

02.12.2015

1

Sixteenth Series, Vol. XIII No.05

Wednesday, December 2, 2015  
Agrahayana 11, 1937 (Saka)

**LOK SABHA DEBATES**  
**(English Version)**

**Sixth Session**  
**(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XIII contains Nos.1 to 10)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**  
**NEW DELHI**

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

Utpal Kumar Singh

**Secretary-General**

**Lok Sabha**

Chander Mohan

**Additional Secretary**

Basant Prasad

**Director**

Rajinder Kumar

**Joint Director**

Abha Singh

**Deputy Director**

**© 2015 Lok Sabha Secretariat**

None of the material may be copied, reproduced, distributed, republished, downloaded, displayed, posted or transmitted in any form or by any means, including but not limited to, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of Lok Sabha Secretariat. However, the material can be displayed, copied, distributed and downloaded for personal, non-commercial use only, provided the material is not modified and all copyright and other proprietary notices contained in the material are retained.

---

**This English Version has been translated with the help of AI based software application and reasonable efforts have been made to provide an accurate translation. However, if any questions arise related to the accuracy of the translated text, Original English proceedings included in English Version will be treated as authoritative and not the English translation of the speeches made in Hindi and other languages included in it. For complete authoritative version please see Original Version of Lok Sabha Debates.**

**CONTENTS**

**Sixteenth Series, Vol. XIII, Sixth Session, 2015/1937 (Saka)  
No. 05, Wednesday, December 2, 2015/ Agrahayana 11, 1937 (Saka)**

<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>PAGES</u></b>
<b>ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS</b>	
*Starred Question Nos. 41 to 43 and 47	17-50
<b>WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS</b>	51
Starred Question Nos. 44 to 46 and 48 to 60	
Unstarred Question Nos. 461 to 490	

---

\* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE** 52-55

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

**15<sup>th</sup> Report** 55

**COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, LOK SABHA, (2015-16)**

**3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Reports** 56

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND CULTURE**

**227<sup>th</sup> to 229<sup>th</sup> Reports** 57

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER**

Discussion on flood and drought situation in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the Country 58-64

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377** 65-93

- (i) Need to take adequate measures for maintenance and rejuvenation of sites of archeological importance situated in far-flung and remote areas of the country

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey 66

- (ii) Need to exempt employees of Gujarat Safai Kamdar Vikas Nigam from Section 10 (26B) of Income Tax Act, 1961

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 67

- (iii) Need to run daily train between Sikar and Delhi and also increase local train service on Sikar-Loharu-Rewari route

Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati

68

- (iv) Need to award exemplary punishment to those involved in crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

Dr. Udit Raj

69

- (v) Need to put in place a mechanism for monitoring clinical trials on humans for ensuring their safety and payment of compensation

Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel

70

- (vi) Need to check the rampant adulteration of kerosene in the country

Shri Rattan Lal Kataria

71

- (vii) Need to change the mode of disbursal of funds relating to interest subsidy on agriculture loans to farmers

Shri Ajay Misra Teni

72

- (viii) Need to operationalize all automatic gauge recorders to ensure proper

monitoring of distribution of river water among Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan

Shri P.P. Chaudhary

73-74

- (ix) Need to provide adequate compensation to farmers distressed due to loss of crops caused by deficient rains and pest attack in Seoni and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh

Shri Bodh Singh Bhagat

74

- (x) Need to provide at least 1000 MW of power from the Central pool to Karnataka reeling under the power crisis

Shri Pralhad Joshi

75

- (xi) Need to set up a Component Unit in Blood Bank at Sanwaliya Government General Hospital, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan

Shri C.P. Joshi

76-77

- (xii) Need to grant a special package to Rajasthan for promotion of tourism in the State

Col. Sonaram Choudhary

77-78

- (xiii) Need to extend Bundelkhand region like benefits to areas along river Yamuna in Akbarpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

Shri Devendra Singh Bhole

79

- (xiv) Need to ensure safety of sacred Ram Setu between India and Sri Lanka

Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya

80-81

- (xv) Need to relax the norm under Swachh Bharat Mission to facilitate construction of School level toilets in the country

Shri R. Dhruvanarayana

81

- (xvi) Need to announce a revival package for the flagging cashew industry of Kerala

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

82

- (xvii) Need to convert the stretch of National Highway No. 49 between Madurai and Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu into a four lane road

Shri A. Anwhar Raajhaa

83

- (xviii) Need to take suitable steps to retrieve Kachchathivu island from Sri Lanka

Shri T.G. Venkatesh Babu

84-85

- (xix) Need to make mandatory 100% reservation in packaging norms for foodgrains and sugar in Jute bags for the year 2015-16

Shrimati Pratima Mondal

86-87

- (xx) Need to conduct proper environment impact assessment of the proposed Super Thermal Power Project of NTPC in Chhattisgarh

Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh

88

- (xxi) Need to regulate the private coaching /tuition centres in the country

Shri Krupal Balaji Tumane

89

- (xxii) Need to pay attention to drop out problems plaguing IITs and NITs

Shri Jayadev Galla

90

- (xxiii) Need to set up Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) for the welfare of Scheduled Tribe Community of



Aralam Farm in Kannur in Kerala  
and also to provide basic amenities

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher 91-92

(xxiv) Need to take steps for development  
of Cashew sector in the country

Shri N.K. Premachandran 93

## **DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

Flood and drought situation in Tamil Nadu and other parts 94-235  
of the Country

Shri T.G. Venkatesh Babu 94-103

Shri P.C. Mohan 104

Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay 105-109

Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury 109-113

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab 114-121

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu 122-131

Shri Thota Narasimham 131-134

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher 135-138

Shri Mekapati Raja Mohan Reddy 139-141

Shri A. Arunmozhithevan 142-149

Kumari Sushmita Dev 149-151

Dr. Kambhampati Haribabu 152-154

Shri Dharmendra Yadav	154-155
Shri R. Radhakrishnan	155-156
Shri Bhagwant Mann	157-158
Shri Badruddin Ajmal	158-160
Shri S.R. Vijaya Kumar	161-162
Dr. J. Jayavardhan	162-164
Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh	165
Shri Rajesh Ranjan	165-168
Shri Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli	169-170
Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi)	170-171
Mohammed Faizal	171-172
Shri Rameshwar Teli	172-173
Shri Kaushalendra Kumar	173-174
Shri Ninong Ering	174-175
Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra	176
Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena	177
Shrimati Kothapalli Geetha	178-183
Shri Janardhan Singh Sigriwal	183-184
Shri Birendra Kumar Choudhary	184
Shri Devji M. Patel	185-187
Shrimati K. Maragatham	188-192
Shri Jugal Kishore	192-193
Prof. Richard Hay	193-194

Shri P. Karunakaran	194-196
Shri Ajay Misra Teni	196-197
Shri Arvind Sawant	197-198
Shri Dushyant Chautala	199
Dr. Mamtaz Sanghamita	200-201
Shri P. K. Biju	202-203
Dr. Kulmani Samal	204
Shri C. R. Chaudhary	205-206
Shri R. Dhruvanarayana	206
Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	206-212
Shrimati Aparupa Poddar	213-214
Shri S. P. Muddahanume Gowda	214
Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel	215-216
Shri K. C. Venugopal	216-217
Shri Sanjay Dhotre	218-220
Shri M. Chandrakasi	220-221
Dr. P. Venugopal	221-222
Shri P. P. Chaudhary	222-235
<b>CARRIAGE BY AIR (AMENDMENT)BILL, 2015</b>	236-277
Motion to Consider	236
Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju	236, 237
Shri Anto Antony	238-241

Shri G. Hari	242-247
Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy	248-251
Dr. Tapas Mondal	251-253
Dr. Kulmani Samal	254-255
Shri Thota Narasimham	256-257
Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan	258-259
Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud	260-262
Shi Kaushalendra Kumar	262-263
Shri Sharad Tripathi	263-264
Shri N. K. Premchandran	265-268
Shri Mekapati Raja Mohan Reddy	269-272
Clauses 2, 3 and 1	273-276
Motion to Pass	277

## **BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS BILL, 2015**

Shri Ram Vilas Paswan	278-352
-----------------------	---------

**OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA**

**THE SPEAKER**

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

**THE DEPUTY SPEAKER**

Dr. M. Thambidurai

**PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS**

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi

Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav

Shri Anandrao Adsul

Shri Pralhad Joshi

Dr. Ratna De (Nag)

Shri Ramen Deka

Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao

Shri Hukum Singh

Shri K.H. Muniyappa

Dr. P. Venugopal

**SECRETARY GENERAL**

Shri Anoop Mishra

## LOK SABHA DEBATES

---

---

LOK SABHA

-----

Wednesday, December 2, 2015/Agrahayana 11, 1937 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[**HON. SPEAKER** *in the Chair*]

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion on various subjects. The matters, though important, do not warrant interruption of the business of the day. The issues can be raised through other means and some issues have already been discussed. I have, therefore, disallowed all the notices of Adjournment Motion.

*... (Interruptions)*

**11.02 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You will get a chance later.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have not given any notice, you can sit down.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is your matter? You have not given any notice.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):**

Madam, normally we do not agree for Adjournment Motion. That has been the practice earlier also and now also... *(Interruptions)*. You just hear me. What

is this? Do you have veto to do everything? In such cases, the decision of the Speaker is final.

What I would like to suggest is that the situation in Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu is becoming very precarious. So, if any issue has to be taken up on priority, it should be the flood situation in Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu and also in Andhra Pradesh... (*Interruptions*). For the last 22 days, Chennai city is in water. The airport runway is in water. That is why, as a Minister of Parliamentary Affairs I have no problem in accepting the notice given by our friends from different sides to take up this issue on priority as an exception. It is because more than 180 people have died and thousands of passengers are stranded at various places. The trains have been cancelled. The hon. Prime Minister has spoken to the hon. Chief Minister also. The Army and the Navy have been alerted. So, we need to discuss it. The House should show some concern about the State where the situation is becoming precarious. Chennai is in neck-deep water.

Therefore, I appeal to all people including my friends from the Congress and Communist Parties also to please on a humanitarian consideration let us discuss this issue on priority. We should express solidarity with the people who are suffering for the last 25 days. This is not to criticize any Government. The Centre and the State Governments are doing their best. So, the Parliament should be seen expressing concern over such a situation. That is why, I would appeal to the entire House including the Speaker to please take up that on priority.

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is a notice on this issue. We will decide about it.



**11.03 hours**

**ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now Q. No. 41, Shri Sushil Kumar Singh.

**(Q. 41)**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, the Minister has admitted in Part 'A' of his reply that a total of 136 earthquakes have occurred in India in the current financial year. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** All of you, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, in the earthquake which struck on 25th April, 2015, there was heavy loss of life and property even in India along with Nepal .... *(Interruptions)* There was heavy casualty, out of the total of 102 fatalities the highest was in Bihar at 79, followed by 19 in Uttar Pradesh, 3 in West Bengal and one in Rajasthan.... *(Interruptions)* The Minister has also admitted that about 13 thousand houses have been reported to be damaged.... *(Interruptions)* Most of the losses have been in Bihar, in which residential property worth Rs. 140 lakh was damaged.... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I doubt the loss of this residential property worth Rs. 140 lakhs. ... *(Interruptions)* Perhaps, this figure is wrong somewhere. ... *(Interruptions)* 13 thousand houses were damaged and the loss of just one crore 40 lakh rupees seems to be somewhat inconsistent.... *(Interruptions)* On one hand the Minister

has said that no committee has been formed to study and analyze the movement of the Indian tectonic plate, yet the studies of ESSO, NCM, NGRI, FPI Bangalore, IIG Mumbai, WIHG Dehradun show that the Indian plate is shifting towards the northeast at the rate of 5 cm per year. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to know from the Minister that when the Indian plate is slipping at the rate of 5 cm per year. *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is a very important question, so please go to your respective seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:** Why not a Committee be constituted by combining all these research institutes, which can study this issue extensively and forecast the damage caused by the earthquake? ... *(Interruptions)* Evaluate it so that people become aware before the earthquake and the damage can be minimized. ... *(Interruptions)*

I want to know from the Minister as to why the Government is not constituting a committee. ... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. HARSH VARDHAN:** Hon. Speaker, I have informed the hon. Member in my reply that this topic is to study with such great detail. ... *(Interruptions)* A lot of scientists from big, reputed institutions of the government constantly deliberate on it and exchange all the data. ... *(Interruptions)* This type of subject cannot be studied by a committee of two or four people because it is a very detailed subject. ... *(Interruptions)* He also said that the government needs

to undertake relief operations etc. in this regard. ... *(Interruptions)* For this, there is the National Disaster Management Authority in the country and the State Disaster Management Authority in the state. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a National Disaster Response Force. We were recently affected by Earthquake of Nepal, which caused damages in Bihar, Bengal and Rajasthan. ... *(Interruptions)* The authenticity of the National Disaster Response Force of our government was witnessed by the whole world. ... *(Interruptions)* Before Nepal could initiate its own relief operations, India had already commenced its efforts on the ground. All necessary activities had been set in motion. It was, in fact, through a message on Twitter from our Hon. Prime Minister that the Head of State of Nepal was first informed about the developments unfolding in their country. ... *(Interruptions)* As far as earthquakes are concerned, despite all the advancements made across the world, it still remains impossible to predict an earthquake in advance.... *(Interruptions)* All major earthquakes that have occurred across the world, whether in China, Kobe in the year 1995, or California in the year 1992, it could not be predicted in advance. Despite significant scientific advancements, earthquake prediction remains beyond our current capabilities. However, in India, we have taken important proactive measures. We have established 100 stations across the Garhwal and Kumaon regions, and IIT Roorkee is conducting studies in collaboration with Taiwan. In the event of an earthquake, for example in Afghanistan, where emergency operations need to be initiated within minutes, we are developing a model for an Early Warning System. This model will soon be connected to Delhi, and major cities such as Delhi, Kolkata, and to a large extent Bangalore, along with

three additional cities, have been brought under micro zonation studies. Furthermore, the country has been categorised into four seismic zones based on the intensity and risk of earthquakes, apart from a major seismic zone. Micro zonation work is being carried out accordingly. I believe that, from a scientific standpoint, India is making remarkable strides. Today, in the area of Early Warning Systems, including for tsunamis, India stands at par with, and in certain aspects even ahead of, many countries across the world.

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, the hon. Minister, in his reply, has acknowledged the comprehensive nature of this subject. I wish to place on record my sincere appreciation to the hon. Prime Minister, under whose leadership the Government of India succeeded in delivering relief to Nepal even before the Government of Nepal itself could respond, an effort that has been widely commended by the whole world. This subject is indeed vast and spans across at least four ministries. While it primarily pertains to the Ministry of Earth Sciences, aspects related to the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and the design of building maps fall under the purview of the Ministry of Urban Development, and matters concerning compensation are linked to the Ministry of Finance. Given the involvement of multiple ministries, the scope of this subject is extremely broad. I have already stated that 13,000 houses were reportedly damaged in Bihar, yet the estimated loss has been pegged at merely Rs. 140 lakh. I am of the considered view that this figure does not accurately reflect the scale of the damage. May I, therefore, request the hon. Minister to have this data re-examined?

As far as compensation is concerned, insurance companies often refuse to compensate for losses arising from earthquakes, categorising them as an "Act of God" rather than recognising them as natural calamities. Consequently, compensation is denied. Given that at least four ministries are involved in this matter, may I ask whether the Government proposes to establish a dedicated committee for their coordination, or to devise a mechanism whereby relief measures can be initiated proactively, even before an earthquake occurs? In addition, I wish to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government intends to formulate any plans concerning the structural design of houses and provide for compensation accordingly.

**DR. HARSH VARDHAN:** Hon. Speaker, the hon. Member has raised several pertinent points and expressed reservations regarding the reported loss figure of Rs. 140 lakh. I wish to clarify that this data was provided by the State Disaster Management Authority of Bihar and relates to approximately 13,000 small *kutcha* houses. I must admit, I too was initially surprised by the figures and had sought verification, which helped to allay my concerns to some extent. However, in light of the hon. Member's observations, I assure the House that I shall once again seek clarification from the concerned authorities in Bihar. With respect to the Government's approach, I would like to inform the House that the Bureau of Indian Standards lays down guidelines for building codes, particularly for constructions in seismic zones prone to earthquakes. Through this initiative, the Government has widely disseminated information regarding the classification of various zones likely to be affected by the adverse impacts

of earthquakes. It has also outlined the types of housing that should be constructed in such zones, the necessary building codes to be followed, and the standards to be incorporated into infrastructure development. For instance, with respect to other railway stations and authorities, the Government has specified the applicable building codes, and for existing structures, it has prescribed retrofitting standards. All these measures have been undertaken and promoted by the Government on a large scale. Furthermore, through the National Disaster Management Authority, the Government, in collaboration with State authorities, regularly conducts mock drills and awareness campaigns across schools, colleges, railway stations, public roads, and various governmental and non-governmental institutions to sensitise citizens on safety measures to be adopted during earthquakes. As for the suggestion regarding the formation of a committee, I would respectfully submit that this matter is already being addressed in a comprehensive and coordinated manner through the engagement of senior officials across key departments. Given the magnitude and complexity of the task, it would not be feasible to manage it adequately through a small committee comprising merely two or four members.

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** See, this is not a good thing, this topic was discussed throughout the day yesterday. The hon. Home Minister has given a detailed answer in this regard. *[English]* It is not proper. Now, please go to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI P. NAGARAJAN:** With the blessing of our hon. leader, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, I am raising an important question in this august House.

The research on seismic and tectonic activities has to be precise and accurate. Even earthquakes cause heavy damage to life and property if the strength of the earthquake is higher in Richter scale and its epicenter is near. Earthquakes occurring in oceans are far more dangerous as they cause tsunami which will be devastating, like the one happened on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2004 in Tamil Nadu. The relief and damage control measures taken by the State Government of Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership of our beloved Chief Minister *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* were hailed by all the leaders and relief organizations, both in India and world over.

Now, a similar national disaster has taken place in Tamil Nadu by way of rainfall. There is a heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu. A lot of people have lost their lives; and properties were also badly damaged in the heavy rainfall.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister about the various logistics, technological and financial support provided by the Government to observe

seismic and tectonic activities in the Indian Ocean region in the aftermath of devastating tsunami 2004.

**DR. HARSH VARDHAN:** I appreciate the concern of the hon. Member. I wish to inform him that after the tragedy which occurred on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2004, post-tsunami India has developed the best possible system in the whole world. Our early warning system for tsunami is rated as one of the best in the world. We are even providing information to almost two dozen countries across the coasts.

So, I can say with certainty that our INCOIS in Hyderabad and Chennai related to our Ministry of Earth Sciences have developed state-of-the art system which collects information round the clock, every moment, every second. This information is compiled and on the basis of that information early warning signals are given. The recent example is the Hud cyclone and the earthquake in the sea in 2012.

He has also made a mention of the recent rains about which there is a thought process to have a discussion in the House also. I feel proud of my officers that four days before this all started happening in Chennai, our Department had predicted everything with great accuracy. It informed everyone including the State Government, the State Disaster Management Authorities, the National Disaster Management Authorities, the flood relief people, the fishermen and the farmers. Everyone has been informed. We are in touch with them. This part of Tamil Nadu normally gets at least 49 per cent rainfall. So, it is all actually happening in relation to what actually is the



probable thing to happen there. But whatever our Department can do to scientifically analyse and inform the relevant authorities, we have been able to do that. We have the state of the art application in this particular field. The hon. Member can be assured of that.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI D.S. RATHOD:** Hon. Speaker, through you, I wish to seek clarification from the hon. Minister as to whether hi-tech research centres, similar to those established in developed countries, have been set up in India to advance research on early earthquake detection. Further, I would like to know whether any plan has been formulated to establish such research centres, or if any provision has been made for allocating funds for this purpose. Is there also any proposal to establish such research centres on a State-wise basis?

**DR. HARSH VARDHAN:** Hon. Speaker, at the outset, I had submitted that, insofar as the prediction of earthquakes is concerned, based on the current scientific knowledge available globally, it is not yet possible to forecast earthquakes in advance. However, once an earthquake occurs, real-time information can be rapidly gathered, enabling us to promptly alert relevant systems within the country. For instance, in emergency situations where it becomes necessary to shut down power grids, suspend railway operations, or halt the gas supply in pipelines, early detection and immediate action are critical. In anticipation of such scenarios, the Government, in collaboration with IIT Roorkee and experts from Taiwan, has established 100 state-of-the-art monitoring stations across the Garhwal and Kumaon regions. These stations

are tasked with collecting vital data and information, thereby enhancing our preparedness to implement preventive measures wherever feasible, in the context of seismic events.

Apart from this, the National Centre for Seismology has established a network of 80 stations across the country for earthquake monitoring. Furthermore, there are two telemetry clusters, one located in Delhi and its adjoining areas, comprising 16 stations, and another in North-East India, comprising 20 stations. In addition, we are maintaining approximately 150 observatories with the active support of State Governments, Union Territories, universities, research institutions, and other relevant agencies. It is our endeavour to expand the present network of 80 stations to 150 stations by next year. I would also like to submit that India is undertaking research in this domain at a level comparable to the most advanced global efforts, ensuring that our scientific initiatives in the field of seismology are on par with international standards.

*[English]*

**SHRI PREM DAS RAI:** Madam, I am very much grateful to the hon. Minister for giving a very exhaustive explanation to the kind of work that is being done by this Department especially in the area of earthquake and seismology. I would like to just make a mention that around the world today, especially in the Himalayan Region, we are very much prone not only to earthquakes but also earthquakes trigger landslides and such like disasters. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, this thing. Climate change and seismic activity will double in the years to come. How are we preparing for

such kinds of disasters? Insofar as the area of Sikkim and that particular region is concerned, we are very well aware that any time now, we are ready for a major earthquake. What are we going to do about that? May I request the hon. Minister to answer this? Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kindly go back to your seat. A matter of great national importance is presently under discussion.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**DR. HARSH VARDHAN:** I would like to tell the hon. Member that the strategy is not specific to any particular city or place. We have basically considered the whole country and divided it into four zones... *(Interruptions)* Further, in the zones also, in the cities also, as I have said, we have done micro zonation mechanism considering which place is more prone and which place is less prone. Depending upon the micro zones also, there are different strategies of different nature regarding advisory, regarding planning... *(Interruptions)*

As far as climate change as also global warming issue is concerned, within our own Ministry also, whatever suggestions and whatever research has to be done, that is also being done. We are coordinating with all the Ministries including the Ministry of Environment. I can assure the hon. Member that his concern about Sikkim and nearby areas is valid because they are definitely

more prone to earthquakes and all these seismic activities. We will make sure that no stone is left unturned to basically take care of these issues in the future.

**(Q. 42)**

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:** Hon. Speaker, through you, I wish to submit that while I have received a response to my question, I found the hon. Minister's reply regarding the flood Early Warning System somewhat unclear on two specific aspects. We continuously witness the extremes of drought and flood in our country. Therefore, practising moisture security to combat drought is of paramount importance. Similarly, the earlier we are able to issue flood warnings to the public, the greater the benefit to our farmers and citizens at large. I had specifically asked whether rainfall forecasts could be issued 24 hours in advance. The written reply received stated 'No'. However, I would respectfully draw the attention of the House to the 255th Report of the Standing Committee on Demands for Grants, wherein the Secretary of the Department had stated, on 31st March 2015, that "We have the ability to make forecast for 24 hours before the rainfall." In light of this, there appears to be a contradiction between the earlier statement and the current reply. I wish to raise a pertinent question. Bangladesh, our neighbouring and friendly nation, has successfully leveraged the JSN-2 satellite, developed through a joint initiative of NASA and USAID, to forecast flood warnings up to eight days in advance at nine critical locations. Through this system, timely alerts regarding heavy rainfall

and the anticipated intensity of flooding from the Brahmaputra and Ganga rivers are provided to the people well in advance, allowing effective preparedness. In light of this, may I ask whether similar efforts could be undertaken collectively by the SAARC nations? I would respectfully remind the House that the hon. Prime Minister, during his visit to the United States in 2014, signed an agreement on civil space cooperation under the Joint Working Group framework. Moreover, the NISAR satellite, a collaborative project between NASA and ISRO is scheduled for launch in 2021. However, even prior to the launch of NISAR, Bangladesh and Nepal are already benefiting from NASA's resources for disaster forecasting. Considering that the SAARC Disaster Management Centre is headquartered in New Delhi, may I urge the Government to explore the possibility of leveraging these technologies through SAARC cooperation, enabling India to utilise them more effectively, much like Bangladesh is presently doing?

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, the concern raised by the hon. Member is indeed valid and holds considerable relevance in the present context, particularly given the recent instances of heavy rainfall and ensuing floods in Tamil Nadu, as was mentioned. There are, however, two or three distinct aspects embedded within his question. First and foremost, I would like to clarify that our disaster management mechanisms are in no way inferior to those of any other country.

With regard to the point raised about other countries benefiting, it is indeed true that satellite imagery, by its very nature, does not recognise

national borders, it does not differentiate between where India ends and Pakistan begins. Consequently, neighbouring countries too are able to benefit from this data. It is a curious coincidence that today we are discussing flood prediction. While there is certainly provision for the accurate forecasting of rainfall, I would like to inform the House that, even as we speak, the rainfall currently being experienced in Tamil Nadu had been forecast 72 hours ago by our Department of Space Technology, predicting approximately 175 centimetres of rainfall. At this moment, I am unable to confirm whether exactly 175 centimetres have been recorded. However, I would like to respectfully submit that the occurrence of floods, that is not directly correlated to the rainfall prediction. Whether or not flooding will occur, it depends on a number of other determinants. For instance, factors such as the flow of water, the discharge capacity of rivers, and various local conditions play a critical role. In recent times, it has also come to light that, in certain areas, encroachments have obstructed natural water outflows, while in others, erosion of riverbeds has contributed to the worsening of the situation. *(Interruptions)* A similar situation has recently arisen in Chennai due to the obstruction of the outflow of smaller rivers. However, it is pertinent to note that Tamil Nadu, and particularly Chennai, experiences such intense rainfall approximately once every ten years. In fact, similar circumstances have been observed in other parts of the country over the past few months and in the last one or two years. A comparable situation occurred in Srinagar last year as well.... *(Interruptions)* As far as forecasting is concerned, I would like to assure the House that there is no deficiency in this regard. With specific reference to Tamil Nadu, I wish

to inform the House that accurate forecasts were issued on 11th November, 14th November, 17th November, and 22nd November over the past few days. Even prior to the flooding on 11th November, it had been predicted that the areas of Chidambaram and Cuddalore would be among the worst affected. However, whether or not flooding actually occurs can only be determined following the rainfall, as it is contingent upon several additional factors beyond mere precipitation. Regarding the flood Early Warning System, I would like to acknowledge that the hon. Member has made a very valuable suggestion, particularly with respect to developments in the North-East and Bangladesh. The reality is that the concept of a flood Early Warning System originated from the North-Eastern region, with the initial suggestion coming from the state of Assam. Previously, our rainfall forecasting relied solely on satellite imagery. However, the accuracy of predictions has significantly improved with the integration of satellite data and Doppler radar technology. This combined approach has yielded highly successful results and is now being effectively implemented in states such as Andhra Pradesh and Bihar. It is also being applied to monitor glacial lakes, and more recently, in the context of Tamil Nadu as well. My submission is this, to question why a flood occurred despite a prediction being made would not be entirely fair. The actual impact of rainfall- how much rain fall, where it falls, and what is the outcome is dependent on the local conditions prevailing over there.

**SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN:** Madam, while two of my earlier questions have been addressed satisfactorily, I would like to particularly

highlight an important point raised by the hon. Minister regarding Chennai, a matter which I was about to raise myself. It is not only Chennai; I come from the city of Mumbai, and with the rapid pace of urbanisation, a number of factors are contributing to an increasing convergence of natural and man-made disasters, leading to widespread hardship for the people. Whether it is the city of Mumbai.... *(Interruptions)* Flooding was witnessed in Surat as well, and similar flood situations have now arisen in Chennai. To address such challenges, the IMD, the Central Water Commission, and ISRO are working together...*(Interruptions)* I had also read a report, a three-page report of the year 2011, it was written in it... *(Interruptions)* that satellite imagery could be utilised to identify flood-prone areas and shared with farmers to enable timely preparedness. Although a tie-up with the Space Corporation already exists for this purpose, the benefits have unfortunately not yet reached the people at large. In the recent case of floods in Chennai, I acknowledge and commend the Government for the prompt corrective measures undertaken and for keeping the public well-informed. However, similar incidents such as the flooding caused by the Mithi River in Mumbai, and those witnessed in Surat and Chennai raise an important question. Why not consider forging a direct partnership between ISRO and municipal corporations? If satellite imagery related to rising water levels were shared earlier and more frequently with local bodies, it would greatly enhance their ability to act swiftly and mitigate the impact of urban flooding.



**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Madam Speaker, the concern of the Hon. Member is right. The reality is that such type of warning is also being given. Space Bhuvan is a portal from ISRO, it is updated from time to time on the website. At the same time, a portal of National Disaster Education Management is run separately by the Ministry of Home Affairs. Why it rained there and what were its consequences, it depends on the local conditions there. As they mentioned Surat and Mumbai, but we do not go into all that, as far as ISRO is concerned forecast and weather forecasting is now almost 100 per cent accurate. However, in this accuracy, the forecast made three days in advance is accurate. Even after that, we keep giving updates within those three days.

*[English]*

**DR. RATNA DE (NAG):** Madam Speaker, of late, Flood Early Warning System has not helped considerably. So, a holistic view needs to be taken if we want to ensure a successful Flood Early Warning System. I would like to ask the hon. Minister as to what type of surveillance capability has been created by the Government to provide accurate information about floods to farmers and fishermen who venture into sea.

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Madam, I agree with the hon. Member that the subject is too serious to be dealt with only by a single Minister. There are three or four Ministries that are actually involved in dealing with this subject. As far as the Department of Space and ISRO is concerned, the responsibility of this Department is to provide forecast *via* satellites and radars. Then, at the same time, the Home Ministry also comes into the picture which is actually the nodal

Ministry because some of the aspects which are being referred to by the hon. Member are dealt with by the National Disaster Management Authority which comes under the purview of the Home Ministry. Then, the third Ministry which is also involved is the Ministry of Earth Science about which the question was being asked earlier to this question. Now, inputs from all these three Ministries and other related Ministries are put forward through various mechanisms, through radio broadcasts, SMS systems and, in fact, now-a-days we also have a provision of providing forecasts for the farmers through SMS which is done through the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

Therefore, I would just say that I agree with the hon. Member, but the forecast itself is a very dicey process. I was going through the definition of 'forecast' last night when I thought I have to answer this question today. But I could not find a proper meaning. In one dictionary, the only definition of 'forecast' is, it is prediction of the value of some variable at some future time. So, you can understand how difficult it is. But in spite of that, due to the synergies of these various Ministries, a fairly good job is being done.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU:** Hon. Speaker, while reading the written reply provided by the hon. Minister, I observed that there are several organisations under the Department of Space collaborating independently with various States. For instance, the North Eastern Space Applications Centre is working with Assam, while the National Remote Sensing Centre is engaged in flood monitoring for the Godavari region.

Similarly, our Space Applications Centre in Ahmedabad is undertaking work at the experimental level. Thus, while many institutions are indeed working towards the same overarching objective — the development of an effective flood early warning system, they appear to be operating in isolation. In this context, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has considered establishing a single nodal agency to integrate all these centres and applications, given that the ultimate aim is the same. Today, climate variability has become so pronounced that unexpected events can occur anywhere, as we have seen recently in Chennai and South Andhra Pradesh. To cite the example of the Rayalaseema border districts — Chittoor, Kadapa, and Nellore, these regions, which historically recorded an annual average rainfall of around 1.94 centimetres, have now witnessed rainfall exceeding 5 centimetres in a short span. At present, there is no single agency available from which reliable consultations or advice can be sought. Therefore, I not only raise this question but also offer it as a suggestion: that the Government may consider establishing such a unified agency with a holistic and integrated approach. As hon. Member Ratna ji has also suggested, it would be prudent to consult with other concerned Ministries in this endeavour. *[English]* It is because, this is high time that we took this problem seriously because of the global climate change. Thank you, Madam.... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, the suggestion of the hon. Member is well taken. ... *(Interruptions)* There are already in place inter-Centre teams and inter-Ministerial teams and also inter-State teams. ... *(Interruptions)* Just

as we have the National Disaster Management Authority in the Centre, we have the disaster management wings even in the individual States.... *(Interruptions) [Translation]* The process of coordination among various agencies is ongoing and continues in a sustained manner. In certain regions that have historically been prone to frequent or seasonal flooding, the visibility and effectiveness of such efforts are more apparent. It was for this reason that the flood advance warning system was initially introduced in Assam, given the state's recurring vulnerability to floods. Conversely, in regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, there was previously less inclination towards adopting such systems, perhaps owing to the fact that significant flooding had not been experienced there in the past. However, following the devastating floods witnessed last year, there has been a marked shift, and the state is now actively and fully utilising the flood early warning systems.

With respect to the Department of Space, as I have already mentioned, through the Bhuvan portal, data is made available for various regions, including certain areas beyond India's borders, as reflected by satellite imagery. Forecasts and monitoring are carried out from time to time based on this information. Nevertheless, I concur with the hon. Member's observation that this requires a constant evolution. As rightly pointed out, weather patterns are changing significantly. Areas which earlier received little rainfall are now experiencing heavier precipitation, while regions traditionally prone to rainfall are witnessing a decline. Our data indicates that vast stretches of land across the country are impacted by floods, droughts, and earthquakes, highlighting

the pressing need for dynamic and adaptive forecasting and disaster management systems. *[English]* If you ask me the statistics, we have about 60 per cent of the land area of India, which is prone to earthquakes, 68 per cent prone to drought and 8 per cent prone to cyclone. ... *(Interruptions)* This is constantly evolving. Therefore, our mechanisms also will have to constantly evolve. ... *(Interruptions)* I hope and I am sure, we are making headway in that direction. Your advice is well taken and this is, of course, our concern as well.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question No. 43

I have a suggestion that Question Nos. 43 and 47 are almost the same, I will also allow those in Question Nos. 47 in this.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:** You can club, because both the questions are almost the same.

**(Q. 43 and 47)**

**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR:** Hon. Speaker, a significant number of workers from our country travel to Arab nations for employment. The Football World Cup is scheduled to be held in Qatar in 2022, and it is anticipated that lakhs of Indian workers will be engaged there, with the number potentially reaching up

to five lakh. According to a report by Amnesty International, many Indian workers employed in construction, road-building, and other related sectors in Qatar are reportedly subjected to exploitation. The report further suggests that such exploitation is likely to persist, highlighting serious concerns regarding the treatment of foreign workers. It is deeply troubling that, according to the report, a lack of sensitivity towards the welfare of workers is observed, and that Indian workers, in particular, face considerable intolerance and hardship in Qatar.

I would like to know from the hon.Minister, through you, whether the Government will take renewed initiatives to look into the issues of the safety of the workers of Qatar and also discuss the provisions of the Labor Treaty, so that initiatives can be taken towards the safety of Indian workers as well as preventing and ending their exploitation and whether an initiative will be taken to form a Task Force in this regard?

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:** Madam Speaker, At the outset, I would like to inform this august House, through you, that not only in Qatar, but across six Gulf countries, nearly 70 to 72 lakh Indian workers are currently employed. While there have been concerns and complaints regarding their exploitation in the past, I wish to assure the House that our present Government has taken significant steps to both reform existing mechanisms and establish new systems aimed at safeguarding the rights and welfare of Indian workers abroad. Under the previous framework, the system of open houses existed. However, we have strengthened this by instituting Open Houses at the ambassadorial

level. In several countries for example, in the United Arab Emirates, our Ambassador routinely holds open house sessions for 11 to 12 hours daily, without fail. In Qatar too, our Ambassador is known to be particularly sensitive and responsive to the concerns of Indian workers. Therefore, I would respectfully submit that statements suggesting blanket exploitation or a lack of compassion in Qatar do not reflect the full picture and may not be appropriate in this setting. Among the new systems introduced, the e-Migrate and MADAD (Help) portals have been launched. The e-Migrate portal has made the entire recruitment and migration process transparent and streamlined. The Help portal employs a colour-coded grievance tracking system, a complaint initially appears in green, and if unresolved within the stipulated time, it changes to yellow and then red. This system has fostered healthy accountability among our Missions, as no official wants to see a red status under their watch. I myself monitor these systems directly, and the hon. Prime Minister also takes a keen interest. I would like to share with the House that if any grievance is raised via my official Twitter handle, I ensure it is addressed within 24 hours. The hon. Prime Minister, when addressing the Indian diaspora abroad, makes it a point to remind our Embassies that they represent a home away from home that they are not just officials, but the first point of support and reassurance for our citizens overseas. I recall, during a public address in the UAE, the Prime Minister personally raised a concern about the e-Migrate system and directed that it be resolved by 17th December. Has any Prime Minister in the past placed the welfare of our overseas workers so high on the national agenda? Therefore, through you, hon. Speaker, I would like to

reassure the hon. Member that there is no cause for concern. Whether in Qatar, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain or Oman, we remain fully committed to protecting every single Indian worker and ensuring their dignity, safety, and rights are upheld.

**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR:** Madam, a large proportion of the Indian workers who travel abroad for employment, particularly to the Gulf countries, are unfortunately uneducated. Owing to this vulnerability, many are misled and taken on the basis of forged visas and passports. Furthermore, at the end of their employment term, workers often face difficulties in obtaining the necessary exit visas from their employers. In cases where they return home on leave, they are subjected to further harassment in securing re-entry permits. Through you, Hon. Speaker, I would like to bring to the hon. Minister's attention the plight of four workers from Giridih-Pachamba in Qatar who remain stranded there and have been persistently seeking assistance. They are also in constant contact with Members of Parliament from their region, earnestly pleading for help. In light of such recurring issues, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government intends to initiate a structured plan for imparting specialised training to officers posted in Indian missions across the Gulf. This training would enable them to periodically verify the authenticity of documents held by Indian workers, assess their living and working conditions, and engage with them directly to gather feedback on their well-being. Moreover, I would like to know whether the Government proposes to take the initiative to formulate a comprehensive Labour Migration Policy in



coordination with the Government of Saudi Arabia. As the House may be aware, Riyadh remains the only GCC country with which India has yet to formalise such an agreement, despite being one of the primary destinations for Indian workers. May I request the hon. Minister to kindly apprise the House of any forthcoming initiatives in this regard?

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:** Madam Speaker, I believe that had my earlier response been heard in its entirety, perhaps this question might not have arisen. I had already stated that we have introduced significant reforms and enhanced procedures within our Embassies to better serve our overseas workers. Through you, hon. Speaker, I would also like to clarify for the hon. Member that visas are not issued by employers; they are issued by governments. The concern raised regarding employers withholding passports is, however, valid and acknowledged. While employers may retain passports to exert control, they are not authorised to issue or withhold visas. This responsibility lies solely with the Embassy. When a worker's visa expires, they are required to approach the Indian Embassy, which facilitates the issuance of a new visa. In situations where an employer refuses to return a passport, our Embassies actively intervene. If the passport cannot be retrieved from the employer, the Embassy issues either an Exit Certificate or an Emergency Certificate to enable the worker's return. With reference to the four workers from Giridih-Pachamba mentioned by the hon. Member, I would like to respectfully state that no such case has come to my notice thus far. However, I assure this House that if Virendra Kumar ji or any other hon. Member

provides me with the specific details of these cases, I will personally ensure that the matter is resolved without delay.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Dev - Not present.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri C.R. Patil - Not present.

Shri Maheish Girri.

**SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI:** Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government maintains any database of Indian citizens residing abroad, including workers, students, and other categories of migrants. If yes, what are the details? ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:** This was the original question and I have also given the answer to the original question in writing. ... *(Interruptions)*  
Anyway, I would like to clarify that, at present, data maintained by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs pertains only to Indian workers migrating to ECR countries. However, there is currently no official database available with the Ministry regarding Indian students studying abroad.... *(Interruptions)*  
*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Mahesh Giri, I think, you do not have any other supplementary.

**SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI:** Yes, Madam. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri P.R. Sundaram.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM:** Hon. Speaker, the condition of Indian workers abroad is pitiable and major number of Indian workers has been forged by the unlawful unregulated agents and there is no safety to the workers in the Gulf countries. Particularly, the life of women domestic workers is also in acute danger without any protection.

Recently, one Mrs. Kasturi Munirathinam of Vellore District, Tamil Nadu, a woman domestic employee was attacked in Saudi Arabia, and finally her right hand was chopped-off by the cruel owner. Considering the condition of Mrs. Kasturi, our hon. Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had announced financial aid of `Rs.10 lakh. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to know whether the Government will come forward to provide legal assistance to the Indian employees in the Gulf countries. What kind of compensation package will be provided by the Government to the Indian workers to protect their livelihood? ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:** Hon. Speaker, hon. Member has raised two- three questions together.... *(Interruptions)* At the outset, I would like to state that the hon. Member is absolutely right in pointing out that unregistered recruiting agents are often unscrupulous and exploitative in nature.... *(Interruptions)* Individuals who are sent abroad through such unauthorized agents often fall victim to fraud and exploitation.... *(Interruptions)* It has been stated that all registered recruitment agents operate through the e-Migrate portal. Engaging in recruitment activities without registration is, in itself, a punishable offence under the law....*(Interruptions)* It is therefore imperative that State Government agencies take strict action against unregistered recruitment agents and ensure their operations are halted. As per existing provisions, there is no legal scope for individuals to be sent abroad through unregistered recruitment channels.... *(Interruptions)* In fact, such practices amount to human trafficking. The Government is actively considering bringing cases where women are sent abroad through unregistered recruitment agents within the legal definition of human trafficking under the relevant legislation.... *(Interruptions)*

As far as Kasturi Munirathinam is concerned, it has been a very painful and unfortunate incident. I express my gratitude to Jayalalitha ji for helping her with Rs.10 lakh.... *(Interruptions)* We brought them on 7.11.15 from there.... *(Interruptions)* This is the case of 5.10.15. ... *(Interruptions)* On 5th October, our Embassy received information that a woman named Kasturi

Munirathinam, employed as a domestic worker in Saudi Arabia, had been admitted to Kingdom Hospital in Riyadh.... *(Interruptions)* When officials from our Embassy contacted her and recorded her statement, she alleged that her right hand had been severed by her sponsor, the employer for whom she was working.... *(Interruptions)* Simultaneously, our Embassy contacted the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Labour, and the local police station, where we submitted a formal note verbale requesting a thorough police investigation into the matter. We specifically urged that the case be registered as an attempt to murder.... *(Interruptions)* However, I say with deep regret that on 16th October, the Government of Saudi Arabia issued a press release stating that this was not a case of her hand being severed, but rather an incident where she allegedly fell while attempting to escape from her employer's residence. At the same time, I am pleased to inform the House that the Government of India did not accept this explanation at face value. In fact, during his recent visit to New York, the hon. Prime Minister personally raised this matter with the King of Saudi Arabia. He began his address by stating that justice must be dispensed to Kasturi Munirathinam, and to this day, the Prime Minister continues to press for a fair and just resolution. We have since repatriated Shrimati Kasturi Munirathinam to India, ensuring that her pending salary dues up to 7th November were fully settled. She is currently undergoing treatment at a hospital in Tamil Nadu....*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question and answer session is going on such an important topic. *[English]* I am sorry, please go to your seats.

