

[Dr. Viswantham Kanithi]

rivers and rivulets were being harnessed for agricultural purposes in our country. After the advent of science and technology, better and permanent methods have been adopted to improve the quality and quantity of the agricultural produce.

Even though there has been persistent demand for more water for irrigating more areas in the District of Srikakulam in Andhra Pradesh for the past so many years, the much needed Vamsadhara irrigation system is yet to become operative. Srikakulam is a backward district of Andhra Pradesh. Though the Chief Executives of Andhra Pradesh and Orissa agreed for the construction of diversion barrage at Neradi as early in 1961, till now, only its left main canal has been taken up and it is in the final stages of the completion. The second phase consisting of the important Reservoir and the right main canal is yet to be cleared and commissioned. The cost of the second phase has gone up from around Rs. 80 crore to Rs. 480 crores in the last 30 years.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to ensure early completion of the project for the construction of diversion barrage at Neradi.

- (viii) **Need to supply adequate quantities of Kerosene Oil and LPG to Sikkim basing the allocation of these commodities in 1991 Census**

SHRIMATI DIL KUMARI BHANDARI (Sikkim): There is acute shortage of kerosene oil in the State of Sikkim. This is due to the supply of insufficient quota of kerosene oil to Sikkim. The present quota is based on 1981 census when the population was slightly over three lakhs. This quota too fluctuates. As a result, consumers are experiencing great difficulty. Similarly, LPG is also in short supply. Wood fuel is not sufficient to meet the demand as the State Government is committed to preserve forest and maintain ecological balance. In view of the acute shortage of kerosene oil and LPG, I would

request the Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas to base the allocation of these commodities on the basis of 1991 census which shows the population of Sikkim well over four lakhs. Also the supply of these commodities needs to be regular. Regular supply of kerosene oil and LPG in adequate quantity in ensuing winter would go a long way to minimise the hardship of the people of Sikkim.

14.32 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

[English]

Flood Situation Caused by Recent Cyclonic Storm in Bay of Bengal-Contd.

MR. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House shall now take up further discussion regarding flood situation caused by the recent cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and relief measures undertaken by the Government.

Shri Dattatraya Bandaru.

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU (Secunderabad): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, yesterday, I was mentioning that the recent cyclonic storm has caused much damage to the crops of the farmers in Andhra Pradesh. In this connection, I appeal to the Government to waive the agricultural loan given to the farmers. Last time, when this cyclonic storm occurred and it had caused much damage to the crops of the farmers, the Government waived the loan given to the farmers at that time. But it has not been implemented properly because of the pact between the Union Government and the State Government. So, I want that there should be rescheduling of the loan and instructions should be given to NABARD in this connection; and the share of the State Government should also be minimum.

Since cyclonic storms are recurring in most of the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh, particularly 13 districts including Rayalseema and other backward districts

these areas have become drought prone areas. That is why I demand that immediately NABARD should be given instructions in this connection to take the necessary steps.

The Central Government has given instructions to the FCI to purchase the damaged paddy; and they have agreed to purchase the damaged paddy only 20 per cent of the damaged colour. I appeal to the Union Government, particularly the Minister of Agriculture to come to the rescue of the farmers in this regard because a large portion of the paddy in the coastal districts has been submerged in the water. Therefore, whatever paddy has been submerged, the entire paddy should be collected through the counters of the FCI.

The crop insurance scheme on a permanent basis should be implemented by the Central Government; and the Central Government should take survey no. as a unit and not a mandal as a unit, because they are taking mandal as a unit or any other aspect. In a mandal, many villages are there; some villages may not be affected by cyclonic storms; that is why they are declaring that some villages are not affected by cyclonic storms. Hence, my request to the Union Government is that they should consider survey no. as a unit for the crop insurance scheme.

Last time, the fertiliser subsidy which had been given by the Central Government to the marginal and small farmers in Andhra Pradesh, who were affected by cyclonic storms, was Rs. 79 crores. That money must be immediately released so that it should reach those farmers who were affected by the cyclonic storms. I would appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to instruct the concerned authority to release this amount immediately because many people in Andhra Pradesh died because of the cyclonic storm. However, an ex-gratia amount of Rs. 5000 only is given by the State Government. This is a very meagre amount and I appeal to the Prime Minister who hails from Andhra Pradesh, to release ex-gratia of Rs. 25,000 per head to the families of the deceased.

I mentioned yesterday also that last year the loss due to cyclone in Godavari district was to the minimum extent of Rs. 1400 crores. Every year Andhra Pradesh is hit by these cyclones twice or thrice. That is why the allocation that is given by the Ninth Finance Commission under the Cyclone Relief Fund scheme was utilised and the remaining amount with the State Government is Rs. 30 crores. With this meagre amount the State cannot build roads nor can it rehabilitate the farmers. That is why I appeal to the hon. Prime Minister to see that at least a minimum of Rs. 300 crores is allocated to Andhra Pradesh for rehabilitating the farmers and others affected by the cyclones. In many of the fields silt has formed and unless the silt is removed from the fields no cultivation can be done. The State Government is allocating only Rs. 1000 with which it is not possible for a farmer to remove the silt. I appeal to the State Government to instruct the banks and the financial institutions to come to the rescue of the farmers and give at least Rs. 5000 to the farmers under the DRDA scheme.

Since 1986 the roads have not been repaired. Every year the roads are being washed away and the State Government is not able to repair the roads. I once again appeal to the Union Government that the demand made by the State Government for this should be accepted.

The poor artisans and weavers have suffered a lot, and 91 starvation deaths have taken place. A large number of looms have been lost because of the submerged houses. A minimum of Rs. 1500 is needed to replace a damaged loom. But only Rs. 200 is being given for a fully damaged loom and Rs. 100 for a partially damaged loom. There can be no partially damaged loom because a loom once it is damaged cannot be repaired, but has only to be replaced. Therefore a minimum of Rs. 1500 should be given to the weavers.

For the loss of yarn also the State Government is giving only Rs. 100 and I request that at least Rs. 500 may be given.

[Sh. DattaRaya Bandaru]

The shepherds have lost many goats and I request that at least Rs. 4 to 5 crores may be given for giving loans under the DRDA scheme. Also, many rural widows have taken to milk supply schemes. They have to purchase cattle to continue their business. They have lost many of their cattle due to the cyclone. Under the DRDA scheme rural widows should be given priority non loans and other things.

In conclusion I say that only temporary measures will not do but some long terms measures should be taken up by the Government. Some of the multi-purpose projects in Andhra Pradesh, like the Palavaram Project and the Pocchampalli Project should be declared as national projects and all the other pending projects should be cleared quickly.

There are two big rivers, the Godavari and the Krishna in Andhra Pradesh. While the waters of the Krishna are vally fully utilised, the river Godavari is not fully utilised and nearly 80 per cent of its water is going into the sea. That is why, Godavari, Krishna and Penna delta areas should be modernised.

Sir, I once again appeal to the hon. Prime Minister and also to the Agriculture Minister to visit Andhra Pradesh and assess the loss because nearly an amount of Rs. 800 crores has been lost. I also appeal to the hon. Prime Minister, who hails from Andhra Pradesh, to release at least Rs. 300 crores to Andhra Pradesh and come to the rescue of the farmers of Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE
TINDIVANAM (Tindivanam): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, Tamil Nadu has experienced the worst ever calamity and in particular the Districts of South Arcot, to which I belong, Tanjore, Quaid-e-Milleth, Nagapattinam, Chengelpat, Madras and Dharamapuri. Apart from Dharamapuri, all the other districts are coastal districts.

In all these districts, on 12th it started.

And right from 12th, these districts experienced calamity because of the cyclone. And the heavy rains lashed the entire area. The cyclone was followed by a depression. After the depression, it was followed by the floods. And there were floods in Cauvery, Palar and Pennar. The people in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, who usually deny us water, thought it fit to let down the flood water into Cauvery and other rivers, with the result the entire delta areas being submerged. The entire paddy crop is still reeling under water. The entire sugarcane plantation and banana plantation have come down. No one can by oneself equal the loss that has been suffered by the farmers.

