

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : The possibilities for Indo-French co-operation and collaboration for activities in third world countries can also be explored under this Protocol. About the Fair, I am not in a position to say at what level we shall be participating in it and what will come out of it.

**Relief given to Andhra Pradesh for  
Floods in 1983**

\*105. SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the total quantum of relief given to Andhra Pradesh for floods in 1983 and expenditure incurred;

(b) the time limit, if any, fixed for expenditure;

(c) the total land sand-casted and got washed away during the last floods;

(d) the amount, if any, set apart for giving relief to the farmers, especially small farmers, for reclaiming such lands; and

(e) the number of hectares for which relief was given ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) Ceilings of Central assistance totalling Rs. 96.70 crores were sanctioned to the Government of Andhra Pradesh for floods and cyclone relief during the year 1983. According to available information the State Government have incurred an expenditure of Rs. 80.16 crores during the year 1983-84.

(b) Government of India had fixed the time limit upto 31.3.84 to incur the expenditure for both these natural calamities.

(c) As per information furnished by the State Government, 37,526 hectares of land was sand casted.

(d) Rs. 155.00 lakhs was sanctioned as part of the ceilings of Central assistance to clear the sand-cast lands. According to the State Government, entire assistance for clearing sand cast lands has been spent on the lands of small and marginal farmers.

(e) On the basis of field visits and observations made by the Central Teams and recommendations of the High Level Committee on Relief, Central assistance was sanctioned for clearing 30,000 hectares of sand cast land.

SHRI G. NARASIMHA REDDY : In my first supplementary, I would like to limit myself to the answer given to parts (a) and (b) of the question. Normally, whenever there is a drought or flood, the Central Team goes and inspects the sight and decides the quantum of damage and the allots funds to the State Government. The State Government decides the quantum of damage in each district and allots funds to the districts. These funds are kept at the disposal of the district collector, who will utilize these funds, because he is the authority on the spot to decide in which areas damages have taken place and who are the persons affected. This is a very important question to which I would like to draw the attention of the Speaker. In the present case, after the Central Team visited Andhra Pradesh twice, they allotted certain funds, which have been kept at the disposal of the State Government. Then the Andhra Pradesh Government met at the State capital and distributed funds to the different departments in the districts and the departments in turn utilized these funds for the normal Plan schemes. Not a single paise was kept at the disposal of the District Collector, which has been the normal practice for the last 35 years. Is the Government aware of the fact that, as a result of this practice of allotting funds at the State level to the different departments, which are using them for normal Plan activities, the areas which have been affected by floods did not receive their due share? If they are aware of it, what action have they taken to correct this?

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (RAO BIRENDRA SINGH) :** The normal practice all along has been to place the funds at the disposal of the State Governments. It is for the State Governments to allocate the funds to the different departments, which have to undertake the work of repair or rehabilitation, and to the Collector for other relief measures....

**PROF. N.G. RANGA :** Not specific relief ?

**RAO BIRENDRA SINGH :** ...all the rest of the relief measures, which I need not recount now, which do not come under the specific departments. For some time past, we have been insisting that the State Governments should give us the precise estimate of the damage in each district. We ask the Central Team to go into those figures also so that we can see whether the State Governments, in judicious manner, use all the allocations against natural calamities.

There is some sort of fairness in allocation to the districts. In some cases we also try, wherever it is possible to ask the Finance Ministry, to make the release of funds with specific orders for allocation to different districts. That is also being done. But it is not always possible to ask the State Governments to distribute funds on special items to be approved by the Central Government. Moreover this is also not the responsibility of my Ministry to monitor the expenditure. It is done by the Ministry of Finance and by the Planning Commission. But as far as possible before the Central team makes any recommendation in any subsequent natural calamity, I always insist that the expenditure incurred in the previous years must also be looked into before a Report is submitted so that we can take into account the performance of the State Government in this matter.

**SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY :** Sir, keeping the answer of the Hon. Minister in view, I would like to draw his attention to the answer given in (c), (d) and (e). Here it is mentioned that Rs. 155

lakhs were sanctioned to take up 30,000 hectares of land which has been sand-cast as against the reported 37,256 hectares of total land sandcast 37,256 hectares has been reported by the central team against which the Ministry was kind enough to sanction for 30,000 hectares. That means 81 per cent of the damaged land was covered under this allocation. So, I would like to inform the Hon. Minister before I ask my question that Adilabad district, which is affected mostly by the land being sand casted by the Godavary River was the maximum affected. The Central team visited twice in the district. There is one Tehsil Madhol, which was badly affected. There alone about 52,00 hectares of land of small and marginal farmers was sand-cast completely against the total of about 6,000 hectares of sand-cast land in the district. So, here the allocation works out to be 81%.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, who has just now went on record saying that when the money is allotted for a specific purpose we would like to monitor whether it has been used or not? In Adilabad district where it is reported that six thousand and odd hectares was sand-cast land, out of this in Madhol taluka alone 5,200 hectares of land was sand-casted but the benefit that was given to the small and marginal farmers covered only to 40 hectares of sand-cast land. That means only 0.8 per cent.

**MR. SPEAKER :** How can the Minister happen to know so much of statistics? This is a state Subject.

**SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY :** Sir, I would only like to apprise about the injustice done to small and marginal farmers in Madhol Taluka that they were supposed to get 80 per cent of the assistance but they got only 8 per cent.

**MR. SPEAKER :** The Members of the State Legislative Assemblies should put this type of questions to their Ministers, who are responsible for all this. How is he expected to know all this?