...(Interruptions)

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** Hon. Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to you. This is indeed a matter of great importance, and I appreciate your thoughtful decision to club both the related questions, a step that deserves commendation. The Government has consistently reiterated its commitment to addressing this issue. Owing to poverty and lack of employment opportunities, a significant number of our citizens, particularly those from marginalised backgrounds, including unorganised labourers, domestic workers, and victims of child trafficking — are compelled to seek employment overseas. I also wish to express my gratitude to the hon. Minister for candidly acknowledging that trafficking through unauthorised recruitment agents remains a serious and persistent concern. This is especially evident in several Gulf nations, including Saudi Arabia, where many of our compatriots, often from the most underprivileged regions of the country are subjected to conditions alarmingly similar to modern-day slavery. On the occasion of International Anti-Slavery Day, I wish to specifically ask the hon. Minister, in light of deeply disturbing reports of bonded labourers being trafficked abroad, wrongfully detained, denied food, and forced to live in inhumane conditions, effectively a life of bondage, would the Government consider establishing a dedicated special cell, with particular focus on women and children, in collaboration with State Governments, especially in those districts identified as trafficking-prone? Furthermore, may I urge the Government to initiate a coordinated and

comprehensive approach, targeting both the supply and demand dimensions of the problem, to ensure timely protection, rehabilitation, and justice for our most vulnerable citizens? ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:** Hon. Speaker, I am pleased to inform the hon. Member, Shri Salim ji, that the Government has already taken action in the spirit of the suggestions he has made. A large number of unauthorised domestic workers who travel abroad originate from the Godavari and Kadapa districts of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Recognising this, I personally reached out to the respective State Ministers. We also invited several of the women who had returned after facing exploitation abroad and held a detailed meeting with them. During this interaction, it was strongly recommended that such migration be curtailed, and that domestic workers should not be sent through unauthorised channels under any circumstances.

Subsequently, I convened a meeting of the Consultative Committee to deliberate further on this matter. During the discussions, there was a divergence of opinion, there was no unanimous agreement to completely stop such migration. Several Members emphasised that this issue is deeply linked to livelihood and hunger, and that an outright ban may not be the solution, but rather, a structured and humane approach must be adopted. Through you, hon. Speaker, I wish to inform the House that, in our effort to eliminate exploitation, a firm decision has been taken that no woman will be allowed to migrate as a domestic worker through private recruitment agents. Henceforth, all such placements will be facilitated exclusively through authorised government

agencies. Moreover, we have directed these government agencies to undertake recruitment without charging any fees whatsoever. This measure has been implemented specifically to dismantle the exploitative practices that were prevalent under unregulated recruitment agencies and to ensure that no woman is subjected to conditions resembling modern-day slavery.

*[English]*

**SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:** Madam Speaker, I am thankful to you for allowing me to ask a Supplementary.

Now, as on today, the Immigration Regulation Act of 1983 regulates only those recruiting agents which are falling within the purview of the Act, and they recruit low-skilled workers. But those who recruit high-skilled workers and professionals remain outside the ambit of the law. Not only this, the students who had enrolled themselves outside, are also outside the ambit of the Immigration Regulation Act of 1983.

In view of this, whether the Government is contemplating any law or a Bill, which covers the entire recruitment industry for overseas employment irrespective of the nature of the employment for which they recruit the workers or even covering those students who go for studies.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:** Hon. Speaker, It is absolutely correct that the existing legislation governs only those Indian citizens migrating to ECR countries. This law, known as the Emigration Act, 1983, was enacted with the



specific intention of safeguarding vulnerable sections of our workforce individuals who often possess low levels of education, in some cases having not even completed the tenth standard, and are therefore in greater need of protection. However, it is important to acknowledge that this legislation does not extend its regulatory framework to those travelling to non-ECR countries. Recognising the limitations of this decades-old law, the Government is actively working towards replacing it. We are currently engaging in wide consultations, including with the Consultative Committee, and are committed to adopting an inclusive and transparent approach in drafting the new legislation. The objective is to replace the outdated Emigration Act of 1983 with a comprehensive, modern, and robust Immigration Bill that reflects present-day realities and ensures stronger protection for all categories of migrant workers.

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is the time of short question.

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** Thank you, Madam. I will keep it brief. A large number of Punjabi workers from Punjab are employed in the Gulf countries. During the Iraq crisis, I had the opportunity to work closely with the hon. Sushma Swaraj ji, who was fully apprised of all the details and challenges faced by our citizens in such situations. I wish to raise a specific concern. As the hon. Minister has also stated in his reply, it is often observed that Indian workers' passports are confiscated and they are passed from one agent to another. In unfortunate situations, when a worker falls seriously ill, passes away, or escapes exploitative conditions, they are asked, upon approaching the

Indian Embassy, to produce a NOC from the company or sponsor. In cases where the company refuses to issue an NOC, may I request the hon. Minister to consider whether the Ministry of External Affairs could establish a provision to repatriate such individuals using India's Emergency Certificate mechanism, without requiring the NOC from the employer? Could the hon. Minister kindly clarify if such a humanitarian provision can be institutionalised for the timely return of Indian nationals in distress?

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your question is over. You have answered.

**12.00 hours**

**SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ:** The point raised by hon. Member Shri Bhagwant Mann ji is absolutely valid, particularly in the context of Saudi Arabia, where the requirement for a NOC is still enforced. We fully acknowledge the concern that how can a worker who has escaped exploitation be expected to obtain an NOC from the very employer responsible for that exploitation? It is, in essence, an injustice. I wish to inform the House that we are actively engaging with the Government of Saudi Arabia on this matter. As part of the ongoing review of our bilateral MoUs, we are specifically seeking amendments to address this issue. Saudi Arabia cites its internal legal framework, particularly aspects of Sharia law, as the basis for requiring an NOC. However, we are in continuous dialogue with their authorities to find a humane and practical resolution, so that exploited workers are not trapped in such procedural constraints.

---

## **\*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 44 to 46 and 48 to 60

Unstarred Question Nos. 461 to 490

---

\* For Questions, please refer to Master copy of Original version of Debates, placed in the Library.

You can also visit <https://sansad.in/ls/questions/questions-and-answers> for more information.

**12.02 hours****PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE***[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Umiam, for the year 2014-2015, yearly Report along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Space Applications Centre, Umium, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3216/16/15]

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts.

- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3217/16/15]

(3) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) Review by Government of the working of the Space Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015.

- (ii) Annual Report of the Space Corporation Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the controller and Auditor General there on.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3218/16/15]

(4) A copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 655(A) in the Gazette of India dated 25th August, 2015 under article 320(5) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3219/16/15]

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

- (2) Annual Report of the National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3220/16/15]

---

... (*Interruptions*)

**12.02 ½ hours**

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND  
RESOLUTIONS**

**15<sup>th</sup> Report**

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR):** I beg to present the Fifteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

---

... (*Interruptions*)

**12.03 hours****COMMITTEE ON MEMBERS OF PARLIAMENT LOCAL AREA  
DEVELOPMENT SCHEME, LOK SABHA (2015-16)****3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR):** I beg to present of the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on MPLADS:-

- (1) 3<sup>rd</sup> Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha regarding Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 1<sup>st</sup> Report on the Proposals from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for modifications in the MPLADS guidelines for purchase of animal ambulances and for the construction of more than one community centre in the same village/local areas.
  - (2) 4<sup>th</sup> Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) of Committee on MPLADS, Lok Sabha regarding Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 2<sup>nd</sup> Report on the Proposals from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for modifications in the MPLADS guidelines on naming of assets created under MPLADS after the name of eminent personalities/national icons/freedom fighters and using MPLADS funds for civil construction works in schools as per norms of the Right to Education Act, 2009 respectively.
-



**12.03 ½ hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM AND  
CULTURE****227<sup>th</sup> to 229<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP):** I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture:-

- (1) The Two Hundred Twenty-seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Two Hundred and Twentieth Report on the Demands for Grants (2015-16) of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.
- (2) The Two Hundred Twenty-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Two Hundred and Twenty-first Report on the Demands for Grants (2015-16) of Ministry of Shipping.
- (3) The Two Hundred Twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its Two Hundred and Twenty-second Report on the Demands for Grants (2015-16) of Ministry of Tourism.

---

... (*Interruptions*)

**12.04 hours****ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER****Discussion on flood and drought situation in Tamil Nadu and other parts  
of the Country**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, considering the flood situation in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh due to heavy rains and also drought in some parts of the country, a request to take up a discussion has been made by Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in the House today. If you all of you agree, we can take up the discussion on the issue under Rule 193 immediately. I have received some notices on this issue and Dr. Venugopal has given notice at the first point of time. So, if the House agrees, we can take the 193 discussion immediately.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Yes madam, we all agree. ... (*Interruptions*)

---

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kharge ji, I have not accepted your Adjournment Motion. I have also said that the issue that you want to raise has already been discussed yesterday.

*...(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Home Minister has replied it completely. So there is no reason to raise this issue today.

*...(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** No.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** We want to discuss it. We want to cooperate with that.... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kharge ji, this is not co-operation. You haven't even heard the answer yesterday. *[English]* I am sorry.

Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

*[Translation]*

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is not the case. Try to understand.

*[English]*

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kharge ji, I know.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** All of you are standing. I won't talk like that.

*. . . (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Let them go to their seats.

**12.06 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** When they were here, you spoke.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** We have requested the Chair.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** We are also requesting. But, to accept one request and disregard the other, is also not fair.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... \*

[*Translation*]

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** It is not appropriate to make remarks about the hon. Speaker. My humble suggestion is that any Member wishing to speak should do so only with the permission of the Speaker, as per the rules and decorum of the House.

The situation in Chennai is quite grim. I reside in close proximity to the affected areas and have personally witnessed the suffering of the people. I fully understand the pain and hardship they are enduring. It is for this reason that I urged the House to prioritise a discussion on the situation in Chennai....(*Interruptions*)

Kharge ji, I wish to clarify that I made no personal remarks against you. However, it is often observed that many objectionable and disrespectful words are directed towards our hon. Ministers, and slogans are raised against the hon. Prime Minister. I fail to understand the appropriateness of such conduct. I urge you to show some tolerance. Please have some tolerance towards the mandate

---

\* Not Recorded.

of the people also. The people of this country have given us a clear mandate. I urge the Members to uphold the dignity.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Shri Kharge ji, I request you to listen to me. This House is well aware that the matters referred to in the Adjournment Motion have already been thoroughly discussed not only yesterday, but even the day before. The very subject cited in your Adjournment Motion, along with related issues, were all deliberated upon during the debate. If I may recall correctly, when the hon. Home Minister responded comprehensively, that issue was also addressed. However, at that time, Members from your side were not present in the House to listen to the response, you had already walked out. Such situations should not be repeated. The same issue cannot be raised again and again on a daily basis. As I have already moved an Adjournment Motion on this matter, there remains no justification for raising it once more.

...*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Madam, please listen to me for a minute.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, I will not allow you to speak on the subject.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please clarify just one point, whether you are seeking a discussion under Rule 193 or not.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Madam, just give me a chance to speak for a minute.... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, I have no intention of entering into any argument with you. I have listened to the hon. Member's entire speech while seated in the House.

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, there is no reason for an argument. It does not happen this way. I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Madam, my point is that we had given a notice. This is what was there in that notice.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, no, there is nothing like that.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** I do not intend to enter into any argument with you. I was present in the House and listened attentively to the hon. Member's entire speech. My only submission is that the notice we had submitted clearly mentioned that... \*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, I am sorry.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Madam, no such statement has been made.... *(Interruptions)* It should not go on record.... *(Interruptions)* That is wrong.... *(Interruptions)* It is a politically motivated campaign. We challenge it and we don't accept it.... *(Interruptions)*

---

\* Not recorded.

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am sorry. I have disallowed his remarks on *Dalit* community. No, I am sorry, it will not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)... \*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kharge Ji, no, nothing will go on record because I have disallowed that.

... (*Interruptions*)... \*

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, I am sorry.

### **12.08 hours**

*At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other hon. Members left the House.*

---

---

\* Not recorded.



**12.09 hours****MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\****[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within the stipulated time. The rest will be treated as lapsed.

*[Translation]*

The Zero Hour will be taken up at 6 p.m.

---

\* Treated as laid on the Table.

**(i) Need to take adequate measures for maintenance and rejuvenation of sites of archeological importance situated in far-flung and remote areas of the country**

**DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY (CHANDAULI):** There are many monasteries and temples in the remote areas of the country, which in themselves, cherish the cultural heritage of the country. The attention of the people is attracted to these sites existing in the urban areas of the country, while the centuries old sites are in dilapidated state owing to neglect and in absence of proper maintenance of these archaeological sites located in remote towns and rural areas of the country.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to take immediate appropriate steps for the protection and maintenance of these sites.

**(ii) Need to exempt employees of Gujarat Safai Kamdar Vikas Nigam from Section 10 (26B) of Income Tax Act, 1961.**

**Dr. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** The case to exempt sanitation workers of Gujarat from income-tax under Section 10(26B) IT Act-1961 is still embroiled in controversy despite the relentless efforts of the Government of Gujarat. Under the above section, there is a commitment to promote the interests of the poor, the members of the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other backward classes of all the states of India. But the Income Tax Department, Gujarat Region in blatant disregard for the above clause imposed full Income Tax on Sanitation workers, which *inter alia* includes members from the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe categories and Other Backward Classes.

The Government of Gujarat has written several letters to this effect to the Government of India so that these sanitation workers could get income tax exemption. "**Gujarat Safai Kamdar Vikas Nigam**" was specially established for the upliftment and development of manual scavengers, garbage pickers and slum dwellers. Many recommendations have been sent by the State Government to the Union Government for exempting the poor people from Income Tax in the appointment of sanitation workers in Gujarat, which are still pending.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to grant an unconditional exemption from income tax to the **Gujarat Safai Kamdar Vikas Nigam**.

**(iii) Need to run daily train between Sikar and Delhi and also increase local train service on Sikar-Loharu-Rewari route.**

**SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SIKAR):** I wish to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister to the need for enhancing train services on the railway route connecting my parliamentary constituency, Sikar (Rajasthan), to Delhi, especially following the completion of broad-gauge conversion. At present, an express train operates between Sikar and Delhi only twice a week, which is insufficient to meet the growing demand. I urge the hon. Minister to consider providing this service on all days of the week to provide regular connectivity. Furthermore, since the current train operates during the day, I also request the introduction of an overnight train service from both directions, departing from Sikar and Delhi at night and reaching the destination by morning to ease the long-distance travel for daily commuters and working professionals. Additionally, I appeal for an increase in local train services between Sikar–Loharu–Rewari, to ease the travel difficulties faced by the residents of my region. Strengthening these services will go a long way in improving accessibility and addressing the long-pending transportation concerns of the people of Sikar.

**(iv) Need to award exemplary punishment to those involved in crimes against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.**

*[English]*

**DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards rising atrocities against SCs/STs and women in almost all parts of the country and the utter failure of the Governments machineries to stop these acts and also the urgent need to ensure exemplary punishment for those guilty of such crimes. The murder of two children of a Dalit family in Faridabad; the high incidence of such atrocities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and also such incidents in other states can be seen from the National Crime Record Bureau (NCRB) data. It is very important that local law enforcement officials as well as the general public be sensitized to these issues and a stronger mechanism be developed to ensure that such atrocities are not repeated. Thorough, independent probes should be conducted into all these incidents so the perpetrators as well as erring state government officials are punished.

**(v) Need to put in place a mechanism for monitoring clinical trials on humans for ensuring their safety and payment of compensation.**

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):** Over 17,000 individuals in India have either lost their lives or suffered serious health consequences due to clinical drug trials. Of these, 3,458 have died, while 14,320 patients have experienced severe adverse effects. Since the relaxation of clinical trial regulations in 2005, there has been a surge in unregulated testing of pharmaceutical products on Indian citizens. In many such cases, the affected individuals are not even provided with adequate compensation or medical support. It appears that India is increasingly being treated as a testing ground, a ‘Guinea Pig’ for global pharmaceutical trials.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that attention should be paid towards correctly monitoring the 'clinical trial' in the country, providing compensation and ensuring the safety of the patients and it should be stopped till this system is fully established. Only then can India be prevented from becoming a ‘Guinea pig’.

**(vi) Need to check the rampant adulteration of kerosene in the country.**

**SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA):** I would like to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs that even after strict action of the Department, the business of mixing black oil in kerosene sold through the Public Distribution System has been going on for the last few years. The gang has spread its footprint in many states of the country. This gang has even painted their vehicles in the same color as that of the trucks used for distributing through Public Distribution System (PDS) through Indian Oil Company (IOC) and Bharat Petroleum. They have installed black oil tanks inside their vehicles. This game of adulteration is worth more than Rs 500 crore.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to take immediate appropriate steps to destabilize this gang of black oil adulterators in kerosene.

**(vii) Need to change the mode of disbursal of funds relating to interest subsidy on agriculture loans to farmers.**

**SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI):** Farmers are provided loans from cooperative and nationalized banks by Primary Cooperative Societies for supply of fertilizers, seeds and other agricultural needs. Loans are provided at 3 per cent interest rate from farmers to provide loans to farmers at lower rate of interest, but 6.7 per cent of the remaining interest rate is paid by the central government and one per cent by the state governments, so that the banks do not suffer. The loan given to the farmers by the banks is repaid by the primary cooperative society by charging three percent interest from the farmer at the time of recovery, but due to payment made by the central and state governments later, the primary cooperative societies face financial crunch, due to which the facilities being provided to the farmers by the societies are affected.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that the interest subsidy paid by it to the primary societies later, should be paid to the banks directly and the interest paid to the farmers at the time of their loan payment should not be charged by the bank from the primary cooperative societies. This will smoothen the work of primary cooperative societies and the society will be able to provide facilities to the farmers on time.



**(viii) Need to operationalise all automatic gauge recorders to ensure proper monitoring of distribution of river water among Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.**

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** The dispute over water sharing in Rajasthan and neighboring states has been going on for many years. In this regard, Rajasthan has many times sought intervention of the Union Government and the hon. Supreme Court. Water is not being distributed among the states as per the agreements signed on water sharing. The states of Punjab and Haryana often do not provide its share of water to Rajasthan, especially at the time of sowing, Rajasthan is given less amount of water, which adversely affects the interests of farmers.

In this regard, as per Annexure (3) of the Agreement signed on 31st December, 1981, the Bhakra Beas Management Board has been authorized to set up all necessary measures and gauge discharge curves, automatic gauge recorders to ensure adequate distribution of water to all the respective States. In the 208<sup>th</sup> BBMB Board Meeting held in the year 2011, 22 sites have been approved for installing automatic gauge recorders. Automatic gauge recorders have been installed at 6 sites and installation of automatic gauge recorders under World Bank-fed Hydrology Project II phase at 15 sites has been completed, but they have not yet become operational.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Energy and Water Resources to issue directions to make all the automatic gauge recorders operational from

this year so that besides resolving the dispute of water sharing among the states, correct monitoring of water distribution could also be done.

**(ix) Need to provide adequate compensation to farmers distressed due to loss of crops caused by deficient rains and pest attack in Seoni and Balaghat districts of Madhya Pradesh.**

**SHRI BODHSINGH BHAGAT (BALAGHAT):** Paddy, soyabean and other crops of Kharif 2015 in many tehsils and villages of Seoni and Balaghat districts in Madhya Pradesh have suffered huge loss due to deficient rainfall and pest attacks (Brown Plant Hopper, Yellow Mosaic Disease) and other diseases. Crops have been completely destroyed. Farmers are quite anxious and distressed. The question of life and death is looming large on the farmers owing to lack of means of livelihood. According to the crop loss assessment survey, there is intense resentment and discontent among the farmers due to non-payment of any compensation amount.

Therefore, the Union Government is requested to make provision for payment of compensation immediately to the farmers in this hour of crisis.

**(x) Need to provide at least 1000 MW of power from the Central pool to Karnataka reeling under the power crisis.**

*[English]*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD):** Karnataka is facing a major power shortage. The state is currently having a shortage of power ranging between 1500 MW and 2000 MW. While the State's requirement is 167 MU (Million Units) per day, it receives only 127 MU, resulting in a shortage of 40 MU. Further aggravating the situation, the Udupi Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) thermal plant, which was providing 1200 MW, has suddenly tripped. The Raichur Thermal Power Station (RTPS) (200 MW) is down. The problem at Bellary Thermal Power Station (BTPS) unit is also yet to be resolved and centra generating stations are supplying only 250 MW. Wind generation too has fallen alarmingly from 1000 MW to just 300 MW. The worst suffers are the small and medium enterprises. As most of them do not have captive power plants, they have to depend solely on the State power generating units. In the light of the severe power crisis in the State, I request the Union Government to provide at least 1000 MW of power to the Karnataka from the Central Pool as soon as possible.

**(xi) Need to set up a Component Unit in Blood Bank at Sanwalia  
Government General Hospital, Chittorgarh, Rajasthan.**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI (CHITTORGARH):** Sanwalia Ji Government General Hospital located in Chittorgarh, the district headquarters of Chittorgarh Parliamentary Constituency is the hub of the most important medical service in the area. Hundreds of patients from all over the district come here every day for treatment of various diseases. Being an important center of district headquarters on the national highway, thousands of vehicles ply daily on the highway surrounding it. Due to high incidence of accidents there, patients regularly need blood here. At present, there is only one government blood bank of the district in the above hospital with a collection of 9 thousand units annually. Patients are also being treated at other hospitals. Presently 40 to 50 percent of the collected blood is used in accidents, thalassemia, cancer patients and emergency services. It is necessary to have blood component units to use for maximum number of patients as per the requirement of the area and the blood available through blood donation. After this facility is made available, the best use of Blood will be made. Having a component unit, the classification of Blood can only give the required component to the patient and more and more patients will be benefitted from the Blood given by the donors.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Health and Family Welfare that medical facilities should be provided to the common man by establishing a

component unit in the current blood bank of Shri Sanwalia ji Government Hospital at Chittorgarh district headquarters.

**(xii) Need to grant a special package to Rajasthan for promotion of tourism in the State.**

*[English]*

**COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER):** Rajasthan occupies place of distinction on the world tourist map for its rich cultural and historical heritage. The Parliamentary Constituency which I represent in this august House consists of many prominent sites like the historical Sonar Fort of Jaisalmer which was built in the year 1156, Patwa, Havelis of Nathmalji & Salamsinghji, Parshvnath Temple and Kapavriksha (the tree renowned for granting all wishes), Temples of Keradoo in Barmer, famous Well of Batadoo, etc which are the living examples of stone carving. Similarly, the historical fort of Siwana of Mughal Era, Pall of Veer Durga Dass situated in the hills of Chhappan, Kuldra and Kharwa villages of Jaisalmer depict the glorious history of bravery of Rajputana. Besides the places of religious importance are found in abundance like Tanotrai in Jaisalmer, Dungarraai Temple in Mohangarh, eminent Baba Ram Dev Temple in Ramdeva, Jain pilgrim centres like Lodarva, Nakoda Temple, Hinglaj Temple, the famous Temple of Brahmaji in Asotra, etc. The sand dunes, Kapaleshwar of Chohten, Haldeshwar Mahadev Temple famous as mini mount Abu are all places of attraction. All these places of historical, religious and rich cultural heritage are places of much tourists

interest. Domestic and foreign tourists visit these places and as per a survey 20% of foreign tourists visit Jaisalmer. However, as per ground realities, this area is neglected with regard to promotion of tourism. In case all the above sites are included in the list of Swadesh Darshan, Prasad scheme as well as Special Desert Project, the importance of these places would automatically go up and Rajasthan would get a further boost on the World Tourism Map.

I most earnestly urge upon the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Tourism to grant package to Rajasthan for Tourism.

**(xiii) Need to extend Bundelkhand region like benifits to areas along river Yamuna in Akbarpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR):** Four Legislative Assemblies of Kanpur Nagar in my Constituency Akbarpur (Uttar Pradesh) are included in the Legislative Assembly of Kalyanpur, Maharajpur, Ghatampur, Bithur and Akbarpur Dehat districts. The constituency of the Lok Sabha starts from Bithur in the river Ganga and is demarcated by the river Yamuna in the southern border. In the area between both the rivers, most of the Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Rural districts are rugged, plateau, infertile and the area along the banks of Yamuna River is in the form of ravines. The social, economic, geographical and vegetational conditions of this region are akin to those of Bundelkhand. Therefore, in the Ceiling Act of Uttar Pradesh, a provision has been made to fix the holdings limit northward from the deep section of Yamuna up to 16 km, similar to that of Bundelkhand, so that it is clear that the State Government has also considered the area as Bundelkhand but it is a matter of utter regret that ignoring the circumstances like Bundelkhand, this area has been deprived of facilities like Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Rural.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that in view of the need to provide facilities on par with Bundelkhand in my constituency Akbarpur and the areas of Kanpur city and Kanpur Dehat which are connected with the Bundelkhand area on the banks of the river Yamuna, appropriate steps should be taken soon, so that the residents of this area can get its benefit.

**(xiv) Need to ensure safety of sacred Ram Setu between India and Sri Lanka.**

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (PHULPUR):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to Shri Ram Setu, the epicenter of the faith of the whole of India and the whole of Hindus mentioned in Shri Ramcharitmanas, built by Lord Rama, to conquer Lanka, the most ancient Indian heritage, located in the mid of India and Sri Lanka.

According to Indian astrologers, Archaeological Department and NASA scientists, Ram Setu was constructed around 17.5 lakh years ago. According to NASA scientists, there is no such ancient man-made heritage all over the world. Ram Setu is such a waterway between India and Sri Lanka, by which international ships will have to pay tax to India to pass. If it is not there, any foreign ship can travel arbitrarily. The most surprising thing and the topic of research is that this Ram Setu is made of a very valuable lithium element, not made of brick stone. There is a huge stockpile of lithium under Ram Setu, which is priced in billions and trillions internationally.

But it is a matter of deep regret that as per the report of 'Pachauri Committee' formed by the previous Government, it was recommended that breaking the bridge will save money and time in commuting of ships of the West Coast of India in the Bay of Bengal. Even in its report, this committee had denied the existence of Ram Setu. The previous government wanted to break it and sell it to foreign countries. Machines were also installed for the purpose of breaking it.



Therefore, I request the Union Government to make a stringent law for the security and protection of Ram Setu or to make the present law more stringent so that no Government or the country can harm it in future.

**(xv) Need to relax the norm under Swachh Bharat Mission to facilitate construction of School level toilets in the country.**

*[English]*

**SHRI R. DHRAUVANARAYANA (CHAMRAJNAGAR):** I would like to draw the attention towards the fact that the Union Government is implementing so many programmes to provide education to children by spending huge amount every year. We can see, there is a spurt in students' admission in Schools, especially after the Right to Education (RTE) Act and also mid-day-meal scheme. But the available basic infrastructure facilities are turning out to be inadequate to meet their daily needs because of change in norm under Swachh Bharat Mission that prevents taking up works on building toilets in Schools.

As per present norms under Swachh Bharat Mission, only individual toilets and community toilets can be built, omitting School-level toilets. The lack of toilet facilities in Schools, especially in Girls' Schools, force them to wait in serpentine queue.

Hence, I urge the Union Government to relax the norm under Swachh Bharat Mission and provide permission to build School-level toilets.

**(xvi) Need to announce a revival package for the flagging cashew industry of Kerala.**

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** I would like to highlight the problems being faced by Cashew industry in the country. Cashew industry employs around 5 lakh workers, mostly women and from among Dalit communities. Out of this, around 2 lakh people are from Kollam district of Kerala alone. Now the industry is facing severe crisis and the factories are on the verge of closure. The reason is that the factory management imports raw cashew from foreign countries at higher price, process here and make finished product before marketing it. Now the finished product is not cost effective compared to the production cost and the owners are running into huge loss. This has forced them to close down the factories as a result thousands of families are falling into debt. Hence, I urge Ministry of Commerce and Industry to intervene in the matter urgently and announce a revival package for the cashew industry.

**(xvii) Need to convert the stretch of National Highway No. 49 between Madurai and Dhanuskodi in Tamil Nadu into a four-lane road.**

**SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHA (RAMANATHAPURAM):** Infrastructure augmentation in the country got a boost with enhanced road connectivity when previous NDA government gave a thrust to it. Laying of 4 Lane highways under the Golden Quadrilateral Project proved to be a land mark achievement. National Highways Authority of India entrusted with this responsibility had announced then the linking of Delhi-Rameswaram with much fanfare. Unfortunately that remains incomplete even now. Recently, another announcement was made linking Madurai-Dhanuskodi through NH 49 and laying a 4 lane road to a stretch of 192.7 kms. This would meet a purpose of linking headquarters Madurai with Ramanathapuram, linking pilgrim centres Madurai and Rameshwaram that draw pilgrims from all over the country and linking strategically important border point Dhanuskodi with the National Capital. It is learnt that even this latest project is sought to be curtailed and only up to Paramakudi a 4-lane road (87 kms) will be laid while Ramanathapuram will only get a 2 lane with paved shoulder for a stretch of 120 kms. It is totally disappointing. At a time when the Union Minister of Roadways is talking about laying a Sky Road between India and Sri Lanka across the Gulf in the Bay of Bengal it is necessary for the Union Government to complete entire stretch up to Dhanuskodi without any further delay. Hence, I urge upon the Centre to take urgent and immediate steps in this regard considering the overall benefits.

**(xviii) Need to take suitable steps to retrieve Kachchathivu island from Sri Lanka.**

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):** The center's apathy to the plight of Tamil Nadu fishermen continues. Over 1000 fishermen have been so far killed or maimed by the Sri Lankan Navy. This brutality continues even after the change of guard of Sri Lanka. Narrowed into a tiny area, they are deprived of their traditional fishing rights and their livelihood is shattered.

Whether Kachchathivu was a disputed territory or a ceded one is the bone of contention before the Apex court, where the cession is challenged by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

The Raja of Ramnad had the sovereignty over Kachchathivu. Geology Professor M.S. Ramasamy stated that Kachchathivu, but its land mass, was an integral part of Tamil Nadu. The church there was built by Ramasamy Padaiyachi, a Tamilian. All these are documented. So there can be no dispute. It was also under the permanent occupation of Tamil Nadu fishermen.

While the median line was drawn in equidistance on the Bay of Bengal and the Gulf of Mannar, as mandated by the International maritime law, it was not so on the Palk Strait, sine Kachchathivu lies closer to Tamil Nadu.

1974 and 1976 agreements were mere executive orders and were not ratified as mandated by Section 8 of the 1974 agreement.

The present Government on the one hand is trying to retrieve the island, on the other hand to evade the question of Kachchathivu, the Centre is proposing deep sea fishing as an alternative. To facilitate this, the Centre has to allot Rs. 1520 crore as special fund and also a recurring grant of Rs. 10 crore per annum for maintenance & dredging.

Sri Lankans are scuttling any Settlement of this issue.

Hence, the solution lies in the retrieval of Kachchathivu, which is a sovereign right of Tamil Nadu.

**(xix) Need to make mandatory 100% reservation in packaging norms for foodgrains and sugar in Jute bags for the year 2015-16.**

**SHIRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR):** As we are well aware, next to cotton, jute is the most important natural fiber and has the second highest production among all natural

fibers of the world. The environment aspect, biodegradability of jute and importance of the jute industry in Eastern and North Eastern India seek 100% mandatory packaging norms under the JPM Act.

From November 2012 mandating reservation norms for packaging of foodgrains in jute bags continued up to 90%. Similarly in November 2012 itself mandatory norms for packaging of sugar in jute bags was reduced to 40% from 100%. The jute industry received a further set back when the mandatory reservation norms for sugar was reduced to 20% in February, 2013 and this has continued for the last two years. Jute industry has had a very difficult year in 2014-15 when production fell from a high of 16 lakh metric tonnes in 2012-13 to 12.5 lakh metric tonnes. High price of raw jute and perception that demand for raw jute may outstrip availability has led to surge in raw jute price across the states of West Bengal, Assam, Bihar, etc. On the export front jute industry has failed to capture new market and protect old markets because of the 75% cash subsidy that is being sanctioned by the Bangladesh Government

for export of finished jute goods from Bangladesh. More important is the fact that since 01.04.2007 India does not have any export incentive policy. Livelihood of 3-5 lakh workers in the organized jute industry and 40 lakh farmers growing jute for the jute industry which is primarily located in Eastern and North Eastern India, restoration of 100% mandatory packaging norms for both sugar and foodgrains will send the right signals to the jute industry as well as manufacturing sector.

To protect the jute industry which is one of the oldest manufacturing industries of India and pivotal to the survival of the manufacturing sector in West Bengal, I would like to request the Government to kindly ensure 100% mandatory reservation for packaging norms for foodgrains and sugar in jute bags for the year 2015-16.

**(xx) Need to conduct proper environment impact assessment of the proposed Super Thermal Power Project of NTPC in Chhattisgarh.**

**DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):** NTPC is setting up a Super Thermal Power Plant in the Raigarh district of Chhattisgarh and the site is only 2 Kilometers from the Odisha- Chhattisgarh inter State border. The public hearing for the project was done in December 2011 in Chhattisgarh only. No information with regard to the conduct of public hearing was circulated in the villages of Odisha which are likely to be affected by this project. The proceedings of the Expert Committee of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change are also silent on proximity of the plant to Odisha-Chhattisgarh boundary. My fear is that the environment appraisal of the project has been done without taking into consideration the impact of pollution on the villages of Odisha located near the Odisha-Chhattisgarh border. My demand is that a proper environment impact assessment must be conducted and the opinion of the people of Odisha living near the plant site be taken into consideration before proceeding further as they are in the affected Zone.



**(xxi) Need to regulate the private coaching/tuition centers in the country.**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE (RAMTEK):** The arbitrariness of those running Private Tuition Institutes/Classes in the country is going on and charging arbitrary tuition fees from 1,25,000/- to 2,50,000/- from students and the operators are getting rich without doing anything. Its burden is increasing on the students of poor families.

Schools/colleges work in collusion with private tuition institutes/class operators and the teachers recommend tuition to the students. The questions appearing in the exam are taught in tuition classes. As a result, students lack quality. How can such students create their future? Due to non-availability of any board to curb illegal tuition institutes/class in the country, tuition classes/institutions are being opened in the street, which are not accounted for by anyone.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that it is very important to have registration, fee fixation, rules and inspection of tuition institutes/classes. For this, a Board should be constituted so that they will be controlled by the Board and it will help to curb the tuition fees being used arbitrarily.

**(xxii) Need to pay attention to drop out problems plaguing IITs and NITs.**

*[English]*

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** IITs are premium national institutes. Creamy and meritorious students make it to IITs to pursue their career. But, in the last 3-4 years, there is sharp increase in drop out rate of students from IITs. The rate of drop out is increasing year-after-year. In 2012-13 and it registered all time high 757 in 2014-15. Highest drop out rate is in Roorkee in 2013-14 it was 188 and went up to 228 in 2014-15. The worrying factor is that a relatively new IIT, Hyderabad has also registered dropout rate of more than 100% between 2013.14 (15 dropouts) and 2014-15 (39 dropouts). The situation is no better in NITs either. More than 2350 dropped out from NITs between 2012 and 2015.

I understand, one of the main reasons, as per one survey conducted, is most of the students study engineering due to parental push resulting in inability of students to cope with academic pressure.

So, I request HRD Ministry to give counselling to parents at the time of admission, to take special care of those students whose performance, after entering into IIT or NIT, is not up to the mark and follow the pattern of IIT, Madras and Kanpur where there are only 8 dropouts during the above period.

**(xxiii) Need to set up Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) for the welfare of Scheduled Tribe Community of Aralam Farm in Kannur in Kerala and also to provide basic amenities.**

**SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEAH CER (KANNUR):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter regarding the need to set up Tribal Research Institutes (TRI) for the welfare of Scheduled Tribe People of Aralam Farm in my Constituency Kannur Parliamentary Constituency, State of Kerala.

The Aralam Farm was established by the Government of India in the year 1970 with the assistance of erstwhile Soviet Union. It is situated in the Kappad and Aralam Villages of the Thalassery Taluk of Kannur District, 56 Km away from Thalassery and Kannur Town and 16 Km from Iritty Town. It was subsequently taken over by the SC & ST development Department, Government of Kerala and it distributed half of the area to the landless tribals and run the remaining area as a Farm for the welfare of tribals.

There are about 2000 Scheduled Tribal families living in the hilly region Aralam farm today. Tribals are economically, educationally and politically backward. There is complete lack of awareness about the various development schemes and programmes implemented by the Government and are also lacking in facilities like Aanganwadi, Schools, Hospitals and proper transportation, etc.

Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister to take urgent steps to spread awareness among the Tribal people about the various development schemes through training and by setting up TRIs in this area and also to provide the basic amenities to the Aralam Scheduled Tribe Colony of Kannur district, Kerala.

**(xxiv) Need to take steps for development of Cashew sector in the country.**

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** The socio-economic condition of cashew nut workers is very bad. The average total expenditure is significantly higher than the average income. The living condition of cashew workers is highly dependent on the total number of working days. Due to the import-export policy and the imposition of tax, the factory owners are not able to provide sufficient number of working days. The cashew sector is facing serious problem. The intervention of Government is required for increasing the number of working days to 250, financial assistance for mobilizing working capital, special arrangement for procurement of raw nuts, streamline policy on procurement of raw nuts and sale of Kernels, promotion and expansion of marketing, financial support and technical support for value added products, project for diversification, etc. Hence, I urge upon the Government to initiate urgent action for resolution of the issues of the issues in cashew sector in the country particularly in Kollam, Kerala.

---

**12.10 hours****DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193****Flood and drought situation in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the  
Country***[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Dr. P. Venugopal has authorized Shri T.G. Venkatesh Babu to speak.

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** Madam Speaker, on behalf of me, I authorize Mr. Venkatesh Babu to take part in this discussion. Thank you.

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):** Thank you for allowing us to have a discussion under Rule 193 on the flood and drought situation arising in Tamil Nadu. ... *(Interruptions)*

**12.10 ½ hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other hon. Members left the House.)*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):**

Madam, Speaker, the comments about the community should not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)...\*

[*Translation*]

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** He also spoke while leaving. He said that he spoke against Dalits. No one spoke against Dalits. V.K. Singh also did not speak. ... (*Interruptions*). Therefore, to raise it again and again, and insult them is not good. If he does not want discussion about floods, it is his choice. ...

(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have already said that nothing will go on record. There is no reason why the issue which I have denied should be taken up.

[*English*]

... (*Interruptions*)\*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Venkatesh Babu, please continue.

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU:** First of all, I would like to express my gratitude and sincere thanks to our hon. leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for giving me an opportunity to speak on the flood situation arising in Tamil Nadu due to incessant rains.

---

\* Not recorded.

Most of the parts of Tamil Nadu get rains during the months of October to December through Northeast Monsoon. But this year an unusually very heavy and extreme rainfall occurred in almost all districts of Tamil Nadu. The four northern districts of Tamil Nadu, *i.e.*, Chennai, Tiruvallur, Cuddalore and Kancheepuram had unprecedented rainfall. In many areas the downpour was very heavy in a short duration of time.

Normally, the monsoon brings incessant rains for a period of three months giving enough time for draining out and restoration. But this year the rainfall that is due for three months fell on three days time consecutively. Neyveli in Cuddalore district, which was already devastated by Thane Storm three years back, received 437 millimetre of rain on 9<sup>th</sup> November alone. Chennai received the second heaviest monthly rainfall recorded in the past more than 100 years in just 20 days of November 2015.

Between November 8<sup>th</sup> and November 16<sup>th</sup> widespread rainfall occurred in almost all the districts of Tamil Nadu. There was heavy to extremely heavy rainfall from 8<sup>th</sup> November to 26<sup>th</sup> November. The average rainfall in the State in 12 days from 4<sup>th</sup> November was 217 millimetre. In a few hours more than 100 millimeter downpour occurred on an average. In four districts, the actual rainfall for this season up to November 15<sup>th</sup> was 382 millimeters, whereas the normal average rainfall for the entire season of three months of Northeast Monsoon is 290 millimeter only.

According to the Meteorological Department, a deep depression of high intensity formed in the Bay of Bengal, hit Marakkanam in Cuddalore district



on 10<sup>th</sup> November. It was followed by another low-pressure system which brought additional rains to Tamil Nadu and aggravated the situation still further.

According to the Indian Meteorological Department, the State has recorded excess rainfall of 32 per cent between October 1<sup>st</sup> and November 15<sup>th</sup>. Even the Department was taken aback as it could not forecast such a devastating and unprecedented rainfall and cyclonic effect of such a magnitude.

Overflow from Andhra which also received heavy rainfall from Krishnanpallam Dam to Kosasthalai river and from Pichatur Dam to Arani river aggravated the problem still further. Based on the forecast adequate precautionary measures were taken by the State Government and all the departments were put on alert. Monsoon preparedness meeting was held on 1<sup>st</sup> October by the Chief Secretary followed by video conferences organised by the Principal Secretary between 26<sup>th</sup> October and 5<sup>th</sup> November to gear up the administration to face any eventuality and necessary instructions were issued.

Disaster Management Plan was prepared and kept ready. Taluka level district management plan was also drawn and all the concerned were put on alert. All these precautionary measures were taken on the instructions of the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi* Amma, but for the leadership and timely action taken by Amma, untold miseries and unprecedented destructions could not have been averted. Despite all the precautions taken, damages caused by the unprecedented rainfall were heavy

in almost all the districts. It was extensive in four districts of northern Tamil Nadu. To put in the words of a leading magazine, 'it was a deluge'.

Undeterred by the devastation, the well-oiled machinery of the State embarked on immediate relief and restoration work.

The overflow from the filled up tanks and reservoirs further aggravated the problem. Amma's Government had overhauled the entire drainage system recently, but even that could not drain out the floods. The State was on the anvil of restoring 121 reservoirs in Chennai city for storing of rainwater before the monsoon struck a heavy blow. Even the rainwater harvesting, the much acclaimed plan of execution by Amma, could not suffice.

The demographic nature of Tamil Nadu, especially Chennai city, was its undoing. The major reservoirs and their waterways were encroached upon by the greedy realtors in connivance with the previous DMK regime. The 3,000 acres of marshy land at Pallikaranai situated in the city, which can hold much of rain water, was also encroached upon. All this contributed to the flooding and inundation of many parts of the city.

The unprecedented rainfall and the fury of nature have caused extensive damage in the State - 14,35,695 houses were inundated, four lakh people were evacuated to 539 relief camps and provided with shelter, food, water, clothing and medical assistance. Nearly 21,30,000 food packets were distributed to the people who were affected. Hundreds of water tankers were pressed into service to provide drinking water, 121 special camps were organised for vaccinating

85,111 cattle and 32,551 de-worming doses were administered and 120 tonnes of free fodder were arranged.

In areas where there was total disruption of power supply, generators were moved for immediate restoration of power supply. Additional staff was deputed. Hundreds of transformers, electric poles and conductors were replaced in no time.

The floods caused extensive damage to dwellings, crops, infrastructure, including roads, bridges, drainage and sewage systems, government buildings etc. Road blocks extending to hundreds of kilometres were repaired and traffic was restored within a few hours.

Enumeration of huts damaged was done on daily basis and reliefs were distributed immediately.

Several teams were formed to assess the loss. Twelve teams of NDRF, four teams of SDRF and five teams of Coastal Security Force, 500 personnel of Fire and Rescue Services, 160 men from the Army, with eight inflatable and four pedal boats and one all-terrain vehicle, were deployed in four districts alone. Additionally, two columns of Navy with six boats and six helicopters from Air Force were put in service. SDRF, Coastal Security Guards, Fire and Rescue Services of the State Government, along with the civilian officials of various Departments, and Ministers were tirelessly participating in the rescue operations.

