

would not be imported for the next two years. Later on it was said that no export would be made for the next two years, but despite all these statements the import of wheat is being done. Therefore, I want to submit that it is a big scandal. The Government does not want to pay remunerative price to the Indian farmers. This condition in the country would have never arisen. Therefore, a discussion should be held on this issue.

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have also given a notice for an Adjournment Motion on it, what happened to my notice; what is decision on it?

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR (Ballia): Mr. Speaker, Sir, the leader of the Opposition has given a suggestion just now. The issue related to farmers, fertilizers and wheat is of grave concern. There is a widespread resentment among the farmers that is why he has given notice of an Adjournment Motion. I feel that leaving aside all the other business, the House should discuss this issue first because the condition of the country is very dreadful. In my opinion the import of wheat will cause frustration among our farmers. There can be nothing more shameful on the part of the House and the Nation that we go in for import of wheat to feed our people.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, Sir, this is the most vital issue in comparison to other issues. So, I would like that a discussion should be held on it in the House. You kindly allow discussion on it so that we can participate in

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all of us had gone to jail. The port was gheraoed.... and if such thing happens we will do it again.....

[English]

MR. SPEAKER: How does the Government respond to this proposal? .

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY

AFFAIRS (SHRIGHULAM NABIAZAD): Sir, as far as the Government is concerned, we are ready for the discussion. We do not have any objection as far as the discussion is concerned.

MR. SPEAKER: Well, I know that the Adjournment Motions have been given and they are with me. Strictly speaking as per the rules, the position is little different, but if the Government is willing, I shall have no objection for a discussion on it. But I would rather request the representatives of different parties to meet me immediately after I retire to the Chamber. We can chalk out the timetable for the discussion of this issue itself, it need be today....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: If you do not let me speak, what will you listen?

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE (Lucknow): Mr. Speaker Sir, not only the discussion but the form of the discussion is also important.

MR. SPEAKER: That too will be done.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: If the Adjournment Motion is taken up, then the Government will be condemned. If the discussion is conducted then.....

MR. SPEAKER: We will discuss about all those aspects.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: Will it be decided?

12.08 hrs.

RE: FLOOD SITUATION IN TAMIL NADU, KARNATAKA, KERALA AND OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY

[English]

SHRI R. NAIDU RAMASAMY (Periyakulam): Mr. Speaker, Sir, I draw the

attention of the House to the Congress Government's callous disregard of the grim flood situation in Tamil Nadu.

The recent cyclone has ravaged the districts of V.O. Chidambaram, Nallai-Kettabomman, Kanyakumari, Ramanathapuram, Madurai, Kamarajar, Dindigul-Anna, Periyar, Nilgiris, Tanjore, and Quai-de-Millath in Tamil Nadu. 230 persons have lost their lives and 1,43,000 houses have been destroyed. Standing crops on 50,000 hectares of land have been submerged. 151 major roads and so many major bridges have been breached. 61 landslides took a heavy toll of human lives. The damage is put at Rs. 530 crore.

Our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu - Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi - stood shoulder to shoulder with the grief-stricken people of Tamil Nadu and personally supervised relief operations. Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi has immediately sanctioned Rs. 45 crores for relief operations. The cyclone is unprecedented and comparable only to the disaster of 1923. Yet the Congress Government has sanctioned a petty amount alone. This shows the blatant discrimination of the Congress Government against the people of Tamil Nadu and the utter neglect of the people of Tamil Nadu by the Congress Party. All the M.Ps. here from Tamil Nadu have received the support of the people of Tamil Nadu through All India Anna D.M.K. Keeping this in mind, the Central Government must provide Rs. 530 crores as special assistance for flood relief operations in Tamil Nadu. Thank you. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): Sir, much damage has been done in Kerala also. The situation there is also very serious. We want the Government to take action in this regard. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: I am allowing Shri Anbarasu to speak.

