy.

Of course, Dr K L Rao, our hon. Minister, has given certain suggestions and has made certain promises. They are really welcome. But I would read out one or two statements which he made in the year 1969 when this cyclone issue was discussed. He had made this declaration that a radar installation in the coastal areas, such as Visakhapatnam, Masulipatnam, Paradip, Calcutta and Madras, should be established. But except at Visakhapatnam, nowhere it has materialised. No steps have been taken either in the name of shortage of foreign exchange or otherwise. He had also promised in this very House the establishment of a distress mitigation committee. He said that a distress mitigation committee would first be set up here—that means, at Visakhapatnam—and later on for other States like Orissa. Orissa has come first. Orissa is also one of the badly cyclone-affected States. But no such Committee has been set up. That is the reality.

In 1969, there was a discussion. Dr Rao made a statement on 17th November, 1969 in answer to a Call Attention Notice. What happened at that time. For the sake of the Central Government, I want to point out one thing. The Government estimated the loss of last cyclone at Rs. 100 crores and Rs 9 crores were granted at that time.

Now the Central Government is not forthcoming. At that time, Dr Rao corrected it as Rs 15.65 crores. Whether it is Rs 9 crores or Rs 15.65 crores, one thing is very clear. If the Central Government is really sincere and honest, they should have according to their own assessment come out with relief. They have got their own machinery. They have formed their own relief committee. Their own Governor has already circulated some papers. Basing upon those things, they could have promised some amount. But that amount is not at all being declared till today. Only Rs 2 crores have been given.

As far as I am concerned, being a communist, I can say this much that a reactionary coalition Government is there in the State sponsored by Shri Biju Patnaik and even if they become heartless, I have nothing to criticise them. I know from the beginning that is their characteristic feature.

Now, when the State Government is not able to meet the requirements of people in ordinary times, in extra-ordinary times if the Central Government throws all the blame on the State Government and does nothing—simply looking forward to making declarations and other things and giving all tall promises, what will the position of those unfortunate people, 65 lakhs of people, who have been affected by the cyclone? What will be their fate? I want to know here and now from the ruling party about it. They must make an assurance here in this House as to what positive help and the extent of help they are going to give.

I am reminded of one thing. Since 1922 there have been cyclones and floods and in good old British days, there used to be discussions and, every time, the Britishers used to promise and say, "We are taking all steps to eradicate and eliminate the causes of floods and cyclones, etc." In 1927 also, there was a debate about it—I found it in the library—and Shri Meghnath Shah submitted a report that specific measures must be taken to eradicate the causes of cyclones and floods. Since then and even after Independence, our Government have been making only promises and throwing their

promises to winds.

Now, what is required is this. The relief has to continue till the relief works are not only started but they should be provided on a wider scale. And the gratuitous relief should continue to disabled persons and that must continue at least for three months.

Thirdly, regarding test relief work, there are so many areas, there are so many roads and so many fields and so many un-reclaimed lands where the test relief work can be started and till that is started, the people must be allowed to survive.

Now, the main problem is the problem of these 65 lakhs of people who have survived the cyclonic havoc. Regarding loans and aid for raising additional crops and the *rabi* crops, I had been to one area near Paradip and I found that there are so many tanks and so many places where lift irrigation can easily be adopted and tube-wells can be dug. But, when I asked the Tahsildar, the RDO and the Collector, I was surprised to know that no instructions have been issued to any of them to find out as to what are the places and as to what is the extent of the area where we can start and sow the *Rabi* crop.

SHRI BIRENDER SINGH RAO (Mahendragarh) : Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a greater cyclone, a warning of which has been just received. Pakistan has declared emergency to-day and the House should be more interested in knowing the reaction of the Government. You may kindly ask the Prime Minister to make a statement about this.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Not in the midst of another debate. I know it is important, but not in the midst of another discussion.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) : He is connecting the two cyclones.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : According to their own estimates, 7 lakhs of houses have collapsed. Therefore, for building houses, adequate loans must be given and not only that, those who are share-croppers and

those who are land-less and those who are dependent upon the land and upon their own labour and who work in the field of middle-class and rich landlords, they are completely not only landless but they are now rendered homeless also. For them, not loan or loan without interest—nothing of that kind—they should be granted free aid for the construction of their houses.

About schools, I have presented a memorandum. High Schools, Primary Schools and also Middle Schools numbering about 1500 and 15000 teachers are involved. They are not getting their salary.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : The hon. Member's time is up. May I request that all these suggestions may kindly be sent to the Minister in writing? Now you are only suggesting details as to what should be done. There many other speakers. Now, please conclude.

SHRI D. K. PANDA : Therefore, immediate instructions should be given for disbursing their salaries under some rule or the other, they are saying that they cannot pay their salaries. Therefore, they are also starving.

With regard to students, they must be given free scholarships at least for one year.

As far as irrigation facilities are concerned, lift irrigation and tube-wells are to be set up immediately in those areas where such systems can be adopted. Now as for permanent measures for these saline embankments and irrigation of forests along the coast, measures have to be immediately taken.

Regarding granting of loans, there are so many critical hurdles and the loans are not sanctioned in time. Therefore, the Reserve Bank of India must evolve a liberal policy so that people get loans quickly and in time.

Finally, I want to make one suggestion. Now, there must be a collective effort of all the Parties and groups because everybody is now trying to play politics. The Centre

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is accusing the State and the State is accusing the Centre and if this game goes on and if the same politics continue, then, definitely, we are not really going to help the most afflicted People of Orissa. Therefore, the Governor's Committee which is just a show-piece, should now be activated. All other Committees which are there already must have the necessary co-ordination in order to rush help to the afflicted people. These are my suggestions. Thank you.

SHRI BIRENDRA SINGH RAO Sir, this is a grave situation which we face, the Prime Minister should come and state the position.

MR DEPUTY SPEAKER This is just the time when we must function with dignity and decorum and be disciplined and show that we are not at all perturbed. It is most irregular to project some other subject in the midst of another debate. I now call upon Shri J B Patnaik to speak. This is exactly the time when we should not lose our feet.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA And leads also.

SHRI J B PATNAIK (Cuttack) I come from Cuttack. This is one of the worst affected constituencies of the State of Orissa by various cyclones. There have been 7 cyclones for the last 6 years. Sir, before the last great cyclone, there was another cyclone in September which caused serious damage to crops and also to *kacha* houses in large numbers. The last cyclone only exposed an existing malady that is, the utter helplessness of the people of the State of Orissa.

So cyclones are also frequent in the USA in Australia and in Japan. But their people have got the necessary strength and stamina to absorb the shock. I am now reminded of a couplet of Poet Rabindranath Tagore in his *Gitanjali*, which says

I do not want your protection from danger, I want the necessary strength to fight it."

What is necessary for Orissa and what is necessary for other parts of the country is to have this strength to fight these natural calamities like cyclones, floods and droughts. Orissa needs this strength very much because Orissa is the sickest child of Mother India.

Sir, Orissa has got great natural potentialities. I shall not go into them in detail. They are all very well known to the house. But these frequent floods and droughts and cyclones have sapped the very vitality of the State as a result of which, in spite of great natural potentialities and resources and development works—the growth of the State since our independence has been very much stunted. What is necessary at present is not mere sympathy of the Centre. Of course, the Centre is very sympathetic. There is no doubt about it. There could not have been a nobler gesture than the Prime Minister's deduction of her birthday for service of the people of Orissa—the Dwidra Narayans of the State. After hearing the tales of woe of Orissa, the Defence Minister flew to the State and assured the people of adequate Central help. There are other Ministers also who flew to the State. I pay my compliment to them.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU You may pay your compliment to all the 55 of them.

SHRI J B PATNAIK Dr K L Rao himself visited the State and discussed these things and studied the problem in great detail.

But there has been an ugly controversy regarding what money the State requires and what money the Centre is able to pay. I am not going into that controversy.

AN HON MEMBER Why?

SHRI J B PATNAIK It is a fact that the State has not been able to spend more than Rs 4 crores at present. After the floods the Centre gave to Orissa State a sum of Rs 3.5 crores. After the drought they gave Rs 2 crores as grant and Rs 3 crores as agricultural loans.

So, altogether, it comes to about Rs 8.5 crores.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : May I say that the amount was released only on the 4th November, 1971? Let my hon. friend try to contradict it if he can.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : Whatever it is, Rs. 8.5 crores had been granted by the Centre in terms of loans or grants for meeting the flood situation. But because of the inadequate machinery that the State Government have, they have not been able to spend whatever money has been granted by the Centre. This State is having an unfortunate tale of woe because it is at present headed by a Ministry which is a marriage of convenience presided over by a Brahmin priest who is 83 years old.....

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : On a point of order. Is it in order to characterise the Chief Minister of a State who is not present here, that he is a 83-year old Brahmin priest? Are you going to permit it?

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : I would only say that generally we should refer to people in high public position with some decorum and not unceremoniously.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : I am not decrying him. I am only stating that he is 83 years old. He is also a Brahmin. It is a fact that he is a Brahmin. For the marriage of convenience, a Brahmin priest is also necessary.

The point that I would like to make is that the Centre's sympathies are abundant for this State. But it is not the crores of rupees that matter. The Core of the problem has to be understood and it has to be faced properly. The core of the problem, as I have stated already is that the State should be given the necessary strength to fight these visitations and these natural calamities year after year. Nobody knows the position of Orissa in this respect better than the hon. Minister himself. He knows very well the problems of flood and drought in the State of Orissa in great detail, and he knows all the remedies as well. But in spite of this, we find that only temporary palliatives are given to the State.

After Independence, probably hundreds

of crores have been granted to the State in terms of relief and in terms of loan to fight drought and floods. But no permanent measures have been taken, no permanent remedies have been found out to fight the floods and droughts and solve these problems once for all.

I would point out certain very important measures to fight the frequent floods in the three big rivers of the State. The hon. Minister himself knows that unless the Brahmani and the Baitarani rivers are controlled, the Brahmani at Rengali and the Baitarani at Bhimkund, the floods could not be prevented. Besides this, on the Budh Balanga and Subarnarekha rivers, there should be storage reservoirs to control the floods.

For fighting drought also, certain important measures have to be taken, namely electrification on a large scale for lift irrigation. If these measures are taken, it is possible to eradicate the drought for all times to come. There should be a plan presented by the hon. Minister to the Cabinet, and this plan should be worked out in the next five years. It is not a question of mixing Orissa's plan with the all-India plan and to find out a needle in the haystack. Since Orissa is the sickliest child of Mother India, and since Orissa problems are chronic, and since Orissa cannot rise in view of these maladies for the last so many years, the problems of Orissa should be separated or isolated and properly dealt with, I would request the hon. Minister to draw up a plan to fight drought and floods in Orissa on a permanent basis.

Regarding the cyclone, certain measures have been suggested by the hon. Minister. I entirely agree with him so far as these measures are concerned. I do not want to enumerate all these measures. But I would like to stress in particular that there should be the installation of a radar at Paradip port and a meteorological centre at Bhubaneswar. There should be afforestation on a large scale in the coastal belt. There should be high mounds in villages so that people could in an emergency take shelter there. Besides, there is proposal now before Government—it is made not only for Orissa but for the

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entire eastern coast-to put in stationary orbit a satellite to watch the atmospheric developments in the Indian ocean. Japan has made the proposal. For that India has to pay her share. I do not know what would be the cost. They say it will cost about Rs. 16 crores for putting it into orbit. Probably the Minister could in his reply answer this point. If it is necessary to instal such a satellite, no money should be wanting for that purpose.

In regard to other measures, the Centre's sympathy is there and there would be nothing to get them implemented. If the State Government is not in a position to spend the money, if the State Government machinery is not equal to the task, what prevents the Government of India from having a joint committee of the Central Government and the State Government to work out schemes and plans to deal with this national emergency. This committee could be presided over by a Central Minister, if possible, to solve these problems.

Regarding formation of committees, the Minister has suggested in his report that there should be a committee at the Central level and at the State level to suggest post-cyclone measures. I do not understand why this suggestion has been made. Such a committee was constituted at the Central level and at the State level in 1969 after the Cyclone in Andhra. They have made some suggestions. But these have still not been implemented. The committees now proposed may make the same suggestions. Why not avoid this duplication and waste of time. In view of the Minister's vast experience and there is no dearth of experts in his Ministry either—it would be better if the findings of the earlier committees are expeditiously implemented instead of having some other committees going into the problem and making the same sort of recommendations. Let the recommendations already made be implemented as early as possible. If this is not done, within a year or two, we may be faced with similar disasters and the same difficulties and problems will remain.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Shri Surendra Mohanty.

श्री हुकम चन्द कछवाय : ** (मुरेना)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Order, order. What he says will not go on record. I have already give a ruling on this. He just comes into the House and injects anything he wants. This is not proper.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : I have moved the substitute motion standing in my name with a correction in (b) that the disaster referred to there is 'national disaster' and not 'natural disaster', which mistake has crept in there due to a printing error.

The killer cyclone of October 29 and 30 has receded leaving behind uncounted numbers of corpses and carcasses, 25.25 lakh acres of land of green field under deep layers of sand, 8.4 lakhs of houses demolished and 7,600 square miles affected in varying degrees. But in its wake, the evil eye of another kind of cyclone is moving from Delhi towards Orissa. That is a political cyclone, to hit the Government there which is, unfortunately, not of the complexion which the ruling party at the Centre would like or desire. At this stage, I can do nothing but express my regret at the perversity of values of men in authority who do not hesitate to make capital out of the miseries of the people. I warn the people of Orissa so that they can judge this enormity in its true context.