Lakhs of State Government staff were engaged in relief operations throughout the State along with the NGOs. The hon. Chief minister, after visiting the flood affected areas, sanctioned Rs. 500 crore on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November for relief and restoration work. Immediately relief was arranged to the families of 169 people who lost their lives. Relief was provided to 2,038 cases of loss of cattle and 60,672 cases of loss of poultry and 98,650 cases of hut damage. One additional set of books, notebooks and uniforms were supplied to students who lost them in the floods. For those who lost their ration cards, duplicate ration cards were given immediately. All the relief works were done on a war-footing.

At this juncture, I, on behalf of the Tamil Nadu Government, express my thanks to the Central forces but for whose timely service the enormous relief works could not have been accomplished. After assessing the damage, a memorandum was submitted to the Government of India by the Tamil Nadu Government seeking Rs. 2,630.85 crore for temporary restoration and Rs. 5,850.34 crore for permanent restoration totaling to Rs. 8,480.93 crore from the NDRF fund for the flood damages suffered. The Central team has also visited the flood-affected areas and made an assessment to be placed before the Centre.

Our hon. Chief minister, *Amma*, in her letter to Prime Minister on 23<sup>rd</sup> November requested for the immediate release of Rs. 2,000 crore for urgent relief work. In her letter, our hon. Chief Minister quoted that the initial assessment done requires higher finance, which is well beyond the resources

available with the State including the SDRF, and that the extent of damage is still unfolding and many weeks of monsoon is still left. I profusely thank the Prime Minister -- on behalf of our *Amma* and the Government that she heads - - for the immediate relief rendered and the fund released.

I cannot but remind this House that during the much more devastating Thane storm, the previous UPA Government -- in which DMK was a partner - - released only Rs. 500 crore and that too after much hesitation and delay. Our Government then was left to carry out the relief operation on its own. DMK, which criticized the initial allocation of Rs. 500 crore by *Amma* as insufficient, donated only Rs. one crore. The people of Tamil Nadu are asking: "All right, now Rs. one crore is here as relief fund. Where is the remaining Rs. 1.75 lakh crore?". This is what the people of Tamil Nadu want to know.

The Opposition Parties are trying to take advantage of this calamity. Instead of helping the relief operation, massively undertaken by our Government, they are criticizing the relief work. The Tamil Nadu unit of BJP and Central Ministers were no exception for it, but they forget the track record of *Amma's* Government in disaster management of natural calamities. The excellent and speedy relief operation carried out by the Tamil Nadu Government under the leadership of our beloved *Amma* during the Tsunami holocaust was praised by the entire world. It was acclaimed by none other than the former President of USA, Mr. Clinton. The disaster management work undertaken by *Amma's* Government during the Thane storm was hailed as a role model for the entire nation. This time also we will get the appreciation of

the right-thinking people for the tremendous work done by us to save the people of Tamil Nadu and to mitigate their sufferings.

Our *Amma*, as frequently quoted by her, is ‘by the people’ and ‘for the people’. The civic infrastructure including rails, roads and buildings need to be strengthened to withstand rain and resulting flooding. This also calls for changes and improvement in urban planning methods and norms. The long-term need is for better water management and measures to conserve water, which can turn even flood into a boon, and with one more month of active North-East monsoon left, the rainfall figures in the State are expected to really shoot-up. Another spell of heavy rains is predicted by the Meteorological Department from 29 November 2015, particularly, in the southern parts of Tamil Nadu. Even now, there have been extremely heavy rainfalls continuously pouring, which are devastating Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kancheepuram Districts.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to consider this calamity as a National calamity because of its large-scale devastation and release immediately the entire demanded amount of Rs. 8,480.93 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund for flood damages suffered by the State of Tamil Nadu.

I would like to state that timely release of adequate funds by the Union Government will help Tamil Nadu to undertake temporary and permanent restoration of infrastructure and other utilities on war-footing basis.

With sincere prayers for being considerate, let me conclude, Madam.

**DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR):** The issue under Rule 193 about which he spoke just now is a very serious matter. The Central team visited our State, but we do not know what recommendations they have made. Also, heavy rains started once again and people are suffering a lot. If our Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh is here, we would be very happy, but anyway the State Minister is here. I would request Shri Rajnath Singh Ji to come over here. It is a very serious matter and that is what I wanted to state.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Just now the discussion has started. You can also speak on this issue. The discussion, which has started just now, is on flood and drought situation prevailing in several parts of the country.

Now, I call Shri P.C. Mohan.

**SHRI P.C. MOHAN (BANGALORE CENTRAL):** Madam, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this issue.

The southern parts of our country, especially in Tamil Nadu and in the neighbouring State of Andhra Pradesh, it has been raining very heavily for the past three weeks. The situation in Tamil Nadu, especially in Chennai, is worse. As we all know, we have been watching on the TV also and people who are coming from there have been telling us that the situation is so bad that schools have been shut down, airports have been closed, train services have been cancelled and the people are living in a very grim situation there.

I thank the Centre for its intervention. Our Prime Minister Shri Modi spoke to the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu the other day assuring her all help from the Centre. He spoke to Jayalalithaa Ji on the flood situation in parts of Tamil Nadu and assured her all possible support and cooperation in this unfortunate hour. I thank the Prime Minister for giving such a nice statement about which people are very happy.

Ten teams of the National Disaster Rescue Force have already been dispatched, four of which are already in Chennai, and the rest will be flying in tomorrow. At the same time, we are all requesting the Chief of NDRF to send more teams from Bengaluru and Andhra Pradesh.

Karnataka, being their neighbour, we sympathize with the people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra. We know the situation which they are facing and I would like to tell them that they have our complete support. Thank you.



**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** Madam, the situation is very grim because both floods and drought have affected our country. Vast areas are under flood and half of India is affected by drought. The data shows that 302 out of 614 districts are reeling under drought, which is the highest since 2009; and forty per cent of the area in different parts of India is affected by floods.

Along with Chennai and other parts in Tamil Nadu, floods have very badly affected the State of West Bengal also. I have raised this issue on the floor of the all-Party meeting convened by you on 25<sup>th</sup> of November. The State Government asked for a relief of Rs. 6,000 crore, and I questioned the Government as to how much money was allotted by the Centre to grapple with the situation. Then, very promptly, Shri Venkaiah Naidu assured me that he would send a reply and accordingly he had sent a reply stating, “Dear Sudip *Da*, as per the information that we have got, Bengal got the entire amount of Rs. 367 crore which has been released from SDRF for this year.”

Further details will be available tomorrow afternoon.” I will possibly get to know the further information. When we asked for Rs.6,000 crore, how did SDRF release only Rs.387 crore? What is the system of assessment? The Central team goes and it comes back. How do they assess the gravity of the situation? They go together to make the assessment of the situation. But when they take the decision, they do it of their own. We broadly disown this.

Tamil Nadu is, no doubt, affected very badly. Let them get more money. We have full support for them. What I heard yesterday was that their demand

was up to a certain extent. But a very minimum amount has been released. The situation is becoming very difficult to be tackled by the States' own monetary resources. I would say that the Central Government on the one side is not releasing the money on time and on the other, the State Government is not capable enough to tackle the situation up to that limit with their own sources. Many Central projects are also being affected. Right from August, there has been no rain in the country except in a few places. So, the drought is also equally affecting. West Bengal is a sufferer of both flood and drought. Four districts particularly, Burdwan, Bankura, Purulia and West Midnapore are affected by floods. There is unprecedented rainfall on one side and drought on the other side. This is actually a serious condition. We propose that farmers and the flood affected people ought to be provided with drinking water, food and alternative seeds. On the other side, DVC is not giving water. Tenughat project of West Bengal has no water. How can this situation be overcome? I would request the Central Government to give necessary instructions to release DVC water for this purpose, in consultation with the State Government at the earliest possible time.

Due to flood and due to drought very poor people and farmers lose their income and assets. They are to face a distress sale. They become much poorer. They do not become poorer. They become the poorest. I would also suggest one thing. The Government has a huge stock of food grains under FCI. The Food Corporation of India can supply more amount of food grains to the flood affected areas and to the drought affected areas.

In deficit monsoon, death of farmers is also very much alarming. I would say that the Central assistance is also being reduced for ICDS project. Earlier, the Central Government used to give them lion's share of the fund to run the ICDS projects. Now it has been said that the State will share the maximum portion and the Centre will give the remaining portion. It is another burden on the shoulders of the Government. We keep saying here that the West Bengal Government has to repay a debt of Rs.2,30,000 crore and against that loan taken by the previous Government every year the Central Government takes Rs.20,000 crore from the State Government of West Bengal. In that regard we have categorically said that if we are repaying the old loans taken by the previous Government out of the loans being given by the present Government, it is a precarious condition.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Sudip-da, you are here and Saugata-ji is here. The system is like that. Whether it is this Government or that Government it makes no difference. State Government means the West Bengal Government. Earlier it was CPI (M) Government and now it is Trinamool Government. That is the system in India. If there is some other way you suggest it. You can give a new idea to the effect that a new Government need not take care of whatever the previous Government has done. But such a situation is not there under the Constitution. I am just taking this liberty because you raised this issue earlier also.

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** I agree with you. What I meant was that a Government which ruled the State of West Bengal for 34 years had run

a huge debt of Rs.2,30,000 crore and the repayment burden of that fell on the new Government of the State, for which the Central Government naturally deducts Rs.20,000 crore every year.

Now some positive steps have to be taken by the Central Government. I want to know what are the functions of the following Centrally-aided projects. These things happen very broadly. Can we involve additional days of work under MNREGA project? Diesel subsidy scheme for farmers in affected areas, enhancement of ceiling on seed subsidy, interventions for saving horticulture crops, implementation of additional fodder development programme, allocation of Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), availability of seeds and other inputs for *kharif* 2015, crisis management plan for drought for the year 2015, how are all these schemes rising to the occasion?

Madam, such instances of floods and droughts have to be managed with imagination, with some farsightedness and advanced planning. We have to make a proper plan in advance. These affect our country any time any moment, nobody can say. Global warming is manifesting in these weather changes. The whole world is now becoming conscious of the effects of climate change. There was a huge convention in Paris very recently and these issues have been raised and discussed there.

As regards functioning of the State Disaster Relief Fund (SDRF), nowadays there is a system wherein the Central Government gives money to the State fund in advance. But if the flood or drought becomes worse, then the Government has to spend the money primarily. The Government of West

Bengal has already spent more than Rs.1,000 crore in spite of the huge financial crisis it is in. The State Government has asked for Rs.6,000 crore but only Rs.367 crore were released and that too is yet to be received. I came to know about this relief order from Mr. Venkaiah Naidu-ji.

Madam, I would submit that flood situation in Tamil Nadu be dealt with on priority. But the situation being faced by West Bengal due to floods and droughts is a very serious situation. Government of India should rise to the occasion with all sorts of assistance. It should discuss with the Chief Minister of the State in a broad way. The recommendations of the central teams that visit and assess the situation should not be taken as final. The Chief Ministers of the States are made by people's representatives. When they are asking for some financial assistance, it should be taken up on priority.

This discussion was very important and I think those States which are affected by drought and floods, especially West Bengal, which I represent, and Tamil Nadu should be taken on priority.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):** Hon. Speaker Madam, the issue that has been raised under Rule 193 is a very pertinent and sensitive one. We all have witnessed the ferocity and the frenzy of the nature in Tamil Nadu in the recent past. Virtually the entire country has been ravaged by the fury of nature frequently which even took a toll of lives in addition to huge financial loss. We are undergoing a severe environmental and ecological disaster and the community of the world is pondering over it in order to deal with this kind of situation.

In India, we have various meteorological divisions. Somewhere we are destined to face drought, somewhere it is flood and now due to fury of nature, even the desert has been flooded and those areas which earlier witnessed the huge rainfall are facing the drought-like situation. So, naturally no area could be as usual demarcated as flood-prone or drought-prone area now because it is the freak of the nature which determines the fate of any area of our country.

I am also hailing from a State which is prone to flood like other flood-prone areas. This year also, a large swath of West Bengal has been ravaged by flood. People have lost their crops, their properties, their livestock etc. but no succour worth its name, no assistance worth its name has been provided to those flood-affected people of the State in spite of high-flown promises that were made frequently.

I would also like to draw the attention of the House and the Government that we cannot dictate the nature on our own terms. At least we can mitigate the sufferings of the common people provided we have the appropriate post-disaster management facilities available with us.

A number of institutions have been created on for dealing with these unforeseen and unprecedented situations. For your kind recall, I can cite the Cyclone Phailin in Odisha and Cyclone Hudhud in Andhra Pradesh. Due to the Cyclone Phailin, Odisha incurred a loss of more than Rs. 30,000 crore; for Cyclone Hudhud, Andhra Pradesh incurred a loss of more than Rs. 1,00,000 crore. In order to adopt to environmental vulnerabilities, the Government

needs to provide 2.5 per cent of the GDP, that is, more than Rs. 3,00,000 crore.

... (*Interruptions*)

Here my esteemed colleague Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay had cited the issue of Bengal floods. He was striving hard in order to save the face of his leader who happens to be the Chief Minister of West Bengal and who used to remain busy in holding *melas*, festivals, etc., whereby crores of rupees are being spent only to satisfy her ego but insofar as farmers and flood-affected people are concerned she always remained indifferent to those hapless people.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** He is talking about *melas* and festivals. How is it related? ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** It is relevant. You just referred to your government. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** It is your government also. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** It is the State Government, the West Bengal Government, that is, your Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

The West Bengal Government is an indebted government. You are pleading for financial moratorium, etc. from the Central Government but the fact is that when you assumed power you were well aware that you were inheriting a State which was a debt-ridden State. So, from the beginning you had to be pragmatic in your expenditure and in running the government, where

you have failed miserably. Now, the debt burden has gone up to Rs. 3,00,000 crore; nobody will help you to salvage the situation besides God. ...  
(Interruptions)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Two more Members from your party want to speak on this.

... (Interruptions)

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** Even in West Bengal, farmers are committing suicide. It is a regular feature. In West Bengal, the minimum support price which is meant to be given to these farmers so that they are not compelled to indulge in distress sale is not being given. The entire infrastructure in West Bengal is in a shambles.

All the institutions in West Bengal are viciously politicised. That is why, the farmers are not being given their due in spite of availability of funds. Minimum Support Price is now Rs.1410 and Rs.1415 plus bonus. But the farmers are compelled to sell their produce as is determined by the middlemen. So, the fate of the poor farmers is now being dictated by the middlemen in connivance with the political apparatchiks of the State of West Bengal. Even the irrigation facilities are not being provided. That has been referred to by my esteemed colleague. DVC is not being run by the Central Government only. The States of West Bengal and Jharkhand are co-sharing the DVC. Before discharging water, you should put your argument in a befitting manner so that in future there should not be any disturbance for irrigation.



I would request the Central Government to provide the money that is required for the State in the way that is very known to the Central Government. Institutional credit should be given to those farmers. In India, only 2.3 per cent of institutional credit is being given to those poor and marginal farmers. I would like to know how many areas of West Bengal are being covered by crop insurance because only 18 to 19 per cent area of our country is under crop insurance. So in order to give some relief to those flood and drought affected farmers of our country, we should offer something which may help them to survive in this situation.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam, I was a witness myself or a victim myself when rain was ravaging Chennai. The Railway Convention Committee was on tour and I was travelling from Bhubaneswar to Chennai. That was on 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 and on that day, there were dark clouds over Chennai and roads were flooded. The moment our flight landed at Chennai Airport, I was really very apprehensive whether I can reach my hotel or not. But the General Manager of Southern Railway told me that we can navigate. He used the word 'navigate'. I looked up to his face and told him that he is using the word 'navigate'. He said that Sir, we have to ply through vast mass of water. But our roads are good and we can go through.

I was a bit apprehensive because a Committee tour itself is not a single Member affair and it can only have its impact if more Members come and participate. Subsequently, Mr. Venugopal and other Members also arrived. But we were all confined for two days in that hotel only. We could not go out. That is supposed to be the main centre of Chennai and our point of discussion went around relating to the Chennai main station which is in a low-lying area. Most of the officers who were controlling traffic, they were more concerned how to restrict the movement of train and how to make passenger, at least, to go out and come in so that nobody would say that the train service has collapsed. They did a better job in that. But yesterday we all came to know, we saw the visuals in the television that the whole Chennai airport is flooded. That shows that since last so many days, for the last 20-21 days, there has been incessant rain, that is the North-Eastern monsoon which normally comes in the middle of

November and continues till mid-January but never ever, as I had heard in Chennai that day, they had witnessed this type of heavy rain in Tamil Nadu. Large parts of Tamil Nadu have been flooded. Lakhs of people have been inundated. Their houses have been flooded. Three districts of Southern Andhra Pradesh also have got incessant rain. This has something to do with the Al Nino effect. If the water in the Pacific Ocean gets heated up, then we get this type of torrential rains or heavy showers in some parts and we experience drought in some other parts. Many areas do not get rain as usually they should get.

When we were there, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu went around, Shri Venugopal will agree with me. It is because this was a point of discussion not only in Chennai itself. How could a Chief Minister move around the city when the whole city is flooded? That is how a leader of calibre in a State should function. She demonstrated it. Her instruction was to go to the people. One of our hon. Member of Parliament from the AIADMK is a Member of our Committee and when we telephoned him and asked him as to where he was and that we were in his State and he replied that he was in his Constituency and that the instruction from his party was that he had to be with the people. He was some 300 kilometres away from Chennai. But that place was also affected by incessant rain and people were suffering. As much support as was possible was being provided to the people. But that was not adequate. No Government can provide whatever is possible in a normal way, life goes on, the Government can provide. But at least the Government gave a sense that

the Government machinery was with the people. When some disaster strikes that is how the Administration should react to at the first instance.

As I had said on earlier occasions, the first thing is to rescue the people when a disaster strikes. The second is to provide the people with relief and then comes rehabilitation. These are the three 'R's that are to be followed when disaster strikes any place. First the people should be rescued. That is what our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik had done when Phailin had struck the State of Odisha in 2013. The Southern part of Odisha was affected. More than 10 lakh people were evacuated from the affected area. This is a lesson which we had learnt after 1999 super cyclone. At that time there was a different Government in power in the State. When the Administration informed the people that the wind is coming with this magnitude of velocity and they were asked to shift to a better place for shelter. People did not leave. In 1999 when the Administration informed the people that the wind was coming with this magnitude of velocity and they were asked to shift to a better place for shelter, people did not leave. But in 2013 when prediction about Phailin had come, more than 10 lakh people were evacuated and people came on their own to the cyclone shelter to different other places. Rescue was done. Hardly two or three people died and that was because of accident at other places. But people were evacuated to cyclone shelters. They stayed in those places for 7 to 10 days and then went back after the cyclone receded.

**13.00 hours**

But my concern here is this. The Government of Tamil Nadu has demanded around Rs. 8480.93 crore for immediate help. They have also given a suggestion that the State Disaster Response Fund also should be borne by the Government of India. Odisha has been demanding the same thing. During the time of Phailin, repeated requests had been made.

I endorse what the Government of Tamil Nadu has said and I expect that the Government will take action. The hon. Prime Minister himself has said on an earlier occasion regarding the flood situation in Chennai and the surrounding areas of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh.

My only request here is, flood had occurred in Mumbai. All of us were surprised to know as to how Mumbai could be flooded like this. But subsequently, we came to know that due to the choking of Mithi River, water discharge was not happening normally. A lot of habitations have come up in those areas which has choked the discharge of rain water or storm water. That had actually caused flood in Mumbai. A similar situation has also happened in Chennai. Subsequently, after the flood recedes, I think there is a need to go into this aspect also. It may be legal or illegal but you have to allow free flow of water to the sea. If that happens, this type of flood will not occur.

Madam, Bhubaneswar is a planned city. It is on a high ground. Normally, during my childhood days, I used to see that whenever rain falls in the morning, the whole lane gets flooded but after three to four hours, the total city becomes clean and dry. But today, most of those areas have been choked through which water should go out. That is why, when the Minister for Urban Development

including the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs was here, I was thinking of suggesting about having a discussion on the planned development of our urban areas. It means urban growth is happening but planned growth is actually not happening.

I come from a city which is more than 1100 years old. That is a recorded history. Even before that, habitations must have been there. Two mighty rivers also flow on both sides of the city. But we are not flooded by river water. We are flooded by our drain waters because the city is like a cauldron. The river bed is high and we have to pump out the water into the river bed. I have been trying my best to get some more funds from the Union Government but to my ill luck, during the last 18 years, not much has happened whenever Odisha is being considered. Of course, it needs merit but Bhubaneswar and Puri get the first priority and Cuttack is always relegated to the background. But here, I will take this advantage while participating in this discussion. For the last two to three days, I have been trying to raise this issue in the 'Zero Hour'. Somehow or other, I have not been that lucky to raise it. It is relating to Phailin issue which Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury had mentioned. It struck us in 2013. It received the attention of the United Nations which said that the best disaster management had been done in Odisha under the leadership of the Chief Minister. But as the Minister of State for Home Affairs is here, I would like to draw his attention to this aspect. As regards the National Disaster Response Fund, there was a High Level Committee meeting chaired by Shri Sharad Pawar, the then Union Minister for Agriculture. The State Government pointed

out an error. As there was a commitment that this much of money will flow but it did not go. And the State Government pointed out the error.

The Chief Minister received a letter on 10<sup>th</sup> September, 2014 from the Ministry of Home Affairs informing him that the expenditure of Rs. 399.83 crore was approved. The Minister himself committed to that in this House when I had raised this issue last year. But this was subsequently not given effect to. This was pointed out by the Chief Minister to the Prime Minister also on 15<sup>th</sup> January, 2015. On 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2015 a formal decision at the High Level Committee was supposed to be taken. In between three High Level Committee meetings have already taken place. One was on 14<sup>th</sup> January, another was 24<sup>th</sup> March and the third was on 29<sup>th</sup> May. Despite the Chief Minister's repeated requests, despite our pleadings, despite the United Nations appreciating it, despite the Home Ministry also approving it, this money has not flown. It is not much. It is just Rs. 400 crore. This is something, we feel, has been denied. It has been denied to us and it needs to go.

We will be discussing later on the drought situation in the country.

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, this discussion includes drought also.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Drought is much more wide-spread and the country is affected by the drought to a very great extent. We will miss the point. I am not dealing with drought now. My point relates to flood situation.

Of course, today the Minister has said that flood cannot be predicted and rainfall can be predicted. This is what he stated when he was replying to one

hon. Member from Maharashtra, Shrimati Poonam Mahajan's question. He was answering to her question. No doubt flood cannot be predicted. But today what is happening because of the erratic monsoon. Suddenly, we have cloud burst in one place. This happened in 1982 in Odisha. Beyond Hirakud, there was cloud burst and there was a heavy rainfall which flooded large parts of Odisha. That had happened.

Now, science has developed. I think weather forecast in our country also has developed and it has come to the international standards. Recently, in Paradip they have also put up an ultra-modern weather forecasting mechanism. That needs to be replicated in other coastal areas, which can also tell us that we are expecting cyclone which will bring in more rainfall.

With these words, I would urge upon the Government to look at Tamil Nadu and West Bengal; and in-between Odisha is also there. So, look at Odisha also. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Thank you.

Now, the House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

**13.09 hours**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Ten Minutes past Fourteen of  
the Clock*

---



**14.13 hours**

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Thirteen Minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.*

(Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193**

**Flood and drought situation in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the Country ... Contd.**

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

*... (Interruptions)*

**PROF. SUGATA BOSE (JADAVPUR):** Sir, I will take just one minute.

Just before the Lunch Break, one hon. Member unfortunately made certain adverse remarks about the Chief Minister of West Bengal while Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab praised the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Odisha rightly so. I want to set the record straight that in July, when there were floods in West Bengal, the Chief Minister along with some of us was in London. We had gone for a very important visit to attract investment to the State of West Bengal. The Chief Minister of West Bengal, upon hearing the news about the weather forecast and the impending flood situation, cut short her visit. We all came back. The Chief Minister personally monitored the flood situation from Nabanno, her headquarters. She took exemplary action. I would also like to

express the solidarity of the people of West Bengal with the people of Tamil Nadu as they face the current flood situation.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Sir, I totally agree with the hon. Member. Even I was feeling in the morning that this is a debate where we are discussing about the misery of the people. If we convert this also into a political debate and then try to criticize each other, no meaningful purpose can be served. People are in distress. We need to express our concern from the House to those people so that they get some confidence that Parliament of India is discussing about us, something will happen to us. They will have some confidence. Any reference to any Chief Minister, I heard a mention was made about the West Bengal Chief Minister at that time, and the same should be avoided. If any personal remarks about the Chief Minister are made, that should be removed from the records.

Secondly, I am not here to respond to the debate, I, as an individual, who lived partly in that area also, I lived partly in Chennai, partly in Bengaluru, partly in Hyderabad, partly in Delhi, and partly in my place. I move around. Just now, my daughter and granddaughter had shown some pictures of Chennai. They are really moving. I am in touch with Chennai on a daily basis. And also with Andhra Pradesh where six districts are also affected. We are getting updates.

Just now, the Meteorological Department has given another warning that in another 24 hours, the situation may worsen. Water has entered into the airport, and run-way; flights were all stranded; trains are not moving. Just now the news is that Egmore Railway track is partly washed away, partly submerged also. Bus Stands are not functional. Some of the people are living in the first and second floors. Water has entered the ground floor. I cannot explain the plight of the ordinary people. Fortunately, in Chennai, compared to other parts of the country, slums are comparatively less because successive Governments have taken up welfare measures by setting up Slum Clearance Boards. Hon. Deputy Speaker was himself a Minister in the Government of Tamil Nadu. Those areas, which are on the side of the Coovam River, particularly Velachery, and northern Chennai low lying areas, are full of water. Women are trying to swim, which they could not; any number of boats would not help the situation.

Today morning, I want to share with the House, the hon. Prime Minister had preliminary discussion with the hon. Minister of Home Affairs, hon. Minister of Defence, hon. Minister of Finance and myself. We have exchanged information. The hon. Prime Minister spoke to Madam, Jayalalitha *ji*, and conveyed to her that whatever support is required, that would be given by the Government of India. But the point is that it is not an ordinary situation. I want to tell the House that there are floods in different parts of the country, even in Andhra Pradesh also but this situation in Chennai and nearby Kancheepuram is totally different. In 100 years, this is the highest rainfall and floods. People

are moving through boats, wherever boats are available. There is totally no road traffic anywhere in the city. People are advised to stay indoors.

Now, a warning is coming that in another 24 hours the situation may further aggravate. My standing up today morning is just to convey to the people of Tamil Nadu, more particularly the people of Chennai and other areas affected by floods, that Parliament of India is concerned about you, something is being done; be a little confident. This is not the time to criticize each other. Naturally, there will be anxiety among the people. Certain television channels are going and asking the people as to what they have got. Naturally, one must understand. Who are the people who will serve the suffering people? Again, they are the employees, who are also human beings, and their houses are totally drowned. They are not able to come out of their houses. That is another problem. That is why, wherever required, Navy has been pressed into service; Army has been put on alert; they are extending a help hand. The NDRF teams have been dispatched and they are doing their best in Chennai. There is need for further teams, and support from the Centre, that also would be given to them.

With regard to the situation at Chennai Airport, with the permission of the Chair, I just want to show some photos here. This is the photo of some children trying to climb to the first floor of the airport. Water is coming into the airport from the rivers. This is the situation inside the airport. This is another photo of a person with a two-wheeler. His two-wheeler is totally

drowned. So, this situation is something unheard of and unprecedented. The lifts are also totally filled with water everywhere.

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just got information about six of my relatives who are in Chennai. They went to the airport for the validation of their air tickets. But Air India is not responding. Neither are they giving stamp of revalidation nor are they helping them in any way. They are simply saying that all flights are cancelled. So, this should be given importance and this issue should be sorted out on priority.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** You are right. I just got information also that there are 300 and odd people who are stranded in Chennai Airport and there is no means of communication for their movement. I have alerted the Ministry of Civil Aviation also asking them to rush some food and other requirements to those passengers. Nothing can be done immediately to airlift them by an alternative flight because when the runway is full of water, you cannot expect any special flight to come and land there. But at the same time, their daily requirement also has to be taken care of. It is good that you have brought it to my notice. I have already had a word with the Ministry of Civil Aviation officials and I will be requesting them again.

Sir, relief camps have been set up by the Government of Tamil Nadu at various places and also by the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Two columns of Army Garrison Infantry Battalion have been pressed into service in

Tambaram and also in Urappakkam areas of Chennai after the Government of Tamil Nadu sought the assistance of the Army. The Navy is on standby for any help. What I am thinking is, - it is just my loud thinking – normally if you press Army into the normal work, what sort of impact will it have on the State Administration? This is to be thought of. So, the State Government has to take a call and I feel – this is the feedback I got – that there is a need for the Army to go into different areas of the city and try to help the people wherever required as per the guidance of the State Government, because the purpose is that the State and Centre should come to the rescue of the people and provide them essential daily requirements and also lift them to comparatively safer places. That should be the priority.

The Home Minister, immediately after this discussion, is going to hold a high-level meeting. The Prime Minister has already told him to conduct this meeting. They are also trying to coordinate with different agencies. The Director of Chennai Airport Shri Deepak Shastri has informed that 400 passengers are stranded at Chennai Airport. They are being taken care of. NDRF Teams are there to help them.

Without adding anything further, I only request all the Members, let the entire House express solidarity with the people who are suffering in that State and in the region. I would also like to mention whether it is the flood situation in Andhra Pradesh or West Bengal and also about the drought situation in different parts of the country, meaningful suggestions can be given by hon. Members as to what can be done on a short-term basis and what can be done

on a long-term basis. Sudipda raised the issue of NDRF and SDRF norms. The hon. Minister of State for Home Affair is here and the Cabinet Minister is also coming. They will be able to explain about it in detail and if there are any more meaningful suggestions, the Government would be willing to accept them and take them in a serious manner and see to it that whatever can be done is done. That is my request.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to make a suggestion for the consideration of the House. While deliberating on this issued, I said that the flood situation in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh is a very serious issue. West Bengal also was affected by flood. Looking at the gravity of the situation, as has been narrated by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, let this discussion be confined to flood alone. We can take up the discussion on the drought situation separately on a different day. Let all political parties and their leaders discuss on this flood situation that is prevalent in Tamil Nadu and various parts of Andhra Pradesh so that we all can speak in one voice about this situation and express our solidarity with the affected people.

**HON. DEPUTY- SPEAKER:** If you all accept it, we can restrict it to the flood situation.

.... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** The seriousness will not be felt. Drought is a different thing and flood is a different thing. I agree with Bhartruhari ji. Let us confine to flood situation today and subsequently we can discuss....

*(Interruptions)* Though the Government has to reply twice; the Minister has to reply twice and all; I do not mind. I will be requesting my colleagues also that let us today focus our attention on the flood situation in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, wherever floods are there. ... *(Interruptions)* In Puducherry also there is a serious flood situation. The hon. Member has also given a notice about the same. So, let us focus on that and subsequently we can think about discussing the drought situation in Uttar Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka where most of the districts are in drought situation, Odisha, Maharashtra especially the Marathwada region and all.... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAYUN):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, since Madam Speaker had earlier remarked that it is possible to discuss drought along with flood-related matters, I would like to respectfully refer to her observation. In light of that, I humbly request that whether it pertains to a statement made by the Chair, a procedural ruling, or any related decision, a clear clarification should now be provided. While we fully express our solidarity and empathy with the people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, who are facing the crisis of floods, it is equally important to recognise that the people of Uttar Pradesh are suffering under the grip of severe drought. We therefore urge the hon. Deputy Speaker to kindly make it explicitly clear whether this issue of drought, alongside floods will be permitted for discussion in the House.



*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Already the Minister has made it very clear.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Discussion should be there, it may take place simultaneously. ... *[English] (Interruptions)* I leave it to the wisdom of the House, Sir. I leave it to the collective wisdom. Let others also say what they want to say.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** On both sides, you can speak.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Sir, already the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister told that drought can be discussed separately. Today, only we should concentrate on flood and the connected things. So, it is better. *[Translation]* If that is taken separately, the Agriculture Minister will also answer that. The Home Minister and the concerned Minister will answer for this that is why due to the two different Ministry, it would be better to have a separate discussion on drought and flood. This happened in morning, it is certain that confusion took place, so you can take them up separately tomorrow or day after tomorrow.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay. Whatever the House feels, that can be conveyed to the Speaker also. We can convey to the Speaker what you felt. That can be changed according to that only.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Already the Speaker gave that opinion; that is why I am telling.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Sir, in this House, nobody will listen except Naidu sahib's word. So, we are requesting him.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, this can be conveyed to the Speaker.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** People are getting drowned in flood; still you are after my blood.... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** I am not after your blood.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay; Shri Thota Narasimham.

**SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for allowing me to speak on this important issue initiated by the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Venkaiah Naidu *ji*.

Andhra Pradesh has a vast coastline of about 974 kilometres, which is the second largest in the country next to the Western Coast of Gujarat. We have the longest coastline on the Eastern Coast of India. Ours is one of the most vulnerable States in India to cyclones, heavy rains and floods, being situated along with the Bay of Bengal, which is known to be the most unpredictable sea in the whole world for cyclones and natural calamities. Sir, 341.9 lakh people – that is 69.2 per cent population – of Andhra Pradesh are living in nine coastal districts.

Due to low pressure formed on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2015, heavy rainfall has been received from 15<sup>th</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> November, 2015 in the districts of Nellore, Chittoor, Kadapa and Prakasam districts and also in parts of other districts, Anantapur, West Godavari, East Godavari and Krishna. Rains are still continuing in Nellore and Chittoor districts.

The maximum hourly rainfall received was 106 mm. It is unprecedented in any of the past events happened in our State. A maximum of 400 mm rainfall has been received in Bodipadu of Nellore district.

Heavy rainfall received in the neighbouring districts of Krishna, West Godavari, East Godavari and Anantapur caused extensive damage to the standing crops and also to the public infrastructure.

Sir, I shall now come to damages. These heavy rains caused large-scale breaches to minor, medium and major irrigation tanks, and many rivers overflowed which caused flooding of fields, villages and towns. As a result, 2,273 villages in all, 46 Mandals in Nellore district, 39 Mandals in Kadapa district and 53 Mandals in Chittoor district and parts of other districts were affected. About 25 lakh population were affected and 146 villages were inundated.

A large number of houses were destroyed. Agriculture and horticulture crops were severely damaged. All aqua farms were washed away, and fishing equipment like boats and nets also got affected. Road and bridges, drinking water, infrastructure and power utilities were also damaged on a large-scale. Nellore is the worst affected district in these rains. It is followed by Chittoor and Kadapa. There were also damages in Anantapur district, Prakasam district, Krishna district, West Godavari district, East Godavari district, etc.

Our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu garu and our hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu garu are continuously monitoring the situation and aerially surveyed the affected districts of Nellore and Chittoor. Our Chief Minister has written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister on 19<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 explaining the devastation and sought a sum of Rs.1,000 crore as an advance amount to our State, Andhra Pradesh.

In regard to human loss, 54 deaths were reported. 2,514 houses were fully damaged and 16,672 houses were partially damaged.

In regard to the loss in the agriculture sector, as per preliminary estimates, a total of 3.10 lakh hectares of crops were damaged in nine districts. It may be valued at Rs.1,419.34 crore.

Now, I come to the loss in the power sector. 3,769 poles, 539 distribution transformers, 146 sub-stations and 364 km power lines were damaged. The cost of damages to electric poles, transformers and sub-stations, etc. has been estimated at Rs.26.30 crore.

In the irrigation sector, a total of 331 tanks and 263 supply channels and canals were breached. The loss relating to the irrigation sector has been estimated at Rs.780.77 crore.

In the Roads and Buildings sector, a total of 1,441.33 km of road surface were damaged. The estimated amount required for restoration both temporary and permanent is Rs.699.27 crore.

Likewise, Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Horticulture, Panchayat Raj, Municipal and Urban areas, RWS, Handlooms & Textiles and all other sectors were also badly affected. The preliminary estimated loss in respect of all these sectors is Rs.3,819 crore.

When *hud* cyclone affected Vizag, the hon. Prime Minister visited on 14<sup>th</sup> October, 2014 and announced a sum of Rs.1,000 crore as an advance amount.

Till today, we received only a sum of Rs.844.59 crore. We would request the Union Government to release the balance amount immediately.

Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, ours is a newly divided State and a handicapped State. This cyclone is a last straw on the camel's back. The saying in Telugu is, "Mulige nakka meeda tatikaya padi nadum virigindi ani". This truly reflects the situation that exists in Andhra Pradesh today.

We have been facing so many financial problems. Without Central assistance, it is very difficult for us to take up the relief operations. In view of the major devastation, we request the Central Government to release an amount of Rs. 1,000 crore as an advance from the NDRF.

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**\*SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR):** Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to express our wholehearted support and solidarity towards the suffering people of Tamil Nadu. We are very close with Tamil Nadu. Sir, your State and our State are the immediate neighbours.

As we are all Indians, the sorrow of the people of Tamil Nadu is our sorrow; difficulties of the people of Tamil Nadu are our difficulties. The whole House is with Tamil Nadu.

The Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji described the devastation of Tamil Nadu and the kind of serious and alarming situation, the people are facing especially in Chennai and surrounding places. So, I would urge upon the Central Government to extend all possible support and assistance to the State of Tamil Nadu to recover from this disaster.

Sir, now, I would like to speak in Malayalam because my friends, brothers and sisters from Tamil Nadu understand my Malayalam well. So, let me know speak in Malayalam. In our country, natural calamities of various kinds happen. There is drought, flood, and other times there is earthquake or some other disasters.

When there is drought we talk about water conservation, and rain water harvesting, when there is flood, our concern is how to pump out the water and drain it out to the sea. Our country has advanced much in the area of science

---

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

and technology. We have our achievements. We talk with pride about Mangalyaan. But even today, in the field of disaster management when there are natural calamities we are not able to face it perfectly. It could be drought, flood or other natural calamities, we have not evolved scientific and technological modalities to encounter disasters. It is a sad fact that we have failed in disaster management. There is frequent talk by the Government about smart cities; and we also welcome it. We do need smart cities. But sir, before we think of smart cities; why cannot we achieve scientific and technological expertise, to tackle natural disaster?

Chennai is an ancient city. But that ancient city has today become a leading metropolis. Today, lakhs of people in Chennai are in the grips of flood, and they do not know what to do. Not just the Indians the world must be watching us.

The people of Chennai, have the support of all Indians. They don't have food, drinking water and even places to live, because water has inundated their houses. Shops have been inundated. Airports and run ways have been flooded.

*"Water, water every where  
not a drop to drink"*

So disaster is such that passengers stranded in the airport do not have drinking water. If what I have heard is true, this is the greatest flood disaster of this century. Such is the magnitude of the tragedy that the people of Tamil Nadu is facing.



So, if we survive this flood somehow, then what will be the after effect, the other disasters that are awaiting us?

Tamil Nadu is going to see a greater tragedy. I have to request the Minister and the Government that they will have to sent food and drinking water. But alongwith it, an expert medical team should be sent to Tamil Nadu at the earliest. They should be flown into the affected area. Few days from now Tamil Nadu is going to face epidemics.

**SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI):** All the steps have been taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu.....(*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER:** In future, we are going to face. I am not taking about the present. Hon. Amma has already taken all the steps. We know and we are supporting you. You have taken all the required steps. The Government of India has also taken the steps. Hon. Prime Minister telephoned Hon. Chief Minister. We have read about this in the newspapers. I am not criticizing but wherever the flood occurs in our country or in the world, I am thinking about the after effects. Thousands of people are going to suffer the epidemic. I am mentioning about the epidemic. It is going to occur. Epidemic means diseases. For future, we want to take this thing very seriously. Medical team, food, drinking and all the required facilities should be provided by the Government. The State Government is doing that. That Central Government has already declared that whatever the amount the State requires, we will provide. We welcome that.

Sir, All I want to say is that, the problem that Tamil Nadu faces today, no other State has faced in the same magnitude. Do we have proper drainage facilities in our cities? Is there any drainage in our cities, even in our States? There is no drainage. In Trivandrum, there was rain for two days and it has flooded everywhere. What is the scientific method to face these floods?

So while we talk of smart cities, we will also have to think and evolve ways and means to tackle such natural disasters before they strike us. The State Government and the Central Government should together discuss and evolve ways and means to do it.

At least in future we should be able to pre-empt or reduce the intensity of such disasters. We have taken giant strides in science and technology. Then why is it that, when it comes to disaster management we are still found lacking? We are still a failure in meeting this challenge.

In future, we need the scientific and technological backing to tackle disasters. Such disaster management skills should reach all areas, especially when flood disasters strike.

Indeed drought too is a disaster. And it is also a fact, all over India, women especially mothers bear brunt of natural disasters. Whatever be the step, we will support whole-heartedly the Government of India and Government of Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NELLORE):** Thank you Deputy Speaker Sir for giving me an opportunity to speak on the devastating floods caused in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry.

Sir, for the last consecutive three years, there were no rains in Tamil Nadu and in the southern parts of Andhra Pradesh. Actually, we usually experience rains under north-east monsoon. For the last three years, there were no rains and there was a total failure of north-east monsoon. Actually, there was severe drought in many parts of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.

We were very happy for the initial rains that occurred. All the farmers were very happy thinking that rain is coming and at least this year they can have their crops and like that. But unfortunately, heavy rains, that too in a short period, caused devastating effects. For example, Chennai has experienced rains breaking 100 year old record. It was 100 years back that 108 cm rain had come in Tamil Nadu. This year, that too last month alone, 119.73 cm of rain has come. Nellore, being adjacent to Chennai, also experienced rains the same way. That way many standing crops, whatever standing crops are there, have been damaged. Particularly, in Nellore alone, around 25,000 acres of aquaculture was there. Maybe, it is even more. Each acre costs Rs.6 lakh to Rs.7 lakh for the aqua farmers to harvest. All 25,000 acres of aquaculture have been washed off. That itself comes to Rs.1500-1700 crore.

All crops of standing bananas and betel leaves have been damaged. Nellore paddy nurseries have been damaged whereas in West Godavari and

East Godavari, standing crops of paddy have been damaged. In West Godavari, two lakh acres and maybe, in East Godavari 1.5 lakh acres of paddy have been damaged. In the same way, in Anantapur, which was actually a drought-prone area, the farmers have raised some groundnut crops and their crops have also been damaged. In Andhra Pradesh, particularly, Nellore, Chittoor and Kadapa are the worst affected districts.

National Highway No.5 connecting Chennai to Kolkata has been breached near Gudur in Nellore district. Thousands of vehicles have been stranded on both sides. It was there for 5-6 days and thereafter only, they could fill up that breach. The breach has occurred because of, maybe, insufficient vents created without there being a proper design. Shri Venkaiah Naidu also visited that place. He is also under that impression and it has come in the Press also. Whereas the railway track is intact because they have provided sufficient vents for the free flow of water. However, such vents are not provided on the National Highway. That is why, the breach has occurred. Even now because of yesterday's rains, another breach has occurred and they are yet to close that breach. So, that way, when that being the case of national highway, all the State Highways and major district roads have been washed off. Many villages have been cut off from outside world. So, almost all properties of Government Department, State Highways and district highways have been damaged. Even poultry has been damaged. Many poultry farmers are also in a great distress.

So, that being the case, the Central Government has to come in a big way to the rescue of the State Government. Otherwise, among the farmers, as

everybody knows, there are a number of suicides in Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Maharashtra and in some other places. Unless the Central Government comes to the rescue of the farmers as well as people, it is very difficult for the State alone to come to the rescue of the people. That is why, I request the Central Government to send a team immediately, assess the damages properly and assist the State Government in a big way to tide over this difficulty. Thank you very much.

**SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE):** Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, I express my sincere thanks and indebtedness to my beloved leader Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu – Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for giving me an opportunity to take part in this important discussion on flood situation in several parts of the country.

Tamil Nadu is periodically subjected to various natural calamities, especially cyclonic storms and depressions in the Bay of Bengal. Cyclones Nisha and Thane had done extensive damages in the past. The recent unprecedented rains in Tamil Nadu during Northeast Monsoon had resulted in extremely heavy rainfall in just a few days hitherto unknown for many decades. Tamil Nadu has taken the brunt of torrential rainfall and fierce winds. Many areas marooned in the coastal and interior districts like Cuddalore, Kancheepuram, Chennai and Tiruvallur. These districts had suffered heavy and extensive damages to life of people, cattle and poultry.

Cuddalore District in Tamil Nadu suffered extensive damage due to recent incessant rains. Neyveli, Kurinjipadi, Panruti and Chidambaram areas of this district received 437 millimetre of rainfall in just 6 hours on 9th November, 2015. Cuddalore district received 324 millimetre of rainfall on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 and 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2015 resulting in floods causing extensive damage to lives and property.

Extremely heavy rainfall of 342 millimetre flooded Kancheepuram town on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. Many *taluks* of Kancheepuram district suffered very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall of 275 millimetre on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

As many as 12 *taluks* and 686 villages were badly affected in Kancheepuram district. As regards Tiruvallur district, it received a heavy rainfall of 604.5 millimetre within a short span of 10 days which is more than the average rainfall of 604.1 millimetre received during the entire period of North East Monsoon.

Similarly, Chennai received the second heaviest monthly rainfall recorded in the past more than 100 years in just first 20 days of November 2015 and is still continuing. Chennai received unprecedented rainfall of 1139 millimetre between 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2015 and 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. In Chennai city, 859 locations were inundated for days together. Chennai and nearby areas were the worst hit and over 170 lives have been reportedly lost throughout the State due to rain related incidents.

Heavy rains have increased levels of rivers in Vellore district. Appukkal river has overflowed and flooded two villages near Anaicut on 24<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. Heavy rain had caused some flooding in other villages in the district, as well as Vellore city, where affected families have been evacuated. A number of 432 villages have been affected by floods and heavy rain.

In Southern Tamil Nadu, Thoothukudi district was affected a lot. People in 20 localities were rescued and evacuated by boat. Six relief camps have been set up to house those displaced. Local authorities are also providing food and other relief items to the victims. Though the rains and floods have battered all over northern part of Tamil Nadu and coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, I would like to highlight the heavy damages caused by the floods in Cuddalore District

and neighboring places. There was much disruption of life and public inconvenience. The loss of property is huge. The economic cost of reconstruction of damaged structures and facilities will be very high.

As the fury of the rain continues, it will take a long time for rehabilitation of the affected people, most of whom are poor. Incessant rains and floods led to loss of lives, damages to huts and dwellings, crops and livelihoods. There were also extensive damages to infrastructure including roads, bridges, drainages and sewages, government buildings, etc. Though all precautionary measures were taken, there was heavy, very heavy and extremely heavy rainfall for days together causing extensive damage to infrastructure. The reservoirs and minor irrigation tanks and ponds got filled up soon and their overflow aggravated the problem.

Meanwhile, the Cuddalore district and Chennai district administrations are taking a series of steps in various sectors including health in the backdrop of the heavy rains.

In 16 local bodies of the Cuddalore district, generators were being used to supply power even as 1,000 employees from other districts have been deployed to repair faults and restore electricity. About 35 medical camps had been established and medical services were being delivered.

Fishing sector has taken a huge hit. Fishing crafts which were anchored on the beach were lost in the sea. Many mechanized boats, FRP Vallams and catamarans were partially damaged. A total of as many as 3,047 engines and 8,106 nets belonging to fishermen were damaged.



Floods also battered the road network. The State Highways for a length of 5,694 kilometres have been damaged due to heavy rains. Five bridges and 234 culverts were also damaged. It is estimated that an amount of Rs. 405.35 crore is required to carry out temporary restoration and a sum of Rs. 1,426.53 crore is required for permanent restoration of the damaged roads in the State of Tamil Nadu.

But for the leadership provided by hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* and the timely action taken by the State Administration, the State would have witnessed untold miseries and unprecedented destructions. Hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* announced an immediate fund of Rs. 500 crore for relief and restoration in the State. When rains that should have been realized in three months pour within a few days, any number of preventive measures will not suffice as stagnation and resulting damage are unavoidable.

Given the scale of suffering as a result of the rains, the government machinery was in full swing, with Ministers and officials including those from police and Fire and Rescue Services working relentlessly day and night to restore normalcy while relief measures had been taken up on a war- footing. The government machinery under the dynamic leadership of hon. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has been working day and night to ensure normalcy.

*Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has taken a number of steps to minimize the losses. People from low-lying areas were evacuated and moved to shelters. People from the inundated areas were shifted to relief camps and provided

food, shelter, clothing and medical assistance. As many as 22 lakh food packets were distributed to people rescued and affected by floods.

Measures were taken to provide safe drinking water and early restoration of power supply. Immediate relief is being provided to families of those who lost their lives due to floods. In addition, relief is also provided for loss of cattle and poultry. Besides, relief is being distributed to 98,850 cases of hut damage and 3,202 cases of damage to houses. Thousands of electric poles were replaced and medical camps were organised in all the relief camps. Under the guidance of *Puratchi Thalaivi* Amma, books, note-books, ration cards and uniform sets were provided to the flood affected people and students.

### **15.00 hours**

In Neyveli, NLC is badly affected. Lignite mining and power generation took a hit as mines were inundated. The power generation was a meagre 600 MW against the installed capacity of 2,990 MW. The management has also switched-off the conveyor belt system that carries lignite to the thermal stations because of heavy rainfall. A contingency plan has been put in place and lignite excavation and power generation would resume shortly. Most of the blocks in the Neyveli Township were inundated with flood water entering houses. Roads leading to Neyveli were also cut-off due to heavy rain. As rain continued unabated, authorities suspended power supply as a precautionary measure.

Pumping out of excess water from the Neyveli mines has added the miseries of the people living around NLC. Nearly, 300-1200 cusecs of water pumped out from NLC mines to river Paravanar in Kurinjipadi Taluk caused heavy flooding and damages to life in nearby villages. I wish to record that NLC has big responsibility to mitigate the damages caused due to the pumping of excess water. It would be appropriate for NLC to spend from their funds designated for their CSR activities. Also, NLC should lend their support to the District Administration and State authorities for all precautionary and damage control activities like strengthening and raising of bunds and de-silting of the river Paravanar.

The civic infrastructure including drains, roads and buildings needs to be strengthened to withstand the rain and flooding. This also calls for changes and improvement in urban planning methods and norms. The long-term need is for better water management and measures to conserve water, which can turn even flood into a boon.

It is pertinent to mention that the main agricultural seasons like Samba, Thaladi and Navarai depend entirely on the North-East monsoon. The rainfall during this period decides the fate of agricultural economy of the State of Tamil Nadu. Thus, agricultural economy has got a severe hit by the recent floods. Tamil Nadu suffered huge loss of crops, livestock, fisheries and infrastructure. This calamity is so severe that it should be treated as a natural calamity and the entire expenditure towards relief and restoration -- over and

above the State Disaster Response Fund -- should be borne by the Government of India.

Hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, has submitted a Memorandum to the Government of India seeking assistance of Rs. 2,630.58 crore for temporary restoration and Rs. 5,850.34 crore for permanent restoration totaling to Rs. 8,480.93 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund for flood damages suffered by the State of Tamil Nadu. Hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, has made a request to the Hon. Prime Minister *vide* a letter dated 23 November 2015 for immediate release of Rs. 2,000 crore.

The Inter-Ministerial Central team has visited different places affected by floods in the State to assess the damage. The team led by Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs included representatives of the Ministries of Agriculture, Finance, Rural Development, Drinking Water and Power from Delhi; representatives of Ministries of Road Transport and Highways and Health from Chennai; and Central Water Commission, Bengaluru.

I sincerely pray and hope that the Union Government would be more considerate in this regard after assessing the damages caused in the State due to recent floods. Hon. Prime Minister expressed his deep anguish and grief about the loss of at least 170 lives in Tamil Nadu due to incessant rains and floods. While addressing the nation through the 14<sup>th</sup> edition of *Mann Ki Baat* radio programme, hon. Prime Minister said that he was saddened to witness devastation and deaths in Tamil Nadu and expressed faith in the strength of

Tamil Nadu. Hon. Prime Minister attributed the nature's fury to the effect of global warming and climate change. Even now, Chennai, Cuddalore and adjoining areas are experiencing torrential rains and damages are increasing. Hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister has explained in depth the alarming situation prevailing in Chennai and sub-urban areas.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider this calamity as a national calamity because of its large-scale devastation and release immediately the entire demanded amount of Rs. 8,480.93 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund for flood damages suffered by the State of Tamil Nadu. I would like to state that timely release of adequate funds by the Union Government will help Tamil Nadu to undertake temporary and permanent restoration of infrastructure and other utilities on war-footing basis. Thank you.

**KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR):** Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for this opportunity to let me participate in an important debate, something that is saddening to see – the unprecedented floods that have affected the State of Tamil Nadu. It is of grave concern that the loss of lives and property are devastating. Some of the visuals that I have seen on television or in the print media are rattling. The nation stands with the people affected and with the Government of Tamil Nadu in such a dire situation.

From my experience as a Member of Parliament from the State of Assam, I understand and appreciate that no matter how progressive a State is, no matter how economically wealthy a State is, in times of floods and natural calamity, we all look to the Central Government for assistance. I am happy to see that

the hon. Prime Minister has spoken with the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I hope the Government of India will take every logistic measure to facilitate the Government of Tamil Nadu. People are stranded which tells me that the State will need additional helicopters and boats. People who have lost their homes must be given clothes, medicines and more importantly, food grains. We would like to know if NDRF is playing an active role in rescue operations, and how many doctors have been sent by the Government of India.

I know what a natural calamity can do to a State because of my own experience in the State of Assam. I have seen the calamities that have affected the States of Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal and other parts of India, but I hope that the Government of India will rise to the occasion. The biggest challenge that the State Government of Assam faced after floods was about rebuilding of infrastructure, which my other colleagues have stated. The hon. Chief Minister of Assam asked for almost Rs. 2,000 crore following the floods in September, 2015 only to rebuild infrastructure and communication networks. But unfortunately, we have got only some Rs. 300 crore. We had also asked for Rs. 600 crore for rescue operations, which we have not received. It is appropriate to say that the National Flood Commission states that the area liable to floods in Assam stands at 31.60 lakh hectares.

It is almost 9.4 per cent of the total flood prone area of the country. The State of Assam has repeatedly requested that floods which recur year after year should not be simply looked at something that is recurring and need no attention. But we wanted that floods should be declared as a national calamity.

The Government of Assam has written. But except for a few media houses that cover the floods of Assam, we see no attention that the national media has given to the floods of Assam, which Chennai has got. I am happy for it. Every day I wake up in the morning to see young women, children and old people all stranded in the floods of Chennai. I pray for them that they come out of it.

I come from an area that is known as the Barak Valley in the State of Assam. Barak River is our asset. But it also floods every year just like the Brahmaputra Valley. I am pained to say that in 1981 the Brahmaputra Board was established by an Act of Parliament. As per my belief and information, the current Government has made plans to restructure. But till today when we debate about parliamentary time being put to good use, that Bill has not yet been introduced by the Water Resources Minister. Therefore, it is my humble request that in the next Session, please bring the new Bill which restructures the Brahmaputra Board which has been dissolved. I hope that we will see constructive measures being taken. I also request that the flooding of Barak River, we had hoped, would be alleviated due to the Tipaimukh Dam. What is the fate of that project till today? We do not know about it. I hope this Government will take it up with the Government of Bangladesh so that the river basins of Barak Valley can be saved from flooding.

I end my speech once again by saying that we stand by the people of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal who are suffering because of the recent floods.

**DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARIBABU (VISAKHAPATNAM):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the situation arising out of the floods in various States of the country. The recent depression in Bay of Bengal caused heavy rains and also caused the damage in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry and other States.

Andhra Pradesh is blessed with very long sea coast line of 974 kilometres. Having long sea coast, we have advantages and also disadvantages. The advantage is that the sea coast contributes to the economic development of the State. The disadvantage is that the State is going to have frequent cyclones. Because of cyclones, we are having lot of damages in various parts of the State. Last year, we had faced a very big cyclone called 'Hudhud' which hit the city of Visakhapatnam. This year, the cyclone caused heavy rains in three districts of Andhra Pradesh, that is, Chittoor, Kadapa, Nellore and also caused damaged in other districts of East Godavari, West Godavari, Prakasam and Krishna District.

Because of the heavy rains, there was a lot of damage for the transport system. Roads were damaged. Vehicular traffic has come to a halt. The National Highway-16 which connects Chennai and Kolkata was breached and the road traffic has come to a halt. As far as the breach of the national highway is concerned, I have a suggestion to the Government and particularly to the Department of Road Transport. My esteemed friend from the YSRCP Shri Reddy spoke about this. The National Highway and the railway line pass in parallel.



When the railway bridges are intact, what is the reason for the national highway to be breached? The main reason is lack of proper design. Proper vents were planned on the railway bridges to discharge the flood water from one side to the other. However, the national highway on many occasions acts as a check dam and does not allow the flood water to flow from one side to the other side. The vents provided on the national highway are very narrow, the culverts are very narrow and they do not allow the discharge of the flood water to the other side. This is the main reason for the breach to happen on the national highway. I request the National Highways Authority of India to check the national highway for the capacity of the culverts and the vents so as to see that this type of situations do not recur in the future.

As far as the Railways are concerned, they have diverted some trains and some trains were cancelled which has caused a lot of problem for the passengers. In Nellore and Chittoor Districts, the State Government has taken proactive steps to establish about 61 relief camps. Senior IAS officers were deputed to oversee the relief operations and people in distress were being taken care of. Government of Andhra Pradesh has the experience of facing the natural calamities and taking up relief operations. Our Chief Minister stayed at the places of distress to oversee the rescue operations. Hon. Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs Venkaiah Naidu also visited the area, reviewed the relief operations and assured that proper assistance would be given to the flood affected people.

The major loss caused by the cyclone is the loss of agriculture. Crops were damaged, cattle were lost and goats were lost. The second major loss suffered is to the aquaculture. Nellore District is the hub of aquaculture activity. The State of Andhra Pradesh contributes one third of the shrimp exports from the country. I think about 8,000 hectares of shrimp culture area was totally damaged and a lot of losses happened.

Loss of life is minimised. About 35 people lost their lives and 14,000 people have been evacuated to relief camps. Government of Andhra Pradesh announced an *ex-gratia* payment of Rs.5 lakh for each victim. I am also thankful for international organisations. International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Society (IFRC) provided some relief assistance through Indian Red Cross

and I am very much thankful to them. I request the Government of India to come forward to provide necessary relief to take care of the problems in Andhra Pradesh where the flood has caused a lot of damage.

Thank you very much.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, for the last several days, the way the flood situation is there in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, especially in Chennai and its surrounding areas, first of all, I would like to assure my party and the people of the state that the whole country is with them today at the time of such crisis.

I was listening to AIADMK colleagues, I think the Tamil Nadu government would be trying to do a better job. I would appeal to the Central Government that without reviewing the amount of about Rs. 8500 crore that the Tamil Nadu Government has asked for, because the Central Government reviews a lot, makes announcements in the House many times, even after that it does not give money, it is my experience in the case of Uttar Pradesh and in the case of other states also. Therefore, even if any scheme has to be stopped, at a time of crisis, where large tracts of the country, large masses are affected, where there has been a lot of damage in the form of Jan, Dhan, Houses and Animals and about 200 people have died, I would request the Union Government to extend all help to the Government of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. I assure the people there that the whole country stands with them in this crisis. I conclude my speech with these sentiments. Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI R. RADHAKRISHNAN (PUDUCHERRY):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank the hon. Parliamentary Affairs Minister for taking up this discussion on emergency basis. Heavy rains have been pounding the Union Territory of Puducherry and Karaikal region for past few days. Large areas of Puducherry and Karaikal have been inundated with water. A large number of houses, agricultural land and farmers have suffered immensely due to floods. Puducherry is an adjoining district of Cuddalore. So you can know that the extent of damage that has been done in Puducherry is very high and unprecedented.

The hon. Chief Minister has written to the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister reporting the damages and requested for release of Rs. 182.45 crore. At this instant, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister and hon. Home Minister for sending the Central team immediately to assess the situation. After the Central team has left, the current rains have created much more damage and the situation is very grim there. So, the hon. Chief Minister has once again written to the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Home Minister to release an interim relief of Rs 100 crore. That will greatly benefit in helping the people of Puducherry and continuing the relief work in Puducherry.

We are not part of the SDRF. So, there is no fund provided under the Disaster Response Fund. The UTDRF has not been constituted. I request the Government to immediately constitute the UTDRF. That will definitely help us to give the funds on time. I request the Government to provide all necessary help to the Union Territory of Puducherry. Since we are land-locked with Tamil Nadu, we would also like to raise the concern of our neighbouring State of Tamil Nadu which is greatly affected by floods. Definitely, we share the concern of the Members from Tamil Nadu also. We require a timely and good assistance from the Central Government to tide over this situation. Kindly take it up on priority.

Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, we are discussing the flood situation which has arisen in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry in the South of the country today. I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak.

Sir, I come from Punjab. We stand with the people of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry in this time of crisis. When there is flood, the farmers suffer more. Their crops die. Every year one or the other natural calamity occurs in Punjab. Last year, there was hailstorm, unseasonal rains and floods also occurred. And then there was a drought. But the criteria to compensate the farmers is very weak. It is confined only to discussions and announcements. It does not reach the ground level. When such a natural calamity strikes anywhere in the country, it should not be confined to discussion or declaration only, the people there should be helped at the ground level. Those who have suffered loss, be it property, crop or loss of life or property. In such a time of crisis, the whole country stands with the people of Tamil Nadu. There is Ghaggar river in Punjab, in which floods occur every year. It is confirmed that the Ghaggar river wreaks havoc causing damage along with floods. Not even half of the money announced on its cleanliness reach the ground level, so the people living around the Ghaggar river, including Khanori, Sardulgarh, Satrana and Moonak, have considered the flood as part of their fortunes that the governments do nothing, it is in our destiny. By not leaving people to luck, if the government, in a material form, reaches where

natural calamity occurs at the ground level, only by not being confined to discussions and announcements, it should reach the ground level. Apart from this, pre-estimation instruments need to be updated. The forecast of floods and the work of evacuating people out thereafter should be updated.

I urge the Government through you to extend maximum assistance to the people of Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh in this time of crisis. Thank you.

**SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am very grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this serious issue, which has shaken the entire country today. In Tamil Nadu, Hyderabad and Puducherry, the flood situation is grim today. I want to assure you in this case that we are with you. The sympathy of the whole country is with you and whatever demand they have made from the Government of India, should be fulfilled. I come from Assam and our Home Minister is sitting here, he is also aware of Assam that the issue of Assam flood has become our predicament. Now if we talk about the whole country, in 2008 there was a huge devastation due to the floods in the Kosi river in Bihar, in 2013 there was devastation in Uttarakhand, in 2014 there was devastation due to floods in Kashmir. When the devastation of Uttarakhand happened this year, it was shown that nothing reached the people there. In the same way, the situation in Kashmir is also very bad. But today, the devastation caused by floods, I understand that the Government should think of a permanent solution in its case, so that it does

not happen again and again and if it happens, people can be forewarned, so that such massive devastation and ruin can be avoided.

With this, I would like to say about Assam that every year there is flood in the Brahmaputra River. Earlier also, I have raised this issue here that due to the Brahmaputra, especially my area Dhubri, to which I belong, besides the devastation and destruction that occur every year in Barpeta, Gwalpada and Majuli and Dhemadi across Assam. Lakhs of people become homeless there, lakhs of hectares of land is ruined. Just now in our Assam there was a cloud burst in Dhubri in 2014, in the month of September in 2015, various areas of Assam were flooded. In the past, more than 42 lakh people were affected and rendered homeless, crops were destroyed, they were devastated. In the same manner, more than 12 lakh people died in the month of August and September this year. Further, the devastation of the same magnitude in 1988, 1984, 1977, 1972, 1962, 1954, 2004 and 2012 spelled all over Assam. The financial loss suffered due to this flood and erosion is quite huge. I come from Dhubri, there is a lot of erosion there as well.

Apart from this, about the Indo-Bangladesh border, I will especially tell Shri Kiren Rijiju that I have been raising the matter of Kaliralga and Maliralga there for five years. The border of Bangladesh has also been broken there and the entire sub-division will be finished there. I repeatedly contacted the Minister, but no work has been done in that case so far.

*[English]*

As per official records, from 1997 to 2007, 1,050 square kilometers, that is, 1,27,245 hectares of land has been eroded which displaced 30 lakh people from their original places and seven per cent of the total land of the Brahmaputra valley of Assam. Moreover, a study revealed that from 1951 to 2000, an area of 4,29,697 hectares has been eroded by the rivers in Assam.

The State has incurred losses due to floods to the tune of almost Rs. 13,000 crore since Independence. The average annual loss due to flood in Assam is to the tune of Rs. 200 crore. In 1998, this loss was about Rs. 500 crore and during the year 2004 it was about Rs. 771 crore.

*[Translation]*

Sir, the Assam Government had just asked for a package of two thousand crores rupees, but every year devastation is happening like this, where will people go? When the hon. Prime Minister had won this time, we had congratulated him, he had said that we will give a special package for the North-East. I hope he takes care of Tamil Nadu and elsewhere, but does not forget Assam also. Assam should also be given full help during the floods.

With these words, I conclude my statement. Thank you.



*[English]*

**SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL):** Thank you, Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir. The State of Tamil Nadu, particularly Chennai, has been experiencing incessant rains for the past nearly one month which has not been recorded over the century. It has thrown the lives of the most parts of our State and the entire city of Chennai out of gear. Many residential houses and buildings were inundated and submerged in the flood water. Lakhs of people have been rendered homeless and valuables worth crores of rupees lost.

Our Government of Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership of Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is closely monitoring and working round the clock to rescue the people and to prevent the outbreak of any epidemic.

Adding fuel to the fire, from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015, another spell of rains started pouring in causing huge damage and inconvenience to the affected people. Many of the lakes and ponds are overflowing. Chennai Airport has been totally water-logged and more than 700 passengers have been stuck in the Airport. Chennai Airport is said to be shut for Air Traffic.

Suburban train services both at Chennai Moore Market to Arakkonam and Trains from Tambaram to Kancheepuram and more than 20 express trains have been cancelled. Weather Forecast has warned that more heavy rain is expected in Chennai and Tamil Nadu for the next four days. Coast Guard, Navy and Army teams have been deputed for rescue work.

Our State Government is also working with the Centre to assist in the

relief operations. Food, temporary shelter, transport, special medical camp etc. are being arranged round the clock by the State Government for the flood affected people. Hon. Prime Minister has also expressed his serious concern on the present flood situation in the State of Tamil Nadu.

Considering the gravity of the situation, I humbly urge upon the Union Government to immediately release the required funds to bring back the entire State of Tamil Nadu and Chennai to normalcy. Thank you.

**DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH):** Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, there have been extremely heavy and torrential rains in Tamil Nadu with two spells of sudden downpour occurring in a very short span of time, that is from 8<sup>th</sup> November 2015 to 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. This has caused extensive damage to huts and houses and there has been loss of life too. This extremely heavy downpour has led to flash floods in Chennai, Cuddalore, Kanchipuram and Tiruvallur districts. The entire State and the district machinery, under the dynamic leadership of our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, were deployed for immediate relief and restoration works. Rescue operations were carried out on war footing basis by using boats and Indian Air Force coast guard helicopters. National Disaster Response Force was also pressed in service. The State Government also took the assistance of Indian Army and Coast Guards for rescuing people in marooned areas.

Sir, with regard to Chennai, Chennai has experienced unprecedented rain from 28<sup>th</sup> October onwards. Chennai has received 1039 mm of rainfall between

28<sup>th</sup> October 2015 and 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. The maximum rainfall in a single day, 235.5 mm, occurred on 15/11/2015. Normal life of the residents of Chennai was badly affected not only due to heavy rain downpour but also due to high level of water in Cooum, Adayar and Kosasthalaiar basin as a result of discharge of surplus water from Chembarambakkam and Poondi lake. Due to this intensive and continuous excessive rainfall, roads, subways, street lights and storm motor drains were damaged. Due to rise in the level of release of water in the river, the flood water could not be discharged by the storm water drain causing inundation in the city for four to six days continuously. In Chennai city 859 locations were inundated for days together.

Our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma took steps on war footing basis. Sir, 550 heavy duty pump-sets, 57 JCBs, porcelain machinery and 49 fire service vehicles were deployed. Due to heavy rains coupled with wind at the speed of 60 to 70 kms per hour, 898 trees had fallen. All 22 subways in Chennai city were flooded due to heavy rain and de-watering efforts were taken to drain out excessive water. With the help of other Departments, 50 boats were deployed for rescue operation and relief centers were opened to provide shelter to the people. Medical camps were established and treatment was given to people who suffered during the flood.

The Chennai city had experienced extensive damage and will incur huge expenditure to mitigate the sufferings of people, commence essential services, repair the damaged infrastructure and bring back the city to normalcy.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, lakhs of people have been relocated and accommodated in relief centers and provided with food, safe drinking water, sanitation and health-care facility. The State has also suffered a huge loss of crop, livestock, fisheries and infrastructure. As there is a need to reduce the level of suffering and to mitigate the distress so as to bring the affected people out of shock and trauma of suddenly losing their means of livelihood, the State has to provide relief by means of giving gracious assistance as an immediate help for loss of livelihood, belongings and personnel.

Immediate restoration of infrastructure facilities is the need of the hour. With the available funds at the State Government under SDRF and otherwise, it is not possible to meet the immediate requirement. Hence, the requirement of funds to the extent of Rs.2630.58 crore has been projected. The State Government would need a sum of Rs.2630.59 crore for immediate temporary restoration and Rs.5850.34 crore for subsequent permanent restoration. The total requirement sought from the Central Government is Rs.8480.93 crore.

The calamity is of such a severe nature that it should be treated as a national calamity. Our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had requested that the entire expenditure towards relief and restoration over and above the State Disaster Response Fund should be borne by the Government of India.

**DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):** Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. On behalf of my Party and on my own behalf, I am deeply concerned for the people of Tamil Nadu and other southern States. The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken a lot of measures to meet the situation. At the same time, I would request the Union Government to extend whatever help is possible. They should be given funds to meet the challenges.

Sir, my State of Odisha, is every year visited by floods and cyclones like Hud Hud and Phailin. Such natural calamities are visiting Odisha every year. This year, there is severe drought. Around 25 districts and 173 blocks are severely affected by drought. Our Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, has already taken a lot of measures to meet the challenges. He has already given Rs.1000 crore to the farmers. At the same time, we have asked for an assistance of around Rs.1667 crore from the Central Government to combat the drought situation.

Therefore, on behalf of my State, I would request the Union Government to release the funds at the earliest. We have not received an amount of Rs. 400 crore sanctioned for Phailin. I would request the Central Government to give Rs.400 crore also to the Odisha Government.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** Sir, nature is guided by God, and God is manifested through nature; both are deeply intertwined. However, when humanity tampers with the delicate balance of either, consequences

inevitably follow. The Hon. Prime Minister himself, during his visits abroad, has spoken about the pressing issue of global warming. I urge this House to reflect deeply on this. God created human beings, and today, ironically, human beings attempt to create God. When humanity reaches such a state, can we expect Divine Grace to endure? There is a saying, 'Bura Jo Dekhan Main Chala', when we seek out wrongs in others, we often forget to look within. Similarly, a person once died on the roadside. When others inquired, they lamented, "O Allah, at least the eye was saved." We, who sit in this august House, must not merely mourn the recurring tragedies that afflict our nation; we must act. Year after year, the poor and the deprived suffer, and it is not enough for us to merely offer condolences. Today, I extend heartfelt condolences to all the poor, deprived, and common citizens affected, particularly in Bihar, on behalf of the entire nation. I also take this opportunity to commend the extraordinary courage and leadership demonstrated by the hon. Chief Minister, 'Amma', who stood resolutely with her people during this natural calamity. Her efforts deserve not just one, but a thousand salutations on behalf of the entire country. Hon. Home Minister, through you, I wish to urge that in the aftermath of other disasters, be it the tsunami in Kashmir or elsewhere, the Hon. Prime Minister himself had visited the affected regions. In this grave situation, I request that either the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Home Minister personally visit the affected areas to assess the situation firsthand. Merely giving speeches from this House, or holding discussions under Rule 193, will not suffice. We must wipe the tears of the suffering. We

must stand with the people of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Puducherry in this hour of distress.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, even today, we can observe certain phenomena unfolding in the social and natural contexts of our country. Our revered spiritual gurus have spoken about the South and North Pole shift after twelve lakh years, and many scientists have also acknowledged this phenomenon. Our scientists have brought this shift to wider attention, particularly in relation to the Northern regions. In this regard, I would like to make two or three submissions. Firstly, Indian scientists must take such developments seriously, especially when great natural changes are anticipated — changes that have the potential to affect all aspects of life. Secondly, as our Hon. Prime Minister has rightly highlighted on international platforms the threat posed by global warming and the responsibilities of developed nations, we too must draw lessons here in India. We must recognise that Nature cannot be tampered with without consequence. I urge that our scientific community actively explore and research all such possibilities with the seriousness they deserve. Sir, the region where I hail from in Bihar, there are many rivers like Kosi, Mahananda, Gandak, Ganga, Kamla, Balan. Bihar is home to 14 major rivers, making it one of the most riverine states in the country. If there has been a victim of maximum flood tragedies, it has been Kosi, our regions, Madhepura, Purnia, Katihar, Darbhanga, Supaul, Saharsa, these areas. The sensitivity of the Bihar government does not remain till date, so I would like to urge how to have a permanent diagnosis of floods, by building a high dam in Nepal or after talking to Nepal Government; our

Prime Minister has good relations with them. My only submission is that by linking Kosi, Ganga and Mahananda and Gandak rivers, the water can be brought to Central Bihar and floods can be prevented there, it is necessary to do this. With these words, I once again urge that nature should not be tampered with and scientists should work on the changes that are taking place in the North and South pole, that there is a big change and the Prime Minister should visit Tamil Nadu and express his heartfelt sympathy to the people there. Thank you very much.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** In the morning the Hon. Speaker took the sense of the House for an immediate discussion under Rule 193 regarding flood situation in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal and droughts in some parts of the country. During the discussion, several Members including the Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and leaders expressed that keeping in view the gravity of the situation in the States of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal, the discussion may be restricted specifically to the flood situation. If the House agrees we may take up drought situation at a later at a later time. Accordingly, we may confine the discussion and reply to the flood situation only. I hope the House agrees.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Sir, yes.



**SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI):** Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. One of the really affected areas is the Tirupati constituency where all the seven Assembly constituencies have been affected. Agricultural activities have been completely washed away. The nurseries also have got washed away. Most of the roads have got damaged and cut off from other places. The hon. Chief Minister, including my Party leader Shri Jaganmohan Reddy has surveyed the area. Several of the houses where the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and the OBCs live, the entire thatched houses and the mud houses have been completely washed out. The aqua culture which is extremely famous in our area, the Tirupati constituency, about 10000 hectares of land worth Rs. 15000 crore got washed away and the people engaged in this activity need assistance like concessions in electricity and all. The other thing is that the holy temple at Tirupati, never in the history of 100 years, has got inundated. But thanks to the management, the Executive Officer and the Chairman of TTD for which they are able to successfully help the people to have the *darshan* of the Lord.

Similarly, we also have an important temple in Kalahasthi. That also has got badly affected. Another important area which has got badly affected is Venkatagiri which is famous for the weavers. Most of them are handloom weavers. Water has gone into their machines and so, they are not able to weave for the last one month. Therefore, I would urge upon the Government of India and the State Government to immediately come to the rescue of the farmers of aquaculture and weavers.

Lastly, I request the hon. Prime Minister on this aspect as the flood situation is extremely serious. He may take an aerial survey particularly over Chennai and Tirupati areas so that people will be grateful to the Government of India.

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI):** Hon. deputy-speaker Sir, I thank you for permitting me to speak on this serious issue.

As per the information available on 20<sup>th</sup> November, many people have lost their lives in various rain-related incidents as rains continued, triggered by the North-East monsoon. It has battered several districts of Andhra Pradesh during the past one week. According to the press reports, 35 people were killed in different rain-related incidents like wall collapses in several districts which bore the brunt of the heavy downpour. At least 14,000 people were shifted to relief camps in Nellore and Chittoor districts.

The districts of Chittoor, Nellore, Cuddapah and Anantapur were the worst-hit due to heavy rains. Several rivers and rivulets were in spate following the rains. Low-lying areas were inundated in villages and towns in the affected districts. As a result of this, crops suffered extensive damages.

Last year, we had Hudhud in Andhra Pradesh. Our State is the second largest coastal State. So, every year, we have a minimum of three to four cyclones and thousands of people are getting evacuated. By these cyclones, we are facing heavy loss of life and property. As per primary assessment, a loss of about Rs. 3000 crore has occurred and our hon. Chief Minister, Shri

Chandrababu Naidu has taken all required steps including precautionary and relief measures but on behalf of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, I humbly request the Government of India to immediately sanction Rs. 1000 crores as interim relief to our State. Only then, we can re-equip ourselves as our State is a new State. As such, we have a lot of problems and moreover, the natural calamities are also causing a lot of trouble to the people of Andhra Pradesh....

*(Interruptions)*

I would request the hon. Minister to depute a Central team to visit the flood affected districts of Andhra Pradesh to assess the damage and provide sufficient medical aid to deal with the health problems faced by the people.

**MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP):** Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion under Rule 193 on the subject of flood situation in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal.

First of all, I stand here to express our Party's solidarity to the flood-affected areas, especially the people of Tamil Nadu, and we stand by them. At the same time, I also extend my Party's sincere thanks to the efforts taken by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Jayalalithaa for rescuing the affected people over there.

We have been witnessing such issues earlier also. This is not the first time we are coming across such natural calamities. We have been discussing these issues prior to this also under Rule 193 on several occasions. But I would like to clearly mention one point here. We need to identify the reason as to why

floods are happening and our scientists or experts need to sit and brainstorm to find out the reason and then get rid of the problem.

As Shri Mahtab was telling, the cause for this flood is obstructing the natural flow of water, may be due to construction or due to some other reason. We need to find a permanent solution. We should reach such a situation where our country should not face such natural calamities which take the lives of our people.

I would request the Government to come out with such solutions so that such calamities do not occur in future. I also support the demand made by the State Government of Tamil Nadu and all assistance be extended to them as early as possible. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I request the Government to provide as much help as possible to the flood affected people of Tamil Nadu. The way Amma rose to the occasion during the floods deserves the highest commendation. I request the Union Government to help the Government of Tamil Nadu as much as possible.

Sir, I am from Assam. It is a state surrounded by mountains. When it rains in the hilly state, Assam also receives rains and Assam gets flooded. Floods take place in Assam every year. There is no facility of the kind that should be provided by the center.

Assam will probably be hit by floods even next year. I request the Union Government to remain alert to this matter beforehand.

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have suffered a huge loss due to incessant rains over the last one week. The rains claimed the lives of approximately 170 people. Especially, the entire city of Chennai is submerged in water. Rail, Road, and Air traffic have been severely disrupted. The assistance being provided by the government of Delhi through NDRF is commendable. I deeply appreciate the work Amma Ji is doing by standing with the people and supporting them during this disaster.

Sir, I am from Bihar. I will conclude my speech in two-three minutes by speaking about Bihar. Bihar has never recovered from the tragedy of Kosi River and Kamla River for ten consecutive years. I think that the hon. Prime Minister should take initiative to ensure a permanent resolution of this issue. He should talk to the Government of Nepal. Just now Pappu ji was also submitting that North Bihar should be relieved from floods by talking to Nepal government. For this, a central team should definitely be formed. It should take cognizance of the situation of all places, whether there is drought or flood, and find a solution to it, and not just keep discussing it in Parliament and we keep suffering from it.

Sir, today the whole country stands with the people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. I demand from the Union Government to raise resources for them at the earliest. The hon. Minister of Home Affairs is sitting here. I would

also request him that in this situation, he should stand by the people there and cooperate with him.

**SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST):** Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. First of all, I would like to say that we sympathize with the people of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. We demand from the Government that they should be given relief and rescue assistance in the time of natural calamity. The Government should declare it as a national disaster. We are especially grateful to the Deputy Speaker or his Team of MP's, for extending condolences to the people of Tamil Nadu for their pain and suffering.

I would also like to add that we have flood victims here too, in Assam, Arunachal Pradesh etc. The issues that we have there, especially our Minister of State for Home Affairs is from Arunachal Pradesh.... *(Interruptions)* There is one thing that whenever we speak, you give us two minutes. If you do not want to hear about Arunachal Pradesh, why do you call my name? When you call our name, we should be given at least two minutes. We are told to conclude in a minute. The Minister of State is from Arunachal Pradesh who will answer my question. So he will have to listen to us and will also have to answer. Not only here, but also in Assam, you see this time there was flood in Assam, people have been affected in 92 thousand hectares, at least 90 thousand people have been affected by floods. We demanded Rs. 2,000 crore, only Rs.520 crore were given in Assam. We demanded Rs. 500 crore, we got Rs. 96 crore, it was last year. Rs. 900 crores which has been announced in Tamil Nadu is of last

year. What measures are you taking for this year, how are you helping the people with helicopters, how are you taking up relief and rehabilitation matters.

Sir, I will not take much time. He belongs to my area, but still, he did not say anything, he is silent on the issue regarding construction of four dams in Arunachal Pradesh by China. Please do answer this. The problem of flood in Assam will recur every year in the absence of dams. *[English]* It is a river of sorrow. Brahmaputra River is a river of sorrow. If you do not check this, you will have problem with her. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**\*SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** Our country has been in the grip of natural calamities for several consecutive years. At present, while most parts of the country are in the grip of drought, Tamil Nadu has been facing a crisis due to torrential rain since November. Where the rain has broken the record of the last hundred years. Everything has gone haywire. Hundreds of people have died. Property worth crores of rupees has been damaged. Air, train and bus services have been suspended. Most of the areas have been inundated. Schools have been closed and examinations have been postponed. I would like to congratulate the Government that the hon. Home Minister and the entire Council of Ministers including hon. Prime Minister are serious about this issue and are providing all possible assistance by holding talks with the State Government, taking quick decisions. Only on November 23, Rs. 939.63 crore has been released to the State on the instructions of Hon. Prime Minister. One more special team has been formed and sent there. The entire country stands with the people of Tamil Nadu in this hour of crisis. I request the Government through you that the work of meeting the requirement of the State to tide over this crisis should be done on priority. A high level central team should be present there and fresh assistance should be released as soon as possible by assessing the damage there. Army assistance should also be taken if necessary for restoration of communication and transport facilities in flood affected areas at the earliest.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.



*[English]*

**\*SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** The whole country expresses its solidarity with the people of Tamil Nadu to face the grave situation arising out of unprecedented rains, which have not happened in the last 100 years. I come from Odisha, which has a long coastline of about 425 kms and my Constituency Balasore has about 80 Kms. Coastline.

We get repeatedly devastated by flood, cyclone, draught like Supercyclone, Phailin, Hud etc. Global warming poses serious challenge to world climate. Climate change is the top most threat to India, world's fastest growing economy as erratic monsoon cause distress in agriculture sector, which employs more than half of India's 1.2 billion population. More than 60 per cent of India's agriculture is rain fed. Rising temperature is a cause of concern.

According to World Bank, a 2-degree Celsius rise in temperature will make India's monsoon highly unpredictable and double the need for food imports.

Since 90 per cent of major disaster in the last 20 years have been weather related, it is time that Government of India must not see Chennai as an isolated incident, it is an alarm for a bigger crisis which is coming up and hence the serious crisis with a definite action plan.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

**\*SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU):** South Indian floods resulted from heavy rainfall during the annual northeast monsoon in November-December 2015. They affected the South Indian States of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and the union territory of Puducherry. Chennai received the highest ever rainfall for past century, recorded in November, crippling the region's economy. Nearly 200 people have died due to the floods, which have affected over 1.8 million people and have caused damages and losses amounting to over Rs. 20000 crores.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, On 9 November, 2015, Chennai received 43 mm (1.7in) of rain in a six-hour period. Neyveli recorded 139 mm (5.5in) on 9 November and 483 mm (19.0 in) on 10 November of rainfall; rains continued to lash Cuddalore, Chidambaram and Chennai continuing rains led to low-lying parts of Chennai becoming inundated by 13 November, resulting in the evacuation of over 1000 people from their homes. On 15-16 November, Chennai received 24.65 cm (9.70 in) of rainfall, the highest amount recorded since November 2005, flooding most areas of the city. The flooding in Chennai city was worsened by years of illegal development and inadequate levels of flood preparedness. Much of the city remained flooded on 17 November, though rainfall had largely ceased.

Though rainfall from the earlier low-pressure system ended on 25 November, a second system developed on 29 November, bringing additional rain and flooding. The Indian Meteorological Department predicted heavy

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

rainfall over Tamil Nadu until the end of the week. On 1 December, heavy rains led to inundation in many areas of Chennai, with trains cancelled and the Chennai International Airport closing temporarily. The same day, Chief Minister Jayalithaa announced that, due to the continued flooding and rains, half-yearly school examination originally scheduled for 7 December would be postponed until the first week in January.

Chennai received 104.9 cm (41.3 in) of rainfall in November, the highest since receiving 108.8 cm (42.8 in) in November 1918. As of 1 December, 147 people in Tamil Nadu were reported to have died due to the flooding since 8 November, while over 70,000 people had been rescued. The cyclone and rains have led to schools and colleges remaining closed across Puducherry and Chennai, Kancheepuram and Tiruvallur districts in Tamil Nadu and fishermen were warned against sailing due to high waters and rough seas. The State Government reported preliminary flood damages of Rs. 8481 (US\$1 billion), and requested Rs. 2000 crore (US\$ 299 million) for immediate relief efforts. The persistent rainfall and flooding forced several major automakers in the region, including Ford Motor Company, Renault, Nissan and Daimler AG to temporarily halt production, resulting in estimated losses of Rs. 200 crore (US\$30 million). Industry analysts estimated total industrial losses as a result of the floods to be in the range of Rs. 10000 crore (US\$1 billion) to Rs. 15000 crore (US\$2 billion). Prices of vegetables and fruits significantly increased, as over 50 percent of supplies were affected due to numerous lorries becoming stranded.

The situation still remains worse as there is a prediction for more heavy rains for the next one week. Adayar river is flooding and the water entered the city of Chennai. Tambaram and airfield at Arakkonam are closed. Many people are stuck in the waters and are looking for the relief operations without food and water. Power supply remains shut in many parts of the city. The airport remains closed and all sorts of communications are badly affected. Though the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Hon'ble Jaya Lalitha, has been taking all possible steps to face this disaster the central government has to extend all possible support.

In Andhra Pradesh on 16 November, local authorities closed schools in Chittoor district. Thousands of lakes and ponds across the district began to overflow, with breaches reported in some areas. At Sri Kalahasti, another pilgrimage center in the region, the Swarnamukhi River was reported to be rising. Three people were swept away by floodwaters in the Varadaiahpalem mandal of Chittoor district, and water entered some houses. Roads were damaged in many parts of Nellore district, disrupting transport services. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu held a teleconference with the district collectors of affected districts and asked disaster response personnel to be on alert.