In addition, the entire agricultural operation has come to a standstill and stands paralysed. And because the paddy crop has been submerged, we cannot have any benefits out of the crop that has been raised. Apart from that, the farmers have spent much on manuring the fields and have brought up the crop to a limit of two to two and a half months. At this stage, the calamity has taken place. The farmers land in sand itself logged because of the heavy floods and heavy rains. Reclamation work has to be taken up. Apart from the farmers, who are suffering because of the loss due to submerision of the crop that has been already raised, the land itself has to be reclaimed. The reclamation work has to be done either by the Government or it should be fully subsidised to the farmers by the Government.

I am happy that the State Government and the Central Government officers took precautionary steps following the cyclonic warning. And that minimised the loss of life and other things. Apart from the heavy loss caused due to the floods and the cyclone and the depression, we are still suffering for want of water. We are suffering inspite of the floods and heavy rain water. In all the districts, except in Tanjore, cultivation is done by minor irrigation tanks and major irrigation tanks. As you know, Sir, if in one village the tank becomes full, naturally the overflowing water goes into the irrigation tank of the other village. Likewise of 10 to 15 irrigation tanks start overflowing, then it becomes a very big

flood and then the ultimate result is that the man at the tail end suffers. That way many irrigation tanks have caused this calamity. In addition to this, once the irrigation tank gets filled up, the villagers because of the fear that a break in the bund will affect the entire village, they have cut off the bund and the result is that the irrigation tanks which should be overflowing are without water. That is the situation in many villages. So this aspect also should be taken into consideration because this will necessarily affect the next crop.

Apart from that, the heavy cyclone has affected the entire national highways, State highways, roads belonging to the local authorities. It is a very strange experience to travel on these roads now. None of the roads are motorable as on date. If somebody travels from Madras to Trichy or Madras to Thanjavur on every fifth kilometer he will find a lorry accident or a car accident. That is the condition in which the roads are there. Regular maintenance work will not do good. A special relief fund must be given for road maintenance as damaged road maintenance requires a lot of money.

The entire coastal area is a fishermen area. All the huts of the fishermen have been washed off. And whatever money they had, whatever savings they had, has gone into the sea along with the huts. The grievances of the fishermen must be looked into separately because even though they suffered, the day the sky is clear they go into the sea. They do not know how to make their representation. They are not fully aware of it. So it is for the Government representatives to go to them and render them necessary relief.

Apart from the small farmers, it is the Harijans and the most backward classes who are the agricultural labourers. In this calamity they are the sufferers. They do not get work for several days. Whatever small savings they had, has gone. Their houses have gone have gone. For a few of them who are a fit well of their houses have collapsed. In such circumstances regular and routine way of assessing the calamity or the losses will not do good. The Revenue Administration in the State will not make a real assessment of the losses. They always bring down

the quantum of loss and show the Government that the loss is not high and much. They only concentrate on doling out rice and cash assistance of Rs. 400 or Rs. 500 and they satisfy themselves by saying that immediately the Government has come to their rescue and help. This calamity has to be approached in a much better way, in a different method.

In addition to this, Madras city has suffered the worst. We have seen how far the Madras city drainage system water supply system, Madras city electricity system and the telephone system collapsed during this cyclone and flood. For more than 10 days no car could go on the main roads of the Madras city. This is the condition in which the Madras city has landed.

In all the cyclones and depressions one thing is there that when a cyclone or depression starts, for three or four days, you have rains on a smaller scale and then, you get heavy rains. In the first three-four days of rainfall the walls of the huts get soaked, and the huts which are built of mud, collapse. In most of the cases when the rains are there, the houses do not collapse. But, when the sky clears, after three-four days after the cyclone the houses come down. So, where the officer goes for an assessment, he finds the houses are standing and he sends a report that the houses are not collapsing. But, actually, it collapses in the course of two or three days. So this aspect must also be taken into account.

Now that the Minister of State of Ministry of Coal, Shri P.A. Sangma is here, I think I can say a few words about the Neyveli Lignite Thermal Plant. They have a very good system in Neyveli Lignite Thermal Plant for taking precautionary measures and warnings during cyclone and depression. But, unfortunately, that has not been taken advantage of by the Neyveli Lignite Thermal Plant management. As a result, the second mine got flooded. There is a garland wall around the mine which prevents rain water from entering the mines. But, actually rain water has entered because the garland wall was not properly maintained. Now, the mining operation has come to a standstill. The

[Sh. K. Ramamurthee Tindivanam]

management, of course, comes out saying that they will be able to resume the work in another 15 or 20 days. But, it cannot be done for at least another four months. As a result of this the Neyveli Lignite Thermal Plant has come to a standstill. The result is that we will not be able to get about 210 MW of power generated every month for another four months and which means 840 MW of power generation will not be there for the entire nation. Naiveli management has not maintained the buffer-stock, stock of coal, required for emergency purposes. So, on the basis of this the working of the Neyveli Lignite Thermal Plant must be streamlined.

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Ramamurthee, you have already taken more than 10 minutes. Please conclude.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM: Loans of the farmers, fishermen and the weavers should be waived. The Government should themselves take up the work of reclamation of the submerged agricultural lands and fully subsidise the work. The Panchayats and the Municipalities in the area must be compensated for their losses by way of maintenance of the roads and repair of the roads. More rice from the Central pool should be allotted to Tamil Nadu because one crop has already gone and Tamil Nadu is already suffering for want of rice. Hon. Prime Minister should find special ways to help the State to get over the calamity. Funds must be provided generously.

In the end, I thank the hon. Ministers Shri Balram Jakhar, Shri Rangarajan Kumaramangalam and Shri C.K. Jaffer Sharief for their visit to the affected area. I only plead that it should be followed by the relief measures. I once again thank you for the opportunity given to me.

SHRI K. THULASIAH VANDAYAR (Thanjavur): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Every year there is some kind of storm, cyclone or hurricane. The worst affected place is Thanjavur. The ministers concerned go there and fly over the places and come back and

announce some kind of relief. The funds that have been allotted do not usually reach the affected people. When these kinds of debacles take place, the local panchayats should be consulted. The panchayat people should be asked to distribute the money. In the Cauvery basin people who live in low-lying areas are affected badly. The people who live there must be properly looked after. The houses they stay are usually made of mud. The Government houses are constructed of poor material. When the flood waters begin to flow, the people affected by these floods are those who are living in low-lying areas. When such floods occur, the affected people should be evacuated.

My suggestion is that whenever such floods come, the Government must take measures to announce before-hand or try to forewarn and see that these people are not affected, particularly during the rainy season.

Another thing is when the people are suffering for want of food and water, these are air-dropped. Usually these air-droppings are ill-conceived. There is a scramble for these items. My suggestion is that the foodgrains should be stored when they are available so that when these rains come, the people are not found suffering for want of food. When there is so much of flood water, there is no drinking water to drink! This must be considered and these things must be looked into by the Government which has been negligent. They should look after these problems. The people in the Cauvery belt have a bitter experience.

The food and water which are contaminated bring in a lot of diseases like cholera. In order to avoid these epidemic diseases, I think that the flood should be controlled and the water, that is usually wasted into the sea should be stocked in lakes and tanks so that these lakes and tanks can serve the irrigation purpose when needed by the villagers. We should have better ideas for strengthening the bunds of the tanks and rivers. We should have better administrative thinking for these purposes.

With these words, I request the Govern-

ment to have some forethought and whenever such natural calamities occur, should see that the people do not suffer and are not put to hardships because we have been caught napping. In this way the Government will be helping the people.

Thank you.

[Translation]

MOHAMMAD ALI ASHRAF FATMI (Darbhanga): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I was going through the statement of the hon. Minister for Agriculture; it says that the State Government came to know of it before we came to know about it. I think it would have been better to make arrangements for the affected people than apprising the Government. You have said in your statement that when there is a storm with a wind speed of 80-90 km. per hour accompanied by rains, it is difficult to execute people. I would like to request the Government to make arrangements whereby it may be possible to know in advance that a storm with a wind speed of 80-90 - 100 kms. accompanied by rains is about to come. Such equipment is available in India and in the whole world today. There should be a large scale evacuation arrangement in such areas so that people are evacuated with ease and human lives are saved as also the cattle wealth and the assets of the people kept in their homes.

