

assess the real damage and at the same time adequate funds may be released to assist the State Government to undertake the relief measures.

MR. SPEAKER : I request the Government to make a Statement on the flood situation in Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO (Chikballapur) : Sir, in my constituency...

MR. SPEAKER : I have already asked the Minister to make a Statement. You have got more than what you need.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Thousands of houses have been collapsed in my constituency.

MR. SPEAKER : Government is yours. You can talk to Government also.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : In my constituency 70,000 houses have been collapsed. Out of these, 20,000 houses have collapsed completely and the remaining 50,000 houses have been partly damaged. The estimated cost is more than Rs. 200 crores.

MR. SPEAKER : What do you want? I have already said that the Government will make a Statement.

SHRI V. KRISHNA RAO : Seven tanks have been breached. The victims are taking shelter in Government buildings like the school veranda, etc. I request the Government to kindly send some relief amount from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund to the State of Karnataka so that at least some shelter is given to the poorest of the poor people of the country.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS
AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : Sir, I wanted to inform the House, through you, that Shri Balram Jaxhar and a team of officials are visiting the three States of Andhra, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry also, over this weekend for assessing the damage. (*Interruptions*)

Weekend means tomorrow only.

Meanwhile, immediately certain money is released, Rs. 7 crores, to Tamil Nadu today only as an interim measure. After he comes back, he would definitely make a Statement and give information to the House.

SHRI RAM NAIK (Bombay-North) Sir, about earthquake, no statement has come.

MR. SPEAKER : I am allowing the same thing.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH (Deoria): Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House to a very important event. On the 20th October a blot from the blue fell and entire Northern India was in the grip of the tremor of the earthquake took the lives of thousands of people which led to the life-tolls and rendered homeless to thousands of people belonging to the regions neighbouring to the Himalayas especially Uttar Kashi in Uttar Pradesh. The people suffered a heavy loss and even after passing the full one month....(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-
DURI: Sir.....

MR. SPEAKER : Please sit down. I will

allow you. Don't be so impatient. I will do it after the other.

[*Translation*]

SHRI MOHAN SINGH : It is regrettable that even after passing one month the Uttar Pradesh Government did not get the required funds from the Centre for providing relief and assistance to the victims. The only thing, I submit that an all-party committee of the House should be appointed to make an assessment of the losses and the reasonable amount of the aid must be given immediately to the victims.

At the same time, some administrative hurdle has also emerged following the snowfall, uninterrupted earth tremours and people's lying in the open ground outside their homes. There is no security arrangement for them. Due to such circumstances, the local officers are trying to go on leave or seeking their transfer to the plain areas or taking compulsory retirement. Therefore, the administrative unit involved in the relief work has weakened. I want to suggest that in addition to the all party committee of the House, an all party Parallel Relief Committee should also be appointed and the administrative action of the Relief work should be taken under its supervision.

The other important issue attached to this is the Tehri Dam Project. People say that there have been four cracks in the dam which is belied by the Department. It is also said that in case of the recurrence of such earth-tremours, the project will suffer greater damages and in the event of its damages, the entire north India will be at the verge of devastation. The Government therefore, should discuss these two issues simultaneously and make a statement before the House and it should be discussed here and one guidance on behalf of all parties in the House should be given to the Government. Relief work should be operated through the Paral-

lel All Party Relief Committee of both the State and the Centre. With these suggestions, I want to draw the attention of the Government to this calamity.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : I am sorry. I can understand your anxiety but we can do it one after the other.

SHRI BHUWAN CHANDRA KHAN-DURI (Garhwal) : I won't repeat what the previous speaker has said. I would only add a few more things.

Firstly, we are grateful to the Prime Minister that he went to Uttar Kashi and met the people and promised aid of Rs. 70 crore. Unfortunately, nothing of it has gone so far. I therefore request the Prime Minister to kindly give this money as early as possible and if, as some people say, that it has been given, then it should be made clear, in what form and how it has gone.

A Minister from Centre went there and promised tin sheets worth Rs. 20 lakhs and that it will be sent within 48 hours. I have just come from there and I came to know that nothing has reached so far.

Another Minister went there and promised Rs. 7 lakhs worth of seeds but nothing has reached there.

I would like to convey the feelings of the people there that there is no point in promising them help and sending nothing. These are only vote bank gimmicks. We are in trouble there. Around 800 people have died there. If anybody wants to give us help, then it should be done properly.

I therefore request that the aid which is being promised should be given quickly and promptly so that people should get it before the snowfall.

I would also like to say something about the Tehri Dam. I support what my friend has said. There are reports that there were some cracks which have been filled up quietly and the tell-tale marks have been obliterated. I suggest a proper and thorough enquiry should be made on this.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (Andaman and Nicobar Islands) : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the last month's earthquake had caused devastating effect in the Uttar Kashi district and the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh. Sir, the Winter Season has started and the people are homeless. Men, women and children are suffering. They need immediate relief and rehabilitation.

But, unfortunately, as we have been told, the Government of Uttar Pradesh is doing it in a partism manner. It is a human cause and it should not be done in a partisan manner. The Zila Parishad was not involved in the relief operation work; it is being done by the party workers. The Government's relief operation is being done by the party workers. The Central Government, which has given assistance to the Uttar Pradesh Government to combat the situation, should come out with a statement what assistance has been provided to the Uttar Pradesh Government for this purpose and how it has been distributed to the people. What action has been taken?

MR. SPEAKER : You please take your seat now.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA : My request is that it is not a question of this party or that party; it is a question of human sufferings. So, all human sufferings ought to be combined together. (*Interruptions*) The Government should discuss it with all the political parties here. The Zila Parishad should be involved in this process. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri, please take your seat.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : It is not necessary for you to speak again. I am directing the Government to make a statement on this issue. I must bring to the notice of this House that the Government has already indicated that they are going to make a statement on this point. But I would request the Minister to convey to the concerned Minister that the points which are raised here may also be taken into consideration leaving aside the controversial part of it.

(*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : Shri Khanduri, you again got up. It is not necessary for you to speak again.

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA (Kot-tayam) : The rubber cultivators of Kerala are facing a serious problem. The price of natural rubber has been reduced; it has fallen to Rs. 80-70. The cost of production of rubber is very high. Last year, the rubber imported by the Government was released to the market. This has also caused a serious development in the rubber industry. The price of rubber fixed last year was not at all sufficient. The rubber cultivators have submitted a representation to the Minister; they also met him and apprised him of the serious development. I request the Minister to take necessary urgent steps to tackle this problem. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER : If one hon. Member has spoken, it is enough.

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA : The Minister is here. I request him to reply to these points, because it is a serious problem