Sir, with these words, I would like to come to the core of the problem which is really besetting the State today. More than the Prime Minister, more than the Finance Minister, I am really beholden and the people of Orissa are beholden to the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Dr. K.L. Rao who, notwithstanding his age, had spent two days in the cyclone-affected areas, not on a helicopter as was done by the Prime Minister, or by the Finance Minister or by the junior Minister, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting who, though belonging to that State had not the heart or the time to move among the people, her own stricken people, but moved in a helicopter, Dr. Rao—whom I had—seen in spite of his advanced age—had taken the trouble to move among the afflicted people in cars and boats and really want to take this opportunity of expressing my gratitude and the gratitude of the people

of Orissa towards him for the troubles he had taken.

Now, I would like to place before this House that cyclone is an act of providence. There is no force which can avert it, however scientifically we may have been equipped. But the question arises, can we not mitigate its dangers? Can we not avoid the avoidable loss of human lives and moveable property? I venture to think if only the Indian metrological department of the Government of India warned the State Government that a cyclonic storm of this magnitude was moving towards the coast of Orissa and had the warnings been given in time, I am sure the extent of this calamity could have been very much mitigated and lessened.

The hon. Minister, Dr. Rao, has in his note that was circulated the other day briefly stated about the warning that the Government of India had received, though the date, the time, etc., have not been mentioned. But the *Time* magazine of America, in its issue dated 15th November, 1971, has mentioned this, which I quote here :

"Many in India wondered aloud why the Government had not taken any steps to prepare Orissa for this cyclone. When it was first spotted and reported by a US weather satellite a full day before it hit land, the storm seemed to be headed for the very area of East Pakistan that was devastated last year. Then, it changed direction, but the satellite forecast well in advance that it was headed for Orissa."

Sir, I do not vouch for the report of the time nor do I vouch for the statement of the hon. Minister. I only plead that there should be an enquiry into this matter as to whether the Indian metrological institute had received the warning from the US weather satellite well in advance and whether the warning was transmitted to the State Government and the All India Radio. Whether it be the State Government, or the Government of India or the Indian metrological Department, I hold brief for none. But I only plead that in a matter of this kind, some sense of responsibility

should have been shown. Therefore, I would urge on this House to institute an enquiry into this whole sorry state of affairs. I understand that only when the storm was hitting or lashing the Paradip port, the All India Radio station at Cuttack was issuing the cyclone warning. It could be worthwhile to enquire as to why the Cuttack Station of All India Radio did not pick up the cyclone warning in its news cycle and broadcast it with due promptitude and frequency.

Sir, it may be recalled that the Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee that had been set up after the Andhra cyclone, made a specific recommendation that the All India Radio should issue the cyclone warnings in due frequency so that the people were warned in due time and they could take care of themselves, by which much avoidable loss to human life and property could be avoided.

But it is a regrettable fact that while the Cuttack station of the All India Radio was broadcasting light music the cyclone was hitting the Paradip port and it was moving in its deadly course towards further east. Therefore I want that there should be an enquiry on these two points : whether the United States weather satellite had warned the Indian Meteorological department in time and whether the Indian Meteorological department had transmitted the warning not only to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Orissa but also to the Station Director of the All India Radio and whether it had been picked by the All India Radio and warning issued in due frequency.

Dr. K.L. Rao, the expert that he is, has investigated the situation thoroughly and his valuable recommendations are contained in the statement he had circulated the other day. I would not go into those recommendations but I should like to dwell upon an ugly, unseemly controversy that has been raised, over the relief operations between the state and the centre. It has been alleged that the State Government could not spend the money that had already been sanctioned by the Centre. I should like to invite the attention of the House in this context to the

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great benevolence, that the Central Government has shown towards the misery-stricken Orissa. After the last floods, as against the requirement of Rs. 12.60 crores put forward by the State Government, the Central Government could release only Rs. 3.90 crores. For relief and rehabilitation after the October cyclone which had hit Orissa only a month before, the State Government's requirement was Rs. 29.25 crores as immediate grant-in-aid; Rs 5 crores for agricultural loans; Rs. 5.5 crores for loans for restoration of damaged property. How much out of this has the Central Government in its benevolence released? Rs. 2 crores for ways and means assistance, which was released on 4 November, 1971 and Rs 3 crores loan for agriculture released on 10 November, 1971. Yet I find my friends have the temerity to say that the State Government could not spend the money that the Government of India had released.

We may have our differences but I appeal to our friends: let us not have any difference on a matter which affects the lives of millions of people. I do not make any grouse against the Government of India. I do realise that they have their own problems to face.

But here is a State which has been afflicted either by flood or by drought or by cyclones over a number of years continuously. Therefore it is time that the Government of India considered the last cyclone as a national disaster and rendered adequate financial assistance and not make it a partisan political issue.

There is another matter to which I should like to invite the attention of the House. At the suggestion of Mr. Chavan, the Finance Minister, an all party committee was formed under the presidentship of the Governor of Orissa. As is well known the Governor of a State is the agent of the Central Government. Now what has inspired the ruling Congress to promote a parallel relief committee in Orissa? This parallel relief committee is being utilised to create more confusion, not to help but to hinder the relief operations. I ask in all humility, Is this the time for partisan politics? I do not find the lady Minister,

Mrs. Nandini Satpathy. She has not visited a single afflicted village; she has not seen a single spot. If my memory serves me right, she just issued a statement through the All India Radio, her handmaid.....

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : She has visited the area upto Paradip.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : Paradip is a town.

SHRI J. B. PATNAIK : She visited the villages also.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : From Paradip, the cyclone moved north-east and the villages around Paradip had not been hit disastrously. I do not know why she took the trouble of visiting these places. I would have expected her to be present here during this discussion. She has the temerity to say that the State Government is using the relief operations for its own political advantage. If she is an honourable lady, I would throw a challenge at her in this House and I am prepared to bear the consequences. She should prove it to the hilt how it has been utilised for political and partisan ends. If she is an honourable lady, I expect her to take up this challenge.

Before the ruling party in its utter benevolence started raising funds for the afflicted people my party has spent Rs. 5 lakhs in the relief operations. We are not so petty-minded to give undue publicity to it through the All India Radio or newspapers. I would like to take this House into confidence : and say there is no partisanship whatsoever in the matter of relief operations. If the ruling Congress members are so keen, so sanguine and so sure about the alleged partisan attitude, it would have been honourable on their part to resign from the all-party relief committee presided over by the Governor set up the instance of the Finance Minister and start their own Relief Committee. Without resigning their seats in protest against alleged partisanship and continuing their membership on the all-party committee; to come out with such wild statements is certainly something very

reprehensible. No more fitting reply could have been given to that kind of Machiavellianism than by a section of the members of the ruling Congress in Orissa who have expressed their regret that such a committee could be formed under the auspices of the ruling Congress, which would only hinder the process of relief operations instead of helping it.

In summing up, I would say, there must be an enquiry into the hiatus between the warning issued by the weather satellite and the issuance of warning by the Indian Meteorological Department to the State Government and the lapses of the All India Radio to broadcast the warning with due frequency. Also, Central help should be more liberal and should not be confined to words of jugglery, to which Mr. Mohapatra has made a reference. There should be no partisan outlook whatsoever in relief operations. Finally, such members of the ruling Congress who have made allegations against the relief operations of the State Government must have the honesty to prove the facts of the case. And I conclude.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI (Bhubaneswar) : Sir, a great tragedy has overtaken Orissa. If one goes to those places, you find in one home a young boy, 7 or 8 years old, left alone. His father, mother, brothers and sisters with whom he might have been playing a short while ago have all been washed away. You go to an other family and find the wife and children have been washed away, leaving all alone, the young husband. If you visit somewhere else you will find that the old father of 75 alone has survived and his son, daughter-in-law, grand sons and grand daughters who were looking after him in his old age have all been washed away. This is the story of not one, two or three homes but thousands of homes. You hear the same sorrowful tale narrated in all cyclone-affected areas of Orissa, namely, Cuttack, Puri, Balasore, Dhenkanal, Kionjhar and Mayurbhanj. There is nothing but desolation for the surviving young and old after the great deluge.

These are facts which will bring tears

to the eyes of millions of our people. When there are millions of eyes where we have to remove the tears by giving prompt relief, cannot our friends here in this great national forum try to rise to the occasion when the magnitude of the calamity is to enormous and it has affected six million people. It is a matter of regret that some of the members of the opposition are very much obsessed with the Central Government and in their obsession they tend to forget the worries, sorrows and sufferings of our distressed millions. Let us all try to avoid any political acrimony and attempt to find out the magnitude of the loss of the calamity and try what we could do in the matter of giving immediate relief and undertake rehabilitation programmes.

Here I must express the gratefulness of our people to the Minister of Irrigation and Power, Dr. K. L. Rao, for his prompt visit to the affected areas. We are also grateful to the Prime Minister. When we impressed upon her the size and urgency of the problem; she cancelled her birthday celebrations and visited Orissa and saw for herself the distress and sufferings of the people. Our Finance Minister also visited this area. The Ministeries of Health and Food and Agriculture have also come to know the sufferings and the loss that has taken place. The Prime Minister has said that the Centre would do their best to relieve the suffering of the affected people in Orissa because the suffering of Orissa is the suffering of the whole country. We are also proud that our great party for the last so many days is engaged in seeing how the miseries of the people could be reduced or removed. Even Central Ministers are regularly coming and looking into the grievances and seeing how they could be removed.

I would like to take this opportunity to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power the Old Imperial Gazetteer of the 18th century, towards 1885 or 1890. If he looks into it he will find what the gentleman had then recorded. The old Imperial Gazetteer of India in its description about Cuttack district in Orissa mentions that "the district is directly on the track of the

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cyclonic storms which cross Orissa frequent during the monsoon season. In recent years Orissa coast have experienced several severe cyclones, the most notable being that of September 23rd, 1885, which was accompanied by a storm-wave that caused much loss of life and property near the coast. In the Kendrapara sub-division alone 5,000 lives were reported to have been lost, while serious damage was caused to crops and houses. The Kanika estate suffered most severely and many villages thus destroyed have not since been inhabited. The salt deposited on the lands by the tidal wave in the year 1885 affected the crops for about five years." Because of that no crop could grow.

The Imperial Gazeteer also speaks the same thing about Balasore and the coastal district of Puri. It says that Puri District in Orissa also is directly on the track of the cyclonic storms which visit Orissa coast frequently.

I was looking to any literature which the Government of India might have also published on the visits of cyclones to this country because I thought that there must be something. After seven days' efforts—as you know, I have become a research student in the library—I found that during the 70-year period from 1891 to 1960—I am leaving out the last ten years—about 400 cyclonic storms formed in the Bay of Bengal and nearly one-fourth of this total number of cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal were severe storms. You will find that on an average every two years was a series of cyclonic storms in the Bay of Bengal and the Orissa coast was suffering the most.

I am not going into the details of the loss because till today the loss has not been estimated fully. The Planning Commission has sent a very good officer and the Central team has also visited. But at least, we expect, the Central team should have visited the district of Puri also which has been affected at many places and houses have collapsed in many places. I do not know whether they concentrated their visit to one or two places. But I hope, they must be having a full picture of the colossal damage that has been caused almost in various

parts of the six districts, though some were heavily damaged and some were partially damaged.

There is such a colossal problem of relief and rehabilitation when lakhs of houses have been damaged, more than 60,000 cattle have been lost, more than 21 lakh acres of paddy land have lost good standing paddy crops when harvesting was going to be done very soon. It requires a kind of a herculean effort and massive planning for meeting this gigantic task of rehabilitation in such a vast area which has been completely damaged. Why I say this is because Orissa's economy is a kind of a starving economy for the last five or six years; people were even dying of starvation in the last two or three years. It is a kind of a poor economy; it is not coming up. Orissa is on the lowest rung of the ladder. You can view it from any side. There is no time to cite these things.

Today when the hon. Minister of Irrigation was telling this House about rural electrification, I was thinking in my mind what the Bible has said: put no questions and be told no lies.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI
SUSHILA ROHATGI): Shakespeare has
said that.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:
It is a quotation from the Bible.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI: I
thought, it was from Shakespeare.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:
The hon. Minister was telling us as if we do not know anything about this country and the world. He was saying that rural electrification had achieved a tremendous success. Yes, it has achieved that but if you look to Orissa, you will find that it is at the lowest and the lowest and the lowest rung of the ladder so far as rural electrification is concerned.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: West
Bengal.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI:
Do not make a political issue out of it.
There is Bangla Desh in the eastern region.

What I am just trying to submit before the hon. Minister and the Government is that this requires a unified effort. About 80,000 hectares of land within eight kilometres of the sea-coast of Orissa has been rendered unfit for immediate cultivation because of the recent tidal waves. What are we going to do about it to see that it will be fit for cultivation? 9,33,600 hectares of paddy crop area has been damaged. What are we going to do? The Minister of Irrigation and Power will not be in a position to say because it is the concern of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. In Puri District the loss of crops was: late variety crops—90 per cent; early varieties—60 per cent damage and medium variety paddy crops—80 per cent damage and 80 per cent of the thatched roofs gone. It is all in six districts. This is the problem. All these farmers have lost their cattle. How are they to carry on agricultural operations? I think, relief is not the only remedy. If a Central team might have visited the area, they must have found our people in an hour of peril. It is not that they have no strength to stand on their own. Their morale is high. They want to fight and survive. But you must provide them with work. If you can make a survey of it, I can say that in 6 lakh acres of land you can grow jute somewhere, *ralbi* crops somewhere, cereals somewhere, vegetables somewhere, paddy somewhere, groundnut somewhere and all that. You can select the areas. This requires intensive study on the part of the Government of India. You can arrange it in such a way and give assistance to farmers.

16 hrs.

What I am submitting is that it is a colossal loss which needs a massive planing.

