

the officers and you are not telling about them.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Sometimes, officers are over enthusiast. However whenever we receive any complaints in this regard, we conduct an inquiry and corrective measures are also taken.

SHRI V. TULSIRAM: Please tell the exact number of people against whom action has been taken.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Pujan Patel—Not present.

Shri M. Raghuma Reddy—Not present.

Shri Bhadreshwar Tanti—Not present.

Today Shri Tanti is also not present.

Shri Debi Ghoshal.

[English]

Central Assistance for Cyclone affected Victims in West Bengal

*539. SHRI DEBI GHOSAL: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have released funds for recent cyclone affected victims of West Bengal;

(b) if so, the amount sanctioned and released; and

(c) the expenditure reported by West Bengal Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI B.K. GADHVI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). A ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 13.54 crores was approved by the Union Government. The State Government have

reported a total expenditure of Rs. 13.48 crores including anticipated expenditure upto March, 1989. On the basis of the approved pattern for financing relief of natural calamities, Central Government have so far released Rs. 762.51 lacs to the State Government for cyclone relief. Further amounts would be due to the State Government only on receipt of expenditure details.

SHRI DEBI GHOSAL: Sir, you must be knowing that most of the victims of the cyclone are from the districts of South 24 Parganas and Midnapore. Those are the two districts where people are most affected. So far as our report goes — the area of South 24-Parganas is very vast — the relief work so far has either not been started in most of the areas or even if it has started, it has started in such a slow speed that hardly one can expect relief out of the money sanctioned by the Central Government. Will the Government be more vigilant in making sure that the money that has been sanctioned so far has really been spent by this time and if not, they can spend it and give to the affected people at the earliest. It is already too late for these people to get the relief.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: Sir, I quite appreciate the concern of the hon. Member that money meant for the beneficiaries must reach them. The Centre as such *per se* is not the implementing agency. But we rely upon the statement of expenditure submitted to us by the State Government and on that basis we give the money within the ceiling approved by the High Level Committee on Reliefs and in this respect, as I have already stated that up till now we have received a total expenditure, as reported by the State Government, of Rs. 13.48 crores in which they have some anticipated expenditure also up to March 1989 and on that basis taking into account the margin money and other things they have already released Rs. 762.51 lakhs of the state Government and I have already stated in my main answer that on receipt of the further expenditure statement, the balance would be released to them. But I wish that the State Government also should make more efforts to see that

beneficiaries are benefited really. For the information of the hon. Member I say that for the direct relief to the affected population the money earmarked is Rs. 2.73 crores, for rehabilitation purposes it is Rs. 7.91 crores and for repair and restoration of the public properties, roads etc., it is Rs. 2.90 crores.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Sir, one block in my constituency, Hingalganj block, was particularly devastated by the cyclone and after some time an inspection team was sent from here as is the practice. Already we have had a Conference in Raj Bhavan in Calcutta where Central Ministers were present along with State Ministers and various officials and the local representatives of the people. I want to know from the Minister what was the estimated expenditure according to the State Government which is necessary in order to fulfil the necessary relief operations, what was the amount which they asked for. And this amount of Rs. 13.54 crores which is being sanctioned by the Central Government and is said to be the ceiling, that means, they are not prepared to give more than that, how has this amount of Rs. 13.54 crores been calculated, on what heads? The heads which were read out just now with the amounts do not total up to anywhere near this amount, even this amount.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: This is the disbursed amount.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: But I want to know what was the demand of the State Government, how much they require. Over 70,000 to 80,000 heads of cattle perished, Sir. Lakhs of houses were destroyed. I went there, I saw for myself, the heavy loss of life, all the crops were ruined, the village fields have been rendered incapable of being cultivated and there was really a tremendous damage which requires much more than this amount. I want to know how much the State Government asked for and in response to that, what is the amount which the Government has sanctioned and how they have calculated it.

SHRI B.K. GADHVI: The hon. Member

being a very senior Member of the House is aware that help by the Central Government is just an enabling help to the State Government to go to the succour of the people who are affected by natural calamities. It is also the duty of the State Government to give relief. But under the Finance Commission's recommendations some norms have been set out. The State Government initially asked for Rs. 52.92 crores and later on they submitted an additional memorandum for Rs. 1,10,00,000 and the team which went there recommended after seeing on the spot Rs. 15.23 crores for relief. But some of the recommendations were beyond the norms and therefore, the High Level Committee on Reliefs which is here came to the conclusion that the ceiling of Rs. 13.50 crores should be fixed and accordingly whenever the statement of expenditure comes, we are releasing the money. This takes into account also the marginal money. The figure which I gave earlier about the direct relief to the people as others is actually Rs. 13.54 crores which we have earmarked and that is the ceiling approved by the High Level Committee on Reliefs. I quite agree that two districts, namely, the North 24-Parganas and South 24-Parganas were severely affected districts and the loss also of human lives and cattle was colossal. But this is the pattern applied for all the States—West Bengal and others.

It is because in 1988, about 21 States were affected by the floods.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Are you prepared to give any loans?

SHRI DEBIGHOSAL: A large portion of Sunderbans area, in the district of South 24 Parganas and North 24 Parganas is affected and at least 12 to 15 blocks are affected by unprecedented cyclone which took place on 29-11-1988. After that, our Union Minister of State for Agriculture visited almost all the spots and held discussion with the State Government and its Ministers. A few days back, I visited 24 Parganas district South and met some Ministers of the Government of West Bengal.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister that though up to this time, Rs. 30.5 crores have been sanctioned, not more than 50% of the total money allocated by the Government of India has been disbursed by the Government of West Bengal. In this regard, I would like to know whether he would immediately send one Central team to visit all the blocks to see whether the sanctioned money is properly utilised by the State administration, timely and properly.

MR. SPEAKER: You put the question, no question of dialogue.

SHRI DEBI GHOSAL: The Government of India sanctioned money in the month of December, 1988 and today it is April, 1989. I would like to know whether the money is properly utilised. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You put the question. What can I do?

SHRI DEBI GHOSAL: The money allocated is not disbursed timely and purposely. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: You should not take all the time of the House. You put the question. It is not like this.

SHRI DEBI GHOSAL: I have come to know from some source that the amount would be disbursed at the time of elections...

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Does he want that the Central Government should go and intervene in the relief work of the State Government?

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: He is making a statement and allegation. *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. I cannot allow. It is over-ruled.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. SPEAKER: Will you take your seat? Or, I will ask you to withdraw.

Strategy for Export of Cashew Kernel

*540. SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the export of cashew kernel has shown a declining trend during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government formulated any strategy to improve the exports;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the additional exports generated thereby during 1988-89 and likely to be generated in coming years?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) to (b). A statement is given below.

STATEMENT

From Rs. 225.11 crores in 1985-86, India's export earnings from cashew kernels rose to Rs. 334.11 crores in 1987-87 and showed a slight decrease to Rs. 332.11 crores in 1987-88. In the first 11 months of 1988-89, exports were Rs. 254.80 crores (provisional). The main reasons for the decline in the year 1988-89 have been a decline in the unit value realisation by about 8% in the international markets, higher production of lower priced cashew nuts by Brazil, the disturbance caused to trade due to change in policy relating to procurement of cashew in Kerala and competition from almonds, pistachios, etc.

The Government is keeping the situation under constant review and taking measures wherever possible. These include publicity abroad through brochures and other publicity material, participation in International Food Fairs abroad and sponsoring trade delegations to visit traditional as well as potential markets. With a view to increasing availability of cashew nut for processing