

Session : 9

Date : 08-12-2006

Participants : [Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada](#), [Kumar Shri Shailendra](#), [Patil Shri Shivraj V.](#), [Reddy Shri Suravaram Sudhakar](#), [Badiga Shri Ramakrishan](#), [Patil Shri Shivraj V.](#)

an>

Title : Shri Badiga Ramakrishna called the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the situation arising out of recent Floods due to cyclone and torrential rains in the districts of Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam of Andhra Pradesh resulting in loss of lives and property and steps taken by the Government in this regard.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA (MACHILIPATNAM): Sir, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:-

“The situation arising out of recent floods due to cyclone and torrential rains in the districts of Krishna, Guntur and Prakasam of Andhra Pradesh resulting in loss of lives and property and steps taken by the Government in this regard.”

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL): Sir, during the year 2006, the State of Andhra Pradesh has experienced cyclonic/ heavy rains in three spells causing floods in many parts of the State. The 1st spell of heavy rains was in the months of July-August, 2006 impacting 16 districts in the State. The State experienced the 2nd Spell of heavy to very heavy rains in 15 districts during the period 14th_22nd September, 2006. The 3rd spell of heavy rains was caused by cyclonic storm named ‘OGNI’ during 28th October to 4th November, 2006, affecting 6 districts.

These cyclonic/ heavy rains have resulted in loss of 247 human lives and 3.66 lakh livestock including poultry birds, besides damage to 3.22 lakh houses and cropped area of 8.14 lakh hectares. In addition, there are reports of extensive damage to infrastructure under various sectors.

In view of the precarious situation caused by heavy rains and floods, I have myself visited some of the affected areas once on 9th August and again on 7th November, 2006 to review the situation. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi has also visited this area. The Government of India had released on 24th August, 2006, an amount of Rs.400.00 crore comprising Rs. 200.00 crore as advance release of Central share of Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) and Rs.200.00 crore as 'on account' release from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF). In addition, the 1st instalment of Central share of CRF for the year 2006-07 amounting to Rs.135.48 crore was earlier released on 2nd June, 2006. Taking these releases and the State's share of CRF of Rs. 90.32 crore, an amount of Rs.626.80 crore was available with the State Government for undertaking rescue and relief operations.

According to available reports the Government of Andhra Pradesh has so far incurred an expenditure of Rs.589.59 crore on managing various natural calamities during the year 2006-07. This includes, inter-alia, Rs.489.93 crore on management of cyclone/ heavy rains, Rs.76.43 crore on drought, 0.42 crore on earthquake/ tsunami and Rs.5.17 crore on hailstorm. [\[R18\]](#)

MR. SPEAKER: I think you can lay it on the Table of the House. It is a long Statement.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: If the Member is satisfied, I can lay it.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Ramakrishna, I think you have a copy of it.

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Sir, I have a copy of this.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, I lay the remaining part of my Statement on the Table of the House.

*The Ministry of Home Affairs constantly monitored the situation and coordinated provision of logistic support to the State for rescue and relief operations. This includes deployment of five helicopters from Navy, 38 Naval Diving Teams and one Engineering Task Force Team of the Army with 10 BAUTS and 10 OBMs. The IAF also undertook 182 sorties for these operations.

* This part of the speech was laid on the table and also placed in Library See No. LT 5287/2006

The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken all necessary rescue and relief measures on the ground which include evacuation of people to safer places, operation of relief camps, distribution of essential commodities and health and sanitation measures to prevent outbreak of any post-flood epidemic.

An Inter-Ministerial Central Team visited the State from 17th to 20th August,2006 for assessment of damage and requirement of funds in the wake of heavy rains/floods during July-August,2006. As per laid down procedure, the report of the Central Team along with the recommendations of the Inter-Ministerial Group are being placed before the High Level Committee for consideration and approval of funds from NCCF.

Another Central Team has visited the State from 9th to 11th November, 2006 to assess the damage and requirement of funds for heavy rains/floods of September, 2006 as well as of October-November, 2006. The report of the Central Team has recently been received, which is being considered as per the laid down procedure.