As regards the collection of short-term credits from farmers, I can say that in those areas, you shall have to stay the collection of short-term loans advanced to farmers. It may be upto Rs. 66 crores. It requires also a kind of understanding on the part of the Reserve Bank and the Ministry of Food and Agriculture and also the State Government. This year, the farmers are not in a position to pay back short-term credit which were advanced to

them. They need more credit. Short-term credit should be converted into medium-term credit which will be more helpful to the farmers. The parents also cannot help their wards in Schools and Colleges.

If somebody goes and calculates the loss in terms of money, I would say that he is attempting something impossible. You cannot measure the sufferings of millions of people in terms of money. If you go there, you will find that almost the houses of weaker sections of the society, the Harijans and Adivasis, have been completely damaged. I must say that more than 50 per cent of the houses damaged belonged to the weaker sections of society, the Harijans and Adivasis. What are you going to do about their housing problem?

Even the Central Government has incurred a terrible loss. I was talking to the Post-Master General, the other day. The loss to the property of Posts and Telegraphs Department, the Railways, the Paradip Port and even to the State Electricity Board is immense. You cannot calculate it. In a vast stretch of land, if you walk over the land, you will find as if you are walking over the dead bodies in thousands. Even today, they are not in a position to say what is the total loss of human lives. They put the figure at 10,000 or 15,000. I hope, the census which is being made now will give the correct figure. I think, it is not less than a loss of 25,000 human lives. Almost all the public institutions have been completely damaged.

If I only use a poetic word, this is a suffering, a kind of agony and, in short, within only hours what man created in a century has been demolished and a vast stretch of land, if I quote Whitman, lies waste.

As I said earlier, the floods, cyclone and drought are constant companions of Orissa. This is a second calamity. We had a calamity in the same year. In September floods; then we had a calamity in October and then we had it in November. I do not know whether another calamity will come again. Another calamity was about to come when Dr. Rao was visiting that area. At that time, another cyclone was to come but it went to the eastern

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side I do not know whether it got afraid of Dr Rao and the cyclone took a different turn

So, the immediate and urgent need before us is to give relief to the distressed millions of people who have suffered and it requires taking up vast rural reconstruction programmes. A large number of fair-price shops should be opened for sale of foodgrains at reasonable prices. As you know, in Orissa even the Central Government has got some foodstocks but it should be seen that it reaches the proper quarters and also that the prices are within reasonable limits and the rural works programme can be started so that people can purchase all these things.

Here I have only three suggestions for the Government to consider. Malnutrition among children has become a kind of problem there which has to be faced and which should be faced immediately.

I must congratulate the Army which came there at the earliest and have done a wonderful and magnificent work of rescue and relief in those inaccessible areas while the State Government had neither the means nor perhaps the zeal to do so.

The area which has become saline requires a massive effort so that either you have fresh water or make the salinity of the land go out so that they become fit for cultivation.

I would again bring to the notice of the hon Minister—he knows it and I have also discussed it in this House—that the Chilka lake area is water-logged and in 1967-68 also there was a terrible cyclone. Now, the Government of India—I must congratulate the hon Minister—has appointed a committee to look into this matter and recommend as to how this water-logging in the Chilka Lake area should be solved and the Chilka Lake mouth should be dredged. But nothing has come out of the Committee's deliberations. I am repeatedly reminding Dr Rao as to what happened to that committee and as to why he should not preside over it himself so that the committee can function and some report comes out. I think it should

be expedited.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY (Cooch Behar) That Committee has gone into deep waters.

SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI Therefore, I would again submit that rural works programme for rehabilitation be taken up in that area. It requires the co-ordination of the Ministry of works and Housing and the Ministry of Finance as it is going to finance the programme and also the Ministries of Health Irrigation & Power and Food & Agriculture. Therefore, this is a tremendous problem of co-ordination and I submit to the hon Minister through you that whatever long range task you are talking of setting up of radars or early cyclone warning systems or meteorological stations at Bhubaneswar or at Paradip do it early so that at least before the next cycle of cyclone comes, we are at least equipped properly. The Aviation Minister Dr Karan Singh, also is very serious that it is set up early.

Then, I must submit that this tremendous work of rehabilitation and co-ordination requires all the concerned Ministries coming together. It also requires a separate development authority as they are setting up at Cuttack and other places which are backward so that at a certain level the co-ordination of the State and Central Agencies is ensured as it requires hundreds of crores of rupees.

The economy of Orissa is lagging behind for the last 25 years and for the last five years no development work worth the name is taken up there.

I appeal to the hon Minister that these are the suggestions which I have put before him. They require immediate consideration of the Government.

I am sorry my hon friend said that a cyclone is blowing from the Centre to the State. No, Sir. The Centre is trying to avert the cyclone, but the State is trying to get involved in the cyclone. We want to save it.

SHRI P. K. DEO (Kalahandi) Sir, a debate like this on the distress of human

beings should have been on a higher plane. But, I find that opportunity has been utilised to hit the Government of Orissa below the belt.

The Government of Orissa, I can say categorically, does not require a good-conduct certificate from my friends here.

The people of Orissa are solidly behind the Government of Orissa which has been fully manifested in the results of the four bye-elections that took place the other day.

Now, coming to the facts, I would like to point out that as stated earlier, Orissa is being visited regularly by drought, cyclone, flood and saline inundations and today Orissa is the victim of the worst cyclone and tidal bore which hit the coastal belt on the 29th of October and in its trail brought innumerable death of human beings and cattle and wanton destruction of houses and crop, dismantling of lines of communications and devastating about 8,500 sq. miles of the area, affecting 6 million people. The estimated loss so far has been a loss of Rs. 10,000 human lives and 75,000 heads of cattle.

A HON. MEMBER : More than that.

SHRI P. K. DEO : About 8½ lakhs of houses have been levelled to the ground and the standing crops which stood ready for harvesting in 25 lakhs of acres of land have been completely washed away. A coconut plantation which is contributing to the economy of the area has been totally devastated and those trees are lying as dead soldiers in a battlefield.

Sir, the people of Orissa are extremely grateful to the hon. President for his timely visit. In most unambiguous terms he has stated that the calamity is the biggest disaster of the century. It could be compared to the Bihar earthquake or to the tidal bore in Masulipatnam in the last century.

Thanks to the Rules and Procedures of this House and thanks also to the convenience of the Ministers, at long last, this much-awaited debate is taking place today, that is, after a period of nearly 6 days, in spite of the fact that some of us gave the

earliest notice saying that the first day of this Session should be utilised specifically for the Debate of the calamity of this particular magnitude this country has ever witnessed before. This could only be possible because of the complacent attitude of the Central Government and because of the present composition of the Lok Sabha and also because of the fact that the Government of Orissa, legally functioning there, is not to the liking of the Centre.

If you look at the graph you will find that the intensity of the ravages and the magnitude of the loss have been continuously on the increase. As pointed out by my friend earlier-I don't want to quote the figures,-this year it has reached the peak. 6 million people have been affected; 25 lakhs acres of crop have been damaged, I would like to know from the expert like Dr. K. L. Rao, whether it is not due to the fact that underground nuclear tests are being held in some parts of the world which has led to such things to happen here. Sir, as far back as 1967, while there was a debate on Orissa cyclone in this very House, Dr. K.L. Rao was then presiding over the Ministry of Irrigation and power. He promised one thing then which he reiterated on the occasion of the debate on Andhra cyclone. It was that a radar station would be installed in Paradeep. But I am very Sorry to say that up till now, it has remained a moonshine. We are told that the Bharat Electronics at Bangalore has been asked to manufacture and instal the radar units. But considering the way in which the public sector undertaking are functioning in this country today, It would be futile to expect the expeditious installation of the radar. If only the radar had been installed in time, this calamity could have been averted.

Even after the Indo-Soviet treaty and cooperation in the field of technology, it is an irony that we have to depend still on the weather forecast of the American satellites. I do not want to go into the details, but as pointed out by my hon. friend Shri Surendra Mohanty, at least 24 hour's notice had been given by the American satellite that a cyclone of that magnitude was going to hit the coast of Orissa. Dr. K. L. Rao also has stated in his report that on 29th October at 10 a.m. Government

[Shri P N. Deo]

had learnt from this satellite that a cyclone was moving towards the Orissa coast, and the tidal bore came at midnight. During all this period of 12 hours, no warning was given to the people of that area to be alert. Even though Shrimati Nandini Satpathy is the Minister of Information and Broadcasting and is the solitary representative of Orissa in the Council of Ministers she has been completely neglectful in her duty to warn the people of Orissa through her mass media of communication and through the AIR to be alert and move to safer areas. She has completely failed in her duty. I charge her with dereliction of duty. In all sincerity, I would submit that she should resign if she thinks herself to be honourable. To save her skin, she has started maligning and mud-slinging against the Orissa Government with Don Quixotic statements. She has stated that the Orissa Government have been unable to tackle the situation and there has been a partisan and parochial approach in the matter. I would like to say that for God's sake, let none inject party-politics into human misery. For God's sake, let no one make political capital out of the suffering of humanity

We are grateful that Shri Yeshwantrao Chavan made an air dash to the area and made a very generous statement :

"Money will not stand in the way of relief and rehabilitation."

But on the other hand the Central team has got the cheek to go and direct the State Government to restrict the relief to a region which is only 3 miles from the coast. The Central leaders made generous statements publicly to get applause from the people. But at the same time, they have given a handle to the political parties and to the people of the area to make demands for more liberal relief. Stealthily, at the same time, they have directed the Central team to act in a different way. I do not want this role of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde to be adopted by the Government of India in such a calamity.

I would like to quote in this regard from the Prime Minister's statement at Bhubaneswar :

"The Prime Minister told newsmen that finance would not be an inhibiting factor for providing relief to the cyclone-hit people."

In the same breath, she says in the committee that 'for the best part of the plan you need resources'. I cannot understand what is the meaning, behind this.

Regarding the central assistance of Rs. 5 crores, it has been explained that the Orissa Government has lately been given Rs 5 crores. This is nothing a drop in the ocean. Even for short-term measures, they need Rs. 50 crores. In their memorandum, they have submitted the details and without going into the realities of the situation, the Government of India have advanced Rs. 2 crores as ways and means advances to the State Government and have Rs. 3 crores for loan to agriculturists.

In this regard, I would like to point out that the money is not to be squandered. The Orissa Government's reputation for its financial discipline is always spotless. There is not a single overdraft of the State Government on the Reserve Bank of India. We want that every pie spent is well spent.

Last year—subject to correction—due to drought in Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra, Rs. 18 crores and Rs. 15 crores respectively were advanced to these States. In all humility, I would like to say that the impression should not go round that because Dr. K. L. Rao comes from Andhra and Shri Chavan from Maharashtra, these liberal amounts have been given to these States by way of central assistance.

An all-Party relief committee has been formed under the chairmanship of the Governor who was till the other day a Congress (R) MP in the other House. This relief committee has been functioning very well. But I cannot understand why some parties who were associated with that relief committee started grumbling and started a rival relief committee. I would like to point out that this rival relief committee has created confusion in the collection of much-needed material and in their distribution. But one redeeming

feature is that some of the saner elements in the Congress (R) like Shri S. S. Mohapatra, Shri Arjun Sethi and Shri Anadi Charan Das have disowned this rival committee and expressed their full confidence in the committee presided over by the Governor.

As for long-term measures, the memorandum which the State Government has given makes out a case for Rs. 145 crores for high embankments, casuarina plantation, rehabilitation and so on. This amount should be granted to the State so that they can go ahead with the long-term measures with full vigour.

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI) : It is indeed a tragedy that a State which had suffered a visitation of flood in July and August this year has once been subjected to one of the worst cyclones of this century and our hearts go out to the people who have suffered and the families who have been rendered homeless and all those who have become destitute.

Hon. members from both sides are agreed that the tragedy has been of a great magnitude. I wish members on both sides appreciated this and did not make it a party issue and the debate was held at a high level as usually happens in such cases. Because of the magnitude of this tragedy, the question is not which State suffers, which party dominates or which party is ruling in which particular state. It is the humanity in general that has suffered. If one Indian suffered, it is the heart of India which suffer. I think on a vital issue like this, this matter should not have been approached from a partisan angle. I am sorry if some bitterness has been created on this score. This has not come from one side only. There have been insinuations hurled from both sides and I think it is inexcusable, irrespective of the side from which it emanated. I do wish that later speakers would give due consideration to this.

16.24 hrs.

[SHRI K. N. TIWARY *in the Chair*]

Before we go into the financial aspect which I am supposed to touch on, there are one or two points which I would like to clarify to put the record straight.

The first is that the hon. gentleman from the CPI said that the help given by the Centre has not been worth giving ; that it was not adequate and it should be something substantial ; something tangible, as he said. I fail to understand what the word 'tangible' really means in the dictionary of the CPI. As we understand, 'tangible' is something which can be felt, which can be seen, which may be visible to the common eye, and I think that the relief which has been sent by the Centre —it may not be adequate according to his consideration and according to his conjecture—is something which is tangible and which can be seen through the eye even of the CPI if I may be permitted to say so.

Secondly, there was a pun on the word benevolence. I think the word 'benevolence' is in itself a very benevolent term. When we used the word 'benevolent', I think they should be wise enough to understand it in the proper context. I think there was a big pun on that word as there was a feeling that the Central Government was not benevolent when the word was used and they made certain discrimination so far as the particular State of Orissa was concerned.

I come from a very backward State like Uttar Pradesh. We share the agony and the problems of other States that do not happen to be very prosperous. We understand the conditions of the people living in the villages, who are not very rich, whose income is very low. But we do not want to be told what we really do need ; what the people want is full succour and sympathy, and sympathy which is not lip sympathy but real constructive sympathy. Therefore, the term 'benevolent' was not used in a very benevolent spirit

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU : You call Uttar Pradesh backward when it suits your convenience.