Heavy rainfall in Nellore, Chittoor and Kadapa districts flooded villages and disrupted transport networks. It was estimated by 18 November that at least 500 km of roads had been damaged by flooding, with the Chennai-Kolkata highway cut the previous day and stranding hundreds of vehicles and

motorists; official said it would take days to restore the link. As in Tamil Nadu, the Southern Railway diverted or cancelled numerous trains. Over 10,000 lorry drivers were stranded on the Tada-Kavali national highway in Nellore district; district officers established 61 relief camps in the flood-affected areas and deputed senior IAS officers to oversee the relief operations in Gudur, Naidupet and Atmakur divisions, respectively. Up to 500 tanks were breached as rivers overflowed, forcing administration to suspend rescue operations for marooned villages, though administrators supplied 10,000 food and water packets through the rail network, which managed to operate some trains, while the APSRTC continued to run bus services to less-flooded areas such as Atmakuru, Udayagiri, Marripadu and Seetharampuram.

In Kadapa district, the rains tapered off by Wednesday and road links between Tirupati-Kadapa were restored; preliminary estimates were that the district had sustained about Rs. 29 crore (US\$4 million) of agricultural losses. Horticulture farms at Pendlimerry, Chintakommadinne, Siddhavatam and Khajipet mandals were also destroyed by the rain. Other heavy agricultural losses were reported in Rayalaseema, Nellore, Prakasam, East and West Godavari districts; the Chief Minister asked agriculture department officials to drain fields at the earliest in order to save crops.

In a letter to Prime Minister Narendra Modi on 19 November, Chief Minister Naidu reported preliminary estimates of flood-related damage in Andhra Pradesh roughly totaled Rs. 3000 crore (US\$ 448 million), including Rs. 1250 crore (US\$ 187 million) worth of agricultural-related damages and

Rs. 1025 crore (US\$ 153 million) of damage to infrastructure; he requested central authorities to release Rs. 1000 crore (US\$149 million) for immediate relief efforts. According to Naidu, Nellore district was the most seriously affected, reporting an estimated Rs. 1395 crore (US\$208 million) worth of losses, followed by Chittoor district, which reported losses of Rs. 818 crore (US\$122 million). Kadapa district was also seriously affected, with extensive crop damage reported in East and West Godavari districts and a lesser scale of damage in Anantapur, Prakasam and Krishna districts. The aquaculture industry in Nellore district was catastrophically affected, with over 8000 hectares of fish and prawn ponds destroyed, at an estimated loss of Rs. 250 crore (US\$37 million).

As of 20 November, 35 people were reported to have been killed by flooding in the state, while over 14,000 people had been evacuated to relief camps in Nellore and Chittoor districts.

This being the situation in both states of Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, we urge upon the union government to take necessary steps to provide urgent relief through the National Disaster Response force so as to protect the lives of the people of the affected areas. We also request the union to provide for necessary financial assistance to help the states in meeting the exigencies that emerge out of this disaster.

My state of Andhra Pradesh has become vulnerable to the disasters due to the long coastal line. As my colleague Hon'ble Haribabu Garu rightly pointed, we have advantages as well as disadvantages. We are already facing

a huge financial crisis and this situation is even painful wherein many lives are at stake and economically the state would be affected in all ways. Hence, we all firmly express our solidarity towards the affected states and also request the union to extend all possible support. We also firmly express our concern towards the families affected and to the families of people who lost their lives due to this disaster and we stand to support them unanimously. As Susmita dev rightly said however strong the state is economically, when disaster hits any state, the state normally looks towards the Union Government for the support. We humbly urge upon the Centre and the Hon'ble Prime Minister to raise to this situation and extend all possible support as may deemed fit in the interest of the nation.

*[Translation]*

**\*SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):** Flood is such a disaster, due to which the farmers suffer the most. There is shortage of fodder for cattle and massive loss of life and property. There are many reasons for floods; along with the increase in water level in rivers, heavy rainfall also causes floods.

At present, there is a severe loss of life and property due to floods in many parts of the country.

Arrangements should be made to deal with the flood affected States/Districts/Regions by identifying them beforehand. The State and Centre

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

need to prepare in advance on the basis of mutual agreement/consent in fighting floods. Since the proportion of loss increases significantly due to non-preparation in advance. Whatever the reason for the flood, preparation should be made in advance.

On behalf of my region and my people, I want to assure the flood affected people of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry to extend all cooperation in this hour of grief. I also pray to God to give them strength in this moment so that they can succeed in fighting out this hour of grief.

**\*SHRI BIRENDRA KUMAR CHOWDHURY (JHANSARPUR):** I also express my views on the discussion on floods in Tamil Nadu. The entire nation is saddened by the devastation caused by unseasonal heavy rains in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. I come from Bihar. Bihar has to face floods and droughts every year, especially from Kosi and Kamla rivers, every year there is devastation and lakhs of acres of crops are wasted. Every year, thousands of acres of land get eroded into the Kosi River and they do not receive any help from the government, which leads to starvation of the farmers there.

I request the government to constitute a committee to provide adequate compensation for such calamities so that the families of the victims get a chance to live.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.



**\*SHRI DEVAJI M PATEL (JALORE):** Today, the farmers of our country are confronted with nothing but problems. At every step, they face hardships, having been continuously neglected in government policies since independence. Even after 45 years of the Green Revolution, the condition of our farmers remains deeply distressing. Despite witnessing several revolutions — the Green Revolution, White Revolution, Yellow Revolution, Pink Revolution, Round Revolution, Blue Revolution, Silver Revolution, and Golden Revolution, spanning several decades, there is little sign of tangible improvement in the lives of our farmers. This persistent situation compels me to reflect with great concern. Today, agriculture has become an increasingly risky occupation. Farmers are compelled to take loans even before sowing their crops. They are then at the mercy of vagaries of weather, sometimes facing drought, at other times, devastating floods. Even when they are fortunate enough to produce a good harvest, they often fail to receive a fair price for their produce, making it difficult for them to sustain their households. Thus, uncertain weather conditions, volatile markets, and mounting debt burdens are placing an unbearable strain on farmers, leaving them exhausted and disheartened. Meanwhile, the cost of living continues to rise, and agricultural income is no longer sufficient, particularly for small and marginal farmers. Therefore, it is imperative that the issues faced by our farmers are addressed with urgency and seriousness.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

Sometimes our crops are burnt. Today, in my state Rajasthan, in Sanchoore and Jalaun, Isabgol, Ghoda jeera (canary seeds), everything is destroyed. If it is to be saved then the entire money for the loss should be given through direct insurance. The farmer should not be made to pay even a rupee loan, only then our farmer will be saved. That is why I would request the House that if we all want to ease the plight of the farmers together, then this work should be done so that the farmers are saved, otherwise this country will be ruined.

There is no work due to less rain, now there is no work in their (farmers') fields, so from where will these people come to get their beards trimmed, they are also sitting idle, they don't have money to get their beards trimmed. If they get it done, we do it on credit; we also wait for four to eight days, thinking that if not today, they will give it tomorrow.

In Madhya Pradesh, a farmer, suffering due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms, mortgaged his two sons, Tisu and Baiju, to a shepherd. Government officials in Madhya Pradesh's Nimarh region were shocked when they learned about the mortgage of 13-year-old Tisu and 11-year-old Baiju. After the investigation, it was found that there were three more children mortgaged.

In the Jalore-Sirohi parliamentary constituency of Rajasthan state, due to the continuous heavy rains for the last two months, many small dams were broken due to the high-water level and swift flow of rivers and streams. Due to this natural calamity, the houses of the local people were washed away in

water. Many livestock owners' milch and domestic animals were swept away by water. Many villages and farms in the area were inundated and thousands of hectares of rainy crops were completely destroyed. Farmers have also suffered huge losses due to waterlogging in their shops. Thus, it is not heavy rain, but flood caused by heavy rain.

Thus, due to the activism of the government and local administration, there was no loss of life due to natural calamity. The area recorded an average rainfall of 796 mm as on July 31, 2015. It had not rained so heavily in the past about 70 years.

Thus, due to the swift current of rivers and streams in the area, the tenanted lands of the farmers got eroded and were no longer suitable for agriculture. Therefore, the freedom to include all sections including farmers should be given to reform the land under MNREGA scheme. So that the land should be reformed and made cultivable.

Similarly, Mount Abu, the only hill station in my parliamentary constituency called the summer capital of Rajasthan, was completely destroyed. The only road to Mount Abu was completely damaged. Thousands of tourists were stranded there. A large tourist center in my area has been completely destroyed. Here on one side the road is from Gulabganj, which is stranded due to clearance from the forest department. It should also be made so that any problem which may come in future can be solved and there is no loss of life and property.

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM):** Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, at the outset, I express my sincere gratitude and thanks to our beloved leader hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for giving me this timely opportunity to speak in this august House.

I would like to say that the North-East Monsoon has witnessed extremely heavy rainfall and subsequent floods which resulted in heavy damages and extensive disturbances to lives and properties in the entire Kancheepuram district. Extremely heavy rainfall of 342 mm flooded Kancheepuram town on 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. Many taluks of Kancheepuram district suffered very heavy to extremely heavy rainfall of 275 mm on 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2015. Thousands of locations were inundated in Kancheepuram district and nearby areas. All the taluks of Kancheepuram district were worst hit and 686 villages were badly affected. Many lives have been lost due to heavy rains and flood-related incidents.

There was inundation of major areas of Kancheepuram district and most of the water bodies like Chembarambakkam and Madurantakam had water more than their normal capacity. At some places, it was above the danger mark. Water overflowing or let out from bursting tanks in many places could only rise and spread causing damage. The magnitude of the disaster was so big that even the help of the armed forces was sought for rescue and relief operations. As the fury of the rains continue, it will take a long time for rehabilitation of the affected people, most of whom are poor. Continuous rains and floods led

to loss of lives, damages to huts and dwellings, crops and livelihoods. There were also extensive damages to infrastructure including roads, bridges, drainages and sewages, Government buildings, etc.

### **16.00 hours**

Though all precautionary measures were taken there was very heavy and extremely heavy rainfall for days together causing extensive damage to infrastructure. The reservoirs and minor irrigation tanks and ponds got filled up soon and their overflow aggravated the problem.

The Government of Tamil Nadu under the dynamic and efficient leadership of hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has sought support from the National Disaster Response Fund for flood damages. The Inter-Ministerial Central team deputed by the Union Government has visited different places affected by floods in the State.

I sincerely pray and hope that the Union Government would be more considerate in this regard after assessing the damages caused in the State due to recent floods.

Hon. Prime Minister expressed his deep anguish and grief about the loss of lives in Tamil Nadu due to continuous rain and floods and was saddened to witness devastation and deaths in Tamil Nadu and expressed faith in the strength of Tamil Nadu. He had spoken to our hon. Chief Minister *Amma* and assured full support and cooperation from the Centre.

An unrelenting downpour that lasted around six days led to breaches in

tanks and canals, and swollen lakes and rivers rendered thousands homeless and resulted in loss of lives and property. Many persons lost their lives during recent flash floods. An amount of Rs. 4 lakh as per norms of Calamity Relief Fund has been sanctioned to the kith and kin of the deceased.

I wish to record that but for the leadership provided by hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* and the timely action taken by her State administration, Tamil Nadu would have witnessed untold miseries and unprecedented destructions. Given the scale of suffering as a result of the rains, the government machinery was in full swing, with Ministers and officials including those from police and Fire and Rescue Services working day and night to restore normalcy. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* is spearheading the administration to do relief measures on war-footing.

Under the guidance of *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, measures were taken to provide safe drinking water and early restoration of power supply. Immediate relief is being provided to families of persons who lost their lives due to floods. In addition, relief is also provided for thousands for loss of cattle and poultry. Besides, relief is being distributed to thousands of cases of hut damages and damages to houses. Thousands of electric poles were replaced and medical camps were organised in all the relief camps. Text books, notebooks and uniform sets were provided to the students. New ration cards are provided to those poor families who lost their documents of livelihood during the floods.

Agricultural economy has got a severe hit by the recent floods. Tamil Nadu suffered huge loss to crops, livestock, fisheries and infrastructure. The

calamity is so severe that it should be treated as a national calamity and the entire expenditure towards relief and restoration over and above the State Disaster Response Fund should be borne by the Government of India.

The civic infrastructure, including drains, roads and buildings, needs to be strengthened to withstand the rains and resulting flooding. Even now there has been extremely heavy rainfall continuously devastating the Chennai, Tiruvallur and Kanchipuram districts.

The Army has been deployed in two suburban areas to undertake rescue on a war footing. Two columns of the Army's Garrison Infantry Battalion have been pressed into service in Tambaram and Oorapakkam. Heavy rain in the catchment areas of the Chembarambakkam reservoir forced the authorities to discharge water at the rate of 20,000 cubic feet per second into the Adyar river.

Chief Minister *Amma* reviewed the situation and deputed Ministers to inspect the affected regions. Many Small lakes in Kanchipuram district were breached due to heavy rains and inflows. *Amma* had given instructions to police, fire and rescue, national and state disaster forces and Coast Guard and other officials to take precautionary measures before releasing surplus water from reservoirs and evacuate people living in low- lying areas.

Trains were delayed and some were cancelled as authorities struggled to cope with the aftereffects of the fresh torrential rains in Tamil Nadu. Kanchipuram district had received more than 18 cm yesterday. The situation has worsened in suburban areas of Tambaram and Mudichur after the Chembarampakkam lake overflowed and an unprecedented 26,000 cusecs of

water was being released flooding the downstream areas. These areas had already suffered heavily during the earlier spells of rains.

So, I urge upon the Union Government to consider this calamity as a national calamity and release an amount of Rs. 8,480.93 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund immediately. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):** Hon. Deputy- Speaker, I would like to express my gratitude to you for holding discussion on devastation caused by rains in Tamil Nadu, Andhra, West Bengal and Pondicherry. This House is concerned about them. The Centre has also taken it seriously. Rains for 25 consecutive days have caused devastation in Tamil Nadu, Andhra, West Bengal and other areas. The whole country is worried and is also aware about this. I know that the devastation caused by floods has a lot of adverse effects. The floods in Jammu and Kashmir have caused extensive damage in the past few days. The cities of Jammu and Kashmir were flooded and the villages were also inundated. Many people also died. Houses collapsed, animals were killed, many bridges were destroyed, roads, crops, land, water etc. were severely damaged. No telephone services were working. The three-storied house was submerged, the Kashmir valley had become the lake of devastation. The Jammu and Kashmir government looked helpless, the Central government took the matter seriously and I would also like to thank the Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi Ji, who took immediate action and sent a team from the Centre to Jammu and Kashmir and expedited the relief work by



keeping a close watch on every moment. At that time, Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi himself went to Jammu and Kashmir, met people, listened to them, addressed their problems and even on the day of Deepawali, stayed with the people in that hour of grief in the Kashmir Valley. He shared their pain and immediately announced a relief package. This is the first time that relief amount has been sent to the account of flood victims themselves. This shows that the Central Government and the Honorable Prime Minister, as per their nature, stand with everyone in times of crisis. I am confident that this time too in Tamil Nadu and other regions, the Central Government is taking it seriously and will extend full support to them in future also. Thank you.

*[English]*

**\*PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED):** I, as a fellow parliamentarian, express my solidarity with the people of Tamil Nadu who have been afflicted by gruesome and tragic natural calamities caused by heavy rains and floods.

The wrath of nature is too harsh, as felt in my neighboring State, Tamil Nadu.

In these hours of crisis, let us find solution to the problem created by flash floods.

- a) In all such natural calamities which have disastrous aftermath, the disaster, contingency or crisis management mechanism must rise to the occasion and render their service in a professional style.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

- b) Such mechanism must take all measures, first to prevent loss of life and destruction of houses and buildings.
- c) The District Administration must put to use all resources and carry out specific and swiftly implemented plans to save the lives of people and provide relief measures on a war footing.
- d) Inundated streets and roads pose severe threats to human life. The National Highway and Railway systems are paralysed, mainly due to faulty planning.
- e) Water logging in drainage systems and faulty gradient of drainage, lack of canal systems, construction of houses in low lying areas, non-closure of dams are some of the problems that aggravate the gravity of the situation. These are the matters to be attended to.

Rehabilitation programmes are to be executed to do justice to the victims.

**SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important discussion. This is time for all of us to rise as one nation to assist Tamil Nadu and other flood affected States. It is because though we have all scientific methods, we could not predict this natural calamity in the initial stage.

So, this has become the duty of our nation and also the Central Government to extend all kinds of assistance. I am thankful to the hon. Tamil Nadu Members that they have given a very detailed explanation with regard to the losses and also the other issues that they are experiencing and also the

measures taken by the Tamil Nadu Government to deal with the situation. Of course, we can hope that there is a very efficient administrative system in Tamil Nadu. So, they can deal with the situation. But, at the same time, natural calamity has its own after effects. So, we have to take this issue as a national one.

Sir, it is reported that about 200 people have lost their lives. This is really a big one. The loss of material and other properties is also huge. It is reported that the situation in the airport is alarming, the trains are cancelled and the telecommunication system is ineffective. So this narration has become really a major one as far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. This situation should be considered as a big national calamity. All assistance should be given to Tamil Nadu by the Centre. The precautionary measures have to be taken especially to deal with the after effects of the situation. The loss of lives has to be taken with utmost seriousness and assistance should be given to the aggrieved families.

Today itself it is seen that for two more days the rain will continue in Chennai. At the same time, it is reported that for seven days in Tamil Nadu, there may be rain. It has its own effects on some parts of Andhra Pradesh and Kerala also. So the Central Government and the concerned States should take serious steps.

Tamil Nadu needs all kinds of assistance at any cost from all sides. I would request that a Central team, including the Central Minister, should visit Tamil Nadu to assess the ground reality. Not only video conference but also

telephone message, of course, is good. I really congratulate the Government that they have taken initial steps. But, at the same time, a Central team with the Central Minister should visit Tamil Nadu and have a discussion and find out the real situation. This is a big lesson for the country that we have to study. When a natural calamity like flood or drought comes, how can it be tackled with a minimum loss? That still is a shortage as far as this nation is concerned.

On behalf of my Party, I extend whole-hearted support to the aggrieved people and I express my sincerest sorrow to the aggrieved people who have lost their lives. I extend all assistance to Tamil Nadu and other States also the Central Government to take any steps in this regard. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**\*SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHIRI):** The kind of situation that has developed in Chennai, life has been disrupted and water has entered the airports, railway stations and roads. This situation is very alarming. In such a situation, our government has started making efforts to bring back normalcy in the lives of people by evacuating them from adverse circumstances with utmost promptness. The Tamil Nadu government has also worked effectively and with great promptness. The central government has also extended its full support to the state government, due to which people's faith in the system remains intact. This is satisfying.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

Besides the states such as UP and Bihar, etc., which have faced recurrent floods in the past, other parts of the country are also facing floods, due to which common life including agriculture, business has also been affected. This is undoubtedly worrying and concrete arrangements are required to be made to deal with such situations. Today the whole country is standing with the Government of Tamil Nadu.

*[English]*

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH):** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I would like to express a serious concern about the situation that the Tamil Nadu people are facing right now. For the last 20 days, there has been a heavy rainfall and 200 lives have been lost. Likewise, Andhra and Odisha people are also suffering. The most affected State is Tamil Nadu. The measures that have been taken by hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma to restore all the services pay accolades to her. But, at the same time, I am really concerned with the loss of lives first. I feel that the Meteorological Department was not able to predict what exactly was going to happen. I would like to ask the Minister, the Meteorological Department should be able to predict it. It was un-seasonal, unpredictable rain. In Andhra, my colleague was saying that it rained in the areas which were known to be drought areas. Never ever rainfall was there and it rained heavily over there.

When I had been to lunch during the afternoon, I received a call from my colleague whose daughter is stranded at Chennai Airport. I was told that she was forced to go out of the Airport. Later on the Airport authorities allowed

them to stay in the airport. But, she said that outside it was worse condition. In the afternoon, Hema Malini, the hon. Member said, her house is on the third floor and water is there on the third floor also. I saw the pictorial view of the situation that is there in Tamil Nadu.

I support wholeheartedly what my colleagues are demanding. They are demanding Rs. 8,000 crore. Let the Central Government come forward proactively and give them as much as relief as they can so that the Tamil Nadu people will get relief. Do not wait for the committees to give their reports.

On this situation, I request the Government to form a Committee of scientists now. All over the world we are talking about the climate change. It is an example of this climate change. We have to discuss this issue seriously. Let the Committee come forward with suggestions and give them to the Government to prevent such situation. Remedial measures can be taken so that the lives of the people can be saved.

I fully express my concerns to the Tamil Nadu people. I also request the Central Government to look into the matter and help the people as much as they can. Thank you.

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR):** Thank you Deputy-Speaker, Sir for allowing me to speak on the flood situation in Tamil Nadu and Southern Andhra Pradesh.

I would just like to say that it has been over 100 years in Indian history that Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh have never faced such a flood situation. Our friends from Andhra Pradesh just told me that it is a drought-hit area where we have seen flood this time. It is only because of climate change.

Recently, our hon. Prime Minister went to Paris to discuss about climate change. He took an initiative that India will look on to renewable energy. I think, more than renewable energy, we have to speak about how and why this climate is changing day-by-day. It has increased over the years. Recently, the World Bank has suggested that if there is a two degree increase in temperature in India, the import of agricultural products will increase by approximately 50 per cent. Our friends in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh know that because of this flood situation, there will be an acute shortage of groundnut, sugarcane, soya, mango, guava, banana, chikoo, sitafal etc. We have to look into it as to how we will come and provide food facilities to the people. They have asked funds from the Central Government. I would request the hon. Minister for State for Home Affairs to provide funds as well as support in terms of NDRF and Army.

Lastly, I would just like to say:

*Tamil Nattukku Nangalum adaravu therivikkeren*

**DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHAMAN DURGAPUR):** Respected Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me few minutes to speak on this important issue.

First of all, I, on my behalf and on behalf of my Party, would like to express my deepest sympathy to our *deshbasi* of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Puducherry. Members have said about the flood situation and the recurrent flood situation in so many places including my State West Bengal. We suffer from it each year. This year, as everybody knows, the flood had affected 12 districts of West Bengal having much of monetary, crop, human and cattle losses. The same thing is happening in other parts of the country also. Now the time has come, as all of us have said, when we have to do something. We know it very-well that at any time it may come but whenever it comes we should fight against it. Sometimes we succeed fully but sometimes we fail to succeed fully in rescuing everybody. We are still depending on the relief either from the State or from the Centre. But it cannot meet our requirements to the fullest extent possible. We ask for Rs. 6000 crore from the Central Government but we got a meagre amount till date.

Anyway that is not the question. Amma ji is now trying her level best to tackle the situation. I envy our great hon. leader, Kumari Mamata Banerjee who has also tackled the flood situation very tactfully and without much loss of human life, cattle and crops. There was adequate food and clothing supply, medical help and temporary shelter.



It is my request now, as has been mentioned by my other friends, that we should really think seriously as to how we can tackle the natural calamities. We cannot prevent the natural calamities but we can foresee them. We should involve scientists to find out why such calamities are happening and as to how we can forecast the natural calamities. I would also request the Central Government to erect flood shelters and also crop shelters during the flood season which are urgently needed. These can be done through the projects of the Central Government. That is my request. The Government should also undertake serious research on these natural calamities.

In West Bengal, floods are happening usually due to overflowing of dams and sometimes due to heavy rainfall. So, we should discuss about those things. We should also make a separate Commission or bodies comprising of scientists, engineers, Government officials to tackle the flood situation in the country and find out a permanent solution.

Thank you.

**\*SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR):** Natural Disaster are a big threat to our country's socio-economic security and I am thankful for the opportunity to give my reflections on this issue.

In the present time, natural disasters such as flood and drought are frequent in our country. It causes not only vast devastation of agriculture and habitations but also has sustaining impact on the multiple spheres of life of the poor.

We have a National Disaster Management Authority in place, headed by the Prime Minister and State Disaster Management Authorities headed by respective Chief Ministers. But only declarations are being made disaster after disaster. Shri Narendra Modi announced rupees 1000 crores for cyclone hit Andhra Pradesh last year. But nothing has been given yet.

The compensation and rehabilitation of the victims are the worst Managed issues. In the instance of a drought, the compensation would be delivered in the monsoon. In the instance of a flood compensation is delivered in the aftermath of the disaster. Again, the compensation is meager and not proportionate to the damage. The present arrangement of compensation from Prime Minister Relief Fund and NCR based on hectares is unscientific and it should be based on per-head damage of the crops. Again, the compensation is only given for the damage. No financial assistance is given for re-cultivation. It is the need of the hour that compensation should be given for both damages

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

are re-cultivation of agriculture. In Kerala compensation is not distributed even for the damaged crops.

The issue of rehabilitation of the victims is also another matter of grave concern. There is lack of co-ordination between different Ministries and departments such as disaster management and agencies such as civil supplies for food supply. Even though, arrangement is there for Kisan credit and Crop Insurance, there is little accountability. The bureaucratic apathy is a major hurdle in the effective implementation of the programmes to tackle the disasters. Disaster tourism has become fashionable trend for the bureaucrats.

Despite the occurrence of frequent disasters, developed countries such as Japan and US are leading economic powers. It indicates that, It is not the disaster but attitude and management are the road blocks. We have to take a cue from these countries to improve our systems.

I urge the Government to look in to these matters with utmost concern. Ensuring accountability, Transparency and on the time delivery of compensation is the only way out. Otherwise, the country is going to face a disastrous future.

\* **DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** With regard to the discussion, I would like to state that the recent heavy rainfall during the annual north-east monsoon has resulted in severe flood in South Indian states namely, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh and the Union Territory of Puducherry resulting in loss of lives as well as damage to property. During the period of November, Chennai has received the highest ever rainfall recorded in November thereby squeezing the state's economy. Due to this disaster in the above-mentioned States and Union Territory, nearly 200 people have died and have affected over 1.8 million people and have also caused damages and losses amounting to over 20000 crores. In this regard, The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken the relief measures to address the problems caused by the disaster. However, the amount sanctioned by the State Government may not appropriately deal with the ravaged situation. Hence, I request the Minister of Home Affairs to take a sympathetic step to grant adequate amount of funds by which the problem rising in the mentioned States could be addressed properly.

Thank You.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

**\*SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY (NAGPUR):** I welcome the decision of your honor which allowed the discussion under Rule 193 on a very important issue – “Flood devastation in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry.

At this juncture of time, I would like to request that the natural calamities are the result of imbalances in the nature.

*[Translation]* Every year, the Eastern Coast of India gets rainfall in winters through North-Eastern Monsoon. Unfortunately, due to weather disturbances in Bay of Bengal North East Monsoon hit the eastern coast with pouring rains. In the last hundred years, Chennai got the highest rainfall in a small span of time. It was a devastating rains and lot of property and lives loss happened because of it in Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Pondicherry.

Timely relief and rescue measures were taken by the State Government of Tamil Nadu and Andhra, our Central Government is much more worried. A Central Inter-Ministerial Teams were sent to see the actual damages in the flood affected areas. I hope the Central Government will immediately grant the sanction from NDRF to help out the people of affected areas.

At this time, I would like to welcome and thank our Government to amend the provisions and rules of NDRF in April, 2015. As per the amended provisions victims of Natural calamities get reasonable financial assistance.

There is a need for updating and placing the latest equipment and data centers to give advance and early information of such natural calamities.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

Secondly, the State Government should see those encroachments over the Nallahas, river beds and canals should be removed. They should also ensure that such encroachments should not take place in future.

In the end, I would like to request the whole human community not to disturb the natural system and nature frequently unless it is required. I will also like to request all the people of the Nation, N.G.O.s and Governments to come forward to help out the victims of flood affected areas.

**\*SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** Tamil Nadu has witnessed heaviest rains rendering the life of people miserable. Tamil Nadu is repeatedly facing this situation which is causing huge loss to the State. But even now the State is flooded with water.

Hence, I urge the Government of India to come to the rescue of Tamil Nadu by providing sufficient financial assistance.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):** It is extremely sad that more than 200 citizens have lost their lives in Tamil Nadu and other parts of southern India due to heavy rainfall and drought in the country. I can understand and feel the suffering of this catastrophic flood and drought that have befallen the southern part of the country because I come from a region that is regularly hit by severe natural calamities. Just two years ago, we have witnessed gruesome death of ten thousand people in the Kedarnath disaster. I

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

myself have seen this horrifying tragedy with my own eyes and I first informed the then Prime Minister about the gravity of the disaster by walking 22 kms. This disaster has shattered the backbone of our social, economic life. In the tourism sector itself, this small budding state suffered a loss of 12 thousand crores.

When we deliberate on disasters resulting from various natural causes in the country, the entire country appears to be suffering from disaster. The continuity of disasters, indicate that the entire Himalayan region is extremely vulnerable to disasters. All the Himalayan States regularly face disasters.

- According to the World Bank report, as many as 27 of India's 35 states and Union Territories remain highly vulnerable to disasters.
- 58.6 percent of the country suffers from earthquake hazards.
- 5700 out of 7516 marine coasts are prone to sea storms and tsunamis.
- 68 percent of the land area is prone to drought.
- I believe that Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, North Eastern States, Jammu and Kashmir are cent percent facing the threat of disasters.
- Climate change is the primary driver of these challenges, and the Himalayas constitute the most strategically significant landmass of the country affected by it. Efforts should be made to initiate efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change from Himalayas.

Today, we need to work on a war footing to deal with the flood and drought situation that has occurred in different parts of the country. While protecting the lives and property of the affected people needs to be given priority, short-

term, long-term steps need to be taken to reduce the widespread damage caused by such incidents. First of all, arrangements should be made to identify all the affected families and bring them to safer places. The India Meteorological Department (IMD) has predicted heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu and adjoining areas. In such a situation, there is a strong possibility of water logging and collapse of old buildings due to heavy rains there. I urge that the Central and State Government, by establishing coordination, ensure deployment of Army, paramilitary forces, voluntary organizations and other support agencies in the areas affected with immediate effect. Be it floods or droughts, the effects are far-reaching, bringing economic loss, resource depletion, and deep social and psychological distress.

Simple philosophy of facing floods and droughts, coherent management mechanisms can only be justified if the participation of the government and the public is ensured in it.

I believe that due to climate change, we are facing drought, extensive rainfall, floods and many natural calamities in the country. It is a matter of concern that

- World Green House Gas emissions increased by more than 60 percent between 2000 and 2010.
- By the year 1990-2010, India's carbon emission increased from 0.8 to 1.7 metric tons.
- India has committed that emissions per individual will not be more than developed countries under any circumstances.



- The threat of climate change is a serious global concern. Scientists agree that climate change is unambiguous.

I would like to suggest some effective adaptation strategies to the Government on this subject.

1. Disaster management, insurance support to farmers,
2. Agricultural land use, change in management, resource conservation, development of technology,
3. Development of forest related schemes and programs,
4. Measurement of water use, policy reforms in water use management etc.

As a country, India is extremely vulnerable to various disasters such as rainfall, drought, earthquakes, cyclones. Lack of awareness increases sensitivity to disasters of the people living in this region. The loss of resources caused by disasters is the main reason for the poverty in the country. In such a situation, there is only one purpose of efficient management for which various departments, institutions, communities have to work together, but unfortunately, we fail to coordinate between different agencies.

It is necessary that while assessing the various parts and aspects related to the early warning mechanism, we should make all preparations by taking the cooperation of regional people in a specified time-frame. Unfortunately, our early warning mechanism during disasters that have taken place in the country has completely failed. Be it Uttarkashi, Chamoli or the horrific tragedy

of Kedarnath or the floods in Kashmir or the devastating floods that have occurred in Tamil Nadu. We need to streamline our early warning systems. As a result, there is a lack of comprehensive coordination between various agencies associated with the disaster.

I request the Government to set up an Early Warning Network in the various disaster-prone geographical areas to ensure arrangement of Doppler Radars, Lightning Sensors, Rainfall Monitoring Sensors, Seismometers. In this, real-time analysis should be done in the central processing unit and implemented in a specified time frame by forming an effective strategy. There is a need to coordinate with Government Departments with technical capacity and expertise, Non-Governmental Organizations, Police, Army, International Institutions and Disaster Management Authority for implementation of disaster prevention programs and measures. Indian Space Research Organization and State Space Use Centers should be used properly for the development of early warning mechanisms for disaster by coordinating with them. It is also necessary that the interval between the precision of warning *[English]* (Accuracy of Warning) *[Translation]* circulation and the time likely to start occurring, the complete mechanism of preparation and planning before the disaster occurs.

I have the following suggestions for tackling floods, rains and other types of disasters:

1. Institutional arrangement, 2. Planning, 3. Lack of proper utilization of resources - lack of coordination, 4. Training/capacity development, and 5. Need to focus on research and development.

I would like to draw attention of the Government to the shortcomings in institutionalized management planning. In Kedarnath also, we saw that houses, hotels, lodges and various infrastructure were developed flouting rules on the banks of all rivers. Unfortunately, in our country, there is a complete lack of systematic and methodological process for warning system and warning broadcasts. Be it the disaster of Kedarnath region or the severe floods in Kashmir, our warning system has completely failed everywhere either the warning mechanism was there or not, if it was there, it did not work properly and if it did, we failed to convey its message to the concerned agencies. Today, there is a need to ensure that we make our warning system strong, powerful and equipped with the latest technology, otherwise disasters will continue to occur and millions of innocent people will continue to fall prey to these disasters. It is also necessary that the warnings can reach all of us in a time-bound manner.

We must scrupulously adhere to all national and international standards for any construction work across the country. Many a time it is seen that rules and regulations are made but due to their non-implementation, we have to pay a huge price in the form of disasters. The Central and State Governments, local bodies, construction agencies, voluntary organizations and our educational

institutions should ensure that adequate standards are arranged for the entire country.

There is a lack of cooperation/coordination among all agencies of the Government. While the police, health, disaster management should work shoulder to shoulder with each other, it can be seen that there is no communication between these institutions.

There is a huge scarcity of opportunities for trained human resource competence development in the country. Be it Kashmir, Uttarakhand or Nepal also, there is a huge shortage of skilled disaster management personnel. Today, while the country is putting all its might in skill development, competence development, we have to see that important sectors like disaster management are not neglected.

All the research agencies and universities of the country should promote research and development on important subjects like disaster management. To deal with the disaster, all the research institutes in the country need to be provided proper resources on a priority basis. Successful transfer of science and technology must be properly managed by establishing better coordination in all institutions across the country and abroad.

*[English]*

**\*SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** A deep depression of high intensity formed over Bay of Bengal hit Tamil Nadu coast near Marakkanam on 10<sup>th</sup> November causing heavy rains and losses of life. My prayer and deep concern are with them.

The excessive rain and high tide and water released from Jharkhand and Odisha has rendered the flood situation in West Bengal. Sir, 12 districts in the Gangetic plains were affected, more than 1.8 lakh houses were damaged and crops over 2.10 lakh hectares lost due to flood. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister supported the flood affected people with our own resources. Flooding of farmland, towns, villages, roads, bridges were from several districts of South Bengal like Howrah, Hooghly, Burdwan, Bankura, South 24 Parganas and East Midnapore were affected with heavy downpour. My own constituency Arambagh in Hooghly was under water. I request the Central Government to see the matter pending of "Ghatal Master Plan" which is a long pending project to overcome flood in my constituency.

The Met department recorded 143.2 mm rainfall. The Durgapur barrage in Bengal was scheduled to release about 65,000 cusecs of water. Without authorized warning, they released 90,000 cusecs of water. The rivers and reservoirs like Kangshahati, Damodar are full. Damodar is sorrow of Bengal; Damodar valley Corporation is responsible for releasing excess water which

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table

resulted flood in my State. Two years ago, our Hon'ble Chief Minister of West Bengal Ms. Mamta Banerjee had written to Centre for dredging of DVC reservoir so that more than 2 lakh cusecs water can be reserved. The monsoon was active and simultaneously the deep depression caused heavy rainfall in Gangetic West Bengal. Our Government gave all compensation to the farmers, the affected families of the farmers Rs 2,00,000. These are all happening due to climate change. We should all come forward and together to overcome from this kind of situation in future.

**\*SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** Tamil Nadu is facing severe flood situation since the last few days rendering the life of people of people of Tamil Nadu and particularly in Chennai and other parts miserable. Tamil Nadu has incurred heavy financial loss. People are facing problems for having lost lives and properties. Though the State Government is doing all necessary steps to protect the interest of the people of the State, the responsibility is also there on the Union Government to come to the rescue of the State.

I therefore urge the Government of India to provide huge financial assistance to State of Tamil Nadu.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

*[Translation]*

**\*KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):**

Currently there is a situation of huge devastation due to heavy rainfall in Chennai (Tamil Nadu) and other adjoining areas of the maritime boundary, which is quite alarming. Assam is often inundated by more than half every year. Roads, railways and sometimes airways are also affected. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is very sad that a large number of officers of the Government of Assam wait for the floods as a festival that hit Assam every year. In the flood relief program, the material provided by the Assam government as a temporary housing arrangement to the public is in such a bad condition that the rain water also goes inside the tents. I am quoting this because I have myself seen it. Once I went to Kanpur Tirpal Market to distribute Tent/Tirpal to the poor class in my area. There, I was told by the wholesaler himself that I am a trader, but it is impossible to defend against rain one day in the material that the Assam government buys for the poor and the flood victims. I am ashamed to supply but God will never forgive those who indulge in corruption. The one who is insensitive towards the flood victims, that corrupt person will himself one day definitely drown in the ocean of grief.

In our Bundelkhand region, there are many small and some big rivers. Over the past decade, drought has been wreaking havoc. The farmer is unhappy, helpless, after making lakhs of efforts, produces the crop by paying a heavy price. In our area, farmers are facing the stigma of suicide, which is

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table

very sad. On the other hand, sometimes there is devastation due to floods in some areas. I would like to inform the House and the Government through you that understanding the topography of Bundelkhand, the most ideal task of avoiding floods and droughts is to inter-link the rivers of Bundelkhand. Please save Bundelkhand from the devastation caused by flood and drought by directing flood water into dry rivers and dry dams at the earliest.

*[English]*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am standing here for expressing my sincere solidarity with the people who have been severely affected due to floods in the country, and especially, the people of Tamil Nadu are going through a very difficult period now.

Shri Mahtab ji has described the flood situation in the morning. I am also a part of the Railway Convention Committee. I was in Chennai two weeks before. At that time also, Chennai was facing a very bad flood situation.

A lot of water is flowing on the streets now in the city. Nobody is in a position to move out. At this juncture – the hon. Urban Minister is not here – we should rethink about the planning of our cities. Whenever we witness heavy rainfall, the entire city is flooding. Tamil Nadu is witnessing a severe flood situation. Chennai city has received continuous rain for the last four to five days. That is why, the entire city of Chennai is in a very dangerous situation now.



Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, you are aware that a lot of *Malayalis* are living in Chennai. Around seven to eight trains have been cancelled. The Chennai airport has been closed now. A lot of people are stranded there because of the flood situation. I am urging the Government of India to give maximum financial assistance to the Tamil Nadu Government for tackling the severe flood situation. I would also request the Government to send a team of Union Ministers to see as to what proper arrangements are being made there and also provide money which the Tamil Nadu Government has asked for.

I am also congratulating the efforts taken by the Tamil Nadu Government. We, the people of Kerala and also the Congress Party are giving wholehearted support to those who are suffering due to the flood situation in Tamil Nadu.

Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**\*SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (AKOLA):** Our country is facing a huge crisis due to floods and droughts. Our farmers are the worst affected due to this situation. The farmer whose condition is already very serious cannot combat this situation.

The Maharashtra-Vidarbha and Marathwada regions are even more affected. For the last three years, Vidarbha and Marathwada have been facing vagaries of weather at times excessive rainfall, at times drought, sometimes untimely rains, and sometimes disaster like thunderstorms. The crisis that has not occurred in the last 20 years has come in the last 3 years. The regions have 10 percent irrigation facility. There is mostly rainfed farming.

The farmers here are in complete debt. The government rescheduled the loan last year. The loan of 2 years is on the farmer. He does not have money for cultivation for survival this year.

The Maharashtra government had sought Rs.4500 crore from the Centre. The Central government gave Rs.1500 crore. Thanks for that.

Four months ago, when Rs. 4500 crore assistance was sought, the situation got worse. Farmers' suicides increased. On an average, 4 suicides are taking place in Vidarbha every day. In the last week, a 14 - year - old boy in Dagham village in my Akola district had no money to buy a book and hence committed suicide. His father is a farmer.

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

There is an emergency like situation for farmers in Vidarbha. On the one hand, the production is only 20% - 50% in 3 years due to natural calamities. Not even cost can be recovered from the crop produced. We do not get a fair price for it.

I request the government to take immediate steps to get out of this grave situation. Proper assistance should be given to farmers. For this, Rs. 6000 crore should be given to the Maharashtra government.

The Central Government will definitely help the State Government financially but it is a temporary solution. Our country is an agricultural country. 60 percent people depend on agriculture. So we will have to find a permanent solution to this. I would like to give some suggestions for this.

1. All the agriculture schemes should be critically reviewed by the government with a view to make them simple and transparent.
2. Subsidy on fertilizer and other things should be transferred directly into the account.
3. Crop insurance should be simplified and all crops should be included in it.
4. Wherever wild animals damage crops, there should be arrangement of fencing by the government in the area.
5. Most importantly, keeping in mind the cost price, farmers should get a fair price for their produce.

I am confident that the government will take appropriate action. And I expect that this will bring prosperity to our farmers, laborers, villages and the entire country.

*[English]*

**SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI (CHIDAMBARAM):** Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for providing adequate amount of Central assistance to Tamil Nadu for undertaking relief and rehabilitation works in the rain and flood-affected areas.

The recent rains and floods in Tamil Nadu have severely affected the State. Most of the coastal areas including a large part of my constituency, Chidambaram and some interior parts of the State of Tamil Nadu incurred huge losses. In my Parliamentary constituency, Parankipettai has received yesterday the highest rainfall of 159 mm.

Till date, there has been a loss of more than 170 human beings and 2000 cattle. More than one lakh houses and 90,000 hectares of crops have also been damaged. There have also been damages to infrastructure like water supply, roads, bridges, power supply etc., and a large scale of other private properties.

Sir, I would also place it on record that under the able guidance of our hon. Chief Minister, Amma, the State of Tamil Nadu is making all out efforts to provide quick relief to the affected people. However, the financial means of our State are not much. The State has projected the funds requirement of Rs. 8,481 crore and sought an immediate requirement of Rs. 2,000 crores.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government that the recent rains and floods in Tamil Nadu be declared as a National Disaster, and the concerned Ministries of the Union Government should take urgent steps for timely release of adequate Central assistance to Tamil Nadu to undertake relief and rehabilitation activities fully.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, first of all I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the hon. Madam Speaker and the hon. Union Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu for having allowed an immediate and impromptu discussion on the unprecedented flood situation prevailing in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andhra Pradesh, taking into account the seriousness of the grim situation due to very heavy rainfall in Tamil Nadu, especially in Chennai and three other coastal Districts including my Constituency Tiruvallur, by setting aside the other important business of the House.

I would also like to thank all the hon. Members for expressing their solidarity with the people of Chennai and the whole of Tamil Nadu, especially the hon. Member, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, who narrated the real situation since he was on the spot during the heavy rains that lashed the city.

Sir, the hon. Members from our party AIADMK, spoke in depth about the huge devastation caused by the heavy rains. They also spoke about the effective measures that our Government headed by the hon. Chief Minister of

Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi amma is taking with regard to rescue, relief and rehabilitation of the affected people of Tamil Nadu.

