

Fund in our country with a provision of Rs. 800 crore. Out of this amount, perhaps, Rs. 93 crore have been given to Andhra Pradesh as per the information given by the Prime Minister as to whether he will call a meeting of this committee soon because Rs. 800 crore is a meager amount keeping in view such a big calamity? Whether he will increase this amount?

My second question is that nobody know as how long this Government will last but to prevent recurrence of such incidents further in the country...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Uma ji, please confine yourself to the subject only.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI : I am coming to the point and I would like to know from the hon'ble Prime Minister as to whether he would be kind enough to those people who are killed in such calamities and implement those steps to prevent recurrence of such incidents, which were initiated during 1978-79 but could not be completed at that time?

Therefore, I have two questions—the first question is regarding convening of a meeting of the committee of Natural Calamity Relief Fund and increasing its provision and my second question is: that when such a calamity takes place, there should be a proper disaster management...*(Interruptions)*

*(English)*

SHRI M. SELVARASU (Nagapattinam) : As per the hon. Prime Minister's reply, not a single word was mentioned about the Yanam cyclone affected area. I would like to know how much amount is being given to Yanam which is under Pondicherry. It is a very small area.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Prime Minister specifically mentioned about Pondicherry.

SHRI VEERABHADRAM THAMMINENI (Khammam) : I would like to speak in Telugu.

MR. CHAIRMAN : I think you do not want the translator. Have you asked the translator beforehand to interpret your speech in Telugu?

SHRI VEERABHADRAM THAMMINENI : No. I will speak now in English.

After a daylong discussion, the Prime Minister announced nothing new. I am sorry to say that the Prime Minister is not with us. So, please reconsider the amount of aid given to Andhra Pradesh.

MR. CHAIRMAN : The Prime Minister is very much with you. How can you say that he is not with us? He is very much with us here.

SHRI VEERABHADRAM THAMMINENI : My humble suggestion is at least please reconsider the statement made. The burden of the loan may be too much. Will the

Prime Minister please reconsider the amount of grant he has announced? Please announce at least Rs. 50 crore more grant today.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE (Dumdum) : Will you just permit me to explain what Shri Veerabhadram Thammineni says? The total amount given is divided into grants and loans. All States consider themselves to be deeply indebted. What he suggests is, will the Prime Minister kindly consider reducing the fraction of loans and increasing the fraction of grants in the total amount that is given.

SHRI JAG MOHAN (New Delhi) : I have only one suggestion or comment to make. When a large number of houses are being reconstructed or repaired or new construction will take place, will the Government take into account the fact that some sort of a cyclone proof arrangements are made?

Where there is a very severe cyclone, of course, nobody can help that. But in the case of a cyclone of a lower intensity, the houses can be safeguarded. It is a question of new technology being evolved, new material being used and new siting for the houses which have been totally damaged. If they have to be re-sited, they should be re-sited at places where there is not much risk of their being demolished again on not a comparatively medium size cyclone.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Would the Prime Minister like to respond to any of these questions?

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Sir, I would like to clarify the position again about the quantum of Central relief that is going to be given under such circumstances. Till the Ninth Finance Commission recommendation, whatever may be the quantum of damage caused either due to drought or floods or cyclone, the money that was going to be released by the Government of India was only a meagre amount. Only the Plan assistance was given. The Central assistance is only a meagre amount. I think, for the first time, the Ninth Finance Commission has recommended to create the Calamity Relief Fund. Till then, it was given only as an *ad hoc* assistance from the Centre under Non-Plan. Whatever money that was available with the Government of India, they used to give amounts like Rs. 15 crore, Rs. 20 crore and Rs. 30 crore. I am going to give the details a little later.

The Calamity Relief Fund, as per the recommendation of the Tenth Finance Commission, is about Rs. 1,197 crore out of which 75 per cent is the grant and 25 per cent is the loan portion. The highest amount indicated by the Tenth Finance Commission, in its recommendation, is to Rajasthan Rs. 179 crore, Andhra Pradesh Rs. 124 crore and Gujarat Rs. 139 crore. I do not want to mix politics here. The quantum of damage Bihar is going to have every every year due to high floods is severe. There are six or seven rivers.