I would like to assure the august House that Government of India will continue to render all necessary assistance to Andhra Pradesh to provide succor to the affected people. Appropriate Central assistance will also be provided as per established procedure for long-term reconstruction of infrastructure damaged during these natural calamities.*

SHRI BADIGA RAMAKRISHNA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to mention a few points in Telugu. I have taken your permission for that.

*Mr. Speaker Sir, I would like to bring to the notice of Hon'ble Home Minister the devastation cause by cyclone "OGNI" in Andhra Pradesh. I am pained to say that the coastal districts of Krishna, Guntur and Prakasham were severely affected by cyclone "OGNI". However, its severity was less in West

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telgu.

Godavari district. The rainfall that used to be recorded in a year was witnessed in a span of 2-3 days. Such a heavy rainfall was never witnessed in the recent past. Many old persons could not recall an instance of such huge rainfall in the past 70-80 years. Sir, farmers feed the nation. They have never made big demands. They ask for some support only when they are severely affected by natural calamities. They are the back bone of our nation and play a vital role in the development of the country. But, their lot is very poor and is frequently exposed to unprecedented vagaries of nature. Under such circumstances, their sustenance becomes difficult. In fact, they are totally dependent on monsoon. In spite of several hardships and adversities, they consider agriculture as a sacred avocation. The condition of lakhs of farmers is pathetic. Similar is the condition of weavers and artisans who have lost their shelter and livelihood. They run the risk of catching serious diseases.

Sir, women, children and other weaker sections are most vulnerable sections of society. In the past, farming community has braved many natural calamities. But, the devastation caused by this calamity is beyond imagination. They are, infact, left with nothing. They don't have fodder to feed their cattle. Sir, their problems should be considered with utmost sympathy. Our State Government has responded in time by evacuating thousands of people to safer places. Thus, saving their lives. Our Chief Minister himself visited affected places to review the situation and gave directions regarding relief measures. He expressed his sympathy to them and assured that the Government is with them. To review the situation, Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Shivraj Patil, Smt. Sonia

Gandhi Ji, and the Officers accompanying them visited these places. I myself had been there to take stock of the situation. Some villages were cut off from the mainland, inspite of that relief measures were carried out at these places. Hon'ble Minister mentioned the loss caused. I would not repeat those figures again. To face such unprecedented calamities Central Government should extend immediate assistance to the affected people.

The State Government has asked for the Central assistance keeping in view the realistic assessment. In this context, I urge upon you to extend special aid to aggrieved farmers. Existing loans should be waived off. There should be distribution of seeds and fertilizers to farmers and fresh loans may be given to them at the lowest interest rates. A special package may be announced for weavers and artisans. Sir, it is most important that crop loss should be assessed at village level, not

at the Mandal level, so that aggrieved farmers can claim their crop insurance. Farmers and agricultural labourers are not in a position to get their livelihood for next 4-6 months. Hence, I request that till the time they earn their livelihood, Government should give them a helping hand. Similarly, National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme may be made applicable in the areas affected by this natural calamity.

In the end, I would like to conclude with a popular adage, which says, “The hands that serve are better than the lips that pray”.

Sir, the hands that give are more powerful than the lips that pray. Sir, ours is a helping hand. With this, I would appeal to the august House and the hon. Minister to consider the relief package immediately and in an expeditious way and also to consider taking insurance aspect on the village basis and not on Mandal basis.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Rayapati Sambasiva Rao – Not present.

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार, क्या आप इस बारे में प्रश्न पूछना चाहते हैं?

