

LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

*Monday, December 7, 1987/
Agrahayana 16, 1909 (Saka)*

*The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of
the Clock*

[MR. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : Sir, the decision of the U.S. Senate Committee deserves urgent notice.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : All right, you sit down, we will take it up later on. You please take your seat.

[*English*]

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The House should agree to adjourn the Question Hour to discuss this. It concerns the vital interests of the nation.

[*Translation*]

MR. SPEAKER : Kindly sit down, we will take it up after the Question Hour is over. We shall have it.

[*English*]

Shri S.M. Guraddi—absent ;

Shri H.N. Nanje Gowda—absent ;

Shri Prakash Chandra—absent ;

Shri Ram Pyare Panika.

[*Translation*]

SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the cyclone has hit Andhra

Pradesh but the matter is being raised here in the House by us.

MR. SPEAKER : All right. Does not Andhra belong to you also ?

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Cyclonic Storm in A.P.

*436. †SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA :

SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a severe cyclonic storm lashed the coastal areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in November, 1987 causing immense damage ;

(b) if so, the estimated loss of life and property ;

(c) whether any Central Team visited the areas to assess the damage ; and

(d) if so, the Central assistance provided for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b). The estimated loss of life and property due to the three cyclonic storms that hit coastal districts of Andhra Pradesh in October and November, 1987, as reported by the State Government, is as under :

(1) Human lives : 119
lost

(2) Estimated value : Rs. 239.01
of loss crores

The second cyclonic storm that hit Andhra Pradesh coast on the 3rd November, 1987

also caused adverse weather conditions over north coastal Tamil Nadu.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise at this stage.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Minister has admitted that damage has been caused by cyclone in Andhra Pradesh. May I know from the hon. Minister as to what is the criterion of the Government for sending the Central team? What are the reasons that the Central team has not been sent in spite of the fact that immense damage has been caused? May I know whether the Government now proposes to send the Central team there to assess the damage and to provide adequate assistance?

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDA MAKWANA : We have received the memorandum only on 26th of November, 1987. And, therefore, we have selected the leader and the team will be visiting within a short time. But it all depends upon the convenience of the State, Professor. We have to request the State and when the State says, "Yes", then we have to visit that State. This is regarding second part of the question.

First part of the question is concerning about the norms. So far as the norms are concerned, if there is a small amount, then it is decided in the inter-Ministerial committee. But if the amount requested by the State Government is more, then we go into the procedure of sending team etc. etc.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM PYARE PANIKA : During the Sixth Five Year Plan the Central Government had formulated a scheme for the development of special problem areas, like hilly areas, desert areas, cyclone prone areas and tribal areas, but no provision has been made in the Seventh Five Year Plan in this regard. Only for hilly and desert areas, a provision of 100% assistance has been made. The Government has not accepted the provision of 100% grant for cyclone and tribal areas. May I know from the hon. Minister as to why provision of 100% assistance has been

adopted in regard to two areas only when there are four types of such special problem areas? No developmental work has taken place in the areas suffering from cyclone for the last so many years. May I know whether the provision of 100% assistance for hilly area and desert area will be extended to tribal and cyclone areas also?

[*English*]

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : This is not directly connected with the question. But the suggestion made by the hon. Member will be examined.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : In a State stricken with chronic drought for the last four or five years, the cyclonic storms in the recent three or four months created great calamity. According to the Government sources, the human lives lost is about 119 and the estimated loss is about Rs. 125.78 crores. According to the information furnished by the Government, no team from the Centre has been sent even to assess the loss though it is nearly four or five months old.

The Prime Minister during his recent visit, did not find time even to discuss with the Chief Minister about the loss caused in the State and the hon. Chief Minister was asked to give the memoranda at the airport. That shows the callous attitude of the Centre towards the State and we in the State feel strongly about this attitude. (*Interruptions*). We want to protest against it. That is not the way because the Chief Minister was there; he went to present the memoranda; he was asked to give it at the airport.

MR. SPEAKER : That has nothing to do with this question. There are certain things which have to be done in a proper way. I will not allow, you are misusing.

SHRI D.N. REDDY : May I request the hon. Minister to see that a Central team is sent immediately to the State to assess the loss and to give immediate relief?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : You have rightly drawn the attention of the hon. Member to what he was misrepresenting, rather misleading, the Members here about the visit of the Prime Minister.

The Prime Minister visited the State just to know the first-hand information about the State and just to give solace to the people

who are affected. If the Chief Minister wanted to meet the Prime Minister, he should have called on the Prime Minister and the Prime Minister will never say "No" to him.