SHRI ANBARASU ERA (Madras Central): Sir, many parts in southern districts of Tamil Nadu have been devastated by flood and rain resulting in loss of many lives

and destruction of property. In Madras city also, in particular, many slum areas in Central Madras were submerged in the floods and thousands of huts were gutted by floods. I am happy that the Central Government very promptly and quickly constituted a committee under the able leadership of hon. Minister Shri Balram Jakhra and the committee visited the area. In fact the State Government has disregarded and disrespected the committee. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M.R. KADAMBUR JANARTHANAN (Tirunelveli): It is not at all correct. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANBARASU ERA: The Prime Minister has allocated Rs. 21 crores for immediate relief. (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD): I request Shri Anbarasu to kindly sit down.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN (Roseria): Mr. Ghulam Nabiji, why are you presenting him from expressing his views? Let him speak. (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRIMATI SUSEELA GOPALAN (Chirayinkil): Sir, there were three consecutive floods in Kerala. Hundreds of lives have been lost. Nearly Rs. 1,900 crores worth of property is actually destroyed. Thousands of house sites and houses have been lost. Great damage has been done in Kerala. But, so far, in spite of repeated request relief is not given from the Centre. Shri Balram Jakhra visited our State. Once he had an aerial survey. The second time he did not even go to see the State. Whatever given is given as relief. That is Rs. 32 crores. Out of this Rs. 10 crores has already been availed. The balance is only Rs. 22 crores only. The other money given is given as advance amount. That means no developmental work in Kerala will take place.

Sir, this is a national havoc. In Karnataka,

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Tamil Nadu and Kerala nearly Rs. 1,500 crores worth of things have been destroyed. It is not possible for any. State Government to deal with such a situation. So, enough aid should be given.

I may add here that the Ninth Finance Commission had specially noted that if, in any region, such a calamity of such a dimension and severity occurs, the situation has to be handled at the national level. We are confident that the Centre will take appropriate action as the situation demands and incur necessary expenditure.

We demand that adequate relief, which should be additional help - not the usual advance amount which will spoil the entire development of the State - should be provided. We want that additional help should be given by the Centre to Kerala. *(Interruptions)*

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (Ernakulam): Sir, in the month of October and in the month of November two major flood States, Tamil Nadu and Kerala, have been adversely affected. But so far they have not got adequate support from the Central Government. More than 100 people died during these floods and the loss of property is widespread. So, our request to the Central Government is that adequate financial assistance should be given to the States of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Shri Balram Jakharji visited both the States and he is aware of the situation. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI C.K. KUPPUSWAMY (Coimbatore): Sir, it is a serious situation.... *(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: I have allowed your party Member. Now, Shri Sriballav Panigrahi.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI (Deogarh): Sir, there have been no rains in the large areas of Orissa particularly western parts of the State and a few places of southern Orissa since the first part of September. As a result, the crop conditions have been very adversely affected and the State is heading towards a severe drought. The unfortunate part of it is that the State

Government is not alive to the situation. I would request the Government of India and the Agriculture Ministry to send a team for a study of the situation and for a proper appreciation of the situation there and take necessary measures. The situation there is deteriorating day by day and even paucity of drinking water would pose a problem before long. I would, therefore, request the Agriculture Minister, who is present here, to take cognizance of the situation and send a Team for studying the situation there and recommending all necessary measures. *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha): There must be a discussion on the flood situation, Sir. *(Interruptions)*. On the flood situation in Kerala and Tamil Nadu there should be a discussion.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Dattatraya Bandaru.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Mr. Speaker, Sir, there was heavy damage to crops in 13 districts of Telangana and Rayalaseema regions of Andhra Pradesh due to drought conditions. There was an acute problem of drinking water and cattle fodder.

12.18 hrs.

[MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

The drought resulted in severe fall in crop yield during the kharif season.