श्री शैलेन्द्र कुमार (चायल) : अध्यक्ष महोदय, मैं मंत्री जी से सिर्फ एक प्रश्न पूछना चाहता हूँ।

यह ध्यानाकर्षण प्रस्ताव आंध्र प्रदेश से जुड़ा हुआ है, लेकिन मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से पूछना चाहूंगा कि समय-समय पर इस सदन में चर्चा हुई है कि इस प्रकार की तमाम जगहों पर चक्रवात, बाढ़ और सूखे की स्थिति है और यह हर सांसद के क्षेत्र में आता है। चाहे बिहार हो, उत्तर प्रदेश हो या कोई और राज्य हो, हर जगह इस प्रकार की दैवी आपदाएं आती रहती हैं। जब हम क्षेत्र का दौरा करते हैं तो चाहते हुए भी गरीब, निरीह और पीड़ित लोगों की मदद नहीं कर पाते। मैं सदन के माध्यम से मंत्री जी से जानना चाहता हूँ कि एमपीलैड की राशि से हम डायरेक्ट मदद कर सकें, क्या आप ऐसा कोई प्रावधान कराने की व्यवस्था करवाएंगे?

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA (RAMPUR): Sir, I associate myself with him.

MR. SPEAKER: Do you support him?

SHRIMATI JAYAPRADA : Yes, Sir.

SHRI SURAVARAM SUDHAKAR REDDY (NALGONDA): Sir, the hon. Member, Shri Ramakrishna, has effectively put the plight of the Andhra Pradesh peasants who are badly affected by the unprecedented floods. The Union Government did give some help. But there is a big gap between the help the Government of Andhra Pradesh has requested and the amount that is given by the Union Government. The Union Government took too much time to sanction the amount and it is not even 20 per cent of what the Government of Andhra Pradesh has asked. Due to the unprecedented floods on the one side and drought on the other side, Andhra Pradesh has lost very heavily.

I would like to know whether the Government is ready to consider the special request of Andhra Pradesh for more funds.

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL: Sir, we had the opportunity of seeing what had actually happened in the State. It is true that many people have suffered, their houses have been damaged and their land also has been damaged. It is necessary for us to help them.

The Government of India has been helping the State Governments and giving funds to them to meet the requirements of the people over there. One of the funds which is used is Calamity Relief Fund. As it is called a Relief Fund, it is a relief which is given.^[R19] The second fund which is used for this purpose is the National Calamity Contingency Fund. If it is not possible to meet the demands of the people under the first Fund, the second Fund is used for giving them the relief. The Government of India has, as I have stated in my statement, given Rs. 625.80 crore and this amount is given for immediate relief. If they need utensils, if they need medicines and if they need some shelter for sometime and if they need employment for a few days, then this amount may be used by the State Government. I must say that the State Government has done well and they have helped the people in a splendid manner. They have actually spent Rs. 589.59 crore which are given to them to give relief. When Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and myself had gone there, one of the points which was made by the hon. Chief Minister and others was that they would like to have the canals rebuilt and strengthened. They were telling us that they would need a lot of money for that purpose.

In Godavari delta and Krishna delta, the canal system was built by the British long ago. That has been damaged and they are asking a lot of money to repair it. The amount of money required by them is very huge. They are asking for nearly Rs. 10,000 crore. This is a very big amount and all the same, it is necessary for us to see that this canal system has to be reconstructed. That is why, we requested the State Government to prepare a scientific plan with the help of engineers and others. Let us know the time frame with which they would be able to reconstruct and strengthen the canal system. When that kind of a plan is sent to the Union Government, it would be examined by the Planning Commission and the matter would be put up to the Union Government Cabinet and it can be considered as to what kind of help can be given to them. This is the position. We would like to take steps to see that some permanent solution to this problem is also provided. It has to be provided not on the basis of a memorandum or a letter. It has to be provided on the basis of a plan prepared and that is what we have suggested to the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The Government of Andhra Pradesh is also in the process of preparing the plan and once we receive that plan, we would definitely consider that plan and see what can be done in this matter.

12.27½ hrs

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

MR. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received a request from the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs requesting that item Nos. 20, 21 and 22 listed in today's Order Paper regarding Statutory Resolution, Indian Telegraph (Amendment) Bill, 2006 and Indian Rifles (Repeal) Bill, 2006, be taken up today and disposed of before we take up Private Members' Business and if necessary lunch hour be dispensed with.

If the House agrees, we may take up the Statutory Resolution and the Government Legislative Business at 1 p.m. and these items be disposed of before 3.30 p.m. by sitting during lunch hour.

I think the House agrees to this proposal.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.