The fishermen engaged in catching fish in the coastal areas are more prone to fall victim of it. We have no arrangements to inform them that such a cyclone is approaching them in 24 or 28 hours which will endanger their lives. The Government should have advance arrangements to act whenever there is such an emergency so that their lives and property are saved.

15.00 hrs.

A reference has been made in it that the Central Government provides 75% relief and the State Government provides 25% and there is a fund for the purpose, called the Central relief fund. I would request that while

you provide assistance to the poor, the poor farmers, whose fields are ruined, whose crops are damaged, should be provided 25% of the assistance out of the funds being sent for relief works so that they can buy fertilizers and the seeds and the rehabilitation work should be undertaken on a mass scale. Assistance should be given to fishermen as well, whose boats have been damaged.

There is mention in it that efforts are being made to provide assistance for housing through the National Housing Bank and 'HUDCO'. I would submit that while providing such assistance areas which are prone to storms like the Bay of Bengal, the coastal areas should get due consideration. Houses with special protection against cyclonic storms should be built in such areas and the poor people should be given full assistance for constructing small houses. With these words I would like to request the Government that the provision made for these areas is too little as compared to the losses suffered by the people there. More provision of assistance should be made so that the states like Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are able to undertake relief measures in real terms, particularly for the poor.

With these words, I conclude.

[English]

DR. SUDHIR RAY (Burdwan): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, floods, droughts and other natural calamities like cyclones and earthquakes have become almost a annual feature in our country. This country is a vast one, almost of a sub-continental dimension and therefore, some parts of the country are affected by floods and some other parts of the country reel under the scourge of severe drought every years. When such a calamity occurs, the usual practice is that the Minister makes an aerial survey along with his officers. Then some officers go to the spot, relief operation starts and the poor people gratefully receive whatever they get from the Government. And then conveniently the Govt forget their plight because the Ruling Party is satisfied that their vote bank is secure. The

[Dr. Sudhir Ray]

grateful people will vote them to power and this story is repeated year after year because in India every year we find the fury of cyclones and fury of floods. Who suffers most? It is the poor the downtrodden, the dalits who suffer the most. Because they suffer, the Government do not think of any permanent solution. Is there any disaster plan to cope with such problems? Is there any disaster plan to cope with such problems? Is there any permanent relief plan to help and rehabilitate them? No. It is because, the Government knows very well that those people are dumb, poor and cannot move the Government. Therefore, the Government only go around the affected place by the helicopter and distribute food packets. Though their children are suffering from epidemics, their huts collapsed, the Govt. does nothing.

From all accounts, low tracts of Tamil Nadu villages are under water. Thanjavur, South Arcot Kayed - 9 - Millat and some other districts have been affected. There the standing crops have been damaged; lakhs of huts have been razed to ground. Karnataka, Pondicherry and Andhra Pradesh have also suffered because of cyclone and torrential rains.

I urge upon the Government to solve this problem on a permanent basis. There should be evacuation centre for every cyclone-prone area. I have learnt from the hon. Members from Andhra Pradesh that every year cyclone lashes Andhra Pradesh. Why are the evacuation centres not built up in every large village which are cyclone-prone? There should be adequate stocks of foodgrains in every district centres and taluk centres so that relief work can be started immediately. Besides, the State of Tamil Nadu has got only Rs. 39 crores as calamity relief fund from the Centre, whereas Tamil Nadu has estimated that it has suffered a loss amounting to Rs. 390 crores. Tamilnadu is able to pay and bear the bill? Thanks to the policy of the Central Government, the States are no better than poor municipalities. They always suffer from financial crisis. They always approach the Central Government with

begging bowls. Is it the responsibility of Tamil Nadu or Karnataka or Andhra Pradesh that cyclones have devastated large tracts of their areas? It is not their fault. Therefore, the Centre must come forward to help the States. The Centre must release adequate funds so that agricultural operations are immediately restored. The crops in this season have been lost. But if the peasants can raise crops in the next season, at least they will be able to bear the brunt.

There should be crop insurance scheme to cover such calamities. There should be cattle insurance scheme. There should be permanent scheme for relief operations. In this country, the poor people think that it is their fate and there is nothing to improve their lot. The Government takes advantage of this mentality of the poor people. Now, it is time that the Government should come forward to solve the problem on a permanent basis. The peasants should be given loans so that they can build dwelling places on permanent basis. The Government may take the advice of Lorry Baker who has made wonderful experiments in Kerala. With merely Rs. 8,000, Lorry Maker has started experiment of building low-cost houses for the people. The Central Government may consult him to formulate schemes for constructing low-cost houses.

With these words I conclude.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR (Mangalore): Respected Sir, This House has been discussing since yesterday about the calamity that occurred in the month of November this year on account of development of cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and the damages caused to human lives, standing crop, dwelling houses, cattle and also soil erosion and also breach of tanks on account of the torrential rains.

Specially this time three major States in the South, the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu have been badly affected.

Now I am interested in knowing from the Government, specially from the hon. Minis-

ter, as to whether we will be satisfied with the aerial survey conducted by the hon. Minister and then some statements made on the floor of the House and finally to say that we are only guided by the guidelines set out by the Planning Commission under which the assistance could be given to the affected States out of the Central Calamity Relief Fund. So, if the Government of India thinks that their job is over and they want to wash off their hands with this, probably, I feel that we are only making a futile exercise here and nothing would come out of the very valuable discussions made in this august House and the contributions made by my friends here.

I do not want to go into the details of the damages caused specially in the State of Karnataka, that too in three districts, Tumkur, Bangalore and Kolar. My friends have already elaborated on this. I would like to make a few suggestions and I would request the Government of India if these are worthwhile suggestions, then probably they can immediately think of taking up the corrective measures at least at this stage after nearly 45 years of independence. If we cannot think of permanent remedial measures, probably every year as has been pointed out already we will be suffering either on account of torrential rains, floods and, in some cases, drought.

Now we are already faced with one problem, that is, sharing of the waters of the river Cauvery between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. If the Government really minds and if it takes into account the suggestions which I am going to make, we can solve that problem also effectively.

There has been a talk about linking Ganga, Mahanadi and Cauvery. This has been going on since long.

This would help even to control the drought situation. So also the severe floods.

15.11 hrs.

[SHRI MP.M. SAYEED *in the Chair*]

Desilting of tanks and river beds is an

other remedial measure.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY (Krishnagiri): Will the linking of rivers solve the problem? Are we to wait for the linking of rivers to get relief from the floods?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: This is a permanent remedial measure. If you do not do this, probably every year such kind of discussions will go on in this august House and we will be hearing the very same song from the mouth of the hon. Minister.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: You are mentioning it after the Supreme Court decision, not before.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Will this solve the present crisis?

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: That is what I would like to impress upon the Government that this would solve the sharing of the Cauvery water between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka. After all, we would like to see a peaceful end to the problem. Once and for all, we want to see that this problem is solved.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHEE TINDIVANAM: After the Supreme Court's decision!

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Either the Supreme Court or the Tribunal will never come in the way of a peaceful solution between the Parties.

MR. CHAIRMAN: You please confine only to cyclone.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: I am making very valid suggestions. One such suggestion is, as I have already stated, linking of Ganga, Mahanadi and the Cauvery. The second one is, desilting the tanks and the river beds. So much of silting has taken place and that is why every year we suffer on account of severe floods and droughts.

Next, the tank bunds and river bunds have breached. So, reconstruction work will

[Sh. Y. Dhananjaya Kumar]

have to be taken up on a massive scale. Reconstruction of the tank bunds and river bunds would solve both the problems.