The nature's fury has again hit the Andhra coast and more than 10 lakh acres of crop in the coastal districts of Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, Krishna, Nellore, Guntur and East and West Godavari districts was washed away in the devastating cyclone that hit in the second week of November, 1992. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Regarding the discussion on floods everybody will have a chance.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Regarding drought and flood havoc everybody will have a chance to speak.

(Interruptions)

SHRIDATTATRAYABANDARU: There was damage to about 3 lakh acres of standing crop in East Godavari district alone. The banana and other fruit plantations in Nellore district were completely washed away. There is overall failure of Rabi crop. Similar is the situation in the Tamil Nadu State.

But it is most unfortunate that the Government has failed to assess the loss as yet and announce relief to the farmers. I demand that the Union Government should send a team of officials immediately to assess the total crop loss in the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu and also sanction an immediate relief of Rs. 250 crores to the States of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

I also appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to issue instructions to the Food Corporation of India to purchase the de-coloured and damaged paddy from the farmers of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu without any pre-condition. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH (Fatehpur): We visited that place. Four farmers have been killed there *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are two important things; one is flood havoc and the other is drought situation. So, those who are interested to speak about flood havoc and drought situation will have their chance to speak. Now, we shall hear one by one.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: As far as Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka are concerned, there is flood havoc and as far as the States of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh are concerned, there is a

severe drought. So, you all can have your say. Please take your seats.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Whatever you say on the floor of the House should go on record; the concerned Minister should hear it and then only he will be in a position to give some relief. If four or five Members were to speak simultaneously, how can the Reporters take down and how can the concerned Minister hear it and respond with a relevant answer? So, three or four Members from the affected constituencies can speak.

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir one of the members of our party Shri Harin Pathak was attacked by the Police in Ahmedabad. It is a matter of privilege, please allow us to raise it.....*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA (Godhara): Mr. Deputy Speaker Sir, yesterday evening Shri Harin Pathak was attacked by the police.....*(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are all senior parliamentarians. Mr. Dattatrya was called to speak about the flood havoc in Andhra Pradesh. Meanwhile, many hon. Members wanted to ventilate their grievances of their respective constituencies or the provinces. With the result, whatever he said could not be heard. So, I request Mr. Dattatrya to complete his submission. After him, I will allow Shri Shobanadreeswara Rao and then I will give chance to some Members from Kerala to speak. Then, Bihar is also very much affected by drought. So, we can take up these two things; one is flood havoc and the other is drought situation. As far as the other things are concerned, if we have time, then we can take up those things.

(Interruptions)

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MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We have to follow certain rules in the House.

(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA (Godhra): Mr. Deputy speaker, Sir yesterday evening Shri Harin Pathak, a member of our party, was attacked by the police.....(*Interruptions*)

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Sir, it is a matter of privilege. A member of the House has been prevented from entering the House. (*Interruptions*). He has not completed his speech. Next is Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao. Afterwards, Kerala will be given a chance. Any person from Karnataka wanted to speak can also speak.

Afterwards it would be drought in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. If time permits, we will take up other issues also. By this process, our time is getting lost. By one O'clock, we have to go to some other subject. Under no circumstances, we can extend zero hour beyond one O'clock. Just like Question Hour ends at 12 O'clock, Zero Hour also ends by one O'clock. Therefore, it is up to you the Hon'ble Members to utilise the time which is under your command.

(Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No. Shri Dattatraya Bandaru.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: In Andhra Pradesh, even in the rainy season, there is shortfall of rainfall and drought situation prevails in Telengana and Rayalaseema districts. In the second week of November, the cyclone which came from Tamil Nadu and entered Andhra Pradesh affected districts particularly, Srikakulam, Visakhapatnam, East Godavari, West Godavari, Krishna and Gaunter. The unfortunate thing is the Prime Minister who hails from Andhra Pradesh could not even send an official team to assess the situation in Andhra Pradesh because of the damage

due to the recurring cyclone and recurring drought situation happening in Andhra Pradesh.

