

enquired *inter alia* whether a land measuring 28.22 acres in village Nangal Raya, New Delhi, had been in possession of the Defence Ministry since 1942, and the time by which Government would pay the rental compensation to the land owners

2. In the answer given to the question it was stated that an area of 9.83 acres of land situated in village Nangal Raya of Delhi was requisitioned in the year 1943 and was still so held. Another area of 18.39 acres partly in village Nangal Raya and partly in village Tihar, was held on hire by the Ministry of Defence. In reply to the enquiry regarding payment of rental compensation it was stated that rental had been paid to the land owners upto 31st Dec. 1970. Rental for the period ending 31-12-71 was likely to be paid by end of September 72. Rental for the period ending 31-12-72 would be due for payment on or after 31-12-72, and was being assessed in consultation with the Deputy Commissioner, Delhi.

3. The above information related to the land which the Ministry of Defence have held on hire. The position in regard to the payment of compensation for the requisitioned land, which was inadvertently omitted from the main answer, is explained in the succeeding paragraph.

4. Compensation to the owners of 9.83 acres of requisitioned land was paid upto 10-6-46. Compensation for the period 11-6-46 to 11-6-55 was offered to the owners but they did not come forward to receive the same. The amount is now kept in revenue deposit. The compensation upto date will be paid promptly if the owners agree to accept the same.

5. The delay in making this correction is due to the fact that the Answer which is sought to be corrected was given on the 1st September 1972, and the House adjourned *sine die* shortly thereafter. Subsequently, some time has been taken in completing the administrative processes involved.

CORRECTION OF ANSWER TO USQ NO. 682 DATED 3-8-1972 RE. PRODUCTION IN NEYVELI LIGNITE CORPORATION

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): The production figure of 3.31 million tonnes in respect of lignite for the year 1970-71 appearing in part (a) of the Question to be read as 3.39 million tonnes. The discrepancy in the production figure of lignite sought to be corrected occurred due to a printing error in the 15th Annual Report of the Neyveli Lignite Corporation for the year 1970-71 (English Version) which came to notice much later.

12.02 hrs.

CALLING ATTENTION TO MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

UNPRECEDENTED FLOODS IN TAMIL NADU

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN (Wandiwash): I call the attention of hon. Minister of Irrigation and Power to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

"Recent unprecedented floods in Tamil Nadu causing heavy damage to property and the death of about one hundred persons."

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): A severe cyclonic storm with an inner core of hurricane force wind (118 km per hour and more) hit the Tamil Nadu coast near Cuddalore at 5 A.M. on December 6. After crossing the coast, it weakened into a depression and moved across the Peninsula and emerged into the Arabian Sea off Mysore-Kerala coast on December 8. Under the influence of the storm, very heavy rainfall ranging from 10 to 36 cms was recorded at a number of places in Tamil Nadu between December 5 and December 10.

The heavy rains and consequent floods in various rivers affected areas in the districts of Chingleput, South

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

Arcot, North Arcot, Tanjavur Dharampuri and Tiruchirappalli. Road and rail communications were disrupted. Large areas were inundated in Chingalpet, Tanjavur, South Arcot and Salem districts. 100 villages situated on the banks of rivers and streams were submerged. Considerable damage was caused to roads, bridges and culverts.

According to the assessment made so far by the State Government, standing crops over an area of 21000 hectares were damaged. Fifty one persons lost their lives in cyclone and floods. Ten are feared buried under debris caused by land slides in Nilgiri district. Thousands of cattle perished. About one lakh houses were damaged and 5 lakhs people rendered homeless. Nearly 400 irrigation structures were breached and damaged. The damage to these structures has been estimated at Rupees one crore and the total damage due to floods and cyclones as Rs. 20 crores.

The State Government made arrangements for rescue and relief operations in the affected areas. People were moved to places of safety and gruel centres were opened to feed them. Food packets were either air dropped or carried by mechanised boats to marooned people. An amount of Rupees one crore has been sanctioned by the State Government for flood relief operations. In addition, the State Government have undertaken the following special relief measures:

1. Increase in cash grant from Rs. 40 to Rs. 80 per family.
2. *Ex-gratia* grant of Rs. 2000 to bereaved families which lost bread earners.
3. Care of orphaned children by the State Government.
4. Liberal loan to agriculturists for replacing plough and milch cattle.