Now I come to prevention of soil erosion. We talk very much about the soil erosion and also about forest conservation. But no permanent measure is taken up. So, even these points could be considered. Thousands and thousands of crores of rupees have been spent over the years on a temporary relief measure. Probably, if these amounts are properly utilised by drawing up definite plans, then we can have a permanent remedial measure and these problems can be solved.

Sir, the Government of Karnataka has made a demand for Rs. 130 crores. The hon. Minister after making the survey has said that out of the Calamity Relief Fund we are entitled only for Rs. 27 crores and we have already been paid that amount. In the first Session of the Tenth Lok Sabha when we made a mention about the flood damages during the normal rainy season, the same reply came. The Minister said that the Government is helpless because the Planning Commission has already issued the guidelines and it can release funds out of this Calamity Relief Fund.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): It is the Finance Commission.

SHRI V. DHANANJAYA KUMAR: Yes. At that time, the Minister made a suggestion that we should request the Government to consider this as a national calamity, and only in such a case the Government of India could come to our rescue. Now, I would like to know from the Government whether the Government is going to consider this as a national calamity or not because three major Southern States have badly been affected on account of the severe floods. If the Government of India considers that this is a fit case to declared this as a national calamity, then probably the Government of India will be able to help these three States to help

mitigate the hardships of the poor peasants and the people who have suffered a lot. We can release funds even from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund. We can find out some other sources also. So, I would appeal to the Government of India to declare this as a national calamity and come to the immediate rescue apart from the amounts which have already been given as assistance out of the Calamity Relief Fund.

With these few words, I would again try to appeal to the good conscience of the Central Government and the Minister present here not to follow the same path, not to be satisfied with the bare statement which is made here, not to feel satisfied with just getting the report from the Survey Team which has been sent. Please consider this sympathetically. Declare this as a national calamity. Please take up permanent remedial measures and then only we can see a final end to this problem.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMABHIKSHAM (Nalgonda): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am for the first time speaking in the House. Therefore, I would request you to kindly allow me enough time to speak.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the discussion is going on about floods. It is the permanent problem of South India. Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu in South India are affected by it every year. The Government may pay its attention to it but there is no permanent remedy for it. Hon. Members are saying that it is a natural calamity, the Government should at least admit and recognise this fact. Such demands are being made since the British rule. It is sad if the same state of affairs continues even after independence.

I would like to say that it is usually the labourers, the fishermen and the poor farmers who suffer loss of life in such cyclones. The sea tides wash away their houses in villages. We have left them at the mercy of Almighty by harbouring the notion that it is a natural phenomenon. In such a phenomenon, I re-

call the saying "Mar gaye ham woh jashne darad" — i.e. we are dying and they are making merry. In South it is all coastal area. It has become a practice there not to extend help to those who fall prey to the wrath of the sea. It is not desirable if such a situation continues. I have thrice been a Member of Legislative Assembly in Andhra Pradesh for 15 long years. I have brought this to the notice of the State Government. They say that the Union Government will provide assistance and we will make a just distribution. If it is Rs. 25 we will distribute Rs. 70 and if it is Rs. 40 we will distribute Rs. 60. It is due to this computation that these people are dying. If only Andhra Pradesh is taken in to account, we see that one lakh and eighty thousand people have been rendered homeless. The Andhra Pradesh Government should undertake the rehabilitation work 110 people have died there. The rice crop in about 2,58,000 hactores of land has been destroyed. Keeping all these thing in view, Rs. 204 crores have been provided before the assessment was made. Our Chief Minister had submitted a memorandum to the hon. Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, when he visited Nandyal. They demanded about Rs. 430 crores but the press reported that the Centre has granted Rs. 152 crores to all the three states. It does not behold the Central Government if it adopts the approach do not mind if you have become homeless we will provide you free ration. This should not happen. Therefore, I will conclude after adding a word or two more.

I come from Nalgonda, in Telengana, with construction of projects both on Godavari and Krishna in Nalgonda district, no space is left in Narangal, Karimnagar, Mehboobnagar etc. even for the cattle. Pochempet and Nagarajun Projects have been pending for the last 25 years. Shriram Sagar project has been constructed only from Godawari to Warangal. But the water is not being supplied to Nalgonda and in this way a particular area of Nalgonda is not being benefited thereby. Although a period of 25 years has elapsed but the problem has not been solved. Similarly, another problem is coming in the way of progress and that is whether the left canal of Shri Salem Project should be developed as

a tunnel or as a lift irrigation project. This way the work has been hampered. The present situation is that the construction work of the canal has been suspended in between. The work of digging Nallah has also been suspended and two sections of the sub-division have also been wound up.

Today, I asked a question in the House in this regard. I asked whether any new proposal has been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh, I was informed that no they have not received any proposal. If there was no new proposal, then why the work on this project as well as construction work of a nullah or the work of a tunnel for the dam was suspended half way between. This aspect was not discussed at all. The Government of Andhra Pradesh says that they have approved the scheme for the construction of the tunnel and it has been referred to the Central Government for their approve. In the Assembly there, we got the reply that construction work can be taken up only after the approval of the Government. On our arrival here, we came to know after enquiry that they don't have any scheme. If we look at all these things in totality, we come to know that it is clearly an irresponsible attitude of the Central and the State Government.

I would like to say through you that if the Government is really interested in the development, it is necessary to make arrangements for water, fertilisers and good quality seeds. But, the hon. Minister who is holding the portfolio of Agriculture does not seem to be bother about water, fertilisers or good quality seeds. He says that his portfolio is only Agriculture and he is looking after agriculture alone. That is why all these problems are cropping up. There is no co-ordination anywhere. Co-ordination is not only essential to solve this problem but it is scientific too. It is because of the carelessness on the part of Government that the problem of the project is not being solved. Problem of fertilisers and seeds is there but nobody seems to be bothered about it.

Therefore, I would request the Government through you to realise its responsibility in order to solve all these problems. Had the

[Sjh. Dharmabhiksham]

Government realised its responsibility, the situation would not have been like the present one. Somebody has lost his house and somebody has lost his crops because of floods. Later on the Government announces that it will provide one time meals and Rs. one crore to the State. If the Government puts before the public such ideas and does nothing practically, I believe that it is sheer irresponsibility on its part. Therefore, I would appeal to the Government to assess the whole situation and conduct a survey in the coastal areas of South India which are prone to cyclones and natural calamities to find a permanent solution of all the problems. The Government should particularly consider to construct pucca houses under special schemes for the people whose houses have been washed away by floods. In this connection, I won't go into details because there are other Members also who want to speak on this issue. With these words I thank you and conclude my speech.

[English]

SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH (Eluru):

Mr. Chairman Sir, the recent cyclonic floods from the Bay of Bengal have affected the entire southern States - Andhra Pradesh, Tamilnadu and Karnataka. The major damage in Andhra Pradesh, in the coastal districts of West Godavari is one of the worst where the total area of paddy, just before harvest, has been damaged. Nearly seven lakh hectares of paddy worth nearly 600 crores of rupees has been damaged. This is happening repeatedly specially in the coastal districts. In 1983, 1986 and 1989 and 1990 it happened. In 1991 September also we had a big damage. Subsequently the early November heavy rain, just before harvesting again, has really caused tremendous amount of damage in the coastal districts of East and West Godavari, Krishna and Guntur and Nellore.

The main remedy immediately that we can think of is the crop insurance. In a lot of areas crop insurance is not properly given to the farmers because it is on the basis of Mandal. If a part of the Mandal is not dam-

aged, the crop insurance is not given and the farmers are affected.

In fact, only yesterday the MPs from the West Godavari district along with the Zilla Parishad Chairman made a representation to the Prime Minister who is also well aware of these areas. He was so kind enough to say that he would do something in this matter.

For the paddy that is damaged we made a request to the Food Corporation to see that they relax the present guidelines on moisture and colour, so that at least they can help the farmers to some extent.

The other thing that we requested is that the loans which are already given to the farmers should be rescheduled and the fresh loans should be provided to them at least to develop further agriculture in these areas. The Government can help them by giving some seed supply, fertilizers and various other inputs which will be very useful for the farmers, instead of giving any cash so that they also develop certain crops to compensate a part of the loss which they have incurred in these heavy cyclonic damages.