Therefore, I demand from the Union Agricultural Minister to send an official team to assess the situation. I appeal to the Agricultural Minister because paddy worth rupees ten lakhs has perished under water. Decoloured paddy is there in the field. The farmers have a lot of problems. The FCI should, without any condition, come forward to purchase decoloured paddy in the field.

I also appeal to the Prime Minister because last time also he could not give any amount of financial assistance to Andhra Pradesh. This time at least, the Prime Minister should see that Rs. 250 crores are given to Andhra Pradesh. (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHANKER SINGH VAGHELA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir it is a matter of privilege.....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJVEER SINGH (Aonla): One of our colleagues Shri Harin Pathak has been beaten by the Police (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have called Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao. Whatever Shri Sobhanadreeswara Rao speaks only should be taken on record.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE (Vijayawada): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the condition in Andhra Pradesh is very alarming.

SHRI RAM KAPSE (Thane): What is your decision about the privilege matter raised by us? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in a few districts in Andhra Pradesh, the farmers are suffering a lot, especially in districts of Mahboobnagar, Nizamabad, Cuddapah, Chittoor and parts of Krishna and Guntur

because of the failure of the monsoon and the crops have been lost. *(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Bihar, Orissa we shall take up all these issues.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Three farmers have committed suicide, cotton growers have committed suicide because of crop failure. One of them is a Scheduled Tribe farmer belonging to Mehboobnagar district. They have committed suicide because whatever they have invested in the cotton growing is completely lost. I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Agriculture Minister. That is the sad situation in Andhra Pradesh. A few days back, I have called on him and I have requested the hon. Shri Balram Jakhar Saheb to provide all assistance to the State Government of Andhra Pradesh, to take up relief and rehabilitation measures to meet the drought situation. Because of cyclonic storm during the first week of this month, several districts such as West Godavari, East Godavari, Krishna and other coastal districts, are affected and lakhs of acres of paddy which is harvested is damaged and the paddy is discoloured. *(Interruptions)*

Now the rice millers are trying to exploit the situation. It appears they have formed a ring and they are not purchasing paddy and they are offering very very low prices.

I request the Government to issue immediate instructions to the Food Corporation of India to immediately open the purchasing centers.

I seek the attention of the hon. Minister for Agriculture. *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA (Mandsaur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Shri Harin Pathak was beaten and humiliated by the police and he was prevented from coming to the House. It is a blow to the dignity of the House. It is simply a matter of privilege. It should be taken up first.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: A decision can be taken tomorrow.

*(Interruptions)**

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not going on record.

12.34 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SONKAR SHASTRI *(Saidpur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been firing in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. As many as 4 persons have been killed in Uttar Pradesh. We should therefore be given a chance to express our view. *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Because of flood havoc also, in Tamil Nadu, in Kerala and in Karnataka, hundreds of people have died. Now one hon. Member from Andhra Pradesh has spoken. One hon. Member from Kerala has also spoken.

(Interruptions)

12.35 hrs.

Shri Rajnath Sonkar Shastri and some other hon. Members then left the House.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH (Adoor): Please allow me to speak.

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO VADDE: Through you, I urge upon the Government to immediately take necessary steps and issue instructions to the Food Corporation of India to open purchase centres.....*(Interruptions)*

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SHRI V.S. VIJAYARAGHAVAN
(Palgaht): My constituency is washed out.

drought. Itake just one minute. Kindly resume your seat.

(Interruptions)