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI

If it does not suit Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu of West Bengal, certainly it does not suit the IP people (*Interruption*) The UP character is never subject to doubt, except may be in the present context as expressed by the hon Member just now'

MR CHAIRMAN No cross-talk please

SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHATGI

Certain expressions were made by the hon Member from the Swatantra party, the leader, who preceded me just now He said there were certain factors which were due to the present composition of the Lok Sabha I fail to understand that Every hon Member of this Lok Sabha, whether he sits here or there, has been sent by the electorate This is a sovereign, democratic republic, and so, to say that it is due to the present composition of the Lok Sabha is to make a mockery of the electorate of India, and I do not think that he really meant it when he said it

Secondly, the complacency of the Ministers, as he said For that, I can only say there was no complacency about it Fortunately, there was no complacency, because, first, I would like to give the dates The date of the cyclone, the devastating tragedy, was 29th and 30th October The Finance Minister visited the State on the 3rd November, and the date of the release of Rs 2 crores by the Finance Ministry was immediately the next stage—4th November Then, Rs 3 crores were released by the Ministry of Agriculture on the 10th November The estimate of the State Government which was submitted to the Central team was on the 17th November It does take a little time even for the State Government to bring everything on paper, because the estimates were only submitted to the Central team on the 17th November In the meantime, the Central team which has been sent at the initiative of the State Government had already visited the State on the 10th and stayed there for two days The Prime Minister, immediately on her return, visited the State on the 19th Therefore, I do not know where the complacency comes in

The other point was about the attitude of the Government of India towards Orissa, and probably the feeling was that they were slack I would like to allay any feeling that there has been any discrimination so far as the financial aspect is concerned I may only point out two things It is quite true, as some Members have said, that the Orissa Government's initial estimate for flood relief measures was Rs 12.6 crores The Central team ceiling of Rs 3.90 crores was arrived at after detailed discussion with the State Government representatives We have not received any communication so far from the State Government that the team's recommendations were not adequate Who is responsible, and where does the delay lie? In a matter like this the Centre has necessarily to depend on the judgment of the Central team which consists of representatives of all the concerned Ministries If the State Government wanted a review of the ceiling, it was open to them to ask for such a review So far, such a review has not been asked for, where does the delay lie here also? We have not received any report regarding the progress of the expenditure either

For the first time it has been mentioned here that Rs 3.63 crores have been spent As soon as details were received more funds will be released I can only repeat the words of the Prime Minister, the President and also of the Finance Minister that finance will not stand in the way of any relief that is needed by the people of Orissa The normal procedure is that we await the report of the study team, as we have not received any complaint that the relief work is suffering due to paucity of funds

In the earlier years various Ministries used to send out their own teams but later on it was realised that a better method would be for the Finance Ministry to send a team and other Ministries should associate with it

As recommended by the finance Commission, Orissa Government have to provide Rs 1.25 crores annually in their budget for relief purposes Central assistance is given towards expenditure in

relief when it exceeds this provision. Therefore when the Centre is asked the Centre has rushed help through the Agriculture, Defence and other Ministries.

On relief items, 75 per cent of the expenditure can be assisted by the Centre, 50 per cent as grant and 25 per cent as loan. The balance of 25 per cent has normally to be met by the State but in case of financial difficulties even this can be covered by Central assistance. Relief items in this category include gratuitous and emergency relief, assistance to students, assistance to the destitute and the homeless etc. public health measures, drinking water supply etc. In special cases, even supply of seed and pesticides to very small farmers can be included in his category although as a normal rule this is discouraged. If the Orissa Government seeks help from the Centre, the Centre will not hesitate to rush this assistance to the State.

The Orissa Government have submitted an estimate of about Rs. 50 crores as their requirement for the year 71-72 for cyclone relief measures. Rs. 29.5 crores for relief and Rs. 20.5 crores for loans. This is being considered. After it has been considered and the report of the Central team comes in I think necessary measures will be taken. In the meantime I have to put it on record that the Centre has rushed assistance as soon as it was possible. The Defence Ministry, the Army provided power boots, medical stores, medicines etc. Every assistance should be provided in the face of a national calamity. We do not have to enumerate all that we have done. I can only end up by saying that funds will continue to be provided subject to proper and effective utilization.

Some Members had already referred to this point that there is today a cyclone of even great or magnitude, that is that an emergency has been declared in Pakistan and that should make us all take note of the situation irrespective of the parties in the country. The country is facing a very grave situation. There is the problem of Bangla Desh refugees and money is needed for them, money is needed for meeting problems creat-

ed by calamities and above all money is needed for defence preparedness. Money should flow where it is necessary and work should not suffer and money should not be wasted. If the State Government of Orissa want anything to be done it will be done immediately. That is all I have to say.

SHRI JAGANNATH RAO (Chatrapur):
 I was surprised to here my friend Surendra Mohanty and P. K. Deo criticising the Congress party in Orissa for forming a rival relief committee. The committee that was formed is not a committee of the congress party alone. It consists of representatives of the Congress, CPI and the PSP in the State, the whole idea being that it should function as a liaison committee so that relief measures undertaken by the State Government are properly done and that no persons are left out. We received complaints that the relief measures are not reaching every section of the affected people. Whether right or wrong, when complaints are received, we thought it necessary that workers of these parties should form vigilance committees at the village level, so that they can inform the Government officials entrusted with relief work about the complaints. That is the main idea. It does not function in opposition to or as a rival to the all party committee. How can a non-official committee raise crores of rupees needed for the relief? It is just a liaison committee.

Another point was made that the central Government is not sympathetic. A section of the press has also said that only aerial surveys were made by central ministers, only lip sympathy has been shown and no money has been released. This is wrong. The Deputy Finance Minister has already given the amount that has been released. The centre is prepared to release more money, but there must be firm data. It has to be verified and apart from the Finance Ministry, Planning Commission is also involved and it takes time. The required information from the State Government has not yet been received. When it is received, it will be scrutinised and the money would be released. That is the undertaking given by the Finance Minister and the Prime Minister also made a similar statement at Bhubaneswar on the 19th.

[Shri Jagannath Rao]

Now, what is to be done to meet this calamity? Several thousands of people and cattle have perished. People who are alive have lost their belongings. Some lands are sand-cast and some inundated by saline water. Therefore, agricultural operations cannot be taken up. Immediate relief and rehabilitation is required. If possible, the sand should be removed from the lands in time for the rabi cultivation or at least for the kharif crop next year. But if the sand is very deep, that area should be reserved for afforestation and cultivation of casuarina or cashew. In the case of lands inundated with saline water, if a—channel could be constructed from the sea to those lands, they can be converted into salt pans. It is for the agro-scientists to see those areas and advise what should be done.

Many houses have collapsed. Mr. Biju Patnaik, Chairman of the State Planning Board, has prepared a statement which says that Rs. 166 crores are required. But the statement does not give any data. It only says so many houses have been lost and at the rate of Rs, 4000 per house, it comes to so many crores. It does not say what is the nature of the house, what is the size whether it was bamboo-thatched etc. A census has to be taken in each village about the nature of the house, its value, how much it will cost to reconstruct it etc. These data are not available. Then, where is so much money with the Central Government? It is not a *Kamadhenu* which can be milked at any time we want. Therefore, it is no good blaming any government. We have to see whether the request is based on facts. That has not been done so far. I do not blame the State Government because the State Government had no information. I was in Orissa on the 29th, 30th and 31st October, 1971. I heard a warning when I was at Bhubaneswar. When I left for Delhi on the 31st there was no information because communications were cut off as also roads and telephones. Only on the 2nd the radio announced the damage caused. I do not blame the State Government because even today some of the areas are inaccessible. So, there is every reason for discrepancies in the figures

of the Central Government, the State Government and the Governor.

Coming to rehabilitation, it should be immediate. We cannot think of long term measures which are protective measures at this stage. We have now to think of immediate relief to the cyclone affected people. Embankment, afforestation etc. should form part of the Fourth or Fifth plan. Our immediate problem is to rehabilitate these people by reclaiming agricultural lands. If the lands are fit for agriculture, they should be used for agriculture; otherwise, we should grow cashew trees or use them as salt pans, depending upon the nature of the soil. Technical people should visit the area and suggest what could be done in the circumstances and what is the amount required.

It is said that the meteorological department has failed in its duty. I do not agree with that view. I heard a warning on the radio that a cyclone is likely to hit Orissa at Gopalpur. Later I heard that it will not hit Gopalpur but was likely to hit Puri.

The Jumbo island where thousands of people have perished as a result of tidal bore is a very low lying area; it is in fact below the sea level. We have to see whether that island could be used only for agriculture and the people should stay in the mainland. Government should examine whether there is any danger in allowing the people to continue to stay on that island. If there is no safety to the people when they stay there, they should be settled in the mainland so that they may go and do agricultural work and come back.

These are the measures which should urgently be taken into consideration by the State Government. I am sure the Central Government, the Planning Commission and the Ministries of the Government of India are willing to cooperate. Their willing cooperation would be forthcoming and there is no reason for anyone of us in this House to doubt the sincerity or the sympathy of the Government of India.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU (Diamond Harbour): What is happening in Orissa

is without a parallel. But could we not have got prior information so that the effect of the disaster could be minimised? There were a large number of low pressure areas where the wind velocity fell to 17 to 27 knots and then at the time of the hurricane it rose up to 47 to 48 knots. The velocity of the hurricane when it reached Orissa coast was 175 km per hour.

According to government estimates, which I maintain is grossly under-stated it has destroyed property worth Rs. 596 crores and taken 1,023 lives. This is the sixth cyclone in Orissa in ten years. There were two in 1966, one in 1967 and two more in 1968. In the Bay of Bengal and the Arabian Sea which surround our country there are usually 20 such storms every year. This time the Orissa hurricane by comparison was 25 per cent more severer than the previous ones. It takes place during the months of April-May and October-December. In May to October 1969 in Andhra 1,000 people were killed and Rs. 250 crores worth of property were destroyed.

What steps have been taken by the Government in this regard. Dr K. L. Rao is a very intelligent man. Is he not aware of the NADWARN system, the natural disaster warning system? The Irrigation and Power Ministry had set up a committee to coordinate and proceed between the Centre and the State Government. What is the outcome of that? We want to know specifically here today.

Timely warning, and arrangements and facilities for evacuation could easily have minimised the toll if not avoided the loss. The whole world is now thinking of timely warning to avoid the effect of this calamity. At least, warn the fishermen and those people who are taken unawares. Nothing has been done. In the United States this NADWARN SYSTEM is working with a lot of effect.

What has happened to advance detection, including earthquake, and the national radar network? Dr. Rao is fully aware of these things. Is he helpless? Is it not a fact that the Government is not finding money for these essential items which

would save the lives of hundreds of thousands of people and property and cattle worth crores of rupees? I have a feeling that he has not been given enough money by the Central Government.

There is also the question of post-cyclone work. We want to know specifically what is being done. From our experience in West Bengal we know that the Central Government will always come out with hurricane tours, impressive speeches and tall talks. I am not blaming Dr. Rao; I know, he is not very powerful in the matter of allocating funds. But when the question of giving the real money comes, it trickles down. Secretaries and bureaucrats go and try to underplay the calamity. In the mean time, people become more and more feeble; their voice becomes feeble. And they take the opportunity. They try to do politics out of the whole thing. They do not want to spend the money that is required there, but they must take the credit for cashing it.

The Government has failed, not that they do not have talent or the hands, but because of lack of attention and funds. They are not interested in the welfare of the common man. That is what it boils down to.

In ECAFE, United Nations, they are coordinating the world meteorological organisation since 1968. We want to hear all about these things from Dr. Rao's mouth here. Then there are the Australian efforts of tropical cyclone warning system. These are all positive steps. The scientists today say that by sending wall clouds around the eye of the matured cyclone the speed could be considerably reduced. We want to know what you have done with regard to that. You have done practically nothing.

On the long Eastern coastline there is only one radar at Visakhapatnam. The Meteorological Department had strongly suggested that there should be eight radar stations—at Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, Masulipatnam, Madras, Nagapatnam, Goa and Bombay. But the Visakhapatnam one, which was imported from Japan, is the only one functioning today and the rest seven

[Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu]
are hanging fire with Bharat Electronics in Bangalore. Why is it that sufficient importance and priority has not been attached to the delivery and supply of these seven radar equipments? If that would have been done, possibly today we could have saved a lot of human lives and property.

At the present moment it is a 25 or 50-years age-old practice, the primitive practice, of depending on ships to give you the warning. But what happens when the ship gets the danger signal, when they feel that something is coming and they vacate their base and run away to safer places? How do you expect them to give you the information? Kindly tell us about that.

About the television picture from the satellite on the study of cloud structure, you have in Madras, Calcutta and Bombay automatic picture-taking equipment, but the meteorologist can only get them once in a day. It is far too inadequate. The Japanese offer of picture-taking every 20 minutes is good. But how are you going to find the money for that? It costs Rs 16 crores, if I am right. And it will take a minimum period of three to four years. In the mean time you may lose another several millions of rupees and several millions of lives. This should be taken as seriously as possible and in the mean time the police wireless should be made the fullest use of. Whenever there is a cyclone warning the police wireless should be made full use of. Also, the All India Radio—I call it All India Radio—its services are inadequate. They ignore such warnings and also the summarise the warnings to make them too brief to be understandable to a common man. Don't talk about big things. But do something about it because it is happening everywhere almost every half a year.

The States have very limited resources, and they cannot possibly be expected to find the resources and fight such calamity and its after-effects. There is no question of bringing politics with human miseries and their lives.