Along with paddy, the coastal districts also suffered in regard to banana and the small poultry farms, fish farms etc. Roads are also completely damaged. For all these things we need substantial amount of money from the Central Government. Whatever the Government of India is giving is only in the form of advance out of the Plan Expenditure. It is not really going to serve the purpose. As one of our friends has requested, it should be treated as a national calamity and you should be able to provide directly or through the Prime Minister's Special Fund whatever is possible and see that the coastal districts are given some sort of a remedy.

The frequent cyclones in these coastal districts also are causing a lot of havoc for the poor people who are not having any shelter. That is why we also requested that cyclone relief shelters should be built along the coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh and also in other parts of the southern States, so that during these frequent cyclones the

people get some relief and protection.

In these various aspects the most important thing is that the Food Corporation should help these people. Also the Crop Insurance norms should be relaxed and these people should be given special consideration. The State Government has made a request for Rs. 86 crores. Because of the frequent cyclones - we had last year also - they want rescheduling of the loans and they won't take back this amount. So ultimately they will not get anything out of it. In view of these things, there must be a special type of natural calamity fund which will come to the rescue of the State Government in these major calamities. The Central Government should provide sufficient funds for the repair of the roads, drainage and various other requirements of the coastal Districts. I hope the Government of India, through the Ministry of Agriculture will do something.

SHRI D. PANDIAN (Madras North): Mr. Chairman Sir, I come from Madras. The city of Madras is one of the worst affected areas in the recent cyclonic floods. Of course, all the other southern States - Andhra Pradesh, Kamataka, a part of Kerala and Pondicherry were also affected.

For the last 30 years I am living in Madras and alternately we are facing shortage of water in one year and floods in the next year. But this time the calamity has reached its peak and the damage caused by the storm and the floods was really immeasurable. I think the initial assessment that has been made is a gross under-estimation.

I have to go to the people because I was elected by those people. Nearly 60 divisions out of 150 divisions in the City of Madras were submerged. It was knee-deep to neck-deep varies from division to division. For the first time, the Members of Parliament and State Ministers had to go by boats to reach the people. In Madras it is unthinkable of. We used to dream of boats, but we have never used them. For four days, we had to use boats to reach the people. Lakhs of people were marooned. Going by boats and offering them a loaf of bread or one meal is only

an expression of sympathy and solidarity. It can never alleviate their sufferings. For four days, electricity was cut. Why? As a preventive measure they have cut down. There was no drinking water facilities. They could not step out of their houses to go to any grocery shop to buy their essentials. So, the sufferings can be imagined and that cannot be measured in terms of money or put in words. As it is happening every year, I appeal to the House - to all sections of the House. Members of Parliament of all the political parties - that in times of calamity, we have to draw certain lessons and we have to take steps for immediate relief as well as to chalk out a long term perspective to obviate the calamity and to reduce the damage that may occur. We can never imagine to stop and prevent the cyclonic recurrence. It is beyond our limits. A time may come when a scientist may be able to do it. But, not in our life time. So, we have to plan out as to how to prevent and alleviate the sufferings that may be caused. This is nothing new, because we are experiencing this year after year. Bhopal gas leakage and its suffering are extra-ordinary phenomena and it rarely occurs again. But, the floods and droughts are a perennial one and officials know the guidelines as to how to tackle them. Yet, whenever they occur, then only the bureaucrats meet and start discussing as to how to give relief to the people. This departmental approach to the calamities must first be given up.

At the very outset - before enumerating the demands and the sufferings of the people of Madras, the people of Tamilnadu and the people in other parts of India - I want to make an appeal to the brother-Members from other political parties, as in the present context in India, almost all the major responsible political parties are in power in one State or the other; or they share power in some States. Whenever a calamity that strikes one part of this country, should not the other States symbolically contribute and express their solidarity and sympathy for the affected people? Will it not help promote national integration and a feeling of brotherliness? Instead of that, even while making a demand to the Central Government, I was pained and

[Sh. D. Pandian]

surprised to see some Members speaking that Tamilnadu had been given undue favour and others had been discriminated against.

Even at the time of crisis, when the people are in tears, we want to take political mileage out of this. I think this approach must be given up. So, you may demand more. I do not want any special grant for Tamilnadu at the expense of my Andhra-brothers or Karnataka-brothers. And aid that may be given by the Central Government should be in proportion to the damage suffered by each and every State and each and every area. We need not discriminate on that. Political considerations need not creep into that.

I am surprised to find here only the Agriculture Minister sitting here and listening to us as if natural calamities concern only with Agriculture Department and all other departments are free from it. We all know that nature's fury never discriminates between this department and that department. It never follows any particular traffic rules. (Interruptions) All the Departments have to be concerned about it. (Interruptions) I am thankful that some other Ministers are also here today.

MR. CHAIRMAN (Shri P.M. Sayeed): Hon. Member may address to the Chair. Do not indulge in this. Agriculture Minister is here.

(Interruptions)

AN HON. MEMBER: There are four Ministers sitting here.

SHRI D. PANDIAN: I am thankful for that. My point is nature has affected in such a way that every aspect of life has been affected and disrupted. Particularly in Madras, the coastal road linking between the Madras port and the Madras refinery, fertilizers, the two thermal power stations, is highly eroded and cut out. Every rain cuts out and there is no linkage between these two places. Of course, the crude is carried by pipeline. When the road is disrupted, the lorries get

affected because they carry the fuel. They carry the oil to the other distributing centres. It gets disrupted and it paralyses the entire traffic system throughout the State.

Whenever we approach the State Government, and say: "Soil erosion is there and it is creeping into the city." They say: "It is for the Central Government to look after the coastal line and we do not know." Of course, the Surface Minister must look into that and see that it is permanently prevented because the city is begin eroded and you cannot take an easy approach to that problem.

Similarly, in the city where it is densely populated, the question of evacuation is very difficult. Lakhs and lakhs of people cannot be evacuated. And where they to be put? It is very difficult. Fortunately our scientists must be congratulated in this respect, particularly the Space Department and the Science and Technology Departments. They gave a timely warning - Meteorological Department in particular. Doordarshan and the AIR also served the purpose and they must be congratulated. But correspondingly, the other departments also must take the warning and carry the message to the concerned people particularly the fishermen because the fishermen are, for most part of the lives are on the seas. They do not see the TV or are in a position to hear the Radio. The Fisheries Department must be able to alert them in advance. When it is not done so, fishermen alongwith their boat are lost. You might have read in the papers that some were washed away to Bangladesh and they were in jail. And they had to be rescued through the help of our Prime Minister - not because of their any fault. Bangladesh is not very near Madras. To such a vast distance, it has carried away. At some such places, there must be some coordination between all these departments and Urban Development Department. Unless there is coordination and in-between there is railway over-bridge and that is also damaged and to cross that railway bridge, we have to approach the Railway Department to get permission to lay the road or sub-way or railway over-bridge and all that. So, there must be some coordinated effort between

the Centre and the State and between all other departments put together.

You have to put all your heads together and look at it as a national problem and try to solve, it, give immediate relief and then take long-term perspectives. Long term objectives must be there. All my friends have demanded it. It is not only a question of giving money, not only allotting more and more money. Apart from that, important cities and State capitals and where it is densely populated, to save the lives of the people, the rain-drain canal system must be the concern of the Central Government as well as the State Government. It should not be left to the municipalities. Municipalities cannot afford such a gigantic problem and finance will become very difficult problem. At least we should take a lesson from this.

For the city of Madras as well as for other major cities, this must be the first priority and the drain canal system should take first priority and the Central Government should assist them properly.