Steps have been taken by the State Government to close the breaches and

conserve water supply for irrigation and also for speedy repairs to roads, tanks and other structures damaged by floods.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: The cyclonic storm and the heavy rains have hit hard the people of Tamil Nadu, particularly Madras city and nine districts, namely, Chingalpet, South Arcot, North Arcot, Tanjore, Dharampuri, Trichy, Salem, Coimbatore, Nilgiri apart from Madras city. Roads, bridges and culverts have been completely damaged, and dislocated road and rail traffic all over the State, I think the report of the hon. Minister is not complete. According to news reports, the number of people who died is much more. I think the Minister will get a further statement and lay it on the Table of the House. People have been rendered homeless; not only that, even temples have not been spared. The Cyclonic storm had knocked down the *kalasam* of the *Gopuram* of the Nataraja temple at Chidambaram which is said to have been installed in 1240 AD during the days of the Pallavas. The Neyveli lignite mine, which is already the sick man of the South, was completely flooded. On December 7, there were floods and the water level was 45 feet and I am told it will take a month to pump it out. The fertiliser plant has been closed down.

Flood control projects in this country have been taken up from 1954 onwards on a scientific basis but I do not know why nothing has been done in Tamil Nadu. So far Rs. 185 crores had been spent on flood control projects; not a single rupee has been spent in Tamil Nadu. From 1954 to 1969, 6950 kms. of flood embankments have been constructed nothing in Tamil Nadu. 9170 kms. of drainage channels have been constructed, but not a single mile in Tamil Nadu. 4580 villages have been raised, not a single village in my State. 178 towns have been protected, not a single town from Tamil Nadu. So far the Government claim that they have protected 14.7 million acres and I do not know why not even a

single acre was protected in the State of Tamil Nadu.

MR. SPEAKER: Why are you talking about those things now?

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: It is concerned with floods. Out of the proposed Fourth plan outlay of Rs. 138 0 crores, Tamil Nadu has been given only Rs. 2 crores, 1.4 per cent. I want to know from the Minister why this treatment is given to Tamilnadu.

I understand there are four river commissions, there is one for Central India and Deccan rivers. What work has this commission been doing or is going to do in the future to save particularly the Deccan areas? What are they going to do in the future at least to stop this?

MR. SPEAKER: Please listen to me first. If it is once or twice it is all right. You start every sentence with a question, whereas the rules provide for one question. One ought to be clever about asking questions. Otherwise it will be inadmissible; you can put only one question according to the rules.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: I thought only time was allotted, not questions.

MR. SPEAKER: No, no, please.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: Are they going to provide detention basins and storage reservoirs? I want the Government to make an assessment of the strength of the fatchment areas so that the ponds and the lakes could be protected in the future.

The total damage, according to the Minister's statement is about Rs. 20 crores. Dr. Rao knows the subject thoroughly and he has served in the old Madras State. So, he knows the area also. I would request him to take up the cause and see that immediate financial assistance is given to the State. I do not know whether they are going to send a central team to assess the extent of damage. If

so, they should send the team immediately before the floods recede so that they can see for themselves how the damage is caused.

Finally, I would appeal to the Minister from Tamil Nadu, Mr. Subramaniam who has made a statement very recently that he will take more interest in Tamil Nadu politics. I welcome it and I request him also to take more interest in the welfare of the people by providing immediate relief measures.

DR. K. L. RAO: The hon. member said the information is not complete. The information I have given is according to what I received from the Tamil Nadu Government last night. The Tamil Nadu Government is still assessing the damages and it has not yet asked for a central team to visit the areas. As soon as the request is received a central team will be sent from here and as laid down by the Fifth Finance Commission, for any amount spent in excess of Rs. 50 lakhs assistance will be given to Tamil Nadu from the centre.

About the other question, there is difference between floods and cyclone. Floods are entirely different. The various measures he mentioned are meant for guarding against floods. Tamil Nadu is one of the few States which do not have any flood problem. About floods caused by cyclone, nothing can be done against this kind of nature's fury. We can only take measures to mitigate damages and loss of life due to the cyclone. In this particular case, I am glad to say that the Indian Meteorological Department gave warnings due to the radar set up recently in Madras. Very timely warnings were given and the less of life reported is not due to the cyclone directly but due to people crossing swollen rivers, electrocution, etc. That is different from flood-control measures like building embankments, detention

[Dr. K. L. Rao]

dams, etc. We have indicated to the Tamil Nadu Government the measures which can be taken to mitigate damages due to cyclones.