So is the case with Assam. For Bihar, it is just Rs. 51 crore. I do not want to go back to all these things as to how it has happened. In a restrained way, I am placing only certain facts...*(Interruptions)* Please wait. Let the Andhra Pradesh politics not crop up in this House. I have heard it. What the hon. Member says is that we have not done anything. I would like to just draw the attention of the House to one aspect. Madam, you asked me as to what happened in 1984, what happened in 1987 and what happened in May 1990. I will give you the details. In 1990, the number of houses damaged was 13,96,000. This time, according to their figure, it is 6,41,000. I would just like to point out what was the amount of assistance given at that time. Let us not come to the conclusion that this Government is giving this issue a step-motherly treatment. Let us come to the conclusion that this Government has taken some decision on certain humanitarian considerations.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : The estimate of loss at that time, according to the State Government, was Rs. 2,247 crore. The team which went from the Government of India recommended for Rs. 168 crore where the number of houses collapsed was 13,96,000. Out of that, the Inter-Ministerial Group of the Government of India had recommended for assistance of Rs. 167.54 crore in respect of 1990 calamity to the State Government after deducting Rs. 86 crore available with the State Government under the Central Relief Fund. The Ministry of Agriculture had proposed an additional relief of Rs. 81.5 crore. This was put up to the Cabinet in August 1991. The decision on this was deferred. This was considered by the Union Cabinet again in 1992 with the change that 75 per cent of the recommended assistance Rs. 81.5 crore may be treated as grant and 25 per cent as loan. However, this proposal was not approved apparently because the Finance Ministry objected to the grant of any additional assistance over and above the Central share of the Calamity Relief Fund. My hon. Colleague says that this Government has no heart...*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Please do not interrupt Mr. Murthy. Let the Prime Minister complete it.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : We are not a party to the step-motherly treatment.

SHRI H.D. DEVE GOWDA : Please let us not mix up politics on this issue. I can understand about it. I have given a total package of Rs. 650 crore and apart from that we want to release Rs. 331 crore. And they say, we do not want it. Raja Sekhara Reddyji you asked for Rs. 1,000 crore. We have recommended to the World Bank for Rs. 1,000 crore for housing. But what was the amount asked for by the State Government? The State

Government had asked for Rs. 963 crore for housing. Apart from this Rs. 1,000 crore that we have recommended to the World Bank, we have already taken steps with the HUDCO. I have also given the details of how much it is. The HUDCO has announced a special package of Rs. 180 crore of which Rs. 50 crore is the grant. The Rural Development Ministry have released Rs. 21 crore. Then Rs. 60 crore may come out of the National Calamity Relief Fund. Rs. 93 crore is the Calamity Relief Fund which the State Government should get it legitimately. In addition to that, the cess comes to Rs. 113 crore. The Ministry of Rural Development says this in respect of procurement of foodgrains. We have taken this decision. All these things come to Rs. 650 crore. I do not know what I should do.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Is the Foreign Minister ready to make a statement on Afghanistan?

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : We have had a very detailed discussion.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : We are not a party to the statement that the Central Government is making.

MR. CHAIRMAN : It is not that at all. I think, he has given you a very elaborate and very satisfactory reply. Your Government had asked for only Rs. 900 crore but he has given Rs. 1,000 crore. He has recommended for Rs. 1,000 crore.

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : The State Government has a very serious financial position. It is like a proverbial jackal sitting under a palm tree and the palm fruit is falling on the head of the jackal.

The State Government's financial position is exactly that. So, they are literally going with a begging bowl to every State, every place possible. So, in view of the serious financial position of the State Governments...

MR. CHAIRMAN : I do not think, it is a question of a begging bowl. When a calamity like that occurs, everybody must trip in.

*(Interruptions)*

DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKHARA REDDY : At least, the housing part be taken care of because it also forms part of the Common Minimum Programme of the National Front Government.

MR. CHAIRMAN : Mr. Raja Sekhara Reddy, please.

*(Interruptions)*

MR. CHAIRMAN : Now, the hon. Foreign Minister will now make a Statement on Afghanistan.

*(Interruptions)*