As far as rice is concerned, in Tamil Nadu, our rice-growing bowl was Thanjavur. And that was submerged. Adding to our injury, standing crops about to be harvested were damaged. Therefore, it will take another three to four months to cultivate again and start the process. For that process, unless the Central Government comes forward with the supply of seeds, fertilizers and help for the reclamation of the land, it may become very difficult and we will not be able to contribute to national food stock. Hence, in that perspective, I request you not to resort to the cut in the supply as announced earlier from 81,000 to 60,000, but to continue 81,000 tonnes to Tamil Nadu periodically, till we overcome the difficulties and we are able to condition our land for recultivation. Also, please see that the loan is waived or at least re-scheduled in the case of fishermen and farmers. When I say farmers. I would like to add one point in that respect. Let us not go by the criteria of small, marginal and big farmers because nature has punished all. Everybody should be helped. You should render all possible help to the State Government.

On behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, I am happy to say that we were the first to offer some relief to the Uttar Pradesh earthquake victims. Thereby, we expressed our solidarity and we expect such a solidarity now from all other States. Our Chief Minister has taken extraordinary measures in giving relief to Tamil Nadu people and we hope the Central Government also will be kind enough to come forward with all the help that is necessary.

[*Translation*]

DR. S.P. YADAV (Sambhal): Mr. Chairman, Sir, today, under rule 193 the situation arising out of the recent cyclone and floods in the Bay of Bengal is being discussed. It is not the problem of a particular area but it concerns the entire country. In all the States of the North India, whether it is Uttar Pradesh or Bihar and in North Eastern States, the condition of floods is extremely horrible. As soon as the summer months are over and the month of July begins, one welcomes even a single drop of rain as a relief from the scorching heat of the summer months. But at the same time even thought of fury of floods creates panic in the minds of the people. The people living in flood prone areas are aware of the wrath of floods especially by Ganges in Uttar Pradesh. Is the Government unaware of all this? Schemes are formulated, funds are allocated and claims to control floods are also made but the question as to how the floods would actually be brought under control is not given serious thought at all?

There was a Hassanpur dam in the area which I am representing. The dams could not resist the floods in the Ganges and engineers prepared a scheme to raise embankments to prevent floods. The embankments were resist towards east. But there was apprehension of erosion in the north. Embankments were constructed at one place and erosion was taking place on the other. The problem at present is not how to find a solution, problem is whether any solution is possible or not. In this House, I urge upon the Government to find a solution to this grave problem. Let us see the other countries, how they have been able to find a solution to their

[Dr. S.P. Yadav]

problems. Egypt and Isreal have converted their deserts into green fields, Chine has controlled its furious rivers but in India only schemes are made which remain only on paper. The biggest reason behind all this is the growing corruption in the country. Sir, the corruption is so much deep rooted that the engineers have bungled away crores of rupees in the construction work of Hassanpur dam. I have submitted the Report to the Government of Uttar Pradesh. In our Badaun district there is a small Tehsil known as Gunnaur. In that area the bank of river Ganges was being eroded. At that time, I sent a telegram to the Chief Minister and told him in every way that there is erosion which may result in the loss of life and property. Nobody bothered. No Minister bothers to pay a visit to a place where there was every apprehension of loss of life and property. They believe in feasting and meetings. They do not do proper implementation. What is essentially required is not being done. The Minister of State for Water Resources had said two year years back that Rs. 768 crore are being spent every year to control floods. May I know for how many years this money will continued to be wasted. So much of money has been wasted during the last 25 years and it is not known how much money would be wasted in future and how long the calamity of floods would continue to be a cause of worry for we people. I urge upon the Government in this House that a law providing for relief measures for drought and flavors should be made. There should be a fixed policy to carry out the relief work. Flood Control Corporation or Commission should be constituted. I also urge upon the Government that the floods should be considered a national problem and not the problem of the States. When the Government makes allocation of funds it is guided by the political considerations, i.e., if Uttar Pradesh is ruled by B.J.P. it will get lesser funds, similarly if Bihar is ruled by the Janata Dal Government it will also get less funds. The Central Government should consider this problem seriously. There should be proper and timely maintenance and repairs of bridges and dameds. The repairs are undertaken only

when there is erosion and everything is lost in floods while it is known beforehand that there is apprehension of floods. Whenever there are floods in future, nearly one thousand villages of Moradabad and Badaun districts will be affected because of erosion. But the Government does not pay any attention to the repairs of the dam. When there are floods or rains, millions and crores of rupees would be given for the maintenance of the dam but when there is a discussion in the house it is never taken seriously. I would suggest that when there is any discussion in the House, the points should be noted and remedial measures should be taken keeping those points in view. I would suggest that misuse of funds should be prevented and attention should be paid to the area eroded by the floods.

The recovery of land revenue from the people who have been rendered landless because of floods, etc. should be waived. It is observed that land revenue is realized even from those people whose land has been eroded by the floods in the Ganges. Therefore, through you, I would only say that this problems should be considered a national problem and a special legislation may be passed so that this type of severe problem of the country is solved.

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO(Dhenkenal):
Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are extremely thankful to the hon. Minister for Agriculture for having given his *suo motu* Statement on the cyclone of 12th November which has induced this discussion. In his statement, he has mentioned that he did visit certain States. In his statement, he has mentioned: "There was a heavy to very heavy rainfall over coastal areas of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Pondicherry. Under its influence, widespread rains were experienced in parts of the States of Kerala, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Maharashtra."

The discussion here is on the cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal and I do believe Orissa and West Bengal are on the coast of Bay of Bengal. I do hope that he will also pay us a visit, although his able Minister of State,

Shri K.C. Lenka, did have an occasion to visit Orissa during the floods of July in spite of the fact that the State administration was not keen that the Minister of State should visit. So, in spite of their advice and after repeated telephone calls, Shri Lenka did visit and till now - although, the floods came in July - not much restoration has been done to communication or to the houses which had been washed away and especially the affected persons were the Weaker sections of the society, the scheduled castes and the scheduled tribes.

Sir, in his *suo motu* statement, the hon. Minister for agriculture has mentioned this. "As desired by the Prime Minister, he visited certain States." He has also mentioned this. "Relief work has been left totally under the Chief Secretaries of the States who are competent to decide on all matters connected with the relief expenditure, including the norms of assistance." He also says: "There is a Calamity Relief Fund which was created on the 1st of April, 1990." That was an all fools' day! He expects that States should manage their own relief operations without any help.

I come from a maritime State that is Orissa. Over the last twentyfive years, as you will bear me out, when we both came here as youngsters, not a single year has passed when we have not, at least twice in a year, discussed the phenomenon of cyclone, floods and droughts. As far as my State, Orissa is concerned, these three phenomena were the constant companion that Orissa had. Therefore, since other hon. Members have highlighted the problems of their States, I would like to confine myself to the cyclone and floods of Orissa. I quote from a copy of a signal sent to the Joint Secretary (Agriculture), Krishi Bhavan by the Additional Secretary (Revenue), Government of Orissa. The message number is 52953. In 1990-91, in floods, the lives lost were 133 human and 29,692 cattle. Private houses damaged were 21,902. The cultivated areas affected were 4,62,000 hectares. The total cultivated land and sand cast were 17,156 hectares. And public properties worth Rs. 18,144 lakh were damaged.

Due to cyclone and hailstorm, the lives lost were, five human and 128 cattle. Private houses damaged were 31,024 and a public property worth Rs. 18 lakh were damaged.

16.00 hrs.

In 1990 also there was a severe floods which was ably initiated by my friend Mr. Gopti Nath Gajapathi yesterday. The then Prime Minister, Shri Chandra Shekhar, after visiting the area, had promised to give Rs.50 crores against the damage of Rs. 348 crores. The Government of Orissa also submitted a memoranda in this regard. Rs. 50 crore has yet to reach; that was last year.

This year, when our hon Prime Minister, Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, went to Orissa the Government of Orissa and the Revenue Department also submitted a memorandum to Shri Narasimha Raoji. Against the damage of Rs.249 crores, he had promised to give Rs. 35 crores. We are not aware if that amount has reached Orissa. We are grateful, if the hon. minister of State, who is representing his senior Minister here, would enlighten us whether that money has reached; if not, when it will reach. I come from Orissa and Orissa was the last child of development. Orissa kept on fighting the Britishers till the 1803 when the rest of India was capitulated. And therefore the development started only after 1803.