SHRI SOBHANADREESWARA RAO
VADDE: I urge upon the Government immediately to issue instructions to the Food Corporation of India to start purchase operation of the paddy and to give guidelines which were earlier also implemented in such circumstances. I also urge upon the Union Minister of Agriculture to send a Central Team to assess the conditions of drought-effect in some Districts and the flood-effect in some other Districts and ultimately help the farmers of Andhra Pradesh. Some people have also lost their lives because of this. I, therefore, request the Government to take all possible steps to alleviate the distress. (Interruptions)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Thomas, please resume your seat. If two or three Members were to speak, how can the Reporters take down your speeches? How can the Government also hear it? Regarding flood havoc, there are some of Members who want to speak. Let them participate in the discussion. Secondly, there is the drought situation existing in some parts of our country. The hon. Members of that area also can ventilate there grievances. Afterwards, you can request the Government to respond to your requests. If two or three Members were to speak simultaneously, the Reports are put in an embarrassing position. They cannot take down the speeches. Secondly, the Government also cannot hear properly. You expect the Government to give a specific, crystal-clear answer. Unless they are given an opportunity to hear it properly, how is it possible? It becomes very difficult to repond. Now, we have taken up this issue of drought and flood havoc and the Members concerned can speak. I request Shri A. Charles to speak now.

(Interruptions)

SHRI KODIKKUNIL SURESH: Sir, during the flood and natural calamities in Kerala, my Constituency has been totally isolated. Hundreds of people were killed. thousands of houses were destroyed; thousands of houses were damaged. The agricultural crops have been lost. In the entire part of my Constituency, the communication facilities also collapsed. In my Constituency, the large and small bridges were damaged; road traveling has been cut-off. Thousands of people have been living in relief centres now. There is a terrible situation in my Constituency prevailing now. So, I request the hon. Minister of Agriculture to sanction the maximum amount from the Calamity Relief Fund in order to help the victims. (Interruptions).

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR
(Mangalore): Let us have a full-fledged discussion on this issue.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: I have requested Shri A. Charles to speak now.

SHRI P.C. CHACKO (Trichur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I just take one minute. I am on the same issue. The hon. Members have raised the issue of flood. This is not an issue of Kerala alone but the entire Southern States have been ravaged by the cyclone and floods. This is an extraordinary situation. We want to know the reaction of the Government. The Government is not reacting. We want to know the reaction of the Government in this regard. (Interruptions)

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA (Bankura): The Government is not responding. I would like to know whether the Government is prepared for a full fledged discussion on this.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia, it is not the question of Government's responding to the matter. There are also the other hon. Members who want to ventilate their grievances of their province and also of their constituency. Unless they fully hear it, how can the Government respond to it? For example, Shri Krishna Rao wants to speak;

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Now, we are discussing the issue pertaining to floods and

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Tamil Nadu, Karnataka,*
Shri Janarthanan wants to speak.

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SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA: I also want to speak. on drought. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Basudeb Acharia also wants to speak on drought. Therefore, let us hear the Members. Now, Shri Charles to speak.

SHRI A. CHARLES (Trivandrum): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in Kerala there have been three successive floods - one in the year 1991 and two such incidents in the months of August and November 1992. Several hundreds of people were killed, many more were wounded. More than 50,000 houses were washed away. It is difficult to explain the agony and the misery of the people. The Kerala Government have started relief work in a very big way. But with the limited funds, they are struggling hard. We are thankful to the hon. Minister of Agriculture Shri Balram Jakhari because he has visited Kerala twice. My constituency - Trivandrum - is also one of the most affected constituencies. I want to bring the notice of the Minister and this Government one recommendation of the Ninth Finance Commission. Ordinarily some fund is earmarked for every State for drought and flood. This is an unusual situation. I quote from the First Report of the Ninth Finance Commission. (*Interruptions*)

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: You need not go into details because there are other also who want to participate.

SHRI A. CHARLES: It is just a one line. It says:

"If any region faces a calamity of such dimensions and severity as to warrant its handling at the national level, we are confident that the Center will take appropriate action as the situation demands and incur the necessary expenditure."

This is the situation which warrants the attention of the Government. This is an unusual situation. I plead that as

recommended by the Ninth Finance Commission, the Government of India should declare Kerala and some other parts of South India as flood-affected area and the Central assistance should be given to this situation.