Besides this, there is the question of floods. I am quoting from Dr Rao's own speech in the 15th meeting of the Central

Flood Control Board saying that they have lost from 1961-70 at least 1231 crores worth of property. I will not say how many lives have been lost. But these measures would have certainly cost you much less. You are not paying enough attention to those actions which can save the life and property of the common man.

If you have no money, you can draw money from the LIC. You have got the nationalised banks. You can float other loans and you reduce your police and other administrative expenses. There should be no difficulty about finding money where saving of human lives and their bare minimum assets are concerned.

SHRI ARJUN SETHI (Bhadrak)
Mr Chairman, Sir, it is unfortunate for me that I represent a constituency which has been completely devastated by severe flood, saline inundation and cyclone.

I should like to mention here that the Government of Orissa could have saved the situation if they had taken timely measures or timely precautions to give help to the people. According to the guidance of the Meteorological Department, a cyclone is formed in the Bay of Bengal from April to December and in pre-monsoon period, and in post-monsoon period the cyclone is severe. The cyclone of 1942 occurred in the month of October. So, the Government of Orissa could have been more conscious during this period to evacuate people after receiving cyclone alarm.

There is an emergency department in every district during the monsoon months to evacuate the people and to give them relief. There should also have been a cyclone emergency department for the purpose of evacuation and giving timely relief to the people.

The House may be interested to know that in Balasore district, the Government's thinking was that the flood season was over and they had released all boats and motor launches which were kept for evacuating people. When the flood came, they could not rescue the people in time. They could not rescue a single man in time.

Then, I will say something about the inefficient machinery dealing with relief and rehabilitation. The Government of Orissa has told us through their publications that they have given cooked food for seven days and foodgrains to the people. This may be correct as far as the constituencies of big people are concerned. But I can say with all knowledge that they have not given even an ounce of food to the flood-affected areas of Balasore District and some parts of Cuttack District. The relief is given on the basis of the 1961 Census whereas it should be on the basis of 1971 Census and on account of this there is a great deal of confusion among the people and the officers.

So, I submit that the Government should now concentrate on digging of tube-wells in the villages where there is drought so that people can grow double crops and multiple crops. As a short-term and immediate measure the Central Government should grant at least crores of rupees for rehabilitation of these flood-affected persons and moreover, fair-price shops should be opened in large numbers so that rice and wheat are readily available all-round. Cash assistance also should be immediately given to these poor people so that their purchasing power is restored.

In my constituency it is unfortunate that there are no alternative crops and the position becomes more precarious. So, as a long-term measure, house-building advances should be liberally giving to the villagers according to their need and the advances should not be governed by the credit-worthiness of the person concerned.

A team of top scientists should be sent to Orissa to study the problem of desalination of the paddy fields. The scientists should also be asked to suggest measures for permanently solving the problem of saline inundation of the cultivable lands. As you are aware, Sir, this part of Orissa is the fertile paddy belt and unless it is safeguarded, the backbone of Orissa's economy will be broken.

So, I request further that all sorts of

measures and schemes should be launched by the Central Government with promptness and to create job opportunities among the people of these localities. Otherwise, their condition will be very miserable and people will die without any work and without any food.

Thank you, Sir.

*SHRI J. M. GOWDER (Nilgiris) : Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset, I would like to draw your attention to the paradoxical situation prevailing now in our country. Forgetting the sorry plight of the people of Orissa who have been seriously afflicted by the cyclone, without giving adequate thought to the immediate relief measures that should be taken, the Central Government is blaming the State Government and the State Government is blaming in its turn the Central Government. In this mutual recrimination, the poor people who have been rendered homeless, the common people who are suffering all sorts of difficulties, have been conveniently forgotten. I would request that both the Central Government and the State Government should remember the hardships of the poor people and not indulge in the game of mud-slinging at this critical juncture.

17 hrs.

On 14th October the Meteorological Department gave a warning that a cyclone was forming in the Bay of Bengal and it might hit the port of Paradip. But it did not come off as anticipated. On 29-30 October, the cyclone hit the entire coastal line of Orissa and it is strange that only a few hours before the cyclone, the Meteorological Department could give the warning. How could the precious lives of the people be saved within such a short time? How could protection be given to them at such a short notice? Are we living in America? At such a critical hour, if we were living in America, a fleet of helicopters would have been employed and the people would have been transported to safer places. Our economic development is so tardy that we don't even have sufficient number of bull-

*The original speech was delivered in Tamil.

[Shri J M Gowder]

ock-carts to shift the people away from the cyclone-hit areas. By the time the Government makes up its mind in the matter of taking relief measures, the natural calamity takes its toll of human lives. If you dispassionately see what kind of protection and relief measures, have been given to the people, you will find that nothing constructive has been done. What we find is that a natural calamity like cyclone occurs and immediately after that a discussion is held in this House and there ends the matter. In our history there seems to be no occasion in which advance action or immediate relief measures after the calamity has been taken effectively by the Government. The affected people have not been given the succour at the appropriate time.

It might be that the Swatantra Party or some other political party might be ruling the State of Orissa. Mainly on that ground the Centre cannot just brush aside the demand of the State Government saying that it is on the high side. It is an accepted fact that the State Government is the nearest organisation to the affected people and they have got the machinery to make an on-the-spot study of the problem. They might have asked Rs 100 crores. If only a paltry sum of Rs 2 crores is sanctioned, where is the question of fairplay and justice? Are you not ashamed to say that a sum of Rs 2 crores has been sanctioned for cyclone relief measures? For Bengal Dosh refugees, the Centre is spending Rs 3 crores a day. You are also aware, Sir, that so many new taxes have been levied on the people of the country to feed the Bengal Dosh refugees. Are the people of Orissa not the refugees from the serious natural calamity of cyclone? Are they not suffering like the Bengal Dosh refugees? Should the Centre not give at least Rs 3 crores to the people of Orissa who have been made destitutes by the cyclone? I am not able to appreciate why even this sum has not been given to the people of Orissa.

For the sake of coring a point in a debate, the Centre may say that whatever assistance is asked by the State and the people will be extended by the Centre whenever such a request is made. I feel that the Centre is showing a closed fist because of the fear that if adequate assistance is given, the credit might go to the

opposition parties which are ruling the state now. The Centre might also like to appropriate all the credit to itself by doing everything directly and that is why, perhaps, the Prime Minister is going to send a team of ruling party members to Orissa. I need not say that the underlying idea is the coming elections. Are the affected people to be used as the pawns in the chess-game of politics of the ruling party, especially at the time when they are in acute distress? For goodness sake, I would like to appeal to the Centre, they should approach the problem merely on human angle and absolutely without any political considerations. This is not a problem concerning only a particular political party and it should not be exploited for party ends. It is not enough if an aerial survey in a helicopter is made by the high dignitaries of the Government. Dr Rao was good enough to go in person and he tried to associate himself with the sufferings of the people. The Congress party members who spoke before me ridiculed the demand of the State Government for central assistance in the matter of providing houses to the cyclone affected people. Do they expect that whenever such calamities occur the State Government should come before the Centre with bended knees and with a begging bowl? I can quote a number of instances that even when the States have come to the Centre with genuine demands, the Centre has shown its reluctance even to consider such requests. I am reminded of a story in Tamil. When the daughter-in-law of a house was about to offer food to a hungry beggar, at her door-step, the frowning mother-in-law snatched it from the hands of daughter-in-law and later offered the food herself to the beggar, thereby asserting her unquestioned authority as the mistress of the house. I have to say that in the matter of extending assistance to the people of Orissa the Centre has adopted a similar attitude. Instead of attempting to mitigate the sufferings of millions of people in Orissa, the Centre seems to have a political bias.

Shri Chintaman Panigrahi just now narrated the tale of woe and was of the view that at least 200,00 people would have perished in this cyclone. 60,000 hectares of cultivable land have become barren and it is felt that for coming three years the

cultivators will not be able to plough the land. Has the Centre given thought to the problem of what should be done to the thousands of cultivators who will not be able to till the land for another three years? It is also estimates the crops worth Rs. 200 crores have been destroyed by the cyclone. Has the Centre made any assessment of the quantum of foodgrains needed by the people of Orissa? I would request the hon. Minister to announce in this House the quantum of foodgrains supplied to the people of Orissa to meet this crisis.

There was a news item in the Press, just before the cyclone, that the cyclone was forming 300 miles away from Paradip port and it was expected to hit East Bengal. But, the entire coastal area including Paradip port was subjected to the fury of cyclone. We can imagine how the forecasts made by the Meteorological Department are totally misleading to the detriment of the people living in coastal areas. It might be argued that there are not enough number of radar installations to forecast the weather. How can the entire country be served by one radar station? I would request that the Government should go into the question of the requirement of radar installations throughout the country and make earnest endeavours to have them at the earliest opportunity. Another strange thing that happened here is that the Cuttack All India Radio did not announce even the warning given by the Meteorological Department just a few hours before the occurrence of cyclone. With a view to ensuring that such lapses do not recur in the future, I would suggest that the Government should appoint a Committee to go into the question as to how this happened and to suggest remedial measures for the future.

India has a long coast-line of thousands of miles. In particular, the eastern coast is more susceptible to cyclone havocs. From Calcutta to Madras and Tut'corin, there have been many cyclones from time to time and the entire east has been ravaged any number of times. It is time that the Government here at the centre gives serious thought to this problem and devise ways and means to give protection to the crores of people living on the

coast line from cyclone havoc. In spite of all precautionary steps taken by the Government, if the people are to suffer from such a natural calamity, immediate relief measures should be undertaken by the Centre.

Before I conclude, I would suggest that such problems should be approached on human considerations and definitely not on political plane. So far as the question of sufferings of common people is concerned, the sole criterion for the Centre should be humanitarian consideration and nothing else.

SHRI KUMAR MAJHI (Keonjhar :
Spoke in Oriya.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : He is speaking in Oriya. There should be arrangements for translation. Kindly convey this to the Speaker.

MR. CHAIRMAN : That is for the future. He has given notice in writing. So he is allowed to speak.

**SHRI KUMAR MAJHI : Mr. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I would like to tell a few words, about petiable conditions of the people, who have been the victims of the recent cyclone in Orissa. All of us know that, this devastating cyclone, accompanied with heavy down pours, and the tidal waves, wrought havoc on lakhs of people, cattle, houses, roads, ambankments, crops etc. The figures of all the damages are not yet known conclusively. The figures of the State Government are, I, believe, Sir, not revealing the true picture of the loss, particularly in respect of loss to private property. The utensils, the food grains personal effects etc. of the villagers have not at all been included in the calculation of loss. Loss of these, together with the collapse, of the cottage like houses of the poorer people, is, to my mind, unbearable on their part. It is very difficult for them to recoup this loss in some years to come. Even so, the State Government is not taking these, into account for estimation of the magnitude of the suffering of the poorer people day by day the figures of human and cattle casualties went on increasing. Even

**The original speech was delivered in Oriya.

[Shri Kumar Majhu]

now, dreadful reports from interior parts of my State are coming with shocks to us. Here again I would like to speak Sir, that the State Government has failed in assessing the damages as soon as it should have been.

In my constituency, Sir, the entire Ananda Sub-division and a part of the Sadar Sub-division in Keonjhar district and the entire Sukinda Assembly constituency have been very badly affected. You know Sir, my constituency is a tribal belt you also know Sir, the economic condition of the Adibasi people who, do not get a square meal in each day of a year. What a suffering, the cyclone has caused to them is beyond one's imagination. I would say, in a nutshell, that the recent cyclone, has broken the back-bone of the people of my constituency.

Speaker Sir, due to the recent cyclone more than three lakhs of people in Keonjhar district and more than one and half lakhs from Sakinda Assembly constituency in Cuttack district which are under my constituency have been very badly affected. The nature has made the people of these areas a target of its vagaries. It will surely not be irrelevant, Sir, to point out that the people of my constituency are suffering calamities every year either from cyclone or from drought or from flood. In the years 1965-66, 1967, 68, 1969-70 there were heavy flood and prolonged drought. Every year witnesses such natural calamities of one kind or the other. I would not like to take time of this House by narrating the past sufferings of the people of my constituency. But I would certainly like to impress on you Sir, that nature has been unkind to the people of my area.

• Sir, the Government on the other hand is callous in respect of development of my area. You know, Sir, my constituency is rich in mineral sources and other deposits, but the people are poorest. The State Government has not given full relief to them. Even the scanty relief extended, to these people, were not properly distributed. I would invite and welcome every one of this house to visit my area and see what suffering the people are undergoing. The State Government has stopped the emergent relief measures. Now, the yesterday's relieved has become a today's distressed.

due to stoppage of free distribution of succour, I do not like to press that succour should be given always to the people of my constituency. But I believe you will agree that these poor people, especially the firm and the disabled cannot survive unless succour is given, for some times more, at least till they reap a crop.

Speaker Sir, the people have lost all their assets. They are now asking to each other one question, that is, how to survive. This question has, at its behind, the strong will force to build up the area for their upliftment. It would be prudent to provide them, means to develop the region. The poor people of a rich area with their strong will force will never fail to come up to the expectations. I would therefore suggest that immediate step should be taken to establish a Nickel plant in Sukinda Mines area for Industrial development, to take up the Bhimkund Dam Project for irrigation facilities and to construct Fakirpur-Nuagoan embankment along the banks of the Baitarani river for protection from flood. These schemes will help both the educated and uneducated victims of nature to survive and to feel that they are not neglected by their brethren in other parts of the country.