We have 41 per cent population of the SC&ST in a population of 3.19 crores. Our marginal and small farmers constitute about 80 per cent of the population; 75 per cent of the work force depend on agriculture; two-thirds of the State's income comes from the agriculture. So, with a shrinking capital base or tax base, Orissa cannot be expected to tackle such calamities and disasters like floods and cyclones and drought which happen simultaneously one after the other in the same year for the last 27 years from 1924.

1954 flood woke up the Government of India and the Parliament; and from 1954, floods have become a national problem. My State, Orissa has been projecting its cases

before the Finance Commission; and the Ninth Finance Commission ably led by our hon. colleague Shri N K P Salve did visit Orissa where all the Members of Parliament and the State Government had brought to the notice of the Commission the various formulas, Gadgil Formula, modified Gadgil Formula. consensus, come what may have not been able to bring down the disparity and the imbalance between the developed States and the poor States like Orissa, Rajasthan, Assam, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. But, so far, none of these formulas have been able to help Orissa; and this *suo motu* statement of our Agricultural Minister also refers to the Ninth Finance Commission. As a result of these calamities, the relief fund has been created from which a State like Orissa, which has no tax base of its own, is supposed to mitigate the sufferings and to look after the relief works.

It is very interesting to note the all India figures for flood damage., Here I quote from a book - "Forest Environment Tribal Economy" by Indian Social Institute. The total area affected from 1953 to 1981 is 235.6 million hectares; average 8.8 million hectares. The total population involved is 795 millions; and if you see from year to year you will find that the First Five Year Plan, the Central Government's assistance released to the States for floods and other calamities was Rs.5.64 crores; in the second five year plan it was Rs. 7.71 crores; in the Third Five Year Plan, it was Rs. 6.41 crores; in the Fourth Five Year Plan, it was Rs. 239.59 crores; in the Five Year Plan, it was Rs. 130 crores; in the Sixth Five Year Plan, it was Rs.558.39 crores; in the Seventh Five Year Plan, it was Rs. 1027.25 crores; and in the year 1986-87, it was approximately Rs.1200 crores.

At a time when the rain fall pattern is the same, at a time, when the Ministry of Irrigation, the Central Water Power Commission, have taken various steps, have set up various committees, high level committees, extra high level committees, special committees, expert committees, flood commission, national board for flood commission, the entire

gamut, still the fact remains that more and more land is coming under the floods and cyclone more and more relief, which is non-plan in nature is being given out as a dole and yet we have not been able to harness our immense water resources; and because of de afforestation, siltation problem, soil erosion, the same pattern of rain fall, which is going on for the last 30 years, the incidence of floods from 1954 has been on the increase.

The same pattern of rainfall has been going on for the last 30 years but the incidence of floods from 1954 has been on the increased in spite of all these efforts. Therefore, the State Governments, including my State Government, which have been projecting various irrigation projects, medium and major, to husband these water resources, have to be helped and that would go a long way in reducing the incidence of floods because if you train the rivers, if you husband the water resources that will help irrigation.

My State Government has asked for Rs.2237 crores for the eighth Plan.

I would also agree with my friend D. Pandian that the agriculture Ministry should not be the only Ministry concerned with cyclones or floods or drought, because the primary interest of the Agriculture Ministry is food production. The hon. minister for Agriculture gave the statement because he was concerned with food production and agriculture. In floods and cyclones the first victim is agriculture land it because salire and gets sensitised and at the same time the standing crops get damaged.

I do not want to give the various figures. I have already given enough figures food as for thought. The only request that we make to the Agriculture Ministry in this respect is to play a useful and catalytic role. If it can coordinate and get the other Ministries of the Government of Indian together, it would better because it is a joint responsibility of the Government to see that the various irrigation projects, the various flood control measures, the various anti-erosion measures are given effective and speedy implementation.

Especially for States which have been backward, which do not have a tax base and do not have the base for raising resources for a large individual developmental plan, the Agriculture Ministry should act as a catalyst because it concerns the food scarcity in this country, it concerns the agriculture of this country and it concerns the agricultural output in this country.

Some of the people who were the worst affected are the weaker sections of the society and sufficient funds should be advanced to them. Till now there have been two incidents of floods and cyclones in July and August. I was myself affected because my elections were there during that time and there was no turn out, hardly 50 per cent of the people came to vote because of the cyclone of 12th November. Till now only two or three days' relief has been given to certain villages, real damage, there was no money with the State Government. Where there was no damage, due to certain partisan attitudes of the district or State administration, relief has been given. But I knew that for sure and I speak with all emphasis at my command without any fear of contradiction that for the last three months roads have not been restored, some of the developmental schemes have not been given effect to, the Jawahar Rozgar Yojana and the rural development schemes are not being implemented, roads could not be constructed nor are they repaired. I need not say that when communications are affected the public Distribution System also fails. And in spite of the fact that the Union Government has been giving everything whatever has been demanded by the State Government, yet the things are not reaching the people because the funds are not available for restoration work, whether it is the embankment schemes, or the flood central schemes or the soil conservation schemes. There is no gainful implement and lots of standing crops are damaged and the people do not have any other alternative means of livelihood and they have to migrate. Large scale migration started.

As mentioned by my colleagues yesterday during the Zero Hour and also during

special mentions, these large scale migrations are taking place. The Agriculture Ministry cannot sit tight and say that they are watching the situation. It should not be compared to the saying that while Rome was burning Nero was fiddling. The Agriculture Ministry cannot be a silent spectator. The relief measures are extremely tardes. There is no restoration of the agricultural land, The protection embankments which have been breached have to be strengthened. Some positive measures must be taken like afforestation of the embankments of the dam areas, and the medium and major dam areas, and also expeditious clearance and massive investment to harness and to husband our water resources which are plenty in Orissa, have to be taken.

Sir, I am grateful to you for having given me an opportunity to speak on this important matter. It is a national problem. It should not be left to the State Governments alone to try to give relief and to rehabilitate the people. As it is a national problem, it has to be tackled nationally.

The people must be saved from their suffering and misery. And for this, the Agriculture Ministry will have to find the ways and means. And just giving us homily of the type "that we are watching and we have advised the various State Governments" is not going to solve the problem because most of the State Governments, specially the State Governments like Orissa, does not have the capacity even to contribute 20 per cent to Jawahar Rozgar Yojana work. And where will it get Rs.239 crores for flood and cyclone relief when it has not been able to do so when the flood and cyclone relief work was undertaken in 1990? Therefore, we are in a very Catch 22 situation. We want to do some work for the people and the poor and weaker sections of the society require gainful employment. For preventing future floods and future cyclones, the only means is to husband the water resources and to create afforestation because cyclones occur due to low pressure and high pressure winds. Any elementary student of Geography knows this.

Therefore, it is only by having affores-

tation, by soil conservation and by husbanding of water resources, you can minimise the intensity and severity of the floods, you can minimise the incidents of floods and the severity of the cyclone.

SHRI LOKANATH CHOUDHURY (Jagatsinghpur): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are specifically discussing the cyclone and floods of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

We had discussed in this House about Orissa' floods in the last session. When Orissa floods was discussed in this House, I raised a point that after the 9th Finance Commission's recommendations, the Centre has fixed a limit by which the centre gives two third and one third will be contributed by the State. I think, this formula is inhumane. I am saying 'inhumane' because the Central Government is sticking up to this formula and they think that they have no business to see the actual realities as to what has happened and as to how to mitigate the sufferings of the people. And that is why, when Orissa flood was discussed in this House, I raised this point. There are certain calamities, which any State cannot be met within their limit. Therefore, the Centre must contribute and this should be treated as a national calamity. So, treating it as a national calamity, give up the formula given by the 9th Finance Commission. Now that is the real issue which the Government should take note of. I know about the condition of the Orissa people, who were affected during the July floods. Nothing has been done. And the people are still lying under the sky because their lands were sand-casted and nothing has been done. Now, the Prime Minister, who was kind enough to visit Orissa, promised certain extra help. But I think, no help has been given so far. So, the same thing will happen to our brethren in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and elsewhere. So, this "Lakshmana Rekha" should be removed. And whether this has occurred in Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh or Orissa, the actual damage that has caused should be taken into consideration. And the Centre must contribute to them, at least to

establish normal life. If this is not done by the Centre, it is no use of discussing this in Parliament because virtually the discussion only remains a discussion. I have seen that we go on discussing and the Government sticks to certain formulae, does not take people's sufferings into consideration. And the same thing is happening in Uttar Kashi today. I urge upon the Government to see that these formulae should not be the guideline. The real suffering of the people should be taken into consideration. Some formulae should be evolved to help the people in distress.