SHRI K. BALADHANDAYUTHAM (Coimbatore): From the Minister's statement it looks as if the Central Government are not concerned at all with the devastation that has taken place because of the cyclonic storm. He says he received information from the State Government only last night. Far from waiting for the State Government to come to them with any statement, it must be the concern of the Central Government to rush to the aid of states, placed as they are in a very difficult financial position, in matters of relief and rehabilitation. Apart from that, the statement shows that there is nothing to be done by the Centre in the matter of relief and rehabilitation.

The Minister said, warning was given about the cyclonic storm. When science has developed so much, how is it that every time even though warning is given, the warning is not taken to the people? When you are releasing waters from the dams, warning is not given to the people. Low-lying areas are flooded. Roads are washed away. A family which was going to Tirupati in a car was washed away and the inmates went to *kailas*. Railway tracks, telecommunication, everything is disrupted. For five days, there were heavy rains causing floods but no warning was given. I suggest that our warning system should include not only warning about cyclone but also about the amount of rains likely to follow and the dams which are in the danger of being breached.

The Minister said, 400 irrigation structures have been washed away. I would request the Minister to apply his mind more to this question of giving warning about the rains, dams, etc., so that people living in low-lying areas or people travelling

by road or train may not lose their lives. The damage has been unprecedented. The State Government has come forward to spend Rs. 1 crore. The statement made by the Minister that the damage is only about Rs. 20 crores is an under-estimation. I would like to know how far they are going to take the responsibility for rebuilding these tanks and lakes. We have been wanting rains, particularly in my constituency. If the rain waters could have been conserved in these lakes and tanks, this cyclone would have been a blessing in disguise. But there is more than one breach in each lake and 400 structures have been washed away. Nearly 21,000 hectares of crop has been destroyed when we are having a food crisis already. What are your plans to learn a lesson from this and build up the irrigation structures in a way that such a damage is not caused?

Even with regard to relief, helicopters or boats were not rushed in time. In such matters, expedition counts more. If the Central Government had geared all their resources and gone to the rescue of the State, I am sure the damage and loss of life would not have been so much. I am afraid I have to come with a strong condemnation of the complacency on the part of the Central Government. The Minister said that they never expected floods in Tamil Nadu. That does not mean that even when there is some damage due to floods, the Centre should not go to the help of the State. I want to know what steps are going to be taken immediately by way of relief and what is the amount they are going to give by way of assistance? The State Government has asked for Rs. 3 crores. I do not think it will be adequate. The Central Government should be liberal in giving assistance. I want to know what steps they are going to take to rebuild those irrigation structures and see that if there is another flood, such breaches do not take place. The

Minister said that above Rs. 50 lakhs, the Central Government will be giving assistance. If there is some indication as to how far the Central Government would help, that will be very useful.

DR. K. L. RAO: I have already submitted that the State Government has not completed its assessment. On receipt of that information, the Central Government will send a team consisting of representatives of the Finance Ministry, Planning Commission, etc., to assess the exact requirements for relief. After that assistance will be given by the Centre. About the irrigation structures, the State Government has already taken steps and they are trying to close all the breaches so that the water is conserved for the crops. Any assistance that the Government of Tamil Nadu asks will be given.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU (Nagapattinam): Sir, out of 14 districts in Tamil Nadu, about 8 districts were badly affected by the cyclone and heavy rains. It seems that most of the rice belt was affected. Perhaps, there will be food crisis in future because standing crops were damaged. Whatever it may be, whether it is drought or flood, the first victim is agricultural labour and poor peasants and also the poor strata of people in urban areas.

According to the statement, it is about 5 lakh people who have lost their houses. The total cost of damage is estimated at about Rs. 20 crores. The State Government has requested the Central Government for aid of Rs. 3 crores. I believe, that is not sufficient. We want more than that.