श्री भारत सिंह चौहान (धार) : सभागत महोदय, उड़ीसा के तूफान, समुद्रीय तूफान को लेकर जो भारी नुकसान हुआ है, जनहानि हुई है और कई गांव बह गए हैं, और उस सब का जो एक दर्द भरा दृश्य यहां पर खींचा गया है, वह राष्ट्र के लिए एक बहुत ही लज्जाजनक बात है और खास कर शासन के लिए एक बहुत ही बदनामी का बायस है, इस में कोई दो राये नहीं हो सकती हैं। जहां तक समुद्री तूफान का सम्बन्ध है केन्द्रीय सरकार और शासन का यह फर्ज और कर्तव्य था कि मौसम के दफ्तर को जिन तरह से सक्षमता का परिचय उसने दिया है, जिस तरह से वहां काम करना चाहिये था उमफो, वह काम उमने नहीं किया है। यह बान भी यहां वाद विवाद में स्पष्ट हो गई है। यह साफ जाहिर होता है कि जो वर्तमान केन्द्रीय सरकार है वह भारत की रक्षा करने के काम में, जनता की रक्षा करने के काम में और राहत के

काम करने में बिल्कुल निकम्मी साबित हुई है। शासकीय दल की ओर से, केन्द्रीय सरकार से कहा जाता है कि वहाँ की सरकार ने मांग नहीं भेजी, ब्याँरा नहीं भेजा। यह रैंड टेप की बात हुई। लेकिन जो भारत सरकार का मुख्य—कर्तव्य था उसका उसने निर्वाह नहीं किया। मैं बता चुका हूँ कि मौसम के दफ्तर को जिस तरह से सक्षम और एफिशेंट बनना चाहिये था वह सही बना। बीस बाईस सालों में सरकार को जिस तरह से देश को मजबूत बनाने के लिए तथा इस तरह की विपत्तियों से उसकी रक्षा करने के उपाय करने चाहिये थे वे उसने नहीं किये। राहत पहुँचाना भी कोई नई बात नहीं है। समुद्री तूफान तथा बाढ़े समय समय पर आती रही है। इनसे नुकसान भी होता रहा है। लेकिन हम अनुभव करते हैं कि जो केन्द्रीय सरकार की जिम्मेदारियाँ थी कि आधुनिक यंत्रों की सहायता से जन धन की हानि होने से बचाएँ, उनका उमने पालन नहीं किया। जिस तरह से जो नुकसान हुआ है उसका नकशा यहाँ खींचा गया है उसको देखते हुए मुझे ऐसा लगता कि इन चौबीस सालों में केन्द्रीय सरकार को जिन आधुनिक यंत्रों की स्थापना करनी चाहिए थी, उनकी स्थापना न करके बड़ी भूल की है। समय पर लोगों को तूफान आने की सूचना नहीं दी गई। पिछले वर्षों के इतिहास को आप देखें। बंगाल की खाड़ी का समुद्र धाब से नहीं हमेशा से ही व्यंकर और उग्र रूप धारण करता रहा है। इस वास्ते बहुत पहले से ऐसे उपाय करने चाहिए थे ताकि समय समय पर होने वाले नुकसान से बचा जा सके।

मेरा अनुभव यह है कि 21 साल से जो भी काम सरकार ने किए हैं मानवता, रक्षा या राहत के नाम पर. उन में उस ते राजनीतिक बातें छुसेड़ी है और आज भी हम यही देख रहे हैं। सभी ट्रेडरी बैचिष की तरफ से कहा गया है कि जैसे जैसे वहाँ से राहत के लिए मांग आयेगी, जैसे-जैसे मदद देगे। वहाँ पर प्रधान मंत्री और अन्य मंत्री गये हैं। एक स्टडी टीम

भी नहीं गई है। लेकिन जिस ढंग से वहाँ पर हुई हानि का एसेसमेंट किया गया है और जिस तरह से सहायता पहुँचाई गई है, उसको देखकर ताज्जुब होता है। बंगला देश के जो एक करोड़ शरणार्थी आये है, उनकी सेनटेनेन्स के लिए तीन करोड़ रुपया प्रतिदिन खर्च किया जा रहा है। लेकिन अपने ही जिन भाइयों पर मुसीबत आई है, उनकी मदद ऐसे की जा रही हैं, जैसे समुद्र में पानी की एक बूँद डाली क्या जाये। यह इस बात का प्रत्यक्ष प्रमाण नहीं है कि केन्द्रीय सरकार इस बारे में भी अपने कुछ राजनैतिक स्वार्थ को सामने रख रही है। जिस तरह से सरकार ने मानवता के नाम पर शरणार्थियों का मामला लटका रखा है, उसी तरह से वह इस समस्या के सम्बन्ध में भी राजनैतिक बातों को ला कर देश का सत्यानाश करने पर तुली हुई है।

प्रश्न यह है कि जब और देश रैंडार आदि आधुनिक उपकरणों के सम्बन्ध में इतना आगे बढ़ गये हैं, तो क्या कारण है कि हमारे देश ने इस बारे में कोई प्रगति नहीं की है। यह कितने खेद की बात है कि उड़ीसा के तटीय क्षेत्रों की साइक्लोन से रक्षा के लिए हमें हालैंड जैसे छोटे देश से सहायता और सलाह लेनी पड़ रही हैं। यह इस बात का सूत्र है कि हमारी साइंस और टेकनालोजी कितनी पिछड़ी हुई है। इसकी जिम्मेदारी हमारे शासन पर है।

मानवता के नाम पर बड़ी-बड़ी बातों की जाती हैं, लेकिन हम हमेशा देखते आये हैं कि विपतिग्रस्त लोगों को राहत पहुँचाने का कार्य केवल चुताव के समय किया जाता है और उससे पहले उसकी सर्वथा उपेक्षा की जाती है।⁴

उड़ीसा एक आदिवासी प्रान्त है। वहाँ पर इतनी भारी विपत्ति आई है कि बीस हजार आदिमी साइक्लोट में मारे गये हैं और पचास लाख बेघरबार हो गये हैं। वहाँ के लोगों की हमदर्दी प्राप्त करने के लिए सरकार को पूरी सहायता देनी चाहिए, लेकिन वह ऐसी बातें

[श्री भारनसिंह चौहान]

कर के अपनी अक्षमता का उदाहरण पेश कर रही है कि वहाँ एक स्टडी टीम गई है, उसकी रिपोर्ट आयेगी, आदि मेरे पूर्व वक्ताओं ने जो कुछ कहा है, उससे यह साफ जाहिर है कि इस राष्ट्रीय संकट में भी राजनीति को इनबाल्व किया जा रहा है। मैं आप के माध्यम से कहना चाहता हूँ कि राहुन कार्यों और पुनर्वास के सम्बन्ध में प्रकाशन में जो अक्षमता व्याप्त है, उस को समाप्त किया जाये और एक पक्ष-व्यतिरिक्त ढंग से इस प्रकार की राष्ट्रीय विपत्तियों का मुकाबला किया जाये।

आज जब कि देश के एक भाग में इतनी बड़ी विपत्ति आई है, क्या सरकार ने राष्ट्र में वह टैम्पो, वह वातावरण पैदा किया है, जिस से सब लोग इस विपत्ति का मुकाबला करने में अपना योगदान करें? हमने पहले देखा है कि भूकम्प आदि देवी विपत्तियों के समय सारे राष्ट्र में एक सहानुभूति का वातावरण पैदा कर दिया जाता था, जिसमें देश का बच्चा बच्चा मदद करने के लिए तत्पर हो जाता था। लेकिन इस अवसर पर सरकार ऐसा वातावरण पैदा करने में कम्पलीटली फेल हुई है।

श्री अनादि चरण दास (जाजपुर) : सभ-पति महोदय, इस सदन में उड़िया का अनुवाद करने की व्यवस्था नहीं है और माननीय सदस्य उसको नहीं समझ सकते हैं, इस लिए मैं हिन्दी में बोलने का प्रयत्न करूँगा।

साइकलोन के कारण उड़ीसा में कितनी क्षति हुई है, उसके बारे में मेरे दोस्तों ने बहुत कुछ कहा है। समाचारपत्रों में भी उसका काफी विवरण प्रकाशित हुआ है। उड़ीसा सरकार ने रिलीफ के सम्बन्ध में जो काम किया है, मुझे यह बताने की जरूरत नहीं है। उसने कुछ ऐसे काम किये हैं, जिनसे उनकी बहुरामी हुई है। लोग कहते हैं कि उड़ीसा के लोगों को सहायता पहुंचाना सरकार का उत्तरदायित्व है और उसको वह काम करना चाहिए। उसने वह काम किया भी है, लेकिन उसमें कुछ

कमियाँ हैं।

यह भी कहा जाता है कि सहायता के लिए जो चावल या अन्य सामग्री भेजी जाती है, उसको बीच के लोग खा जाते हैं। कौन खा जते हैं? पूँजीपति और कोई-कोई सरपंच और बोर्ड मेम्बर। ऐसे लोग सब पार्टियों में होते हैं। कोई राज-नैतिक लोग उसको नहीं खाते हैं। इसलिए यह कहना गलत है कि राजनैतिक लोग उसको खा जाते हैं। वास्तव में यह कहना चाहिए कि जिस ढंग से सहायता-कार्य किया जाना चाहिए, वे उसको नहीं कर पाते हैं। इस कारण वहाँ की जनता बड़े दुख और कष्ट का सामना कर रही है।

जो होना था, सो हो गया। जो लोग मर गए, उनके बारे में तो कुछ नहीं किया जा सकता है। लेकिन जो जिन्दा हैं, वे बहुत कष्ट में हैं। इसलिये उन लोगों की पूरी सहायता की जानी चाहिए।

कटक, बालासोर और पुरी जिलों को रैनरी अफ उड़ीसा कहा जाता है। वहाँ पर जो धान पैदा होता है, वह बंगाल और दूसरे प्रान्तों को भेजा जाता है। पिछले तीन चार सालों में इस इलाके में काफी बड़े पैमाने पर बाढ़ आई है, जिसकी वजह से वहाँ ज्यादा पैदावार नहीं हो सकी है। इस साल वहाँ पर बहुत अच्छी पैदावार होनी थी। लेकिन साइ-क्लोन की वजह से सब कुछ बर्बाद हो गया है। वहाँ के लोगों के सामने समस्या है कि वे क्या खायें।

कोस्टल एरिया में ज्यादातर हरिजन और आदिवासी लोग रहते हैं। वे दस लाख से ज्यादा लोग हैं। वे लोग गांवों से बाहर रहते हैं। उसके घर छोटे छोटे होते हैं, जिनके आस-पास पेड़ बगीच नहीं होते हैं। इसलिए उनके 97 परसेंट घर बिल्कुल समतल हो गए हैं। आज वे लंग बहुत कष्ट में हैं। उनके लिए रिलीफ का जो सामान भेजा गया है, वह

उनको नहीं मिलता है। गांवों के बड़े-बड़े लोग, कास्तकार, उसको ले जाते हैं। उन लोगों को न काम मिलता है और न खाने के लिए चावल मिलता है। कोई भी देखने वाला नहीं है। जिन हरिजनों के घर गिर गए हैं और जिनके पास जमीन नहीं है, वे उस क्षेत्र में नहीं रहना चाहते हैं, क्योंकि वहां पर हर साल फलड और साइक्लोन आते रहते हैं। मेरे पास कम से कम पांच सौ दरकवास्तें आई हैं कि सरकार को कहा जाए कि उन लोगों को किसी दूसरी जगह बसाया जाए। इसलिए सरकार से मेरी अपील है कि करीब पांच लाख हरिजन लोगों को किसी दूसरे जिले में बसा दिया जाये, जहाँ जमीन ऐबेलेबल है, अच्छी जगह है, जंगल का एरिया है।

हमने देखा और सरकार से बात भी की। सरकार ने कहा कि हम जगह देने के लिए तैयार हैं। लेकिन तुम पैसे का प्रबन्ध करो। इस समय तो उनके घर चले गए हैं। यह एक मीका मिला है। कम से कम सरकार कुछ पैसा देगी तो उनको वहाँ बसाया जा सकता है, जैसे कोरापुट है, धनकानाल है, सम्बलपुर, ब्यांझर, वनगीर और कालाहांडी वगैरह में बहुत जमीन अबेलेबल है जहाँ उनको सेंटिल किया जा सकता है, मेरा ख्याल है कि सरकार इस काम को करेगी तो इससे हरिजनों का बहुत भला होगा।

मनी लैंडर्स लोग वहा जा कर आज बैठ गए हैं। जिसके पास कुछ बर्तन वगैरह थे उनको वह बहुत कम पैसे में उनसे खरीद लेते हैं और फिर बहुत ज्यादा ब्याज लेकर पैसा देते हैं। इस समय जितना नुकसान वहाँ हुआ है उतना 25 सालों में भी नहीं चुट सकता है। ऐसे समय में 50 प्रतिशत से लेकर शत प्रतिशत तक ब्याज बढ़ ले रहे हैं। तो कम से कम केन्द्रीय सरकार को इसके लिए कुछ करना चाहिए और मनी-लैंडर्स को वहाँ पर बैं बनाना चाहिए। यह बैं होंगे सभी उनको राहत मिलेगी। इसके साथ-साथ जो केन्द्रीय सरकार के राष्ट्रीयकरण वाले

बैंक हैं उनको वहाँ पर खड़े हो जाना चाहिए। जिसके पास जमीन या और कोई वीलत ऐसी हो वह उनको देकर उनसे ऋण बढ़ ले सकते हैं।

मेरी एक और अपील है अभी हमने सुना और पेपर में देखा कि वहाँ कालरा फल रहा है। सिर्फ कालरा ही नहीं और दूसरी-दूसरी बीमारियाँ भी फैल रही हैं क्योंकि जब खाना नहीं मिलता है, पेट खाली है तो बहुत सी बीमारी आ जाती है। सरकार को इस ओर ध्यान देना चाहिए और इसके लिए कुछ करना चाहिए।