He has already mentioned that when Shri Chander Shekhar was the Prime Minister, he went to Orissa. He was very much moved and promised an amount of Rs.50 crores. But that Rs. 50 crores never reached Orissa. It was only through some accounting process that it was adjusted. So also the present Prime Minister went to Orissa. He promised an amount of Rs. 35 crores. That is not beyond the formula. But the money has not reached Orissa. These are the things which I want to remind the Agriculture Ministry to do it.

There are certain areas in this country where cyclones have become a regular feature. In this House, a year back, we had discussed the Andhra situation. You know what damages it had done in Andhra. So cyclones have gradually become a regular feature. Last time when it was discussed, I said that there should be some central authority. The areas affected by cyclone should be identified. And once in a private discussion the Prime Minister told me - I agree with that point - that there are States like Andhra, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and West Bengal which are always affected by cyclones and the economy gets devastated. So these areas should be treated as special areas and the central authority should be created. The work of that central authority will be to minimise the affect of cyclone and flood. They should plan out. The Centre should put money with that central authority to see that the affect is minimised. To minimise it many things are required. Take the case of floods. So far as Orissa is concerned, now the rivers

are already silted up and the present protective embankments are not enough to control floods. Either you have to find some new ways or to raise the embankments. The more you raise the embankments, the more the rivers are silted. So that will not solve the problem. So to solve the problem as it stands today, a new understanding is necessary. And that new understanding should be to take the rivers' environmental position and other things into consideration and find out some new ways to control it in order to minimise the affects of it. Otherwise, in the coming days more floods and cyclones will be there.

To sum up, my two points are - the Centre should not stick to the formula. The grants should be made after taking the suffering of the people into consideration. Create a central authority with sufficient funds to minimise the affect of floods and cyclones so that the people will not suffer as they are suffering now.

SHRI B. AKBER PASHA (VELLORE):

Mr. Chairman, before November, the Tamil Nadu was reeling under a very bad situation of no water even for drinking purposes. Though we have been clamouring for water from our neighbouring State, God has given plenty of water but along with came this calamity. Lots of people had put up their houses in canals, in places where water normally used to flow and those houses got totally washed-off. The two places of my Constituency, that is Vellore, were badly affected, that is, Gudiyatnam and Pernambut. Soon after the floods, I joined the convey of Shri G. Vishwanathan, the Minister of Government of Tamil Nadu, the District Collector, the Tehsildar and all other people. They came with Rupees. four hundred for each family, whose houses were washed away, five kgs of rice and some sarees and dhoties. These were distributed. But the plight of the flood was so bad that in Perumbut I could see a vast devastation. The flood was so huge that a bus was completely washed away in the river. It got totally burried under the sand. People were trying to locate where the bus had gone. This much was the calamity.

Yesterday, Shri K.V. Thangka Balu gave about Rs.390 crores as an estimate of damage of crops and the houses that got washed away the roads that got breached and the bridges that gave away in the whole of Tamil Nadu.

Now, I find that the Calamity Relief Fund has sanctioned Rs. 39 crores for Tamil Nadu exactly ten per cent what Shri K.V. Thangka Balu was demanding yesterday. Yesterday, I got a letter from our Prime Minister. On my representation, he was able to write a letter to me in a sealed cover stating that from out of the Prime Minister's Relief fund, he is releasing Rs. 40 lakhs for the whole of Tamil Nadu whereas my estimate for the damages to my Constituency is Rs. 90 lakhs for these two places that is Gudiyatham and Pernambut. But, here he gives about Rs. 40 lakhs for the whole of Tamil Nadu. The total estimated rain during this calamity period is 2800 MM, which is copious rain. I am told we got such rain thirty five years back. After this, we felt happy that drinking water problem will not be felt for another two years. But, for this calamity, we have to appeal to the Government and the Agriculture Minister to take care and see that immediate relief works should be provided.

So many hon. Members spoke about waiving of the loans which the farmers took because they lost all crops. I could not see any crop in some other fields. The sand has taken the place of a crop. This will be a very difficult problem for the agriculturists to remove sand and bring the plot fit for cultivation. When we went in a convoy along with the State Minister of Tamil Nadu along with other persons to so many places, we have to go round and round because the roads were cut. We could not reach straightaway. In some other places, we have to walk as some bridges were cut away. In some places lakes for cut off. The much needed water—on which the farmers depend upon for the whole year for the irrigation purposes—has also been lost. But the dam has to be repaired and we have to wait for monsoon to fill it up. I therefore, request the Government to come forward with more funds

(Sh. B. Akber Pasha)

for relief work the 39 crores allow are insufficient. These are very peculiar and very pitiable conditions. Most of the sufferers are very poor people, especially the farmers and the harijans. Most of the harijans have lost their houses. These things have to be taken care of by the Government.

The Government has announced a relief of Rs.39 crores. The amount of Rs 9 crores has already been distributed and the balance of Rs. 30 crores is yet to be distributed. I am told that 25 per cent of the relief is the share of the State Government and the remaining 75 per cent is the share of the Central Government. This has to be released as soon as possible. The more important thing is that the distribution should be properly done.

I will tell one example. After my visit to these affected places, some meetings were held and in those meetings some of the people clamoured that they have not got the money fully. The amount of Rs. 400 which was distributed in a cover was correctly put to those people who got it in the presence of the hon. Minister. But, people who went later to receive the money, got less of it and some portion of it was cut away by the officials there.

I, therefore, request the Government to take care of the distribution measures also and to see that these people get the remedial measures as soon as possible.

SHRI K.P. REDDAIAH YADAV (Machilipatnam): Sir, I am very much thankful to the hon. Speaker who has directed the Agriculture Minister to go and visit the flood affected States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka, as a result of which this discussion is taking place today. My senior colleagues, Shri K.P. Singh Deo, Shri D. Pandian, Shri Lokanath Chaudhary and other hon. Members have given the detailed report of the three flood-affected States. By and large, they have brought out such things regarding the permanent relief fund, comprehensive insurance policy for crops, cattle,

sheep, poultry etc., Janata insurance, machinery for relief in case of natural calamities etc. I am not going into the details of all those things because these are the main points that are brought out for the consideration by the Central Government as well as by the State Government.

It is an unfortunate situation in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu. in the year 1989 when Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister, he and Dr. Chenna Reddy - Who was the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh - visited Machilipatnam when severe cyclone has completely damaged the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh. At that time the hon. Prime Minister declared that it should be treated as a natural calamity and he had sanctioned Rs. 84 crores.

Sir, I may mention that when natural calamity like drought occurred in Rajasthan, Bihar and other places, for three years it was treated as natural calamity and whatever was the expenditure that had to be incurred, was completely borne by the Government of India. But in the case of Andhra Pradesh, after the grant of Rs. 84 crores, not even a single naya paisa was sent by the Central Government. All of a sudden, in November last, the flood and cyclone have affected the farmers of the coastal area of Andhra Pradesh in a very bad way.

Sir, even Mr. Chenna Reddy has visualised a plan that whatever may be the case, either the Central Government or the State Government may bear the subsidy, but the farmers should get it. We have to give a minimum of Rs. 685 per hectare as subsidy to the affected farmers of any area in Andhra Pradesh or Tamil Nadu. But that also has not been paid.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Reddaiah, you may please resume your seat for a moment because there is going to be a Statement by the hon. Home Minister, Shri S.B. Chavan on the restructuring of Governmental set-up in Delhi.