Then, according to the statement, 400 irrigation structures were damaged. It is not only irrigation structures. I want to say one thing here. I come from Tanjuvar district where 14 lakh acres of paddy are cultivated. There was a continuous agitation

from the peasants that the drainage system should be modernised and properly built. But so far, the Central Government has not come forward to help and see that the drainage system is properly built up. In order to prevent damages in future during floods and heavy rains, I want to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to appoint a study team to go over the question of not only irrigation structures but also the drainage system there. In order to avoid damages to crops there, are they going to appoint a study committee early?

DR. K. L. RAO: There is no proposal to appoint any study committee. The modernisation of Cauvery delta is for saving the waters and for extending irrigation and that is mixed up with the problem of allocation of waters from Cauvery. That problem is entirely different. If the hon. Member gives me any suggestions in regard to the problem of cyclone damages and if any particular schemes are necessary they will be taken up.

SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN (Tellicherry): At the very outset, I should say that the statement made by the hon. Minister is rather casual and disappointing because in the statement, there is hardly any mention of it and even after when he replied to the questions by the hon. Members who preceded me, he has not come out concretely as to how they are going in a big way to help Tamil Nadu which is facing a very peculiar situation now.

About the cyclone the Government says that they got the reply from the State Government only yesterday night. For the last one week, all the newspapers coming from Tamil Nadu and all the newspapers in the country have been reporting about the cyclone and the havoc it has created there. Now, in the statement it is stated that the damage is estimated to be Rs. 20 crores. In the latter part of the statement, the Government says as to what

[Shri C. K. Chandrappan].

the State Government is going to do with regard to relief measures. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government will take steps immediately to send a study team from the Centre, as you have done in the case of Kerala two years back to make an on-the-spot study of the situation and to assess the extent of loss and then take an immediate decision to give help and relief in a big way. The Minister has already said that Rs. 20 crores' loss is the loss as estimated now; it is not the final estimate. The real loss will be much more. What you have promised Rs 3 crores, is hardly sufficient. Taking this into account, I want to know whether the Minister will make a categorical assurance in the House that, after he has come to know of the real loss, he will meet the requirement of Tamil Nadu in a big way and at least give a substantial portion of the loss by way of relief.

These are my questions to which I want replies.

DR. K. L. RAO: I have already said that this report is almost a verbatim quotation from the State Government's report. In fact, there was no information received and I spoke to the Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu Government yesterday in the mid-day, and this information was received. We cannot go by what the newspaper says. We have to depend on Government sources. We have no sources of our own. The State Government has to give us information. They are still collecting the figures and the information that they have given is up-till yesterday. Still they are collecting. It is very difficult to go into those areas hit by cyclonic storm. The moment the information is collected and forwarded to us, a team will be sent to assess the damages and according to the assessment of the team, financial assistance from the Central Government will be forthcoming.

श्री हरी सिंह (बुज) : अध्यक्ष महोदय तमिल नाडु के काफी बड़े हिस्से में बाढ़ और

तूफान आया था और इसी वर्ष सितम्बर के महीने में इसी तरह का कोयम्बतूर जिले में भी बड़ा तूफान और बाढ़ आई थी। लेकिन उसके बावजूद भी तमिल नाडु सरकार की आँखें नहीं खुली। मुझको यह सुनकर और मन्त्री महोदय के वक्तव्य को पढ़कर ताज्जुब होता है कि इस बाढ़ और तूफान की सूचना हमारे मौसम विभाग के जरिए 24 घण्टे पहले पहुंच गई थी लेकिन तमिल नाडु की सरकार सोती रही और वह अपनी राजनीति में मुक्तिला रही। वह कोई तबज्जह नहीं दे पाई और यहाँ तक हुआ कि वहाँ के जो अफसरगन थे वे और उनके बीबी बच्चे बाढ़ की जो ब्यूटी थी उसे देखने में दिलचस्पी लेते रहे।

इम स्टेटमेंट को देखने से मुझे यह भी पता लगा है कि राज्य सरकार ने बाढ़ राहत कार्यों के अन्तर्गत बतौर विशेष सहायता के नगद अनुदान प्रति परिवार को 40 रुपये से बढ़ाकर 80 रुपये कर दिया है। इस अभूतपूर्व बाढ़ के कारण सम्पत्ति को भारी क्षति हुई है तथा लगभग 100 व्यक्तियों की जाने गई है, हजारों की संख्या में पशुओं की जाने गई, हजारों झोपड़े बह गए हैं और लोगों की फसले बिल्कुल बर्बाद हो गई है। उनको यह 80 रुपए का नगद भुगतान बिल्कुल अपर्याप्त होगा। वह धनराशि देना सताए हुए लोगों का मजाक बनाना है।