वहाँ की जमीन बहुत अच्छी जमीन है। पानी भी बहुत नजदीक है। बहुत जगह नदी है, बहुत जगह कैनल है, तो सरकार से मेरा कहना है कि कम से कम पानी उनको मुफ्त दे दें और सीड्स और मैन्योर सबसिडाइज्ड रेट में उन्हें लोन के रूप में दिया जाय, उससे जिसके पास जमीन है वह कुछ न कुछ पैदा कर सकेगा। यह मेरी एक अपील है।

इसके साथ-साथ मेरी एक मांग और है। पहले 3 रुपये डेली बेजेज से। वह अब एक रुपया कर दिया गया है। तो इससे कैसे वह जिन्दा रहेंगे? वह बेचारे गरीब और भूमिहीन लोग हैं जिनके पास कुछ भी नहीं है। आज वह बड़ी मुसीबत में पड़े हैं। इसलिए उनको कहा जाना चाहिए और कोई कानून बनाकर कहना चाहिए कि 3 रुपये से कम मजदूरी न दी जाय। यह उड़ीसा सरकार का काम है। उड़ीसा सरकार को केन्द्रीय सरकार को सलाह देनी चाहिए कि 3 रुपये से कम डेली बेजेज नहीं होने चाहिए। यह एक मेरा प्रस्ताव है।

अभी फलड एफेक्टिव एरियाज बहुत से हैं जहाँ टैस्ट रिलीफ का काम शुरू नहीं हुआ। सरकार क्या करती है कि टैडर मांगती है और फिर सेंटिल करती है। वह ऐसे ही चल रहा है। तो कम से कम जहाँ पर ग्राम पंचायत

[श्री अनादि चरणदास]

परिषदें हैं, ग्राम सभा परिषद है वहाँ पर छोटे छोटे काम तो शुरू कर देने चाहिए ताकि मीके पर कुछ पैसा पहुँचे और वह खर्चा करके अपना काम चला सक।

इसके अलावा हर एक पचायत में दो तीन राशन शाप्स खोली जाय। लेकिन सरकार कुछ करती नहीं है। जब हम बोलते हैं तो कहा जाता है कि उसमें राजनैतिक फायदा उठाते हैं। राजनैतिक फायदा उसमें क्या है? चावल कोई राजनैतिक लोग धाड़े ही खाते हैं चावल सरकारी कर्मचारी सरपंच, ग्राम सभा के मेम्बर के जरिये बाटा जाता है और वहाँ के गरीब लोग खाते हैं। तो राजनैतिक आदमी फायदा क्या उठाते हैं?

एक बात और अत में कहना चाहता हूँ। बहुत सी जगहों को अभी तक साइक्लोन एफेक्टिव एरिया नहीं माना है जैसे जाजपुर का दशरथपुर ब्लाक। यह बिलकुल कोस्टल एरिया है और वहाँ पर हमारे गाँव से 25 मील दूर तक समुद्र का पानी आया था। लेकिन अब तक उसको साइक्लोन एफेक्टिव घोषित नहीं किया गया है। मेरी प्रार्थना है कि उसे साइक्लोन एफेक्टिव एरिया घोषित किया जाय और जैसे दूसरे लोगों को रिलीफ दी जाती है। वैसे ही हमें भी देनी चाहिए।

SHRI SAMAR GUHA (Contai) Sir, on behalf of the Socialist Party I express my deep sympathy for the cyclone victims in Orissa. I also convey, through you, my sincere condolences to the people who have lost their near and dear ones.

I should say I have a direct involvement in this catastrophe for the reason that my constituency is closest to Orissa and is in the coastal belt of the cyclone.

17 36 hrs

[MR SPEAKER in the Chair]

Although the casualties have not been very many, there has been destruction of hundreds of thousands of houses. Rece-

ntly, my constituency, Contai, was affected by floods. The rest of the harvest was devastated completely by the cyclone particularly in the Ramnagar area.

A few lakhs of people of the Contai area not only go every year but settle there. They are the main cultivators of Cuttack, Balasore and other areas. Thousands of people from my constituency have lost their lives. They have not only lost their lives but their harvest also. So many thousands of refugees who had settled there have also lost. It has become not only a calamity for Orissa but a national calamity, a calamity for all.

Instead of lamenting over what happened due to nature's fury, we have to see what are the problems before us. The Problems are twofold firstly, future protection, and secondly, the question of rehabilitation.

About future protection, although Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu very eloquently said that it is possible now-a-days in the days of advanced technology to reduce the speed of the gathering storm, I think technology has not advanced so much that it is possible to diffuse the fury of an advancing cyclone but it is possible to get to know quite in advance the nature and the speed of the gathering storm through the photographs and other things that we get through satellites. I do not know whether the Irrigation Ministry or the new Ministry of Science and Technology have developed this just to get an idea in advance about where the storm is gathering, what is the speed and what is its direction. Have they got that to give that fact to our Meteorological Department? That is absolutely essential.

I know, it is not an urban area where by the siren system we can give a warning. That is not possible. But it is not unknown that there are certain areas and certain times where and when people become victims of cyclone. It is during the monsoon and the locations are Orissa and the coastal belt of West Bengal and part of 24-Parganas. Every year these areas are frequented by different degrees of cyclone. Therefore, it is possible to locate the areas and specify the time that certain areas at certain

times are likely to be vulnerable to cyclone.

Now-a-days in every police station we have radio receivers and transmitters. It is possible to give a warning through important post offices. Of course, we may not save people or their property or harvest from the fury of the cyclone but it is possible to save lives if we can give a warning in time. That warning system can be devised through police stations, post offices and others.

I would make a request to the Minister—the Planning Minister was sitting here but now he is not there—that it is high time that a cell should be immediately constituted in the Planning Ministry to study the problem of cyclones, to locate the areas and also to fix the time, and to make a report to the Irrigation Ministry or the ministry concerned, so that certain precautionary measures can be taken. You can have long dykes along the sea coast. Also, certain precyclone warning arrangements can be made so that, in future, the people can be saved by giving warnings in time. That should be studied by some cell, by the science and technology department of the Planning Commission. I think, the Irrigation Ministry should make that suggestion to the Planning Commission.

Coming to rehabilitation, what are the problems? Firstly, you have to give immediate relief to the people. Secondly, you have to undertake the reconstruction of houses, schools and other Government buildings that have been damaged. The tubewells have also been lost. Thirdly, many harvests which were ripe have been lost. Fourthly, due to salinity, all the cultivable land has been lost. All these problems are there. The tubewells have to be dug, the houses have to be reconstructed and all that.

My apprehension is this. In my constituency, there have been three floods in the last five years. I know the way in which the Central teams work. I have a bitter experience of them. They have no sense of urgency. They do not do things promptly. The things should be done promptly when there is a natural calamity. In

view of the sufferings of the people, the things should be expedited. But that is not done. They take months and months. A recommendation is made from the Centre, a recommendation goes there and things are implemented when the sufferings of the people not only accumulate but they reach a point of, I should say, outburst. That is what is happening. This time also, during the flood and cyclone that has happened.

About reclamation, I do not say that it is very easy to de-saline those devastated areas affected with salinity. It is not so easy. But there are methods by which it can be washed out.

Then, as I said, you can have long dykes along the sea coast to prevent such a natural calamity.

Also, on many places, harvests which were ripe have been lost. There, an alternative crop can be tried and cultivated. That question has to be given immediate attention. Otherwise, there is bound to be famine in that limited area.

There is the question of giving loans, giving fertilisers, seeds, etc. It is not only that. The people are also to be educated about it. Unfortunately, in Orissa and in West Bengal, the people are not educated how to develop an alternative crop. Not only the facilities of fertilisers, seeds, agricultural loans should be given immediately but certain teams should be sent to those areas to educate the people how to develop an alternative crop.

Lastly, I have only one sad comment to make. Even in such a natural calamity, there is a lot of political controversy between different parties. It is a sad commentary on the character of the nation. Can we not rise above petty party considerations when the nature blasts us, when there is devastation by the fury of nature. How can you look at the partisan point of view? I find my congress friends, because their Government is not there, are accusing the State Government and those people who are running the State Government are trying to put the blame on the Central Government. It is a sad commentary on the character of

[Shri Samar Guha]

this nation. We should give up this attitude in the face of natural calamity. We shall have to develop a national perspective. Unless you develop a national perspective, I do not know how we can meet such a national crisis that we are facing today.

I have only one word to say to the hon. Minister that he may please expedite the recommendations of the Central team and see that those recommendations are implemented quickly.

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR K L RAO) : Mr Speaker Sir, I am most thankful to the hon Members for the very restraint way in which they have participated in this discussion because on an occasion like this, naturally, the tempers would have risen because of the colossal loss of innocent lives. Unfortunately, there has been a strain of distrust, as the last speaker, Shri Samar Guha, said about it. Unfortunately, that has been so.

If that was avoided, Probably, hon Members, I am sure, would have given a much more valuable suggestion and the Government would have been in a much better position for taking up further action. For example, some hon. Member accused the Prime Minister of not bothering about the sufferings of the people in the cyclone. I may submit that on this occasion the Prime Minister was most anxious about these occurrences.

Though she was far away engaged on the very difficult task of our country, she was so agitated that she was in constant touch with the Government of India and trying to find information about Orissa. Similarly, we should be grateful to the Finance Minister, hon Mr. Chavan, for having rushed to the spot at a time when, as soon as he heard about the cyclone, he rushed. So, I don't think there is any necessity for accusing either the Central or the State Government. Similarly, I find that some statements have been made about the State Government.

As far as I have moved with them, I find there is absolutely no difference between the two Governments. They are

working together. It is only in the hon. Members that I find that they have got some differences and gave expression to them on this occasion. As hon. Prof Samar Guha said, I will rather avoid it on this occasion. It is a very unfortunate occasion. It is a national disaster. There is no question about it. It is not confined to Orissa. The problem has to be viewed in that light.

I will give a small trouble to the hon. Members. I would like to explain a few points of importance in this connection. So I want to submit a big detail. Regarding the occurrence of cyclone, cyclone is a very complicated phenomenon on which man has not obtained any control so far. It just moves at the rate of ten miles an hour. It has got an eye, the central core where absolute calm prevails. Around it the wind blows on at the rate of 50 miles or 60 miles or 100 miles an hour. The greater the velocity of the wind, the greater the disaster. At the present moment, as hon Mr Jyotirmoy Bosu said, they used to depend on the ship's warning. Unfortunately, the ships are now going away. They have got much better equipment and as soon as they find some cyclone coming, they just avoid that area. So, we do not have that source of information. The Indian Meteorological Department which is really a good one and probably it is one of the best in the world, are trying to do their best to forecast the occurrence of these cyclones. Unfortunately, in the Bay of Bengal, these cyclones start every year in April-May and more so in October-November from the Andaman Islands which is the breeding place. From there they go on into the Bay, one after another and all command the longitude of 90° east. Round that line they travel for a while. Then suddenly they take a turn east or west. That is one peculiarity about these cyclones. You can never say unless you constantly watch them, in what direction it would move, whether it would go east or west. That turn occurs in the last 48 hours and that is what has happened here and for detecting this, the only information we have got at the moment is the one satellite set up by the United States. It goes over India every day between 10 and 11 O'clock in the morning. Then it radiates out

photographs and we have got equipment. I am very glad our Meteorological Department has manufactured an equipment by which they take simultaneously the photographs which are omitted by the Satellite and at all the places like Bombay, Calcutta, Madras and Delhi. That is the only information we get now. That comes, unfortunately, at 10 O'clock.

On the 28th they had this at 10 O'clock and then cyclone was right at the longitude of 90° East. It might move this way or that way. Next day also they got the photograph at 10. When they got it, it has already gone to the west and from then, the Meteorological Department thought that it was going to Contai our hon. Prof. Samar Guha's place because that was the indication they had at that time because they had to look into one photograph, but actually it took a turn and hit Paradip, a distance of 130 miles from Contai.

There has been the warning. The Meteorological Department gave the warning. The Collectors and the Chief Secretary were warned and the radio also announced it but they said that there was going to be a cyclone and depression on the East Coast of Orissa. That is the information they gave. In fact, when I went to the villages, I asked them about it. The unfortunate thing is this. The places where the largest amount of tragedy has occurred have been in Jambu island, Satbhaya area, Rajnagar area, and Gornai and they were absolutely inaccessible spots. There were huge creeks, waterways around, no road in that area. They were almost death-traps. There is no wireless, no telephone, nothing. So, even with regard to warnings also, even if they had been transmitted, they could not have reached them but they could get the warning through the transistor radios. I asked one of those people: "Have you not got any transistor? Why cannot you take the warning and run away from this place?" They said: "Well, Sir, this kind of warning comes very often; and we did not take notice of it." The Meteorological Department could not do anything better, because they have only one photograph to go by. They said the cyclone was going to hit Contai and therefore precautions have to be taken. Also they could not get from the

photograph the velocity of the cyclone. Therefore, want of the equipment was responsible for not getting the precise warning. The hon. Member rightly asked about the radar. In 1969 there was the worst disaster in Andhra. In 1970 it occurred in East Pakistan. In 1971 it came here. It is moving this side and that side. Even this year, the October 29th and 30th one is towards the east, on October 5, it went to Chittagong. It was going this way and that way.

At that time we realised the importance of the radar. With the radar we can see upto a distance of 250 miles. Upto 250 miles you can take a view of the cyclone, in what direction it is coming and from this some expert can say whether it is the violent one or the other one. That is a very limited data but information can be given out with regard to how it is coming etc provided the picture is within a distance of 250 miles.