Going by the sentiments expressed by all sections of the House, I am sure that the entire nation, India, stands with Tamil Nadu in this hour of need; and I thank everyone for this gesture. These rains have lashed the entire Tamil Nadu. The people there have been affected very badly. I would, therefore, request the Government to treat this as a National Calamity or National Disaster and take immediate necessary action in this regard.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would further request the Government to announce a Special Financial Package to Tamil Nadu for undertaking rescue, relief and rehabilitation measures in Tamil Nadu, and order the immediate release of sufficient funds to the Tamil Nadu Government. With these words I conclude. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**\*SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** India is an agricultural country, more than 60 per cent of farming in our country depends on monsoon. It is well known that the monsoon is good only about 2 times in 5 years, of which the farmer is able to take full advantage. Climate change, global warming are important topics on which our government along with the governments of other countries is playing an important role in an international plan. Our

---

\* Speech was laid on the Table.

farmers are not aware of the troubles caused by it, but the damage caused by it every year can be seen in the figures.

Farmers should refrain from excessive fertilizer use in the fields and the climate can be improved by encouraging farmers to promote organic farming.

Even in rain water harvesting, our country is lagging far behind, in our country only 6 per cent of rain water is taken up for work, the rest 94 percent water flows into the sea. If this 94 percent water is accumulated through dams, then through this, irrigation can be done on 25 million hectares of land, 24,000 MW power can be generated and ground water of 10 ml hectare area can be increased. Along with this, the country can not only be self-sufficient in the field of food grains, fruits and vegetables but can also become a big exporting country and we can also earn a large amount of foreign exchange. If the farmer of the country starts getting better incentives for agriculture, and youth better opportunities for employment, then the country will not need to run schemes like Food Security and MNREGA, through which lakhs of crores of rupees are spent on infrastructure, so that plenty of development can be done in the country in the field of education, medicine, roads, etc.

Linking of rivers will not only solve the problem of drought and flood but through it, along with improvements in the economic condition, ways to provide employment in rural areas will also be available, agricultural sector will be developed by providing proper amount of water for irrigation for agriculture. With the development of agriculture, the contribution of

agriculture to GDP will increase and the country will move towards the path of rapid development.

Experts from the Milk Producers Association have conducted a thorough survey of northwestern Rajasthan to conclude that natural vegetation will uplift cattle rearing farmers along with grass and traditional farming and will open up new sources of employment, which will benefit the common citizen. The life base of northwestern Rajasthan was to be grass-producing with animal husbandry and traditional farming. After independence, by adopting new technology, Sewan grass, Bhurat Dachabh, Gadiya, Pala etc. have been completely destroyed and traditional farming has remained only in name, which is done during rainy season. The farmers of this region will get more benefit by cultivating good grass such as Sewan, Bhurat, Pala, Dachabh etc. feeding it to their animals. Besides, traditional farming will produce good quality grain.

By growing Sewan grass and rearing cattle, in the western region of Rajasthan through Indira Gandhi Canal Project and other canal projects, income per Murabba is bound to increase 10 times. If Sewan grass is grown in proportion to the cultivation of groundnut, wheat and cotton, then expenditure will be less than half and fodder for thirty cows and 100 sheep and goats will be produced in twenty-five bighas. Along with this, the benefit of traditional farming will also not be less than the present cultivation and everyday 300 litres of milk will be produced from thirty cows, the value of which will be Rs. 4500 per day as well as 450 kgs of cow dung, which has an income of Rs. 2250



per day. Apart from this, the income of sheep and goats will be Rs. 100 per day. Fodder for these animals will be grown from the field itself and the water system is available in the irrigated area. Expenditure will be incurred only on fodder and maintenance. Traditional farming income is fixed at 10,000 Rs. per bigha for both kharif and rabi crops. Excellent yield can be obtained by applying only 2 cusec per hectare of irrigation water for Sewan grass and traditional farming.

There is no question of irrigated and non-irrigated for Sewan grass, because Sewan, Bhurat Dachabha, Phog, Pala, etc. are the ornaments of dunes (tibbas) and the sprinkler irrigation can only lead to better production.

Lakhs of hectares of land in northwestern Rajasthan has been abandoned as infertile, which can grow gold with minimum efforts and around 2 crore cows and 20 crore sheep can be easily provided fodder. Milk production from approximately 2 crore cows will be 20 crore litres per day crore which is projected to generate an income of Rs. 300 crore per day. Also, 3 lakh Tonnes of cow dung will be available per day with an income of Rs. 150 crore per day. In which the ratio of goats in the form of milk, sheep wool and manure has been drawn. Apart from this, their growth also gets three times every year because sheep and goats give birth twice a year and the expenditure on them is only on their care and maintenance.

For the last sixty years, no attempt has been made to collect rain water in this region, due to which dependence on Indira Gandhi Canal and well water is proving costly. I suggest that keeping in view the special circumstances of

the state of Rajasthan, permission should be given to build a water tank with one lakh litres capacity for each farmer in his own field, so that better infrastructure can be developed for the availability of water in the rural area and the farmers can move towards horticulture along with water in their own field and also develop additional sources of income. Firstly, all 5 lakh small and marginal farmers in all 11 Desert districts of Rajasthan should be included in this programme. It is technically necessary to construct 15 feet in diameter and 20 feet deep tank, around which a water eclipse area (Agaur) of at least 60 to 80 feet in diameter should be made based on the average rainfall of each district. While implementing this scheme, we also suggest that the catchment area should be strengthened by tamping it with local gravel or other material so that the tank gets filled completely with a single good rainfall. The construction of the tank and Agaur of this measurement will cost about Rs.80,000/- based on technical assessment. Nearly 50 percent labor intake and 50 percent material intake will be required. The tank will be constructed by the farmers themselves in their respective fields with the participation of all. In which a large number of labor employment will also be provided to his family members and landless workers and other unemployed workers available in the village.

By encouraging animal husbandry in the entire western Rajasthan region, by providing at least five animals to each farmer according to his interest, the overall development of agriculture can be done by promoting farming as well as animal husbandry, milk business, medicinal plants, horticulture etc. by

creating a cistern of 1 lakh litres capacity in each farmer's field and improving the gardening of the farmers.

I would like to draw attention of the Government to the subsidy to farmers on chemical fertilizers i.e. urea and pesticides and chemicals, in the last 3 years, a subsidy of Rs.168788.04 crore has been released to fertilizer companies, out of which Rs. 66270.27 and Rs.102517.77 crore has been given to foreign companies and indigenous urea companies, respectively. Similarly, 52780.87 crore rupees have been released as subsidy on imported pesticides and chemicals to foreign companies and 63355.65 crore rupees to indigenous pesticides and chemicals companies.

I would also like to tell the government that subsidy is released on chemical fertilizers, but no subsidy is released on natural manure and fertilizers, due to which the farmers are not attracted to organic farming.

The use of chemical fertilizers is rooting out the traditional natural manure methods. Due to the effect of chemicals, the land also gradually becomes barren and there is a possibility of insects overgrowing, due to which the farmers start using insecticides in large quantities. Some pesticides are systemic that are used by dissolving them with water or manure, which move within the plant's vascular system and impact the produce from within, these pesticides are far more harmful than the pesticides sprayed from the top. Such pesticides are far more hazardous to the human body. Our hon. Prime Minister has recently issued a Soil Health Card Scheme in Rajasthan to provide freedom to the farmer from this problem, which is an unprecedented decision in itself,

so that farmers can get information about the use of chemical fertilizers in their land and the farmer can produce more at a lower cost. Simultaneously, safe food items will be made available to the general public. The farmer is not able to use organic manure and spray even if he wants because these chemicals are more expensive than manure and spray. If subsidy is not given on organic fertilizers, we will not be able to promote organic farming.

Inflation is likely to increase further due to the monsoon's uncertainty and drought. The Government should issue instructions to the scientists of Indian Council of Agricultural Research to suggest alternative arrangements to ward off drought and uncertainty of monsoon. There may be some suggestions like excess use of organic manure, greater use of drip and micro irrigation, promotion of organic farming, efforts should be made to grow green fodder by using innovative technology in the field of fodder production, so that livestock could also be saved along with producing foodgrains by making alternative arrangements.

Apart from ensuring water availability for irrigation, the agriculture sector also needs protection. The Government has provided incentives of Rs. 2.5 lakh crore and various exemptions of Rs. 2.5 lakh crore to industrial houses in the last three years. The agriculture sector also needs to be given incentives and exemptions on the same lines.

If 70 per cent of the country's population is engaged in agriculture and its allied activities and is able to contribute only 20 percent to the country's GDP, then going by this figure, the financial fragility of agriculture can be

understood. The growth of the agriculture sector has been steadily declining in the last several Five-Year Plans, where agricultural growth rate was 4.8 in the 8th Five Year Plan, it has now reduced to 3.5 in the 12th Five Year Plan. While on one hand farmers are abandoning agriculture and migrating to cities, on the other hand the ones engaged in farming, are committing suicide as is being reported in newspapers.

This situation calls for a serious examination of its underlying causes. Most of the farmers do not have latest information about agriculture, profitable crops, scientific techniques of agriculture and fertility of their land, due to which they continue to rely on old technology, which makes them suffer loss. In developed countries, the state-of-the-art technologies used in farming are still miles away from the reach of Indian farmers. The farmers of the country are still unaware of the high-yielding seeds and special types of fertilizers. Every year, due to inadequate rainfall, recurring droughts, and floods, large parts of Rajasthan are affected, leaving the farmers devastated.

Farmers are being exploited in the name of the Kisan Credit Card. Although the official interest rate is 4 percent, in reality, they are burdened with an effective rate of 10–12 percent, as banks pass on additional charges and expenses to the farmers only. On the other hand, the farmer is cheated and life insurance is also done without informing him. Many such incidents are being reported from my parliamentary constituency as well as everywhere else.

Whenever the farmer credit card is made by a bank, the farmer is not told about all the documents related to the credit card and account. Even if a farmer

wants to see the papers, then the papers written in English make it difficult for the farmer to understand. Many such papers are signed simultaneously by the farmer, which also includes life insurance papers. After the creation of a farmer's credit card, every year, the instalment of insurance also has to be paid which falls from 10,000 Rs. to 50,000 Rs. every year. Bank officials do not fail to cheat the farmers in the lure of getting a heavy commission on premium amount. In case any objection is raised by the farmer in future or any investigation is conducted, the documents signed by the farmer are shown. The poor farmer, being less educated, simple and naive, falls prey to fraud.

The hon. Minister of Finance is requested to take complaints of such frauds seriously and take immediate measures to check such incidents of fraud them by taking strictest action against such bank officials in the interest of our Annadata farmers.

There has been a considerable improvement in agricultural schemes by the Government of India from time to time, but still a lot more is to be done in the schemes related to banks or agriculture in a scientific way. The middlemen sitting between the farmers and the Government have been exploiting the farmers and even today they are doing it. They are looting all the benefits that accrue to the farmers.

There is a lack of storage capacity as well as proper storage system in the Food Corporation of India, due to which the produce of the farmer is either not stored there or if stored, gets putrefied.

Apart from all these problems, the black marketing of crops is also a big issue, because when the crop is with the farmer, the price of his produce is at the bottom level, the moment it reaches the middleman or the commission agent the price starts skyrocketing. The Government needs to take appropriate steps to check black marketing.

A number of amendments have been made in the APMC Act in many states like Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh. The Land Acquisition Act will also prove to be a big step to prevent displacement of farmers. Many states like Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, West Bengal have increased the cold storage and warehousing facilities on PPP model to a great extent in their states, such measures should be taken at the level of all state governments.

The farmer is informed about the seeds, fertilizers, weather, the capacity of the land etc. either through Kisan Chaupal or Internet Kiosk. These facilities should be expanded to every village of the country.

There is a huge potential for land reforms and expansion of irrigation facilities, development of market related infrastructure for agriculture, technological development etc. As our neighboring country Myanmar has made itself the largest exporter of pulses in the world by doing a lot of work in all these areas.

Be it Five-year plans or annual schemes at the state level, the schemes related to agriculture need to be given a huge budget.

The Maharashtra government has launched Moti Ram Ji Lahane Krishi Samriddhi Yojana, an important scheme for farmers in this year's budget, which will help in preventing suicides being committed by farmers.

The Union government should also consider doing away with the ceiling of spending 25 percent of the annual allocation of SDRF to enable relief programs to continue beyond 90 days in case of severe drought. A proposal in this regard has been sent to the Rajasthan government. Earlier, in case of drought conditions beyond 90 days, an Executive Committee could have taken a decision in this regard.

The Government of Rajasthan has requested the Central Government to provide 75 percent as contribution by constituting State Disaster Mitigation Fund and District Disaster Mitigation Fund as per the direction of the Thirteenth Finance Commission. The Union Government is requested to take action in this regard at the earliest.

Along with this, it is suggested that small but significant relief should be provided to every farmer of the country in the form of solar agricultural pump so that he can easily cultivate while reducing the cost of agriculture. I request the Government that education up to higher secondary level should be given free of cost to the children of small farmers of the country, so that his son and daughter can become self-reliant.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Now, the hon. Minister.



**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Sir, as you are aware, the situation in Chennai itself is deteriorating, and more and more reports are coming up. More so, the weather conditions are not still improving and the situation is going from bad to worse. The metrological predictions are there that there could be another spell this evening and within next 24 hours.

So, through you, we would like to make a request to the House -- the hon. Home Minister is taking the reports, updating himself – if the House agrees, we can ask the hon. Home Minister to reply tomorrow at 12 noon or sometime after 12 noon because the situation is not as it is evident. The Members have spoken. He has taken note of it. The hon. Minister is here. But he would like to respond in detail with all the issues raised especially in the backdrop of the deteriorating situation.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** My request is that when the situation is so grievous and serious, the Home Minister should have taken atleast one trip. It is not far off. For Jammu and Kashmir, they used helicopters. Like that, the Prime Minister and Home Minister could have gone for two or three hours and come back. We are not alleging. This can be done and you can do it. You are not going to spend much time. This is a very serious situation.

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Absolutely, his point is well taken. We have heard him. Even the Prime Minister did go to the Kashmir valley when the floods were there. Absolutely, no problem, I agree with the sentiment of yours and the sentiment of the House. ... *(Interruptions)* What you have said, we will communicate to the Government. We have taken note of it.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Somebody should go.

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** My only submission is that it does not go well when the situation is so critical. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** You can go and come back. How others are going?

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** It is not just a matter of display. We are very deeply concerned with whatever is happening in Chennai and certainly, everyone is aware that Prime Minister is keeping a tab on what is happening in Chennai. The Home Minister is keeping a tab and the whole Government is aware and they are in constant touch with the state Chief minister and with the administration. Your suggestion that they should go in a helicopter and have a aerial view is something which you have suggested but beyond that the Government is keenly observing and keenly connecting to whatever is happening in Chennai. The weather conditions are deteriorating right now. Whatever you are saying, we are completely in agreement and the Government is fully aware. So, we will request you that let the Home Minister come back to you with the full details tomorrow.

Sir, we would like to take up the Bill. The hon. Minister has made a request to the Chair that the Carriage Amendment Bill should be taken up and if it is okay with the Chair of the House, we can take up the Carriage Amendment Bill.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Minister reply is going to be given tomorrow. I think the House will agree for that.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Yes Sir, we agree with you.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Therefore, now, we are taking item No. 9. As requested by hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs, you all agree that hon. Home Minister's reply will be given tomorrow.

---

**16.33 hours**

**CARRIAGE BY AIR (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, we may now take the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU):** I beg to move:

"That the Bill further to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, be taken into consideration."

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

"That the Bill further to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, be taken into consideration."

**16.34 hours**(Shri K.H. Muniyappa *in the Chair*)

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU:** This is a small amendment regarding compensation on international flights. So, from time to time, these things do get revised and we have to take an amendment of Parliament. Since it has to be amended from time to time, in future as and when the thing is revised internationally, these things the Government may notify and bring to the information of this House. This is the small amendment in this Act. That is what it is.

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** Thank you very much for allowing me to participate in this important discussion.

The Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015 has been introduced to upgrade the standard of domestic services of airlines into international benchmark.

As we know, there are important international conventions, commencing from Warsaw Convention of 1929, for compensating the victims of air crash and damages to their baggage. Montreal Convention, in which India is a signatory, held in 1991 set unified rules for compensation. Therefore, it is our utmost duty to extend the coverage of the provisions of these international conventions to the air travelers.

In accordance with the spirit of the Convention the amendment seeks to enhance the limits of Special Drawing Rights for damage sustained in each case of death or bodily injury for each person from SDRs 100000 to SDRs 113100. Enhanced rate in Indian rupee will be 1,03,27,161. Damage caused by delay in carriage for each person has increased from SDRs 4150 to SDRs 4694. Enhanced rate is equal to Rs.4,28,609. Destruction, loss, damage or delay with respect to baggage for each person has been increased from SDRs 1000 to SDRs 1131. It will be equal to Rs.1,03,271 as on date. Destruction, loss, damage or delay in relation to the carriage of cargo has increased from SDRs 17 to SDRs 19. The increased rate will be Rs.1,738.

As we know, the number of flyers in the country has been steadily increasing for the last several years. Therefore, it is very important to augment

the safety and convenience of the air travelers as well as to provide them better service. At this juncture, I may submit a few requests to the Government for favourable action.

Safety should be the first priority of the Government. This Bill is to enhance the amount of compensation to the victims. Almost all the developed countries use an aircraft for 8-10 years. The maximum life span of an aircraft to be used safely is estimated to be 20 years. Thereafter, the wear and tear of the aircraft is unsafe. It is learnt that several of the aircrafts in service in our country have been in service for more than 25 years and in some cases, they are even 35 years. It is risky and never out of danger to use these aircrafts. Not only Air India, other private airline companies in India also lease old aircrafts from other countries for service here to load passengers. Therefore, I request the Government to remove such age-old aircrafts from service.

The insurance coverage of the passengers, who travel in age-old aircrafts, should be enhanced ten times. Who can rate a human life? Being a people's representative, I encounter deaths in several families because of different kinds of accidents. Each and every accident death destroys their family. I request the Government not to hesitate to increase the insurance coverage of the passengers who travel by air in the age-old aircrafts.

The next issue that I would like to point out is about the User Development Fee charged in airports across the country. Today, the airports are the most successful marketplace as good as any hyper-malls. Delhi airport itself has showrooms of more than 500 branded international as well as Indian

companies in the domestic and international terminals. All airports in our country are functioning profitably. Then, why should airports collect User Development Fee from the passengers? At present, Delhi airport charges Rs.311 from each passenger as User Development Fee. It is estimated that nearly 6.5 crore passengers travelled through the Delhi airport last year and it is estimated that this year itself around 8 crore passengers have travelled through it. Last year the Delhi airport collected Rs.221 crore as User Development Fee. The construction cost of airport was nearly Rs.1290 crore only. So, the Government should take stringent action to stop this looting.

It would be a great injustice to the passengers of the Gulf-Sector if I do not mention their plight at this instance. The hours of travel from my State, Kerala to Gulf is the same as it takes to travel to Delhi. Air India's most profit-making route is Gulf-Sector compared to the Europe, America or any other sectors. Two times traffic fare is collected from Gulf passengers. So, in spite of double charges collected from this sector, the services provided are very horrible.

It is calculated that at least 70 lakh Indians work in Gulf countries and majority of them are from Kerala, of which 90 per cent are ordinary manual laborers who stay in labor camps and travel to their homeland only once in three or four years. Our Prime Minister during his visit to the Gulf had visited these labor camps and understood the difficulties of these fellow citizens. I request the Government to kindly introduce a fair airfare for NRIs who belong to low-income group. If services of the jumbo aero planes are ensured in Gulf-



Sector, the airfare will be slashed to a great extent. I also request to ease duty-free baggage allowance rules for NRIs who visit the country once in two-three years.

It is learnt that services and quality of food served in the Gulf-bound flights are not satisfactory. Therefore, I request the Government to do the needful in ensuring safe and convenient journey to the air travellers in the country.

The vacation season, especially the school closing and festival seasons, when the middle-class families travel, is the time when the airline companies impose their exorbitant charges by increasing the fare to three-fold. As a result, half of the savings of these people are spent in air tickets. Hence, I request the Government to issue a comprehensive guideline to ensure reasonable pricing of air tickets during vacations.

Sir, the NRI passengers coming from Singapore and Australia go to Europe and USA via Delhi-Kochi-Gulf Sector route. This sector will be more benefited if a Dreamliner is allotted in this sector.

The most profitable route for Air India for domestic flights in the country is the Delhi-Kochi route. But the Air India did not provide any good aircraft on this route. In all other sectors the Dreamliners have been provided. But Air India purposefully avoids this route. I conclude my speech with a request to the hon. Minister to consider this issue positively.

**SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM):** I thank my beloved leader Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, *Puratchithalaivi* Amma for this opportunity.

I am glad that the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015 introduced by hon. Civil Aviation Minister will enable the Government to revise the liability limits of air carriers in line with the Montreal Convention, which was acceded to by India in May 2009. I hope that this legislation will facilitate higher compensation and prevent Indian passengers from discrimination.

There is an international legal regime governing the liability of air carriers for injury or death of passengers, destruction or loss or damage to baggage and cargo and losses caused by delay in international carriage of passengers, baggage and cargo.

India had so far ratified the Warsaw Convention, 1929 and the Warsaw Convention as amended by The Hague Protocol, 1955 and effected by the Carriage by Air Act, 1972 and the Montreal Convention.

India adopted the Montreal Convention in order to make the passengers originating and terminating their journey in India, who are mostly Indian nationals, to get benefits of enhanced liability. It ensures an Indian to be able to file a claim in India even if the journey was undertaken outside India.

As per the revised compensation package, the bill intends to review the liability limit for damage in case of death or bodily injury for each person from 1,00,000 SDR (Special Drawing Rights) to 1,13,100 SDR. As per the

latest exchange rate, the compensation limit rises to over rupees one crore from almost Rs. 88.71 lakh at present. Sir, the SDR, established by the International Monetary Fund, is based on market exchange rates of a basket of major currencies - US Dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen and Pound Sterling.

Where damages of more than 1,13,100 SDR are sought, the airline may avoid liability by proving that the accident which caused the injury or death was not due to their negligence or was attributable to the negligence of a third party. This defence is not available where damages of less than 1,13,100 SDR are sought.

The Convention also amended the jurisdictional provisions of Warsaw Convention and now allows the victim or their families to sue foreign carriers where they maintain their principal residence, and requires all air carriers to carry liability insurance.

As per the Bill, the liability for delay in carriage for each person is proposed to be raised from 4,150 SDR to 4,694 SDR while the liability in case of destruction, loss, damage or delay of baggage is proposed to be raised from 1,000 SDR to 1,131 SDR. Montreal Convention also requires airlines to fully compensate travellers the cost of replacement items purchased until the baggage is delivered, to a maximum of 1,131 SDR. After 21 days, any delayed baggage is considered lost, even if the airline delivers it after that period.

The limitation of compensation for damage to baggage to 1,131 SDRs means that the value of damaged mobility equipment may often significantly exceed available compensation under the Montreal Convention.

While the effect of the loss, even temporarily, of mobility equipment places disabled passengers at a substantially increased disadvantage in comparison to other passengers suffering damaged baggage. Moreover, the Bill proposes to enhance the liability in case of destruction, loss or delay in relation to the carriage of cargo from 17 SDR to 19 SDR.

It is a fact that the liability limits are revised once in every five years by the UN body called International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) on the basis of a determined inflation factor of 13.1 per cent, triggering an adjustment in the limits. The amendment would also enable the Government to revise the limits of liability as and when the revised limits are notified by the ICAO.

A passenger can benefit from a higher liability limit by making a special declaration at the time of check-in at the latest and paying a supplementary fee. Any action in court to claim damages must be brought within two years from the date of arrival of the aircraft or from the date on which the aircraft ought to have arrived.

The Montreal Convention was brought about mainly to amend liabilities to be paid to families for death or injury whilst on board an aircraft. As of July 2015, there are 113 parties to the Convention. India has also ratified the Convention.

It is to be noted that the Convention refuses to pay any compensation for psychiatric injury or damage unless inextricably linked to the physical injury. Purely psychiatric injury is not eligible for compensation which has been criticized by people injured in plane accidents, legal experts and their families.

Australia changed its law so as to fit with the Montreal Convention. It removed references to 'personal injury' and replaced it with 'bodily injury' under the CACL Act. It is learnt that a Private. Member's Bill was also introduced in the Australian Parliament in May, 2015 to seek to protect the rights of plane crash survivors to be compensated for psychological trauma. What about India? Are we thinking of including psychiatric injury in the list of liabilities by the carrier? I request the hon. Minister to explain the stand of the Government on this issue.

It is a news item of recent past. While traveling to Australia to attend a meeting of G-20 nations, a Minister at the Union could not trace her checked-in luggage. I quote the tweet uploaded by that Minister, which came in newspapers. It said: "On board my connecting flight to Cairns. All my formal wear in the lost suitcase! Not sure I can buy Saris in Cairns! Situation precarious!". Later, the lost baggage was found by Air India saving the Minister from an emergency shopping trip. This incident exposes the claim that nobody can escape the fear of loss of baggage while on air travel. Another Air India passenger disappointed by his harrowing experience about lost baggage had even set up a website, with a view to coordinate passengers who

suffered a similar fate and to file a joint action against Air India for their negligence in non- deliverance of baggage on time.

Safety of passengers at the airports should also be given utmost importance. There have been umpteen number of incidents of falling glass panels at Chennai Airport causing injury to several air passengers. Even, VIPs have had a narrow escape from accidental falling of glass panels at the Chennai Airport. It is learnt that the Airports Authority of India do not have quality equipment that can detect stress in glass panels. Poor air-conditioning inside the building and poor quality metal fixtures used on the glass doors cause the damage. As this relates to the safety concern of air passengers, I request the hon. Union Minister for Civil Aviation to look into this issue and order for prompt action. I also want to know about the outcome of any enquiry ordered by the Ministry in the past into such incidents of grave nature.

In Kolkata airport, a CISF Constable died after he stepped into a sheet that tried to cover a hole, created by a broken glass tile, on a glass-floored bridge. I earnestly appeal through the hon. Minister for urgent action so that such incidents do not recur.

I also want to bring to your kind notice the recent directive issued by the National Green Tribunal to the Union Government to ensure that no disinfectant fumigation is carried out in aircraft while passengers are on board. It was on a plea filed by a US-based Neurologist who contended that spraying such pesticides could have an adverse impact on health. Although, airlines of other countries have stopped spraying pesticides, the practice is still prevalent

in all Indian airlines operating internationally. NGT's observation came down heavily on Indian airlines, which said and I quote: "You are supposed to kill mosquitoes and not human beings. You cannot take a risk with the health of the people".

While facilitating higher compensation to Indian air passengers, it is the duty of the Government to ensure their safety as well. The Vision 2023 document released by our hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, calls for improving the standards and facilities at the airports in Tamil Nadu with a total capacity of handling eight crore passengers per annum with Chennai alone accounting world-class infrastructure for half the capacity.

It is claimed that the new terminals at the Chennai Airport will soon reach saturation point and cannot take the passenger load beyond 2021. As the project report on the viability has already been submitted, a Greenfield Airport in Sriperumbudur near Chennai with an annual capacity of handling at least five crore passengers is the need of the hour. I request the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to allocate adequate funds for implementation of airport-related projects, especially, the proposed Greenfield Airport in Tamil Nadu.

With this, I conclude. Thank you, Sir. Once again, I thank our hon. Leader, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*.

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Sir, I wish to make brief intervention on the Carriage Amendment Bill. Basically, this topic touches all of our lives, air travel touches everyone's life and normally we travel within the country as well as internationally. But ever since air travel has started in the world, the people had no idea what kind of agreements would be made so that we would be safe outside the country also and which law would govern the sector, what kind of an agreement would be signed. It started with the Warsaw Pact, followed by the Hague Convention, and then the Montreal. So that the international agreements that we sign, the whole world, who are members of ICAO, this is the institution that operates air entities all over the world, we go together with that. This agreement was made in the same sequence, but this agreement was made for those people who travel around the world and if their luggage is stolen during the journey, they get injured during the journey, or unfortunately if any accident happens during the journey, then the loss incurred in that is covered, it is for that. Under SDRs, which are linked to a basket of major international currencies, the question arises: how do we determine the compensation that is to be received at the international level? The mechanism is that by creating a currency basket comprising leading global currencies, the value is ultimately denominated in US dollars. Accordingly, the compensation



is calculated in terms of dollar, and this very principle has been reflected in the Bill. As the Hon. Minister has rightly said that this is an international agreement and by bringing any international agreement within the House to implement in the country, that agreement has to be placed in front of his MPs in the House so that it is rectified. If we disagree with the compensation that is being talked about in case of death in an international accident, injury in an international accident or theft of goods in an international accident, then within three months we will have to convey to the House that we do not accept this, and with a majority, the countries will have to send this proposal to ICAO for that convention. We have not done that, because we believe that what has been improved, the increase that has been made is acceptable to us.

Sir, this is an international agreement and any Sovereign State ratifies this agreement. This is a small amendment, but the biggest thing is that it has been decided further that such an international amendment should not be brought in the Parliament. Now, I feel that when proposals come before the Parliament, there is a basis for further discussion on this subject, because our Hon. Member of Parliament, Antony Saheb and everyone has said. *[English]* But then if we have taken a call that in future all such ratifications need not be brought to Parliament and they can be done by an Executive Order, I think it is the wisdom of the Government to decide on that. But this whole provision of revising it and subscribing to the international protocol for Carriage Amendment is a big issue, which possibly brings advantage to the international

travellers who are travelling, and this is a very small amendment which has to be ratified by the House.

*[Translation]*

Sir, Civil Aviation Sector is one field on which the consent of the hon. Minister and the Government is there on our behalf, then discuss in detail so that all the Members can discuss it. Hon. Leader of the Opposition Kharge Saheb is sitting here, if you ever get consent on this subject, then we would like to discuss the civil aviation sector in the presence of the hon. Minister in full detail. I support this proposal.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** You are a good pilot, you can take the Prime Minister and the Home Minister for taking stock of the situation in Chennai, and leave them back safely. You can go there for an aerial survey.

*[English]*

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** He can just fly over the City and come back.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Our leaders believe that we do not believe in leadership by air. To take stock of the situation by air of Chennai and come back.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** You just do it of Kashmir.

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** In Kashmir, the hon. Prime Minister landed and spoke with them. We do not believe in politics by air. We want to do politics on the ground.

*[English]*

**DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT):** Sir, I am thankful to you for allowing me to speak on the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015. The amendment of the Bill is a reflection of the demands of the day. The Bill would enable the Government to revise the liability limits of air carriers in line with the Montreal Convention, which was acceded by India in 2009.

The amendment also enables the Government to revise the liability limits as per notification of the International Civil Aviation Organization. The International Civil Aviation Organization determined an inflation factor of 13.1 per cent which exceeded 10 per cent, the threshold stipulated for triggering an adjustment in the limit of liability.

Article 24 of the Montreal Convention provides for revision of liability limits of air carriers for damages in relation to carriage of passengers, baggage and cargo at a five year interval.

### **17.00 hours**

As per revised compensation package, the Bill intends to review the liability limit for damage in course of death or body injury for individual from 1,00,000 SDRs to 1.131 SDRs that is, more or less equivalent to 1.00 crore in Indian currency. The liability in case of destruction, loss or delay of baggage of

individuals has been raised from 1000 SDRs to 1131 SDRs. The liability in case of destruction, loss or delay of carriage of cargo has been raised to 17 SDRs to 19 SDRs. Presently, one SDR is equivalent to around Rs.88 or Rs.89 of Indian currency. The currency value of SDR varies, as Shri Rudy pointed out, with the market rates of major currency like US dollar, Pound Sterling, Japanese Yen and Euro.

I support the Amendment which facilitates fair compensation and prevents Indian passengers from discrimination. I want to highlight some important issues for the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

The most important aspect of consideration for air travellers is safety, security and comfort. Is it addressed at all by the Ministry? The Government is often saying that India is a global player, a powerful tiger. Yes, India is a tiger. But if we see our safety and comfort in airports, India seems to be a sleeping tiger. Is there any unlawful nexus to promote private airlines by allotting the best departure time from different airports of this country? Why is the Air India not allocated prime times for its own flights? Why is the Air India only bridge to the North-Eastern States and why not the private airlines? Why is the Government not giving its look towards the common passengers of this country? What about the service aspect of the pilots of Air India? Why are the most efficient and best performing pilots leaving Air India? Are they joining private airlines and foreign airlines for better salary, for tax free income? If a pilot making expenditure from the Government's end is about Rs.30 lakh, what is the amount of the service bond? What is the Government

status to increase the amount of the service bond? I would urge upon the Minister to please look into the matter very seriously.

The Bill is dealing with liability. But what is the duty of the Government to intervene? We know that prevention is always better than cure. Try to improve security, safety and comfort level for the common passengers. Try to ensure and maintain schedule time of departure and arrival, apologise timely, if not, let the passengers know the up-dates, serve better foods, issue boarding pass carefully, then you may not be worried about the amount of liability increase. The Government may not spend much amount of money for liability because the money ultimately comes from the pocket of the common people.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

**DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

The Carriage by Air Act is a special statute which deals with many provisions relating to airlines and passengers on the platform of various international conventions such as Warsaw, The Hague and Montreal. These conventions are intended to maintain uniformity in processing of flights operated by various airlines across different countries in the world thereby dealing uniformly with the passengers from all the corners of the world. When the airlines carry passengers between different countries, in the event of casualties the victims have to be treated equally as regards compensation both in the case of death, injury to persons, and damage to property.

As per the prevailing situation, the provisions in the conventions are revised time to time. Hence, the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015 has been proposed to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972. The Bill under consideration, if passed, would enable the Government to revise the liability limits of air carriers in line with the Montreal Convention which was acceded to by India in May 2009. As per this convention, under Rule 24, Chapter 3 of the Third Schedule to the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, the liability of the airline carrier in case of destruction, loss, damage or delay has been proposed to be increased.

There are four tiers of compensation proposed in this Bill. As per Article 21 of the Act, the proposal in view of the first tier, compensation pertaining to

damage sustained in case of death or bodily injury for each passenger would go up from one lakh Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to 1,13,100 SDRs, which is around Rs.1 crore in Indian currency since the currency value of SDRs is based on inclusive market exchange rates of a number of a major currencies namely US dollar, Euro, Japanese Yen and Pound Sterling.

As per the Bill, the liability for delay in carriage for each person is proposed to be raised from 4,150 SDRs to 4,694 SDRs. Here I would like to mention that by amending the Act of 1972, the compensation provided as per the Montreal Convention could be increased in the interest of the passengers.

In this regard I would like to say that the Bill, if passed, would empower the Central Government to revise the limits of liability in respect of airlines to provide compensation as per the Montreal Convention and also to make rules to carry out the provisions of the Act. This is a welcome step. I, on behalf of my party Biju Janata Dal, wholeheartedly support the Bill.

Sir, I would like to make another point related to air travel in the country. When I was travelling from Delhi to Bhubaneswar some time ago, I witnessed an emergency situation wherein a passenger on board suffered chest pain. I am a doctor by profession. When it was announced if there was any doctor travelling in the flight, I stood up and checked the patient up and stayed with him. The patient was hospitalised upon reaching Bhubaneswar. The air travel time between Delhi and Bhubaneswar is about two hours. I would suggest that it would be good if a doctor is posted on the flight from the Government's side.

Thank you, Sir.

**SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA):** First of all, I congratulate the Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju for introducing this Bill which was neglected by the previous Government. I feel that it is because of the initiative of the hon. Minister that this Bill came here. I appreciate his initiative which benefits the victims of the air travel.

There are specific limits prescribed by international conventions for damages in international air carriages. The Carriage by Air Act, 1972 acceded to the Montreal Convention, 1999. The rules governing the liability of air carriers and the extent of compensation for damages in international carriage were prescribed in the Act. The Carriage by Air Act was amended in 2009 to incorporate the provisions of Montreal Convention under the third Schedule to the Act.

Article 24 of the Montreal Convention which corresponds to Rule 24 of the third Schedule of the Carriage Act provides for a review of the limits of liability of their carriers for damages in relation to the passengers, baggage and cargo at five years interval. The International Civil Aviation Organization depository conducted first such review of the limits of liability and issued a notification on 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009.

As the five years period is already elapsed, our Minister for Civil Aviation brought this Amendment Bill for approval of the Parliament. I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill and extend our Telugu Desam Party's support to this Bill. After bifurcation, on behalf of the people of Andhra Pradesh, I request all the Union Ministers, especially the Minister for Civil



Aviation to give special emphasis on the State of Andhra Pradesh. Our airports at Vijayawada, Tirupati, Vizag, Rajahmundry, and Shirdi have to be developed to the level of facilitating international passengers to arrive and depart from these airports. I also request him to provide flight service from Vizag to Tirupati and from Rajahmundry to Delhi. Thousands of people travel every day from these places. Nowadays, air fare has become cheaper. Most of the people prefer air travel to save their time. I request the Minister for Civil Aviation to develop airports in every district headquarters in Andhra Pradesh.

With these words, I sincerely thank the hon. Speaker for giving me the opportunity. Thank you.

**SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD):** Hon. Chairman Sir, with your kind permission, I rise to speak on the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015 which was introduced in Lok Sabha on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2015 by the Minister of Civil Aviation.

Actually this Bill is placed in this House to amend the carriage by Air Act 1972. This Act regulates carriage by air and gives effect to the Warsaw Convention as amended by the Hague Protocol 1955 and the Montreal Convention 1999. The Act also provides for application of the international rules to domestic travel, subject to exception and adaptations.

Sir, so far as I know, the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2008 was passed by Lok Sabha in the year 2008. After considering some observations made by the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture, the Bill was passed by Rajya Sabha also. At that time, the main objective of the proposed amendment in the parent Act was to accede to the Montreal Convention for the International Carriage by Air. Now the Montreal Convention has already been ratified by 86 countries out of which 25 have direct air link with India. India also acceded to Montreal Convention in May 2009.

In Article 24 of the Montreal convention, there is a provision of revision of liability limits for air carriers for damages in relation to passengers' baggage and cargo at five years interval.

There is also a provision in article 24, para 2 that the state parties may register their disapproval with the International Civil Aviation Organization

within a fixed time limit. The current Amendment Bill seeks to empower the Central Government to revise the limits of liability of airlines and compensation as per Montreal Convention. My question is, where there is a provision of revision of liability limits for air carriers in Montreal Convention at a five-year interval and also a provision for registering disapproval by the majority state parties, why is an amendment necessary to empower the Central Government?

Apart from the Montreal Convention, is there any space to revise the limits of liabilities in the case of international air carriers? After the passage of the Air Carriage (Amendment) Bill, 2008, India acceded to the Montreal Convention in May, 2009. As per article 24 of this Convention, our Central Government has every right to intervene in this question.

I have no objection against this Amendment Bill but I would like to request the Government through you to clarify these points and then proceed.

Apart from this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister concerned that some Air India flights get delayed – particularly AI-020 gets delayed every time – very much without any serious reason. It is due to shortage of crew, pilots, due to late clearance of customs, etc. I want to know why such delays should not be compensated. This should also be taken under the purview of this Amendment Bill so that some Air India passengers could be benefited.

Thank you.

**DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD (BHONGIR):** Thank you for giving me the opportunity.

At the outset, I congratulate the Minister Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju for bringing the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015. My party fully supports it. I feel it is better late than never though it should have been introduced a long time ago. Maybe at least now our Minister has taken the initiative to give adequate relief to the people who have suffered by death or damage or loss of baggage by delay during international travel. It may not compensate at the time of death or disability but at least it will give some relief matching international standards to our international air carrier passengers.

**17.18 hours**

(Hon. Deputy-Speaker *in the Chair*)

Though we cannot compensate life, life is same whether it is international or national carrier. I take this opportunity to request the Minister to introduce the same kind of relief to the national carrier passengers also in the case of same kind of damage, death, delay of the baggage.

At the same time, I wish to say something. Now, there are more number of passengers travelling by air. There are a lot of grievances of the people who travel by air whether it is delay, over-booking, improper maintenance or improper service. So, I request the Minister to introduce an early grievance redressal system which shall have more teeth than the present system.

We are only talking about physical discomfort, damage and death. Many times, passengers are subjected to mental agony also due to acts of omissions

and commissions of airlines staff or due to delay, damage or poor service. I request him to bring a further amendment or introduce some sections to compensate in the case of improper service also.

I wish to quote a specific instance. Recently a Seven-member Parliamentary Group has traveled from Delhi to air. In the entire stretch of eight hours, the air-conditioner was not working. The funny part was that the staff on the Air India aircraft were not even able to say whether it would be repaired or not. They were also not coming forward to shift the passengers where air-conditioner was working in spite of the fact that seven hon. Members of Parliament were there. The funniest part was when one of the Members of Parliament requested the service personnel for food because she was feeling hungry.

The reply of the cabin crew was that they will not serve the food till the wine serving section is over. That means to say that a passenger, whether it is an MP or other ordinary person, has to wait till the crew serves alcohol or wine. Such improper service in Air India also needs to be immediately addressed.

I may also tell another instance. On one occasion I had to change my seat thrice because one seat did not have belt the other did not stretch and the third one did not move. When I requested the cabin crew humbly, nowadays we are very much afraid of the TV and we are more courteous, the reply was that this would be like that only.

Before I conclude I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister that Telangana State has got only one airport, Begumpet Airport, which was there

even before Independence. Unfortunately, there was a move to hand over that airport to the Defence. I would request the hon. Minister not to take such a measure.

Secondly, my brother State like Andhra Pradesh has got four airports whereas we have got only one airport. Just like one child policy of China, we have adopted one-airport policy for Telangana. Warangal city is the heritage city which has a lot of potential in terms of international tourism. There was an airport earlier but because of some MoU with the existing airport the Government is not extending approval to an airport at Warangal city which is almost 150 kms. from Hyderabad. I take this opportunity to humbly urge him not to follow one-airport policy only for Telangana State. It is not China. Kindly have more airports there as this is the need of the hour. I take this opportunity to support the Bill on behalf of TRS Party. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Aircraft Carriage (Amendment) Bill, 2015. The Government has introduced this Bill to give shape to its Ordinance into a law. This has been done in consideration of international statute and protocol. It's good. Our law and order should be according to the changing times. Compensation is being increased especially in any kind of damage through the Aviation Bill, but I believe that if the services of private airlines have increased in the country, then their arbitrariness should also be curbed. They should not get an opportunity to raise

the fare arbitrarily. Their arbitrariness should be curbed and it should be ensured that whether the freight of goods, unabated hike in the fare, non-availability of passenger goods on time, etc. are also taken into consideration. There are also incidents of misbehavior with passengers. Passengers are facing a lot of problem due to non-availability of flights on time. Compensation should also be made for this.

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** Hon Deputy Speaker Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak in the discussion on the Aircraft Carriage (Amendment) Bill, 2015. Our present government especially our hon. Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju has brought this amendment because often in the compensation for loss of goods during international flights, we used to take decisions at a very fast pace but practical difficulties were being faced to settle the claims according to the respective currency of the country in international flights.