[*Translation*]

SHRI L.K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is my submission that Members of different States are speaking individually on the drought and flood situation in different parts of the country including three southern States - Tamilnadu, Kerala and partially hit Karnataka and Andhra States which are affected by natural calamities. There is severe drought in Bihar and West Bengal is also affected by flood, and situation in Orissa is also worse, so I suggest that there should be a full-fledged discussion on natural climates so that it can be known as to what steps the Government is taking to tackle the situation.

If four or six Members speak on this situation, the entire picture will not come to the fore and the Government will not be able to give a reply and when the Speaker had a discussion with the leaders, it was decided at that time that we would definitely have a discussion on the parts of the country affected by natural calamities, so, one day should be fixed for it and if need be, two days may be fixed. But we should hold discussion on all the natural calamity affected parts, whether it is drought or flood and take some measures in this regard.

Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my second point is about the bearing of our Member of Parliament from Ahmadabad Shri Harin Pathak by Police, which was mentioned by an hon. Member. (*Interruptions*) He was beaten not here but in Ahmadabad. I submit to all of you, let him come here in the House tomorrow as he is still there and after hearing his experience from him, a privilege motion be admitted, if need be.

[*English*]

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, all of us

and particularly the hon. Members who are coming from the States in South, which are directly affected, very seriously affected by the recent floods, are naturally agitated over this and they are bound to raise this. They have raised it. I had made a particular request to the hon. Minister for Parliamentary Affairs that when the Members are rightly agitated over this and the situation is very critical, it is expected that the Government should come forward and make a response, instead of sitting here, everybody raising this question and cross-talks going on why don't they respond and say that they are going to do this and they are ready for a discussion tomorrow or day after? That would defuse the situation and also a message will go to these people who are waiting patiently for some relief and some help. And they will also know that the Parliament of India is taking it up very seriously and the Government of India is going to respond immediately when such vital issues are involved. The hon. Minister of Agriculture is here; the Finance Minister is here. We expect the Government to indicate that they are going to take immediate action and they are going to take this action. They should welcome a full-fledged discussion on this. Therefore if we proceed in that manner much of the time of the House can be saved and also the Members can feel that some action is being taken. The country will feel the affected people will also realise that the matter is being taken up at the highest level as has been taken up.

Therefore, I request that immediate response be given; it may not be a full response by indicate what is going to be done.

I know that Shri Balram is here; he will not sit quietly as some of his colleagues do.

[English]

12.45 hrs.

RE: SITUATION IN AYODHYA

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE
(Bolpur): Now, Sir, the other matter is that I

want to congratulate the NIC for its decision of yesterday. They have unanimously taken a very forthright decision. We were all concerned about the integrity and unity of this country and the NIC has unanimously made an appeal and everybody has given the power to the Prime Minister.

We feel that respect for the rule of law and judicial verdict should remain. We appeal to all concerned to see that such a situation is not created which will affect the unity and integrity of the country, will hamper the harmony amongst the people of this country, so that, this matter could be solved by negotiations, if not done by judicial verdict. Let that position be accepted and from that point of view, I must congratulate the NIC.

And we want to make it very clear that the Prime Minister's decision on that line for maintenance of the rule of law and maintenance of such security of that shrine and also upholding the constitutional basis of our functioning has to be done. If on those lines, action is taken, we shall extend all our support. I can assure you on that. But let us all try together to maintain an atmosphere of amity and goodwill in this country. Please do not divide the country.

SHRI LAL K. ADVANI (Gandhi Nagar):
Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my friend and respected colleague, Shri Somnath, has referred to the NIC meeting of yesterday. If he had not referred to it, I may not have had to react.

When a few weeks back, the Prime Minister mentioned to me that there was a demand that the NIC meeting be convened to discuss Ayodhya, I said to him that Ayodhya is a very contentious issue, as it has become, and this should be sorted out by talks, discussions. This would be the fourth time NIC would be discussing this matter. NIC is a large body; the forum is of a nature where it is not dialogue that takes place; it is the speeches that are delivered. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS (Muvattupuzha):
Resolutions are also passed.