So far as the visit of the team is concerned, I have already said that the State Government has sent a memorandum as late as 26th November. We have constituted the team. It is for the State Government to send the memorandum early. It all depends upon the convenience of the State Government. When they will say "Yes. O.K. You can visit," then the team can visit. The team has requested the State Government about the date of their visit.

SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY : The House can well appreciate the vast extent of devastation that has been caused by the cyclone both in October and November in the State of Andhra Pradesh just by the number of lives lost, 119. I would like to know as to why the Government of India did not so far sanction some interim Central assistance by way of providing relief, pending survey of the damage by the Central team. If the Central Government offered to send the team and till the State Government is not ready to fix the date, what exactly is the hitch ?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : So far as the immediate relief is concerned, there is Rs. 24.50 crores as margin money with the State Government. This should be spent first. In case it is adjusted, then there is a provision for request for advance. The State Government can do that and we can consider. So, this is not done. The State Government is capable of spending the money. Therefore, they have spent. They have submitted a memorandum on the 26th, as I mentioned earlier. We have constituted the team and the team will visit very shortly.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Sir, with regard to natural calamities—whether it is cyclonic storm or drought or floods—they are a recurring feature every year. This is true with regard to the last cyclonic storm which affected the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and partly Tamil Nadu also. Even, two-days back, our Madras City and other coastal areas have been affected much. There, three people have lost their lives. It

has been reported in the newspapers. My question is : as soon as it appears in the newspapers and as soon as you get the news, why not you take cognisance of these things and immediately send the team ? You are always waiting for the State Government to come with a statement and ask for a Central Team's visit. I would like to suggest that *suo motu*, the Central Government has to come forward to send a Central Team to the affected areas in order to study as to how much damages was caused in that area. But you are not doing it. Even, with regard to natural calamities, the Central Team is being sent only after the calamity is over and by the time when they go to the drought-affected areas, the rains come. When you go there, the floods recede. That is the position now. My question is : why not you make a permanent plan outlay for this recurring feature every year ? Will the Minister come forward to make a permanent outlay for this ? Also, when you are giving money, you are giving it as 'ways and means advance'. Why do you give it so ? It is a natural loss. It is not only a loss to the State but it is a loss to the entire country. Why not you give it as a grant ?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (DR. G.S. DHILLON) : I mentioned the reason in reply to a previous question also. But in this case, we have not received any information or memorandum from Tamil Nadu. We did receive it from Andhra Pradesh. I think...

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : It has appeared in the newspapers.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA : Government of India cannot act on the basis of newspaper reports.

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : As far as natural calamities are concerned, they will not give false news.

(Interruptions)

DR. G.S. DHILLON : Just kindly listen to me....(Interruptions) If any States which have got some problems and if they do not write to us, do not send us any memorandum, then how can we guess that some loss is there ? How is it possible ? I tell you that the moment we receive any memorandum or information about the loss, there

should be no problem. There is enough margin money with your State also. We are not worried about it. You kindly ask them as to whether there is any calamity, what is the state of affairs in Tamil Nadu and whether they have touched the margin money or they are still preserving it.

A.I. Flight to Baghdad

*437. SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India propose to start a direct flight to Baghdad ;

(b) whether any request to this effect has been received from Indians in Iraq or the Indian Embassy in Iraq ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Requests have been received from the Ambassador of India in Iraq, Indian Railway Construction Company (IRCON), National Building Construction Corporation (NBCC) and a private builder for restarting Air India's services to Baghdad. No decision has yet been taken.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Sir, as to how long the request is pending with the Central Government and what is the difficulty to take immediate decision in this regard. ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : First of all, there is no load factor, if I were to give the figures of the last two years. Apart from that, we see these main points which are coming in the way for not starting this service to Baghdad. The first point is that we are not able to take the money out and over Rs. 22 crores have been struck up there for the last so many years. Also there is an increased risk because of the war. Apart from that, there is a heavy insurance because both countries are at war with each other and this additional cost of premium is Rs. 4.73 crores per annum. We do not even earn so much money there.

SHRI A.J.V.B. MAHESWARA RAO : Has any survey been conducted to decide whether the direct flight to Baghdad is profitable or not ?

SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER : There is hardly any traffic. So, having a survey is of no use.

Villages Unconnected with Rural Roads

*438. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of villages which are not connected by road in each State as on 30 April, 1987 ; and

(b) the national average of length of roads per hundred Sq. Kilometre and the names of States below that average ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAMANAND YADAV) :

(a) and (b). A statement is given below :

Statement

S. No.	States/UTs.	No. of Villages yet to be connected by all weather roads (as on 1-4-87)	Road length per hundred Sq. Kilometres of area as on 1-4-83
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	15566	48.41
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	2643	15.25