जिस हिस्से में यह अभूतपूर्व बाढ़ और तूफान आया है वहाँ के गरीब, पिछड़े व शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट के मुसीबतजदा लोगों को राहत पहुंचाने की दिशा में राज्य सरकार द्वारा बड़ी उदासीनता की नीति बरती जा रही है जबकि उच्च वर्ग के लोगों की ओर उसके द्वारा ज्यादा ध्यान दिया जा रहा है। शैड्यूल्ड कास्ट के लोगों के साथ मुसीबत के समय में भी भेदभाव बरता जा रहा है।

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: On a point of order. He says there is discrimination between Harijans and Hindus. He is speaking untruth.

Why should he make politics out of this? We are already hit hard by the cyclone

MR. SPEAKER If you talk of Central Government, that is not politics, but if he talks of Tamil Nadu that is politics What is this?

श्री हरी सिंह इस तूफान और बाढ़ के फलस्वरूप जो वहाँ के लोगों की सम्पत्ति को भारी क्षति हुई है और हजारों शोपडे बह गये हैं व फसले नष्ट हो गई हैं उनको राहत पहुंचाने की दिशा में वीकर नैक्शन को नेगलेक्ट किया जा रहा है।

मन्त्री जी ने जो यह कहा है कि जो लोग भ्रनाथ हो गए हैं उनकी सरकार द्वारा देखभाल की जाएगी तो मैं पूछना चाहता हूँ कि जिनके मा-बाप इस बाढ़ और तूफान में बह गए हैं ऐसे निराश्रित बच्चों के बास्ते 25 साल की उम्र तक के लिए कोई पेशन की व्यवस्था की जाएगी और सरकार उनकी पढाई-लिखाई और भोजन-वस्त्र आदि की व्यवस्था करेगी? इसके साथ ही मैं यह भी कहना चाहूँगा कि जिन छोटे-छोटे किसानों की फसले नष्ट हो गई हैं उनके लिए दो, तीन साल तक जब तक कि वह अपनी कोई नई फसल पैदा न कर पाएँ उनको क्या जल्द से जल्द राहत पहुँचाई जाएगी और क्या उन्हें कोई मुआवजा तमिल नाडु सरकार देगी? क्या उन पीड़ित किसानों के बच्चों के लिखाने-पढ़ाने का भार 5 वर्षों के लिए राज्य सरकार अपने ऊपर लेगी?

DR. K. L. RAO: I have no information about the points that the hon Member has raised I would only say that it is the poorer sections that suffer most in such natural disasters If the hon. Member has any particular instance, he can send it to me and I will forward the same to the State Government and see if necessary action is taken.

12.31 hrs.

MR. SPEAKER: Papers to be laid.

SHRI K BALADHANDAYUTHAM (Coimbatore) Sir, I have a submission to make There have been some raids by the Enforcement Directorate in Tamil Nadu on the houses of the some leading members of the Government

The Chief Minister has gone on record saying that it is a deliberate harassment I would like the Minister to clarify the position

MR SPEAKER Yesterday, Mr Vayalar Ravi brought this to my notice and to-day so many other members have come with a number of motions regarding this, I think there are about eight of them—from both sides

Will the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs bring it to the notice of the Minister concerned—we will send all these motions to him—so that he may see and come forward with some statement on it?

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी (ग्वालियर) बम्बई के बारे में भी काल अटेशन दिया गया है। जो स्मर्गलिंग करते हैं उनको सस्ते छोड़ दिया जाता है।

अध्यक्ष महोदय हाऊस में मेरे सामने काल अटेशन का जिक्र आप न किया करे।

श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी वह भी तो काल अटेशन का जिक्र कर रहे हैं।

अध्यक्ष महोदय वह काल अटेशन का जिक्र नहीं कर रहे हैं। वह तो बीसे ही है।

SHRI PILOO 'MODY (Godhra) You have been good enough to allow us a discussion—one-hour discussion—of the Faridabad Medical College affairs I hope this would be hurried up and expedited because the students are getting restive