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY : Sir, he can inquire into this.

MR. SPEAKER : He cannot.

SHRI G. NARSIMHA REDDY : Sir let me finish my question in half a minute.

Sir, I would like to know whether the Hon. Minister would like to enquire into the injustice done and see that the justice is done to the small and marginal farmers who have been affected and did not get their due share.

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : Sir, I have taken note of the information supplied by the Hon. Member.

In fact, the total area sand cast reported earlier by the State Government in the Memorandum was 3,980 hectares. Later on it was revised to a figure of 14,130. The total amount sanctioned for removing the sand from the area was Rs. 155 lakhs. Adilabad was one of the districts which was affected due to sand-casting, but, as I said earlier, it is the responsibility of the State Government to arrange for the operations needed for removing sand from the land.

Districtwise allocation is also the responsibility of the State Government and if there has been any thing irregular or if the hon. Member feels that there has been injustice with regard to the allocation of funds for relief for his district or his constituency, I shall certainly like to get some information from the State Government and will later write to the hon. Member.

PROF N.G. RANGA : Mr. Speaker, this raises an important point of principle and policy involved here. May I have the assurance from the hon. Minister, in the light of the very careful framed answer that he had given in the beginning in regard to the susceptibilities of the State Governments and so on, whether they would take care to see that when their expert committee visits a particular area which suffers from any

specific kind of damage and makes a recommendation that so much money should be given as relief to that particular area and people affected, they would see to it at least in future that those recommendations are adhered to or implemented by the State Governments in the allocation as well as the utilisation of the funds that they sanction here for specific relief ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : As I have said, we do our best to try and monitor even the utilisation of funds, but this is not specifically the responsibility of my Ministry. We only try and assess the damage and make a recommendation to the high level committee and then it is the final responsibility of the Finance Ministry to release the funds and keep receiving reports from the State Governments about utilisation then on the basis of reports if they are satisfied, they release further amounts. But as I said, I have been trying to impress upon the State Governments to set up even District Relief Committees with which Members of Parliament from those areas should also be associated. Some State Governments agree with my suggestions and some State Governments do not take them into consideration. But I do not know what to do about it.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : The House is fully away that these are the natural calamities—one is drought and the other is flood which is affecting our agricultural sector. The Minister has just now said, and correctly so, that it is a matter for the State Governments to do whatever is possible. But my question relates to the fundamental principle involved in it. One is that the need for an insurance scheme for the agricultural sector is a very imperative and very urgent matter. But the basic issue is that the Central team's visit. The time lag between the report submitted by the State Government and the visit of the team is very much and above all, there is no co-relation between the amounts mentioned by the State Governments and the amounts sanctioned by the team. For example, my own State reported damage worth Rs. 159 crores due to the

recent floods, and that is a devastating damage done to the coastal area of Kerala. As you know, they said that a marginal amount of Rs. 1.5 crores would be given. Eighty-four people have died and the damage is so vast and above all ..

MR. SPEAKER : Are you giving information or seeking information, Sir ?

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : No, This is matter where Government has to evolve some principle. It cannot say that it is a State subject and it does not have any responsibility. It cannot say that because it affects the agricultural sector which is a vital sector of the country. Therefore, the State Government cannot meet the expenses. The Central Government has to come forward and it should have a very good principle evolved in giving the aid. For example, a memorandum for Rs. 159 crores is submitted. May I ask you on what criteria you have sanctioned only Rs 5 crores when the damage is to the extent of Rs. 159 crores ? Where can the State Government meet it ? Therefore, the Central Government has to evolve some principle whereby at least 50 per cent of the damage should be met by the Central Government.

Very good insurance scheme for the agricultural sector should also be evolved. I am afraid, unless these measures are taken no scheme can be effective. May I know from the hon. Minister the steps being taken by the Government on this issue ?

RAO BIRENDRA SINGH : I have said so many times in the House that we are guided by the principles laid down by the Seventh Finance Commission in the matter of providing relief against natural calamity. Now the Eighth Finance Commission has also given some recommendations to be followed in future. Government is considering those recommendations. But everything will depend upon what is to be decided for future.

With regard to the relief I cannot accept the suggestion of one honourable Member or another hon. Member for the quantum of relief and the percentage which has to be made by the Central Government and the percentage which has to be shared by the State Government. This will depend upon the ultimate decision of the Government of India in this matter.

With regard to the memorandum of Kerala Government for relief, it has very recently come. It came only last week as far as I remember. Immediate by a team was deputed. I think the team has reached Kerala to-day or it will reach to-morrow or on 1st of August, 1984. It will then depend upon the recommendation of the team as to what is the quantum of ceiling of assistance which is sanctioned. Rs. 5 crores has no relevance, Kerala Government requested us to find some money as a ways and means advance to meet the situation. Central Government was good enough to give Rs. 5 crores to the Kerala Government. We could merely have said that let us wait for the report of the Team. This may not have been given. Therefore, the grievance of the hon. Member is absolutely un-justified. If he is sympathetic to Kerala people, he should appreciate the action of the Central Government.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : Sir, the hon. Minister has said.....

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER : No, not allowed. When I say no, it means no.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY : You are non-cooperative with me to-day.

MR. SPEAKER : May be, it is a question of opinion.

समाज विरोधी व्यवसायी तत्वों को अनुशासित करने हेतु भारतीय वाणिज्य तथा उद्योग मंडल संघ द्वारा पारित किया गया संकल्प

\*106. श्री स्वामी इन्द्रवेश :

श्री माधवराव सिधिया : क्या