The Meteorological Department decided to set up a series of radars all along the coast, more on the east coast of India and some on the West coast of India, because there also cyclones occur but not so severe, in the Arabian sea. The purchase of radars was sanctioned and they were all to be of indigenous manufacture; they were all to be manufactured by the Bangalore indigenous manufacturing concern. But unfortunately there was delay; there has not been delivery, with the result that one old radar obtained in 1961, was set up at Vizag. The Meteorological Department thought that the supply was taking a long time and so they wanted to buy from outside. The department took some time to sort the foreign exchange credit, where they can get from etc. Naturally by the time all this was done, considerable time elapsed it is rather unfortunate; I myself feel that we should have been much more quicker than this, we should not have taken 2 years. Tenders have been called for three of the radars, the one at Calcutta, the other at Paradeep and the other one at Madras. Opening of tender is tomorrow. Before next monsoon they will see that these radars are installed. Whatever it is, I may say, I am not satisfied. There has been some delay in this matter and it is really regrettable.

SHRI P. K. DEO : I want to know whether these frequent occurrences of cyclone are not due to the nuclear underground blasts

DR. K. L. RAO : I have not gone into that subject and I won't be able to say that

But generally, the east coast of India has been subject to cyclones every year. This has been so from the very ancient times. Actually, the worst cyclone like this occurred at the same point, that is, exactly where it has occurred this time, in 1885 also.

Now, the question is this. What shall we do about this? The radars will give the picture of the cyclone located at 250 miles. They cannot give the picture of the cyclone beyond that. What can we do about it then? Science has advanced so much and there are other methods available. The cyclones start east of the Andamans. We must be able to know what is happening beyond 250 miles also. In order to track it down, there is another device now, namely the geo-stationary satellite. This moves parallel to the earth, so that it is always stationary and it takes continuous photographs throughout the day, every 20 minutes or so. But then this geo-stationary satellite costs a bit high. It costs about 20 million dollars for the machinery only, then, its launching would cost another 6 million dollars, and the photographing equipment etc. would cost another 6 million dollars. So, it is a very costly one. The USA has already set up two such, one for the Atlantic and another for the Pacific. But they have left out this middle portion.

Now, France and Japan are coming forward to set up another two satellites, so that there could be a continuous map of the whole world right through the day, every second. Japan is setting one satellite in which we are interested because their satellite would cover our area, and Japan has offered to launch this satellite. Of course, they are asking for financial participation. Australia and we and Japan have got to share. But it is one of the devices which will help us to know everything about the cyclone. We can just spot the cyclone

and a continuous watch can be kept. Therefore, this device will be a very important and useful one.

There is also another device, namely the aircraft reconnaissance device. It is a special type of aircraft carrier fitted with equipment etc. The aircraft goes inside the eye, and then comes up and gives information about the temperature and everything else inside. In this way, we can get complete information about the inside and what is happening there. It will be able to measure the temperature, velocity and then radio and the whole data. A very good example of it functioning we had in regard to the November 5th cyclone. From the photographs of the satellite on November 4th, it was predicted that the cyclone was going to hit Orissa. But it just happened that a few hours after, in the early hours of 5th the weather reconnaissance aircraft which happened to be in the area, went in to the eye and measured the data and supplied all those data by radiating them to Delhi and Calcutta. From that, we could find out that it was not going to hit Orissa but it was going to hit south of Chittagong. Therefore, this weather reconnaissance aircraft is a very useful thing.

Actually, this matter was taken up last year itself. In the interests of science, some of the foreign countries are also offering to give us the measuring equipment. But then we must have a very strong aeroplane, some supersonic and not the small Dakotas for this purpose, because the aircraft has to go through the cyclone and then come out. We are trying to get one aircraft.

But, unfortunately, the rush on the finances of India is so much on all the sectors, that there is some delay in these matters and priorities are not fixed up for this equipment. However, I am certain that we shall be having the radar for Paradip.

There is, however, another trouble, and that is, that these radar units must be backed up by good communications, because the wireless, the phones, etc. get cut off just at that time. Therefore, we must have strong cable system or microwave

system, something which will not fail in spite of all difficulties, and information could be conveyed. For instance, on this occasion, Paradip was completely cut off. If only Calcutta had the information from Paradip just a few hours before, they would have been able to predict it much better, but Paradip was completely cut off and there was no information available from Paradip, because the wires were cut off. Therefore, I have requested my colleague the hon. Minister of Communications to look into this and try to develop the system cables or microwave communication so that these will be available in spite of every kind of trouble and they will be functioning.

In addition to the radar backed up by a good communication system the places that we want to protect must also have good communications by way of roads, and they must have boats etc. For example, in the Jambu Islands which Shri P.K. Deo had mentioned, there were so many creeks.

18 hus.

Suppose they had the warning, they could not have come out. There is no boat. I did not see any boat there. 40,000 to 50,000 people collected there. There are deep creeks there. It is impossible to come out, unless you have boats and the necessary road communications. Without these you cannot save the people. It is almost a kind of trap. Therefore, the communications are a very important factor. You must have road communications and wireless communication. You must have a radar. All these equipments are necessary for a precise warning. Then only you can save the people affected. If in spite of all these, the department had failed to convey the warning before hand, then you can find fault with it. Otherwise, it is not fair at the moment to find fault with the State Government or anybody for that matter.

Then if it had hit the Chilka lake, the position would have been much worse. There are so many islands there. One trouble with a cyclone is that if it hits water, it pushes up the water up considerably. Chilka contains a vast quantity of water and if it had hit it, all the islands would have got submerged and smothered. Therefore, it is very necessary for us to

take these precautions.

Then there are certain permanent measures to be taken. I have submitted in my statement that in addition to all these, you must have a high mound in every village. There must be a pucca building there so that if anything happens, the people could take shelter there. In this way 90 per cent of the affected people could be saved. This has occurred in densely populated areas because these are areas which are first class granaries for Calcutta and the Orissa coast. Now 10 per cent of the people died. With these precautions, we could have saved 90 per cent of the people who died.

We have requested the Orissa Government and they have kindly agreed to set up a Committee under the chairmanship of Dr. Khosla to go into all these aspects. We are trying to get some experts from Holland. In Holland, they have got this problem. In yesterday's papers you must have read that a big gale hit Netherlands and Scotland and a number of people died. Netherlands engineers are experts in this line. We have requested them to help. I am trying to get one or two engineers or experts. They will assist this Committee. They will go into the various aspects.

There was a suggestion made that there must be embankment all along. How far it will be helpful in Orissa has to be considered. In Orissa, the conditions are different. In the coastal areas, there is a huge quantity of water from the rivers and unless these are controlled, no such measure can help. In the case of Mahanadi, the waters are controlled by the Hirakund Dam. But in the case of Brahmini and Vaitarani, there are no such dams. So, we cannot stop the water. These are the problems to be solved.

This is why I have suggested that the Bhimkund and Rangali dams are of the utmost importance. They are a must both for controlling flood and tidal waves. If the people have to live safely in this area, you must have these two dams.

Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu said that in America they have NADWARN system,

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

that is natural disaster warning system. He said we should have installed that here. That is exactly what we did. As soon as the Andhra cyclone occurred and disaster took place, we appointed a Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee. It went thoroughly into the whole matter under the chairmanship of the Director General of Meteorology. They produced a very good report in March, 1971. It is a report that has won very high praise even from foreigners. They have gone into all details. They have related in detail what should be done, what precautions should be taken beforehand, during the cyclone and after the cyclone. Everything has been spelt out completely and nicely. This of course related to Andhra.

Immediately, I requested the Orissa Government to constitute another committee like this to go into the details. While the general principles are there, they must go into details with reference to the area concerned. They must go into each area and see how to deal with it. Chilka lake area, Mahanadi, the Puri area, and all along the coast including Balasore and other areas. The whole problem has to be discussed in detail. Similarly, in Calcutta from Midnapore right up to Sagar island and so on.

AN HON MEMBER : What is the name of that committee ?

DR. K. L. RAO : The Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committee. I will put a copy of this Report in the Library. The hon. Members can see it. It is a very useful one.

Also, the Indian Meteorological Department has prepared a large number of posters in Oriya, to make the people acquainted with cyclones. They have also brought out a film which is going to be shown. Now, I immediately appointed a committee with the concurrence of the Orissa Government to go into the cyclone in Orissa—the Cyclone Distress Committee of Orissa. Their report will be coming up in another two months. It will give all the details, what type of precautions are to be taken and what should be done, so that we can work out the details and the Government can take up

necessary steps.

We must be wise at least after the event. The unfortunate thing has happened. It was really an avoidable one. I agree. If only we had the equipment, the roads, the communication system, definitely, lives of most of the people, if not all, could have been saved.

Hon Members have mentioned about relief and so on. You may say that it is all right that Parliament has discussed it and taken note of it. But what we must concentrate upon and what is most important is this. The people want to get drinking water because all their tubewells, all their sources of water, have been dislocated, and have become completely saline. Therefore, out of 7,000 wells they have got, only 2,800 or so are working. All the rest have gone. The State Government is trying to appoint a number of contractors to put in a number of tubewells for drinking water. Unfortunately, in the coastal area of Orissa, if you want to get drinking water, you must dig up to 500 or 600 feet. You cannot get water if you dig just 100 feet or so. Because it is a coastal area, unless you pierce through the various layers and go deep, you cannot get fresh water. It takes time. Meanwhile, by tanks and by other methods, you must supply water. When I had been there, I found people drinking some saline water, and the only request that they made was to give them drinking water. So, we must try to work out and try to attend to the work for giving them good drinking water.

Then about housing. About housing, I have suggested to the State Government to buy the materials like roofing materials, etc. They think that distribution of money is much easier and so the money should be distributed. I thought that is not good. I have even yesterday talked to the hon. Mr. Mullick and he sent me a telex message saying that it would be difficult to issue the material and that he would rather prefer distribution of money. We have found in Maharashtra at the time of the Koyana earthquake that the State Government there did a commendable work, and the people were asked to put in walls and

so on, and the Government gave them some building material, and that was done with very great success. I think something like that must be done here also.

Then, about clothing. The people have lost their clothing; everything. So, drinking water, housing and clothing—these are very important. Added to that, there is need for food. My colleague has just gone out. He asked me to say that so far as food is concerned, whatever food they require to feed those people, will be given. There is no difficulty about food. About the distribution, we said it should be distributed freely. I told Mr. Mullick in the discussions, and as Mr. P.K. Deo also said, we must give them, food till we find an alternative employment for them, by which they can buy the materials. That is very important. So, this relief work must be started, and they have started some work. It has not picked up the momentum. There is plenty of work to be done in that area. If the people are engaged in the work, they can earn some money and with that money they can open fair price shops and also buy materials. So, there must be some method of giving them employment. Some hon. members said that this area is inhabited by the poorer sections of the society. It is all the more necessary that we should be very cautious in drawing up measures which are suited to the particular conditions.

With regard to money: I do not think there is any need to worry so much about it because there is certain formula. Government sends a Central team and that Central team gives its recommendations and it fixes an upper ceiling on the money that can be given. It is a matter of procedure. I do not think I have heard anything from the State Government that they were handicapped for want of money. In a matter like this I am sure the Government of India will definitely will give money. So far they have given only Rs. 5. crores. Naturally the Committee would come up with a higher figure. I think there has not been proper understanding of the problem, otherwise there would not have been this plea. So far as money is concerned, it may not be there for building dams. I would like to have money for building dams but they may not

give but so far as relief is concerned, so far as immediate resolution of the suffering of the people is concerned. I am certain that there is money and it will be given. There is no need to take any other view of the matter.

I am sorry I have taken more time. This is a national disaster and a national calamity and it is a matter for which we feel very sorry. The whole country is responsible for seeing that particular part off the country is rehabilitated.

There were three substitute motions. So far as Mr. Bosu's motion is concerned where he wants to get the American system I have already explained that we have done that. The other one is about the failure of the Indian Meteorological Department. I had replied to that also. I request them to kindly withdraw those two substitute motions.

The third motion standing in the name of Shri Chintamani Panigrahi expresses the deep sympathy of this House for those who have lost their lives in the cyclone and to the entire people of Orissa in their present hours of suffering. I suggest that the hon. House may kindly adopt this motion.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall put to vote the substitute motions.

SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY: I withdraw my motion.

MR. SPEAKER: Has the hon Member leave of the House to withdraw his motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

The motion was, by leave, withdrawn.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put to vote the motion of Shri Jyotirmoy Bosu.

The motion was put and negatived.

MR. SPEAKER: I shall now put to vote the motion of Shri Chintamani Panigrahi which the Minister has accepted. The

[Mr. Speaker]
question is.

'that for the original motion, the following be substituted, namely -

"This House, having considered the situation arising out of the recent cyclone in Orissa, expresses its deep sympathy for all those who have lost their lives in the cyclone and to the entire people of Orissa in their present hour of sufferings "

The motion was adopted

MR SPEAKER The next item is that of Mr Ghanshyam Oza

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSAYAM OZA) I have already moved that the Bill be taken into consideration and two hours had been allotted to this Bill

MR. SPEAKER Let us take it up later on, we shall fix up some time

18.15 Hrs

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SIXTH REPORT**

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND SHIPPING AND

TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) Sir, I beg to present the Sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

MR SPEAKER That brings us to the end of the agenda I hope all the Members from Orissa got time to speak. I am so happy that this very important matter has been discussed

SHRI P K DEO (Kalahanandi) May I know when the debate on foreign affairs is going to be held?

MR SPEAKER This is the second time you are raising it. I am not sure about the date We may have it on the 29th

SHRI RAJ BAHADUR As I submitted before the Business Advisory Committee this evening, let us wait for a few days

MR SPEAKER Yes I have no idea just now when to fix it up

18.16 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, November 24, 1971| Agrahayana 3, 1893 (Saka)