The hon. Minister has brought the amendment after due focus on this point. I rise to speak in support of this Bill. Also, I would like to make another request to the hon. Minister that under the leadership of the present government led by hon. Narendra Bhai Modi, the Hon. Minister Ashok Gajapathi Raju has brought this Bill in the House to give it the shape of a legislation by taking a crucial decision to compensate the passengers for the loss of goods in international flights. A delegation from here went to Belgium under the leadership of Hon. Lok Sabha Speaker. It was a coincidence that the Chief Whip of the Bhartiya Janata Party, hon. Meghwal ji, who is sitting here, was

also there. There were nine members from different parties. We were surprised to know that whenever a foreign delegation comes to our country, we give them full right to use the lounge at the airport as per Indian beliefs and customs. We also follow a protocol and we give them respect and provide them with lounge free of cost. But in the VVIP lounge in Britain, where our Hon. Speaker stayed hon. MPs from all the parties of our country also stayed, it was told that they would charge our government on hourly basis for the VVIP lounge. I would request the hon. Minister to make this amendment in the Bill that when we are providing full facilities to the foreign delegations in the VVIP lounge of our country as per the protocol, realizing the concept of 'Atithi Devo Bhava', then they should also maintain at least this much decorum that when they are getting that respect in our country, then on that basis they should also allow our country's representatives to stay for free in their VVIP lounge.

I come from Sant Kabir Nagar district of Uttar Pradesh. Adjacent to this is Gorakhpur, which has the only airport connecting Gorakhnath, and the land of Saint Kabir and Buddha. At present, there is only one airplane of JET airways operational. They are charging arbitrarily. When the passenger bus is full, the fare goes from two thousand rupees to thirteen thousand rupees and from thirteen thousand rupees to twenty-five thousand rupees directly, whereas the Buddha Circuit which is known all over the world, tourists from Japan, Colombia, China and Sri Lanka come to visit Kushi Nagar. I would also like to request the Minister to run a regular flight of Air India in Gorakhpur and also put a special check on the fares. Thank you very much.



*[English]*

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Sir, first of all, I would like to support the intervention made by the hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that an in-depth discussion in respect of civil aviation sector is required. That is very essential and we fully support it. I hope that the Government will take the initiative in having a discussion on the civil aviation sector – the present scenario in our country.

I fully support the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015. This Bill, as most of our learned friends have already elaborated in their intervention, is in order to fulfil the commitment made in the Montreal Convention of 1999. But the very interesting fact to be noted is that in 1999 itself the Act was amended. The Carriage Act of 1972 was amended in 1999 so as to fulfil commitment made in the Montreal Convention. But unfortunately, at that time, we were not able to foresee the consequences. It is because at the Montreal Convention itself, there was a provision in the Convention Document that during the course of five years the liability will be revised by the International Civil Aviation Organisation or the Depository. So the Depository is having the right to revise the rate of liability or the limits of liability during the course of five years. But that was not kept in the amendment which we had made in the year 1999 which is why this House is compelled to make the revision.

Anyway, now I fully support the two amendments which are being proposed by the hon. Minister. The first amendment is regarding limit of liability has to be revised in accordance with the revision made by the

International Civil Aviation Organisation. In that case, I have only one suggestion to make to the hon. Minister and to the Government for consideration. This is for revision of the rates and revision of the liability. That shall never be decreasing the liability because in future course also if the liability instead of it being enhanced if it is being reduced, it would definitely be adversely affecting the international air passengers. Therefore, I have moved an amendment and I can speak on this at that time. In order to give effect to all these commitments and conventions, special rules have to be formulated by means of the second amendment. I fully support that but still I have some reservations in that also.

The second point is about the damages. It is because we know the safety of the passengers is the main issue, or the main concern as far as we are concerned. In case of damage sustained in case of death or bodily injury and also baggage which is being stated is revised. I fully support that. At the same time, I would like to say that the Government has to be more cautious in respect of the safety of the passengers.

Sir, I know that Air India is the national carrier of our country. It is a prestigious organisation of our country. But unfortunately, now Air India is deliberately being destroyed so as to protect the interest of the private carriers. That is happening in our country. I can cite a very typical example. In Thiruvananthapuram Airport I know that there is a financial restructuring plan of Air India and a turnaround plan by Air India. That was accepted in the year 2010. As per the turnaround plan and the financial restructuring plan this Air

India ground handling service was to be devolved or transferred to Air India Air Transport Service Limited which is a subsidiary of Air India Limited. That is the commitment in the turnaround plan. But unfortunately, the Air India officials have allotted it to a joint partnership. The ground handling service has been given to a joint partnership violating the commitments made, violating the provisions of the turnaround plan and the financial restructuring plan. Further, this has been done without signing any agreement, without signing any Memorandum of Understanding.

Sir, I would like to highlight one point here. This matter was challenged by a Trade Union leader. He approached the High Court and he has submitted the petition. Crores and Crores of rupees are being looted. It was to be given to Air India. It is to be availed by Air India but it is being looted by this private partnership. What has happened is that the Trade Union leader has been transferred on a false case of sex assault to Hyderabad. He is a protected worker. He is the State Secretary of a recognized and registered Trade Union. I would like to approach the hon. Minister in this matter. I have submitted three letters to him. Unfortunately, he has not cared to hear me and unfortunately the response was very poor saying that it was on the grounds of sex assault case this man has been transferred. The CBI has conducted an enquiry and it has come to light that the petition was frivolous, false and fabricated and that the signature of the Air hostess was fabricated and was submitted. A very interesting fact that I would like to bring before the House is that three days back the CBI has conducted a raid in Thiruvananthapuram Airport and the

Indian Express wrote, 'CBI finds misappropriation of Rs. 14 crores in Airport raid on the basis of the petition'. Unfortunately, the person has been transferred. This is the way the matters are being handled. So, I would like to urge upon the hon. Minister to kindly look into the matter. We the Members of Parliament are submitting petitions not for any personal reason. We fully support the cause of the Public Sector Undertakings. We want to protect them. It is our duty and responsibility to protect Air India, the national carrier. I would like to request the hon. Minister that when we submit petitions, go through them in depth and see if there is merit in the petition or not. I would like to record my grievance as an Member of Parliament.

Sir, I fully support the two amendments and I hope the hon. Minister will have a personal look into the matter I mentioned and redress his grievance. A person who has stood for Air India has been victimized without any reason on false grounds.

Sir, with these words, I fully support the Bill.

**SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NELLORE):** Hon. deputy-speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Carriage by Air (Amendment) Bill, 2015 moved by Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju, hon. Minister for Civil Aviation.

I fully support this Bill on behalf of the YSR Congress Party.

I almost endorse and concur with the views expressed by the hon. Members who spoke till now. I think it is not out of place if I mention regarding the new airports in residuary Andhra Pradesh. There is a proposal to have airports at Nellore, Kurnool, Nagarjunasagar and Donakonda, particularly at Nellore which is my parliamentary constituency. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has already acquired 1500 acres of land and it is ready for further action. This proposal is pending since a long time and it is a long pending desire of the people of Nellore.

Nellore is a very potential coastal area where many thermal plants have come up. It is not only that. There are many other industrial units situated there. In that way, it is a very potential area. Krishnapatnam Port is also there. It is likely to be a Smart City also. Definitely, there is a potentiality for a new airport there.

I request the hon. Minister to look into this proposal. On the part of Central Government, the hon. Minister was also time and again saying that it is going to be materialized. I request the hon. Minister to look into these proposals and develop Nellore, Kurnool, Nagarjunasagar and Donakonda airports.

**THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU):** Hon Deputy-Speaker, I am grateful to all the hon. Members for supporting this Bill.

As understood and expressed by everyone, it is for basically enhancing the rates which are done internationally. For every five years, they meet and enhance it. On 30<sup>th</sup> December, 2009 was the Montreal Convention when this was revised and we are on 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2015. There is a time lag. Of course, India is a signatory and if anything happens, the commitment goes through but when it has the sanction of this House, it has a particular value. Unfortunately, as mentioned earlier, in 2009, when that Act was amended, this was somehow overlooked. There is no need for blame and there is no need for any such thing. But when things do come to notice, they ought to be corrected.

Hon. Member, Shri Premachandran has given a notice for amendment. He says that the amount should not be reduced. He has mentioned it in his speech also. Generally, trend wise, inflation is everywhere and even the basket of currency has never shown a downward reduction but again, when we go with an international organization, it is probably necessary not to have any conditions. It is because if there is a conflict, there will be a problem. I think, things do not reduce that way.

The other thing is taking the power within the Government so that we do not have to come every fifth year to the House with an amendment to the Bill. This is simple as far as the Bill is concerned and I am grateful to all the hon. Members who have supported the Bill.

I request the hon. Member to withdraw his amendment because that will allow it to go smoothly. Of course, there are a lot of aberrations everywhere. Civil aviation requires more discussion and attention, and there are problems. It is not free of problems. A lot of Members have talked about airlines service quality. Of course, safety and security are two things on which our Government is never going to compromise. One hon. Member talked of comfort also. I feel that is also an important aspect. So, the scope for improvement is tremendous. I would take all these things as suggestions to work on. The Government has recently released the draft Aviation Policy. It has gone into the public domain. 30<sup>th</sup> November was the last day for public suggestions. We were fortunate to have the advice of the Parliamentary Consultative Committee on Civil Aviation. Most of these suggestions and those suggestions are more or less similar. We will have to look at it and work at it. The ultimate aim is to improve this service sector. It has to improve, has to serve the people and serve them better.

Hon. Members have talked about international pay lounges vis-à-vis India not having pay lounges. Every country develops according to its culture. We have nothing to say there. We are Indians and we have our own way of going about things. Every country has its own way of going about things. We cannot compel other countries to behave like us.

I take all these suggestions. Our idea is to improve on a consistent basis and go ahead. I do not think I will be able to answer everything because they deal with wide range of issues, from airports to airlines to grievances to public

sector to private sector. So, all types of things are there. But all these suggestions are well taken and we will work on them. We will work on them for the betterment of our country. This is what I want to submit.

I would request all of you to pass this Bill without amendments. This is my request.



**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Carriage by Air Act, 1972, be taken into consideration.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**Clause 2**

**Amendment of Section 4A**

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving your amendment?

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Yes.

I beg to move:

Page 1, line 9,--

*after* “damages”

*insert*”, not less than the existing rate of (1) compensation,”.

The amendment is a harmless one. It says, “not less than the existing rate of compensation”. It is a harmless amendment. It shall never be in contradiction to the Montreal Convention provisions of article 24. It is not against article 24 of the Montreal Convention. It is totally in consonance with

article 24 of the Montreal Convention. So, it is better to have this. It is a safety measure. I am moving the amendment.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put Amendment No. 1 to Clause 2 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill”.

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 3****Insertion of new Section 8A**

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri N.K. Premachandran, are you moving your amendment?

**SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Yes.

I beg to move:

Page 2, line 3,--

*after* “this Act”

*insert* “for implementation the terms and conditions  
as per the international conventions”. (2)

The next amendment is, that is 8A, the Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the provisions of this Act. Any legislation, whatever it may be, this particular provision will be there. How is it being omitted in the original Act? There is no clarification and nothing is being mentioned in the Statement of Reasons and Objects also. Whatever be the Act, in order to make the provisions of the Act operative, this provision is there. I am sorry.

The proposal of amendment is for implementing the terms and conditions as per the international conventions if it is squarely applicable for this alone. Otherwise, it will be applicable for the entire Act, for the Carriage Act of 1972

in total. I am only seeking the clarification from the hon. Minister regarding the rule making provision.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put Amendment No. 2 to Clause 3 moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 3 was added to the Bill.*

*Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU:** I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“That the Bill be passed.”

**SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** Sir, I have given notice to speak now.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Yes.

**SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY:** Sir, I would thank you very much for affording me an opportunity to speak at this stage.

I would like to know whether air carriers are providing only minimal amounts of compensation to the passengers and are short-charging them for

their losses and not providing compensatory amounts of requisite amounts and up to the maximum permissible levels as defined by the Act and the Government. I would also like to know about the measures to be taken or rules and regulations made and their enforcement for the protection of consumer rights and provision of adequate and /or proportional compensation for their loss. My request to the hon. Minister is to clarify this issue.

**SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU:** Basically, this amendment is on international travel. Regarding international travel, we all go according to the International Civil Aviation Organization's guidelines. A lot of countries are signatories to that. We go according to that. Within our country, the things are different. The scales are different; everything else is different. There is a difference between international travel and a domestic travel.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The motion is adopted and the Bill is passed.

---

**17.48 hours****BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS BILL, 2015**

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** We are now taking up Item No.8 – The Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015.

Hon. Minister.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Sir, it can be taken up tomorrow.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** We will discuss it up to Six of the Clock now. Let him say whatever he wants to.

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, with your permission I propose that the Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015 be taken up for consideration. The BIS Act was passed in 1986, and after repealing the Act, a new bill is being brought. You know that India is developing at a fast pace and international standards have become mandatory. The Indian Standard Institute was set up in the year 1947, which set standards for industrial products. It was a registered society. Thereafter, the ISI Act was passed in the year 1952 and when the five-year plan was made, after that industrial growth was made for quality or Standard was required to be made to make quality products. After that, BIS Act was passed in the year 1986. The Act was enforced in 1987. Its main object was to develop standards, marking

and certification. If we count the time period, from the year 1986, a period of thirty years has elapsed. This act became quite age old and the economic scenario has changed. BIS is facing difficulty. New products have come in the market. A need for new types of services in the market is being felt and due to this it was felt that it should be amended. The UPA-II Government introduced the BIS Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha on 3/12 and later it was referred to the Standing Committee and the report of the Committee also came but the Fifteenth Lok Sabha was dissolved and after that we had a lot of consultation and realized that if so many amendments are made, then this Act will not be of any use. That is why it was decided that a new bill should be brought in place of the old bill and this BIS Bill, 2015 was introduced.

Before bringing this bill, we thought about it a dozen times in different ways. The bill was put on the website, discussions were held with the stakeholders, with the PMO and also with the Law Department. After negotiations with all of them, finally this bill has been brought. The first thing in this is that BIS should be declared as a national standards body. The second point is that other sectors, which develop their respective standards in different sectors, should not be bypassed, but they should also have the right to develop those standards and we should award them the status of national standards. Let us assume that, there is a "Bata" shop abroad. Shoes are manufactured everywhere but with the mark of "Bata", people think that it is standard. Similarly, there is FSSAI, there are all kinds of authorities but the foreign representation is done by ISI. For this reason, it was thought that they should

form their respective separate organization but national standards will be awarded by BIS and this will facilitate international trade.

If the national standards is made mandatory, it will help to check the inflow of substandard goods. The work of the BIS Act earlier was to set standards only for the quality of goods and processes. Then it used to do marking accordingly and also test whether it complied with the quality norms or not. Now the procedure also includes system and services. Let us assume that the office management system defines how the office will operate and specifies the time frame within which responses will be given, as outlined in the system developed. Similarly, the educational institutions or the hospitals have all been covered. Now along with the articles, goods, process, systems, services have all been included in BIS. The Central government will have a right to entrust the work of second testing and license apart from BIS. That means, BIS has so much workload which will increase manifold and naturally, if someone else also develops that standard, then we are simplifying that process. If there is any other agency in the fray, then BIS can entrust the work of testing and licensing to them also. After that, only the goods manufactured by the scheduled industry came under mandatory marking. Now the Union Government has been authorized in the national interest, from the point of view of national security, from the point of view of public safety, from the point of view of health, environment and from the point of view of unfair trade. Because of all this, BIS will be burdened with work and we cannot bring so many scientists, we do not want any inspector raj to be re-established. So, we



will be able to make self-declaration for certification, that is, the private producers, if they want, they may declare that their goods are in conformity with BIS standards and we declare it. We will recognize it too, but in case of a complaint, we will inquire into that complaint. It's not that our inspector... *(Interruptions)* Please give suggestions, when you speak. All I have to say is that the BIS does not have as much manpower to award certification. If you go and see, the number of standards developed by China is five thousand, as against our mere 87, whereas in WTO nearly 800 standards have been developed.

Our main objective is to simplify the process. People from the private sector... *(Interruptions)* We adopt the standards that have been developed by different institutions and different departments. Secondly, if the private company also says that they have made goods in conformity with the standards, we will also adopt them because if we say that we are going to test it and adopt it, then I am afraid that the inspectors, would start interfering so much that that it will be difficult to move forward. So, in open market, we leave it on the market, when that product will come into the market and there would be a complaint, then we will test on the basis of that complaint. In the same way, we have simplified the process, but have made the punishment more stringent. Earlier it was not covered under cognizable offence, but now essential products will come under cognizable offence. Secondly, the amount of fine of Rs 50,000 has now been increased to a minimum of Rs 1 lakh and in case of essential products, up to Rs 2 lakh and up to ten times the sales of a

year. Earlier there was a provision of one year jail term, which has now been increased to two years. It has also been said that if there is a mark on the goods, but the quality of the goods is poor, such goods can be returned. If the consumer suffers loss, there will also be a provision for compensation for the loss. In addition to it, a provision for settlement of dispute etc. has also been made that instead of lingering on of petty issues, litigation etc., if the matter is settled by mutual fine etc. it will be better... *(Interruptions)* Regarding the hallmarking, we have said that the Union Government has been empowered to enable hallmarking for gold, silver etc. Recently, we have made a provision for hallmarking of precious metals. You know that gold, silver etc. range from nine carat to 22 carat, when a poor person goes to buy gold or silver he does not come to know whether he is buying nine carat items or 22 carat items. He is charged for 22 carats and the goods given to him are of nine carats. I have said that every jewelry shop should take care of all these things.

### **18.00 hours**

But hallmarking is not yet compulsory for jewelers. I have said that if the Government wants, it can be made mandatory. Service sector is smaller, it will be included in it. These are the main features. I have more figures, but I will not go into them till we receive suggestions and amendments from the stakeholders. With these words, it is requested that this Bill be taken into consideration.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a national standards body for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, conformity assessment and quality assurance of goods, articles, processes, systems and services, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

---

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, it is six o'clock now. If the House agrees, we can extend the time by one hour for 'Zero Hour'. I think the House will agree.

Now, we are taking up 'Zero Hour'.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Nobody said 'Yes'.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That means, it is accepted. That means, silence is all approval.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (PHULPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, there is a serious problem of unemployment in Uttar Pradesh and I would like to draw the attention of the House to those who are facing this problem.

Sir, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has taken arbitrary decisions in the past few days. The first arbitrary decision is that a person has been appointed as the Chairman of the Public Service Commission, who had corruption and criminal cases against him. I had raised this matter in the House earlier also, but our views were not accepted. The High Court also dismissed that Chairman. The Supreme Court also rejected him. The man had done 40 thousand recruitments. How can the recruitments made by the person who was rejected, be accepted?

Sir, the Uttar Pradesh government recruited 1 lakh 75 thousand Shiksha Mitras and made them teachers and those who had passed the teacher Eligibility test... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is a State subject; it cannot be raised here.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA:** Sir, I can raise the matter of my area in Zero Hour in this House... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is a State subject. Let your members raise it in the Assembly there.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Uttar Pradesh is half of the country... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I cannot allow it.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** A State subject cannot be raised here.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is a State subject. Do not raise it here. It cannot be taken up here. If you raise this subject here, it will create a bad precedent.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I wish to submit in the House about the delay of paddy. *(Interruptions)* So far,

paddy procurement has not been done in Bihar. For the past many years, whenever the time comes to buy paddy... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Some other matter you can raise.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI RANJIT RANJAN:** Every time the paddy of the farmers remains unsold and in absence of timely procurement, the condition of the farmers is worsening day by day... *(Interruptions)* This time the government is procuring paddy through PACS... *(Interruptions)* But till now the paddy of the farmers has not been purchased in Bihar. The MSP has been fixed at Rs 1410. Last time it was Rs 1360, the bonus of Rs 300 was given by the Bihar government on it....*(Interruptions)* This time MSP has been fixed at Rs 1410 and the state government has just spoken verbally about Rs 300 bonus on it. *(Interruptions)* But the biggest thing is that paddy of farmers is not always procured on time due to middlemen and brokers. This time there is drought there due to the weather conditions. Almost all the districts of Bihar are reeling under drought. Paddy produce is negligible. However, the paddy has not been lifted yet. One is the pathetic condition of farmers there due to drought and the other total value has been fixed at Rs. 1410 only, it has been said that Rs. 1450 will be given to 'A' grade. The government never pays at 'A' grade price to the farmers as the middlemen and brokers do not let the farmer's produce to be

reckoned as 'A' grade. 80percent of the farmers sell their paddy in the market through middlemen for Rs. 600, 800 and 900 and the government buys paddy from the same 10 percent business class. Then how will the farmers benefit?

I would like to tell the government that by eliminating brokers in some way, the government can collect the paddy of the farmers at the right time but not at Rs 1410, but because of the pathetic condition of the farmers due to drought this time, their MSP should be at least Rs 1800.

Secondly, I want to say that this time in Bihar, a special package should be given to Bihar by the Government of India for farmers. Thank you.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Member, you can raise any other matter but not the State matters.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Do not raise any State matters. You can raise any other matter. You will be allowed.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It cannot be taken up in this House. You can raise any matter related to your constituency. I am permitting it.

*... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA:** Hon Deputy Speaker Sir, Today, more than 1.75 lakh trained educators, nearly 2 lakh teachers eligibility test-qualified but unemployed youth, and over 1 lakh youth holding degrees in physical education are facing severe uncertainty, with many compelled to protest on the streets due to lack of employment opportunities. Through you, Sir, I urge the Government of India to pay immediate attention to the plight of the 1.75 lakh educators who were recruited under the aegis of the Government of Uttar Pradesh. There has been a perception that, under the protection of the state machinery, norms were overlooked — as the saying goes, *"When your own becomes the watchman, what is there to fear?"*...*(Interruptions)* Sir, I am concluding — I humbly request that I should not be interrupted, as this is a very crucial matter. I am raising it before the Union Government with utmost seriousness, and I seek your indulgence to allow me to complete. Our 1.75 lakh Shiksha Mitras, despite their dedication and service, were not empowered with the status or recognition necessary to be appointed as full-fledged teachers...  
\*Additionally, nearly 2 lakh youth who have successfully cleared the Teacher Eligibility Test (TET) remain unemployed, despite having fulfilled all the qualifications required for appointment.... \*

---

\* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.



*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** That is all right. Leave the matter now. That is all.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr. Virendra Kumar – not present.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA:** 46 thousand recruitments were made in the Public Service Commission. I request the Central Government to conduct a CBI inquiry in this matter.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

*... (Interruptions)... \*\**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The allegations would not go on record.

Shri Satish Chandra Dubey.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Ram Charitra Nishad, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri

---

**\*\*** Not recorded.

Vinod Kumar Sonkar are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SATISH CHANDRA DUBEY (VALMIKI NAGAR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, today the farmer in the state of Bihar is suffering from drought on the one hand and the other farmer who has got a little paddy, his paddy is not even being purchased by paying a fair price. Farmers are forced to sell their paddy through middlemen.

Secondly, I want to say that sugarcane is the main crop of our country. Wheat has to be sown. The farmer is sowing wheat today with the help of irrigation and pumping sets. He is also sowing sugarcane. Irrigation has to be done three-three times to harvest one crop but he does not get a fair price for it. Whether it is sugarcane, wheat or paddy.

I urge you that drought should be declared in Bihar and the price of sugarcane of the farmer should be increased and the farmers should be strengthened by giving them fair price. Today the farmer is becoming more and more helpless day by day. I need your protection on the matter, I want to tell the government through you that today the farmer is anxious given his compulsion and helplessness. I want the Union Government to pay attention to my demands. Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI A. ANWHAR RAAJHAA (RAMANATHAPURAM):** Thank you, hon. deputy-speaker, Sir. The whole of our country is patient and tolerant in waiting to watch, how this Union Government would like to remember Dr. Kalam. A great inspiration to most of our Indian youth today is Dr. A.P.J Abdul Kalam. As people's President, he was loved by masses especially students and children. He made youth to believe in themselves. He gave them great hope that we all together can make India a super power. The entire nation was in grief at his sudden demise that was mourned all over the country. Many people desire a befitting memorial Museum in the national capital for Dr. Kalam. With that, our great culture of respecting noble national souls would have been demonstrated. But in an uncultured manner, all of Dr. Kalam's humble belongings were bundled out from Delhi. The whole country is ashamed of these uncivilised activities. So, I raise this issue now.

At this juncture, I would like to point out that our respected leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu was the first one to institute prestigious awards, prizes and schemes in honour of Dr. Kalam.

The Government of Tamil Nadu gave away one and a half acres of land for Dr. Kalam Memorial to be raised in Peikarumbu in Rameswaram Taluk.

Rs. 5 lakh Annual Award and eight-gram Gold Medal to meritorious Defence scientists with citation are being given.

Every year, Dr. Kalam's birthday will be observed as 'Youth Awakening Day'.

We, the people of India, need to perpetuate the memory of that great visionary, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. He dedicated his entire life in the service of the nation. So, the place where he resided till his last, No. 10 Rajaji Marg, New Delhi must be made a National Memorial Museum. Even the meek but smart Delhi Government is about to set up a National Knowledge Centre for Dr. Kalam. Whereas the mighty BJP Government is not making any praiseworthy effort in the National Capital for Dr. Abdul Kalam.

I would urge upon the Union Government to take immediate and urgent steps to fulfil the wishes of crores of youths of the country.

Thank you.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Sir, I would like to associate with the matter raised by the hon. Member. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Sir, it is an important matter. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Whoever wants to associate with Shri Anhwara Raajhaa can send slips to the Table.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu, Shri Dushyant Chautala, Shri P.K. Biju, Shri Ajay Misra Teni, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan and Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri A. Anhwara Raajhaa.

Shri P. Srinivasa Reddy – not present.

Now, Shri Nishikant Dubey.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the battle that AIADMK and Bhartiya Janata Party fought together and which made a major contribution to establish the rule of NDA was 2-G. Today, the statement of the former Minister of Finance has been published in all the newspapers. The statement is that the government is trying to harass him by becoming vindictive. A minister in the same government, who was a former telecom minister, is being continuously investigated by the CBI on the orders of the Supreme Court. He has alleged that an ED officer is after him and the entire government is after him. But when Arun Shourie Sahab, Jaswant Singh Sahab, C.P. Thakur Sahab were constantly being called by the same UPA government, for some reason or the other, the NDA never said that they are vindictive. I want to bring some facts before you. The raid was conducted on that FIPB clearance was given on 23.03.2006, it was for Aircel Maxis in 2-G spectrum. The issue was that clearance given to Aircel Maxis by FIPB at that time, when a foreign company was permitted to hold 74% shares in an Indian firm. And the remaining 26% stake would be of an Indian company. Syndia Securities, which procured 26% of this equity, wrote in FIPB that they lacked funds and that sovereign guarantee was given to the same Aircel-Maxis because Maxis said that if they procure Aircel then they will buy the entire hundred percent shares and not 74 percent. Sovereign guarantee was given to it. On 23.03.2006 FIPB gives clearance and on 29.03.2006 Rs. 26 lakhs are given to Advantage

Strategic Consulting Private Limited (ASCPL). The Advantage Strategic is the one on which raid was conducted yesterday. Advantage Strategic is one such company, which belonged to the son of the former Minister of Finance; Halidon Marketing Pvt Ltd., Chess Health Care Pvt. Ltd. and Chess Management Pvt. Ltd.; these three companies were such in the accounts of which there was continuous inflow and outflow of Rs. 50 thousand, Rs. one lakh and sometimes Rs. two lakh from the year 2006 to the year 2011. Not only this, in the year 2011 that company suddenly goes into the hands of the former...<sup>\*</sup> Minister's son, the entire ownership rights go into his hands... *(Interruptions)* ... <sup>\*</sup> goes into the hands of the minister's son. IT has said about that company, it is most important, IT has said that Rs. 74 crore was the evaluation.

*[English]*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Sir, this is not fair... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Mr. Venugopal, I will call you.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY:** ED evaluates the overall worth of the company at Rs. 25 crores whereas this company is purchased for Rs. 15 lakhs...

---

<sup>\*</sup> Not recorded.

*(Interruptions)* K C Venugopal Sahib is interrupting because today he is accused of taking Rs 35 lakh ...*(Interruptions)* In solar... *(Interruptions)* Because giving and accepting bribes are both crimes... *(Interruptions)* One allegation has been levelled against him. ... *(Interruptions)* I urge you that the kind of situation that has developed, because the FIPB Board was not authorized to give clearance beyond Rs. 600 crores at that time. ... *(Interruptions)* In the FIR, chargesheet filed by CBI on 29-08-2014, the clearance of FIPB is illegal... *(Interruptions)* I request the government through you to give immediate instructions to the CBI to bring out the truth and send the former Minister of Finance to the Jail immediately. Jai Hind Jai Bharat.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Shri Bhairon Prasad Misra, Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar, Shri Ram Charitra Nishad, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, Kumari Shobha Karandlaje, Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Nishikant Dubey

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Yes, Mr. K.C. Venugopal.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** Sir, while using an opportunity in the 'Zero Hour', the hon. Member has made serious allegations. He can make an allegation by giving it in writing. Hon. Chidambaram ji and his son are not in this House. Those who are not in the House are not in a position to reply or defend themselves on allegations made against them... *(Interruptions)* Even though any allegation he can make but it should be made as per the rules. But here he has made the allegation during 'Zero Hour' without any prior notice. Is it allowable, Sir? So, those allegations should be expunged... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, you have already ruled it in case of a Member from UP, while he was making some allegations... *(Interruptions)* You have already given a ruling in the earlier case... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please take your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, I am also endorsing him... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR):** We are not making any allegation, but we are demanding a CBI inquiry... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If at all, he has used any name, that name cannot be there. But merely saying 'a former Minister', means anybody may be a former Minister. That cannot be taken up for removal. If at all, he has mentioned any particular name, that name can be removed. But if he has not mentioned a name, how can that be removed?



... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** He has made allegations... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Now, Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** Sir, you have already ruled it in the previous case when a Member from UP was speaking.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I will go through that. If at all there is any ruling that can be seen.

**SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** Thank you, Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir... *(Interruptions)* Can I request to bring the House in order, Sir? ...*(Interruptions)* I need to be audible... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Mr. Venugopal, I will go through that ruling if at all that kind of a ruling has been given, I would go through that and do it accordingly.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** How can there be two types of rulings on a similar thing? ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** This is not so.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** If at all I have given any ruling, as you are saying, I will go through that.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Sir, while narrating about the raid that happened yesterday or a day before, it came out from my friend, Nishikant ji's mouth about Venugopal ji, about an allegation, which has been published. He should be allowed to explain that. Otherwise, that may be deleted. This is my request. You can consider it.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Yes, Sir. He mentioned one report from *The Indian Express*... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He has not mentioned any report.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** He has mentioned a report... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I will go through the records... *(Interruptions)*

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Shall we take any allegation? ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is not an allegation.

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH:** He has mentioned about Chidambaram's son.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, he has not mentioned about Chidambaram's son. If at all if he has mentioned that name, that name will be removed. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** This is very painful in my life actually to explain my stand on such an allegation made by hon. Member. He is quoting a criminal

who is sentenced to life term imprisonment for murdering his wife - life term imprisonment for murdering his own wife. He quoted the word of that prisoner.

First of all, I wish to tell you that I have never seen. I am telling this thing to this august House. You believe or not, I have never seen this person in my life till today who has raised this allegation against me. During the Parliament elections or so, opposition parties made CBI allegations against me. But people elected me and because of the majority, I am here.

Sir, please note that he has made similar allegations against so many persons. All those allegations are totally baseless and illogical. There is no logic in his deposition that I got any kind of favour. What he alleged is that I gave some renewable energy concession and I promised him to give some renewable energy concession. I had never held the portfolio of Renewable Energy. Renewable Energy portfolio was with Farooq Abdullah Ji. I was only with Power Ministry. Anyway, he has submitted his deposition to the Judicial Inquiry Commission. I want all politicians to be beyond suspicion. I started my public career from 13 years onward as a student leader. I was the President of Kerala Students' Union. I was the President of Kerala Youth Congress. I was three time MLA and one time Kerala Minister. Now, I am here. Therefore, every politician and the people's representative should be beyond suspicion. Therefore, Judicial Commission is there. Judicial Commission can inquire.

Finally, I swear that if he can timely establish any single bit of truth about any of these allegations through a proper inquiry, I will not hold this position

of a public servant and firmly I wish to inform that I will not continue this career also Mr. Nishikant.

**SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA:** Thank you so much Sir for giving me an opportunity to bring forward a very important issue before this august House. ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I come from Balasore district in the coastal belt of Odisha which is one of the most literate districts in the Eastern India. But the unfortunate part is that our economic conditions are not good at all. Our per capita income is just Rs. 19,000 whereas our State average is Rs. 28,000.

Sir, in 2006, nine years back, the Government of Odisha signed an MOU to set up all-weather port in Baliapal in my district. After that, several milestones have been achieved including rail-road clearance, the environmental clearance, NOC from DRDO but the pity is that till today, not a single inch of physical work has started. Now, the Government of India has started the Sagarmala project with 70,000 crore of rupees investment. My submission to the Government of India through you is that kindly do include the Baliapal port in Balasore district of Odisha and declare it as a Coastal Economic Zone and make our district and my constituency prosper. Thank you so much.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Thank you Sir. Firstly, I must thank you for allowing Mr. Venugopal to make his reply. If we make this habit of shouting allegations against other Members in the House without notice, you should not allow. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** You tell your thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** It is a good thing that you gave him a chance to reply. Otherwise, so many allegations can be made against so many people which I do not want to do.

Sir, there has been a tremendous rise in the price of pulses over the last one year affecting millions of common people for whom pulses are the major source of vegetable protein. Price of *arhar dal* has crossed Rs.200 per kilogram and is clearly beyond the capacity of the common people to buy pulses at this price. Compared to one year ago, prices of groundnut, *toor dal*, *urad dal*, *moong dal*, and *masoor dal* have risen by 53 per cent, 99 per cent, 86 per cent, 14.45 per cent and 26.77 per cent recently. So you can see that the highest rise is in the price of *toor dal*. Now again compared to six months ago, they have risen by 21.16 per cent, 61.87 per cent, 51.16 per cent, 6.16 per cent and 15.38 per cent respectively.

Sir, the targeted production for pulses this year was 20.05 million tonnes. The actual production in 2014-15 was 17.2 million tonnes. But there is a huge shortfall as demand has risen from 22.68 million metric tonnes to 23.62 million metric tonnes. So, there is a shortage of about 5-6 million metric tonnes of pulses.

Imports this year have not happened. It was only 1.9 million metric tonnes up to August. Now even after that, it is obvious that some businessmen have hoarded pulses in a big way. There have been some raids throughout the country. As compared to a demand of 22 million metric tonnes, the total

quantity seized in raids throughout the country was only 1,33,000 metric tonnes. The Government needs to immediately step up raids and de-hoarding of hidden stocks of pulses to save the common man. They must take steps to import pulses to alleviate the sufferings of the common man who is not able to consume *dal*. There are allegations that some of these traders are getting protection from the ruling party.

I urge an immediate action in this matter and inquiry into why prices of pulses have risen to such skyrocketing levels. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri P.K. Biju and Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Prof. Saugata Roy.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI LALLU SINGH (FAIZABAD):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I want to bring to the notice of the Government that law and order in Uttar Pradesh is continuously deteriorating and there is hooliganism, looting, and murders of conscientious officers. In our territory also, 5-7 such incidents have happened continuously within 20-25 days so we want to bring them to the notice of the Government through you.

On the night of November 11, at Beldarkepurway in Ashapur Majra in Ayodhya Kotwali, a youth of the home guard, his entire family was tied up and thrashed by some people. Adjacent to it in a village called Shahnawa. Dinanath Singh, who was a brick kiln employee, his family was also was tied up and thrashed, the women were beaten up, the entire family was killed. At least 11

people were injured in that incident. Similarly, on 16th, a reputed trader of Sarafa at Patranga Mandi in Patranga police station area, who also had security arrangements, his security personnel were tied up and gold and silver looted from that shop. The loot amounted to Rs. ten lakhs.

On 17th at twelve noon in Patranga police station area, more than two lakh rupees were looted from a bike salesman named Anup Kumar Jaiswal during the day. On the 17th itself, Kailash Kaushal, who was a jeweller at Mawai.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** What is this? Do not raise State subjects. State subjects cannot be taken up during ‘Zero Hour’.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI LALLU SINGH:** Sir, we are demanding from the Union Government in this regard.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, you cannot raise these issues.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Ram Charitra Nishad, Kunwar

Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Lallu Singh.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR):** Hon Deputy Speaker Sir, I have come to you today to take up the matter of the procurement of paddy in the State of Haryana... *(Interruptions)* This year, 42 lakh metric tons were procured in the State of Haryana. MSP of paddy was fixed by the Central Government at Rs. 1400-1450. ... *(Interruptions)* In the state of Haryana, paddy was lifted at Rs 100-200 per quintal less price from farmers showing moisture in the paddy.... *(Interruptions)* Paddy was purchased by the State Government, but if it was purchased from the farmers at Rs. 100 lesser price, then it is a scam of about Rs. 10,000 crores, in which many officers, employees and politicians are involved.

Sir, through you, I demand from the Union Government that where there has been such a big bungling in the procurement of paddy, it should be investigated by making an SIT, as paddy worth Rs. 1450 per quintal was procured at Rs. 1250 per quintal. Today, the same paddy is being exported at Rs 3100-3200 per quintal. In this way, traders have taken away crores of rupees from the pocket of the farmers.

My demand is that the farmer should be returned that money in some way or the other and the government should severely punish those who are guilty.



**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, construction of RCC Bridge connecting Bagmati River and Lalbakeya River between Adoori of Sheohar district and Khodi Pakad of East Champaran district in my parliamentary constituency is quite necessary in public interest and in the interest of farmers. With the construction of this bridge, along with connecting the three districts of my parliamentary constituency - Sheohar, Sitamarhi and East Champaran - the distance to Bettiah-Raxaul and Janakpur, which is on the border of Nepal, will be reduced considerably and the post-independence dream of the people there will be fulfilled. This will benefit a large population. Also, due to direct connectivity of East Champaran and Sheohar districts, the sugarcane of the farmers of Sitamarhi district will be easily available. This will reduce the distance by about 30 kms and approximately 25,000 cultivators will start giving their sugarcane to the sugar mill directly. This will enable economic development of villages adjacent to East Champaran and Sheohar districts and also increase the revenue of the Government.

Therefore, the Government is requested through the House that in the larger interest of the people, appropriate action should be taken to build RCC Bridge between Adauri and Khorī Pakad, so that this backward area becomes prosperous in the matter of development.

**SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the restriction imposed by the Central Government on new industrial finance

investments pertaining to pollution in the industrial belt of Batwa, Vapi, and Ankleshwar in Gujarat. In 2009, a demand has been made by the Gujarat government to retain the old parameters by revoking the new parameters of industrial pollution. Recently, our first woman Chief Minister Smt. Anandiben Patel has also repeated this demand. Due to this, all the three industrial areas will be able to come out of the ban. In 2009, the Central Pollution Control Board, taking strict measures to curb industrial pollution in the country, reduced the old standard of Chemical Oxygen Demand (COD) in flowing industrial pollution from 500 ml per liter to 205 ml. The old parameter of biochemical oxygen demand BOD was 100 ml per liter, it has been converted to 50 ml and the new parameter of ammoniacal nitrogen has been reduced to 100 ml per liter.

As per the latest data from the Gujarat Government, it was requested that a ban be imposed on construction of new industrial units and expansion of existing industrial units in Ankleshwar from the year 2007 and in Vapi, Vatva from the year 2010. But after this, within the last 5 Year, steps were taken by the industrialists themselves in the upgradation of the Common effluent Treatment Plant in these three areas.

In total, Rs 8,500 crore have been spent by the GIDC Gujarat government in mitigating pollution. Due to which 70 percent pollution has decreased in Vapi, 75 in Ankleshwar and 50 percent in Vatva.

Due to the ban, the MoU for new finance investment of Rs 8,500 crore in the three sectors is not being done, which is harmful for Gujarat and the country.

Therefore, I demand from the government that the industrial pollution criteria of the year 2009 should be cancelled.

*[Translation]*

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the incident of contempt of National Anthem at Kurla PVR Cinema in Mumbai. The prevailing legislation *[English]* The Prevention of Insults to National Honor Act, 1971, it categorically states that whenever the national anthem is sung or played, the audience shall stand in attention. *[Translation]* Two days prior, in that cinema hall, some people disrespected the national anthem and did not stand up. I would like to especially mention that at that time, the rest of the audience in the theatre expressed a concern about that family. Through this, I would like to request to the august House and the Ministry of Home Affairs that the duty and responsibility of every citizen towards the National Anthem should be shown among citizens throughout the country and this sentiment should be instilled that they should stand up and show respect during the time of playing the National Anthem. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kirit Somaiya.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA):** Sir, the decision to lay domestic gas pipeline in the year 2008 in Kota city of Rajasthan was taken by the then Government. In the year 2009, an aim was set to provide connections to one lakh houses in the entire five years. By the year 2015, only 190 people have been given connections by GAIL India Company. Even after depositing money for household gas connections of 75 thousand people, their domestic gas pipeline connections were not given for seven years.

I request the Central Government that the Ministry should immediately intervene and take immediate action against GAIL India Company for the consumers who have been duped by them for the domestic gas pipeline which they are waiting for. The GAIL India Company did not meet those standards in pipeline laying work. As a result, the pipeline was wasted. A loss of Rs 22 crore has been incurred. I request that the Government should take immediate action to provide gas connection facility to 75 thousand people who are waiting for it within a certain time period.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Om Birla.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the absence of National Highway in any district even after 67 years of independence, there is no pleasant situation for the people there. Our government announced the National Highway No. - 11 in the year 2014, which was sanctioned up to Fatehpur, Mandawa, Jhunjhunu, Chirawa, Singhana, Haryana border.

I want to know from the Road Transport Minister through you that as of now, we do not know what is the progress of the work. Whether the DPR has been made or DPR has not been made, work has not started, where has that progress reached even after two years? Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI):** Thank you very much, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. I am raising a very important issue that is pertaining to the NRI voting right.

It is quite unfortunate that this House agreed to it; the Government of India agreed to it; the Election Commission agreed to it; and the Supreme Court Okayed it. In spite of all these things, it is not taking place. It is a very deplorable thing. NRI voting right decision was taken by this august House,

which was a revolutionary step that we had taken. But, unfortunately, that decision has not been implemented.

We know that there are 10 million Indian citizens working abroad. An average of 18,000 voters is there in 543 Parliamentary Constituencies of India. It is the Government of India's stand and I feel that it is negative thing as they should have taken some more interest in it. India being the biggest democracy in the world, we should show a model to the entire world in this. It is quite unfortunate that the Government is not taking any interest in this issue.

Coming to the Kerala situation, Kerala is going to polls in the first half of 2016. The Kerala Government has requested the Government of India and the Election Commission to expedite action on this issue. As far as Kerala is concerned, we all know that there is high influence of NRI remittance in Kerala's very economy. We are having a special interest in it. As far as Kerala is concerned, its NRI remittance crossed Rs. One lakh crore in March 2015, which is 17 per cent hike than last year. The deposit in the public sector banks by the NRIs in Kerala is Rs. 64,700 crore and in private banks it is Rs. 14,900 crore, which may even go up to Rs. 2 Lakh crore.

As regards the NRI voting rights, even though, we have all agreed to it and this House was proud enough in giving consent to it. Why the Government of India is taking such a reluctant stand? I would appeal to the Government of India to implement this and show honesty in it. The Government of India should take immediate action on getting this thing implemented in our country,

and the entire country will be proud enough to get this idea into action. Thank you, Sir.

**SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI):** Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir. The North East Monsoon has witnessed extremely heavy rainfall and subsequent floods resulted in heavy damages and extensive disturbance to life and properties in the entire Tamil Nadu.

