

Nagapattinam district is not accessible at all because of a large number of breaches in the link roads and also road-blocks created by the uprooted trees. Traffic was worst hit in the entire Nagapattinam district.

Our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is visiting the flood-affected areas today to have an on-the-spot study of the situation. The Chief Minister has already sanctioned Rs. 10,000 to the next-of-kin of the deceased. Relief operations are in full swing. Ten days back, in Nilgiri district due to landslide near Coonoor, more than 70 people have been buried alive. Several huts were wiped out. Traffic was completely cut off. In Madurai district, we have lost more than 25 people. Severe damage has been caused to standing crops, roads and bridges. So, altogether we need more than Rs. 500 crore for giving relief to the affected people. A Central team must be sent immediately to Tamil Nadu to assess the situation and the damage caused due to this. I urge upon the Central Government to give financial assistance to help the relief operation immediately.

MR. SPEAKER : Well, I think, this will take some time for discussion. I am going to allow it. [*Interruptions*].

MR. SPEAKER : Please take your seat

12.04 Hrs.

INTRODUCTION OF MINISTER [*English*].

MR. SPEAKER : With your permission, I will allow the Prime Minister to introduce the new Minister.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, I have the honour to introduce, rather re-introduce, my Commerce Minister, Mr. Pranab Mukherjee.

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO) : Sir, on the point raised by my friend, I have just requested Balamji to pay a visit immediately. It is not good, while the thing is on, for

the people to go from outside because that dislocates the arrangements being done there. The hon. Member has said that the Chief Minister is also visiting, tomorrow she will visit, Sir, and later on, after a few days, I myself could visit.

[*Interruptions*].

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (VIJAYAWADA) : Sir, in Andhra Pradesh, paddy crop have been damaged. [*Interruptions*].

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR) : Sir, I have taken steps. I have asked the Relief Commissioner of my team to be already on the move. They will get the information and they will give a report. I myself will be going and we shall coordinate all these things.

Secondly, regarding the situation in Latur where the earthquake had taken place, I would like to make a statement tomorrow so that we can have a full discussion on that also. [*Interruptions*].

MR. SPEAKER : This is an interim statement. We will take it up later. [*Interruptions*].

SHRI RAM NAIK (BOMBAY NORTH) : Sir, we have had three bomb blasts. Yesterday, when the Rajdhani Express was coming from Bombay to Delhi there was a bomb blast in that train. Again, from Howrah to Delhi, there was another bomb blast. There was fire in the third train. These are serious things. In the last one year there have been 12 bomb blasts in Bombay suburban trains and now, this is going on. I feel that the railway security is not being looked after properly. So, I demand that there must a statement from the Railway Minister about all these instances which include the security arrangements which are being made because if it happens in the Rajdhani Express where every passenger is being checked, it means security is not there. So, I demand a statement from the Railway Minister and Sir, you should kindly allow a full-fledged discussion because there have been so many acci-