The Government of Tamil Nadu under the dynamic and efficient leadership of our hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, has sought support from the National Disaster Response Fund for flood damages. The Inter-Ministerial Central team deputed by the Union Government has visited different places affected by floods in the State.

Hon. Prime Minister expressed his deep anguish and grief about the loss of lives in Tamil Nadu due to continuous rain and floods, and was saddened to witness devastation and deaths in Tamil Nadu and expressed faith in the strength of Tamil Nadu. He had spoken to our hon. Chief Minister Amma and assured full support and cooperation from the Centre.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider this calamity as a natural calamity and release the amount of Rs. 8,480.93 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund immediately. Thank you.

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA):** I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

I wish to draw the attention of this House to a very important issue of 'One Rank, One Pension' relating to the Defence personnel. This issue has been hanging fire for a long time. A disquieting situation has arisen following the non-implementation of the decision taken by the previous Government. Shri A.K. Antony was the Defence Minister then, and budgetary allocation was also made in the last Budget presented by the UPA Government. The present dispensation also reiterated that the proposal has been accepted by the Government in letter and spirit.

I have a reply from the present Defence Minister to my submission in this august House, "that modalities are being finalized by taking all stakeholders on board." So much water has flown under the bridge. The retired Defence personnel are on a warpath, and the apathy and the negligence of the Government forced them to move the issue before the Supreme Court. The Government is dilly-dallying on the issue. The attitude of the Government will have a reflection on the morale and discipline of the serving personnel of the Army in a bigger way.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to implement 'One Rank, One Pension' for the Defence/Army personnel. Thank you.



*[Translation]*

**SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to place before the Government the issue of the Central University of my Lok Sabha constituency. Education is very important for any society and for the Government. During the previous UPA government, Central University was sanctioned for the Dehra place of my Lok Sabha constituency Hamirpur and part of it was to be built in Dharamshala. A large space was made available in Dehra. Environment clearance was also taken for it. Now it has become compulsory that even though the Central Government wants, the work is not being done there because the State Government is dividing one district in two halves. Their focus is limited only to Dharamshala. In order to show new land, work cannot be started at places where approval was granted earlier. Through you, I have only one request to the government the land that has to be seen in Dharamshala, choose the land which is to be chosen, but in Dehra, where hundreds of acres of land has been proposed to the center through the state government, environment clearance has been given, why is the foundation stone not being laid by the Union Government and why the State Government is not allowing that work to proceed. If India has to become a knowledge hub, then it is very important to have such educational institutions. It should not be made a victim of politics only; it should be constructed as soon as possible and the children there should be given an opportunity to study. Thank you.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

**SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI):** Hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has urged the Centre to expedite interlinking of rivers through necessary legislation in order to facilitate implementation of the Peninsular Grid, involving linking of Mahanadhi – Godavari – Krishna – Pennar – Palar – Cauvery – Vaigai - Gundar. Further, the Tamil Nadu Government has programmed to implement the linking of Pennaiyar (Sathanur Dam) – Palar link, Pennaiyar (Nedungal Anicut) – Palar link, Cuavery (Mettur Dam) – Sarabanga link, Athikadavu – Avinashi Flood Canal Scheme and Tamirabarani – Karumeniyar – Nambiyar link. I, therefore, request the Centre to extend financial assistance to Tamil Nadu for the projects including land acquisition. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, my Lok Sabha constituency is an extremely beautiful region naturally surrounded by rivers and forests, which houses the only Reserve Forest Dudhwa National Park of Uttar Pradesh, where many species of lion, leopard, rhino, elephant and deer etc. are found. Along with this, Lakhimpur district has historical,

mythological, religious and scientific importance. Goswami Tulsidas Ji made it his abode and wrote the Ramcharitmanas, whose manuscript is also available here. Along with this there is also a Frog Temple based on Geometrical and Mathematical features. There is evidence that during the time of Mahabharata, the Pandavas had stayed here during their exile. A Naga Yajna was also performed by Raja Parikshit in Lakhimpur. There is a temple of Lord Shiva in Gola, also known as Chhoti Kashi. There is a Kali Temple, Antarveda Ashram, Sankata Devi Temple and temples of mythological importance of Milauti Nath. I request the government through you that the Ramayana circuit which is being built to promote tourism should also include Lakhimpur and it should be given an important place in the tourism sector.

*[English]*

**SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM):** I thank you, hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak in Zero Hour. I would like to raise an issue which I had already raised in the previous Session and I am compelled to do it because it is a very serious and sensitive issue. It has been unresolved till now.

The issue that I want to raise is about the four persons who were kidnapped in the country of Libya on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July of this year. Out of the four Indians, two of them are from Karnataka and two of them are from Andhra Pradesh. Within two weeks' of time, two of them from Karnataka were released as they were identified to be in the teaching profession. Though the people from Andhra Pradesh were also in the teaching profession, yet they are

not released till now. One of them is from my constituency. His name is Shri Gopalakrishnan and the other one is from Shri Malla Reddy's constituency. Those two are still kept captive with the ISIS. We have got the family members and we have met the Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the External Affairs Minister. They have all assured complete assistance from the Central Government. But it has been five months and there has been no communication from their side. We have been talking to the parents of those families. It is very hard to express the pain and sorrow that they are going through. Our only request to the External Affairs Ministry and the Central Government is to let us know whether they are alive or not so that we can give the news. Otherwise, it is very difficult for these families. I would request the Central Government to take this at utmost priority.

**DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI):** Sir, in Manivizhunthan village of Salem District, Sarvoy Railway Station was built by the Britishers in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. The Railway Station was functional and operational for more than 70 years till 2007. In 2007 when the Railways converted the Salem to Cuddalre meter-gauge to broad-gauge, the Railway Station was not re-established and the Station became defunct.

The general public and the President of the Village have written to the Railways for the reconstruction of the Railway Station. The Railways have demanded about Rs.40 lakh as the contribution from the village and want the amount to be deposited with the Railways. When the Panchayat itself is finding it very difficult to meet the basic needs like providing drinking water,

providing drainage facilities and providing road facilities, how can the Railways demand Rs.40 lakh from the general public? Hence, I would request the hon. Railway Minister to instruct the Southern Railway authorities to re-establish the Railway Station without insisting for the money under the Sharmadham Scheme.

**SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with due respect I would like to draw the attention of hon. Human Resource Development Minister through you to a serious problem that has arisen due to fund crisis at the Murshidabad Centre of Aligarh Muslim University.

The Centre established in the year 2010 and spread over 288 acres of land, is aimed at providing quality education in Murshidabad District at affordable fees. The Centre is committed to secular ideas and is providing education to all sections of the society. Currently the Centre is running three courses only due to lack of infrastructure.

It is learnt from the institution that an amount of Rs.107.8 crore have been sanctioned by Government of India, Ministry of Finance vide their letter No.MHRD3-9/2008 desk(u) dated 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2013, out of which Rs.40 crore have been released. The amount released has almost been completely utilized and now the Education Centre is facing a financial crunch.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister through you, Sir, to have the remaining grant released at the earliest. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR):** Hon Deputy Speaker Sir, in the year 1985, the Government of India had entered into an international treaty with other countries according to which it had to stop producing opium plants and cultivation of opium here. At the same time, as per the opium policy formulated in consonance with the treaty, all the people who were addicted to poppy husk were to be freed from the addiction within three years. India's opium policy was formulated in the year 1985, after that no concrete work was done in that direction for thirty years. From Jodhpur in western Rajasthan to Bikaner, in almost all the districts of these two divisions, in the Thar desert traditionally people consume opium and doda poppy. Now, because of this treaty, the pressure to completely stop opium production and the production and circulation of poppy husk has increased. Whereas, despite the treaty for the last thirty years, the drug poppy husk is being made available in every village through government contracts. As a result of such a situation, when the production was reduced suddenly, lakhs and thousands of people who are addicts, stand in queues for three, four and five hours. Due to this, black marketing of Doda poppy has started. Now the Government is going to shut it down. But no work has been done for de-addiction and rehabilitation, so the lives of thousands of people have been put under threat. Our state government has sent a proposal to make de-addiction and rehabilitation centers in Jodhpur.

I would like to request the Government of India through you to immediately declare the Rs. 175 crore that has been demanded for that rehabilitation and research centers, so that relief can be provided to the people by de-addiction.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, diversification of Agriculture was propagated across the country by the Government of India. Farmers across the country were asked to sow crops that consume least water and whose duration of maturity is minimal. Punjab, which is considered the land of water, is facing a water crisis there. The farmer of Punjab adopted it. Basmati is a paddy crop. The farmers planted Basmati crop and got support from the Punjab government in the form of uninterrupted power supply, due to which the crop was full. In the last year, the value of that crop continued to be from Three thousand to Five thousand rupees a quintal. Unfortunately, this year the farmer got only Fourteen-Fifteen Hundred rupees a quintal. The export policy was delayed, because there were no agreements with the foreign countries. As a result, the farmers got looted. Today, the export policy has been made in the country, which is now brought by the Modi government. Today, that crop has a value from Three Thousand rupees to Thirty Five Hundred rupees per quintal. The middlemen, who were traders, earned crores of rupees, but the farmers were robbed. I request the

government through you that the farmer should be compensated somewhere. Our hon. Chief Minister has also written a letter to the Government of India in this regard.

Secondly, I also want to add that there should be a Basmati Corporation for purchasing Basmati. Just like there is CCI, Trade Corporation, similarly, there should be Basmati Corporation. There are 22 crops covered under MSP. Apart from these 22 crops, 23<sup>rd</sup> crop of Basmati should be covered under MSP and the Farmer should be given compensation for Basmati purchased at lesser cost.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra.

**19.00 hours**

**SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, with a lot of thanks to our visionary leader Amma, I would like to draw the attention of Minister of Railways through this august House. Some trains go through my constituency once or twice a week. They may be operated as daily trains.

Silambu Express from Chennai to Manamadurai may be operated as a daily train instead of being operated as a bi-weekly train. Rameswaram-Coimbatore Express may be operated daily instead of weekly. Puducherry-Kanyakumari Express, which is a weekly train, may be operated as a daily



train. Rameswaram-Bhubaneswar Express and Rameswaram-Varanasi Express must have stoppages in Sivagangai, Devakottai and Pudukottai stations. It would be of great help if Pallavan Express terminating at Karaikudi is extended upto Manamadurai.

I would like to request you to provide stoppage for all trains at Thirumayam in Pudukottai district and Muthanenthal in Sivagangai district.

A road over-bridge or a subway must be constructed at Pudhuvayal junction in Karaikudi-Puthuvayal road in my constituency.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. My Lok Sabha constituency is Misrikh. I had also written a letter to the hon. Minister to build an over bridge in the Legislative Assembly Constituency Balamau and I have raised this issue in the House also. Today I want to raise this issue again in the House because this issue is very sensitive. The demand for over bridge in the Balamau Legislative Assembly constituency has been long overdue, but till date it has not been fulfilled. If someone is sick here, he dies there because five-five vehicles pass together causing jam, so there is a great need to construct an over bridge here.

I would like to request the Hon. Railway Minister through you to start the work of over bridge here at the earliest.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is seven o' clock now. There are some more Members to speak. If the Members agree, I can allow each Member one minute to speak.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** We agree, Sir.

**SHRI PRAKASH B. HUKKERI (CHIKKODI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister of Railways towards the urgency of construction of a railway over bridge at Level Crossing Gate No. 438.

Level Crossing Gate No. 438 falls between Raibagh town and Chinchili village in Belagavi district in Karnataka State. Every day, thousands of people from the surrounding areas such as Harugeri, Mugalkhod, Morab, Alagawadi, Bekkeri and several other villages are using the railway crossing. Since there is no ROB at the railway gate, people are facing great inconvenience.

As Raibagh town is a commercial hub and Miraj town is located on the Karnataka-Maharashtra border and also famous for specialized hospital, every day traders, students, office-goers and particularly patients are suffering a lot in the absence of an ROB at the Level Crossing Gate No. 438. About 30 trains move on the said railway section every day.

People including representatives of Gram Panchayat and Taluka Panchayats of the surrounding areas are demanding for an ROB at Level Crossing Gate No. 438.

I also wrote a letter in this regard and I am very much disappointed to know that the Manager, Divisional Office, SWR, Hubli has responded in a very casual manner to this important issue in a communication sent by him.

Hence, I would like to request that keeping in view the growing traffic and road accidents, the Ministry of Railways should take immediate effective steps to construct an ROB at Level Crossing Gate no. 438.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHEDIA (BHILWADA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, in my Lok Sabha constituency in the year 2014-2015, 600 farmers were given licenses to grow opium under the Opium Policy. There was a massive hailstorm in March, 2015 and as a result large quantities of opium crop were destroyed. Under the opium policy, it happens that all the crops that are grown will be given to the institution of the government. When the entire opium crop has been destroyed then from where will they sell it to the government? As a result, their licenses are not renewed. The Union government is delaying their license.

Through you, I request the Finance Ministry to return the opium crop leases to those farmers whose crops have been destroyed due to hailstorm.

[English]

**SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL):** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir.

India is a veritable emporium of medicinal and aromatic plants. It has been estimated that out of 15,000 higher plants occurring in India, 9,000 are commonly useful, of which 7,500 are medicinal, 3,900 are edible, 700 are culturally important, 525 are used for fibre, 400 are fodder, 300 for pesticide and insecticide, 300 for gum, resin, and dye, and 100 for incense and perfume.

In Tamil Nadu, the Forest Department of the Government of hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has established a Medicinal Plants Conseration Area in Alagarmalai Reserve Forest of Alagarkovil Range in Dindigul district.

I urge the Central Government to extend financial assistance to create village clusters to produce medicinal plants in large scale in certain pockets of the district this year. This will help to produce the cash crop *superbily*, whose botanical name is *gloriosa superba* and is popularly known as *kanvali kizhangu* in 65 hectares in Oddanchatram taluk and Pottikampatti, Kallimandhayam, Chikkamanaickenpatti and sixteen other villages in Oddanchatram taluk of my Dindigul constituency. This would bring all these areas under one village cluster to produce this crop.

I urge the Central Government to further develop horticulture farms under the National Horticulture Mission at Ambilikkai near Oddanchatram. I

also request that more clusters be formed for mass production of medicinal plants in one area as such efforts would help buyers purchase large quantities from a single place.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Dr. Kirit Solanki is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri M. Udhayakumar.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the incidents of police atrocities on people protesting in a democratic way in the country are increasing day by day. On October 14 last, the police fired indiscriminately at the Sangat expressing anger against the sacrilege of Sri Guru Granth Sahib Ji at Bahbalkalan village near Kotkapura in Faridkot district of Punjab. Two people died in the incident. The government, which was refusing to file an FIR, after public pressure, registered an FIR but the FIR was registered against an unidentified policeman.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, you will also be surprised to hear this whether the police also sometimes remain unknown. I heard about the unidentified mob, but can the police ever be unknown? There the congregation was expressing their anger and eating langar. The policemen were also eating langar there. The police have to give account of every bullet fired and more than three hundred and fifty bullets were fired there. If the police are unknown, who fired those shots? Who ordered the police to open fire, was he also an unknown officer? It is surprising and the Government wants to save the culprits.

I demand, through you, from the Ministry of Home Affairs to issue orders to the Punjab government that FIR should be registered in the name of the policemen who have opened fire and who have ordered firing so that the culprits get punished and the victims get justice.

**SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to raise an important matter in respect of Uttar Pradesh. Indira Awas Yojana is being run by the Government of India and funds are allocated to the state by the Central Government. Just a while ago I got a letter from the Uttar Pradesh administration from somewhere and I got information through the letter. I talk about my district. In my district, 23 per cent of the population is of minority. Others - Dalits, backward and poor people live in the rest. But if we calculate the percentage of houses that have been allotted, 77 percent out of the total has been allotted to minorities. Along with this, in many places of the state, like in Muzaffarnagar, allotment of houses has been made for minorities. The rest who are Dalits, backward and poor people, all of them are being subjected to injustice. Through you, I request the House that the Union Government should intervene in the matter of central schemes which are directed to the State Government, to ensure that the poor and backward people get their rightful due. They should not be discriminated against by the state government.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhola Singh.

**\*SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. I express my regards and sincere thanks to our beloved leader and Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchithalaivi Amma for allowing me to raise an important issue in this august House. Never in the history of Tamil Nadu there were rains and floods of such a high magnitude due to North East Monsoon which have affected several lakhs of people and throwing their lives out of gear. There was loss of lives and property. Normal life is very much affected. Arakkonam Parliamentary constituency is also affected. Overflow of water in the Ammapalli Dam in Nagari of Andhra Pradesh has affected areas like Tiruttani, Pallippattu, Pothattoorpet and R.K. Pet which were marooned due to flooding waters. Breaches of flooding water in Nandi River has inundated several villages around Tiruttani. Due to heavy floods in Kosasthalai River, many villages were inundated. A river bridge near Kuppam-Kandigai, Madathukkuppam and Muthukondapuram villages of Tiruvaalanganadu Union in Tiruvallur district has been completely damaged and as a result so many villages have lost road connectivity. At a place called NM Kandigai in Tiruttani, a bridge has collapsed making the people living in surrounding areas cut off from other places. Road and rail connectivity was cut off and several

---

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

thousands of people are affected. In my Arakkonam Parliamentary constituency, Arakkonam, Sholingur, Ranipet, Arcot, Katpadi and other places are very much affected. Many overflowing ponds and breaches in lakes in the district have inundated many villages. Due to which the normal life is so much affected. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has taken several measures for relief and rescue operations on war-footing basis. Relief funds are being provided to all the affected people of Tamil Nadu. Never in the history of Tamil Nadu, there was 1139 mm of rain in Chennai alone in a month. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalaivi Amma has granted an amount of Rs. 500 Crore immediately for relief and rescue operations. Hon. Amma has demanded from the Union government for immediate release of Rs.8481 Crore to the State from the National Disaster Response Fund. A Central team visited several flood affected places in Tamil Nadu and their assessment report is yet to be submitted to the Union Government. Even after their visit, there has been continuous rain and the damages due to floods are on the rise. Our beloved leader Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma has been relentlessly working for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to release funds from the National Disaster Response Fund as demanded by Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu. Thank you.



*[Translation]*

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to say through you that among the 250 districts of the country which are known as the most backward districts, Sant Kabir Nagar district also happens to be one among them, which is the headquarters of our Parliamentary constituency.

The only basis of the cash crop of the farmers there was sugarcane. But due to the closure of the only sugar cane mill Khalilabad Sugar Mill, there is great despair among the farmers there and it is a kind of cruel joke that has been played on them. Through you, I would like to recommend to the Central Government that it should take the trouble of directing the Government of Uttar Pradesh to run the Khalilabad Sugar Mill by any means in the interest of the farmers.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sharad Tripathi.

**SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA):** Thank you Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Sir, cow is an auspicious and living Goddess, interlinked with the lives of every Hindu. We consider cow as the mother and treat it as a family member, not as an animal. We believe that mother cow is the abode of 33 crore Gods.

Nowadays, in the name of *Godanam* some people are leaving the cows on the streets, which are starving for food mostly in towns and cities. Unfortunately, these cows are roaming on streets and eating trash in garbage. If cows eat plastic bags, then digestive system suffers and gradually these bags get collected in their stomach causing the cows die of severe pain mostly due to cancer.

Government should aim to care for stray, abandoned cows, bulls, retired oxen and orphaned calves and provide them with food, flour, fresh grass, clean water, medical attention and a place where they can recover from injuries and stay peacefully.

Now, it is time to encourage Cow Shelter Houses. If the Government is not in a position to run them, it should offer best possible concessions and encourage the voluntary organizations which can run Cow Shelter Houses. There are a few such organisations in the country. So let their number be increased.

**SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR):** Sir, the Walayar-Vadakkanchery National Highway – 47 is passing through my Constituency. This stretch has already been opened for travelling and toll collection has also started. But the work has not yet completed. The NHAI authorities say that the contractors have a right to collect toll after completion of 80 per cent work. But the problem is that after opening this stretch, accidents are taking place daily there. We had meetings with the Collector and all the representatives from that section. Even

today the NHAI and the contractor is not ready to fulfil the promises made to the people. They have not erected street lights; signal boards and side roads have not been prepared. These things are pending even today. Sir, a proposal has been placed before NHAI, Palakkad, the National Highways Authority here in Delhi. I have personally sent letter to the Minister but till today the Government has not yet completed the work and save the lives of innocent people.

I urge upon the Government to take immediate action and give sanction to proposal to complete the work at the earliest.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) was launched in Jharkhand in the year 2000. However, the current status of road construction under this scheme is deeply concerning. The work from the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth phases, which had been entrusted to agencies such as IRCON, NBCC, NPCC, and RREO, has come to a complete standstill for over a year. I had raised this matter during the last Monsoon Session, and following that, the quality of the road works was examined by a Central Agency. The findings revealed shockingly poor standards, which even surprised the inspecting authorities. For the past year, work under the PMGSY has been virtually paralysed across the state of Jharkhand. This scheme is the lifeline for rural connectivity, and people in remote areas, particularly in Naxal-affected regions, place great hope in it. As of now, nearly 70 per cent of the sanctioned

work has been stalled, severely impacting access, development, and security in these vulnerable regions. I urge the Government to take immediate corrective action and ensure the resumption and proper monitoring of PMGSY works in Jharkhand without further delay.

I would like to request the Union Government, through you, to provide the necessary financial assistance to ensure the resumption of all stalled road projects under the PMGSY.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

*[English]*

**\*DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPPATTINAM):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and our beloved leader Dr. Puratchithalaivi Amma has brought to the notice of Union Government about the detention of Tamil fishermen several times while they were engaged in fishing activities in Indian waters. Hon. Prime Minister is well aware of the case filed in Hon. Supreme Court regarding the Maritime Boundary dispute between India and Sri Lanka. The case challenging the constitutional validity of agreements of the years 1974 and 1976 entered into between India and Sri Lanka is with the Hon. Supreme Court. Tamil Nadu government under the leadership of Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma has been implementing a scheme of subsidy - the first of its kind in the country- allowing the fishermen of Tamil Nadu to purchase fishing boats for deep sea fishing. This revolutionary scheme

---

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

of providing subsidy up to Rs.30 lakh for deep sea fishing has been implemented successfully in the State of Tamil Nadu led by Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma. Fishermen are trained with techniques involved in deep sea fishing. As many as 170 fishing boats meant for deep sea fishing are being built which will directly benefit around 581 families of fishermen in the State. Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma has demanded financial assistance from the Union government for implementing a detailed project with a cost of Rs.1520 Crore and with an annual recurring subsidy of Rs.10 Crore for maintaining the infrastructure facilities and deep sea fishing. I therefore urge that the Union government should grant approval to this Scheme of the State Government of Tamil Nadu. As on date, 55 Indian fishing boats are kept in the custody of the Sri Lankan government. I also request that Hon. Prime Minister should issue orders to the External Affairs Ministry to take up the issue seriously with the Government of Sri Lanka and ensure release of Indian fishing boats at the earliest. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the House to the dismal condition of roads in my parliamentary constituency of Banda–Chitrakoot. The situation is so grave that vehicles often get stranded mid-way. There have been tragic incidents where patients have lost their lives due to the inability to reach hospitals in time. In several cases, expectant mothers have been forced to deliver on the roadside, and both the mother and the newborn have died due to the delay in

reaching maternity facilities. Roads under various categories, including State highways, rural village roads, and those constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) are in a deplorable state, many of them blocked and unfit for travel. Despite repeated representations and written communications, no effective action has been taken so far. I therefore urge the Union Government to take this matter seriously and either direct the State Government to carry out immediate repairs or consider directly allocating funds for the restoration and construction of roads in this highly affected region, without any further delay.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Dr. Kirit P. Solanki is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra.

**SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE (NASHIK):** Sir, I want to draw your attention towards the mega projects announced by the Central Government to be implemented in the State Governments.

The mega projects such as the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, National Institute of Pharmaceutical Research Centre and other projects have been announced by the Central Government for various State Governments. The Central Government has given authority to the State Governments to recommend the locations of such projects. For such Central projects, generally the State Ministers recommend the project location in their own constituency. Sometimes, recommendation of a particular location has no basis. For example, the Fishery Academy has no coastal base and the Forest Academy

has no forest base. The Union Government spends thousands of crores of rupees to see that the project becomes justifiable and benefits a large number of people but in some cases, it does not happen.

So, I request the Union Government that while announcing the mega projects for the State Governments, there should be some guidelines for selection of locations such as the guidelines drawn for selection of smart cities. The project location should be selected on merit basis and not only on a simple recommendation. Only then the project will be justified and maximum number of people would be benefited. Such a practice would also help for a balanced development of the States and the country as a whole.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Dr. Kirit P. Solanki is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse.

**\*SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Vanakkam. World famous Mahamaham festival, called as the Kumbhmela of South India will be celebrated with grandeur in Kumbakonam of Thanjavur district on 22.2.2016. Ancient sayings stress upon the importance of making holy dip in the Mahamaham pond which may bring you plentiful blessings and fortune. People from abroad and different parts of the country visit this place for a holy dip. Besides security arrangements, transport facilities, drinking water, sanitation, electric supply and other basic amenities will be provided. Police booths at 72 places, security towers at 55 places, CCTV cameras at 132 places, revolving cameras at 26 places, road barricades at 1163 places will be

---

\* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

set up. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has ordered for swift action of authorities in this regard. Hence I urge upon the Union Government to provide funds as its share in organising this grand festival. I also request the Ministry of Railways to arrange for temporary cloak rooms in all the Railway Stations in Thanjavur district with a view to help the rail passengers expected to arrive during Mahamaham festival in large number, especially from other States of the country. I request to arrange medical facilities with Doctors and paramedical staff, adequate catering facilities in all platforms of Railway Stations in Thanjavur district especially during the Mahamaham festival. Thank you.

**SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** Sir, the farmers in the country are facing a very peculiar situation. In some parts of the country, there is severe drought and there is no drinking water. In some portion of the country, because of the heavy floods the farmers are losing their crops. In my constituency, in Tumkur in Karnataka, the same situation prevails. In more than fifty per cent of the area, the standing crop was lost because of the heavy rains in Tamil Nadu. As a consequence of heavy rains in Tamil Nadu, we lost crops in fifty per cent of the area in my constituency. In the remaining fifty per cent of the area, there is severe drought. There is no drinking water. As a result of this, the farmers are forced to commit suicide. In 2014-15, more than 4,650 farmers committed suicide.

In the last UPA's regime, Dr. Manmohan Singh was kind enough to waive the farmers' loan in nationalized banks. Nearly Rs. 72,000 crore of loan



was waived in nationalized banks. Hence, I urge upon this NDA Government to take at least one measure to see that the farmers' loan in nationalized banks is waived and save the farmers in this country. That is my submission.

**DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL):** Sir, during the time of V.P. Singh Government, the Trivandrum International Airport – now it is Thiruvananthapuram – was declared as international airport. More than ten per cent of the Kerala's total population is either working or living outside the nation.

According to the data which is available as on 31<sup>st</sup> of November this year, more than one million domestic passengers availed the services of the Thiruvananthapuram international airport. More than two million international passengers have also availed the services of this international airport.

I have been reported by various media that the developmental activities of this airport is being sabotaged. The Director of the airport at Thiruvananthapuram, even though the Airport Authority is earning a very good profit, does not have even the power to construct a toilet or even to allow a refreshment area or a canteen somewhere in the check-in area. Can you imagine an international airport where in the check-in area people will not get even a cup of tea? This is the pity of that airport. One third of the passengers are women and many of them are carrying children also. So, when we do not have sufficient number of women CISF personnel, there is a long queue. At the toll gate also, there is a long queue. So, my humble request to the Government, through you, the hon. Minister of Civil Aviation may convene a

meeting of the MPs State-wise before the Budget Session like the hon. Railway Ministers usually do, so that the issues of various airports can be discussed and some of them can be rectified; and the developmental activities can be initiated. ... *(Interruptions)* I am going to conclude.

There are casual labourers working under the Air India. There is a plan to privatise all these activities and to leave them on the streets. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You can raise only one matter.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You can ask for amenities. It is all right. But the labour issue is another one.

**DR. A. SAMPATH:** We are all getting the votes of the labourers. We cannot throw them to the streets. They are also human beings. They also feel hungry and thirsty.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You can raise that issue tomorrow because only one issue will go on record. We will permit tomorrow.

**DR. A. SAMPATH:** I am concluding. Let me land.

I have already submitted one request, that is convening the meeting with the MPs. The second request is, give ample powers to the Director of the Thiruvananthapuram international airport to give some rest area to the drivers, toilet facilities, refreshment area, etc.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri P.K. Biju, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Shri Ninong Ering are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Dr. A. Sampath.

**SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI):** I wish to raise an important issue pertaining to my constituency. National Highway No. 66 is the prime road connectivity to many tourist places and pilgrim centres, like Arunachaleswara Temple in Tiruvannamalai and Angalamman Temple in Melmalaiyanur.

Laying work in this National Highway started in the year 2009. But still the work is pending. During November, 2015, after the North-East Monsoon rains and due to the worst condition prevailing in this National Highway No.66, a precious life was lost in an accident. These kinds of accidents are a routine nature in this highway since laying work has not been completed for long. I have written letters to the hon. Minister for Road Transport and Highways Shri Nitin Gadkari and the hon. Minister of State for Road Transport and Highways Shri Pon. Radhakrishnan to look into this issue.

I, therefore, once again urge the Ministry concerned through this august House to expedite the laying work and making this National Highway No.66 safer and secure for vehicular traffic at the earliest. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I rise today to make a humble request to the hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for a matter that will greatly benefit the state of Rajasthan. At

the outset, I wish to extend my heartfelt thanks to our hon. Chief Minister, Shrimati Vasundhara Raje ji, for taking a historic step in advancing education in Rajasthan — a state traditionally considered educationally backward. For the first time in the state's history, 5,000 secondary schools have been *[English]* upgraded to senior secondary school. Every panchayat headquarter is now having a senior secondary school. *[Translation]* Now that the State Government of Rajasthan is making commendable efforts to strengthen school education, there is an urgent need to augment infrastructure in the newly upgraded senior secondary schools, particularly in terms of libraries, laboratories, and classrooms. Under the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA), significant financial assistance is being extended to schools across the country by the Ministry of Human Resource Development. In view of the large-scale upgradation of 5,000 schools simultaneously in Rajasthan, an unprecedented achievement, I earnestly urge the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to consider providing a special infrastructure package to the state. This will ensure that these upgraded institutions are equipped with the necessary academic facilities such as science laboratories, libraries, and adequate classroom infrastructure, enabling students to truly benefit from quality education.

*[English]*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh is allowed to associate with Shri C.R. Chaudhary in respect of the 'Zero Hour' issue which he raised today.

**DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** Sir, I would thank you for the opportunity given to me to raise an important issue of my constituency.

Paradip Port region in Jagatsinghpur Parliamentary Constituency in Odisha attracts a number of tourists from all the corners of the country as well as from abroad. The scenic beauty of the place called Nehru Bangla along the confluence of river Mahanadi and Bay of Bengal, the cargo ship dock area inside the port, the fishing harbour and the sea beach stretched along the region has been a constant destination of tourists over a period of time. However, these sports are not being maintained in terms of tourism purpose.

So, I draw the attention of the Minister of Tourism to take necessary steps to develop Paradip Port Region as a tourism destination.

**SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

India is one of the largest consumers of pesticides in the world. India does not have a system to manage pesticides in a sound manner. It also allows the sale and usage of highly toxic pesticides banned in several countries. There are three different Government agencies to control and regulate pesticide usage in India. The CIBRC under the Ministry of Agriculture approves introduction of new pesticides. The second FSSAI under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare are responsible for checking the MRL of pesticides in food crops at the end level. The third APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce sets the guidelines and standards for certifying organic farms.

Sir, in recent days, the CIBRC gives approval to pesticides without hesitation and FSSAI's norms on permissible level of pesticides are not supported by any scientific base. DDT is known for the danger it poses but India still continues to produce it. Unregulated pesticides that are banned or partly restricted in most parts of the world are largely used in India. There is also no control over sale of pesticides at the retail level. Many scientists suggest banning is the best way forward to tackle the growing unregulated pesticide consumption in India.

So, Sir, I urge upon the Government to take constructive steps to control and regulate the pesticide usage in India.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the farmers of Garautha and Bhognipur Legislative Assembly constituencies located in the Bundelkhand region and falling under my Lok Sabha constituency of Jalaun have been severely affected and ruined by hailstorms and drought-like conditions for many years now. The situation is so dire that many are now on the brink of starvation and are being forced to migrate in search of livelihood. Due to the unavailability of timely irrigation, agricultural activity has suffered gravely. Scarcity of water has left vast stretches of farmland barren and unproductive. I would particularly like to draw the attention of the House to Pachnada, a river confluence site located in Rampura block of Jalaun district, on the tri-junction of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya

Pradesh, and Rajasthan. Here, five rivers — Pahuj, Kuwari, Sindh, Yamuna, and Chambal merge, creating a substantial accumulation of water. In this context, I urge the Union Government to consider the construction of a dam at Pachnada. This would serve as a sustainable and permanent irrigation source for multiple districts, including Jalaun, Jhansi, Hamirpur, Etawah, Kanpur Dehat, and parts of Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Such a project would not only improve the economic condition of farmers across Bundelkhand but also address the chronic issue of forced migration by ensuring water security and agricultural stability in the region. Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** Sir, I would like to invite the attention of the august House on the problems faced by the pilgrims visiting Sabarimala, the abode of Lord Ayyappa. Every year millions of devotees visit Sabarimala in Pathanamthitta district, Kerala. It is one of the temples situated inside the dense forest and the devotees visit the shrine after 41 days of rigorous fasting and other rituals. Over the years, the devotees are complaining about the limited facilities at Sannidhanam in Sabarimala and at Pamba, the entry point. Every year, the number of devotees are increasing but there is no place for enhancing the facilities.

The Government of Kerala and various devotees organizations like Ayyappa Sewa Sangam and others are requesting the Central Government to allot more land for providing facilities to devotees. Even though the Government has assured that the facilities will be made without disturbing the

eco-system of Sabarimala hills, yet no action has been taken to release more land. Similarly, there is a huge demand from the Government of Kerala and the general public to declare Sabarimala as a national pilgrimage centre. Concerned Ministry in the Central Government is not taking any positive action in this regard.

Thousands of devotees from Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu are visiting Sabarimala and are facing huge problems. That is why I am raising this issue. Another major demand of the people is transportation facility – that is also very important – from Chenganur, Kottayam and Erumeli to reach Pampa is very difficult. Road condition is very bad. Hence, we need more land for construction of roads. This aspect should also be taken into consideration by the Government of India.

**SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL):** Thank you, hon. deputy-speaker, Sir, four major National Highways maintained by the NHAI are connecting Chennai with other parts of the country. Due to the recent unprecedented rainfall during the North East Monsoon, the entire Chennai Bypass II and the NH-45 –Chennai-Tiruchchirappalli-Theni and many stretches in NH 4 – Chennai-Bengaluru-Mumbai and NH 6 - Chennai-Vishakapatnam-Kolkatta have been completely damaged and become non-motorable.

Sir, NH-45 connects Chennai with major towns in Tamil Nadu and the unfit road condition is causing hardship to a very large number of commuting general public and all road-users. No less is the condition in Chennai Bypass



II. Also, the commercial activity in general and logistics movement in particular have been severely affected causing huge overall revenue loss.

Following the instructions given by the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchi Thalaivi* Dr. Amma, immediate temporary repair work of all damaged roads maintained by the State Government are being undertaken by the State Government on a war footing despite availability of only limited resources.

I would, therefore, urge upon the Government of India and the NHAI to follow the footsteps of the Government of Tamil Nadu and repair these four National Highways immediately, and also waive toll charges on these National Highways till they are restored to complete motorable condition.

*[Translation]*

**KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):** Sir, the entire nation is aware of the distressing situation in Bundelkhand, which continues to grapple with farmers' suicides, large-scale migration, unemployment, malnutrition, recurring droughts, and mounting debt. Today, even the land of valour, Veerbhumi Bundelkhand is crying out for something as basic as drinking water. Although summer is still four to five months away, a severe drinking water crisis has already emerged in the region. Residents are being forced to travel several kilometres just to fetch drinking water. At present, hundreds of villages, towns, and urban settlements across Bundelkhand are facing acute hardship due to the lack of access to safe drinking water.

Sir, through you, I request the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh to urgently address the worsening water crisis in Bundelkhand, and particularly in my parliamentary constituency of Hamirpur, including Tindwari and Mahoba. As an immediate relief measure, I request that at least 10,000 hand pumps be installed across the region, either through central assistance or coordinated efforts between the Union and State Governments. Without such intervention, the situation in the coming months is likely to turn into a severe humanitarian crisis. Additionally, I urge the Government to expedite the implementation of the Ken–Betwa River Linking Project. If a canal from this project could be channelled into Salarpur Dam, Belatal Dam, and Majhgawan Dam, it would help fill all local water bodies, thereby addressing both the drinking water needs and agricultural irrigation requirements of the region. Such an initiative would also significantly contribute to recharging groundwater levels and ensuring long-term water security for the people of Bundelkhand.

*[English]*

**SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am happy to share that under the leadership of *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, our State Tamil Nadu is progressing in all respects and particularly women, girl children and farmers are the beneficiaries who benefit most. Our *Amma* is persevering for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu.

As a welfare measure to the farmers of Tamil Nadu, Amma has directed the Cooperative Banks in the State to extend interest free farm loans to the farmers on pledging gold. Short term loans for a period of six months against pledging gold is highly welcomed by all the farmers of Tamil Nadu. Small and marginal farmers are highly benefited as their interest is waived off on repayment of their loans within the stipulated time period. It is interest free loan. This waived off interest is borne by the State Government of Tamil Nadu. This has inculcated the habit of timely repayment of loans. The Cooperate Banks and the Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies are motivated and functioning to their full strength and capacity. The Central Government has to adopt and introduce the said interest waive off scheme of *Amma* in the Nationalised Banks also for extending agricultural loans to the farmers. I would like to mention that the Nationalised Banks are fully stressed with Non-Performing Assets. I am sure that they will not be disappointed in extending loans to farmers if the Central Government bears the interest burden.

Since the last four-and-a-half years, the Cooperative Department has provided jewel loans of Rs. 1,849.71 crore to 4.05 lakh people through Central Cooperative Banks and Rs. 900.12 crore to 2.31 lakh people through Primary Agriculture Cooperative Credit Societies (PACCS).

These kinds of efforts and initiatives are to be encouraged by the Central Government. The Central Government should provide interest free and subsidized loans to the farmers through the Nationalised Banks and NABARD.

I would like to suggest that the Central Government should follow the initiatives of our *Amma* as a role model. It may be extended to all the farmers of the country. I am sure that the farmers of the country will never think of committing suicide any more.

So, I urge upon the Central Government to take necessary steps to complement the welfare measures taken by our hon. *Amma* and the State of Tamil Nadu should be provided funds generously as a supportive measure.

*[Translation]*

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for granting me the opportunity to raise a matter of grave concern and public importance. We are all aware that medical practitioners, particularly Tabibs (traditional physicians), have increasingly become targets of violent attacks in various parts of the country. In several instances, these assaults have been fatal. It is important to acknowledge that Tabibs remain on duty around the clock. When a patient is brought to them, they may be in a critical condition, suffering from ailments such as heart disease, diabetes, or other serious medical complications. Tragically, in some cases, the patient does not survive, despite the best possible efforts. However, the manner in which medical professionals are subsequently attacked, and the atmosphere of fear and panic that ensues among their families and colleagues, is deeply concerning and cannot be justified.

I demand from the Government of India through you that Tabibs should be given protection, adequate security should be provided for their safety.

CCTV cameras should be installed there and those who attack the Tabibs by taking law into their hands, they should be penalized. Thank you for allowing me to speak.

*[English]*

**SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with the blessing of my leader *Amma*, I appeal to the Government of India to start a Rope Car Service from Mettupalayam to Coonoor.

Ooty is famous for its tea. The Tea and Tourism Festival is one of the major tourist attractions in Ooty and the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary also attracts a large number of tourists. There is a huge demand for film shooting in and around Ooty both by the South Indian Film Industry as well as Bollywood and so, Ooty, which is called the queen of Nilgiris, has become filmdom's new Mecca. The Hindi film makers are now shifting locale from Mumbai to Ooty. The annual Tea and Tourism Festival attracts people in huge numbers to Ooty from all over the world.

There is daily tourist flow of about 5,000 people and during the summer season, it increases manifold. The main problem in Nilgiri Hill is frequent landslide. There is only one approach road. Many a time, even due to small problem, the road gets jammed and the lifeline of this hill area is very much affected.

As you are aware, there is a Heritage Train which runs between Mettupalayam and Coonoor and *vice versa*. Many a time, it is unable to

undertake its journey due to landslide and technical fault of locomotive. Hence, there is great desperation among tourists, especially foreign tourists. It is worth to mention that there are some environmental clearances for construction of Helipad which is long pending

There are demands from public all over the country, foreign tourists and NRI to construct Rope car/Rope cable service in the model of Switzerland which is capable of carrying 60 persons in a car. The cost is also less compared to the other modes. There is no terrorist problem as our Amma is making the whole Tamil Nadu as a terrorist-free State.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to introduce the ropeway connectivity from Mettupalayam to Coonoor. Thank, you.

**SHRI J.J.T. NATTERJEE (THOOTHUKUDI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, *Vanakkam*. I express my sincere gratitude and thanks to our beloved leader hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for giving me this timely opportunity to speak in this august House.

The north-east monsoon has witnessed extremely heavy rainfall and subsequent floods have resulted in heavy damages and extensive disturbances to lives and properties in the entire Tamil Nadu. In Southern Tamil Nadu, heavy and extremely heavy rains have battered the life in the district of Tuticorin.

Many huts collapsed and villages were inundated and a bund attached to Sivalkulam irrigation tank was partly damaged due to heavy rain. Two huts at Srivaikundam and one at Vilathikulam collapsed in adverse conditions.

Meanwhile, Sankaralingapuram village near Kovilpatti got flooded as Veppankulam irrigation tank overflowed and water entered 50 houses. In Tuticorin, Anthoniyarpuram, Maravanmadam, Bharathi Nagar, Muthammal colony are the most affected places. They were completely submerged in flood waters. The Tuticorin collectorate and nearby areas also were flooded with water. More than 5,61,000 food packets have been distributed to the people affected in the floods. They were lodged safely in five community halls and provided with food, water and medical aids.

The fishermen were advised by the district administration not to venture into the sea and therefore their livelihood was affected badly. The district recorded a total rainfall of 674 mm in the last 24 hours.

The Government of Tamil Nadu, under the dynamic leadership of hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has sought generous support from the National Disaster Response Fund for flood damages. Hon. Prime Minister expressed his deep anguish and grief about the loss of lives in Tamil Nadu due to continuous rain and flood. He had spoken to our hon. Chief Minister Amma and assured full support and cooperation from the Centre.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider this calamity as a national calamity and release adequate amount from the National Disaster Response Fund immediately.

Thank you, Sir.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015, at 11 a.m.

**19.48 hours**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Thursday,  
December 3, 2015 / Agrahayana 12, 1937 (Saka).*

---



**INTERNET**

The Original version, English version and Hindi Version of Lok Sabha proceedings are available on Parliament of India Website at the following address:

<https://sansad.in/ls>

**LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA**

Lok Sabha proceedings are telecast live on Sansad TV Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. every day the Lok Sabha sits till the adjournment of the House.

---

**©2015 By Lok Sabha Secretariat**

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business  
in Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition)

---